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Scientific methods of public administration in migration research

Abstract

In my study, I list the directions of migration research, all from the point of view of public administration science. The emergence of migration research as an independent field is necessitated by the growth of migration. Researchers are researching the phenomenon of migration from their own field. Public administration uses a multidisciplinary, i.e. methodological approach of several disciplines, all of which is determined by the knowledge and nature of the subject of the given research. In the following, I review and evaluate the methodological directions of the research, which can provide an answer to a segment of the phenomenon of migration. The study gives an insight into research methods for migration research. It is not intended to present specific examples and procedures. At the end of the study, in possible directions, beyond the science of public administration, I list the organizations and faculties that are able to use the methodology of migration research.

Keywords: scientific research, migration, public administration, methods, development

Researchers have not addressed the phenomenon of migration comprehensively so far. They have always been looking for only the current solutions. Terrorism has been studied from the point of view of labor force, legal interpretation of the market situation, demographic influence, crime, social habits, integration of religion or security. In other words, the relations among them have not been reviewed. The most relevant organisational system in terms with the phenomenon of migration is the state and public administration system. That is why I have chosen this area to examine the phenomenon. The research methodology of public administration allows a wide range of solutions and applications,

since the relation between the state and the people and also the administration is the case. The methodology of every science appears in public administration. It uses interdisciplinary and diverse fields of science that is why it is multidisciplinary methodology. Or, as it is named by politics, it is hybrid methodology. This feature of it will be derived from my own methodological overview of my research on the phenomenon of migration, from empirical understanding, through the international comparison method, to the possible evolution of research methods and thus till the methodology of public administration. In case of researching any phenomenon, it is essential to explain and know them conceptually. Migration has multiple definitions or notions in the academic world. For me, the following definition covers the phenomenon the most. Migration is a process in which the persons change residence and society in a manner that such change either becomes temporary or permanent (Póczik, 2011). I have included both legal (legal and illegal refugees, asylum seekers, protected persons) and non-legal (economic refugee, climate refugee) categories in the concept of migration. The next step is the process of legal background. From the point of view of public administration, the phenomenon and the legislator's answers give the basis for examining the organizations and procedures. Finally, we have to decide what, where and by which method to be examined. Hungary is not a destination for immigration to the same extent as, for example, Germany, and fortunately terrorism also avoids our country. But it is influenced especially by the happenings in the countries of the European Union, mainly in the area of border protection and law enforcement bodies of security of the citizens. Responding to this effect, the emergence and identification of risk, the appearance and types of conflicts are the primary determinants of my research. The second level is determining the expectation system of the state and the government. The citizens' expectations appear on the voter wants on local and national level, it is clearly visible on international level such as Great British Brexit deciding on quitting the European Union, it will also play an important role in the Austrian and the Hungarian election campaign as well. It divides and makes both the everyday and the scientific world on international and national level. A typical case of population movement is the labour force migration that has been taking place for centuries. In addition to the intention to work, several other factors increase willingness to migrate. Religious, ethnic, and political migration also dates back to hundreds or thousands of years. Recently, the combination of political and economic factors can be more and more observed in migratory motivation.

The science base methodology

Everyone knows or has heard about something about migration, or they have their opinion about it. The following question arises: how can a phenomenon which has no indirect appearance be examined? It is undeniable that mass migration in Hungary in 2015 served as a tangible experience, but only for a specified period of time and at limited geographical areas. In other words, in my opinion, the unambiguous answer for the effect does not come from the researches done among refugees and migrants, though it may be a completion to it. But it is the research on the citizens and the communities of different ages and different expectations. Public administration research has serious tradition. The interdisciplinary approach indicated in the introduction had already appeared in the fundamental literature of Zoltán Magyary's research titled Fact finding methods in public administration (1939), in the book of Administration and people. A so-called multidisciplinary methodology was used in this research. Thus, the method of induction is still essential for understanding the function of the state. Research today has a so-called holistic view. That means, regardless of the input, it examines and analyzes all the connections, relationships and effects. The results are not representative, but general conclusions and correlations can be drawn from them. They can mark the route for further research; determine the location and the method of intervention. The research is of an applied nature, as it suggests a solution and also scientific because it does not exclude the research of further questions. According to my view, the evolution of methods, the increased number of elements, the extension of the studied area, the technical, computer analysis have become more modern. In point of methodological principles the research should be the fundamental reading for every researcher who deals with the science of public administration.

