**Review on
“Evaluarea
impactului migrației
părinților asupra
comportamentului
infracțional al
copiilor rămași
acasă”, authored by
Loredana Florentina
CĂTĂRĂU,
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Abstract: The volume “Evaluarea impactului migrației părinților asupra comportamentului infracțional al copiilor rămași acasă” (Assessment of the Impact of the Parents' Migration on the Criminal Behavior of the Children Left Home) by the author Loredana Florentina CĂTĂRĂU is published at the LUMEN Publishing House following the presentation of the doctoral thesis with the same title. The volume aims to analyse the deterioration of the intra-family relations that appears within the so-called transnational families – in which one or both parents are emigrated from Romania, and the children are left alone at home in the care of their grandparents or relatives – and to identify how the parent-child distance relationship may influence the adoption of criminal behavior by the juveniles remaining at home.

Keywords: *Loredana Florentina Cătărau; migration; criminal behavior.*

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Introduction

The problem of migration is a topical problem in the Romanian sociological researches, because the phenomenon is extremely widespread, being one of the major causes of family disruption, of the precarious education of many children and young people and even of a possible dynamics of violence among the children remaining in the care of grandparents, other relatives or even older siblings.

The volume *Assessment of the impact of the parents' migration on the criminal behavior of the children left home* authored by Loredana Florentina Cătărașu is published by LUMEN Publishing House following the support of the doctoral thesis with the same title. The volume aims to analyze the deterioration of the intra-family relations that appears within the so-called transnational families – in which one or both parents are emigrated from Romania, and the children are left alone at home in the care of their grandparents or relatives – and to identify how the parent-child distance relationship may influence the adoption of criminal behaviour, by the juveniles remaining at home.

The sociological research that was the basis of the volume elaboration had among the objectives: “the identification of the parental care practices adopted by the parents who went to work abroad for the protection of the children left at home; assessing the support relationships of children from transnational families in relation to the person in charge of care in the country of origin; analyzing the connection between the migration of parents and the criminality of children within transnational families; analysis of coping strategies used by minors left at home as a result of parental migration.” (Cătărașu, 2019).

The research was based on a qualitative methodology, being used within it techniques such as semi-structured interview, focus group, participatory observation and case study.

Qualitative Sociological Research - between Subjective Narrative and Objective Content Analysis

Apparently departing from the objectivist rigor of a scientific research, Loredana Cătărașu's volume starts with a "self-interview", a subjective presentation of the emotions felt by the child who became a narrative character and a subject of scientific reflection at the time her mother was leaving abroad, for at least one year, at work in Italy. "She told me simply, "Mom will be leaving soon!", and, not understanding, I childishly

asked: "Where?" with curiosity, thinking it was just another day when she would go to her grandmother's. However, as time went by, that "mother would leave" became more acute, as we were helpless to attend discussions about the future departure, what and how to do it. [...] I was paralyzed by the emotion and helplessness I felt. My Mom, my mom is leaving, I was sadly telling myself and I was hoping it wasn't true. Something collapsed in my adolescent nature when I learned that my mother was going to leave for a year in Italy." (Cătărașu, 2019, p. 25).

The perspective of the phenomenological sociology of narrative type draws the reader's attention to the traumas that the children of the migrants feel when they are separated from their parents.

This introspective introduction allows the author to make the transition to concrete sociological contents, of an explanatory nature, regarding the *transnational life* and the *transnational family*, the global chains of care, the care arrangements and the circulation of care (Cătărașu, 2019, pp. 45-47) .

The stress of separation from parents generates a series of traumas but also coping strategies by which children try to overcome their effects. These include virtual communities, remittances (Cătărașu, 2019, p. 61), synchronous communication rituals, (Cătărașu, 2019, p. 63), digital gender differences in cross-border networking (Cătărașu, 2019, p. 61). 66) etc.

Socio-legal perspective on the phenomenon of migration

The author analyzes from a socio-legal perspective the normative frameworks for the protection of children who are at a distance from parents, in force in Romania at the time of writing the volume (2016).

The author also relies on explanatory models of antisocial behavior in minors, as well as on sanctioning but also protective measures that can be applied to juvenile delinquents, especially in cases where they come from separate families due to the phenomenon of migration.

Instead of conclusions

We consider important to point out the existence of large sub-chapters within the methodological chapter, which draw attention to the ethical perspectives in the sociological research of the migratory phenomena, especially on the restrictions related to the voluntary character of the participation in the research, the respect to the decision-making autonomy of the research subjects, the informed consent delegate in the research

carried out on minors whose legal guardians are unavailable to confirm or deny the acceptance that the minors participate in the research.

We recommend reading this volume to all those interested in understanding the impact of migration on the children left at home and we recommend it especially to the decision makers in the field of public policies, which could thus underpin the social policies to support the family and the child.

References

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