Risk and Migration
A Transnational History of Romanian Migration to Western Europe (2002-2013)

Mission in France (Angers, Nantes, Paris)
29 February - 11 March 2016

The mission in France had two major purposes:
- Collecting data
- Establishing contacts in view of future interviews.

Following the chronological order of the actions:

1. MIGRANTS

I conducted a preliminary research of potential interviewees using personal contacts, Romanian association ARLA (Association des Roumains de Loire-atlantique), as well as social media.

The existence of “Romani in Angers” (Romanians in Angers), ARLA and “Nantes Parohia Ortodoxa Romana” (The Romanian Orthodox Parish from Nantes) allowed me to establish personal contacts: prior to my trip to France I send a personal message to all members of these groups (around 500), presenting the research project and the reasons I wished to interview them. Most of the answers I received were from Romanians living in Maine-et-Loire, one of the departments of the region Pays-de-la-Loire. I established a first list of interviews, based upon the answers I did receive. Upon meeting and interviewing these selected migrants, I was also able to obtain some new contacts and met also with Romanians living in Loire-atlantique. I also contacted other migrants and stakeholders I had met in Pays-de-la-Loire (researchers, twinning associations, Maison de l’Europe, etc.), who put me in touch with other possible interviewees. Therefore, 18 interviews (with an average of 01h 30 min) were conducted – with 23 Romanian migrants – in Pays-de-la-Loire.

The main objective of this survey was interviewing migrants with different stories, experiences, who came to France at different moments since the 2000s (students, high/low qualified migrants, those who arrived in order to get married, etc.).

Reasons interviewed migrants came to France:
- Study (7)
- Work (13)
- Marriage (3)

The semi-directive interviews approached several different aspects but focused particularly on the social integration of migrants and the relations that exist / or not with the society of settlement, as well as on the mechanisms that underpin these relations.

The project "TransHi-Rom" has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 660281.

This communication reflects only the author's view and the REA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.
I also asked each interviewee to fill in a document with some background information, as well as their email contacts (will enable me to create a list of contacts and no longer be dependent on social media and other platforms).

Temporary conclusions after the first round of interviews with Romanian migrants in Pays-de-la-Loire:
- Work migration is more recent
- Work migrants are less integrated and spend more time among members of the same group
- Language proficiency is an essential factor in the social integration of migrants
- Romanians who are part of a mixed couple think less about returning to Romania
- Romanians living in Pays-de-la-Loire do not form a "community"
- Religion plays an important role for part of the migrants (orthodox or those who converted to another religion)

I was able to interview only migrants who are still living in France. I have, however, established contacts with other possible interviewees no longer living in France. I will either conduct the interview by phone or during my mission in Romania, depending on their geographical position.
I also made contact with a Romanian migrant former student of the University of Angers, currently living in Paris, in charge of recruiting Romanian doctors in France. She provided me with a contact list of (mostly) young Romanian doctors having moved to France for work.

2. RESEARCHERS

During this mission, I was also able to attend a conference hosted by the University of Nantes, as part of special week on "L'Europe de l'asile et des migrations" (7-12 March 2016). Here I had the opportunity of meeting 3 particularly relevant for my research:
- Karen Akoka (historian and sociologist; Université Paris Ouest Nanterre), who spoke of "La fabrique des réfugiés en France" insisting on the geopolitical and economic aspects that influenced throughout the history, the perception of refugees, emphasizing the importance of deconstructing and questioning the categories used in research.
- Fanny Jedlicki (sociologist; Université Le Havre) who worked and works on the children of the Chilean migrants from the 1970s (identity, relationships with "home" country, etc.).
- Estelle d’Halluin-Mabilot (sociologist; University of Nantes) who worked and works on migrants and asylum seekers' health (physical, mental) and their access to healthcare.

3. MÉDECINS DU MONDE

Also in Nantes, I met for about 3 hours with several members of Médecins du Monde (doctors, cultural-linguistic mediators). Several points were raised in the discussion:
- everyday aspects of the fieldwork done by the association's members
- relationships with local elected representatives
- evolution of local and regional policy and problems
- indentifying several Romanian families who are/have been in a precarious economic situation that I could meet (it proves to be very difficult to obtain access to this population without the aid of a mediator).

I was also provided with the association’s annual reports since 2007, which present all the aspects dealt with during the year, but also allow me to establish an evolution of both the actions and the difficulties it encountered.

The project "TransHi-Rom" has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 660261.

This communication reflects only the author's view and the REA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.
4. MEDIA

During the 3 days I spent in Paris I did a survey of the main French newspapers (Le Monde, Le Figaro, Paris-Match) looking especially at articles published at the end of 2006 and 2013 before Romania became member of the EU and prior to the lifting of the work limitations. This data will be compared to the one collected from a similar survey that will be conducted in Italy.

5. FUTURE MISSION IN FRANCE

During this first trip, I was not able to meet and interview elected representatives. The discussions with migrants, researchers and associations allowed me to identify several interviewees at a local and regional level (mayor, chairman of the regional council). During the next mission in France I hope to be able to meet those who are both in favor and against migration in general and Romanian migration in particular.

I identified a number of associations like La Chimade where several Romanian migrants attended both language and professionalization classes that allowed them to find a job immediately after. I have contacted them and hope to be able to interview some of the members of their members. Moreover, the Laval shipyard might provide interesting interview opportunities.

THE MSC FELLOW
Dr. Beatrice Andreea Scutaru

THE SUPERVISOR
Prof. Antonio Varsori

The project "TransHi-Rom" has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 860281.

This communication reflects only the author's view and the REA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.
L’Europe de l’asile et des migrations

Semaine internationale de sociologie
Du lundi 7 mars au samedi 12 mars 2016
Bâtiment Recteur Schmitt (à l’exception du 12 mars)

**Lundi 7 mars**
15h : café polyglotte
16h-18h : La fabrique des réfugiés en France,
Karen Akoka. Amphi

**Mardi 8 mars**
10h-12h : Approches sociologiques des migrations en Europe, Maryse Tripler. Amphi
15h30-17h : Public policy and uses of national language education for adult migrants in Nantes and Bristol,
Joanne Walker. Amphi

**Mardi 8 mars au soir**

**Mercredi 9 mars**
10h-12h : Initiation à la langue chinoise. ESN Nantes, salle F102 - IRIFLE
14h-16h : Associations et militant.ces de la cause des étrangers : retour sur un terrain ethnographique dans le Nord- Pas-de-Calais, Mathilde Pette. Amphi

**Mercredi 9 mars**
16h-18h : Les contrats saisonniers gérés par l’OFII et les effets de ces mobilités sur les régions d’origine en termes de développement (France-Tunisie), Swanie Potot. Amphi

**Jeudi 10 mars**
12h-14h : De lointains cousins. Processus de récupération d’une nationalité européenne en Amérique Latine,
Fanny Jedlicki. Amphi

**Vendredi 11 mars**
10h-12h : Élargissement des frontières et reconfiguration des mobilisations pour le droit des migrants,
Pierre Monforte. Salle du CENS
14h-16h : Promotion de la mobilité internationale. Tables rondes avec des étudiants internationaux et français.
ESN Nantes, salle FOQIA - IRIFLE

**Samedi 12 mars**
9h-18h : Journée de conférences et débats co-organisée avec la CIMADE.
Faculté de médecine, Amphi 9

Organisation : F. Jedlicki, K. Lamarche, F. Darbus, E. d’Holluin

contact : sis@univ-nantes.fr