

Brettell, Caroline B.: *Gender and Migration*.

This is a very interesting book. The author is a professor for cultural anthropology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas Texas and director of its Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute. Dr. Brettell's research fields are migration and gender, especially in their cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The book "Gender and Migration" is not an attempt at providing a general theory about the gendered structure of migration processes, but it is focused on the gendered dimensions of migration to the United States since 1965. And it is not a cultural-anthropological case study, but rather an interdisciplinary approach to empirical evidence from the micro, meso, and macro levels. Since her first research on Portuguese migrant women to Canada and France, the author has spent roughly forty years of research into both topics, gender and migration, and with her cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective she is especially suited to give meaningful and inspiring insights into a topic that has become more and more important on a global scale since the 1990s. It is also not a book of women's studies. Brettell takes the term *gender* serious, which means both sides of gender, female and male, are considered equally.

Brettell organizes her book around four major topics: The gendered demography of US immigration history; the gendering of law, policy, citizenship, and political practice; gendered labor markets; gender and the immigrant family. Each topic is then again divided in sub-chapters concerning problems that have especially attracted research. For instance the chapter on gender and the immigrant family is divided into five topics, the first two pertaining to historical and demographic aspects: *Immigrant families then: The Third Wave of immigration*, and *Immigrant families now: The Fourth Wave of immigration*. It then addresses the problems of *masculinity, intimacy, and domestic violence in immigrant families, transnational parenthood, and the gendered dimension of remittances*. The chapter on the gendered labor market, besides historical and statistical analyses on the other hand also contains case studies on political programs, family businesses, and sex workers and sex trafficking.

While Brettell's book is focused on the United States, it is by no means limited to it. The amount of research focusing on the United States concerning the various facets of gender and migration are not balanced. Some areas received a lot more of attention focusing on other regions than the United States, especially migration in Europe and migration between Third World regions. They also differ in their historical perspective, which means some periods receive stronger attention than others. Another point addressed by Brettell are the overlapping aspects and complex interaction of migration, gender, ethnicity/nationality, profession, and class, which become especially obvious concerning law and politics, the labor market, and the family. The results of the research into these various aspects are critically reviewed by Brettell, who thus introduces a strong comparative approach in the spatial (inter-regional) aspect as well as in the temporal aspect, which is further re-enforced by looking beyond the disciplinary boundaries.

When I finished reading the book, I had a strong impression of a text book or a handbook rather than that of a monograph. The literature reviewed in the book is vast, and not limited to research on the United States, it actually gives an overview on the state of art of the research on gender and migration in general. Due to Brettell's interdisciplinary and comparative approach

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the book becomes very useful as a guide for young researchers giving them examples and paradigms for theoretical and methodological approaches and research questions for most topics related to gender and migration. At the same time, the various parts of the book also show the mutual complementarities of studies on the macro, meso, and micro levels and of quantitative and qualitative research approaches.