

*This work provides a comprehensive and multidisciplinary overview of contemporary diasporas, through both comparative reflections and ethnographically based case-studies from outstanding scholars, academics and humanitarian practitioners. The book is aimed at a wide audience, including academics, researchers and free scholars, but also to students, activists and experts in the field of migration, of intercultural studies and human mobilities by offering an explicit comparative mobilities analysis and a high-quality scientific overview on contemporary diasporas through a wider disciplinary angle.*

*Since 2006 Elisabetta Di Giovanni has been Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Palermo, where she teaches Ethnohistory, Social Anthropology and Anthropology of contemporaneity. While interested in migrant communities and host society relationship, religious anthropology, patronage and religiosity in youth, currently her research is devoted to Roma studies. Since 2006 she has been the co-convenor of the University of Palermo Summer School on "Migrants, Human Rights and Democracy", which aim is to focus on forced migration, human mobilities and human rights. From 2015 she is the Sicily scientific coordinator of the Permanent Observatory on Religious Pluralism with Gris (Group of Socio-Religious Research and Information of Bologna).*



9 788899 934330

€ 12,50

[www.unipapress.it](http://www.unipapress.it)

EDITED BY ELISABETTA DI GIOVANNI  
CONTEMPORARY DIASPORAS



PALERMO  
UNIVERSITY  
PRESS

# CONTEMPORARY DIASPORAS

## Mobilities Between Old and New Boundaries

EDITED BY ELISABETTA DI GIOVANNI

1

Contesti Antropologici  
Anthropological Contexts



Contesti Antropologici  
Anthropological Contexts

---



CONTEMPORARY DIASPORAS.  
MOBILITIES BETWEEN OLD  
AND NEW BOUNDARIES

Edited by  
Elisabetta Di Giovanni



PALERMO  
UNIVERSITY  
PRESS

Contesti Antropologici / Anthropological Contexts- 1

*Contemporary Diasporas. Mobilities Between Old and New Boundaries*

Edited by Elisabetta Di Giovanni

*Direttrici/Editors:* Loredana Bellantonio, Elisabetta Di Giovanni  
*Comitato scientifico:* Annamaria Amitrano, Università di Palermo; Angel Angelov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Lisa Cerroni-Long, Eastern Michigan University; Johan Le-man, University of Leuven; Branislav Radelijc, East London University

ISBN (a stampa): 978-88-99934-33-0

ISBN (online): 978-88-99934-36-1

Le opere pubblicate sono sottoposte a processo di peer-review a doppio cieco.

© Copyright 2017 New Digital Frontiers srl  
Viale delle Scienze, Edificio 16 (c/o ARCA)  
90128 Palermo  
[www.newdigitalfrontiers.com](http://www.newdigitalfrontiers.com)

## Contents

Preface	7
ELISABETTA DI GIOVANNI	
Migrations as a Total Political Fact in the Neo-Liberal Frame	13
SALVATORE PALIDDA	
Human Smuggling and Trafficking from Nigeria, Thailand and Brazil: Manipulating Social and Cultural Capital. An analysis of 38 Belgian judicial files	31
JOHAN LEMAN, STEF JANSSENS	
Millennial Diasporas: American Matrix and Global Dynamics	47
LIZA CERRONI-LONG	
Exodus. Human rights. The required coexistence	67
ANNAMARIA AMITRANO	
Migration, then and now as a resource	77
LOREDANA BELLANTONIO	
European Policies and Norms on Climate Refugees and Migrants	89
LINA DI CARLO	
What Is 'Environmentally Induced Migration'? Putting Puzzles Together	113
TAMARI BULIA	

Mobility of Polish Orava Migrants at the End of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century MAREK LISZKA	137
Diaspora and Transnationalism in Transnistria ELISA CAVALLERO	153
Children in Diaspora: Some Anthropological Reflections on Oppression, Hunger and Malnutrition ANTONELLA PALAZZO, ELISABETTA DI GIOVANNI	175

