

Newsletter

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Completed Projects

David May: Immigrant Participation in Civil Society

By David May

The project aims at analysing immigrants' participation in civil society and the influence it has on their lives. Civil society is placed at the borderline between the formal citizenship institutionalised by the state and the daily praxis of interaction between immigrants and natives. Participation in civil society opens up possibilities for immigrants to participate in the general reproduction of society. However, immigrants often participate for completely different reasons than the more general perspective suggests. The project aims at shedding light onto these two aspects.

A survey on clubs, associations, and local groups of national associations in the City of Aalborg reveals some information regarding the distribution of immigrants in civil society. Immigrants are overrepresented in large associations and underrepresented in small associations. In big associations activity and power is frequently concentrated on a few representatives while ordinary members are less active and powerful. Being a member of a large

association gives fewer possibilities of participating in lifeworld-oriented interactions with fellow members. Instead these associations focus on representing their by and large passive members in systems. This finding is confirmed, when looking at the core issues of the associations where immigrants are either over- or underrepresented. Associations focused on systems (i.e. unions and parties) have the lowest rate of "no ethnic minority" members (about two in ten). Associations that focus on issues and activities that can be separated from private lifestyle (sport, health, etc.) are on the whole more accommodating and about half of them have "no ethnic minority" members. However, the vast majority of associations that focus on community and culture with a lot of lifeworld-oriented interactions have "no ethnic minorities" among their members (seven in ten and more).

Qualitative interviews with immigrants that are active in an association give more insight into the motivations for and gains from becoming active in civil society. Recognition is for many immigrants a key issue. While society at large through discrimination, disadvantage, and deprivation denies the majority of immigrants recognition, becoming a member of an association is sometimes one way in which immigrants can find a niche of recognition within the new society. Members of an association often feel a bounded solidarity with each other because they share a common interest or conviction. This recognition by at least some natives is very important to immigrants. However, many immigrants only join immigrant associations as they fear to experience yet another instance of misrecognition.

Social capital is a key concept for describing how immigrants could make use of getting to know natives by being active in civil society. However, immigrants are reluctant to call on natives and thus make use of their social

capital. This reluctance can be due to two factors. On the one hand, immigrants can have limited social competence for activating their social capital. On the other hand, immigrants can fear being turned down by natives. The interviews revealed some minor instances of the exchange of social help capital such as borrowing a truck. But on the whole, this was rather limited. However, immigrants could make more indirect use of their interaction with natives. Immigrants can extend their everyday competence and learn how to interact with natives. One interviewee, for example, hopes that his engagement in a humanitarian organisation will help him in the future to find permanent employment.

Current Events and Activities

AMID Conferences

13th Nordic Migration Conference 18-20 November 2004

AMID is organizing the 13th Nordic Migration Conference which takes place in Aalborg. The focus of the conference is upon a wide range of migration-related issues and problems in the Nordic countries. The preliminary conference program is now available on the website.

Online conference registration:

<http://www.amid.dk/ocs/index.php?cf=1>
(Please note that from 16 August another DKK 500 will be added to the conference fee).

AMID Visiting Fellows Program

Spring 2004

Tordis Borchgrevink (Institute for Social Research, Norway) stayed with AMID for four months during the Spring 2004.

Professor Jere R. Behrman (University of Pennsylvania, USA) visited AMID one week in June. Prof. Behrman participated in workshops and gave a number of lectures. Please see the program of Prof. Behrman's stay here:
<http://www.amid.dk/activities/index.html#june7>

Autumn 2004

Anastasia Christou, PhD, will commence a four-month fellowship at AMID during the autumn. Anastasia Christou obtained her PhD in Human

Geography (Research areas: Migration Studies and Social-Cultural-Political Geography), from the University of Sussex in January 2004.

Linda Scharn Fair, PhD Candidate (Dept. of Geography, The Graduate School-New Brunswick Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA) will be affiliated with AMID for one academic year starting in September 2004.

Brief News from the Consortium

PhD Defence: On 16 April 2004 Vibeke Jakobsen publicly defended her PhD dissertation *Educational Attainment of Young Immigrants - Empirical results and some policy implications*.