The concept of cognition

The phenomena appear on the researcher's field of vision as research problems. This may be due to the lack of information about the phenomenon, learning about the problem might require a deeper knowledge. Cognition can be casual and scientific. The concept of cognition: *“The activity in which objective reality is reflected [...] starts from practice as the source of cognition, and after sensual knowledge it returns to the knowledge and practice of the established knowledge. Information is a fact that we have not owned before the process of learning about. The information from which we know a particular fact is*

also known as data. “ (Hornycsek, 2014, 33.) In other phrasing, the scientific cognition is the conscious, deliberate, pre-planned, regular and systematic exploration of reality, but we can not forget about unintended, unintentional scientific discoveries. Some branches of science focus on knowing a particular area of reality by examining a particular phenomenon with a distinctive set of terms and methods. Each discipline has its own specific methodology, with the help of which the examined can be understood the most easily. One of the criteria of the scientific knowledge is to be repeatable by anyone (other scholars) (Sztárayné, 2013). Common cognition is the public opinion which can not influence scientific knowledge. Researcher attitudes and autonomy require an invaluable value judgment. Subjectivity can not be fully excluded, but one must strive for it. This is how the three principles of scientific research, i.e. the generalization, reliability and validity can be achieved. It is reliable if other researchers repeat the research with the applied methods, at different time and get the same results. It is valid if the area is relevant and researchable, the applied methods are suitable for the scientific cognition of the area and we really measured what we wanted. And I can note everything is affected by the margin of error. There is no research without error. The size of the error indicates the effectiveness of the research. So, we have a research problem, we have processed the literature, defined concepts. Let’s have a look at which public administration-science methods can be applied in research.

Research Methodologies

Research should be planned. For this, it is essential to know the relevant scientific researches and to define our own possibilities and limits. We should take less but more accurately. The next step is determining the research from the point of view of time and location. As for time, this can be a historical throwback or a snapshot. As for the region, the subjects of the research are mainly Hungarians and Hungarians beyond the border, including the effects on the occupants in the country which are caused by the Hungarian citizens working or living abroad. The subjects are individuals, communities and institutions. This is a comparative methodology between Hungary and selected European Union countries. The research focuses on mainly domestic circumstances. Then it will be extended to other countries by processing and analyzing data. So, after we have determined the research problem and the research questions, we have to assign the goals and methods to be achieved. In the following, I examine the two largest research methods, the quantitative and qualitative methodology.

Quantitative methodology

If we are to separate the quantitative and qualitative methodology from each other, the easiest way is to imagine a scale at the one end of which there is the survey and at the other one, the life cycle of unstructured interviews.

Quantitative methodology: As its name also shows, this works with numbers. It supposes that the human behavior can be measured and analyzed. Its purpose is to break down this measurable data into numbers. Typically, statistical data and large databases are the so-called Big Data Analysis. Slowly all events of our life occur in the virtual space. A large amount of data is accumulated that can be broken down to researchable and interpretable data with the help of appropriate computer programmes. It has the advantage that many interpretations can be deduced from it. It is more objective and more scientific than the qualitative method. This means that the subjectivity of the researcher is presented in a lesser extent in the interpretation of the results. It can be relatively quickly conducted. Its further advantage is that it is relatively inexpensive. The program must be purchased once and can be applied for other databases as well. If we intend to know something about the social perception of migration, we can already create and send a questionnaire online. Those data which have been recorded will not need to be added again. They should only be properly interpreted. With newer programmes we can get new results and conclusions. These are the so-called secondary research data, statistical surveys in European and Hungarian databases e.g. EUROBAROMETER, EUROSTAT, KSI, ENYÜBS, TARKI. In the research written by Zoltán Magyary, which has already been mentioned in the introduction, for the necessity of detachment and the application of statistical data, provided in the publications of the Central Statistical Office issued by the Tata district county branch office is served as the source. The method uses the interpretation of deductivity. So, it goes from the general to the individual. It is suitable for proving or disproving scientific theories. This is a methodology dealing with the so-called hard data.

