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Book Review

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Book Review


Ayşe Guveli, Harry Ganzeboom, Lucinda Platt, Bernhard Nauck, Helen Baykara-Krumme, Sebnem Eroglu, Sait Bayrakdar, Efe K. Sözeri, and Niels Spierings, **Intergenerational Consequences of Migration: Socio-economic, Family and Cultural Patterns of Stability and Change in Turkey and Europe**, Springer, 2016, pp. 297, \$90.56 (Hardcover), ISBN-10 1137501413

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Migration is one of the oldest acts in the universe, and some even ironically argue that Adam and Eve were the first migrants. Despite its long history, what is new is that migration is accepted as a scientific concept and is the subject of research. Although migration is multidimensional as a modern and scientific concept, when concrete examples are taken into account, specific aspects of some migration cases take precedence over other aspects due to scientific or other rational reasons and can be accepted as the primary factor accordingly. To give a specific example, the Turkish migration to Europe, between the 1960s and the early 1970s, is acknowledged as a labor migration mostly for economical motivations. This is examined thoroughly by the book entitled, *Intergenerational Consequences of Migration: Socio-economic, Family and Cultural Patterns of Stability and Change in Turkey and Europe*. The book consists of four parts and 14 chapters respectively, “Part I: Introduction: The Origins of Migration, Research Design and Data, The Five Regions of Origin in Turkey, Migration and Return Migration,” “Part II: Educational Attainment, Occupational Status Attainment, Self-Employment,” “Part III: Marriage, Fertility, Friends and Social Networks,” “Part IV: Religiosity, Attitudes towards Gender Equality, Identities,” and in the end, “Part V: Conclusion.” The book is based on the *2000 Families: Migration Histories of Turks in Europe* project’s data, which is the first survey study in Europe that collects data on three generations of immigrant families.

Although the book begins with a novel-like immigration story of Osman Bey, *gastarbeiter* (guest worker in German) in Germany, it is a social scientific study with a unique design called by authors origin-oriented, multi-site, and multi-generational research (p.17) that tries to reveal the intergenerational consequences of migration, as can be obviously understood by the name of the book. The core of the study provides the perspective that clearly demonstrates the consequences of migration by examining all three groups of people who have migrated to Europe and stayed at least five years, have migrated and

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returned, and also the stayers, people who never migrated or have been to Europe less than five years (less than a year in the pilot study, however, it was increased to five years to exhibit the result of migration more explicitly). The authors describe the study as origin-oriented because it focuses on immigrants and their descendants. They also call the study multi-site due to the concentration in five distinct origin regions, which are Akçaabat (Trabzon), Acıpayam (Denizli), Şarkışla (Sivas), Emirdağ (Afyon), and Kulu (Konya) (p.18), as well as nine main European destination countries: Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. There are several criteria for the selection of regions in Turkey according to the writers, such as the region should have sufficient emigrants, they also should represent most of Turkey's population and the minorities in Turkey, for instance, Kurds and Alevi. Finally and most importantly, they define the study as multi-generational because they examine the traces over generations, starting with the first generation, who were born between 1920 and 1945 and migrated to Europe between 1961 and 1974. Naturally, they tried to follow the first generation's lineages, no matter where they are, for interviews and surveys because of the multi-generational claim of the study. What's more, the writers justifiably claim that they made a huge contribution to the literature by integrating country of origin into multi-generational perspectives.

The first part contains four chapters where they made the presentation of the book, by explaining the research design and methods, and also give details about the data they use, even though they make a specific explanation for each chapter. In the first chapter, a piece of general information and an introduction illustrating the state of the literature is made. Furthermore, the writers emphasize the difference between dissimilation and assimilation. Dissimilation is making the minorities alter from their origin, while assimilation, forces minorities to adopt the mainstream culture wholly and thus makes the minorities indistinguishable from the majority. Dissimilation strengthens the differences between cultures in other societies whereas, assimilation means the digestion of minority culture by the host society's culture (p.10). According to the book, dissimilation has such forms, including dissimilation toward assimilation, globalization, and revitalization, and each of them has a different direction. The last chapter of Part I, entitled "Migration and Return Migration," is about deliberating the evolution of Turkish migration to Europe and what factors are essential triggers, such as family and kinship changes over generations. The second part of the book has three chapters respectively, "Educational Attainment," "Occupational Status Attainment," and "Self Employment." To put it briefly, the results that emerged, as expected by the authors, indicate that the intergenerational transmission of educational, vocational, and socio-economic status examined in the second part had weakened. In other words, the impact of migration intergenerational social mobility is tremendous for the first generation, however differences between migrants and non-migrants largely disappear by the third generation. Part III comprises three chapters between


8 and 10 that have topics about the social attitudes (such as marriage, fertility, friendship, and social networks) of migrants and their descendants and have immensely complicated results. Since there are so many variables in the analyzed findings, it is not easy to find a clear correlation in the topics of the third part. For example, it can be said that the results can be misleading due to the level of education having a huge impact on fertility. Despite its complexity, the outlines of each chapter in this part may be summarized as immigrants tend to be less prone to arranged marriages, the educational impact might suggest more effect than the migration effect when it comes to fertility, and non-migrants' networks are greater and provide higher educational resources than migrants, respectively. The first two chapters of the fourth part explore the intergenerational transmission of religiosity and gender equality attitudes among those in Turkey and Europe. The first chapter points out that in religious contexts in Europe and Turkey, which are distinct, rates of prayer are declining to some degree in both contexts but rates of institutional and subjective religiosity remain high. The last chapter in this part is about the identity of the migrants to both in Turkey and the destination country, and the strength of their connection to Turkey, for both migrants and stayers, is also discussed in the chapter. The summary of outputs in the chapter is that Migrant Turks, though becoming more attached to destination countries over generations remain closely linked to Turkey in a range of effective and behavioral ways. Overall, however, there is a trend towards less identification with their origins as they spent more time away from Turkey, a finding in line with the destination country based migration literature. In the last part, the summary of the outputs in the study are portrayed separately for each chapter, and the writers displayed the contribution to the research.

The main aim and the key feature of the book is the exhibition of multigenerational effects of Turkish migration to Europe, and researchers provided more accuracy to the design than other studies, by concentrating not only on immigrants but also on the stayers and the returners. Nevertheless, the *2000 Families* data used in this research has some limitations, such as the lack of demonstrating the impact of Turkish families who had completely left the region. Furthermore, having more than one destination country in the study may cause a problem in that different countries mean different variables, which can make the outputs controversial. In spite of the fact that the research design was limited, field workers in the project still tried to reach those families through their relatives, according to the authors. Oppositely, the design and the data have also numerous strengths, like being origin country based and contributing to finding outputs of migration and return migration on immigrants. Also, having multiple destination countries differentiates the study. Both the proxy and the personal questionnaires were used by the field workers.

Finally, this book is an essential source for academics and researchers studying migration and its impact on generations, with a particular focus on immigrants, especially those who are minorities in Europe. In addition, the book not only makes a strong contribution

to the literature but also plays a pioneering role by including stayers or non-immigrants in migration studies. Those who are interested in Turkish migration may create a study that includes those who migrated from the village to the city in their future studies and compares the effects of internal migration with external migration, even if it may require a serious budget.

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