

## **Does transnationalism reinforce nationalism?**

### **The case study of Roma migration from Central Europe to Canada**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

There are several theoretical approaches to the dynamics of migration. Migration of each group has its own dynamic. It is obvious that migration influences both destination country as well as the country of origin. Roma community is one of the groups among which the transnational migration can be observed. Roma people are very specific example of transnational practice. One of these specifics is the historical background of Romani people's migration. Roma migration is, however, more specific from the point of view of usual a priori negative attitude towards members of this ethnic group. Research on Roma transnational migration is insufficient in my opinion. However, what could be the reasons? When we describe Romani culture and traditions we certainly come across their migratory history. Why we do not talk about the Romani migration more in the terms of transnational migration? It might be possible that migration of Roma population is nationalized or localized. It meets the concepts of nationalism and though the topic is being analyzed at national level.

Given the fact that Roma migration from the Central Eastern European countries, following the democratic transition, took the form mainly of asylum seeking and economic migration into other EU countries and into Canada, the occurrence of these specific migratory movements became a political battlefield notably between states and human rights activists. Some of the destination countries themselves are immigration countries. Although, they are so the attitude towards Roma migrants meet negative characteristics. We could assume that transnational practices are being transformed into nationalistic defense towards the difference. De Haas' (2010) has an influential theoretical work on the dynamics of migration process and when applying his approach it is possible to clarify some aspects of Roma migration by looking at the formation and self-sustainability of migration networks and their diffusion. In this sense we could ask what initiates migration of Roma people nowadays and how does it perpetuate itself? What kinds of network effects are at play? These transnational practices support the lives of Roma people abroad.

*Do these practices, however, also reinforce the nationalism in destination countries?*

When the migration of Roma population is being analyzed, are the transnational concepts used? Or is the Roma migration analyzed mostly on national level in the shadow of ethnicized societies?

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