

GENDER AND MIGRATION

PEACEMAKERS

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GENDER ANALYSIS IN MIGRATION STUDIES

- First started in 1970s and early 1980s
- Gender as an individual and static concept
 - binary variable as male vs female + “Add women and stir” approach
- Feminist scholars’ interest and shift from studying women to studying gender
- Focused on gender as a system of relations

GENDERED SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY

- Gender as a constitutive element of immigration
- Gender permeates identities, practices and institutions implicated in migration through micro- and macro processes
- Any research on gender should focus experiences of people as gendered beings who work in gendered labor markets, gather resources through gendered social networks, interact with kin shaped by gendered power dynamics and subject to gendered state policies and laws
- This should allow more interdisciplinary cooperation across disciplines

GENDER RELATIONS THEORY

- How gender relations shift and are shaped in migration (Connell)
- It theorizes gender as socially constructed allowing us to see the fluidity of gender relations as they change under macro structures
- Four dimensions of gender relations interacting with one another in social institutions. Each institution having a particular regime of gender relations and putting constraints on human agency:
 - 1) POWER (politics)
 - 2) PRODUCTION (economics)
 - 3) EMOTIONAL (family)
 - 4) SYMBOLIC RELATIONS (other institutional levels)

WHAT ABOUT CULTURE?

- Integrated models combining structural elements (macro) with cultural norms and women's access to power within their families (Oishi)
- Household lens ---- Shifting gender relations and roles : Men's and women's roles are not static (they shift in accordance with changing socio-economic contexts in receiving and hosting countries) Cultural norms are challenged
- Push-pull dynamics and decision to migrate are also gendered (access to human capital and social capital)
- Feminization of migration (care work, domestic sector, sex work)
- Non-economic reasons of migration

CHALLENGING PATRIARCHY?

- Escape from violence and patriarchal authority – empowerment?
- Yet, challenging patriarchal authority also challenges immigrant women's authority as mothers
- Transnational motherhood puts strains on mother-child relationships
- Migration from one patriarchal system to another?
- May increase spousal/familial conflict and even lead to abuse/'broken' families
- Falls short to explain patriarchal capitalism in the labor market – gendered nature of work on the labor

INTERSECTIONALITY

- Gender and power relations does not rest on social location.
 - Race, Class, Sexuality, Ethnicity, Nationality
- Intersectionality refers how multiple social categories can affect power positionality and how these different intersections produce different experiences.
- Access to citizenship – Include rights (political, civil, social) in host society and membership (affiliation, belonging, exclusion)
- Unearth 'agency': the pursuit of goals and objectives that a person has reason to value and advance (Sen, 2005). Capacity of men and women to make their own rational choices or decisions

GENDER AS A CONCEPT

- Gender is a dynamic and critical concept
- Gender is more than an individual-level binary category ascribed at birth
- It is a system of power relations that permeates every aspect/stage of migration experience (decision to migrate to integration)
- Feminist conceptualization of gender is important as it deals with notions of power and embedded social inequalities
- It questions heteronormativity of migration policies and masculinity

GENDERED MIGRATION POLICIES

- Representations of migrant women in Europe
- Double disadvantage (immigrant and woman) + location/religious identity
- Migrant women have moved from the periphery to the center of policy debates in Europe
- Governments intervention in family migration and integration policies – more selective and controlling of cultural differences, integration starts even before migration, poorly educated mothers cannot raise good citizens, western liberal societies should be protected from patriarchal and traditional gender roles, LGBTI emancipation is entangled with anti-Muslim rhetoric

TEAMWORK

- What are some of the government 'gendered' policies targeting migrant communities?
- How or whether these address structural inequalities or different access to power?
- Dilemmas?
- Solutions offered?