Myna German and Padmini Banerjee (Eds.) Migration, technology and transculturation: A global perspective. St. Charles: Lindenwood University Press. 2011.

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The phenomenon of migration has long been the subject of scholarly attention from a variety of perspectives and disciplines, including political science, media studies, sociology, and cultural studies, all of which attempt to identify and describe migration's changing dynamics along with the social, political, and economic consequences of migration. For at least two reasons, the edited volume by Myna German and Padmini Banerjee emerges as a truly unique and important voice in the academic discussion of migration. Firstly, the book goes well beyond previous collections in both its theoretical and geographical scope; the editors manage to bring together views from different areas of expertise and continents while avoiding the impression of methodological hybridization or thematic disjointedness. Secondly, the triad of migration, transculturation, and technology offers promising theoretical and empirical potential, which the editors and chapter authors successfully explore to shed light on the current status of a migrant in the globalized and mediatized world.

The book consists of fourteen chapters, placed within three thematic sections. In their introductory essay, Banerjee and German do an excellent job introducing the field and explaining the rationale of the volume. Their insightful overview of current theories and methodological frameworks concerning global migration and the technologically mediated interactions between diasporas and home cultures highlights the main themes and concepts discussed by chapter authors. These include, among others, a multi-dimensional construct of "transculturalism," technology vis-à-vis the experience of migration, and the notions of "connected migrants," and "digital diasporas."

Section One, titled "Migration, Technology and Global Identities: Being Oneself and Becoming Global" comprises four chapters. The first chapter, by Peter Buzzi and Claudia Megele, discusses the impact of social networking and virtual reality on the dynamics of contemporary global migration. In their comprehensive characterization of the figure of an "in-between-migrant" in an "in-between-space," the authors point to important differences between physical and virtual migration and the implications they have for our understanding of the notions of transnationalism and transculturalism, the changing status of nation-states, citizenship and borders, and, last but not least, government surveillance practices. In the second chapter, Ruth Lijtmaer elaborates on how migrants use technology to both reconnect with their homes and cope with the problems of adjusting to their new environments after migrating. Setting out to explore the psychological reality of the migration process and the role of communication technology in this process, the author succinctly describes pre-migration factors, including types of migration; the role of cultural differences; attitude of the host country; age at migration; and the psychological impact of migration in the form of culture shock, mourning, nostalgia, assimilation, and the sense of self and identity. In a similar vein, the third chapter, by Ekaterina Sergeevna Krestinina, investigates the role of Internet communication in creating "virtual diaspora" and the implications such diasporas have for migrants' integration into the host society. Having discussed the concept of identity in its various dimensions and contexts, the author looks specifically at the role of media in the diaspora identity formation process and, specifically, Internet use by migrants. The empirical data concerns both blogging practices of Russian speaking migrants in other countries and the situation of migrants in Russia. Although the next chapter, by Marta Margherita Cordini, also elaborates on the role of the Internet in the process of identity construction, the author adopts a different theoretical and methodological angle. While pointing to the advantages of applying Castells' (1996) paradigm, Cordini explores the dynamics of Internet use by young migrants.

