

Processes of Identities Formation and Transformation among Professional Skilled Mexican Migrants in the United States

Authors : M. Laura Vazquez Maggio, Lilia Dominguez Villalobos, Jan Luka Frey

Abstract : This paper contributes to the understanding of the dynamic and the relational nature of identities formation among skilled middle-class migrants. Following the idea that identities are never singular, multifaceted and have a necessarily processual character, the authors specifically analyze three dimensions of the identity of qualified Mexican migrants in the US and the interplay between them. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with skilled Mexican middle-class migrants in the US, the paper explores how skilled Mexican migrants preserve their ethno-national identity (their 'Mexicanness') in reaction to a hostile socio-political reception context in the US. It further shows how these migrants recreate their class identity and show tendencies to distance themselves from what they perceive as lower-class Mexican migrants and the dominant popular Mexican and Latin-American cultural expressions. In a final step, it examines how the lived experience of migration itself impacts the migrants' identities, their concept of self and feelings/modes of being and belonging.

Keywords : ethno-national identity, middle class identity, middle-class migration, migrants' identity, skilled migration

Conference Title : ICSACBP 2020 : International Conference on Social Anthropology, Cultural Behavior and Practices

Conference Location : Vancouver, Canada

Conference Dates : August 06-07, 2020