



Barriers or Bridges?

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EUMARGINS— ON THE MARGINS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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Barriers or Bridges? is an online monthly bulletin providing the latest **EUMARGINS** project developments and flagging recent project publications.

The project is a collaborative project financed by **The Seventh Framework Programme for research and development (FP7)** of the European Union.

Research institutions in Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Spain, Italy and France are members of the EUMARGINS project team.

The **project focus** is on the exclusion and inclusion of young adult immigrants in seven European countries.



Editors:

Tara Sarin and Katrine Fangen

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The third EUMARGINS newsletter contains a wide selection of project news, some of which are: a comprehensive overview of the project in May; a positive review of our first book, "Inclusion and Exclusion of Youth Adult Migrants in Europe," Katrine Fangen, Kirsten Fossan and Ferdinand Andreas Mohn (eds.) published in the Journal of Youth and Adolescence; and an illustrative case from the French national context: Isabelle's Story.

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BY ANNA TRIANDAFYLLIDOU

CONTACT DETAILS

Katrine Fangen, Scientific Coordinator

admin-eumargins@sosgeo.uio.no

www.iss.uio.no/forskning/eumargins/

EUMARGINS

Department of Sociology and Human Geography

University of Oslo

Post Box 1096 Blindern

N-0317 Oslo, NORWAY

PROJECT UPDATE & RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The month of May has been marked by an increase in significant project news. The most important of which to announce is that our second book was well received by the publisher, **Palgrave Macmillan** and it was sent into production at the beginning of May. The **review of our first book**, "Inclusion and Exclusion of Young Adult Migrants in Europe: Barriers and Bridges" was published online by the Journal of Youth and Adolescence on 7 April 2010. In her book review, Anna Triandafyllidou reveals that the book is "interesting and useful to the reader who seeks to gain a solid knowledge on migration, migrant youth and integration issues across Europe" and that "it covers an important and wide spectrum of national experiences and policies of social inclusion and exclusion processes that migrant youth face in Europe." The review can be read in its entirety on pg. 6 of the newsletter as well as on our web pages.



The project is in full swing with the planning of our final dissemination activities from Work Package 6 and 7. The first of which is the organization of **national policy workshops** in each participating country. The workshops will include a wide range of policy makers and stakeholders and will be based on the respective national policy reports that outline policy recommendations for either improving policy mechanisms or developing new ones based on EUMARGINS project results. The policy recommendations from each participating team will be elaborated on to produce a final **EU level policy report**. In September, after the ESA Conference, the project will hold our **final scientific conference**, which will aim to present the results of the research carried out by EUMARGINS, to present and discuss the transnational comparison of process of social exclusion of immigrant youth in the seven European countries and discuss the national findings and transnational comparison with the scientific community in Europe. The planning of both these events are in its infancy stage.

We have also received news from the European Commission (EC) that the **international conference**, initiated by the EC, will be taking place 17-18 November in Brussels. It will be held in cluster with some other projects of the same area of FP7, and it will highlight the findings produced by the project, as well as specific policy recommendations on a European level.

Scientific Coordinator, Katrine Fangen, has contributed a chapter to the anthology "Mange Mulige Metoder" ("Many Possible Methods") Katrine Fangen and Ann-Mari Sællerberg (eds), being published simultaneously in Norway (by Gyldendal Akademisk) and Sweden (by Förlaget studentlitteratur). It is based on a description of the way our project has collaborated cross national borders and the way we have coded and analysed this large qualitative comparative material in EUMARGINS. The book has been sent to production and will be available in book stores in the beginning of August.



Lastly, Thomas Johansson of the Swedish national team has recently published two **journal articles** which describes insights based on research of immigrant youth in Sweden:

- ◆ Johansson, T.; Olofsson, R. (2011) The art of becoming 'Swedish': Immigrant youth, school careers and life plans. *Ethnicities*. 11 (2) 184-201.
- ◆ Johansson, T.; Hammarén, N. (2011) The art of choosing the right tram: Schooling, segregation and youth culture. *Acta Sociologica*. 54(1) 39-51.



