

2000 Families – Episode 4

Migration Patterns

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Migration, migrants, Turkish, Europe, turkey, study, Turks, migrate, stayed, work, generation, Germany, situation, migration patterns, impact, receiving, based, societies, typically, population.

SPEAKERS

Christine Garrington, Professor Bernhard Nauck

Christine Garrington 00:02

This is the 2000 Families Research Project podcast series looking at the impact of migration across three generations of Turkish families. In today's podcast, Professor Bernhard Nauck from the Chemnitz University of Technology in Germany, talks about early findings from the project about migration patterns.

Professor Bernhard Nauck 00:21

Well, the Turkish migration to Europe is one of the most prominent ones. So at least in Central Europe, the Turkish minority is by far the largest. And by far the most visible, migrant minority. This is different to some extent, in the UK, and to some extent, also in France because of the tradition of migration from the former colonies. But in Central Europe, in most cases, it's just from work migration, and the Turkish are the most prominent among them. The Turkish migrants are not distributed equally among all those countries in Europe, by far the most of the Turkish migration went to Germany. And there's also a very visible Turkish population in France, of the Netherlands, in Austria, and to some extent, also in Switzerland. Although in Switzerland, the Italians are predominating.

01:24

I wonder if they've been periods when more or less Turks came to Europe? Or has it been a steady flow?

Professor Bernhard Nauck 01:30

No, it has not been a steady flow, actually, we have, I would say we have three different phases of Turkish migration to Europe. The first one was the classical work migration in the 1960s. And it ended, all of a sudden, in 1973, when no more work migrants were allowed to go to the European Union. But this immediately turned into another wave of Turkish migrants, because then their families were coming to Europe. And the reason for this was that, once the Turkish work migrant would have left the European Union, they had no chance to come back so they made a hard decision either to go back themselves immediately, or to bring the entire family to Europe. And actually, the second thing

happened. And this phase lasted until the late 1980s and since then we have a steady situation of almost equal Turkish people going back to Turkey, and new ones entering the European Union, especially Germany. In this phase, it is in almost all cases, either work migration again, or family unification or and this is a new phase of marriage migration, which then was quite common.

Christine Garrington 03:01

So what specifically about the migration patterns of Turks to Europe did you want to focus in on and why? Using the 2000 families data.

Professor Bernhard Nauck 03:09

The 2000 families study as a unique data sets in many ways. But one feature was especially interesting to me. And this is that you had this genealogy of three or even four generations, and the complete or full data set on all the family members. And so this was an unique opportunity to study the impact of migration of the forefathers, so to speak, on the descendants, not only for the immediate children, but also for the grandchildren, and great grandchildren. And so this was a possibility to study the long lasting impact of migration, not only on those who stayed in Europe, which was studied before, but also on those who stayed behind in Turkey. And this was especially the novelty in migration research.

04:09

As you said, it's a phenomenal dataset, it's quite an amazing study. What specifically does it have in it that helps you look at these things? What sorts of questions are people asked about? What sorts of things do you find out about people?

Professor Bernhard Nauck 04:21

What I needed especially for my study was to have birthdays, the gender, and some other information on all those family members from all three generations and of course, the migration dates. And so I could model the impact of former migration within the kinship system on the probability that another family member will migrate or not. And one of main finding is that at the beginning, it was really the work migration which was important with this specific sets of conditions which are important for making people move. And the longer this process lasted this migration process, the more family unification and especially the impact of former migrations within another family played an important role on the migration decisions of those who still stayed in Turkey.

Christine Garrington 05:21

Yes that was going to be my next question really about how influential family networks, in the decision to migrate were and whether that influence gained momentum over time or got stronger from generation to generation?

Professor Bernhard Nauck 05:33

In the first phase, this was the classical situation that people move to Europe, who had a rather good educational degree, as compared to situation of Turkish citizens in general, and had a lower chances to have an adequate job based on this educational level. So these were the most prominent people to move to Europe in the first generation. But the longer this process lasted, the less important became this situation and the more important became whether there were already people in Europe. And so

people typically moved, if more and more of their siblings and parents and grandparents lived already in Europe. And so the classical advantages of migrants being relatively well skilled workers vanished, and instead, the sort of relationships between those people became more and more important.

