



## ABSTRACTS

### Introduction

*Jon Fox*

A quick glance at the numbers of migrants coming to Hungary over the past two decades wouldn't raise many eyebrows. Compared to other countries of immigration in Western Europe and North America Hungary has not seen many migrants in either relative or real terms. And with Hungarians migrating to other parts of Europe (particularly following Hungary's accession to the EU in 2004), net migration figures make already modest in-migration figures even smaller.

But these modest numbers belie the variation, complexity, and distinctiveness of recent migration to Hungary. A scan of the pages contained in the present volume reveals a dizzying array of recent developments in migration to Hungary from co-ethnic labour migration and East Asian ethnic entrepreneurship to lifestyle migration and transborder petty commerce. We also find a variety of responses to migration ranging from policies of integration to practices of segregation and the politics of nationalism to the policies of EU compliance.

This volume makes important strides in uncovering and unravelling the complexity of these recent migration trends, contributing to a more balanced, nuanced, and comprehensive understanding of migration to Hungary today. In the process, it reveals what is both old and new about these different forms of migration. Reflecting on this volume from a comfortable distance in the UK, migration to Hungary can be seen to exhibit many of the features of migration found in other parts of the world. New insights for the present Hungarian case are gained through engagement with a theoretical repertoire that draws from and builds upon the foundations of other studies of migration.

That same British perspective also reveals that the contributions to this volume bring something distinctly new to our understanding of migration. Through engagement with and reference to these other examples from around the world, a picture begins to emerge of not only sameness but difference as well. Indeed, this volume shows how migration to Hungary exhibits a number of distinctive features. The contributors to this volume have grappled not only with empirical distinctiveness of the Hungarian case but have also adapted and developed a new conceptual language to make sense of it.

The dynamic picture of migration to Hungary that has taken shape in recent years has kept both migrants and analysts on their toes. To their credit, the analyses contained in the current volume have kept pace with these changes, anticipating them through thoughtful engagement with other cases of migration, and responding to their distinctiveness with new insights where the extant scholarship has come up short. In these ways, then, this volume contributes to and furthers our knowledge of Hungarian migration and migration processes and dynamics more generally.

## Migration and Labour Market in Hungary Facts, Causes and Perspectives

*Ágnes Hárs*

Discussion about migration and migration policy, understanding the migration drives and flows that swept across Hungary during the transition of the late '80s and early '90s – these were never summarized in a comprehensive theoretical framework. By means of the approach and methodology of IDEA comparative research – which is, in fact, also the basis of the present book – the somewhat outdated understanding of migration can be challenged and reinterpreted. The model of the project outlines the ideal types of migration that follow migration transformation based on various indicators. These are characteristic of the life-cycle and the generation effect of migration, on the main drive of migration – namely, the labour demand as well as the social and economic circumstances characteristic to the inclusion of migrants in the peculiar country. The paper will test the stage of Hungarian migration in the life cycle, investigating if the generation effect – that is, the surroundings at the given period when the country is experiencing migration – has a relevant influence on the development of migration. Demand for labour migration and the migration policy and climate to accommodate migration will also be tested using a set of indicators. Based on the approach, some widespread suppositions, expla-

nations and commonplaces in connection with the low level of migration in Hungary were challenged.

## Homecoming Foreigners: Causes, Forms and Effects of Hungarian Ethnic Migration in the Carpathian Basin

*Margit Feischmidt and Ildikó Zakariás*

This paper is a critical review and a conceptual analysis of the professional, as well as political, thinking on ethnic migration (migration of ethnic Hungarians from the neighbouring countries of Romania, Serbia, the Ukraine and Slovakia) to Hungary. Because of the inferiority and inconsistency of the Hungarian migration policy in general, and migration policy towards the Hungarian Diaspora in particular, we pointed out the limited success and contradictory fulfilment of the rule “selection by origin”, characteristic for nation states applying ethnic preferences in migration policy all over the world. Political push models assuming ethnic discrimination on the part of the neighbouring states also have limited explanatory power here. Most recent empirical investigations affirm the economic models of ethnic migration, according to which ethnicity does not work as a real push or pull factor; it is important as symbolic, cultural and social capital that influences the directions and feasibility of migration. Analyzing the changing social context of migration flows in the region, as well as its changing forms, we conclude that instead of national container models of migration, transnational models are more adequate to describe the Hungarian ethnic migration.

## Immigration and Ethnicity – Looking for Relationships

*Irén Gödri*

The study reveals the ethnical character of immigration from neighbouring countries to Hungary by analysing three sets of questions. Providing empirical data, it supports the role of ethnicity in the immigration of ethnic Hungarians. Firstly, based on the approach of “ethnicity as social capital”, it analyses the social capital of the immigrants (personal ties that they had with the target country prior to migration and the resources mobilised through these), highlighting the changes over time and socio-demographic determinants of social capital. Secondly, national identity of the immigrants is explored by demonstrating the internalised criteria among the

immigrants, indicating their belonging to the Hungarian nation (whether cultural-national or state-national identity is more prevalent), and reflecting upon the categories of self-identification prevalent among the immigrants departing from different countries. Finally, we explore the factors determining the chances of gaining Hungarian citizenship, as political acknowledgement of belonging to a nation.

