

*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 Capeverdean 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 Capeverdeans’ new reemigrations and the time variable circulatory movement between cores of the Diáspora.

Transnational spaces

- Interventions: 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 tyhpes 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, boundaries, territories and rules)

Associativism's assignments in the Diaspora

- Culture and Capeverdean 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

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CONCLUSIONS

- Transnational 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