The Volume and Dynamics of International Migration and Transnational Social Spaces

THOMAS FAIST

CLARENDON PRESS • OXFORD
# Contents

*List of Figures*  
xiii  
*List of Tables*  
xv  
*Abbreviations*  
xvi  

1 Lacunae of Migration and Post-Migration Research  
- The First Puzzle: Relative Immobility and Mass Migration  
- The Second Puzzle: Transnational Social Spaces and Immigrant Adaptation  
- Three Generations of Migration Scholarship  
- Towards a Working Definition of Migration  
- Forced and Voluntary Movements vs. Labour Migrants and Refugees  
- The Three *Longues Durées* of International Migration in Modern Times  
- Outline of the Book  

2 A Review of Dominant Theories of International Migration  
- Three Stylized Levels of Analysis: Micro, Macro, and Meso  
- Micro—The Rational Choice Approach: Moving from Preferences to Opportunities  
- More Micro—Social Psychological Models: Bounded Rationalities in Social Spaces  
- Multiple Levels—Migration Systems Approaches: Moving from the World System to Migrant Networks  
- Theory Building and Empirical Evidence  
- Conclusion: In Search of the Meso Link  

3 Situating the First Puzzle: Why So Few Migrants and Why So Many?  
- The Production and Selection of Labour Migrants and Refugees  
- The International Regulation of Labour Migration and Refugee Flows  
- Domestic Regulation in the Immigration or Accepting States
# Contents

The Turkish-German Case: Asymmetric Dependence—and Expanding Rights of Resident Immigrants 81

Conclusion: Effective Immigration Control and Expanding Immigrant Rights 94

## 4 The Crucial Meso Link: Social Capital in Social and Symbolic Ties

A Pioneering Exemplar: *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* 99

The Main Elements of the Meso Link: Ties and Social Capital 100

Social Capital Investments: Facilitating Cooperation and Integration 104

Social Capital and the Rate of Return 111

The Characteristics of Social Capital as a Meso Link 115

Specificities of Capital: Economic, Human, and Social 117

The Four Functions of Social Capital in Migration Processes 121

Conclusion: Social Capital as a Local Asset and as a Transmission Belt 123

## 5 The Selective Functions of Social Capital: Why Are There So Few Migrants Out of Most Places?

Social Capital as a Local Asset 125

Cumulative Causation and Immobility: Endogenous Dynamics 129

An Illustration of ‘Why Are There So Few Migrants Out of Most Places?’—Contract Worker Movement from Turkey to Germany 132

Conclusion: What Kind of Local Asset? 142

## 6 The Selective and Diffusion Functions of Social Capital: Why So Many Migrants Out of So Few Places?

The Selective and Diffusion Functions of Social Capital in Migrant Networks 145

Phase I: Start and Acceleration 147

Phase II: Climax 152

Phase III: Deceleration 159

The Turkish-German Example: The Unfinished Yet Terminated Migration Curve 171

Conclusion: International Migration as Metamorphosis 193
## Contents

**The Bridging Function of Social Capital: Transnational Social Spaces**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Concept of Transnational Social Spaces</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Forms of Transnational Social Spaces</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transnationalization and Globalization</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors Conducive to the Formation of Transnational Social Spaces</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Transnationalization: Entrepreneurs Moving from the Ethnic Niche to Transnational Businesses</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Transnationalization: Kurds between Exile and Adaptation</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Transnationalization: Young Muslims between Disintegration, Syncretism, and Segmentation</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospects for the Further Development and the Possible Demise of Transnational Social Spaces</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: From Places and Essences to Spaces and Ties</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**< 8 The Adaptive Functions of Social Capital: Transnationalization and Nation-State Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changing Immigration and Adaptation Patterns in the Contemporary World</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Canonical Concepts of Assimilation and Ethnic Pluralism and an Apocryphal Extension: The Border-Crossing Expansion of Social Space</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Stages of International Migration and Transnationalization</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Participation and Membership: Socio-Economic Parity and Marginalization, Niche Entrepreneurship and Transnationalization</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership in Polities: Citizenship and Politeuma</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Practices and Recognition: Acculturation, Cultural Retention, and the Strengthening of Transnationally-Induced Syncretism</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Capturing the Plural Experiences of Adaptation</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**9 Elements for Multi-Level Research on International Migration and Post-Migration Processes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determinants of Mobility and Immobility: Why Are There So Few International Migrants Out of Most Places?</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration Dynamics: Why Are There So Many International Migrants Out of So Few Places?</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Do Transnational Social Spaces Evolve?</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

How to Conceptualize the Concomitant Expansion of Transnational Social Spaces and Immigrant Adaptation? 315

Outlook: Transnationally Active Associations and Transnationalizing Civil Societies 321

Bibliography 335

Index 369