### Migration Patterns from Two Romanian Villages: What Inferences Can We Draw from Two Case Studies? (original in English)

*Dr. des Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu*

This chapter enquires, ‘What has happened during the past 20 years with regard to Romanian international migration?’ To answer this question, the chapter looks at the migration patterns of two villages from Romania. The two case studies contrast and thus provide complementary information that helps put together a puzzle of Romanian migration patterns in terms of: (1) strategies to migrate, (2) main destinations, (3) costs of migration and (4) the impact of different migration policies and EU policies on the shaping of these patterns. In spite of the initial differences among the villages, the longitudinal perspective allows one to notice a convergence in the migration patterns. There are four main periods common for most Romanian migrant communities: 1989–1995, 1996–2001, 2002–2006 and post-2007. The research draws on qualitative fieldwork research in the two Romanian villages and at the destination of the migrants, mainly in Spain. Biographical narrative interviews have been conducted with migrants and in-depth interviews with key informants on migration. These data were triangulated with the existing reports and literature on the topic.

### Chinese Migrants in Hungary: Our Present Knowledge and Current Questions

*Pál Nyíri*

Looking back at the author’s ethnographic research among Chinese in Hungary from the early 1990s to the mid-2000s, this chapter attempts to summarise what we know on the subject and suggest questions for future research. Twenty years after Hungary became the hub of new Chinese mi-

gration to Eastern Europe, Chinese (despite their small numbers) remain the most visible migrant group in the country and continue to function as a transnational “middleman minority”. They fill a market niche in retail trade, rely on intense economic ties with China, and show no signs of “integration” – a process in which Hungarian society and government, EU directives notwithstanding, display as little interest as the migrants themselves. In the case of Chinese migration, patterns in Western, Southern and Eastern Europe have been different both in terms of economic and social interaction with the host society. It is the pattern first observed in Eastern Europe – entrepreneurial migration of a highly transnational nature – that is belatedly spreading to Southern Europe. Hungary’s entry into the EU’s common labour market has not, so far, significantly affected Chinese migration, and it is yet to be seen whether the locally raised second generation will remain in the country.

## Some Characteristics of Chinese and Vietnamese Economic Clusters

*Zoltán Várhalmi*

The self employment strategies of migrants or their participation in economic activity organized on an ethnic basis is not necessarily motivated by necessity, but rather the exploitation of alternative and exclusive opportunities for mobility. In order to achieve success, some of the traditional economic resources may be substituted for what we may define as “migrant resources”. These are typical of the entire ethnic group, or rather group membership guarantees access to such resources. The effective use of migrant resources results in the development of a separate functions and context that differ from what subjects may experience when employed in the primary economy. The present study attempts to reveal some of the particular characteristics and internal mechanisms of Chinese and Vietnamese economic clusters along the themes of economic specialization, internal labor market, transnational ties, ethnic economic control and network-based cooperation.

## Do We Need a Normative Migration Policy in Hungary?

*Judit Tóth*

The author intends to prove, or at least illustrate, by facts some provocative statements concerning migration policy in the recent two decades. The importance of ethnicity in migration fields has developed only a stratum within the Diaspora policy and law. The ethnicity cannot become an integrative part of migration policy and law integrating the kin-minorities into human resources. Neither ethnic migrants, nor migrant representatives of farer cultures have influenced on the self-identification of Hungarians. While Hungary has been a sending and receiving country, outflow of migrants has been neglected in public opinion. Independent research on migratory movements and its ramifications is fragmented. Despite the low numbers of foreign population in Hungary, the criminalization of migration has occurred, as it has across Europe, spurring public discourses on liberty versus security. The governmental planning and coordination is weak, so migrants' chances for social integration have remained limited and will remain so in near future. Thus, migration policy is nominally normative covering on absent moral or religious rules by overworked legislation.

## Foreigners in Budapest

*Lea Kőszeghy*

First, the article provides a short overview on the migrant population in world metropolises, its main effects on affected localities, and local integration policy approaches. Then, on the basis of research by the Minority Studies Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, it presents the demographic characteristics and territorial distribution of the migrant population in Budapest and their appearance in local institutions. It also sketches some of the economic impacts of migrants through the example of the 8th district. In the conclusion, it applies some topics of international migration-related discourse to the Budapest situation, dealing with the applied policy responses – or the lack of such responses – to migration. It argues that though the number and proportion of migrants in Budapest is lower than in many other metropolises, it is important to examine the phenomenon in the context of Budapest and formulate locally relevant policy-responses to migration. Due to their unequal territorial distribution in certain localities, the migrants' presence is clearly

perceivable in the local population structure by local institutions and in the local economy.

## Welfare Migration: Foreign Settlers in Hungary

*Anna Balogi*

The paper examines the phenomenon of welfare migration in Hungary. In the past couple of decades, a new form of migration flow appeared in Mediterranean countries – a large number of Western European citizens started to buy property in the region. A great proportion of them are retired and independent of the host country's labour market opportunities. According to Williams and Hall (2000), the main drives of their retirement migration are family reunion and leisure-seeking based on a previous experience as a tourist (Williams and Hall, 2000). Nevertheless, the same phenomenon can be observed in Hungary in recent years in smaller numbers. Throughout the study, we have faced difficulties in the collection of data. There is very little research on the topic, and the main source of information is the national register of property transactions. Motivations of welfare migrants remain unexplored.

## Xenophobia in Hungary and in the Visegrad Countries

*Anikó Bernát*

The presence and extent of xenophobia perceived in the receiving country is one of the appropriate indicators of the social context that is relevant in reference to migration. The level of xenophobia increased in Hungary after the political transition. The rate of those who are blatantly xenophobic towards members of any nation entering the country as refugees has grown, and the same applies to latent xenophobes. Nowadays, only one out of 10 Hungarians are considered tolerant towards refugees, while three out of 10 is openly hostile, and six out of 10 can be considered latent xenophobic. The level of xenophobia is more or less the same in the Visegrad countries, measured by different questions. However, if we measure it in a broader context, the Hungarians seem to be the most negative towards immigrants. Examining it an even broader geographical context, Hungary is one of the most dismissive countries in the EU.