

Description for the general public

The main goal of the proposed research project is to explore the connection between mobility and emotions on the example of Filipino migration to People's Republic of China. Migration studies up until now have very often focused on providing economic and political analyses and concentrated on the logical, instrumental aspects of this phenomenon (Boccagni & Baldassar, 2015). Yet, it is hard not to agree that emotions are another important feature of human experience and they are also present in the situation of migration. Sadness, hope felt in the context of departure; fear, excitement following arrival in a new country; anger, shame, nostalgia, happiness developed during the course of mobility, are just a few simplified examples of a broad range of emotional reactions that might appear (Pratt & Eving, 2007; Conradson and McKay 2007; Wang & Collins, 2016). Studies that incorporate notion of emotions are still rather scarce and focus mostly on their negative pathological dimension (mental health issues, which often are result of experienced abuse or separation from families). I propose in this project to look at the connection between emotions and mobility by relating emotions to the issues of integration and belonging. Two main questions I pose ask about 1) the role emotions play in shaping attitudes and social interactions between migrants and local actors and 2) emotional strategies involved in a creation of an attachment to a new place (home-making practices). Moreover, I explore the ways, in which the emotions themselves are transformed in the course of migration.

In the project I refer to the notion of *emotion work* as proposed by Arlie R. Hochschild (1989) to describe and analyze effort made to deal with emotions to sustain relations with others. The concept of *emotion work* is used here to accentuate emotional negotiations (and their dynamics) that must be undertaken as a part of migrants' everyday lives as they need to deal with people and places that differ (sometimes significantly) from what they were familiar with before the mobility took place.

The project focuses on the case of Filipino migrants in People's Republic of China. While the Philippines belongs to the top labor-sending countries in the world, migration to China is a rather new movement, which until now has not been investigated by any scientific study. Even though PRC is traditionally considered a country of emigration rather than immigration, there is a growing number of foreigners who move to work there. Media reports and my own previous research indicate that Filipino workers are employed in China mostly due to their English language skills as language teachers, domestic workers and musicians. In order to answer the questions posed in the project, I intend to conduct fieldwork (2 months) based on qualitative research methods: biographical interviews (as a primary method), participant observation and content analysis of the Internet forums (as complementary ones).

The here proposed research project offers a chance to explore a new, so far entirely uncharted direction of migration – from the Philippines to Mainland China. Moreover, it focuses on an aspect that has been until now only rarely covered in the migration studies – emotions. It will offer new insights from still underresearched non-western perspective into dynamics and hierarchies that appear in the migration processes and contribute to better understanding of the relevance of the emotions to the debate on integration, identity and belonging and this way to the development of migration and emotions studies.