

MOVING ACROSS BORDERS: ANTHROPOLOGY OF MOBILITY IN EUROPE

Prof. Dr. Ana Luleva
South-West University, Bulgaria

INTRODUCTION

- Borders and movement from an anthropological perspective
- Borders structure the human world and create order

CONCEPT OF BORDERS

- Spatial, cultural, and social boundaries
- Separate 'us' from 'them'
- Central to collective identity

STATE BORDERS

- Historically constructed and changeable
- Shaped by wars, negotiations, and political agreements

BALKAN BORDER TRANSFORMATIONS

- Late 19th–mid 20th century redrawing of borders
- Nation-state building and ethnic homogenization

FORCED POPULATION EXCHANGES

- Greco-Turkish exchange (1923)
- Refugees from Thrace, Macedonia, Asia Minor
- Trauma and memory

COLD WAR BORDERS

- Bulgaria's southern border as East–West frontier
- Fortifications, surveillance, deadly crossings



BORDER REGIONS

- Special regime of trust and distrust
- Strong state control and ideological significance
- “Things happen only in border regions”
- Borders reveal state power and authority

ANTHROPOLOGY OF BORDERS

- From ethnic boundaries (Barth) to border studies
- Focus on everyday practices and local actors

ELEMENTS OF BORDERS

- Legal borderline
- State institutions and agents
- Borderland as lived social space

MOBILITY VS MIGRATION

- Migration = long-term settlement
- Mobility = broader movement (tourism, study, commuting)

LABOR MOBILITY IN THE EU

- Eastern Europeans in Western Europe
- Care work, agriculture, construction
- Precarity and invisible labor

LIFESTYLE MIGRATION

- Mobility as privilege
- Retirees, digital nomads, second-home migration

MOBILITY REGIMES

- Systems regulating movement
- Who can move, under what conditions, for how long

UNEQUAL MOBILITY

- Mobility privilege vs restricted mobility
- EU citizens vs asylum seekers

EUROPEAN MOBILITY SYSTEM

- Open internal borders (Schengen)
- Controlled external borders

IDENTITY AND BELONGING

- Home as emotional and relational
- Diaspora, nostalgia, symbolic return

TRANSNATIONALISM & MULTILOCALITY

- Across countries vs across places
- Multiple homes and identities







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