



Public Lecture Series

Thursday, 14 March 2024

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Tie Formation and Boundary-Drawing in Changing Environments: Network Perspectives in (approaches to) Migration Studies

Marta Kindler, University of Warsaw

Discussant: Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel, nccr – on the move

18:00 – 19:30 h

This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, 1er mars 26, room B32, and on WEBEX ([link](#))

Abstract

How do people form social ties? Reflecting on this fundamental question, Marta Kindler will provide a general introduction to network perspectives in migration studies. Zooming in on her own work, Kindler will trace the intellectual trajectory that brought her to the conclusion that migration is intrinsically connected not only to the character of social networks, but also to how these networks are formed. This in turn is connected to the context of interaction and intersections, such as gender, class and nationality, and ethnicity of the persons involved.

The talk will include a theoretical discussion of scholarship on how institutional contexts (both formal and informal) and routine interactions influence the formation of social ties (Small 2009; 2017), as well as how network perspectives allow to examine the mechanisms behind symbolic and social boundaries drawn during migration (Dahinden 2012; 2013). Kindler will share concrete examples of how these theoretical insights helped her make sense of her empirical research into migration studies.

To illustrate her work, Kindler draws primarily on data from qualitative fieldwork carried out in the years 2013-2023 in Poland, analysing the mechanisms behind everyday interactions of Ukrainian men and women with a variety of class backgrounds and how these change within institutional and migrant community contexts. Analysing practices of tie formation and boundary-drawing, she deconstructs concepts such as 'cultural proximity' often attributed to Ukrainians' facility of forming ties in Poland and 'socio-cultural integration', including the meaning given to Ukrainian's having ties to Poles.

Short Biography

Marta Kindler works as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences and Resocialisation and the Centre of Migration Research at the University of Warsaw. She holds a BA in Sociology (1997) from McGill University, an MA in Society and Politics (1998) from the Central European University and a PhD (2012) from the Faculty of Social and Cultural Studies, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt, Oder. She is the co-editor of the book „[Ukrainian Migration to the European Union: Lessons from Migration Studies](#)” (2016) and the author of “[A Risky Business? Ukrainian Migrant Women in Warsaw's Domestic Work Sector](#)” (2011). She is a Board Member of the IMISCOE Standing Committee “Reflexive Migration Studies”.

Selected publications

- M. Kindler (in print). “Beyond the ‘strong’ and ‘weak’ ties divide: the role of networking in Ukrainian migrant women’s employment” in Vytis Ciubrinkas, Nina Glick Schiller and Jonathan Hill (Eds.) *Transnational Mobility in the Americas and Europe: Moral Economy of Betwixt and Between*. Berghahn.
- M. Kindler & M. Szulecka (2022). Messy Arrangements? A Social Networks Perspective on Migrant Labor Brokerage: The Case of Ukrainian Migration to Poland. *Polish Sociological Review*, 220(4), 457-484.
- M. Kindler (2021). Networking in contexts: qualitative social network analysis' insights into migration processes. *Global Networks*.
- M. Kindler & K. Wójcikowska-Baniak (2019). (Missing) Bridging Ties and Social Capital? The Creation and Reproduction of Migrants’ Social Network Advantages: The Case of Ukrainian Migrants in Poland. *Central and Eastern European Migration Review*, 8 (1), 95-116.