Abstracts

Edin Ajdinović

Challenges of Humanitarian Aid-Relief Operations: From Migration Policies to Field Work in Aid Relief

The consequences of armed conflicts generate a massive refugee influx, setting the course for refugee crises and migrations. A vast influx of refugees is inevitable under these conditions, and the migration policies in Europe have taken different stances depending on political agenda.

This study uses qualitative research with the aim of identifying the challenges and obstacles which humanitarian aid relief agencies are facing in armed conflicts, its overall effects in saving civilians, the influence of refugee camps in encouraging migration, and the impact of migration policies on migration movements. The techniques used in the research are document overview (media reports, international documents, covenants and charters) and case study analysis (experiences and practices of the previous aid relief operations). The results reveal the major challenges that humanitarian aid relief operations are faced with, setting the ground for further research into the causes of humanitarian aid relief failures.

Aleko Stoyanov

Bulgaria in the Context of the European Migrant Crisis – Challenges and Perspectives

The instability in the Middle East that followed the Arab Spring led to the displacement of a large number of people. The dire living conditions and the lack of hope for a foreseeable resolution of the military conflicts forced many to migrate towards Europe. The influx that peaked in 2015 led to the breakdown of the common European asylum systems and to a disorganized mass migration to the European welfare states. Bulgaria, albeit not on the main migrant route, also faced a sharp increase in asylum applications. Bearing in mind the country’s limited financial, human and administrative resources, the migrant flow posed significant security, humanitarian and social challenges. Moreover, the migrant crisis made more apparent the divisions among the EU member states. As some of them are calling for a multispeed Europe, Bulgaria faces the real risk of being sidelined. In order to avoid this, Sofia needs to push for joint solutions at EU level, emphasize the EU’s fundamental principle of solidarity and improve its record in several problematic areas that are hindering the country’s aspirations for deeper European integration.
Fulya Felicity Türkmen

Rethinking the EU-Turkey Re-Admission Agreement from an Ethics of Immigration Perspective

As the civil war in Syria led to what was called a global ‘refugee crisis’, many concerns and questions about immigration have arisen. In time, these have mostly been framed and evaluated by some scholars and policy makers with regard to ‘management of global migration’. There are some widely accepted norms and principles, such as state sovereignty and non-interference that give states the right to allow or deny entry.

How should democratic states act from an ethics of immigration perspective when it comes to the admittance of refugees?

This article looks into the ‘behind the scenes’ parts of re-admission agreements, specifically the one between the EU and Turkey, by focusing on the EU’s externalized and securitized migration policies, which were mostly justified in the name of “handling the crisis”. It is being argued that re-admission is neither the most efficient nor the ethically responsible way of managing the current situation.

Aldina Čemernica

Refugee Stories Among Young People of Bosnian Muslim Origin in Berlin

During the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1990s, Germany received the highest number of Bosnian war refugees (350,000). Some 20,000 of these refugees were able to stay in this country. The focus of this article is on young people of Bosnian Muslim origin between 18 and 35 years old, who came as refugee children to Germany, or whose parents were refugees. I present here the preliminary results of qualitative interviews that were carried out as part of the empirical research for my doctoral thesis in Berlin. The young people who grew up as refugees vividly remember their lives and the obstacles they were confronted with. These circumstances and experiences evidently shaped their personality. Moreover, the interviews also show how “forced displacement” still affects the relationships of my interlocutors to their families and their places of origin.

Ralf Grabuschnig

Shifting the Balance: The Effects of Wartime Serb Migration on Multiculturalism in Vojvodina

This paper analyses the consequences of ethnic Serbian migration from Croatia and Kosovo to the traditionally multicultural northern-Serbian province of Vojvodina during the Yugoslav wars of secession. While a cursory glance at the changing demographics at the time would suggest a deterioration for minorities due to a new Serbian
demographic dominance, the situation turns out to be more complex than this. Ethnic Serbian migrants from other parts of former Yugoslavia did not simply ‘add up’ to the Serbian majority in Vojvodina, but instead must be viewed as a separate group in many respects. Despite of this complexity, the overall situation for other minorities in Vojvodina did deteriorate following wartime migration, albeit due to a worsening social climate rather than a mere numeric advantage.

Nihal Soganci

An Ethnographic Study of Migration from Turkey to Northern Cyprus: Interaction of Conflicting Identities During the Day and Shared Intimacy at Night

Seeking an ethnographically informed understanding of the immigrant/settler experience from Turkey to Northern Cyprus characterised by frozen conflict, this study can provide an insight into people’s experiences, values and perceptions by focusing on social expressions of identity-based division and the relations between locals and immigrants/settlers. Participant and non-participant observation and in-depth, informal interviews are the main research tools. The article will firstly focus on the transformation of identity in Cyprus under socio-historical considerations. Secondly, there will follow an analysis of how identity is performed at hand of two different protests that took place in August 2016. Thirdly, the article will focus on a new meyhane (Turkish tavern) concept particular to Northern Cyprus, where “alternative modernities” (Bozdogan and Kasaba 1997) can be expressed along with repressed practises, portraying the similarities between populations “at night”. These practises may be perceived as a form of resistance by the marginal majority in de Certeau’s terms: eating, drinking habits and music associated with meyhane will be investigated by touching briefly upon Herzfeldian concepts of cultural intimacy and social poetics.

Andriy Korniychuk

Civic Activity of Ukrainians in Poland and Germany

The overarching goal of the research project carried out by The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA, Warsaw, Poland) and the Institute for European Politics (IfE, Berlin, Germany) in 2015 was to present the various forms of engagement of Ukrainian citizens in Poland and Germany in the post Euromaidan era. Self-organization, co-operation and motivation to act by representatives of the Ukrainian community living abroad were analysed based on 88 semi-structured expert interviews. Since Euromaidan, active Ukrainians began to focus not only on initiatives targeted at their own members, but also began to represent and actively promote Ukraine in relation to the host communi-
ties in Poland and Germany. Their activities contributed to the popularization of topics related to their homeland in the public discourse of the host countries. Ukrainian activists abroad have contributed considerably to humanitarian aid and day-to-day assistance to people who fell victim to the war in Ukraine. In the majority of cases, the activists respect European values and try to promote them back home, thereby contributing to the development of civil society in their country. The Polish and German authorities should be interested in supporting their initiatives not least because of such pro-democratic attitudes among the members of Ukrainian communities abroad. Moreover, support for the civic activity of migrants helps to develop their integration potential, which can have a positive impact on the development of civil society in the host country.

**Eva-Maria Walther**

**Border Experts in Action. Transnational Care Work Agencies in Slovakia as Actors in a Border Regime**

Hiring women from Central Eastern Europe as live-in care workers for ageing family members has become a widely established solution in Western Europe. Despite their crucial importance, the brokers of migration who organize this flow of workforce across borders have not yet been in the spotlight of social science enquiries. In this paper, I address this desideratum using theoretical conceptualizations of border regimes as an analytical framework. Building on participant observation in two job agencies who convey care workers to Austrian families, I address their recruitment strategies, training, measures of control and monitoring towards the care workers, but also emotional support. The findings show that agencies are both subjects and authors of the border regime’s workings. Rather than transcending borders, agencies reinforce and capitalize on existing boundaries between the European East and West. The study exemplifies the crucial impact of agencies on migrant life trajectories and contributes to existing literature on domestic care migration by adding a top-down perspective.