

学会発表渡航支援報告書

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発表題名 (英語)	Globalization and diversifying patterns of migration: The case of Czechs and Slovaks in Japan	
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In my presentation, I focused on how the processes of globalization and individualization impacts international migration on the case of Japan. However, since the main aim was to attempt to contribute to a non-deterministic understanding of migration, I did not discuss any of the mainstream migration flows such as foreign workers in Japan, Koreans minority or 'Asian brides' whose migration tends to be conceptualized in a deterministic way. Rather, I have focused on the case of usually overlooked and understudied 'individualized migrants', who can be characterized as not being part of channeled migration systems, their reasons are not solely economic and their migration is based more on concatenated contingencies than rational choices.

For this purpose, I have chosen the case of Czechs and Slovaks living in Japan and briefly introduced representative stories of two main patterns of their migration, namely academics (including foreign students, researchers and university teachers) and international marriage. By discussing various forms of their ways to Japan I attempted to stress not only the increasing diversification of migration but also tried to point out the difficulties of conceptualization of this type of migrants within the framework of major migration theories.

Regarding their migration patterns in general, first of all, their growth cannot be ascribed to the simple "push-pull" economic reasons or be explained sufficiently by focusing on economical aspects of their motivations. Also, there could not be seen any traits of formation of migration channel, which could possibly explain the growth in the number of migrants from the perspective of migration systems or network theory. On the other hand, from the interviews and fieldwork are visible very individual patterns of migration – regarding motives, routes of migration but also gathering of necessary information or organization of travel and stay.

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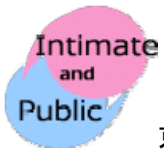
As a more plausible explanation for their migration seem to be more focus on the workings of globalization in terms of creating more opportunities or contingencies together with the effect of individualization of societies in terms of its working against “retain” force. In general, migration patterns observed among Czechs and Slovaks in Japan can be seen more as individual action than collective one and they can be explained not by economical or systematic approaches but by focus on social changes connected with the shift to second or ‘liquid’ modernity. Focus on the individualization of societies in general and its influence on the migration in particular was also in concord with the aims of the conference which was dedicated to one of the most influential present day sociologists and his works including also theories of individualization popular not only among scholars.

Discussion and Conference Overview

During the short Q&A session, I was addressed questions concerning mainly methodology and factual questions. However, during the following socializing events, I could discuss about major concepts used in paper such as contingencies and their position in social sciences and received also many fruitful comments on my paper.

The conference was held as an opening event for the newly established “Zygmunt Bauman Institute” at the University of Leeds where he is still active. Zygmunt Bauman not only attended the whole conference in person and actively interacted with more than 200 participants from all over the world, but he also gave a thought-provoking and very inspiring lecture on sociology in general (“Sociology whence and whither”, on picture during discussion after his presentation) based on his long lasting experience with this subject. Moreover, during the two conference days, they were also keynote speeches given by Saskia Sassen and George Ritzer who are also one of the most famous sociologists today. Besides keynote speeches, there were presented another 67 papers in more than 20 sessions inspired mainly by rich work of Zygmunt Bauman.

Overall, this conference was of high value not only for my particular research on recent migration to Japan, but also in general as a student of sociology.



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