Section Two, titled "Technology and Transculturation: Building Bridges across Worlds," consists of five data-driven chapters offering compelling ethnographic studies of selected diasporas all over the globe. Chapter five, by Lidia K. C. Manzo, is an interesting voice in the discussion on Chinese diasporas and the notion of "Chineseness." Both a comprehensive review of literature on Chinese identity in contemporary global-cities and the discussion of the empirical data from a field study conducted in Chinatown in Milan, Italy shed new light on the role of technology in the complex process of identity formation of "Asian Betweeners." The role of technology in shaping the behavior of migrants and their relationships with the environment is also the focus of the next chapter, written by Suchismita Roy, who applies the social network theory in his study of migrants in Giridih in India. The study convincingly demonstrates the impact of social structure on the formation of migration networks and the role of technology in social control. Chapter seven, by Rashmi Singla, adopts a longitudinal perspective in exploring the psychosocial consequences of global migration among the South Asian immigrants in Scandinavian countries. In his analysis of diasporic identity formation processes, the author examines social relations and strategies as well as psychological and cultural consumption to conclude that media technologies play an important, though ambivalent, role in the process of diasporic identity formation among South Asian young adults in Denmark and that the process itself, viewed from a diachronic perspective, is marked by both continuity and change. In chapter eight, Clifford Pereira discusses the process of transculturation among the communities constituting the Goan diaspora in the North Atlantic. Implementing a novel approach, combining biotechnology and the potential of cyberspace in DNA sampling for genealogy, the study identifies six generations of Goan migrants and makes an attempt to characterize their referential identity, affiliated identity, and origin as terms of personal reference and the role of the Internet as a new space for both individual transculturation and preservation of collective identity. The last chapter in this section, authored by Reynaldo S. Anderson and Kandace Harris and positioned at the intersection of transnationalism, communication, and politics, examines the impact of the Obama presidency, with its extensive use of new media and communication technologies, on the Black Atlantic diaspora. In addition to providing insights into the political and social dynamics of the Black Atlantic community, the study raises important questions concerning political communication, along with change and stability in the "networked" world.

Section Three under the title "Lived Experiences of Global Migrants: Impact of Economic-Political Structures and Processes" comprises five articles. Chapter ten, by Peter Gale, discusses the concept of transculturation in the context of personal and national security and the rights of immigrants and citizens. Focusing on the Indian diaspora in Australia, in particular the media coverage of the violence against Indian students, the author highlights an urgent need to address the issues associated with the growing transnational labor and educational markets. In the chapter that follows, Divyesh Raythatha also takes under scrutiny the problem of human rights violations and the situation of the Indian diaspora in Australia, the Unites States, and the Middle East. This time, however, the author is interested in how the convergence of technology and media plays a role in disseminating information may affect migrants' decisions.

Chapter twelve, by Magdalena Bielenia-Grajewska, examines the impact of technology on business expatriates in host countries. The study gives a relatively good overview of types of expatriates, including the notion of a "virtual expatriate," of motivations behind their using technological devices, and implications this use has for their personal and professional development and relationships. The penultimate chapter, by Igor Kotin, also expounds on the phenomenon of migration of professionals, addressing the issue of long-term government strategies involving migration and settlement. The author discusses the status and living conditions of Indian immigrants, primarily IT specialists, in Germany and provides

a critical assessment of immigration policy in this country. A similar focus of investigation—migrants' stages of citizenship transition vis-à-vis government strategies of immigrant naturalization—can be found in the final chapter, Frederico Bertagnoli's ethnographic study of Brazilian immigrants in the United States. This detailed and compelling analysis of "technologies of documentation as a social process of mediated production of values in the polis" (Bertagnoli, 2011, p. 266) highlights yet another (often neglected) dimension of technological impact on migrants' lives and identities.

Exploring "migration" is not an easy task, especially if one wants to do it under the umbrella of interdisciplinarity. So much has already been said, so much is always changing, and, finally, so many variables and perspectives must be considered. Hence, the editors set themselves on a difficult and ambitious mission to "connect and bridge," "to translate across […] different areas so that the whole experience of migrants can be appreciated, apprehended, perceived, and understood for greater insight, and appropriate interdisciplinary frameworks can be created for a closer examination of our present-day realities" (Banerjee & German, 2011, pp. 23-24). Despite the magnitude of the task,, this mission they complete successfully. By linking migration to technology, they "sharpen" their focus of interest and, at the same time, address one of the most compelling issues of our time: mediatization of contemporary society and culture. By choosing authors and empirical data from different geographical locations, they avoid ethnocentricity and, instead, provide a comprehensive overview of diverse migrant settings. The volume is coherent and engaging and can be recommended as both a teaching text and a reference book for students and scholars interested in the study of migration, media, and identity.

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