Migration and Transnational Social Protection in (post) crisis Europe

Presentation of the MiTSoPro Project

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Social protection: welfare state interventions aiming to prevent individuals’ exposure to social risks:
- Social insurance
- Social assistance
- Labour market intervention

Focus on transnational social protection: migrants’ cross border strategies to cope with social risk in areas such as health, pensions, unemployment, etc. that combine entitlements to host and home state-based public welfare policies and market and community based practices.
MiTSoPro: Research questions

- How do migrants access social protection in (post) crisis Europe?
- What kind of social benefits can migrants access in their countries of residence and what kind of social benefits can they export from their countries of origin?
- Do some migrant groups benefit from an easier formal access to social benefits than others?
- Under which conditions can migrants assemble their own cross-border social protection strategies, using home and host state policies and more informal community/family resources?
- Do some countries offer a more inclusive social protection regime for immigrants and emigrants than others?
MiTSoPro goals: examining two pathways of access to transnational social protection

Stage 1 - Transnational social protection from above

- Strategies led by home and host authorities to respond to social protection needs of immigrants and emigrants through various policies and programs

- Building the Transnational Social Protection Database and Index
MiTSoPro goals: examining two pathways of access to transnational social protection

**Stage 1- Transnational social protection from above**

- Strategies led by **home and host authorities** to respond to social protection needs of immigrants and emigrants through various policies and programs
- Building the **Transnational Social Protection Database and Index**

**Stage 2- Transnational social protection from below**

- **Immigrant-led strategies** that use market, community or family resources across borders to address their social protection needs
- Large scale **ethnographic fieldwork** in different European cities and in the homeland with relatives
1. Building the Transnational Social Protection Database and Index (TSPix)
Transnational Social Protection Database and Index

Five core policy areas:

- Health care
- Family benefits
- Pensions
- Unemployment benefits
- Guaranteed minimum resources

Figure 1. Operationalization of the concept of social protection policies

2 codebooks for data collection: 1) access to social protection & 2) diaspora policies
Specific indicators/types of benefits for each policy area. Example policy area on family benefits:

- Maternity benefits
- Paternity benefits
- Parental benefits
- Child benefits

Questions/variables for each indicator/type of benefit:

- Applicable legislation
- Beneficiaries
- Eligibility conditions
- Duration

MISSOC (EU's Mutual Information System on Social Protection) categories & database used as a starting point
A) Codebook on access to social protection

Five groups of beneficiaries (repeated questions):

- National citizens residing in the country
- EU foreigners residing in the country
- Non-EU foreigners residing in the country
- National citizens residing abroad in EU countries
- National citizens residing abroad in non-EU countries
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A) Codebook on access to social protection

Cases: 40 countries: 28 EU MS + 12 non-EU countries.

Case selection of the non-EU countries:

- Demographic concentration in the EU and in specific EU MS (they constitute one of the top five largest communities in at least X EU countries)
- Diversity in terms of territorial distribution outside the EU: non-EU Europe, America, Asia, Africa
- Size of the diaspora: the diaspora in the EU to represent at least X% of the overall diaspora of these countries of origin
B) Codebook on diaspora policies

- Same policy areas
- Same countries
- Focus on the policies that the home countries develop in order to ensure the social protection of their citizens residing in other countries
- General questions + specific questions on the top five destination countries for each one of the 40 countries included in the analysis
Transnational Social Protection Database and Index

Data collection:

- Expert survey
- 40 experts on social protection for codebook A
- 40 experts on migration studies for codebook B
- Data collection to start in February 2018

Index aimed to capture the level of inclusiveness in terms of access to social benefits

- Pre-determined values for each question based on the codebooks
- Scale to be used: 0-5, where 5 is the best policy ensuring full protection/coverage
- Aggregation rule: average scores for 1) benefits; 2) each policy area; 3) overall score for all policy areas. Sub-indexes for each country/group
Transnational Social Protection as an Immigrant Practice

- **Second stage**: ethnographic fieldwork to examine the materialization of Transnational Social Protection with specific migrant communities

**Main rationale:**
- “rights on paper” vs “rights in practice”
- Rights interact with other SP strategies that cannot be captured in the index (e.g., family or network solidarities)

**Strategy:**
- Select the main migrant groups based on the level of formal TSP they have access to according to the Index
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork not only with migrants, but using a matching method, also with the family members in countries of origin

**Main aim:**
- Identify functioning of social protection corridors that span across various countries in which formal and informal SP strategies circulate between migrants and non-migrants
Thank you for your attention!

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