



Migration and Settlement in Glasgow: Factors Influencing Migrant Choice

MSc Collaborative Dissertation
University of Glasgow and Glasgow City Council

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The Dissertation

- Research topic developed between Glasgow University and Glasgow City Council
- To explore why migrants choose to come to Glasgow and what facilitates long-term settlement



The Focus

- Part of the MSc course: Russian, Central and East European Studies
- Original scope of research was to consider migration from the A8 and the A2
- A2: Bulgaria and Romania
- A8: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia



Context - Theory

- Most important theory at present is known as 'Transnational Theory'
- Emphasises the importance of globalisation and the advancement of technology in understanding migration patterns



Context – Relevant Studies

- There are studies that look at migration within the UK but very few relate directly to the A8
- Some studies are older, looking at Polish and Italian migration at about the time of WWII or post-colonial migration from the Caribbean or South Asia
- Studies tend to identify relatively simple motivators for people to relocate into Scotland, predominantly:
 - Employment
 - Study
 - Moving with or to join family



Methodology

- Two primary stages to research
 - Literature Review
 - Field Work



Findings from the Field Work

- Decisions to migrate are exceptionally complex
- 4 key factors were identified in playing an important role in migration:
 - Chance
 - Employment
 - Study
 - Moving with a partner



Findings from the Field Work

- There was no one single motivator for most participants
- The importance of chance
- People seeking study did have clearer motivations
 - Free university education
 - Quality of Glasgow Universities



Findings from the Field Work

- Long-Term Settlement
- 6 key factors impacting on settlement
 - First Impressions
 - Conceptions of Home
 - Family
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Standard of Living



Findings from the Field Work

- Of these factors 3 appeared the most influential:
 - Standard of living
 - Education
 - Employment

Implications

- Attracting migrants to Glasgow
 - Too much of the migratory process relies on a combination of complex factors including chance
 - This means creating a strategy to actively attract migrants into the city would be extremely difficult
 - Glasgow already attracts a reasonable number of migrants without employing an active strategy



Implications

- Encouraging Long-Term Settlement
 - Might be better to consider a 'retention or settlement strategy'
 - Potential mobility of migrants
 - Make known that GCC wants migrants?



Migration and Settlement In Glasgow

- Any Questions?