

Pensioners on the move: the residence, social security and citizenship strategies of Dutch “pensionados” and retired labour migrants.

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Presentation 18-10 Wine and discussion

Promotors: Elspeth Guild / Anita Böcker

During the wine and discussion presentation I will present my PhD research on retirement migration. I will focus the presentation on my research approach as well as on the theoretical framework. This short paper can be seen as an introduction to my research.

The research focus is on people who migrate to pass their retirement in a state other than the state where they spent their working lives. I use a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to investigate the residence strategies, social security strategies, and citizenship strategies of Dutch migrants who have moved to Spain and Turkey after their retirement and Spanish and Turkish migrants who have returned from the Netherlands after their retirement. The research thus compares post-retirement migrants with former labour migrants and, within each population, intra-EU migrants and migrants crossing the external EU border.

The research focuses on two main aspects. The first focus is on the ways each group of mobile pensioners seeks to gain or retain access to public, private and family resources to meet their social security needs in the country where they spent their working life and in the retirement country. Based on existing literature I assume that it is possible that many of the retirement migrants prefer to maintain dual residences, both to enable themselves to access a broader range of welfare and care resources and because of their transnational way of (family) life.

The second focus is on the legal framework, which is different for people with different citizenship statuses. I will research how the different statuses facilitate or impede the realisation of their preferences and strategies. I will research how older migrants perceive, evaluate and use their citizenship status and the rights attached to it in both the country where they spent their working life and the country where they are spending their retirement. This question is all the more interesting and important as in recent years we have seen the

emergence and creation of new, transnational forms of citizenship, such as dual citizenship and EU citizenship. Their significance for and use by older migrants will be a special focus of my research.

Other than the work on retirement migration by O'Reilly (2000), King et al. (2000), Casado-Diaz et al. (2004) and a few others, one is led to assume that migrants, generally, tend to be young. Older migrants and, more specifically, international retirement migrants indeed form a rather invisible group in the literature on migration (O'Reilly 2000). The specific characteristics of retirement migrants and the challenges they face make them an important and interesting group to study, yet the number of studies on this topic is still limited. Northern European retirement migrants have only recently begun to attract research attention (e.g. Casado-Diaz, Kaiser, and Warnes 2004; Gustafson 2001; Huber and O'Reilly 2004; King, Warnes, and Williams 2000; O'Reilly 2000; Rodriguez, Fernandez-mayoralas, and Rojo 1998) and retirement return migrants have attracted still less scholarly attention (exceptions include: Bolzman, Fibbi, and Vial 2006; Klinthäll 2006; Rodriguez and Egea 2006). Existing studies focus exclusively on either the first or the second group of older migrants. The most notable exception is a study of retired migrants within the European Union (Ackers and Dwyer 2002). This existing division of the field is unnecessary and unproductive. An innovative aspect of this study is that it compares 'pensionados' with retirement return migrants, and, within each population, intra-EU migrants and migrants crossing the external border of the European Union.

Planning:

15-02-2011: Start PhD

January 2012: Fieldwork period in Spain, Turkey and the Netherlands

Literature

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