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Review on "Costuri sociale ale migraţiei externe din România", authored by Daniela Petronela FERARU, LUMEN Publishing House

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Abstract: The volume Costuri sociale ale migraţiei externe din România (Social Costs of External Migration from Romania), of the author Daniela Petronela Feraru, at its second edition, at the LUMEN Publishing House, aims to answer questions such as: "what are the reasons that cause the Romanians to leave at work abroad in increasing numbers, under what conditions legally or illegally are they leaving, the Romanians' perception of today's economic situation in Romania ". The research is mainly qualitative, the analysis being carried out within a predominantly Romanian community in Turin, Italy.

Keywords: *Daniela Petronela Feraru; social costs; external migration; Romanians in Italy.*

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Introduction

The volume *Costuri sociale ale migrației externe din România (Social Costs of External Migration from Romania)*, of the author Daniela Petronela Feraru, at its second edition, at the LUMEN Publishing House, aims to answer questions such as: "what are the reasons that cause the Romanians to leave at work abroad in increasing numbers, under what conditions legally or illegally are they leaving, the Romanians' perception of today's economic situation in Romania". (Feraru, 2019, p. 7).

The research is mainly qualitative, the analysis being carried out within a predominantly Romanian community in Turin, Italy. "External migration is carried out in several more important forms: labor migration, migration of members of the families of formerly emigrated workers, legal or illegal migration. This is when the illegal migration has dimensions that are often difficult to evaluate." (Feraru, 2019, p. 8).

From social capital to social costs of migration

The sociological analysis of the migratory phenomenon in Romania is a very broad one, I would say, depending on the severity and the social dimensions that this phenomenon has.

Most of the specialized works approach the phenomenon from the perspective of the causes that determine it, here being often mentioned problems such as poverty, lack of jobs, the search for better living conditions, but also the social effects of this phenomenon, especially on the children left alone at home.

The fact that this phenomenon is of great concern to the community of sociologists in Romania allows us to consider that the theoretical-methodological approach we find in most research articles and volumes on this topic, although each is articulated on a dimension of the problem, is considered at the community level to be insufficient to explain the phenomenon and especially to outline public policies capable of managing the "social costs" that this phenomenon entails. Therefore, this volume focuses precisely on these costs, trying to identify who they are, what their dynamics are, and especially who they are supporting and in what way.

The volume begins in the canonical style of the doctoral theses - what was at the beginning - with the presentation of the main theories on migration, of which there is no mention of symbolic interactionism, constructivist structuralism, psychology, rational choice theory, as well as economic theories on migration. The actual research is a qualitative one, the

discursive categories taken into consideration being: the decision to migrate, the environment of origin, the satisfaction of life, the human capital, the social capital, the cultural capital, the economic capital, the integration of the migrants in the destination area, the role of the Church in the integration Romanians in Italy, family remigration or social imagology.

Each of these discursive categories is richly illustrated with quotes from the interviews of Romanians who left for Italy and settled in Turin, which may be the starting point for secondary data analysis in future research - either doctoral or sociological research based on public policies. Like many other doctoral theses in the field, this volume does not have the courage to propose a sociological theory of its own, the author remaining indebted to the quoted theories whose interpretative potential is used fully, but without exceeding it.

However, the data presented are useful in order to be able to base evidence-based social policies on the migratory phenomenon that the author addresses from an unique perspective, that of costs and the relationship between social costs and the social capital involved.

Instead of conclusions

The volume Social Costs of the External Migration from Romania, of the author Daniela Petronela Feraru, can be an interesting reading for those interested in the dimensions of migration as a phenomenon that affects the Romanian society as well as its concrete costs. The volume can be useful both to sociologists and political scientists as well as to specialists or students in fields such as public administration, social work, economic sciences, cultural studies and more to those interested in building policies and programs aimed at solid social policies for the recovery of Romanian social capital and to reduce the social costs that the migration implies for the contemporary Romanian society.

References

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