STAY TUNED FOR...

ILLUSTRATIVE CASES

- Illustrative Case (France): Lucie's Illustrative Case

POLICY BRIEFS

- Policy Brief 5, Political Participation and Inclusion
- Policy Brief 6, Irregular Migrants in Europe

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

- Johansson, Thomas (Forthcoming 2011). "The Dynamics of Inclusion/Exclusion." *Young: Nordic Journal of Youth Research*.
- Back, Leslie & Sinha, Shamser (Forthcoming 2011). "The New Hierarchies of Belonging." *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Policy Workshops

Summer 2011, in each participating country

Presentation of policy recommendations to policy makers

25th Conference of the Nordic Sociological Association: Power and Participation

4-7 August 2011, Oslo, Norway (University of Oslo)

EUMARGINS Scientific Coordinator Katrine Fangen will chair a session on inclusion and exclusion of immigrants in Europe.

Early Registration Deadline: 1 May 2011

10th Conference of the European Sociological Association: Social Relations in Turbulent Times

7-10 September 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

EUMARGINS Scientific Coordinator Katrine Fangen will chair a session on inclusion and exclusion of immigrants in Europe. Several EUMARGINS researchers, from Norway, France and Sweden, will present their papers based on an analysis of our empirical material.

Early Registration Deadline: 3 May 2011

Final Scientific Conference

September 2011, Oslo, Norway (University of Oslo)

Dissemination of project results and discussion

International Conference

17-18 November 2011, Brussels, Belgium

Together with other international migration research projects, the insights produced by the project, as well as specific policy recommendations on a European level will be presented at this Conference.

ILLUSTRATIVE CASE: FRANCE

"Isabelle— I Can Do It"

By Vincent Ferry (French Research Team)

Isabelle is of Sino-Laotian origin. The youngest of a family of four children, Isabelle is the only one among her siblings to have been born in France and to have been given a French name. She spent her childhood in the French neighbourhood of Haut Du Lièvre, but eventually decided to leave, due to the negative impression of the neighbourhood among outsiders, to pursue her education elsewhere. She credits much of her current success as a psychologist to the diversity of her former neighbourhood.

The second time we met Isabelle, we visited her at her parent's home where she decided to show us the places in her neighbourhood from her childhood, called Haut du Lièvre. Her parents have lived there since 1983 and according to Isabelle, the flat has never changed. She showed us the bedroom she used to share with her sister and recounted memories while we were in it. She described her childhood as rather happy, dividing her time between school, play, friends and family. The youngest of a family of four children, Isabelle is the only one among her siblings to have been born in France and to have been given a French name. This is because her parents, of Sino-Laotian origin, acquired refugee status when Isabelle was born.

Between the first and the second time we met her, Isabelle asked her parents to describe their story. The story they told was that of individuals with Chinese nationality and a Laotian cultural background, whose lives had been torn by the wars which plunged the Indochinese Peninsula into bloodshed between 1941 to 1978. The borders between imperial China and the French colonies (Cochinchina, then Indochina) had been drawn regardless of the villages and their inhabitants. Laotians had been separated by a border. In fact Laotians— who became independent in 1954 — were allowed to circulate

on either side of the border for a century. The closure of the border by communist China, when the United States bombed Laos, in 1969, entrapped Isabelle's parents within a country caught up in the violence of a war which would last until 1972.

