



Uprootedness and Groupness of educational migrants amidst ethnic violence: A case study of the Baloch students in Lahore

Mohammad Ahsan Cheema
Central European University, Austria

ABSTRACT

This project is aimed at understanding the dynamics of the individuals who migrate for social mobility to a perceived enemy territory amidst violent ethnic secessionist struggle. The project embarks on asking three questions, do those who migrate for social mobility internally feel *uprooted* from their *past-self* and alienated from their *present-self*? Secondly, Do the choices of those who migrate for social mobility internally *assimilate* them either into their *past-self* or their *present self*? Lastly, do those who migrate for social mobility internally respond to the *conferral properties/identities* associated with them with respect to their own sense of ethnic identity? A case study was taken of the Baloch students migrating to Lahore for educational purposes and grounded theory was used to reach a theoretical framework to describe the situation of individuals stuck between two hegemonic narratives. In total, twelve in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted and later, these interviews were coded as per the framework of grounded theory. In result, a conclusion was reached that individuals had a multi-directional view on their sense of ethnic identity, the categorization of individuals into groups, membership criteria within a group, the definition of the group and the importance of ethnic identity overall in such context.

Keywords: Assimilation, Multidirectional assimilation, Uprootedness, Social Mobility, Postcolonial, Conflict, Social identities