

Abstracts

Gender and (Im)mobilities in the Context of Work **– an international interdisciplinary conference**

June 15-17, 2016

UiT The Arctic University, Tromsø, Norway



“I do things. That´s what I do”: Assemblages of fathering in work related mobility in the petroleum industry.

Fathering is the dynamic concept for what it means to be a father, understanding fathering as the practices and changing outcomes of social negotiations. Recently, assemblage and network approaches have inspired researcher to analyse the becoming, working and contradicting affects, emotions, bodies and technologies in fathering. However, these studies give little focus to the tools, skills and activities important in many men´s fathering. This article examines how “new materiality”-approaches can include the meaning of “stuff” in understanding fathering practices from men´s perspectives. I thus analyse how skilled men in the petroleum industry father; the assembling of things, tools, skills and other materiality in their fathering. These men work on-shore and offshore rotations; they commute, and travel extensively following the construction of rigs and drilling operations. This geographical “mobility” highlights the meaning of presence and absence in their fathering. The study draws on everyday life oriented interviews, observation, “travel along” – and field talks, focusing on men´s stories of fathering, in Norway. I argue that understanding fathering requires approaches that give agency to materiality, allowing the materiality to play an active part. The article shows that approaches paying attention to the agency of tools, skills and activities, broaden the current understandings of fathering and thus parenting, that often renders father “the other” in what seems to be a mother-oriented parenting discourses. I suggest that including materiality, and giving the things and doings of parenting agency, provide a fuller understanding of varieties and contradictions within and between mothering and fathering, which could be explored in further studies.

Keeping the household going: Mobile healthcare workers talk about work, mobility and impact on family life

Authors: Bourgeault, I., Jackson, L., Kruisselbrink, A., Price, S., Gardiner Barber, P., Leiter, M.P., Nourpanah, S.

Objectives: Relatively little is known about how a wide range of employment-related geographic mobility (ERGM) among health care workers (beyond international migration) affects not only the worker, but also the worker's family. We explored ERGM with healthcare workers who are mobile as part of their jobs, the impacts of mobility on their family life in the Maritime province of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Methods: Individual, one-on-one interviews were conducted with 23 professional (nurses, physicians, and social workers) and paraprofessional (personal care assistants) healthcare workers, 22 of whom were women. All of the participants are mobile as part of their work with mobility ranging from daily, or less frequent, to occasional mobility. One section of the interview asked respondents to talk about how their mobility influences their family relationships including household responsibilities. Interviews were audiotaped and transcribed verbatim, and transcripts coded using the Atlas Ti software programme using the constant comparison method of analysis.

Results: Mobile work can and does influence family life, but it is sometimes difficult to separate the impacts of mobility from shift work, long work hours, changing hours, and the work itself. Many participants spoke of strategies for keeping the household going even though they are mobile and often away from the household for long, irregular hours. In some instances, these strategies included the healthcare worker taking personal responsibility for keeping the household going (e.g., making meals in advance and freezing them). In other instances, they relied on partners or other family members and friends (e.g., looking after the children, taking kids to recreation events). Participants with young children appear to be particularly concerned about keeping the household running smoothly when they are mobile and working irregular hours.

Conclusions: Mobile healthcare workers often work irregular hours, and are away from their homes and families when other workers are home attending to children and domestic duties. Many of the participants in our study engaged in a variety of strategies for ensuring the smooth functioning of their household. Some strategies appear to keep the household going, but may take a toll on the workers and their family members in the long run. More research is needed to look at the long term impacts.

Darius Dauksas

Lithuanians in Norway: making transnational families, gender and occupational segregation

Key words: Immigrants, gendered work, transnational family

Lithuanian immigrants are a relatively new group in Norway. According to Norway's official statistics, 35 900 Lithuanians are currently based permanently in the country. This is the second-largest immigrant population from the new EU states after the Polish (91 000); third among all the countries after the Swedes (36 900).

In 2008, IMDi published a research report on immigrants from Poland and the Baltic states called 'Vi Blir'. One of the survey's key findings was that immigrants from these countries are planning a longer stay in Norway than was initially expected. The survey also identified problems with integration into Norwegian society, highlighting the existing divide between the dominant majority on the one hand and new immigrants on the other.

