

Bryan Fanning, Ronaldo Munck (eds.) *Globalization, migration and social transformation: Ireland in Europe and the world*, Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 245 pp., ISBN: 978-1-4094-1127-7

Review by Marius I. TĂȚAR

This timely collection of research reports explores the interplay between migration, social transformation and identity reconfigurations within the context of an increasingly globalized world. More specifically, the book focuses on the processes which so rapidly shifted Ireland from a relatively peripheral country into a leading European economy and afterwards, since the global financial and economic crisis started, into a place of economic hardships and rising unemployment, especially among immigrants. The book examines not only the reasons why the *Celtic Tiger* faced several reversed flows of international mobility in less than two decades (from mass emigration to mass immigration, and back to emigration) but also the demographical, political, cultural and economical effects these migration processes had and have on the Irish society.

The book is divided into three inter-twinned sections which analytically display different dimensions, moving from the global to the European, and then to the national contexts of migration. Part I, *Global and diasporic settings*, encompasses five studies related to the integration of Ireland into the “global circuits of finance production and trade” (p. XIX), how the appurtenance to the global economic networks changed the international mobility flows, and how these migration processes in turn increased ethnic diversity, reshaped identity and promoted a “veritable cultural renewal” (p. 4) in a country once portrayed as “mono-cultural and mono-ethnic” (see p.4). This section starts with the chapter of Ronaldo Munck, *Ireland in the World, the World in Ireland*, which features the general migration and globalization debates with the case of Ireland. The chapter by Caitriona Ni Laoire addresses the pivotal role of return Irish migrants in redefining the boundaries of belonging and how studying their life experiences can



contribute to a better understanding of the "complexities of insider-outsider relations in Irish society" (see p. 32). On the other hand, Nicola Yeats illustrates the shifting demand-supply balance on the globalized health care market by analyzing the case of labour force which migrated from and to the nursing sector in Ireland. The chapter by Diane Sabenacio Nititham, examines the means (especially Catholic church gatherings) by which Filipinos in Ireland "enact a sense of community in response to complications associated with immigration status" (see p. 61). In the last study in this section, Irial Glynn compares the open emigration memories in Ireland that "could be referenced by outsiders" with the more "exclusive" emigration memory in Italy, arguing that these two different types of emigration memory had an impact on the subsequent immigration debates in the two countries (see pp. 76-77).

The second part of the book, *European settings*, focuses on the European voting rights, integration governance and official discourses on migration. This section starts with a chapter by Jo Shaw outlining the framework for electoral rights for EU citizens and how such voting rights for residents in the Irish local elections, for instance, could be perceived as a learning laboratory which precedes a possible naturalization and integration of EU and non-EU legal residents in Ireland, as full members of the polity. An application of Foucault's concept of *governmentality* in analyzing the Irish integration policy of immigrants is the core of the chapter elaborated by Brenda Gray. Thus, migrants can be conceived both as "productive figures of global capitalism" and as a "threat to national security and social cohesion" (p. 104) and this influences immigration policies and official discourses. In his chapter, Bryan Fanning places the Irish migrant integration into the wider context of European policies on integration, assessing the degree of convergence between the two. Further on, Gerard Boucher finds a contradiction between official discourses on managing migration bounded at the national level on the one hand, and discourses on economic globalization and European integration which directly link with the global and European levels, on the other hand.

The final section of this book points to immigrant experiences of African, Eastern European, Brazilian and Chinese communities living in Ireland. Theophilus Ejorh argues that African immigrants to Ireland share a similar racism experience with other African immigrants living in other western countries. The relatively low responsiveness of the Irish political parties to non-citizen residents, including

recent immigrants from Eastern Europe and Africa, which have voting rights in Irish local government elections, is the topic analyzed by Bryan Fanning, Kevin Howard and Neil O'Boyle. The next chapter by Kevin Howard illustrates the outcome of an "archetypal moral panic" (see p. 169) by the case of the "criminalization of East Europeans' fishing and dietary practice" perceived as a threat to Ireland's coarse fishing stocks (see p. 181). On the other hand, Brain McGrath and Frank Murray critically explore the advantages and disadvantages of different dimensions of social capital (both bonding and bridging) in the dynamics of adaptation and adjustment among new immigrants. The last two chapters of the book present migrants' interactions with media systems. Gavan Titley and Aphra Kerr explore the case of Polish migrants and the media transformation in Ireland, while Rebecca King-O'Riain examines media perspectives on Chinese migrants in Ireland.

Examining and comparing issues of immigration, identity, integration and diaspora, the case studies presented in this book aim to shed light on the social transformations which occurred in Ireland, "a social and economic laboratory over the last 10 to 15 years" (see p. 9), broadening our understanding on how states and societies respond to challenges of mass (in and out) migration, in a globalized context.