

3-2015

Review of Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion, by Brad K. Blitz.

Dennis G. Hodgson
Fairfield University, hodgson@fairfield.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/sociologyandanthropology-facultypubs>

Archived with permission from the copyright holder.

Copyright 2015 Wiley and Population Council.

Link to the journal homepage: (<http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/padr>)

Repository Citation

Hodgson, Dennis G., "Review of Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion, by Brad K. Blitz." (2015). *Sociology & Anthropology Faculty Publications*. 66.

<https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/sociologyandanthropology-facultypubs/66>

Published Citation

Hodgson, Dennis. Review of Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion, by Brad K. Blitz. *Population and Development Review* 41, no. 1 (March 2015): 164-165.

This item has been accepted for inclusion in DigitalCommons@Fairfield by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Fairfield. It is brought to you by DigitalCommons@Fairfield with permission from the rights-holder(s) and is protected by copyright and/or related rights. **You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.** For more information, please contact digitalcommons@fairfield.edu.

are grouped into three parts: fertility and marriage; migration and inequality; and mortality and age structure. The most controversial and consequential finding from the 2010 census is the estimate of fertility. As those following China's demography will be aware, the unadjusted census estimate of fertility nationwide was 1.19. In contrast, the government's official figure, unchanged since the mid-1990s, is 1.8. Many analysts have conceded that some underestimation of births has occurred in recent enumerations, requiring an upward adjustment—though to a level around 1.5 or 1.6 rather than 1.8. In their chapter on fertility, Zhigang Guo and Baochang Gu review what they see as the accumulating evidence in support of the very low census estimate. That ultra-low level, they allow, is partly the effect of postponement of childbearing to later ages—a necessarily limited change that, when ended, will see some recovery in the period TFR. But the official figure, they conclude with studied understatement, is “difficult to defend.” The marriage squeeze and other social effects of China's strongly male sex ratio at birth is the subject of another chapter. Enforced bachelorhood conveys wide-ranging social disadvantage, concentrated among rural dwellers and those with low education. The continuing massive rural-to-urban migration receives due attention, along with the enduring but disdained *hukou* registration system and the problems of the elderly and the “left-behind children” in the countryside. Mortality levels, discussed by Zhongwei Zhao and colleagues, have resumed the downward trend lost for a time after the economy liberalized, and the gap between China and the most advanced low-mortality countries continues to narrow. Finally, two chapters examine changing age structure. Median age by mid-century is projected to be 49 years—close to the level forecast for Japan (53) and Germany (51). Projections of the working-age population (15–64) based on the census fertility estimate and age distribution yield considerably greater future declines than those given by the UN's *World Population Prospects* (2012 revision): from 996 million in 2015 to 934 million by 2030 (compared to 988 million in 2030 under WPP). The authors are scholars at Chinese and some foreign universities. Isabelle Attané is at INED, Baochang Gu is at Renmin University. Chapter bibliographies.—G.McN.

BRAD K. BLITZ

Migration and Freedom: Mobility, Citizenship and Exclusion

Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2014. 256 p. \$120.00.

Worldwide there are an estimated 214 million international migrants and 740 million internal migrants. A significant portion of people have moved during their lives, and Brad Blitz, Professor of International Politics at Middlesex University Law School, offers a provocative examination of what this means for the individuals involved and for our notions of citizenship and human rights. In the first two chapters he examines historical, theoretical, and legal issues surrounding the right to freedom of movement. Chapter 3 examines the special case of the European Union's commitment to open borders by tracing the court cases that expanded the EU's early pledge to allow workers to cross borders to a general commitment to

allow all its citizens—students, family members, and the retired as well as workers—to freely move within the community. He asks big questions. Is the right not simply to move but also to remain and settle a fundamental “gateway” right that individuals need in order to act freely and fulfill their human potential, as Hannah Arendt and Amartya Sen contend? Is the EU living up to its commitment to freedom of movement? Although the size of migration flows can be understood in Ravenstein’s “push-pull” terms and their composition seems to follow Ron Lee’s observation that “pull” flows are positively selected while “push” flows are negatively selected, can simple economic models accurately explain the size and composition of actual migration flows? The author attempts to answer these questions by examining five European case studies of international and internal migration (Chapters 4 to 8): Spanish doctors recruited to serve in the UK’s medical service; non-Italian language instructors recruited to work in Italian universities; Serbs attempting to live in Croatia after the breakup of Yugoslavia; non-Muscovite Russians seeking to live and work in contemporary Moscow; and non-Slovenian former Yugoslav citizens whose citizenship was “erased” after the breakup of Yugoslavia. He uses interviews with over 170 individuals in Spain, the UK, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, and Russia to check the accuracy of theoretical contentions about migration and the commitment to freedom of movement in contemporary Europe. He chronicles the difficulties people have in migrating even when their rights are formally protected by law. The rights of Spanish doctors are well protected in the UK, but they fear job discrimination if they decide to return to Spain. Non-Italian foreign language instructors “win” judicial cases in European courts but still face overt job discrimination in Italy. The migratory flows of Serbs and Slovenians have little to do with economics and much to do with discrimination along ethnic and cultural lines. Although Russia’s 2001 constitution grants all citizens the right to live wherever they want within Russia, local officials enforce residency controls that make it impossible for many living in Moscow to vote, to access courts, or to use hospitals and educational facilities. Blitz concludes that people’s ability to move and reside where they want affects the substantive enjoyment of all their rights, while the lack of such ability can ruin lives and undermines the meaning of citizenship.—D.H.

HEINRICH HARTMANN AND CORINNA R. UNGER (EDS.)

A World of Populations: Transnational Perspectives on Demography in the Twentieth Century

New York: Berghahn, 2014. 260 p. \$95.00.

The historians of science and medicine who contributed to this volume examine the history of demography as an academic discipline and consider its interconnections with public policy in the second half of the twentieth century. The historical context of demographic arguments and the historicity of debates about population issues are overarching themes. The volume contains ten case studies, most of which provide country-specific portraits of the co-evolution of demographic knowledge and population policy. A dominant theme is the relationship between