Using the above research as a starting point, in this presentation we will discuss the issues involving Lithuanian integration into Norwegian society and positioning in the labour market. Also the aspects of gender and work, work/home division will be highlighted.

The presentation is based on three pieces of field research conducted in 2008 and 2012 (in Oslo and Halden) and 2016 (in Stavanger). A total of 35 Lithuanian immigrants living in Norway were surveyed during the research.

Aileen Espiritu

Globalising to stay in place: gendered (*im*)mobilities in a mining town.

The bankruptcy to the Sydvaranger mine in Kirkenes, Norway in November 2015 once again brought to the fore questions of the community's path dependence on mining and the attendant impact on small communities of the vicissitudes of the volatility of world markets. Discourses of re-opening and continuation of mining dominated the landscape and at the same time reminders of the previous mine closure in 1996. Such reminders highlighted how the interim period between the closing of the mine in 1996 and its opening in 2009 reinforced the resilience of Kirkenes. *I argue that it was a transformative period for Kirkenes* — flowering period when the town discovered its entrepreneurial possibilities — often along gendered lines.

This paper elucidates and analyses this period of economic diversification by presenting an ethnography and media analysis of this period and how it may be instructive to the current period of mine closure in Sør-Varanger (South Varanger). As such I employ theories of gendered transnational economic path dependence reconfigured in Butlerian performativity and repetition in order to analyse the tensions in the gendering of economic recovery in a mining town.

What kind of future do we have in this place: transformation of, work and mobilities in Norway's high north: examples from the municipality of Loppa, Finnmark

Using quantitative and qualitative data from the Municipality of Loppa in Norway's High North, this article examines the relationship between restructuring and mobilities, using a gendered perspective attentive to time. Our data show that Loppa is a case study indicative of larger socio-economic and cultural change in small fishing and historically agrarian societies, and that these histories remain important. We see that through restructuring and change, particularly in fisheries, it is men's mobilities that are first impacted. The outmigration and commuting data presented here demonstrate that men's mobility patterns have changed more so than women's over time, and these changes are related to changes in the natural resource industries in which they worked. Women's mobility is less varied, given their concentration in public administration, teaching and health and social services. These sectors tend to be places of more stable employment. Evidence of population loss, sectoral decline and outmigration point to only one perspective on rural change – the reactive perspective of dim futures. In this scenario, outmigration and an aging population position Loppa as in decline. On the other hand, mobile work and commuting, whether in or out, positions the restructuring, gender and mobility debate in a slightly different light because it allows us to imagine multidimensional flows that do not always imply permanent mobility in an outward direction. We argue that work-related mobilities are changing in Loppa, and that while these changes are a response to restructuring, they are also an indication of the social and cultural transformation of gender and gender relations.

Maria-Fernanda Gonzalez Rojas

Questions of an identity, reinvented?

I left my country for continuing my studies abroad. Since then, mobility has become a constant self-discovery. **What is home?** A search for an imaginary place began. **What is the meaning of my identity? Has it changed?** I was born in a country that sometimes I find hard to recognize. **What makes it hard and why?** The relationship with my country has always been critical and sometimes distant, particularly in the last 14 years.

Nevertheless, there has always been an emotional connection, of what kind?

Sometimes, I can identify it. A feeling of nostalgia, perhaps; always reaching out for the country that it seems lost in its own endeavors. Unconsciously, I followed the literary route of Carlos Fuentes and Octavio Paz: France, England, USA and Japan. But life also took me to Holland, Denmark and Norway. During this time, I was trying to materialize but also connect the physical distance with an emotional one. Slowly, my identity awareness woke up or perhaps was already there and became stronger. **How did I become conscious about it?** In this process, I have found that my personal circumstance is not unique, Fuentes and Paz, but also Allende, García Márquez, and Vargas Llosa have lived similar circumstances, always living between two countries. A literary quest: questioning and describing their societies, adding elements from other latitudes. This mobility has portrayed an identity due changing living situations and contexts. These authors have been a tremendous influence to understand my own mobility in the context of globalization.

Key words: Cultural identity, migrant writing.

Three generations of women and their migration patterns studied through a gender and centenary perspective

My paper will give a presentation of three generations of women on Helgelandskysten, a coastal area in the middle of Norway, where fishing and farming in combination have a long tradition until the 1960ties. Through a family chronicle, I will show how a grandmother, mother and daughter through a period of 100 years arranged their lives.

