Who, Where, How and Why – Aspects of Contemporary Migrations in Foreign and Serbian Ethnological/Anthropological Literature (2)

The title of the volume alludes to the existence of different aspects of migration as well as the fact that migrations can be researched from a variety of aspects. The choice of the aspect from which one is to view a certain migration or more simultaneous migrations is determined by a number of factors. In that sense there are certain theoretical and methodological differences between disciplinary approaches to studying aspects of migrations. The choice of the aspects to be researched as well as the theoretical and methodological framework which will be applied is not constant. It greatly corresponds to the scientific policy and discourse which figures as **mainstream** within a specific discipline at any given time.

M. Lukić Krstanović’s paper details the beginnings and early directions of migration research in Serbian ethnology and anthropology. The paper is important for a number of reasons, but chiefly because it documents and problematizes the issue of scientific policy within the Institute of Ethnography SASA and its influence on migration research.

Research into the migrations of minority communities residing in Serbia is a topic which wasn’t well researched in Serbian ethnology and anthropology. The paper by J. Đorđević Crnobrnja is an example of migration research within one such community. The economic and political migrations of Gorani people at the end of the 20th century are indicative for the understanding of the influence of outside factors, above all war and the change in political power, on the emergence of a certain type of migration.

D. Petrović writes on how war can affect the migration of individuals and families and what kind of consequences this kind of migration can have on both the migrant and the community of immigration. The author strives to analyze autobiographic data in order to go beyond the familiar anthropological approach to the issue and consider the reasons for the continuing existence of a “dominant” discourse and certain stereotypes which occur on the social and institutional level with regard to the aforementioned phenomenon.

G. Blagojević’s paper shows how migration can effect the changes in the structure of religious communities, specifically the evangelical Methodist community in Banat. Simultaneously it points to the possibility of research into missionary activities as a special kind of labor migrations. The topic in question is one which hasn’t been studied in ethnological and anthropological research of migration in Serbia.

Every paper in the volume is special because it contributes to the continuity of ethnological and anthropological research of migration within the Institute of Ethnography SASA, as well as the approaches which are applied in considering
certain aspects of migrations. In this way existing concepts and contextualizations are overcome which is important for further research into contemporary migrations both in ethnology and anthropology and in other social sciences and humanities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors for their confidence and effort in contributing to the scientific valorization of the issues which are the central theme of this volume.

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Topic Editor