

Global Experiences: Urbanization and Migration

Effects of drastic changes in living environment on migrant families and communities

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Immigrants and displaced persons generally experience drastic changes in their living environment. This is manifested in their necessity of moving from their rural living environment to a high rise apartment building in the city. Such changes were found to have a profound impact on families and on the community. In 2005, the government of Israel decided to unilaterally evacuate all Jewish settlements from the Gaza region. The objectives of this study were to understand the implications of forced transfer of a community to a different ecological environment, and assess the effects of such an environmental change on the community's sociological structure and on restructuring people's cultural identity. Ingelhart (2000) refers to changes communities had undergone as a result of cultural changes. He used the term "cultural shifts" to describe such changes. Uprooting the inhabitants from their rural community and transferring them to a high rise apartment building necessarily caused restructuring of their cultural identity. At the studied evacuated community, changes were noticed in the ecological environment that caused significant changes in the community's social structure, as well as restructuring changes in factors of family life, changes in community factors and changes in religious and ideological identities. As a result, collective elements that once united and strengthened the community's social structure had dwindled, whereas individualistic elements that weaken and disintegrate the social structure of the community became stronger. This case in study might therefore serve as model for understanding the significance of living in a communal settlement, the needs of such a community and what happens when it is being disintegrated. . Insight derived in this study was based on in depth interviews with evacuees and with officials who were in touch with the community before and after evacuation.

Can devolution and rural capacity trigger de-urbanisation? Case studies in Kenya and Malaysia respectively

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Rapid urbanization in Africa has been perceived through two competing views. The modernization theorists who believe that it is key to economic growth and the Commission for Africa who posit that historically urbanization has not necessarily benefited Africa. They urge for

an alternative growth path that is not necessarily pegged on urbanization. Amidst this debate, questions have been raised about the sustainability of the industrial model which underpinned urbanization in developed countries. There is growing evidence internationally that early industrialized countries will also be the first to de-industrialize. Malaysia was one of the first countries in Southeast Asia to industrialize backed by Foreign Direct Investment and significant investment in infrastructure funded by income from oil and gas reserves. As these energy resources peak coupled with an increasingly competitive regional market clear signs of de-industrialization are emerging. Thus just as industrialization powered urbanization de-industrialization is set to trigger de-urbanization Therefore, is rapid urbanization good for Kenya as it seeks to industrialize by 2030? What processes can be employed to balance and check rapid urbanization? These paper addresses (devolution)Kenya and (rural capacity) in Malaysia as thechecks to balance rapid urbanization. Competing views on urbanization in Africa are discussed followed by a review of Lefebvre's theory on production of space. It then discusses the history of urbanization in Kenya and its contribution to disenfranchising both rural and urban citizens. The devolution process is then examined through the lens of Lefebvre's theory.The second part analyses the potential of rural capacity in Malaysia to absorb a large influx of return immigrants and demonstrates how they have adapted and benefited from the prosperity of land. The paper concludes that the governance model of devolution coupled with rural capacity may hold the key to check rapid urbanization

Coming "Home" to Istanbul? Comparative Analysis of Second Generation Americans and Germans of Turkish Ancestry Living in Parents' Homeland.

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This paper compares two circuits of second-generation "roots-migrants" who have returned to reside in their parent's homeland: Turk-Germans and Turk-Americans residing in Istanbul. In this context, we put special emphasis on exploring the hybrid identity of these individuals and the draw for them of the vibrancy of this global city. Much of the literature on transnationalism predicts a diminution in transnational practices with the second generation. We know relatively little about those with more sustained transnational ties, especially those who voluntarily return to their parents' homeland. This paper explores the background economic and social motivations as well as subject narratives behind this unpredicted turn within the context of Istanbul: a thriving global city at the edge of Europe and Asia, that presents professional opportunities for highly educated (return-) migrants and simultaneously turns into the site of homeland return for this more educated second- generation. Our analysis is based on structured in-depth interviews with 27 Americans and Germans of Turkish ancestry living in Istanbul. The comparison of the adult children of the more stigmatized Turk-German "guest workers" with the socially less salient Turk-Americans of more heterogeneous backgrounds offers an important analytic control regarding national context and internalized "otherness" and belonging. The project also explores the distinct cultural boundaries confronted by the two groups as they construct their own ambiguous national, gender, religious/secular, and family

identities in a fluid global urban context. The evolution of Istanbul as a global economically vibrant city drawing in these transnational young professionals, as well as the importance of sustained transnational socialization across the life cycle for cultural adaptation— even among the second generation -- are at the center of this analysis.