

Migration industry and city making

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Abstract

The migration industry has recently emerged as a lens through which to theorize the intertwinement of non-state actors who aim to provide diverse migration-pertaining services. However, while much of their work is done in and through cities, so far scholarly literature has paid little attention to the nexus between cities and the migration industry. The first part of this paper is based on a special issue we co-edited in 2022. We will argue that the migration industries concept provides a very productive lens for urbanists to consider, and vice versa, that scholars of migration industries should think through their work from an urban perspective. Specifically, we stress three key analytical vantage points that the attention to migration industries enables us to see as central to contemporary city-making: its political-economic embeddedness, the urban-constitutive nature of trans-local connectivities, and how business-driven city-making dovetails with more serendipitous, bottom-up shaping of the arrival city. In the second part of the paper, we will address some of the open questions with regard to the migration industries concept we have encountered in our own work, one of them being the articulation between place-specific structural conditions and institutional set-ups on the one hand and the emergence of variegated landscapes of migration industries on the other.

Biographies

Nir Cohen is Head of and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Environment, Planning and Sustainability at Bar Ilan University in Israel. His research interests include relations between states and diasporas, the politics of migration and citizenship, and urban social geographies in Israel. He published extensively about these topics in leading journals on urban, ethnic and migration studies. In 2018, he was Visiting Fellow of Jewish Migration at The Parkes Institute for Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton, UK. In 2019 he was Visiting Professor for Urban Studies at TU Vienna, Austria. Most recently, he co-edited the book *Care and the City: Encounters with Urban Studies* (Routledge, 2022) and a special issue *Making cities through migration industries* (Urban Studies, 2022).

Tatiana Fogelman is Associate Professor at Roskilde University in Denmark, working across urban and migration studies. She has worked on infrastructures of migrant urban citizenship-making under the pandemic, migration industries and city-making, cultural politics of

citizenship and nationness, and transnationalization of Danish Jewish diasporic mobility, local landscapes of belonging, and urban encounters across difference. Her publications appeared (before 2016 under the surname Matejskova) in journals such as *Migration Studies*, *Geoforum*, *Social & Cultural Geography*, *Antipode*, *Urban Geography*, *Urban Studies*. She has also co-edited *Governing through Diversity: Migration Societies in Post-Multiculturalist Times*, published by Palgrave Macmillan, and special issues on the urban dimensions of migration industries (*Urban Studies*) and national-urban lens in migration studies (*Ethnicities*).

Henrik Lebuhn is Assistant Professor for Urban and Regional Sociology at Humboldt University Berlin. His research interests include urbanism in comparative perspective, urban citizenship, cities and migration, public space, participatory politics, and care in the city. His work has appeared in journals such as *City*, *IJURR*, *Urban Studies* and *Critical Planning*. In 2016, he was an ARC-Fellow at the City University of New York (CUNY). In 2019 he was Visiting Professor for Urban Studies at TU Vienna, Austria. In 2022, he co-edited the book *Care and the City: Encounters with Urban Studies* (Routledge) and a special issue *Making cities through migration industries* (*Urban Studies*).