Christine Garrington 06:39

What impact do those patterns have on the populations, both of the receiving countries, and also of the population that stayed behind in Turkey?

Professor Bernhard Nauck 06:47

The composition in both cases changed over time, in the receiving societies, it became more and more a feature of close relationships, and so to speak, social capital, which is of course also important for finding a job and finding good location, and so on, and so forth. But basically, these are more and more private decisions to migrate, not so much work related, and economy related. And of course, this has also an impact on the Turkish people stay behind, however, you're in this is one of the major findings of this study is that more than 50% of the descendants of Turkish migrants never left Turkey. So there was also always strong effects of Turkish migration on the country of origin. And I think this has been overlooked in most of the studies which have been done so far, because they were so much concentrated on the effects of migration on the receiving societies.

Christine Garrington 07:16

And of course, you also mentioned earlier and another thing I think that's been neglected in the past is also those Turks who migrated but then decided to return home, what about them?

Professor Bernhard Nauck 08:06

Actually, this is the majority. So again, the perspective of the mainstream migration research is on looking on those who are just staying in the receiving societies. However, most of the Turks went back to the home country after some time, and we only looked at those who stayed at least five years in Europe. So this is already a population, which is already selective, because they stay for quite a while in Europe. Even these tended to move back to Turkey and actually, one of the main features of this is whether they ever decided to bring their spouse to Europe or not. Those who left their spouse and this typically means also, their children left behind in Turkey, they typically went back at some time later. Whereas those who decided to stay in Europe, typically also moved the entire family to Europe. So this is a kind of polarisation among the Turkish migrants. One part of it moved entirely to Europe and the other one were really temporary work migrants who went back at some time, and typically then left the entire family in the home town.

Christine Garrington 09:29

Where you able to establish the factors that most influenced the decision to migrate?

Professor Bernhard Nauck 09:35

Actually in the 1960s and in the early 1970s, it was really labor market related. So low chances to find an adequate job in Turkey because of the aspirations these people had. And so they only could fulfill their aspirations if they went to Europe. But this changed over time. So in more recent time, it was in many cases based on being a minority member, which increased the probability to Europe quite a bit,

and this increased over time, and the other point was whether the spouse already lived in Europe. And as I said at the beginning, this is typically one of the only tickets which are still available for Turkish people to come to Europe. And so what's happened in recent times, is that the only possibility to bring other members of the kinship system to Europe is to arrange marriages, with those already living in Germany especially. And we have already as a civilized situation to live in Europe.

Christine Garrington 10:48

For you what are the key things to have emerged from this that that might be of interest to those who are trying continuously to better understand the motivations of migrants.

Professor Bernhard Nauck 10:57

It is based on the unique design of the study. So we not only focus on those migrants who are actually currently staying in Europe and which are selective population out of migrants, but we have the focus on the entire situation, including those people living in Turkey. And so we could provide a much richer and fuller picture of the entire migration process. This is important, especially for one reason, typically, the Turkish migrants and they are typically those coined to be the most problematic group among migrants in Germany, for example, they typically focus on a comparison of the Turkish population, to members of the receiving society, which is not an adequate comparison. So our design was unique in the way that we compared the Turkish population to those who did not move. So we could draw a picture of what would have happened to those Turkish migrants if they would not have migrated. And actually, this is quite interesting picture because it is not only based on those selective Turks living in Germany or in other countries, but it's also based on those who stayed behind. And actually, for example, it is well known that among the migrants, the educational level increases from generation to generation. And in many ways, this was attributed to the efforts of the receiving society. But if you compare those Turks in Germany, of those Turks living in Turkey, then you can see that this increase in the education level occurred there as well, not only for men, but also for women.

Christine Garrington 13:03

Professor Bernhard Nauck now was talking to Chris Garrington, about his research on migration patterns, which features intergenerational consequences of migration, socio economic family and cultural patterns of stability and change in Turkey and Europe. It's published by Palgrave Macmillan. You can find out more about the Norface funded 2000 Families Research Project at www.2000families.org.