ASSIMILATING AND ENABLING REFUGEES: ACHIEVING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH LOCAL ENTERPRISES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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- **Migration** into Europe – Challenges of **Assimilation**
  - Refugees are marginalized and vulnerable groups

- Working Towards More Enabling **Social** and **Economic** Futures and **Understandings**

Sense of Community – Enterprise/Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Diagram:

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Local Site/Situation

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Inductive Research ↔ Policy and Solutions
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ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Inductive understanding
- Allows for the ability to critique subjective insight
- Interaction, knowledge not available elsewhere

Haitians in the Dominican Republic
- Migration – Economic Opportunity
- Inclusion and Exclusion
- Social Impacts
SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Membership – Belonging
Influence – Attitudes
Integration and Fulfillment of Needs
Shared Emotional Connections

Responsibility and Participation

- Each Place is Different – no one-size fits all solution
- Does Migration Challenge Sense of Community?
- Or does it Threaten a Community?
- Leads to Debates of Opportunities (Concerning Integration and Assimilation)
OPPORTUNITIES

- Overcoming Difference and Othering
  - Inclusion and Exclusion

- Integration (Living and Work)
  - Influence social change
  - Values
  - Attitudes

*Enterprise and Entrepreneurship*

- Assimilation (Social, Culture, Language)
  - Influence economic change
  - Value added
  - Skills
  - Diversity
CONTEMPORARY MIGRATION INTO ITALY

- It is estimated that 180,000 refugees currently reside in Italy (Demarco, 2018)
  - African and Middle Eastern migrants entering Europe seek to escape struggles of war, famine and political instability
- Refugees become marginalized and struggle to assimilate
- Social policy and debates over how migrants are treated and managed when they settle in a new place (see Eugster 2018)

- Little academic work has consider how events can be used to help assimilate migrants
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

- Display of local, regional and national culture and place identity

So what about Migrants: Problem? or Opportunity?

- Migrants bring culture and skills – place diversity

Can a capital of culture showcase contemporary place culture? or ‘traditional’ culture…
PARTICIPATION

- Sport studies and Participation Initiatives for Migrants and Refugees
  - e.g. Doidge & Sandri 2018; Jeanes et al. 2015; Spaaij 2015
  - Social Impacts – Sport and Social Transformation

- Employment and Integration/Assimilation –
  - Combating Isolation (Exclusion)
  - Social and Economic Impacts – Place and Community Transformation

- Enabling Skills – Education, Traineeships, Business Funds

- Challenges us to Reconsider Policy and Inclusion
  - To Support Social and Economic Integration

- Local Enterprises, Entrepreneurship Promote Employment
  - Integration
  - Combat Negative Images and Sentiment
Mendoza (2016) mentions in Matera and Basilicata “some locals are reluctant to open their doors to refugees.” However, there is a strategy in Basilicata, where they are “using the arrival of asylum seekers as a means of developing its labour force and to boost services” (Mendoza, 2016: online)

- Theatre to connect young Italians and migrants from Africa (Einashe, 2017)
  - uniting people through shared interests and association

- Events industry requires socialisation and communication between stakeholders and business operators (Bratti & Conti, 2018)

- Cultural entrepreneurship responds to changing economies and social enterprises are initiatives where a society profits (Dwivedia & Weerawardena, 2018); for migrants it is about profiting by collaborating with local residents and local business owners
  - Events are about value creation
  - Training (refugees to gain adequate skills to start a new business)
  - Partnerships

- Events (opportunities now) and Tourism (sustained opportunities)
  - Combat Othering using creative and cultural industries
  - Beyond labour intensive jobs
TOWARDS MORE ENABLING RESEARCH THROUGH STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Migration (understanding experiences, migrant stories and media narratives)

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Academic Research (framing/debating understanding and critical perspective)

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Research-Policy (raising awareness and realising opportunity)

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Policy-Practice (implementation and towards assimilation)
REFERENCES

- Doidge, M., and Sandri, E. (2018). ‘Friends that last a lifetime’: The Importance of emotions amongst volunteers working with refugees in Calais. British Journal of Sociology. ISSN 0007-0315