The chaos caused by the war, the fear of dying, of seeing one's village be destroyed by napalm bombings, pushed Isabelle's grandparents to organise the wedding of their children, a wedding which could be seen as a way of ensuring the family's, the tribe's survival. From the day they got married, Isabelle's parents would move from village to village as those of their own parents were no longer safe and could no longer provide them with regular work. It was under poor sanitary conditions, in the middle of the rain forest, that Isabelle's oldest brothers and sisters were born and grew up. With the United States leaving Vietnam — which would become com-

munist in 1975 — the Khmer Rouge took over power and organised the Cambodian genocide, Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978, Laos decided to close its borders and expel all foreign citizens, among whom were Isabelle's parents. In Thailand, the



only country accessible, Isabelle's parents, with three young children, experienced refugee camps. Completely overflowed

"when I was an adolescent, I didn't like living in the neighbourhood at all because I had the impression that we would be stigmatised and I really wanted to leave it."

with the influx of tens of thousands of individuals leaving Cambodia, Thailand indeed confined these refugees in camps, without offering them any humanitarian solutions. Because these territories were former French colonies, the French Parliament decided in 1977 to welcome 150, 000 refugees.

"I had a different vision then. It's pretty obvious that when you're part of the neighbourhood, you're safe, you feel good, you know everyone... but I think that I really wanted to leave the neighbourhood and avoid being stigmatised as being part of it... but then, you're influenced by the image that outsiders have, which means that there is an image of the neighbourhood from within and another one from without."

While Isabelle told us this story, her mother came in and offered offered us some tea. We then tried to pick up the conversation where we left off but the memories of the camps were too painful to go any further.

Isabelle then showed us around her neighbourhood, the school she attended, the shops she went to as a child, the buildings where she and all her friends lived. She discussed memories of her childhood with such peace of mind. She told us that she had a happy childhood at school, but that she had to make the final choice to leave her neighbourhood and change schools because, as she reached adolescence, she understood that her neighbourhood had a bad image:

"I have the impression that one of the assets of having grown up in my neighbourhood is that I have learnt to share, I have learnt tolerance. I think I have. With my friends, we sometimes laugh about it because we've all followed the same path... well... I have a friend who's a social worker, another one who's about to become a nurse, another one who wanted to be a youth worker but who has opted for religion. We all have the same impression, the impression that having grown up in a place with so many different cultures... well, that it is no coincidence if we've chosen these jobs."

Isabelle continues to explain how her impression of her neighbourhood changed over time and the reasons why she chose to leave:

Beyond these images, she thinks that, today, more needs to be done for the people living in the neighbourhood. For her, the renovation of the "Haut du Lièvre" was just a smokescreen, an illusion.

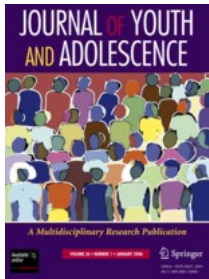
What needs to be done is to bring solutions to people, to their problems, to provide them with jobs. She considers her job as a psychologist to be her own answer to help those in difficulties. She considers that mental suffering can be linked to material suffering, to the fact that one is rejected because he or she cannot find a job. When talking about her childhood friends, she realises that each has followed a different path but that all have opted for jobs fostering a sense of solidarity as a way of giving back to those who suffer from what diversity has brought them.



Isabelle ended the conversation by mentioning her current life situation, that she feels great, totally French, at a time when she is rediscovering her Chinese origins. When looking back, she says that she does not regret anything.

**All illustrative cases can be
downloaded from our
EUMARGINS website:
[www.iss.uio.no/forskning/
eumargins/](http://www.iss.uio.no/forskning/eumargins/)**

BOOK REVIEW



"Inclusion and Exclusion of Young Adult Migrants in Europe: Barriers and Bridges"

By Anna Triandafyllidou

Inclusion and Exclusion of Young Adult Migrants in Europe: Barriers and Bridges investigates the processes of inclusion and exclusion of young adult migrants in Europe. The book originates from an EU-funded research project and covers seven European countries: Estonia, France, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. These countries differ greatly in their emigration and immigration experiences, their citizenship traditions, their social welfare and education systems, their labour market regulations and their overall post war politics. This variation results in the book's greatest value. It permits the text to tease out how different political, economic, cultural and legal contexts affect a common group of people, notably young immigrant (first or second generation) young adults' integration into their societies of settlement.

