

Preface

Global Change and Human Mobility is the title of this volume, published in the series of Springer essays dealing with all the aspects considered in the Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences. The title of the book appeals to scholars interested in the issue of change and mobility across the world, both empirically and theoretically, offering a selection of studies developed by members of the International Geographical Union Commission (see www.globility.org) on this subject, from both thematic and geographical perspectives.

Owing to its ability to link locations and societies, human mobility has received increasing academic attention over the last few years in the context of the globalization process. As a manifestation of some of the world's key political, economic, societal, and cultural issues, human mobility has acquired great importance in the social sciences and particularly in geography. The chapters of this book demonstrate the strength of this topic in looking at a changing world from the focus of a new disciplinary approach. From these contributions, it can be seen that human mobility transforms the perspective of migrations conceived as processes between points of origin and destination, analyzing the fluidity of the relations between spaces. Therefore, new tendencies of human mobility and new interpretations of old processes overlap in this book's chapters.

Chapter 1 is dedicated to a theoretical reflection about the state of the art in the subject of human mobility and is written by Professor Armando Montanari and Dr. Barbara Staniscia from the Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. Professor Montanari established the Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility within the International Geographical Union in the year 2000, while Dr. Staniscia is the current Scientific Secretary of the Commission.

Chapter 2 offers a perspective of the reaction of migration systems in the current context of global financial and economic crisis. Professors Daniel Göler from the University of Bamberg in Germany and Zaiga Krišjāne from the University of Latvia develop a broad reflection on the "regional element" of transnationalism, opening that concept with a new transregional perspective drawn from the

migratory systems of Albania and Latvia, which strengthens the spatial issue in migration studies.

Chapter 3 focuses on the fluidity of human mobility, challenging migration and border controls. Professor Dirk Godenau from the University of La Laguna in Spain and Ana López-Sala, Research Fellow from the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) offer a reflection on the connectivity between migration and border studies, with the backdrop provided by the analysis of migration control initiatives undertaken along the southern border of Europe over the last decade.

Chapter 4 presents a critical assessment of the challenges faced by female refugees and of the effectiveness of policies and interventions from international agencies such as the UNHCR. The “women perspective” bursts into this book as a result of the study of refugees, highlighting the double discrimination against them by reasons of gender and political persecution. They have no or few legal rights and are powerless and marginalized, and their voices are rarely heard. As highlighted by Professor Brij Maharaj and Dr. Sinenhlanhla Memela from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, the atrocities encountered in their home countries could sadly be repeated in the destination country.

Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the book are dedicated to the issues of migration, mobility, and integration from different geographical perspectives. Professor Victor Armony from the Université du Québec à Montréal in Canada is the author of Chap. 5, which deals with Canada’s immigration policies and integration models, with a particular focus on the division between the predominantly French-speaking province of Québec and the rest of the country, mainly English-speaking. It also describes the tension between two competing models, multiculturalism and interculturalism, that coexist in the Canadian context and reflect two narratives and practical approaches to the integration of newcomers.

Researcher Fellow Susana Sassone from the National Council on Scientific and Technical Research in Argentina proposes, in Chap. 6, an analysis of the role of Latin American migrants as actors and agents of the spatial transformation of cities in the era of globalization, taking into account both theory and empirical evidence. The study of different immigrant communities in Argentinian cities proves that the building process of the neighborhood and social cohesion are related to transnationalism relationships, which imply a new profile of the postmodern migrant, prone to react in a flexible way to globalization and shaping a new city landscape.

Chapter 7 covers integration – a key issue in the literature about migration – through the study of the relationships between integration and the role of associations in France. Professor Yann Richard and Researcher Fellow Mathilde Maurel from the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in France, and Professor William Berthomière, Director of the National Centre on Scientific Research in France, dedicate special attention to the consequences of the associations increasing or decreasing the oppositional identities of migrants. Integration is analyzed with a geographical (links between regional distribution and density of associations) and economical perspective, e.g., the access to employment.

Chapter 8 studies the nature of the integration process, comparing the four models representing different types of migration and integration of the small

community of Thai nationals in the Euro-Atlantic area. Dr. Daniel Šnajdr and Pr. Dušan Drbohlav, Head of the Geographic Migration Centre, from Charles University of Prague in the Czech Republic, adopt a qualitative procedure to characterize this small community of migrants, highlighting the importance of a relatively unknown flow of migration from Thailand to Europe.

