77 | book reviews

Intellektuelle migrantinnen. Subjektivitäten im Zeitalter von Globalisierung

Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez; Leske & Budrich, 1999 Opladen, p. 288, £ 15.00 ISBN: 3-8100-2398-1 (pbk)

While Western nation-states are bestowing new permits upon those jet-setting 'flexible cosmopolitan managers', equipped with notebooks and mobile phones, refugees and migrants living in the West without papers or with limited residence permits are confronted with increased control and limitations with regard to their freedom of action or movement. In view of the mechanisms of control and regulation at the borders, it is an absolute farce to consider the refugee and the 'cosmopolitan manager' equally as metaphors for post-modern subjectivities such as 'Nomads', 'Strollers' or the 'Vagabond'. This is so as, even though globalization goes hand in hand with geographical mobility, it does not mean the same for every woman or every man.

In view of these contradictory developments, Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez raises the question of how subjectivities are configured in the tension between the global politics of differentiation and hierarchization and the agency of the subject. Using this view as a point of departure, Gutiérrez Rodríguez looks in detail at the intersection of gender, sexuality, 'race'/ethnicity and class in her book: 'Intellektuelle Migrantinnen – Subjektivitäten im Zeitalter von Globalisierung'. She analyses the constitution of subjectivity using the example of migrant women in Germany. Using interviews with a total of 15 women from Italy, Greece, Morocco, Turkey and Spain living in Germany, she has tried to open up a space for thinking about mobility as a moment of translocal practice. She argues that these women have experienced a 'double move'. On the one hand an upward mobility through education, and on the other a dequalification of their skills through their political and social position as migrants. So their subjectivity is being constituted between professionalization and dequalification.

All the women who participated in the research were involved in migrant movements and had taken on the role of what Antonio Gramsci calls 'organic intellectuals'. The analysis of the interviews makes clear the antagonistic relationship in which these women are being constituted as subjects and constructed as the 'different Other' through the institutions, discourses and practices of gendering and ethnicization. The author develops a complex method of integrating theory and praxis in which the dynamic aporia between the effects of domination and resistance becomes evident. The theoretical

principles represent a reflexive order of assembly, in which different theoretical elements like postcolonial critique, marxist and feminist theory are both interlocking and simultaneously questioning each other.

The biographies are presented as a mediation between 'the structural dominant logic of identity and the potentialities of agency', becoming transparent through 'dialectical pictures' of the past in the account of the present. On this level, Gutiérrez Rodríguez discusses the individual ways in which migrant women deal with social and discursive constraints. By taking this perspective, she shows the ways in which the moment of constraint sits alongside the desire for freedom. This is articulated in the complex sociability (*Vergesellschaftung*) that emerges on one side, through the intersection of different structures of domination and on the other, through the collective and individual desires of the women. It is in this context that Gutiérrez Rodríguez situates the different strategies of the women within the notion of a 'politics of location'. As an answer to the institutional and social economies of othering, as Gutiérrez Rodríguez shows in her chapter on 'Turkeyfication', the women named strategies in which they try to counter being positioned as the other by not assuming the place of the Same. Instead, they question these two poles and create through their individual skills and collective political or social practice new ways of situating themselves in movement without forgetting the effects of border and migration regimes.

Gutiérrez Rodríguez highlights the biographical contingency in the formation of subjectivity. Here biography includes concrete geographical and political contexts that are themselves seen as an effect of a specific balance of power. Thus, subjectivity is to be understood as the configuration of manifold power relations, as a cross-section of historical, institutional, social and symbolic processes.

Hito Steyerl

doi:10.1057/palgrave.fr.9400170

Negotiating citizenship: migrant women in Canada and the global system

Daiva K. Stasiulis and Abigail B. Bakan; Palgrave Macmillan, 2003 Basingstoke, UK and New York, £50.00 ISBN: 0-333-68960-7 (Hbk)

Citizenship, conceptualized as both a relationship and contested process, is this book's organizing theme. The authors' thesis that citizenship is negotiated and uneven, with the nation-state remaining as a primary arbiter and organizer of access to 'major fundamental rights', is skillfully argued using the case of migrant women from the Philippines and the West Indies working as live-in caregivers or nurses in Canada. The case of Canada is particularly apt as a prominent receiving