The book's selected countries correspond to four macro-sociological regions in Europe, which exemplify different versions of the modern welfare state and have experienced different migration trends. The regions include Scandinavia or Nordic Europe (Norway and Sweden), Western Europe (France and the UK), Southern Europe (Spain and Italy) and Central Eastern Europe (Estonia). These countries reflect a variety of migration experiences and a wide range of policies dealing with young adult migrants' integration, particularly their integration into different welfare state models. For example and according to Esping Andersen's typology of welfare states, Norway and Sweden represent the Scandinavian welfare system characterised by a strong safety net against poverty, the United Kingdom represent the liberal welfare model; France, Italy and Spain are characteristic of the continental European welfare model which is based on transfers to the poorer and weaker however with little effect on the reduction of poverty as these systems' safety nets are provided by families. Estonia is rather unique in this group of countries because of both its Communist and post-transition experiences; it has a fairly developed welfare state although not as comprehensive as do Norway or Sweden. In terms of migration trends, the France, the UK and Sweden typically are characterized as "old" host countries with a long history in immigrant reception. By contrast Italy and Spain have experienced labour migration in the last two decades and have become the southern external border of the entire EU. Norway is a newcomer to immigration while Estonia is still caught in the middle between emigration and immigration pressures. Moreover, France and the UK have experienced in particular post colonial migration from Asia

and Africa. Together, these countries reflect an important variety of contexts providing different experiences for migrants' inclusion and exclusion.

In addition to different migration and welfare state contexts, the seven countries offer different traditions of citizenship. France has a strong Republican tradition based on civic assimilation of immigrants and their descendants; and the country makes naturalisation relatively easy and places a strong emphasis on the separation between church and state (laicite). The UK also has a strong sense of civic citizenship and a liberal naturalisation policy. Unlike France, the UK's approach to integration recognized and accommodates both individual and collective diversity. Sweden is more similar to the UK in the manner it allows for both individual and group diversity. Italy and Spain have rather restrictive citizenship policies (with the exception of Latin Americans in Spain) and they have yet to develop a comprehensive integration framework for their first or second generation immigrant youth. Estonia has applied a rather restrictive citizenship regime towards its Russian speaking populations that have remained stateless after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In Estonia, Russian speaking populations technically are considered immigrants while in reality they have never migrated, or rather their migration at the time was internal and not international as they moved within the Soviet territory. These wide approaches to citizenship make for important contexts for studying the experience of migration. The volume is organised into nine chapters, as it has an introduction, a concluding comparative chapter, and seven country chapters in-between. In setting the volume's conceptual framework, the introductory chapter discusses different theories of social exclusion and the role of citizenship issues in migrant youth integration. The important role played by the emerging global youth culture is also discussed with a view to highlighting the common challenges that both immigrant and non immigrant youth faces. The introductory chapter also points to the different definitions of migrants, citizens, foreign born, residents, foreigners and other terms adopted in different countries when seeking to assess the size of the immigrant population. As a result, the introduction highlights well the difficulties in (and importance of) comparing European countries on migrant integration issues.

As the introduction notes, the central questions that guide this volume are these. "What challenges and opportunities

are young adult immigrants and descendants facing in different countries? What is their rate of participation in education, labour and leisure compared with young people without immigrant background? How is the complex interplay of ethnicity, class background, migration history, gender and urban context influencing their lives?" (p. 4) To address these questions, the authors engage research fields ranging from the labour market and education to politics and crime. These analyses eventually result in important discussions of the key problems of incorporating young immigrant adults from a socio economic perspective looking at labour market insertion, health issues and living conditions. They also cover legal issues dealing with stay and work permits as well as access to citizenship. And, from an identity perspective, the authors discuss issues relating to culture, the media, social networks, and religion.