The applicability of the method in terms of the migration phenomenon

It is a clearly workable method. The large number of elements allows the research to be representative. The number of refugees and migrants can be examined with the help of it. Also, the below one can be subject of examination: The percentage of the distribution in the host country. Costs that they spend

on housing, language learning, education and the economic benefits and revenues generated by them. Their participation in the labor market or among the unemployed. Their number and their distribution in crime. Their geographical distribution in the country. The number of recipients and applicants. The distribution of gender, age, originating region, country, Their impact on functioning of the state and administration.

The country's public opinion and attitude

We can gain a lot of useful information from using this method. Cause-effect relations can be recognized, and theories can be formed. The basic question is why it happens. That is, we are looking for the cause.

Qualitative methodology

Qualitative methodology. They are the primary research data. The qualitative interview. It is a significant difference that in a traditional interview we want to introduce someone, to make interesting for viewers, listeners, that is to say, basically an interview form which is related to journalism. However, in this methodology, we want to know what the person thinks about a given issue, their opinion is important in a scientific topic. This can be an expert interview and range from structured interview to deep-case case studies. By the qualitative field research, we can even better understand the way of thinking of a given community and individual. This method requires a great deal of empathy and it takes a lot of time until we own an adequate number of elements or knowledge. Necessarily, the researcher's individuality, sensitivity and communication are very important for the successful research. It is a focus group method. Methodologically it lags with the method of induction, which generalises from the individual. Induction: *"The induction, in which we move from the individual towards the general: we do observations, look for relations between our observations, and then get to our conclusions, that is, the theory. In experimental scientific researches, research activity takes place in an empirical cycle: the accepted items and the hypotheses derived from them are indispensable (deduction), just like hypothesis-based and generalization (induction) based on observations"* (Babbie, 2003, 39.). It is a so-called soft data methodology.

The applicability of the method in terms of the migration phenomenon

It is a clearly workable method. The interviews and focus groups make it possible to capture intelligent and generalizable data on individual and group level of understanding. The advantage of the qualitative methodology is the same as its disadvantage, i.e. the interpretive approach, according to which social relations cannot be scientifically examined, as the focus of the research is the person, who owns sense of mind and free will. We can understand how people relate to the phenomenon of migration as individuals.

Legislative methodology

The correct interpretation of the law is indispensable to the cultivation of science and research in public administration conditions. *“I see the main function of a law interpretation is that it allows me to describe and analyze an aspect of judicial (or jurisprudence) practices by creating a suitable conceptual framework and methodology.”* (Blutman, 2007, 3.) The administrative rules and laws, regulations and decisions provide the framework for the function of administration. *“... public administration can not be conceived without law, which regulates it and which uses as a tool in its functions, and the law researches which are to reveal inner inevitabilities are essential for the development of state administration.”* (Madarász, 1987, 9.) As Zoltán Hautzinger puts it: *“The application of law is not homogenous in the Hungarian judicial system either. The legal consequences of illegal immigration (entry, residence) may result from norms outside of criminal law, but they can also be found amongst the provisions of the same. The law of immigration policing can come into play primarily owing to its efficiency, and especially the primacy of the social interest in the earliest possible elimination of the circumstances resulting from illegal entry or residence.”* (Hautzinger, 2016, 16.) He also adds the following: *“The immigration policing proceeding with the ordering of expulsion, and, if necessary the application of deportation (not including the asylum proceeding), eliminates illegal residence regardless of the possibility of applying any further sanctions otherwise resulting from the penalty originating from the immigration policing sanction.”* (Hautzinger, 2016, 17.)

Applicability of the method for migration phenomenon

The method is suitable for getting familiar with the phenomenon of migration. It is important to do research on the basis of laws which are currently in force. The phenomenon of migration to immigration is the reception of refugees as a formal legal procedure. This is the basis for all migration-related science work.

