

Globalization, mobility, objects and home: Implications for museums on migration

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Abstract

Contemporary patterns of people's migration are not any more exclusively defined by linear fluctuations of moving from one single place to another. There are multiple paths, multiple directions and multiple relocations, and these processes include forced migration as well as transnational migration. Migration today thus is global, social and gender plural, and multidirectional; and it affects alike those who depart but also those who remain immobile. During these journeys, people perceive, understand and negotiate the different encounters, not only in relation to their culture of origin, gender and social background, but also according to the experiences gained during their several transitions. These negotiations are visualized, among many others, in their social and cultural identity construction, in their sense of place and belonging, and where the notions and use of "objects" and "home" plays relevant role. This presentation will explore the materiality of migration's mobilities experienced from an emotional agency point of view. I will argue that through exploring the emotions related to objects travelling along migrants, we may record and understand one aspect of the experience of migration today, that of *homing*. Furthermore I will reflect on how these perceptions affect museums of migration and the politics of identity recognition.