The introduction is followed by seven chapters focusing on specific countries. Each of these chapters adopts the same structure. They start with a brief review of the migration context in the country under study and discuss when immigrants arrived, why and how. They then examine the semantic context of migrant youth, as they critically discuss the labelling and name calling of immigrant youth and the juxtaposition (if relevant) between "us" and "them." These examinations of the semantic contexts also include analyses of the media discourse and ways in which migrant immigrant youth is represented there. The chapters also center on migration legislation, stay and work permit regimes, and citizenship and integration policies; and doing so enables them to assess how specific naturalisation policies and integration approaches have worked in each country and how they have affected the identity and social integration of migrant youth. The next sections of these chapters are dedicated to the labour market insertion of migrant youth. These sections pay close attention, where relevant (such as in Spain or Italy), to the insertion of migrant youth in the informal labour market as well as to migrant youths' educational attainment. Each country chapter also is complemented by concise but informative sections on the overall living conditions and health situation of migrant youth, their social networks and civic participation, their culture, religion and their feeling of belonging to their country of residence. There also are short sections on the presumed link on immigration and crime as well as on discrimination faced by migrant youth, racism and overall public attitudes towards them.

Even though this book is not based on new data and does not produce original findings, it still makes an important contribution. It does so by critically reviewing and synthesizing existing findings and bibliographies regarding immigrant youth and the processes of inclusion and exclusion in the seven European countries studied. This volume offers an original and concise overview of the social, cultural, economic, political and legal context within which migrant youth live, study, work. As such, this volume will be of particular interest to graduate students and researchers who are seeking a comprehensive overview of the situation in specific immigration countries. Each country chapter and the book as a whole offers an impressive list of bibliographical references that

also can be very useful in guiding researchers to further readings. The most original contribution in this volume comes in the concluding chapter where the editors seek to compare the seven countries along a set of basic conditions that migration youth face in their country of settlement: the legal regime, the socio-economic conditions of young adults with immigration background, and the national discourses on migrants and their descendants. This chapter systematically assess the migration regimes through which the different countries seek to manage their immigration flows and implement integration policies. The authors note that access to citizenship is most important for the inclusion of migrant youth as residents are often not entitled to the same socio-economic rights as citizens. Moreover, a pertinent finding is that while citizenship is important for a feeling of belonging to the host country to develop, there is no guarantee that such a feeling will develop if citizenship is granted (p. 253). Welcoming policies seeking to orient immigrants in the new country and to teach them the language are seen to have positive effects in the countries where they exist.

The concluding chapter also examines how several patterns of inequalities emerge in labour markets as well as educational attainment. Overall, immigrants are less integrated into the labour market than non migrants. Yet, the case studies reveal some interesting patterns: immigrant youth have better employment prospects than native youth in countries such as Spain or Italy as young immigrants tend to take any job offer rather than be as selective as their native counterparts. However, it also is true that immigrant youth are over-represented in the temporary job sector and in less desired areas of the economy, such as in agricultural work. Indeed, an ethnic segregation of labour markets is noted in all the seven countries studied. In terms of educational attainment, the authors point out that migrant youth may have different experiences depending on the nationality. While overall immigrants from other European countries tend to do better than immigrants from other countries, this is not a golden rule, the opposite may also happen in some cases. The question of migrant youth integration into the school environment also relates to the integration approach adopted in the national education system. Notably, Swedish or UK schools embrace students of immigrant background in different ways than French schools, which welcome immigrants but silence cultural diversity.

This book is interesting and useful to the reader who seeks to gain a solid background knowledge on migration, migrant youth and integration issues across Europe. It covers an important and wide spectrum of national experiences and policies of social inclusion and exclusion processes that migrant youth face in Europe. The breadth of issues raised and contexts explored make the book a useful a complementary text for many courses. However, it may be of less interest to researchers who are looking for more precise analyses in that it falls short from its initial promise of showing how contextual factors condition the inclusion or exclusion processes that young migrants face. It is hoped that this linkage will be explored more fully in the forthcoming work of the project from which this book originates.