

Evaluation of Ana Dvali's BA thesis "Ethnography of Georgian restaurant, and the migration experiences of Georgian female migrants in Prague."

Ana Dvali's thesis presents a valuable ethnographic study of Georgian female migration experiences in Prague, and examines in this regard the role of ethnicity, gender, food, and space as important migrant adjustment strategies. The thesis offers some insightful ethnographic results, but also shows some weaknesses in relation to theory, methodology, and language.

In the first chapter, the student introduces the main research question and then outlines some of the most important theoretical aspects related to the main goals of the work: theories of migration, gender, space, social media, and food. However, some of these theories are discussed in a fragmented and disconnected manner, and they are not always linked to the main topics of the study (i.e., Georgian female migrant experiences in Prague). Moreover, the parts about diaspora and transnationalism (cf. Safran and Vertovec), as well as the section on integration, seem confusing and incomplete. However, some of the additional theory is later quite successfully integrated into the chapters. Further, the Introductory chapter also includes some relevant information on the history of Georgian migration, however, this only starts in the 1990s, and the section would also need to incorporate a longer history which would also consider the Soviet era. At the end of the first chapter, the student also articulates the main methodological contours of the research, but I miss some clarification if she got a permission from all of her informants to use their real names (which could be potentially problematic for this kind of work).

After the introductory first chapter, the student moves to an ethnographic discussion of general migration experiences. The chapter follows the entire migration path, which starts in the home country, and includes reasons for migration within a specific Georgian socio-economic context, and continues with migration experiences in the host country, from challenges with visas and scamming, and issues related to employment and integration, to relations with other migrants, and the use of social media. While the chapter only operates with small sample, it still offers relevant and diverse information regarding migration experience of Georgian women in Prague. Moreover, in each section, and in relation to each topic, the student also appropriately compares her own ethnographic data with similar findings from the existing migration literature. Perhaps only the integration and stereotypes sections could be better related to the main goals of the thesis (e.g., it is not clear in all cases how ethnic stereotypes of Georgian migrants about Czechs are affecting migrants' integration experiences), plus more should be said about Czech stereotypes about Georgians and how this might influence their integration experiences.

In chapter 3, the student provides a closer look at the experience of Georgian migrant women in Prague, by focusing on their work in a Georgian restaurant. The student advances some compelling ethnographic insights on how Georgian migrant restaurant workers create a feeling of "second home" and community in a restaurant space through the use of traditional Georgian food, and the fostering of intra-ethnic relations. Furthermore, the student also successfully demonstrates some of the complexities in connection to ethnic and gender relations in the restaurant, for example, by showing how the creation of ethnically inclusive in-group space also generates social boundaries and exclusion from other ethnicities working in the restaurant (e.g., from Czechs and Ukrainians); or how the social relations among

Georgian migrant workers in the restaurant both challenge and reinforce gender hierarchies among them. However, this chapter only considers Georgian perspectives on the social relations in the restaurant, and fails to also incorporate views from Ukrainian and Czech restaurant workers, which would add more complexity to the work and make this chapter less one sided. At the end, I also need to mention student's language and writing style in the thesis, which would deserve more attention, since it includes many poorly articulated passages.

In sum, while the student manages to unveil some significant ethnographic information on Georgian female migrant experience in Prague in this work, it also exhibits several deficits as related to theory, methodology, and language. Therefore, I suggest grade 2.

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