Integration of Female Immigrants in Labour Market and Society.  
Policy Assessment and Policy Recommendations

A Specific Targeted Research Project of the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission hosted by the Institute of Social Research at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

About FeMiPol

Acknowledging that the integration of migrants serves to enhance the potential of European societies for competitiveness, sustainable economic growth and greater social cohesion, the European Commission has highlighted the contribution that immigrants could make to the Lisbon Strategy objectives. In the Communication to the Council (2003) the EC lists, alongside young migrants, migrant women as a group that should be taken into account in formulating integration policies.

The FeMiPol project responds to these challenges by exploring and analysing the impact of integration policies on the position of migrant women within EU countries as a basis for the development of recommendations for appropriate integration policies.

A central assumption is that integration policies should attend to the agency of the persons involved. Therefore, the analysis of integration processes focuses not only on barriers for social integration and on their removal, but also on the strategies and life plans of the female migrants. On the basis of an agency sensitive biographical evaluation of policy, the project will formulate recommendations for better policies, both on the national and EU level, aimed at the integration of female migrants.

The FeMIPol project started in February 2006 and will run until January 2008. The research covers eleven European countries: Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

The Newsletter, produced by the FeMiPol coordination team, informs interested parties about the project, its events, publications and activities of the partners. For detailed information and publications please visit the project website:

www.femipol.uni-frankfurt.de

In this issue

FeMiPol Events
Publications
Conference participations of the project partners
Other activities
Contact information
Events

The second workshop: biographical policy evaluation as method

The second workshop of the project took place in Cyprus/Protaras from October 20-22, 2006. The main theme of the workshop was the method of biographical policy evaluation. Core issues discussed concerned the hidden implications of policies in an autobiographical narrative that researchers need to bring out through their analysis of the biographical interviews. In referring to their experiences with the biographical interviews conducted so far, the partners also discussed their observations and raised different questions, such as how the access to interview partners among migrant women relates to the theoretical sampling strategy of the project. Further questions discussed included how to establish a good working alliance that provides trust and interest in the interview situation for the interviewee and a potential space for autobiographical reflection. The partners agreed that the interviewer should consider whether the conditions of the working alliance and also the personal situation of the interviewee enable an autobiographical narrative. Considerations also included ethical issues of power imbalance, the risk of a possible destabilizing impact of the biographical narration on the narrator and the fact that the time for the interview might imply less paid working time for the interviewee. Possibilities were discussed when it might be appropriate to offer interviewees something in return for their time and effort, be it materially or by helping with necessary administrative tasks. Other questions concerned the issue of authenticity when working with interpreters. Good experiences were reported in working together with students who spoke the language of migrant women, in case the researcher does not speak a language familiar to them. Further issues addressed were the method of transcription and the sequential interpretation in the analysis of the interviews. The workshop was a very successful work event that brought the teams closer to the common task. It was also a rewarding social event in bringing the team members closer to each other.

Conferences and workshops organized by the project partners

“The Age of Migration: Gender, Integration and Equality”

A seminar on “The Age of Migration: Gender, Integration and Equality” was organised by Dr. Nicos Trimikliniotis, Intercollege, Cyprus, the magazine “Peripeteies Ideon” (Adventures of Ideas), the University of Cyprus, Department of Social and Political Sciences and the Department of English Studies on 17 October, 2006. Prof. Floya Anthias, Oxford Brookes University, was keynote speaker with the topic: “Gender and migration today: new inequalities and identities”. The paper drew on recent research to discuss the changing configurations of modern societies with increasing migration, and particularly considered the gendered processes and effects of new population movements of women. She examined the labour market and social class positions of migrant women, and policies relating to their ‘integration’ in the context of debates on multiculturalism, ‘belonging’ and ‘social cohesion’. She posed the question of how adequate are theories of migration, gender and social class for understanding these changes and considered the usefulness of an intersectional approach to these issues and the need to develop further more integrated theories of social hierarchy.

