

Introduction



In this monograph, we present a collection of scholarly reflections centered around the vital and continuously topical subject of population migration, in tandem with the circulation of cultural ideas and values, as well as the modification of views and attitudes of a given community or individual. The broadly understood issues of migration have been shown in relation to the vast area of the Slavic region, whose history has often been marked by migrations, transitions, and transformations. In a sense, the authors of the texts have re-described the Slavic cultural space from the point of view of migration; it has been decoded in the maze of meanings concerning both the essence of migration itself, as well as the transformations and consequences within literary and artistic systems, at the level of linguistic interference, social relations, etc. Through the diverse texts included in the monograph, the Slavic region appears as a dynamic land, subject to constant movement and change; it is simultaneously labile and constant in its borders, traditions and identifications. The effect of the multidimensionality of the phenomenon of migration in the Slavic context was achieved through a heterogeneous, interdisciplinary perspective, as well as through a multitude of issues covered, such as the interdependence of migration and multiculturalism; the memory of migration and migration of memory; migration trajectories and assimilation processes of Slavs; self-identification projects in migration and post-migration reality; ethnic, confessional and cultural conflicts as consequences of migration; Slavic diasporas and cultural

transgressions; literary testimonies of emigration; travel accounts and memoiristic texts; digital migration documents; methodology of migration research.

The wide spectrum of problems related to and comprising the concept and phenomenon of migration, as well as the interdisciplinary nature of this monograph, make it part of the current trend of migrantology research. It is worth emphasizing that reflections on migration can only be meaningful if the subject is considered by experts representing a variety of disciplines; not only demographers, historians, sociologists, but also cultural geographers, social anthropologists, literary scholars and many other specialists¹. Moreover, while recently there has been a tendency to examine migration phenomena from an interdisciplinary angle, the focus of the studies has primarily been the social causes of migration and their demographic and economic consequences. The cultural implications have been less common. For most of the authors of the texts included in this monograph, however, it is precisely these types of consequences of migration that constitute the starting point or even the main field of consideration.

It should be noted that in the general scholarly discussion, the most frequently signaled problem continues to be the insufficiently examined cultural implications of migration. This is because they usually appear occasionally and/or along with a postulate for more extensive research. The situation is similar, if not less positive, in the field of Slavic studies, in which migrations are noted and described, but their cultural and social dimension is less often analyzed. Meanwhile, this aspect is just as important – if not more important – than the other facets, as it should be associated with the basic categories of culture, encompassing all human activity, namely, the culture of existence, social culture, and symbolic culture². It is the changes in the sphere of culture – spurred by wandering and, especially, collective displacement – that reflect a permanent feature of humanity, that is, the ability to seek and adapt, to move beyond or transcend recognized and familiar patterns and axionormative frameworks.

Migration (Latin: *migratio* from *migro ab, ex, de, re, in, ad*)³ is understood very broadly by the authors of the texts in this monograph; it is linked to diverse acts of transition, displacement, transfer, crossing, transgression, departure, abandonment or withdrawal. This broad range of meanings covers the activity of communities and individuals, both in the literal physical sense and the psychological,

¹ J. OCH, *Wielowymiarowość migracji jako zjawiska badawczego*, "Nowa Polityka Wschodnia" 2.29, 2021, p. 9–25.

² K. ROMANISZYN, *Kulturowe implikacje współczesnych migracji międzynarodowych. Zarys problematyki na przykładzie Polski*, "Studia Polonijne" 20, 1999, p. 85–110; A. KŁOSKOWSKA, *Socjologia kultury*, Warszawa 1983, p. 111–124.

³ *Słownik łacińsko-polski*, ed. K. KUMANIECKI, Warszawa 1995, p. 309.

including the ideological typology of migration as a change of place or transformation of the state of mind. Thus, we are talking about external as well as internal exoduses, exit and entry, and even a kind of transgression – the crossing of boundaries, both purely physical, material, as well as symbolic, metaphysical, emotional or spiritual. As a result, the phenomenon of migration has been interpreted on many semantic levels, situated in various discourses, and examined in diverse categories, such as historical and political, economic and social, religious and cultural. It has been studied directly and indirectly in the ideological, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual spaces. It is from such a wide-ranging perspective that this monograph presents the phenomenon of migration, referred to and identified within the boundaries of the entire Slavic region, defined through the prism of fixed and variable, universal and local categories and cultural implications.

By introducing this book to the public, we sincerely hope that it will prove interesting, inspiring and helpful both to specialists across different fields, as well as to enthusiasts of Slavic culture, who will see its slightly different, less frequently unveiled, migratory image.

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The volume has a three-part structure. The first, which has a strictly monographic character, is comprised of five articles addressing the issue of migration of the Serbian ethnos in the 16th–18th centuries. The texts included in the other two sections provide a historical, cultural, and literary background for the topic explored in the first part, broadening the reader's knowledge about the history of Southern, Western and Eastern Slavs from the Middle Ages to the 21st century.

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