
MONTERO-SIEBURTH, M., MAS GIRALT, R., GARCÍA-ARJONA, N. Y EGUREN, J. (EDS.). FAMILY PRACTICES IN MIGRATION. EVERYDAY LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS. NEW YORK: ROUTLEDGE, 2021

Book review

Elisa BREY 

Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)

This collective volume is a result of the activities implemented by the former IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network) Standing Committee on Migrant Families, Children and Youth, between 2014 and 2019. The publication starts with the idea that “migration is fundamentally a family affair”, although specific research did not emerge until the 1980s. The authors are aware of the urgent need for migration literature on the topic. In the introduction dedicated to “Family practices in migration: everyday lives and relationships”, Montero-Sieburth and Mas Giralt explain the premises for this book. The authors have made some basic theoretical choices to establish a common ground for their work. First, they decided to work on “migrant family” instead of “transnational family” to articulate local and transnational family practices in different receiving and sending contexts. Second, they focused on child- and youth-centred perspectives, to avoid a traditional adult-centred perspective on family structures. They also considered the social dynamics between family and non-family members. The aim of this publication is to highlight the influence of “doing family” on the migration trajectories and im/mobilities of family members.

Apart from the introduction and the concluding remarks, the publication is divided in 3 parts, each of which includes 4 empirical chapters. Part I is dedicated to personal communities of migrant children and youth. Part II focuses on doing family in migration: fluid practices, affiliation and intimacy roles. Part III includes participant-centred and relational approaches in researching migrants’ personal lives. The strength of this collective contribution lies on a huge methodological effort from the authors. Data were collected through different tools, such as: participatory research, in-depth interviews, life histories or drawings for young people. Different migrant groups were analysed, considering the social experiences of parents, mothers, young people, children of migrants or unaccompanied children, in terms of mobility, transnational links, return, asylum seeking process, access to citizenship or empowerment, among other aspects. Respondents show different backgrounds, from Europe or from other sending contexts, such as Latin American countries, Morocco and India, among others. Fieldworks were conducted in several places, for example:

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivatives License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits non-commercial reuse, distribution and reproduction in any form, except for the modification and creation of derivative works, on the condition that the original work is properly cited.

Canada, the USA, Japan, Turkey and several European countries, with a longer migration history (The Netherlands, Belgium or the UK) or a more recent one (Spain or Slovenia).

The result of this collective work is a central contribution on family migration, in terms of the conceptual and methodological approaches, which also includes ethical considerations. In the epilogue, Mas Giralt, García-Arjona and Montero-Sieburth propose future areas of research for migrant families, which include: “intersectionality and issues to do with race, gender, class, age and health and their roles in the personal lives and communities of young and adult migrants; the role of emotions and related intimacy, sexuality and love in migration studies, paying particular attention to LGBTQ++ relationships and families; and the forced migration of children, youth and families as a global trend”. Together with other collective publications, such as the recently published book *Los nuevos españoles. La incorporación de los hijos de los migrantes* by Rosa Aparicio and Alejandro Portes (2021), *Family practices in migration* could take part of an important transatlantic and global dialogue with international colleagues.

References

- Aparicio, R. y A. Portes, eds. 2021. *Los nuevos españoles. La incorporación de los hijos de los migrantes*. Manresa: Bellaterra.
- Montero-Sieburth, M., R. Mas Giralt, N. García-Arjona y J. Eguren, eds. 2021. *Family practices in migration. Everyday lives and relationships*. New York: Routledge.

ORCID

Elisa BREY  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9023-7586>