Alexandra (1890 – 1970) grew up in a family of ten sisters and brothers. In those days one was reckoned as having reached adulthood at the day of confirmation, and one had to support one self. This young girl went to Trondheim, the closest large city where others from the village had gone. Here she got a job in a hotel. When she became pregnant, but was abandoned by her fiancée, she returned home to her parents. Here she lived with her daughter, until she married a ten years older man. She became a housewife, also caring for her father-in-law, who lived in the same household. After ten years, her husband died of illness during the Lofoten fisheries. Her brother who was an unmarried fisherman, moved in together with her. Later she got a job as the cleaning lady at the local elementary school.

The daughter Marie (1915 – 2005) lived together with her mother until she married a local man in 1943, after having attended a one-year college course to learn about housework and child-care. She got her first child during the war, a time with rationing of goods, and she remained a housewife all through her life. All the three daughters of Marie took higher education during the 1970-ties, and therefore had to move away from home.

Hedda (b. 1954), one of her daughters, left home at an age of 15, to qualify for admission to the teacher training college. Hedda engaged herself in the women's liberation movement, and wanted education in order to be independent and economical self-supported. She married to have equality in the relationship, and the couple settled in an university town and bought a summer-house at Hedda's birthplace.

The lives of these different women, show that women before the 1970-ties, moved to lesser degree than today. When they moved, it was to find unskilled labour while waiting to be married. Marriage may be referred to as a way of being provided for, that imposed on the women to be faithful and settled. To become mother and housewife, was a female career where caring was a central task. Marie may be characterized as a representative for the last generation in a "cradle to grave" society. Hedda represents break-up with the traditional female role. Her mobility and decisions of where to settle, was governed by education and career opportunities. She was a first generation women, that could make her own decision on a professional career. To become a housewife was ruled out, and the mother's role was subdued.

By studying why and where women have been moving, it will be possible to say something about changes in society organization and living conditions of women, where securing the livelihood or having a career, is the motif for moving and where to settle.

Erika Anne Hayfield

Gender culture and high (im)mobility in a small island community

In this conference paper, the experiences of work and mobility of women in the Faroe Islands will be explored. It will be argued that historical mobility practices have contributed to a labour market, where men's work is privileged over women's. For more than a century the labour force of the Faroe Islands has proven to be highly flexible and adjusted to changing conditions of employment, entailing that many have their place of work at sea or abroad.

Young Faroese men and women, even before entering the labour market, are highly mobile and out-migrate for educational and work purposes. Therefore, movement is deeply embedded in the culture of the Faroe Islands. Yet, gendered cultural expectations are more visible when women enter the Faroese labour market and these are manifested in female immobility. This paper will use the concept of motility to analyse how women make sense of their straddling between the labour market and domestic sphere and how they experience their mobility options. Arguably a labour market with deeply embedded gendered (im)mobilities may require rather different policy approaches to the mainstream gender equality policies of Nordic countries.

Keywords: Labour market inequalities, high mobility, periphery, gender culture

Magnfridur Juliusdottir

Narratives of (im)mobilities in the context of place reinvention in Iceland

In the paper I use a case study from a fishing village in eastern Iceland to analyse the socio-spatial complexity of contemporary (im)mobilities in places reinventing their economy and image in wake of economic crisis and depopulation trends in periperal areas. The main theme of the restructuring processes is diversification from traditional fish industry to marine aquaculture and cultural economy, emphasising tourism and creativity. I focus on the intersection of gender and ethnicity in the changes taking place in the local labour market and forms of mobility associated with these changes. The narratives of mobility and immobility in the case study are based on interviews with people living in the village and media representations of relocation/departure of the main fishing company in 2014. Apart from exploring the gendered and ethnic mobility trajectories and experiences in this place the study raises a more general question about whether gendered and ethnic hierarchies are reproduced or transformed by contemporary changes in work related mobility and labour markets in small periperial villages in the North.

Controversies of (im)mobilities and gender in a mobile sector and a mobile labour world – cases from the Tourism trade.