In Chap. 9, Professor Gábor Michalkó of the Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences and Associate Professor Anna Irimiás from the Kodolanyi Janos University of Applied Sciences, both in Hungary, develop a study on the role of emotions and expectations in human mobility. The qualitative research highlights the importance of expectations related to the host country in the different stages of migration; the adjustment capacities of migrants coping with acculturation stress; and emotions related to the overall migration experience. The case of Hungarians living in the United Kingdom highlights the influence of migrants' personal traits and their ability to establish network capital in the new forms of mobility.

Chapter 10, written by Assistant Professor Miguel Glatzer and Tara Carr-Lemke from La Salle University in the United States, analyzes the role of the social initiatives dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S. In a context of harshness, movements, and organizations that work to empower unauthorized immigrants, to change public opinion and to alter policy play a critical role. This chapter presents a case study of one such organization: the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia (NSM Philadelphia).

In Chaps. 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, researchers develop the issue of youth mobility, a flourishing topic in the current state of knowledge, owing to the facilities provided by new forms of relationships between regions and countries, especially for those who have grown up parallel to the IT revolution.

In Chap. 11, Professors Josefina Domínguez-Mujica, Ramón Díaz-Hernández from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain, and Juan Parreño-Castellano, Director of the Department of Geography from the same university, connect the recent demographic changes of Spanish population with the decision of young skilled Spaniards to go live abroad during the financial crisis.

This perspective is complemented in Chap. 12 by Junior Professor Birgit Glorius from the University of Chemnitz in Germany, where she analyzes the same phenomenon from a complementary perspective, i.e., Germany as a recipient country of human capital flow from Spain. The labor necessity and the legal framework propelling these migrations are shaped by personal decisions on opportunities to career development and to pursue a transnational lifestyle.

Professor Cristóbal Mendoza from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico and Dr. Anna Ortiz from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain focus in Chap. 13 on Ph.D. students' mobility and migration. The in-depth interviews carried out allow them to offer an interpretation of this process as conditioned by two different circumstances: the selection of a certain university by higher studies decisions and the attractiveness of certain places like Barcelona for Latin American students.

Chapter 14 studies the same phenomenon in a different geographical framework. Professor Maria Lucinda Fonseca and Dr. Juliana Chatti Iorio from the University

of Lisbon in Portugal and research fellow Sónia Pereira of the Human Rights Institute of the University of Deusto in Spain, analyze the mobility of Brazilian students to Portugal. In this case, the focus moves from personal decisions to the role of the Brazilian government and university strategies in Portugal in stimulating the international mobility of university students.

An interesting perspective of the consequences of globalization in rural areas is presented in Chap. 15. The authors are Associate Professor Birte Nienaber and Assistant Researcher Ursula Roos from the University of Luxembourg, who study the issue of migration in rural areas and its contribution to the globalization of these spaces through the creation and multiplication of networks. They use two case studies to develop their analysis, from the district town of Merzig in Saarland, Germany, and the German–Austrian borderlands (Bavaria), where cross-border migration prevails.

Chapter 16 analyzes the fall of totalitarian regimes in Central and Eastern Europe and the enlargement of the European Union as the framework of the persistent Romanian migratory drain. The analytical approach, developed by Professor Ioan Ianos from the University of Bucharest in Romania, reveals that the main factors propelling internal and external flows of migration in Romania are of an economic nature, and that there is a causal correlation between migration and economic development thanks to the flexible mobility within the European Union.

Finally, Chap. 17 offers a look into the linkages between human mobility and the volcanic environment of Ilha do Fogo in Cape Verde. Dr. Judite Medina do Nascimento, Dean of the University of Cape Verde, Lecturer Claudio Moreno Medina from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain and the technicians at the natural park in Ilha do Fogo Alexandre N. Rodrigues and Herculano Dinis, show the social and cultural behavior of the island inhabitants facing volcanic risks. They document the resilience of human mobility in these hazardous episodes using the observations collected during the last eruptions (1995 and 2014–2015) and the interviews they carried out.

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