Diversity, Super-Diversity & Transnational Entrepreneurship

NVL network meeting Copenhagen

Eli Moen
Norwegian Business School
Super-diversity

- Steven Vertovec:
  - New configurations of ethnic, genered, legal status, age-differentiated and labour market positions layered upon pre-existing contexts of diversity
- Literature on immigrant transnationalism:
- An alternative form of economic adaptation of foreign minorities in advanced societies based on the mobilization of their cross-country social networks
Transnational entrepreneurship

• An emerging research field in the interface of social and regional sciences
• Transnational entrepreneurs are self-employed immigrants who live abroad but maintain strong linkages to community members in other countries to enhance their competitive advantage
• Enhance their ability to creatively and efficiently maximize their resource base
Transnational entrepreneurship

• The growing impact of transnational entrepreneurship can be mainly attributed to the changing nature of international migration and diasporas, and to the complex nature of international business activities

• Understanding how transnational entrepreneurs translate, innovate, and modify structures remains a challenge for the field of entrepreneurship
Super-diversity and TE

• Current research questions:
• Analytical boundaries of TE research
• In what ways might the varied institutional setting at either home or destination influence TE?
• How does the legal and regulatory regime impact transnational entrepreneurs?
• How do TE use social capital and knowledge for the purpose of setting and operating a business?
Super-diversity and TE

• What are the issues in this context?
• To what extent is the public sensitised to this social phenomenon?
• Does it exist data on the extension of this phenomenon?
• How to link this issue to adult learning?
Norway: The actual situation

• Highest immigration ratio in Europe
• 1999-2011: 525 000 immigrants (population ca. 5 million)
• 2011: 54 300 immigrants from outside the Nordic area
• Most from Polen and other Baltic countries
• Labour immigration most important (49% 2011)
• Increasing number of students (EU area, Asia, Russia)
Norway

• Super-diversity and transnational entrepreneurship not visible in the public discourse
• Only marginal in national research
• Main focus: migration, integration, ethnic relations, social diversity, citizenship and public sphere, welfare issues
Norway
Research centres/communities

• University of Bergen: International Migration & Ethnic Relations Research Unit
• Peace Research Institute Oslo (Prio), Migration Team
• Institutt for samfunnsforskning, forskergruppe: Likestilling, inkludering, migrasjon (sekretariat for Nordisk nettverk for migrasjonsforskning 2011-14, Nordic Journal of Migration Research)
Norway
Research centres/communities

• Innovation
• Nordisk institutt for studier av forskning, innovasjon og utdanning, Oslo
• University of Oslo: Senter for entreprenørskap, enkeltstående forskere
• Norsk institutt for by og regional forskning
• Sintef, Teknologi og samfunn (Torvatn/Buvik 2011, Arbeidsvilkår og arbeidsmiljø blant polske arbeidere i Trondheimsregionen)
Enkeltstående publiseringer


Enkeltstående arbeider