

**'They Said We Would Not Be Discriminated Because We Were White': Post-Socialist Migrant Experiences in Contemporary Argentina**

**Jenny Ingridsson, PhD. Candidate in Ethnology**

**School of Historical and Contemporary Studies and Baltic and East European Graduate School, Södertörn University, Sweden.**

**Abstract**

Between the years 1994-2001, Argentina advocated a program of migration for former citizens of the USSR. About 10 000 migrants escaping different consequences of the post-Soviet economic and social havoc arrived to Argentina towards the end of the 1990's. At this time, Argentina was heading towards a devastating economical and social collapse, exploding in the occurrences of December of 2001. How do these migrants negotiate their 'being in the world' after having lived through the dislocatory events of the implosion of the USSR and then a rather chaotic insertion to their new home country? What are the stories they tell and how do these narrations affect their own mobility? And why is it that stories of past policies of colonial settlement and European immigration to Argentine become important in postsocialist migrant's navigations and negotiations through contemporary Argentinean labor markets and social practices? This paper discusses material gathered through ethnographic methods, such as interviews and observations during fieldworks between the years 2012 and 2015. This research was conducted for my dissertation in ethnology on postsocialist Ukrainian and Russian experience in contemporary Buenos Aires. The paper draws on discourse theory, narrativity, theories of coloniality and critical whiteness to understand how configurations of global power are acted out in locally situated migrant subjectivities and experiences. It argues that migrants located in differentiated societal positions make sense out of their past, present and possible futures differently according to racialized, classed and gendered subject positions.