Global Migration, Political Mobilization & Emerging Communities

Discrimination, Anti-discrimination & Production of Knowledge Workshop

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Paths & Crossroads: Moving people, Changing Places
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Periodical Turning Points as a Framework for This Study

- WW II and Displaced people (1945-1955)
- Golden Era and Multiculturalism (Early 1970s - Late 1980s)
- The reversal - Liberal conservative coalition government (1996 onwards)
New Intakes: WW II and Displaced People (1945-1955)

Purpose of large intakes
- National
- International

Intake characteristics
- Targets
- Preferences
- Learning and challenges
Golden Era
A Positive Turning Point in Australian History of Migration (1970s-1980s)

- Reasons
- Directions
- Major area of policy change
- Recognition of diversity
- Intake target
- “Multiculturalism”
Reversal or Payback Time

A Negative Turning Point
by the “Conservative Coalition Government”
(1996 onwards)

- Policy changes in immigration and welfare policies
  - Cut backs in budget
  - Cut backs in immigration intake
  - Cut backs in on-arrival & settlement services
  - Defence and international affairs

- Directions
  - Exclusion
  - Mainstreaming

- Impacts
  - Increase in poverty
  - Increase in obvious discrimination & racism
  - Increase in gap between poor & rich, others & dominant culture
  - Direct dependency on international political ups and downs

- Role of Media
Why the Turning Point Occurs?

Global Economic Restructuring & Development in East and West:

- International energy crisis (Oil).
- Growth of the “Tiger Economy”.
- International migration movement (skilled & unskilled movement from East to West and West to East).
- Capital movement from West to East and East to West.
- Conflicts, wars (between countries, among ethnic groups).
- Identity crisis (nationally & internationally via bi-culturalism and multiculturalism).
- Contradictory nature of modern states (social democratic, welfare state, nation state and multicultural societies).

(Miles 1990; Castles & Miller 1993; Cohen 1997; Collins 1998; Held 1999; Castles 2000, ; Lalich 2003; Gholamshahi 2006)
Settlement Issues

- Supportive Networks
- Housing
- Income
- Immigration
- Health (Mental and physical)
- Education (Qualifications)
- Employment/ Training
- Family (Breakdown, DV, Custody, Spouse…)
- Isolation and exclusion
- Racism/Discrimination
- Legal issues, civil law
- Politics (National & international….)
- Integration (Social & cultural shock)
- Representation
Migrants as Members of the Newly Arrived & Emerging Communities

- Length of residency.
- Political, social and cultural conditions which cause migration and increasing complexity of settlement process.
- Population of the community.
- Variety of immigration categories for entrance into the host society (Australia).
- Structure of the community (class, ethnicity...)

- Diversity of community members (political, social, cultural and economic).
- Community infrastructure.
- Lack of supportive networks: (legal, political, social and cultural representation).
- Prohibitive conditions.
- Lack of trust.
- Contradictory feelings (fear & willingness to integrate).
Flashback: NESB Choices of Reaction

Ghettos:
- Bonding process becomes faster & wider
- Bridging process becomes slower & limited

Conflict & Violence

Passive Positions

Active position: Community solidarity, effective integration:
- Increase bonding & bridging networks to introduce & establish required changes as multicultural society to residents and citizens.
- Political & social participation & engagement as change agents, advocator & pioneers.
- Unification with other like minded groups nationally & internationally.
Crisis Impact in Absence of Justice, Equality and Support

• Self consideration as “others.”
• Physical & mental illness (lack of confidence & self-esteem, feelings of loss and failure).
• Social problems & issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, violence, neglect, assault, family breakdown, crime & conflict.
• Interruptions in education, employment & socialising.
• Isolation.
“Others” are pushed to:

- Find that they need to rely on their internal networks.
- Feel that the fight for freedom, equality & safety never ends.
- Concentrate in certain suburbs to improve access to the limited resources provided by their internal (bonding) networks – for survival purposes.
- Have an underlying awareness that settlement & integration will be a challenging, difficult & painful, if not impossible process.

Therefore NESB are excluded as “others” forever
Role of “supportive networks & welfare services” in the settlement process

– Exchange information and experiences.
– Provide options to the ethnic community members particularly women, children and other disadvantaged community members.
– Meet basic needs (particularly when the support is poor, welfare system is absent, and lack of extended family relations).
– Survival tools.
– Communication and representation (social, cultural and political).
– Creation of change agents and community leaders in favour of integration and settlement (bonding and bridging).
– **Empower community** members (access, equity, discrimination…) especially those most disenfranchised and disadvantaged.
Recommendations

- Community infrastructure,
- Facilitation of networks for bonding and Bridging,
- Establishing inclusive laws, acts & policies,
- Abolishing discriminatory and restricted laws, acts & policies,
- Full Citizenship “Entitlement”:
  - Political participation and involvement
  - “Access and Equity”