Historical Comparative Methodology

In other words, comparative theory: “*Historical comparison is an explicit and systematic confrontation of two or more past societies of different contexts in order to either define and explain their similarities and differences, or in addition to create hypotheses about the development of societies and examining the validity of scientific theories*” (Tomka, 2005, 20.) It has more and more reasons: “*A comparative approach can offer an alternative to the traditional, nation-oriented conceptualization.*” (Varga, 2014, 453.) Four possible types of historical comparative methodology are known by the literature: Descriptive, Analytic, Heuristic, Paradigmatic. When using this method, first you need to clarify what is compared to what. That is, the two phenomena must be comparable. Then the appropriate method can be selected from the above four types. The comparative method of historical law also belongs to here, which means how legislation and laws have changed, developed, and what differences they show in case of a breakdown for example by country.

The applicability of the method in terms of the migration phenomenon

The method can be used well. It is essential to know the different nature and interpretation of migration in relation to nation states, regions, communities and individuals. The procedures here are basically administrative procedures and the operation of organizations are in the context of migration and immigration. The comparison of international laws and governmental regulations help a lot interpreting the phenomenon and in learning about the effects.

Anthropological methodology

With the anthropological fieldwork, or with other term, the stationing fieldwork has focused on the study and research of remote peoples and cultures for a long time. We can state that by today we can hardly find new landscapes and people to be discovered. Quite on the contrary, the world has become an intense movement due to globalization. This opens new areas for the use of anthropological methods. The world comes closer, cultures mix or collide. There has never been such a huge need for the methods examining the cohabitation of people from different cultures as there is it today. A great phrase for anthropological fieldwork: *“Frankly, similarly to any other scientific enterprise, the legitimacy of field work is not the extent to which the individual serves the common good, but much rather its contribution to his personal build-up. Scientific research, just like monastic life, is in fact about improving man’s own soul”* (Barley, 2006, 11.) It defines the essence of the method as follows: *“At every level, all kinds of interpretations have to be taken into account if one wanted to remain faithful to their thinking.”* (Barley, 2006, 12.)

The applicability of the method in terms of the migration phenomenon

The anthropological methodology is called as village research method in the study of Zoltán Magyary, which has been mentioned several times. Obviously, ethnographic (son etnográf) and anthropological methods are different from each other but it is clear that this approach played an important role in the method of public administration science by getting to know people and the region. The disadvantage of the method is the same as its advantage that is being time-consuming. Migration is changing so fast that, according to my view, today's large-scale, long-term anthropological researches can no longer be used properly. Or they need to take a really long time, several years because then the intermediate changes can be observed as well.

European-international research methodology

The international literature about Europisation is very small. It has no specific, developed methodology. The methodology of European Union and the International Research was defined by scientists based on a specific research as per

the following “.. *during examining political institutions and actors, document analysis (electoral and government programs), interviews (diplomats, judges, politicians) and the methods of exploring the literature could be applied. In regards the European identity, Eurobarometer data have been used for secondary analysis.*” (Arató-Koller, 2014, 378.) In other words, the researcher basically works with documents and secondary statistics. This allows quick access, interpretation, and publishing.

The applicability of the method in terms of the migration phenomenon:

It is a methodology, which can be applied properly. Documents of international organizations are available, and many analyzes have been made in terms of migration. They can be linked to statistical information but can also be linked to universities.

Research ethical issues

Prior to research, ethical issues related to the research are defined in the spirit of the relevant legislation, linked to the research goal and social utility. The researcher should not only comply with legislation, but also with ethical standards in the research. Research discovers new knowledge, supports decision-making, and helps solving social problems at the same time, that is why all research work is also an intervention in social processes. (Héra – Ligeti, 2014). Those dealing with public administration should be particularly sensitive to ethical issues as they do researches for public interest, in favour of the public, for supporting the operation of them. Their findings should be based on information taken from serious scientific methodologies.