New AMID Research Project

Connie Carøe has received funding for a three-year research project titled *Consumption in Transnational Social Spaces between Denmark and Turkey*. The project is associated with AMID and is funded by the Social Sciences Research Council.

Abstract: By taking its point of departure in consumption strategies the overall task of this project is to investigate transnational social spaces. What do specific consumption practices in transnational social spaces signify about the kind of life that migrants and their descendants lead? – about their stakes and dilemmas? Based on the assumptions that consumption form part of what constitute and maintain transnational ties and that consumption constitutes a complicated system of communication, decoded by some, but creating distance to others, unable to decode it, the project is intended to interrogate consumption patterns among migrants as a distinct socio-cultural phenomenon.

Migration Links

The Integration Knowledge Bank

(<http://www.vicir.dk/>). On March 1, 2004 this new center was established in Randers. The purpose of the center is to:

- Collect experience gleaned from integration work under the Nordbyprojekt and projects running under “Byer for alle”.
- Collect data on young people from ethnic minorities in Randers Kommune.
- Develop methods to improve the quality of integration work.
- Produce written material on integration, hold theme-days, workshops and seminars.
- Create a network between people working in integration and with young people.

Please contact project leader Suzan Tugcu for further information (suzan@vicir.dk)

New Journal launched: MIGRATION LETTERS (<http://migration.atilim.edu.tr>)

Refugee Health Research Centre (RHRC) is an Australian centre established in December 2003. The focus of RHRC is upon:

- Refugee youth
- Newly emerging communities
- Refugee protection
- Service innovation and community strengthening

See <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rhrc/> for further information.

Migration-related MA Studies

- New MA at the University of Roskilde: *Mainstreaming of Gender and Ethnicity*, (<http://www.celi.dk/Aktiviteter/MKE/MKE.htm> Information available in Danish only)
- New MA at Aalborg University: *Gender & Welfare – Equality and Diversity*. <http://www.aau.dk/evu/udd/mkv.htm> (information available in Danish only)

Integration Awards 2004

The Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs will grant four awards to successful integration projects within the following categories:

- The Labour Market Awards (2)
- The School and Education Award
- The Fiery Soul Award

Read more about the application criteria and procedures at

<http://www.inm.dk/Index/mainstart.asp?o=130&n=1&h=19&s=4>. Deadline: 23 August 2004.

Publications

AMID Working Paper Series

All working papers can be purchased in hardcopies or be downloaded for free at AMID's website (<http://www.amid.dk/pub/>).

New publication:

Joanne van Selm: *The EU as a Global Player in the Refugee Protection Regime*.

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Recent Publications in Danish by AMID

Associates

Garbi Schmidt & Vibeke Jakobsen:

Pardannelsesmønstre blandt etniske minoriteter i Danmark,

Socialforskningsinstituttet 04:09

(<http://www.sfi.dk/sw12774.asp>)

Hedetoft, Ulf (2004) “Magten, de Etniske

Minoriteter og det Moderniserede

Assimilationsregime i Danmark”. *Grus*. Vol.

25, nr. 71.

Other Publications

Bleich, Erik (2003) *Race Politics in Britain and France. Ideas and Policymaking since the 1960s*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Boswell, Christina & Jeff Crisp (2004) “Poverty, International Migration and Asylum”. *Policy Brief* No. 8, February. Helsinki: UNO-WIDER.

(<http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/pb8.pdf>)

Carlsen, Louise S. & Hanne Fuglbjerg (red.)

(2004) *Inspiration til integration. Erfaringer fra integrationspriserne 2003*. København:

Ministeriet for Flygtninge, Indvandrere og

Integration. (<http://www.inm.dk>)

Christiansen, Flemming & Ulf Hedetoft (eds)

(2004) *The Politics of Multiple Belonging.*

Ethnicity and Nationalism in Europe and East

Asia. Aldershot: Ashgate.

Degn, Dorthe Marie (2004) *Et mobilt demokrati?*

– om flerkulturelt naboskab og

beboerdemokrati. Brøndby Strand:

Tranemosegård.

