B O O K   R E W I E V

The sociology of migration 3.0

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Abstract

Aim: The aim of the review of Endre Sik's book *'The Sociology of Migration 3.0'* is to present new ideas and values summarizing the changes in the research and theoretical approach to migration.

Methodology: In preparing the book review, I have endeavoured, through the comparative content analysis carried out, to provide a readable description of the new findings and conclusions that differ from the findings of the previous two books.

Findings: The author presented the thematic comparison in his previous books and the book under review as a separate elements, presenting the new elements that can be read as separate novae. With characteristic wisdom and direct simplicity, the author shows that this book is part of a process, a partial reinterpretation of the accelerated global social phenomenon, the antecedents of which were presented in his two previous books. The author has lived up to expectations by updating the processes, events and theoretical approaches he has previously analysed with research findings and references.

Value: The global social process of migration, researched and described by the author of the book, is presented with research findings and additions, interviews, which make the book newly identifiable as a seminal work in the literature on migration. It succeeds in describing the phenomenon, the characteristics of its migration patterns in the period following the mass irregular immigration of 2015, in a way that is comprehensible to non-migration researchers, and also presents current social value judgments.

Keywords: migration, moral panic button, policing, sociology

Introductory thoughts

As a dedicated researcher of migration theory, I have come to know the name of Endre Sik as one of the most-cited authors in the domestic and international source literature. Among his numerous publications, studies and books, I was among the first to find the e-books Sociology of Migration 1 and 2, published in 2012 by the Eötvös Loránd Faculty of Social Sciences. These two volumes provided many migration researchers with the knowledge to understand the theoretical foundations of human migration, which, in the context of the mass irregular immigration that hit Hungary in 2015, required a review of the relevance of the knowledge, justified modification and supplementation.

Taking this book in our hands, we can see a similar simplicity to its two predecessors. On opening up the book, we find that instead of photographs and references that can influence our thoughts, the reader is helped to interpret the readable pages by evaluative tables, clear diagrams, descriptions and interview transcripts, whose content can be easily assimilated by non-experts.

Endre Sik, the author of the book, is an economist, sociologist, professor emeritus, member of numerous Hungarian and foreign organisations, as well as a titleholder and researcher. His work focuses on research into the phenomenon of migration and the analysis of migration factors. The volumes of summaries of migration theory published about a decade earlier have provided a good basis for the author to share new or reconsidered elements with the readers after examining the changes that have taken place.

The book can be seen as a niche publication, even though in recent years several publications on migration have been published by domestic publishers. The Sociology of Migration 3.0 was published by the University of Debrecen at the end of 2021, with professional proofreading of Borbála Simonovits. The topicality of the topic cannot be questioned even if the external border of Hungary does not have the mass irregular immigration phenomenon as in 2015, but it has not disappeared, only the migration pattern has changed.

About the book

Bearing the logo of the publishing university, the sponsor of the research activity, the title, edited with a flamboyant characteristic, is evident throughout the book. The reader no longer encounters any highlights that would attract the eye or occupy a few pages but begins to read and interpret the book systematically from the beginning to the last 158 pages.

In keeping with the classic structure, the first pages contain the table of contents, which, in addition to the introduction and the table of contents, lists 10 chapters.

In the introduction, the author states in his first sentence: '*The third volume of The Sociology of Migration serves the aim I set myself in 2001: to teach the sociological phenomena of migration in such a way that it does not become a specialised sociology of migration.*' In an innovative solution, we find a presentation that makes it clear which previous themes are being revisited and updated in Volume 3, and how the conceptual element identified as the 'moral panic button'[1] is presented to readers as new in this synthesis (URL1).

For works of scientific value, it is always recommended to consult the bibliography. In this book, eight pages of sources are recorded, including national and foreign researchers, media items, online databases. This large number and breadth of sources, together with the author's research findings, provide a solid basis for the claim that this book, a worthy successor to its predecessors, is another seminal work on migration theory.

The main message of the first chapter is the interpretation of the concept of migration and its approach. All this is covered in six sub-chapters. The author explains - and already alludes to the later content - that in the case of migration, most societies (including the Hungarian one) are divided. Individual approaches and interpretations of the phenomenon can be identified, as well as of the subjects of migration. There is still no common understanding of what migration is, neither from society, nor international law, nor migration researchers, as it cannot be dealt with in a meaningful way by narrow thinking.

In addition to describing the diversity of migration and its ever-shortening timeframes due to global acceleration, Endre Sik presents his minimal definition of migration. The dichotomy of the perception of migration phenomena may also be familiar with different approaches, but the 'chameleon character' presented to the reader - also based on interviews - may also be novel in addition to the international perspective and the presentation of Hungarian conditions.

In the second paragraph, the author applies the findings of the institutional theory of migration analysed earlier by Douglas S. Massey to the migration events in Hungary in 2015. In doing so, he conducts data analyses and presents interviews to illustrate the specific, case-by-case characteristics in comparison

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1 '*The 'Moral panic button' mean is a situation in which people feel threatened by the world they live in, they feel threatened by the moral order that helps them to feel safe and to find their way in the world, and they become frightened. This process can be initiated from below, but it can also be initiated by ‚moral formal shapingh entrepreneurs' from above. The intensification of panic is first intensified and then extended by the media, only to be forgotten.*'

with the current emergence of migration theory, with an emphasis on human smuggling and trafficking and their financial support.