“The Challenges of Migration and Integration. Female Immigrants in Labour and Market and Society”

A workshop on “The Challenges of Migration and Integration. Female Immigrants in Labour and Market and Society” was organised by Intercollege and the Goethe-Zentrum, at Goethe-Zentrum, Nicosia, on 18th October 2006.
Dr. Maria Kontos, Institute of Social Research at the Frankfurt University, presented a paper on “Migration and Integration of Female Immigrants in the Labour and Market and Society: The situation in Germany”. The paper outlined the paradoxes of current changes in the new German migration policy aiming, on the one hand, at recognising Germany as an immigration country by introducing an integration policy and, on the other hand, maintaining restrictions on immigration despite growing market demands for the labour of migrant women and men and thus creating growing numbers of undocumented migrants. The contradictory treatment of policy concerning irregular female migrants in the domestic sector and in the sex industry was discussed with reference to the unequal commodification of work in the fields of mothering and sexuality, respectively.

Dr. Nicos Trimikliniotis, Intercollege, presented a paper on “Migration and Integration of Female Immigrants in the Labour Market and Society”. The paper considered the characteristics of what it referred to as ‘the Cyprus immigration-integration conundrum’, discussing the failure of the Cyprus immigration/integration model and in how EU accession has had contradictory effects. It particularly focused on the question of female migration in Cyprus drawing on the findings of the FEMIPOL project and sketched out some pointers of a future policy as well a broad framework for an anti-racist, anti-sexist politics for the social movements and trade unions.

“Gendered migration, policies and labour market integration”

On Thursday November 2, 2006, Floya Anthias, Oxford Brookes University, and the British team held a workshop at Oxford Brookes University, to which the project advisors – Prof Haleh Afshar, York University, Dr Samia Bano, Reading University, and Prof Eleonore Kofman, Middlesex University – were invited to discuss past and future work for the FeMiPol project. The central issues that emerged from the workshop include first of all the importance of taking into account the specificities of labour markets and work experiences of female migrants in the different national contexts, and notably the un-applicability of the southern model of domestic work to the national cases of the UK and Sweden. The discussion pointed towards the importance of unpacking the notion of domestic work and exploring its different forms and features. In relation to this, the importance of looking at the residential care sector in the UK was highlighted. Another issue that emerged as part of this discussion was the case of women coming to the UK as brides and becoming de facto domestic workers, and problems relating to intra-familial control as well as the legal conditions of their residence permit (tied to the spouse) were emphasised as features heavily impacting on the women’s life and work situation. Another issue discussed was that of home-working, and the example discussed concerns Muslim women in the UK working informally from their homes cooking food for restaurants. This kind of phenomena is believed to be rapidly expanding, increasing pressure on women to juggle domestic work and informally paid home-work, and in turn leading to the demand for domestic help from family members in home countries. Another issue that came up concerns the relationships between new migrants and settled ‘communities’. The discussion centred on conflicts, antagonisms and racist sentiment felt between different groups of migrants and minority ethnic groups; divisions between formal and informal labour markets; and competition in certain labour market segments, where for example the sex industry was mentioned. In terms of policy making, concerns were expressed in relation to the finding that national policies are increasingly made in response to international policies, and that it has become increasingly difficult for NGOs to engage with and influence the government in their desired direction. It was suggested that the government has become increasingly wary of policies seen to favour undesirable categories (such as migrants and minority ethnic groups), largely through its fear of a negative reaction from the mass media. This, participants felt, often makes it difficult to produce long term and sustainable policy in areas affecting female migrants.
Publications

FeMiPol Working Papers

The first working papers from Work Package 1 “Mapping and analysing policy affecting female migrants”, Work Package 2 “Policy formation and policy implementation”, and Work Package 3 “Statistical analysis of female migration” can be downloaded from the project web page:
http://www.femipol.uni-frankfurt.de/working_papers.html

FeMiPol Policy Brief

The FeMiPol project offers summaries of the research done in the form of Policy Briefs, for policy makers, practitioners and researchers, who wish to have a quick overview over the reports of the FeMiPol research. The first Policy Brief on “Migration and Integration Policies in European Societies” summarizing some of the results of the Work Package 1 “Mapping and Analysing policy affecting female migrants” can be downloaded from the project web page:
http://www.femipol.uni-frankfurt.de/policy_briefs.html

Further Policy Briefs are planed.

