

THE INFLUENCE OF MIGRANTS' NETWORKS ON MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS: HOW MIGRANTS CAN UNDERMINE FURTHER MIGRATION FLOWS

The idea of migration stimulating further migration is well established in migration studies, nevertheless there is very little analysis concerning the mechanism through which it happens, and the cases in which the process appears to be reverse: initial migration hindering further migration fluxes. The **first chapter** of my final thesis will provide an overview regarding the topic of migration. Migration has always characterized human beings, for this reason it can be considered as a human prerogative; the categorization of migrants will be presented (voluntary migrants and forced migrants, the definition of *refugee* from to the 1951 Genève Convention until present days); the effects that globalization had on migration trends will be described.

The second and third chapter will compare two well-established theories in migration studies: Network Theory and the theory on declining migration. The **second chapter** will focus on the first theory, which describes the role that migrants' networks (social ties that migrants create and maintain with other migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in origin and destination areas) play in inducing and enhancing migration movements. A case of study will be presented: migration from Mexico to the US.

The **third chapter** will shed lights on recent studies concerning the phenomenon of declining migration and the role that migrants themselves play. Migration theories focus on the description of how and why migration flows grow; however, they usually fail to explain why there is a point where migratory flows stop or even revert, and why sometimes, despite the existence of social networks, these movements can start to decline. Concepts as context of reception, reverse cumulative causation and negative feedback mechanism will be explained in detail and two cases of study will be presented: the migration corridor from Morocco to the Netherlands and the Philippines maids' migration to Hong Kong.

The conclusion will focus on the importance of recent research concerning the declining migration phenomenon and its causes. Focusing only on the positive side means that insight is lost regarding the full consequences of these networks, both positive and negative. Migration is a heated topic in most Western countries, and studies affirm that the next decades will be heavily characterized by such phenomena. Further research is doubtlessly needed in order to fully understand the effects that these networks have in the migration process, this may help our society to predict and control such extremely important social phenomena, that bring along enormous changes for the global society.