(<http://www.brondbystrand.net>)

Hansen, Hans, Garbi Schmidt, Karen Margrethe

Dahl & Sergi Vidal Torre (2004)

“Udlændinge- og integrationspolitik i syv

udvalgte lande – SFI's bidrag til

- baggrundsrapport fra Tænketanken om udfordringer for integrationsindsatsen i Danmark". *SFI Arbejdsrapport 4:2004* (<http://www.sfi.dk/sw10699.asp>)
- Hansen, Jytte (2004) *At åbne læringsrum i daglig praksis*. Haderslev: UFC Børn og Unge.
- Heinesen, Eskil, Søren C. Winter, Ina R. Bøge & Leif Husted (2004) *Kommunernes integrationsindsats og integrationssucces*. AKF Forlaget. (<http://www.sfi.dk/sw12795.asp>).
- Hydén, Sophie & Anna Lundberg (2004) *Inre utlänningskontroll i polisarbete – mellan rättsstatsideal och effektivitet i Schengens Sverige*. Doktorsavhandling. Malmö: IMER/Linköping: Linköpings Universitet.
- Jandl, Michael & Irene Stacher (eds) (2004) *Towards A Multilateral Migration Regime. Special Anniversary Edition dedicated to Jonas Widgren*. Vienna: International Centre for Migration Policy Development. For a brief description of the book and content, please refer to <http://www.icmpd.org/default.asp?nav=home&folderid=-1&id=206>
- Joly, Danièle (2004) *International Migration in the New Millennium. Global Movement and Settlement*. Alershot: Ashgate.
- Lilledal, Inger-Marie Corfitz (2004) *Fortællinger om forældreskab – på tværs af kultur og etnicitet*. Haderslev: UFC Børn og Unge.
- Phillipson, Chris, Graham Allan & David Morgan (eds)(2004) *Social Networks and Social Exclusion – Sociological and Policy Perspectives*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Ramos, Fernand Prieto (2003) *Media and Migrants. A Critical of Spanish and Irish Discourses on Immigration*. Oxford: Peter Lang AG.
- Rex, John & Gurharpal Singh (eds) (2004) *Governance in Multicultural Societies*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Rosdahl, Anders (2004) *Aspekter af integrationsindsatsen i 6 kommuner - en kvalitativ opfølgning på en kvantitativ benchmarkanalyse*. SFI Arbejdsrapport 3:2004 (<http://www.sfi.dk/sw10702.asp>).
- Røgilds, Flemming (2004) *De udsatte: bander, kulturmøder, socialpædagogik*. København: Politisk Revy.
- Singla, Rashmi (2004) *Youth relationships, ethnicity & psychosocial intervention*. New Delhi: Books Plus (<http://www.ttt danmark.dk/bog.html>).
- Think Tank on Integration in Denmark, the (2004) *Immigration and Integration Policies in Denmark and Selected Countries*. Copenhagen: Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs. (abridged report in English: <http://www.inm.dk/imagesUpload/dokument/Immigration%20and%20Integration%20Policies%20in%20Denmark%20and%20Selected%20Countries.pdf>). Full Danish report: <http://www.inm.dk/index.asp?d=2410&n=1&o=57&s=4>).

AMID Newsletter is published at regular intervals by the Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark (AMID).

The aim of the newsletter is to serve as a complementary information channel to the Academy's website. We invite everyone at AMID and other institutions and organizations that deal with migration issues to contribute with information to be published in this newsletter.

Please send contributions via email to Julie Larsen: julie@ihis.aau.dk

The Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark (AMID) is funded by the Danish Research Councils for the Humanities and Social Sciences. AMID is a consortium consisting of researchers at research centers representing three institutions of higher education and two research institutes. The Director for the Academy is Professor, Dr. Ulf Hedetoft.

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AMID
Aalborg University
Fibigerstraede 2
DK-9220 Aalborg East
Denmark
Phone: + 45 9635 7195
Fax: + 45 9815 1126
E-mail: julie@ihis.aau.dk
Website: <http://www.amid.dk/>