In the third chapter, the current features of cumulative causality theory are presented from the period of mass migration in 2015. The author summarises that '...*each migration modifies the social context in which the decision to migrate is made, generally in a way that increases the likelihood of the migration process persisting. ... once the migration has started, it does not stop, at most, it changes its form (from commuting to resettlement, the emergence and consolidation of diasporas, etc.).*' In comparing theory and migration patterns, we can also gain insight into migration processes at the US-Mexico border, the typological elements of which were present on many surfaces during the mass irregular immigration at the Hungarian border in 2015 (e. g. ethnically organised people smuggling, active US immigration legislative correction).

In the fourth chapter, the author presents an updated assessment of network and social capital theory. He provides the reader with transcripts of interviews to aid understanding. In doing so, Endre Sik shows a link between the migration bubble that is associated with his name and the theories under consideration. '*The migration buffer is thus the set of links between different parts of the network mobilized for the success of migration and the result of a conscious investment in this effort.*'

In the fifth chapter, Endre Sik introduces the diaspora and transnational migrant community, providing an interpretative summary of them. Citing sources within the chapter, he presents the classical Jewish diaspora as a model in its own right. The conceptual interpretation of the quasi-diaspora and its presentation in the form of diagrams is a highly topical element, given the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war near the Ukrainian-Hungarian state border, which is still going on at the time of writing the review. Within the chapter, the author presents the diaspora policy and institutions of the quasi-diaspora in the period since the publication of the previous volumes by presenting sources, data tables, analyses and interviews.

The author shares his thoughts on the theory of mediating minorities in chapter six. The theory assumes that '... *(a) there is a strong ethnic-based community formation within the migrant group, (b) the host society is hostile to migrants, and (c) migrants' activities are concentrated in a narrow range of intermediary economic roles.*' In this chapter, we can learn how members of Far Eastern nations have appeared in Hungary, how the Chinese and Vietnamese diasporas, for example, have emerged and grown. The author also supports the reader's interpretation with interviews.

In the seventh chapter, Endre Sik writes about the informal economy, border and ethnic resources. He presents ethnic-based cross-border resources and their

typological characteristics through interview transcripts of cross-border informal economic transactions, informal trade (fuel and/or tobacco smuggling, black marketeering etc.), helping to interpret the conceptual framework.

The description of the moral panic button, which is linked to xenophobia and not yet discussed in the previous two volumes, is presented as a new element in chapter eight. The author has previously continued his research on inward irregular migration and Hungarian xenophobia in the context of the mass immigration at Hungary's state border in 2015. In doing so, he described the conceptual scope of the moral panic button (URL2; URL3). The chapter provides a comparative process analysis of xenophobia in European and national contexts, as well as an evaluative presentation of its national sociography. As a separate element, the author describes the impact of personal familiarity on xenophobia. The source-theoretical basis of the moral panic button is also presented in a separate chapter, with the author stating that this particular button *'is invented and developed by state propaganda.'* Endre Sik illustrates this identifiable process with a series of images linked to the series of events presented on page 108.

Chapter nine provides further insights into the Hungarian refugee case, which has already been examined. A summary assessment of the history of the period preceding what the author identifies as the *'age of innocence'* is provided, accompanied by interview transcripts. We learn about the social and state actors of the period, their activities during the period of mass immigration that affected Hungary in the 20th century, and the history of the events that took place. In his summary, Endre Sik concludes that *'The age of innocence, however, as is the case with innocence, did not last long. The state soon found itself, and the inertia of the path of the rapidly reorganising power (which was perhaps not only the heir of the socialist total state but also carried the legacy of the regimes of government before and during the Second World War) was so great that it soon undermined the liberal initiative that had seemed to emerge in the age of innocence.'*

In the last, tenth chapter, the author presents the globalisation of migration and its emergence in the buffer concerning to the current period. In doing so, he discusses the labour market context, network migration and Hungary's position in the system of international migration. In a separate sub-chapter, the author presents the relationship between the period of regime change in Europe and migration.

Concluding thoughts

In the light of Endre Sik's work and the elements of the book that have been re-examined and new elements presented, there is only one decision to be to - read it! This book, in addition to the topicality of the content of the period preceding its publication, the war events of the present period and the economic effects and migration processes that have followed them, lead to the conclusion that the author's ideas are forward-looking, the conclusions are correct, and that the problems can be addressed by understanding and following them.

References

Endre, Sik. (2021). *A migráció szociológiája 3.0.* [The Sociology of Migration 3.0.]. Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó.

Online links in the article

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URL2: *Egy hungarikum: a morális pánikgomb (tanulmányterv).* https://szociologia.tk.hu/uploads/files/2018/mozgo_vilag_1610_Sik.pdf

URL3: *Ez a szupermanipuláció az igazságra törekvés értékét is eltüntetheti.* https://24.hu/belfold/2019/05/31/sik-endre-moralis-panik-propaganda/

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