## Preface

ELISABETTA DI GIOVANNI

The volume is the result of the eighth edition of University of Palermo International Summer School on “Migrants, Human Rights and Democracy”, bearing the human mobility and hidden geographies theme held in Favignana (Italy), in July, 2014. Moving from Kumar Rajaram and Grundy-Warr’s volume *Borderscapes. Hidden Geographies and Politics at Territory’s Edge* (2007), the interesting and relevant contributions by participants (outstanding scholars, academics and humanitarian practitioners) from different Eu and non Eu countries investigate the new mobility paradigms (Cresswell, 2006; Hannam et al., 2006; Sheller and Urry, 2006), providing a comprehensive and multidisciplinary overview of contemporary diasporas, through both comparative reflections and ethnographically based case-studies. Particularly focusing on the various emerging forms of forced migration such as trafficking, environmental refugees, separated (unaccompanied) children, “minority” groups but as well as the transnational migration, the contributors offer a new view on new contemporary diasporas. The previous meaning of diaspora in relation to two or more territories/localities through various economic, political and social networks of the migrants might not be relevant to the new mobility paradigms. Hence, the richness of the multidisciplinary and geographically ethnographic case-based studies of this volume contributes, both theoretically and empirically, to further understanding of diaspora in the relationships to contemporary meaning of the mobility and territory.

In the first part of the volume in his paper, (*Migrations as a Total Political Fact in the Neo-Liberal Frame*), Salvatore Palidda emphasizes how the neo-liberal revolution of the past thirty-five years



## Preface

have fostered a new development of human displacements, despite the dominant prohibitionism. The classification of human mobilities in typologies reflects a political significance, in the broader sense, therefore encompassing the social and cultural dimension and so the participation to the transformation of the society of origin and of arrival. As a consequence, the prohibition of migration implemented by European countries as well as by other rich countries served primarily for the reproduction of immigrants for the most tiring jobs, harmful and less payed, mostly in the shadow activities, confirming an Eurocentric blindness. Johan Leman and Stef Janssens (Human Smuggling and Trafficking from Nigeria, Thailand and Brazil: Manipulating Social and Cultural Capital. An analysis of 38 Belgian judicial files) reflect on which place social and cultural capital occupies in the organisation of migrant smuggling (SoM) and trafficking of human beings (THB). In fact, mobility offers opportunities for entrepreneurs, also for criminal ones. The opportunities can be spread over the countries of provenance, transit and entrance. Apparently legal firms and corruption practices at the highest possible levels are an effective strategy for THB and SoM entrepreneurship. Authors focus on the control and social networking mechanisms at the level of the victims/clients. It becomes evident from their files analysis that fragments of traditional culture, not manipulated in case of Brazilian lusophony, manipulated in case of Nigerian juju rituals, and recreated in a Western imaginary perspective of exotism in case of the Thai girls, are important for an understanding of the THB and SoM business and also for the elaboration of an effective strategy to combat it. Liza Cerroni-Long (Millennial Diasporas: American Matrix and Global Dynamics) analyzes world-wide diasporic trends, affecting a growing number of human populations in the fifty years bridging the turn of the millennium, in terms of their possible causes and related consequences. In the process, definitions of culture, ethnicity, and diversity are clarified, and a discussion of their relationship to the concepts of nation-state and international/intranational conflict is presented. On the basis of such historically rooted and anthropologically guided analysis, some proposals for addressing the increasingly serious problems created by the millennial global diaspora are described, and suggestions for their translation into public policy

practices are presented for further discussion. Annamaria Amitrano (Exodus. Human rights. The required coexistence) underlines the diffusion of a collective imaginary based on anti-immigrant populism in Europe, where a protectionist pattern evolved. The author thinks Europe has given a form despite the utopia of a “global village”, to a precise form of ethno-nationalism: that is, a nationalism imbued with ethnicity which leads in the foreground, localism and communitarianisms. Due to this arguments, she proposes refugees and local Specifically emigration is seen as marker of a real multiethnic society, in which the anthropological sequence culture / territory / identity must register innovative aspects, induced by the attestation of all those that today in Europe are considerate new presences.

