SESSION 5.D. Ageing Immigrants & Health

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Turkish refugees and their use of health and social services in London

Introduction: A lot of research was done on the health care and social services access of migrants and ethnic minorities in Europe. The results show that their level of access is less than that of the native population. The main aim of this research is to evaluate the situation of older Turkish refugees, who are in general not well integrated into the host country and are disadvantaged in accessing and using health and social services.

This research identifies the cultural and social features of this group which lead to this disadvantaged position of older Turkish refugees in London-UK.

Method: 20 semi structured interviews with older Turkish refugees have been conducted each in UK.

Results: The results show that generally older Turkish refugees have poor health conditions and do not use health care services and social services effectively. Subjective and objective conditions such as the cultural and socio-economic situations of the older immigrants cause this disadvantaged situation.

Conclusion: The research reveals that older Turkish refugees develop new (coping) strategies in the host country and that these strategies have created a new lifestyle. These lifestyles include access to health care and social services but by an indirect way and less than the native population.

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(153) Hürrem Tezcan-Güntekin (Bielefeld University)

Empowering self-management competencies of Turkish migrant family caregivers of elderly with dementia

Migrants from Turkey during the recruitment of workers in the seventies reach now an age they need intensive care. According to the previous research, migrants with Turkish origin need intensive care approximately ten years earlier than their German counterparts. Thus, within the next ten years, elderly Turkish migrants’ need of care will increase drastically. Family carers of ill persons with a migration background often take care of them at home and do not take some external or ambulant assistance. This is reasoned by deficient information and inadequate service of the German care system and the awe to talk about problems in care situations. The home caring of persons with dementia leads to mental stress for the family carers. In addition, there are cultural adaptation and communication problems because of poor language skills of both the carer and the cared. In order for family member carers to continue to take care of their ill relatives, services of empowerment must be developed. The aim of this paper is to analyse the needs of Turkish origin family carers of migrants with dementia. Based on story-telling method, a concept of empowerment through self-management competencies of the given population will be developed.

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(66) Feray J. Baskin (Indiana University)

Identity and Language maintenance and/or language shift in the Turkish female community: An Intergenerational Comparison in Strasbourg

My proposed study will add a new voice to the field of linguistic anthropology and migration studies and lend new insights into immigration policy formation in the European Union. It will help to better understand the dynamics of the female Turkish immigrant community in France in fostering greater assimilation in the host country while preserving a pertinent relationship with their native country. In this context, the study will hope to focus on the first and second generations of these immigrant communities and the newly-arrived female migrants and the role of language in promoting greater integration within French society. My preliminary research questions are as follows:

1) How do Turkish immigrant women in France negotiate with the languages surrounding them?, 2) How are they using language as a tool for the social reproduction of their identity?, 3) How do these language strategies intervene in public versus private sphere, i.e., in religious rituals, ceremonies, family, community gatherings, the workplace?, 4) In what contexts are languages maintained and/or in which circumstances is language shift happening?, 6) Is there any correlation between social network and language change?, 5) How
symbolic is language in the Turkish community in Strasbourg? 6) How does language become a form of social and cultural capital for the Turkish women in Strasbourg in their efforts to integrate in French society and culture? I hope to demonstrate how the Turkish immigrant women shape, rearrange their habitus (Bourdieu 1980) through language, within complex strategies of taking control over their immigration experience.

(113) Anne Leonora Blaakilde (University of Copenhagen), Suzan Yazici (Akdeniz University) and Signe Gronwald Petersen (University of Copenhagen)

**Elderly Turkish migrants in Denmark: Health in a life course perspective**

Objective: The overall objective of our research project was to carry out a qualitative investigation about health practices and health perceptions among elderly Turkish migrants living in Denmark. They account for a higher rate of chronic ailments, a higher proportion of self-reported illness, and are in higher risk of health problems and morbidity than the heritage population. Overall, the health situation of the elderly Turkish migrants is worse than for their Danish counterparts. This part of the research project focus on personal explanations for the bad health situation among elderly Turkish migrants by studying the everyday life of elderly Turkish migrants in a life course perspective.

Methods: Life-history interviews and photo documentation focusing on material objects entailed to their living arrangements. The interviews were simultaneously translated from Turkish, English and Danish by the two interviewers; a medical doctor from Turkey and an ethnologist from Denmark.

Results: We interviewed 12 Turkish men and 18 women from generation one who migrated to Denmark earlier in their life; their age between 54-80. The interviews revealed a high level of functional illiteracy, low social and economic status and little language skills except for Turkish. From their life histories, we learned that they had not only encountered unskilled and physical demanding work, but many of them had experienced very bad and unhealthy living conditions while in Denmark.

Conclusions: The ill health as reported from surveys about the Turkish immigrants may be due to low socio-economic status and experiences with bad living conditions in Denmark in a life-course perspective.

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