Other publications

A special issue on ‘Migration and Belonging’ of the monthly journal ‘Peripeteies Ideon’ (Adventures of Ideas) edited by Nicos Trimikliniotis, was published in October 2006, with articles on conceptual and policy issues of migration, racism, migrant women and belonging. The special issue carried papers from the FeMiPol team, by Prof. Floya Anthias on “Gender and migration today: new inequalities and identities” and by Corina Demetriou, Intercollege, on the “Irrationality of Cypriot Immigration Policy”.

In the November edition of the journal, a paper of Mojca Pajnik, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, was published in this journal: “Trafficking in a Nation-State Framework”. The argument is explored that any change in the prevailing perspectives on trafficking will first require the unpacking of the anti-trafficking paradigm that sees crime and victimization as predominant factors that account for trafficking. The paper aims to contribute to the effort to unpack existing policies with the purpose of opening up space for the necessary disruption of assumptions about trafficking. By indicating how discursive frames and adopted policies capture the existing information and what kind of information they omit, the paper highlights some indicators for future thinking about trafficking that would encompass dimensions beyond the existing domination of nation-state framings.

Conference participations of the project partners

“New Ways to Combat Human Trafficking? Addressing the Demand Side”

Dr. Mojca Pajnik, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, participated in the Conference: "New Ways to Combat Human Trafficking? Addressing the Demand Side", organized by the IOM, in Warsaw, 11-12 October 2006. The title of her paper was "The Demand Side of Sex: Perspectives on Trafficking and Prostitution - The Case of Slovenia". The conference was organized to conclude the research project “In-Depth Applied Research to Better Understand the Demand Side of Trafficking in Persons” implemented by IOM and funded from the AGIS program of the European Commission. The project was carried out in Hungary, Poland,
Slovakia and Slovenia with the aim to constitute a paradigm shift moving the focus of attention away from the trafficked person and instead targeting the users of sexual services. This approach allows breaking men's anonymity around their purchasing of sex acts in the hope of bringing about greater responsibility and accountability. In order to achieve this, the research aimed to enhance the understanding of the dynamics of demand both by outlining the profile and motivations of users of forced sexual services, as well as by increasing overall knowledge on the subject.

“Community of Dialogue”

In the International Conference “Community of Dialogue”, Krakow, 13-14 October 2006, in the session “When Women Stay Silent”, Beata Kowalska, Jagiellonian University Krakow, gave a lecture on women in post-conflict societies with special reference on the situation of migrant women, dealing with political challenges, everyday reality and the role of women in promoting the peaceful cohabitation of communities.

“Social and Cultural Integration. Challenges for the Immigration Policy”

Dr. Magdalena Ślusarczyk, Jagiellonian University Krakow, presented a paper on “Concepts of the Cultural Integration of Immigrants” at the conference “Social and Cultural Integration. Challenges for the Immigration Policy”, in Warsaw, 25 October 2006. The Conference was organised by the Kardynał Stefan Wyszyński University and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The topic of the presentation was the process of the cultural integration of immigrants in Poland. Relating to empirical data as the demographic profile of immigrants, age, gender, education, etc., and to the framework of the immigration policy, the speaker analysed possibilities and challenges for the future immigration policy in Poland.

“Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Cyprus: Building Europe with New Citizens”

Dr. Nicos Trimikliniotis presented a paper on “Civic Participation of Immigrants in Cyprus”, in the conference “Active Civic Participation of Immigrants in Cyprus: Building Europe with New Citizens” organised by Symfiliosi and Intercollege, in the framework of the POLITIS project, in Nicosia, 25 October 2006. The paper focused on research findings on the civic participation of migrants in Cyprus, pointing to the limitations and prospects of the actual practices in Cyprus. The question of ‘integration’ in Cyprus needs to be approached critically as there is an absence so far of an ‘integration policy’. Nevertheless, there is a small but developing civil society sector and migrant workers are beginning to have an impact in society by belonging to trade unions, NGOs and cultural organizations. The paper illustrated the problems of policy and argued that more effort is needed for supporting and enhancing the rights of migrants in Cyprus.

“Immigration and Entrepreneurship”

In the international conference «Immigración e Emprendemento» organised by the University of a Coruña – Department of Sociology and the General Secretary of Migration, a Coruña, 30-31 October 2006, some of the project partners participated, presenting results of the EthnoGeneration project (www.ethnogeneration.org) on female migration and entrepreneurship.
Prof. Mirjana Morokvasic together with Dr. Christine Catarino, both University of Paris X, presented a paper on “Family dynamics, gender and power relations in families of ethnic entrepreneurs”.

Prof. Ron Ayres, University of Greenwich, gave a paper entitled “Policy recommendations for improving the quality of life of the families of ethnic entrepreneurs”.

Prof. Floya Anthias and Dr. Maja Cederberg, both University of Oxford Brookes, presented a paper on “Narratives of ethnicity, resources and social capital in families of ethnic entrepreneurs”.

“Between Social Change and Nationalism”

In the Conference “Between Social Change and Nationalism” held in honour of Dr. Michael Attalides by Cyprus Sociological Association, 10-11 November 2006, Nicosia, Dr. Nicos Trimikliniotis, Intercollege, presented a paper on “Racism, migrants as social actors and the transformations of Cypriot society: in search of a new Cypriot consciousness”. The paper analysed Cyprus as a country undergoing radical transformation; it argued that the debates over ‘Cypriot consciousness’, which were primarily shaped around the experience of ethnic conflict, the invasion, occupations and refugees experiences, took place before the arrival of migrant workers. Today, there are about 100.000-140.000 non-Cypriot migrants who have had a massive impact on society, in economic, social, cultural, and other terms. This requires a new way of thinking about integration, belonging, and urban spaces. It proposes a comprehensive rethinking of measures for institutional reform, as well as a re-working of the political and ideological discourses that define the ‘nation’, citizenship, class, gender and ‘belonging’ in Cypriot society.

In the same conference, Dr. Mihaela Souroulla-Fulias, Intercollege, presented a paper on “Intersocietal Marriages in a Shifting Cypriot Society”. The paper presented findings of the author’s doctoral research on marriages between non-nationals and Greek-Cypriots (i.e. mixed marriages at an intersocietal level). The aims of study were: (1) to explore how immigration, social mobility and integration processes relate to mixed marriage; and (2) to assess the influence and contribution of mixed marriage in the changing environment of Cypriot society. Mixed marriage and immigration are both new and interrelated phenomena in contemporary Cyprus. The statistical data analysis undertaken by the author identified an increasing propensity for Greek-Cypriots to marry foreigners as a result of the rise in immigration to Cyprus starting in the early nineties. The overall average rate of mixed marriage is 27% for all marriages involving Greek-Cypriots during the period under study (1989-2004).

“Migration to and in Greece. Experiences – Policies and Perspectives”

Anna Vouyiouka, CWRI, Athens, presented papers in two sessions of the IMEPO CONFERENCE “Migration to and in Greece. Experiences – Policies and Perspectives”, November 23-24, 2007. In the session on Gender and Migration, the discussion focused on the biographical method, recording the experiences of female migrants working as domestic labourers, nurses, and in the entertainment industry towards conceptualizing social integration, as well as on the narrative interview in order to reconstruct policy formation and policy implementation that affect the integration of new female migrants. In the session on Migration and the Labour Market, Anna Vouyiouka presented the Femipol project. It was pointed out during the discussion that we still lack data in Greece about the participation of female migrants in the country’s GDP.
European and National Agencies dealing with the “Non Accepted”