Boundaries between leisure, travel and work are often blurred. On background of analysed statistical data on tourists after 2006 the state of affairs has become even more fuzzy. Free flow of labour within EU boundaries is one of many reasons why, though many of them and accompanied national fellows might in fact have been tourists, we don't really know, the statistics don't give us the opportunity of drawing conclusions. Largest flow of people to Iceland (in migration statistics) is from the neighbouring Nordic countries (these can be diaspora Icelanders as well as other nationalities), from Europe the largest group coming derives from Poland, but the largest group leaving for settlement/emigrating also goes to Poland or other EU countries. Can a distinction be clearly made between tourism and other social practices and behaviours? The roads away from home can be multiply crisscrossed in a range of different ways. How should for example long term study stay abroad be defined in terms of tourism, travelling and work? Much indicates that migrants enjoy leisure time where they reside and that the role of leisure in the adaptation of immigrants to receiving society constitutes a topic in its own right. This underlines the need for perceiving migration and tourism link in light of flows where motives behind moves can be varied and tourism and work migration is often interlinked.

Tourism is in itself about mobility through the journeys of travellers. Less attention has though been paid to the mobility of labour involved in tourism. Popular destinations for tourists are often places of transience for service workers, where youth may be dominating part of the labor involved. This paper will focus on the mobility aspects of labor involved in tourism from a gender perspective.

Karin Johanna L. Knudsen

Migration streams and migration trajectories: Faroese women's migration practice between the Faroe Islands and Denmark

Operationalizing a notion of society which is not restricted to perceiving Faroe Islands and Denmark as geographically separate units, but as a joint special social space of practice, I will show how there are other and more profound forces at stake within the Faroese women's migration field between the Faroe Islands and Denmark than 'only' the reasons for moving uttered in Faroese women's lifestory migration narratives. I will demonstrate how the women's migration field, on the one hand, crosses national boundaries and yet, on the other hand, is defined into migration streams and trajectories. The conceptualization of migration streams is based on the women's expressed reasons for leaving the Faroe Islands in the first place. Three different streams, or reasons given for leaving, emerge from the migration narratives: education, work and family issues. Conceptualizing the women's life-story migration narratives according to the parents' backgrounds, education and schooling of the women and the phases of life in which the women left or moved to Denmark, four overall women's migration trajectories emerge. These four trajectories have been termed: the preserver, the braker, the vacater and the striver.

Katherine Lippel

Labour policy implications for employment-related geographic mobility: what can we learn from applying a gender lens?

In this paper we examine four key regulatory frameworks in Canadian labour law as applied to the mobile workforce to determine whether attention to gender in the analysis of the application of these frameworks can provide insight into differential policy drivers or impediments to employment-related geographic mobility (E-RGM). E-RGM includes the full spectrum of mobility from the long daily commute to international temporary migration (Temple Newhook et al, 2011). While some studies have examined the gender implications of immigration policy and associated working conditions governing the temporary foreign worker programs (McLaughlin, 2008) to date there has not been a systematic, gendered, examination of labour legislation applied to the mobile workforce. In this exploratory paper, we will examine law and policy governing occupational health and safety, labour standards, workers' compensation and human rights (specifically in relation to accommodation for family obligations), to provide a portrait of issues that arise in the application of these laws when they are applied to factual situations involving men and women engaged in E-RGM. Two questions will be discussed through a gender lens include the following: when does the law protect workers from imposed mobility? How does the law allow for accommodation based on family obligations?

Key words: Employment-related geographic mobility; gender; labour legislation; Canada

McLaughlin, J. (2008.) Gender, Health and Mobility: Health Concerns of Women Migrant Farm Workers in Canada. FOCALPoint: Canada's Spotlight on the Americas 7(9): December.

Temple Newhook, J., Neis, B., Jackson, L., Roseman, S. R., Romanow, P., & Vincent, C. (2011). Employment-Related Mobility and the Health of Workers, Families, and Communities: The Canadian Context. *Labour/Le Travail*, 67(Spring 2011), 121-156.

Silvia López Estrada

(Im)mobilities at work in the Garment Industry in Mexico

Research done on labor precariousness has privileged time as analytical dimension of this phenomenon. In order to fill this void, this work aims to reveal space as a relevant feature of work trajectories and labor conditions in the garment industry in Mexico.

In this analysis we explore the concept of (im)mobility, related to people freedom for staying at the same job or moving among different jobs along their work trajectories. ¿How space promotes or inhibits labor precariousness? ¿What are the gender implications? ¿What spatial practices workers develop to alleviate job precariousness?

