

Name: Eva Mrázková

Title: Emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina through the Lens of Transnationalism:
Bosnian Emigration Beyond the Brain Drain

Abstract

Although the topic of emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina is relevant and up-to-date, it has been not sufficiently covered in the literature yet. Both the media and academic works present the emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina as a process which causes a significant loss of workforce and qualified professionals to the country. This work aims to point out the often omitted participation of Bosnian Diaspora on the growth of the country and therefore contribute to the discourse about Bosnian emigration. To show this influence, the paper examines the Bosnian emigration through the lens of the concept of transnationalism. This paper questions what fields are influenced by Bosnian emigrants and how do they influence those spheres. Firstly, the paper introduces the concept of transnationalism and describes the development of emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to the events in the 21st century. Then it explores the characteristics of Bosnian Diaspora and the discourse about the Bosnian emigration in media and academic literature. Consequently, there are outlined particular fields that are influenced by Bosnian emigrants and practices by which they influence these fields. The paper concludes that Bosnian emigrants contribute to the country's economy by sending remittances, or social remittances which include ideas, abilities or values which emigrants gain abroad and transfer via a communication to their relatives and friends in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By these practices they can improve the situation in the country. Bosnian Diaspora may help the country also by sharing some technologies which are used abroad or by mediating some contacts with some specialists from abroad. The Bosnian academics from abroad significantly contribute to the discourse about the country as well. In the end the paper proposes some policies that may be applied to enhance the cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Diaspora.