Dr. Maria Kontos was keynote speaker at the workshop on “Gender and Migration” at the EUROFOR conference on “European and National Agencies Dealing with the ‘Non-Accepted’”, in Berlin, 14-17 December, 2006. The title of her paper was “Gender-Specific Differences in the Treatment of the ‘Non-accepted’”. She discussed the German institutional and legal framework regulating work in the domestic sector and in the sector of prostitution and discussed structural conditions leading to the different treatment of irregular domestic workers and irregular sex workers through policy, as well as the specific structure of the negotiation of policy and the bottom policy activities affecting these two sectors.

Other activities of the FeMiPol partners

“Germany – Land of Ideas”: Open house at the Institute of Social Research, Frankfurt/M

The Institute of Social Research was selected as a research institution in the framework of the initiative “Germany – Land of Ideas”. Dr. Maria Kontos and Ana-Violeta Sacaliuc presented the objectives of the FeMiPol-project and first results during open house day on 28th November 2006.

“Gender and Migration in 21st Century Europe”

In the Interdisciplinary Workshop Series: “Gender and Migration in 21st Century Europe” at Liverpool University, on 6 December 2006 in the first workshop „The Impact of Migration on Family Life“, Prof. Floya Anthias presented a paper on “Gender and Generation”.
Contact Information

Institute of Social Research at J.W. Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
Dr. Maria Kontos (Project Coordinator): Kontos@soz.uni-frankfurt.de
Prof. Ursula Apitzsch: Apitzsch@soz.uni-frankfurt.de
PD Dr. Lena Inowlocki: Inowlocki@soz.uni-frankfurt.de
Ana-Violeta Sacaliuc: Sacaliuc@em.uni-frankfurt.de
Dr. Kyoko Shinozaki: k.shinozaki@cgd.unimaas.nl
Ute Haferburg, M.A.: UTHaferburg@web.de

Oxford Brookes University
Prof. Floya Anthias: fanthias@brookes.ac.uk
Dr. Maja Cederberg: mcederberg@brookes.ac.uk
Prof. Ron Ayres (Greenwich University): R.I.Ayres@greenwich.ac.uk
Tamsin Barber: t.barber@brookes.ac.uk

University of Paris X
Prof. Mirjana Morokvasic-Müller: mirijana.morokvasic@u-paris10.fr
Dr. Christine Catarino: Eliaskit@aol.com
Dr. Emmanuelle Chaveneau: echaveneau@yahoo.fr
Alexandra Carvallo: alexasof@yahoo.com

University of Florence
Prof. Giovanna Campani: campani@unifi.it
Tiziana Chiappelli: gyziana@tiscali.it
Ilundi Cabral: ilundicab@yahoo.com.br
Olivia Salimbeni: olivia.salimbeni@tin.it

Peace Institute, Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies
Ljubljana
Dr. Mojca Pajnik: mojca.pajnik@mirovni-institut.si
Dr. Veronika Bajt: veronika.bajt@guest.arnes.si
Neza Kogovsek LL.M: neza.kogovsek@mirovni-institut.si

Jagiellonian University Krakow
Prof. Krystyna Slany: k.slany@iphils.uj.edu.pl
Dr. Magdalena Slusarczyk: magdalena.slusarczyk@interia.pl
Dr. Beata Kowalska: kowalska@uj.edu.pl
Dr. Marta Smagacz: m.smagacz@iphils.uj.edu.pl

Centre for Research on Women’s Issues Athens
Maria Liapi: diotima@otenet.gr
Anna Vouyiouka: vouyioukas@tedkcorinthia.gr
Prof. Dina Vaiou: divaiou@central.ntua.gr

Intercollege Cyprus
Dr. Nicos Trimikliniotis: nicostrim@logosnet.cy.net
Dr. Mihaela Fulias-Souroulla: mmf.souroulla@cytanet.com.cy