

Cepam

Congresos e Reunións

2008

Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (ZiF), Bielefeld University, 10-11 July 2008.

**Migration(s) and Development(s)
The Transformation of Paradigms,
Organisations, and Gender Order**

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Publicación en liña : mércores 23 de xaneiro do 2008

Hosts:

The division "Development Sociology and Social Anthropology" (ESSA) and the division "Migration and Ethnic Relations" of the German Society of Sociology (DGS) and the working group "The Politics of Migration" of the German Associate of Political Science (DVPW).

At first sight the enthusiasm for migration(s) and development(s) in academic and political circles seems to be a repeat of the 1960s. The coupling of migration and development through migrant remittances is once again centre stage. However, the discussion is broader and includes new development and migration research paradigms and perspectives. Here the implicit view of migrants as carriers and agent of development goes in two directions: first, how does migration contribute to development and second, how does the form or degree of (economic) development influence migration processes? Thus we come to talk about migrations: which categories of migrants are desirable? In the new discussions and political recommendations the highly qualified seem to be ideal agents for development in the sending countries and strengthening "competitive capability" in the receiving countries, whereas illegal migrants and asylum seekers appear as a threat to social cohesion, the health of the welfare state, and cultural homogeneity in immigration countries. Also development (and similarly 'modern') can be seen in the plural-developments include economic, social, cultural, and political change and transformation. Which notions of development are propagated-or negotiated, as the case may be-by whom, beyond formalized development politics? How does this relate to globalisation processes? Are nationalistic perspectives in development and migration politics and research still propagated or negotiated? It is roughly in these terms that international organisations more strongly than before refer to the important roles of scientists and knowledge transfer in terms of "social remittances", in other words the transfer of ideas such as gender equality, human rights, and democracy through networks and groups in diasporas.

Moreover, in political discussions one observes, above all in the European Union, the very controversial tying together of development politics and migration control as 'remote control', as well as a coupling of extraterritorial control in so-called transit countries with development cooperation and other forms of transfer payments.

This and other changes would seem to constitute a paradigm shift. The focus often lies on the roles of migrants, either as 'seeds in the wind' or as collective agents in "hometown associations", epistemic communities, advocacy networks, and civil society movements. There is little consideration of the everyday and informal relationships and their change on the one hand, and organisations engaged in development cooperation or even multinational corporations on the other hand. And in many policy discussions and scientific analyses it is still a matter of a predominantly unidirectional transfer from North to South or from West to East, even if circular migration or flux of, for example, merchant networks or religious movements gradually come into view.

This is an interdisciplinary conference. Contributions from all social or economical sciences and the humanities are welcome including sociology, social anthropology, and political science, but also from all other participating disciplines such economics, history, cultural sciences, geography, business administration/ human resource management, linguistics and literature, pedagogy, and health sciences. To promote a productive dialogue, contributions should make their methodological premises explicit and discuss them briefly.

Especially encouraged are contributions which present original empirical work and/or unite development(s) in North and South, West and East (i.e. transnational or translocal approaches,

network analyses) or explicitly observe perspectives which target the "global South" such as postcolonial perspectives. Besides analyses of South-North and East-West migration, papers on South-South and North-North migration are also desirable.

Conference languages are German and English.

Title and abstract should be submitted by 29 February 2008 to:

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http://www.comcad-bielefeld.de/cgi-bin/pagemaker.pl?name=migrationen_entw_e