ASSOCIATIVISM AND TRANSNATIONAL PRACTICES ON CAPEVERDIAN MIGRANTS

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CAPEVERDIAN TRANSNATIONALISM

• Intensification of emigrants’ connections with their origins.

• Lisbon, Rotterdam and Boston- as the most important starting points of this circulatory movement.

• Transnational spaces connecting different cores of the Capeverdian Diaspora between themselves.
Transnational spaces

• Capeverdean immigrant’s mobility between European countries. Ex: Portugal, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, Italy…

• Intensity is considered secondary

• Circulation for economic and relational reasons, supported by individual and collective strategies.
Associativism and Transnational Spaces

• Associativism is brought to the consideration of a “transnational community”

• The new functions of associativism regarding Capeverdians’ new reemigrations and the time variable circulatory movement between cores of the Diáspora.
Transnational spaces

• Intervenients: low middle class
• Young people or young adults
• Circulatory movement and permanencies endorsed by informal networks of mutual solidarity and help made up of family members and friends.
Transnational mobility

• To search for better employment;
• To take advantage of seasonal offers in different locations or economic changes of a specific country
• Food industry, hotel industry, agriculture (Switzerland), building construction
Motives to the mobility

- Informal commerce
- Family motives
- Legalization motives
- To escape the demands of legal systems
Transnational mobility

• The high relational density of the immigrants collective:
• “Each Capeverdean based in Cape Vert has a relative or friend away”
• “Every Capeverdean immigrant knows a fellow Capeverdean immigrant in another country”
Characteristics of these new mobilities

- By ground, by train or bus allowing for the transport of more luggage
- Other types of violence and exploitations;
- Immigrants travel illegally between countries;
- They get temporarily settled;
- They are subject of verbal promises made regarding a specific job; illicit business networks
A new social space

• Immigrant associations: support traditional immigrant in their efforts to adjust in the immigration country.

• Transnational immigrants: demanded to negotiate their way into any location according to the different characteristics and “pre-requisites” they have to acknowledge in each country (city residents, bounderies, territories and rules)
Associativism’s assignments in the Diaspora

• Culture and Capverdean identity preservation
• The support of a well successful adjustment of all Capeverdean immigrants or for specific subgroups of women, young people, professionals or residents in specific neighbourhoods.
• To contribute to the development in country of origin
New demands from the associativism

• The availability to intervene with formal intervenients
• More structured intervention
• Formalization and creation of professionalizing trajectories
• Guidance towards a more rational performance with social intervention activities
New demands

• Contrasts with the weakening of the centrality of traditional activities based on the culture of origin, social activities and recreation.

• Contrasts with the highlight of collective strategies of a more informal character experienced in the transnational space.
CONCLUSIONS

• Transnational immigrants are not yet identified in their specific needs by associative organizations.

• Transnational practices of the small immigrant supported by informal networks of a more spontaneous character are also an important sign of the passing of a Diáspora to a transnational community.
CONCLUSIONS

• Transnationals practices guide us to a more cosmopolitan identity characteristic of a Diáspora

• The collective strategies in benefit of this group may direct themselves on a lesser scale to the traditional issues which occupy immigration associations
CONCLUSIONS

• Guarantee of associations’ representation with transnational immigrants:
• The capability to guarantee dominance over specific transnational commercial spaces or over the work market
• The rights to a globalized citizenship so much more consistent with a type of social occupation of space