



CASE STUDY OF KENYAN LABOUR MIGRANTS IN SOUTHERN TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

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Abstract:

African labour migrants in Israel present unique collective and individual characteristics within their adaptive and assimilative processes to the Israeli immigration context. In my study of the Kenyan labour migrants in Israel, the community exhibited strong socio-centric ideals that encouraged a degree of ethnic belonging and retention of Kenyan and African cultural identity within the ethnocentric environment created by the Israeli immigration regime and society towards African immigrants. They have developed social institutions like churches, financial self-help groups and national associations while participating in the Israeli labour and economic sector as labour migrants. These pathways to retention of cultural identity answered my research question which examined the factors that shaped the acculturation processes within the African immigrants in Israel. Specifically, the case study of the Kenyan migrants focused on the migration-adaptation processes of the Kenyan labour migrant community to account for the positive and negative impacts associated with immigration to Israel from Africa in the past two decades.

The study is placed on a nexus of immigration and culture, where the Kenyan labour immigrants in Israel provide a unique vantage point into the discussion on identities, and processes and challenges involved in the assimilation of strategies to adapt to labour migration that foster cultural synthesis. This is necessary within the broader African migrant community and the host Israeli society, as the rise in new heterogeneous populations of non-Jewish and non-citizen resident labour migrants, and more recently asylum seekers, has become a significantly loaded social, cultural, political and economic issue that influenced the Israeli society and State's discursive and pragmatic responses including deportations and detention of African migrants.

Date & Location:

Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 13:00-14:00
Department of Man in the Desert Seminar Room