Main results show that space works at different scales creating situations of im(mobility) that workers creatively face. For instance, while economic crisis and “the race to the bottom” promote unemployment and precarious employment for garment workers, some women workers create strategies to ‘circulate’ among various jobs within the same labor market along a calendar year, making possible for them to have an income but no social security. The analysis is based on a non-probabilistic survey and open interviews carried out with garment workers as a part of a major study on labor precariousness and occupational heterogeneity which also included, in comparative perspective, musicians and call center workers in Mexico.

Where is future for ageing labour migrants?

In *The Coming of Age* Simone de Beauvoir repeatedly emphasised that a life in ageing needs a reason and usefulness, in other words, activity and a perspective psychologically as well as collectively. By revisiting de Beauvoir's and other texts in existential phenomenology and feminism I interrogate a question of labour migration in older age and ageing 'in place' along with future-related concepts in migration theories such as: motivations, aspirations, trajectories, projectivity, target earning etc. These concepts, however, usually overlook those who are ageing. Drawing on in-depth interviews with ageing labour migrants in Europe, I present how diverse conceptions of future (im)mobilities emerge in intersections of age, gender and a migrant's status. I demonstrate, first, how immediate future, (e.g., day-to-day and year to year planning until the retirement) and long term future (life-time, finitude and intergenerational time) planning and imagining shape gender roles and norms. Second, I explain how instrumental needs and idealised imaginations of a place in old age alter each other. In sum, this research on ageing migrants yield important empirical findings that can help us to provide more nuance and reformulate theoretical conceptions of future applied through perspectives of existential phenomenology and feminism.

Keywords: ageing, labour migration, Europe, futurity, feminism, existential phenomenology

Accommodating mobility: Gender, family, and work in the oil sands zone

A critical feminist analysis of employment-related geographical mobility (E-RGM) asks how forms of im/mobility shape and are shaped by the gendered, raced, and class inequalities of work—where, as Feminist Social Reproductive theory has so poignantly argued, work includes both productive and reproductive labor, paid or unpaid. Based on ethnographic field research conducted through the "On the Move" project, this paper explores the gendering of work-related mobility in the oil sands of northeast Alberta. First, we consider the range of gendered and familial relationships that underwrite multiple scales of mobile labor in the oil sands zone. Second, we demonstrate how this range of relationships “accommodates” mobile labor in the oil industry, i.e., enables both the mobility and the housing (e.g., in work camps, hotels, and 'at home') of the mostly white male productive workforce; importantly, such accommodation is made possible in part by the particular arrangements of mobile work for social reproductive workers (cooks, cleaners, etc.). We conclude by reflecting on the power of mapping the “mobility regime” of labor through a gender lens, and briefly consider how workplace and public policies do and do not accommodate the equitable co-existence of social reproductive and productive mobile work.

Chris McMorran

The gendered work of producing fixities

Scholars and travel writers have frequently considered hotels spaces that enable mobility. This perspective ignores the aim of accommodation owners and employees to create a distinctive sense of place that makes guests feel “at home”. In other words, while transport workers enable the mobility of others, those working in hotels often have the opposite task: enabling the pleasurable non-movement of guests. This can only be accomplished through the affective and embodied labor of those in the hotel industry, a process I call the “production of fixities.” In this paper I explore the production of fixities in Japanese inns. I emphasize the gendered labor of hospitality, particularly as it is found in the roughly 50,000 small family-owned inns found throughout the nation. While male owners are responsible for maintaining inn exteriors, their wives are expected to determine the personality of their interiors, which they do by maintaining and passing along the inn’s distinctive “flavor,” or *aji*, often from mother to daughter-in-law. Maintaining an inn’s interior thus involves the dual responsibility of embodying hospitality toward strangers and ensuring the social reproduction of the family (business). This paper explores the gendered work of producing fixities by revealing the accommodations and resistances female inn owners make in the process of embodying hospitable selves for both their guests and families.

Collecting knowledge about migration motivation: a literature review about marriage migration

Migration motivation is strongly related to labor market opportunities, but non-economic migration motivations (for example, family, lifestyle choices, and housing needs) also play powerful roles in long distance migration decisions. A transnational marriage, is a marriage between two people from different countries and also reason for long distance migration and transnational social spaces. This paper undertakes review of the literature dealing with the transnational marriages and marriage migration through the women's participation in international migration flows and transnationalism perspective. Paper examines literature on crucial aspects of transnational marriages from the ***state, society and women's*** point of view.

