LUCIE TRLIFAJOVÁ, LENKA FORMÁNKOVÁ

When is precarious employment perceived as precarious? Perceptions of employment in the biographies of the first generation of migrant women from Ukraine

In the presentation, we explore subjective perceptions of precarious employment in the biographies of the first generation of migrant women. In the accounts, we focus on the various processes of sense-making and agency experienced in the trajectories. We use data from biographic-narrative interviews with Ukrainian female migrant workers with children in preschool and school age living in the Czech Republic.

The preliminary results show that those working on these positions can subjectively perceive jobs, which might be described as precarious (Vosko), as stable or even empowering. Crucial roles in these subjective reflections play different frames of references engaged by the workers in the evaluation of these positions. We identify three main (although mutually intertwined) ways of framing: situational (household and family situation), temporal (previous life and work experience, the anticipation of future) and spatial (relation to the country of origin and country of residence).

Lucie Trlifajová is an antropologist and an analyst of social policies. She studies impacts of changes of the labour market on marginalized and low-income group, the topic of social state and citizenship, policies of control and hierarchization of poor and marginalized. She balances on the border of applied and academic research. Currently, she is employed at a Centre for Social Issues–SPOT and at the Sociological Institute of the Academy of Sciences.

Lenka Formánková works at the Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences. She leads research project entitled Care arrangements and work-life reconciliation strategies of migrants in the Czech Republic supported by Czech Science Foundation.

Seminar will be held in English. No registration is needed.

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