Starting from the analysis of migratory phenomenon, Loredana Bellantonio (Migration, then and now as a resource) argues that migration is a resource for Europe. Her work offers an anthropological focus on XIX century “emigration” from Europe to Usa and the new migration flows from Asia and Africa towards Europe though an ethnohistorical perspective which intersect the literature and cinema. Lina Di Carlo (Environmental Refugees and Migrants in Diaspora. A Critical Reflection on EU Policies) reflects on the climate refugee phenomenon as one of extreme complexity and forced migration due to climate factors, constantly increasing, with a special refer to European Parliament policies. In fact, she argues that European foreign policy should therefore be holistic and synergistic with respect to immigration policy, focusing on the sources of instability and structural problems in the countries of origin, and dealing in and maintaining an active dialogue with transit countries with a view to the adoption of uniform rules based on respect for human rights in a perspective of mobility partnerships. Tamari Bulia’s paper suggests reflecting on What Is ‘Environmentally Induced Migration’? Putting Puzzles Together. Scholars and policymakers have been discussing this question for decades, creating categories and legal terms, but until now, there is no agreed answer. Some state that economic factors have played (and still do) the main role in migration; others claim that security and conflicts had the largest impact. The paper aims at presenting the issue and putting the existing knowledge on links between migration and rapid/slow environmental changes in a comprehensive structure. It addresses the issue of environmentally induced migration on

## Preface

the international level, discussing the relevant legal frameworks and the international institutions. Marek Liszka's *Mobility of Polish Orava Migrants at the End of 20th Century* is devoted to the southern migrants of Poland (from Orava) at the end of the last century. The Orava region (in the southern part of Poland and in the northern side of Slovakia.) has been neglected in the academic discourse but it extremely significant when it comes to crossing borders. The travellers started their journeys and migrated through several European countries crossing many very difficult border-points (Slovakia, Austria, Italy). They had to pass many transit countries, but the most problematic were borders in Italy from which they wanted to go to Spain and later to Mexico and the USA. The Orava migrants confessed how they crossed European countries with counterfeited documents and with the pressure of "travelling guides" who monitored their trips and used their sensitivity to get as much profit as they could. For some of them Italy was the place of breakdown and exploitation. Most of them escaped from Poland because of poverty at that time and searched the better future for their families. This interesting study is based on collections of oral narratives. Finally, Elisa Cavallero (*Dispora and Transnational Mobilities in Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic*) moves from the dissolution of USSR and the problematic situations concerning political stability in the former republics also involved the Russian minorities living in these locations. One of these regions is Transnistria, (Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic). The situation of this region is almost unknown in the worldwide community because of the little attention the media had on this issue. Transnistria has declared its independence from Moldova in 1990, but the international community hasn't recognized its authority. The Transnistrian community has wide presence of Russophone people on their territory, though the majority of the Moldovan population. When the central government established that the Moldovan language would be the official language (even for the interethnic communication) instead of Russian, Transnistria declared its independence. As a consequence, the central government decided to attack the separatists and Russia intervened on Transnistria is behalf and settled down its army. The aim of this research is to determine whether we can define the boundary between the Transnistian and Russian community as the result of transnationalism or, if not, what are the common and

the conflicting issues with the general definition of transnationalism. Finally Antonella Palazzo and Elisabetta Di Giovanni face the theme of Children in Diaspora: Some Anthropological Reflections on Oppression, Hunger and Malnutrition. Because of the actual phenomenon of “Separated children” – who are children under 18 years of age who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents, and their previous legal/customary primary caregiver – Some children are totally alone while others, who are also the concern of the SCEP (Separated Children in Europe Programme), may be living with extended family members. The mainstream public policy must promote the protection, wellbeing and education of world’s children. Today’s reality of a global, multicultural, plural world does not offer a guarantee for the respect of basic needs for survival (food, defence, health services to the person, free education, freedom of religion, etc. ) nor offers, therefore, protection from the disruptive elements and factors leading to exclusion. West is now living some relevant regressive processes in social and productive system of welcoming communities, that are colliding with the principle of interculturality and new humanism.

The scholarly contributors to this volume investigate various means to stimulate and facilitate reflection on new human mobilities and diasporic movements from different perspectives and experiences. Finally, the book is aimed at a wide audience, including academics, researchers and free scholars, but also to students, activists and experts in the field of migration, of intercultural studies and human mobilities. The social sciences cutting edge propose a highly qualitative reading for practionners too.

Elisabetta Di Giovanni  
(Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Palermo)