Key words: marriage migration, transnational marriages, gender

Mai Camilla Munkejord

“I work with my heart”. Experiences of professional migrant care workers in a northern, rural context

Despite immigrants' increasing share and importance in professional care work in all parts of Norway, our knowledge of this group remains limited. This article makes a contribution to this emerging field, drawing on data from an in-depth qualitative study with immigrants working as professional care workers in the healthcare sector in Finnmark, a region generally characterized as peripheral and marginal. Focusing on spatial and relational dimensions in the migrants' stories about working in this sector, the article shows that although many of the interviewees have experienced pain and considerable challenges in their lives, their stories about working as professional healthcare workers convey joy and mastery. Several of the migrants emphasize that they are able to establish confidence and trust in their relationships to different users, some of whom eventually become like family members. Also relationships with colleagues and the management are characterized in positive terms, despite the fact that some of the informants have experienced difficulties in getting their education from their home country approved by the Norwegian accreditation authorities.

Keywords: migrant care workers, rural context, care, relationships with care recipients and colleagues

Towards a gendered rhythmanalysis of the home, mobility and working lives of workers and their families engaged in extended employment-related geographical mobility in the Canadian context

As argued by Lefebvre and others, everyday life is characterized by a series of interconnected or 'concatenated' and changing rhythms. Rhythms encompass space, time and mobility. This paper will use insights from a rhythmanalysis of the everyday lives of male and female workers engaged in extended geographical mobility to, from and within work. We refer to this as employment-related geographical mobility (E-RGM). As argued by Cresswell in his framework for a politics of mobility (2010, pg. 23), 'rhythm is an important component of mobility at many different scales' and both the rhythms of mobility and those of other aspects of life are organic and lived as well as external and imposed. The organic and lived rhythms of everyday life include, at the macro level, life cycles and at the mezzo and micro-level interlinked seasonal and daily comings, goings and activities. External and imposed rhythms include those linked to work (such as work scheduling), different types of journeys, schools, paid child and elder care, and consumption. Gender analyses of rhythms, including particularly those encompassing E-RGM are limited, although there are elements of such analyses in feminist geography and in the work of post-structuralist researchers like Ida Wentzel Winther. This co-authored paper and the resulting presentation will draw on theoretical insights and empirical findings from selected projects underway within the On the Move Partnership, a 7-year program of research examining patterns and consequences of extended E-RGM in the Canadian context. It will open by introducing the linked concepts of rhythm, rhythmanalysis and E-RGM and by critically reviewing some of the related work on this topic from a gender perspective. The main body of the paper will draw on insights from completed and proposed field research examining the dynamics and impacts of E-RGM in multiple Canadian contexts and among diverse groups of male and female workers engaged in extended and extensive daily and other patterns of E-RGM. These are primarily qualitative studies using a combination of semi-structured and in some cases oral history interviews and interviews with key informants. The groups of workers include short and long-haul truckers in Prince Edward Island, oil and gas and residential construction workers in Newfoundland and Labrador engaged in local, regional and inter-provincial E-RGM, interprovincial and international seafood processing workers in New Brunswick, mobile home care workers living in Newfoundland and working in Nova Scotia, and precariously employed immigrant workers commuting for work within Toronto, Ontario. The paper will also draw on insights from a new On the Move project currently under development to explore E-RGM and family rhythms among service sector workers whose work schedules are set using algorithms. Following Cresswell we will be exploring the rhythms associated with different constellations of mobility in these sectors including practice, meaning and sources of friction within them.

Mobility, flexibility and livelihoods. Labour market changes and global migration in the Swedish north

This paper aims to study women's livelihood strategies in Swedish northern sparsely populated areas, to understand the impact of globalization and state governance on individuals' life choices. By analysing local and regional labour markets after 1960, we illustrate the shift in state governing of the labour market resulting in a changed focus from employment to entrepreneurship. First, we study a shift from housework to paid work in the 1960's and 1970's, a policy which shaped two distinct labour markets, one existing labour market for men and one emerging labour market for women. Second, we examine the shift from wage work to entrepreneurship in the labour market policies of the 1990's and 2000's and the impact of efforts such as the RUT and LOV reforms, had in these regions. Third, we consider the last decade of globalization and migration movements with the regional growth policy. A number of life history interviews are analysed with Thai women in the northern rural counties. How has the changed direction of state governing enabled or limited women's livelihood strategies, integration and democratic rights in northern rural areas?