Possible directions of development of the research methodology of public administration

As it has already been mentioned at the beginning of this study, the research methodology of public administration uses interdisciplinary methodology and interpretation of several disciplines. From the science of law, through economics, till sociology, psychology, anthropological and political methodology are

all presented in this research. The phenomenon of migration has been more and more often dealt with. This is how it can be defined: The ever-expanding range of migration theories have resulted in the topic becoming one of the most popular empirical research areas of today's social sciences. One direction of the researches examines the social macro level relations, while the other one focuses on the individual, micro level issues (Csepeli-Örkény, 2017) It is clear that the topic is examined from two points of view: one focusing on immigrants, the other one is concentrating on their experienced, recipient's or with other words, majority answers. In the contrary, the research methodology of public administration or state science focuses on the organizations of public administration itself, on the impact that affects them. This is also true for international administration and the organizations of the European Union. Hungary is mainly a transit country in terms of migration. That means that, in general, the effect reflects the phenomena experienced indirectly in other countries. But it is not true for the public administration where the officers are in daily contact with migration and immigrants. Its methodology differs from other social sciences because of this research topic, so of the way of thinking that is focusing on the state. In most of the researches, public administration appears only subsidiarily or does not appear at all. This area has been unknown for researchers. Public administration activity appearing in different researches is of considerable importance when researching the phenomenon of migration.

The organizations and faculties that are able to use the methodology of migration research

What are the organizations that can utilize the results of migration research? Primarily public organizations, such as the Civil Service Organization. *“Public service bodies are organizations with actual operational functions, organized along the principle of fitness-for-purpose that operate actively and implement processes that typically do not produce value. Public service organizations include public administration, state defense and law enforcement bodies.”* (Czuprák-Kovács, 2017, 79.) As an administrative office, citizenship matters are handled by Government Offices. The Directorate-General for Aliens Policing, as part of the police, conducts asylum procedures. The Hungarian Police, as defined in the Fundamental Law of Hungary, *“Article 46 (1) The core duties of the police shall be the prevention and investigation of criminal offences, and the protection of public safety, public order, and the order of state borders. The police shall participate in preventing illegal immigration”*. The Hungari-

an Armed Forces also has a constitutional obligation Article „45 (1) *Hungary's armed forces shall be the Hungarian Defence Forces. The core duties of the Hungarian Defence Forces shall be the military defence of the independence, territorial integrity and borders of Hungary...*” The Counter-Terrorism Center and the Office of National Security are involved in detecting illegal and irregular migration-related acts. These government organizations highlight and use from the reviewed research methodologies what is important for their activities. Complementary policing such as the Municipal Police, the Civil Guard Association and the Private Security industry also use the appropriate of the methodologies from their own perspectives.

Special mention should be made of migration research at university faculties, especially at the Faculty of Law Enforcement of the National Public Service University. The university conducts high-level research. With my present study, I focus on the methodological help and foundation of this research. Researchers and students should be able to choose the appropriate method to conduct their scientific research. This is also important because of the public service organizations, the law enforcement organization, which are related to migration on a daily basis, and it is important to research and learn about the processes affecting the activity and the tendencies of migration.

Conclusion

The methods by which the phenomenon of migration can be examined have been examined and interpreted in my study. These methods are the same as those of the public administration research. It can be stated that the research methodology of society, and also of natural sciences are available and can be successfully applied to the scientific knowledge of migration. Because migration will be part of our lives, political and public talk for a long time. It regulates and pervades our way of thinking. Conflicts have appeared and are present at individual, community, national and international level. They influence politics, affect on functioning of the public administration and the state. They create tasks, drive the activities of professionals to creation and interpretation of law. It is of utmost importance for the scientific world to strive to interpret and understand the phenomenon, to monitor and complement the scientific results of others. A phenomenon can never be fully understood from a particular point of view. In my study, the methods have been examined in terms of applicability as well. My goal is to support scientists in the field of choosing the right method. The formulation of the methodological basis of my own research has

also been my goal. It is far from being discussed about migration as a familiar phenomenon, but we do have to examine and research it on daily basis, while it changes, transforms and dynamically grows or decreases temporarily. But it can be stated that the pressure on Europe, and thus, on Hungary can temporarily ease, but undoubtedly, its effects are and will be presented in daily thinking.

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