Key words: migration policy, active labor market policy, domestic services, sparsely populated areas, livelihoods

Helene Pristed Nielsen

A gender and generation perspective on mobility practices in and around the Danish offshore sector

In Northern Denmark – as in Northern Norway – the offshore sector is assuming increased significance both in terms of the number of employees, the annual turnover and incoming tax revenues for local authorities (NIRAS 2012; Hirtshals Havn 2012). However, working within this sector – whether directly on board the oil rigs at sea or through servicing the sector in different ways – commonly requires astounding levels of flexibility and mobility from workers, who are predominantly male (Pristed Nielsen 2016). In this paper, I focus on how the male workers articulate their roles as husbands, fathers and - in some cases - sons and how these roles are presented as compatible (or not) with their working life realities. The dataset also includes two interviews with women with working relations to the offshore sector, and hence, by way of comparison, their considerations about their roles as wives, mothers (and daughters) are also included in the analysis. Theoretically, the paper draws on a combination of theories on gender roles and local gender contracts (Forsberg 2010) and mobility theories in general (Cresswell 2006; 2010; Gustafson 2008) and gendered mobilities in particular (Gustafson 2006; Cresswell and Uteng 2008).

Key words: mobility; place; flexibility; local gender contracts

Gender differences in motivation, behavior, and attitudes: the case of Latvian crisis migrants

The 2008-2009 financial crisis has provoked sharp changes in motivations behind emigration, which is particularly evident in Latvia – one of the EU countries most severely hit by the economic downturn. However, gender-related factors in crisis migration are still largely unexplored. The present study will outline the differences between Latvian male and female crisis migrants in terms of motivations, behavior, and attitudes towards return. The study is based on a quantitative inferential analysis of primary data collected through a large scale online survey (2702 respondents) among Latvians living in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Sweden and Norway in 2014. An innovative data collection approach has been used, consisting in a web-based survey on the leading Latvian social networking site *draugiem.lv*. Results show a certain degree of attitudinal and behavioral differences between males and females, in particular with regard to family types and remittances. In particular, females tend to move abroad more often because of family reasons; move abroad more often together with family members; and send remittances to partners and children with a lower frequency than males.

Keywords: crisis migration; gender; quantitative analysis; primary data; motivational factors

International mobility of Latvians: Tromso, Norway

Latvia in the last decades has turned from target country of labor migration flows of former socialist countries into the source country of labor migrants after entering EU at year 2004. Due to the economic crisis after year 2008 increased labor migration flows from Latvia because of high unemployment rates and inability to cover mortgage payments in Latvia (Apsite-Beriņa, 2013). Paper investigates young Latvian migrants (age 18-35) in the Tromso, Norway in context of gender and work. The research analyzes the statistical data available, previous researches, online questionnaire and semi-structured interview results. Interviewees in Tromso were recruited on social networks. Interview schedule consisted of questions about motives, information sources, perceptions of Norway and future intentions in context of return migration. Author concludes that together with the fact that Latvia has one of the highest rates of demographic decline in Europe (Eurostat) studies of youth migration in context of work and gender are crucial issue.

Key words: migration, Norway, Latvia

Fathers at home and away: A case study of Estonian men in Finland.

The aim of my paper is to open different family centred roles of Estonian men, who are working in Finland. Central questions are, what new roles are acquired while commuting and what masculinity patterns are strengthened or changed. Based on my research on commuter workers they see themselves between traditional role of the "head of the family" and the new family-centred father figure.

On the one hand, the husband who works abroad is in most cases the main breadwinner of the family. He feels the responsibility for maintaining family's economic wellbeing and guarantee the stable income for other family members' sake. Mostly it is depicted by commuters as an altruistic role towards the wife and the children.

On the other hand untraditional working pattern, where fathers are spending time at home not only during the weekends but also during the week days, changes the roles inside the family. It gives them a possibility to spend more time with the children and to acquire main care-taker role during the non-working period.

Domesticity and work-life balance are important angles of cross-border commuters' way of life that have not been researched sufficiently enough.

“This is a very stable place, but people are a lot on the move”: Producing knowledge concerning gendered mobilities in a particular geographical location

(Preliminary title)

Having worked with a particular geographical location over several years (Sør-Varanger, Finnmark) before becoming engaged in mobilities issues, has raised some epistemological/ methodological questions concerning how to bring in mobility-thinking and relating that to the construction and changes in this place. Does mobility have a meaning locally? Is it part of the place-identity being constructed, or contested? In what ways are gender being an issue, or not? No doubt this would have to engage the concepts of space/ place. The place in question is a community originally built up around an iron mine in the first decade of the 20th century including a concentration plant and export harbour, that today has approximately 10.000 inhabitants. It is also located close to the international border with Russia, former USSR, which has put this place in a special geopolitical position as well, and the last 25 years has opened up some new development avenues in that respect. From being characterised as a rather typical male-dominated place, the municipality some years ago was characterised as a ‘Women’s Bastion’, women had taken the mayor political and administrative leadership positions. Approximately 60% of the labour force is today engaged in the public sector (welfare provision, education and so on). It is also located 1400/ 1850 km away from the capital, which, in geographical terms and over the years, locates it well within the changing national debates on regional politics, from ‘development- to ‘robustness’, currently a key term in regional studies.

Hence, focusing on ‘gendered mobilities’ in this geographical setting, will at least, invite to think *how* to do it, and *why*. What should empirically be picked out to be studied, how, and from which theoretical perspectives? Which concepts could be applied- and which constraints met? It is in other words not mainly the active agents ‘on the move’ I here want to concentrate on (of course this is an important aspect), it is rather the context(s), material, social, political and so on, that will be in focus. When it comes to how to deal with ‘context’ on different scales and how that ‘context’ could be in some sort of dialogue with a mobility perspective. My primary occupation over the years has so far been to ‘gender’ this place; in relation to its history, and rather thorough restructuration, which has entailed drawing on, and dialoguing with, several theoretical positions, some well informed by gender studies and feminist theory, others seemingly, none at all. In this paper I will explain and discuss some of the concepts and positions I have found alternatively troublesome and promising in this regard.

Going the distance?: Gender and commuting in Northern Norway

The relationship between gender and commuting is well researched. As geographer Susan Hanson reminds us, gender matters to mobility and mobility matters to gender. Both are intertwined with place. This paper examines gendered out-commuting patterns in seven municipalities in the northern Norwegian region of Finnmark in two time periods: 2000 and 2010 using register data from Statistics Norway. Particular attention is paid to commuting distance.

Northern Norway is significant for the discussion of gender, place and commuting because of the nature of the economic activities occurring there, the physical realities of rural and remote localities, and the particular gendered regulatory context with respect to work. Norway is generally known to be a welfare state that promotes and supports gender balance. Rural areas here, as with other rural areas of the Global North, are preferred locations for families. Together, these should have implications for commuting in the North because commuting shapes and is shaped by gendered institutional structures.

Results indicate that despite Norway's specific gender-work balance regulatory context, the characteristics of out-commuters, and gendered outcommuters in particular, remain consistent with much of the research from the western world. Women's outcommuting, especially across longer distances, is coloured by household characteristics when compared to their male counterparts. So too is the intersection among outcommuting, industry, hours worked and income gendered in non-surprising ways. What emerges as the most telling aspect of this piece is time. Differences between male and female outcommuters from 2000 to 2010 suggest that while gendered differences remain, the gaps are narrowing, likely also as a result of the structural shifts and institutional pressures (and the constrained agency therein) for dual earner families in the periphery to be more flexible and mobile.

Natasha Webster

Rural-to-rural translocal practices: Thai women entrepreneurs in Sweden

This article explores the under-researched topic of translocal rural-to-rural interrelations through small businesses situated in rural Sweden, owned by Thai migrant women. Thai migrant businesses are most often found in gendered fields; health, food services. Drawing on empirical material from Sweden and Thailand, this paper examines the ways women build connections and facilitate flows between rural regions through goods, products, services and human resources. It reveals that translocal businesses are contingent on the contexts and resources of both regions. It finds translocal practices are gendered and embedded socially as well as economically. The translocal perspective suggests insights for rural immigrant integration as well supporting women migrant entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Translocalism, entrepreneurialism, rural-to-rural, Thai migrants, Sweden, gender