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## New frontiers of circumpolar human migration: towards an integrated society

**Key words:** North, (im)migration, integration, economic, entrepreneurship

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*This study contends that the trend of global immigration has an impact on regional governance. There are important gaps that remain in global governance, e.g. obstacles to an assessment of the economic, socio-cultural and security related consequences, no binding forces for the preparation of development strategies, etc. These gaps hamper immigration management on the regional level. It is necessary to establish binding and worldwide standards' policies under international law. Therefore, this study highlights regional discourses to identify the effects that include a number of substantial regional problems in order to integrate immigrants into the Arctic. Some issues of governance regarding competitive economy and socio-culture ecology are raised, focusing on state norms and policies about social sectors and actors through the case study based on the hypotheses.*

### Introduction

Migration is an ongoing debate; the Arctic region is no exception. Both concerned authorities as well as citizens are trying to make sense of the phenomenon, and this has led to a public debate on immigration in the Arctic (Yeasmin 2016). Migration and mobility are

increasingly integral to the trajectory of Lapland's political economy. The host society is usually constructed with a broader cultural set of rules and beliefs from rational individuals, and these rules and beliefs are enabled by organizational isomorphism and bureaucracy, as discussed in Sack's Tendency. It is very difficult to transform and change the rules, customs and norms of an institution that is influenced by organisational behaviour. Social values are associated with or implied by the activities and norms of acceptable organisational behaviour in the larger societal system. When those value systems are congruent, it is called "organisational legitimacy", but when that value system is incongruent, then it becomes a threat to organizational legitimacy, which can also create threats to legal, economic and other social sanctions as previous research stated.

Migration within the debate on institution is identified as a crucial channel of transmission between institutions in destination countries. There is a reflection of migration in society, economy and policy (Heikkilä 2005). Institutional transformation in political, economic and social systems means a whole set of social, institutional

and behavioural changes that cannot happen suddenly; they need a gradual system for building a new pattern of institution. A stable institution needs to form social and economic capital for sustaining its organisational structures. The changing of an institution frequently sparks controversial assumptions between individual values and expectations. The choices, attitudes and behaviour of an individual can support an institution to make decisions on migration and its various related phenomena.

With respect to the economic development of this Northern Region, positive discourses regarding immigrants are potentially important for fostering the economic integration of immigrants so that they can contribute to the native labour market (Heikkilä et al. 2004). The main interest of this dissertation is to explore the hope and happiness of immigrants living in a geographically isolated territory – Finnish Lapland – which is sparsely populated, and more workers are needed from outside the region for regional development (Heikkilä 2012). According to the socio-economic theory of immigration, social embeddedness provides a suitable conceptual framework for the exploration of the different forms in which social structure can effect economic action (Portes & Sensenbrenner 1993). Immigration is identified as one of the mechanisms leading to the emergence of social capital. Immigration has positive and negative consequences, as do all mechanisms, and often those consequences lead to the emergence of social capital (Forsander 2004). Immigration research literature offers a rich resource for “social institutions” (Schumpeter 1954).

There are different factors that negatively influence immigration in the north. Immigrants feel that they are socially excluded from mainstream Lappish society: research results suggest that immigrants from the Middle East and Africa are more vulnerable to being excluded than other immigrants (Yeasmin 2012). Local people's attitudes towards immigrants vary based on the situations in which they encounter immigrants, the immigrants' country of origin and educational background, the views of the respective groups, and so forth (Pehkonen 2006)

Employment assimilation and earning assimilation (Kerr & Kerr 2011) is poorly understood in Finland, and immigrants face several problems with the recognition of educational degrees, poor professional and social networks, as well as a lack of language skills and knowledge of the working culture, rules and regulations of working life (Ibid.). According to Sarvimäki (2017), there are immigrant-native gaps in employment and earnings which

decrease over time but still remain a large gap. Immigrant men earn “only 22–38 per cent of the average earnings of a native Finnish man of the same age. The relative earnings of women were even smaller”. This situation hinders the integration of immigrants, and higher unemployment (Heikkilä 2011) causes slow economic growth to some extent.

This study argues that the trend of global immigration has an impact on regional governance. There are important gaps that remain in global governance, e.g. obstacles to an assessment of the economic, socio-cultural and security related consequences, no binding forces for the preparation of development strategies, etc. These gaps hamper immigration management on the regional level. It is necessary to establish binding and worldwide standards policies under international law. Therefore, this study highlights regional discourses to identify the effects that include a number of substantial regional problems in order to integrate immigrants into the Arctic. Some issues of governance regarding competitive economy and socio-culture ecology are raised, focusing on state norms and policies about social sectors and actors through the case study based on the hypotheses.

## Methodology

This article consists with five hypotheses (HP).

HP I The Arctic characteristics impedes integration of immigrants whether there is a need of coherency in immigration policy and its implementation between the Barents region and EU. Need a participatory integration measures in order to integrate immigrants.

HP II The integration experiences of immigrant in Arctic context are differential.

HP III Secure community viability of immigrants' in the north is entailed as to integrate them in to Northern society.

HP IV Sustaining entrepreneurial existence of immigrant-owned enterprises depends on some particular enablers.

HP V Socio-political determinants for Social Enterprise/Cooperatives to function as an alternative instrument for economic integration for immigrants in the region.

HP I and II followed literature review examples. It also produced a large amount of necessary background research to support the whole study. Through the literature review, the study observed the real problem of the topic initially. These two hypotheses also helped greatly in the documentation and analysis of the final research questions. This explorative literature review helped model new theories for the study. These two hypotheses demonstrated the gap in the literature,

pointed to the significance of the problem and showed what needs to be done in the field of similar research.

HP III is based on semi-structured interviews; of 18 interviewees and the interviews were conducted in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. I utilized a thematic analysis along with a qualitative analytic method in analyzing the data. My thematic analysis was very much related to an individual's experiences, views and perceptions. I tried to find some commonalities in the data by examining all my notes that were written on paper, and simultaneously coding and interpreting the interview notes also kept me concentrated and on the right track. My plausible relationship and immigrant background sometimes facilitate my interview sessions.

HP IV, a semi-structured interview among a focus group of about 48, but the in-depth interview for 5 immigrant entrepreneurs and former entrepreneurs was unstructured.

HP V was planned as a semi-structured interview of the focus groups. The study followed a combination method of participant observation and naturalistic observation of N=18. This research produced rich materials, collected plentiful quality data that was sufficient for interpretation and it facilitated the development of social enterprise research questions. The whole ethnographic research process took almost one year.

Theoretically, each of the hypothesis is backed up by any of these theories likewise resilience, competitive economy, socio-cultural ecology, human ecology which have been chosen as a leading model in studying the Arctic context. These can be used as facilitators or barriers to immigrants with different vulnerabilities and mainstream community's social integration. A further and systematic approach scrutinizing social integration of ethnic immigrants from this perspective is thus highly significant. This synthesis is an example of knowledge support rather than decision support. The syntheses have been used as efficient scientific approaches to identify and summarise the evidences that support hypotheses. Therefore, the syntheses improve the reliability and accuracy of conclusions in the field of the integration of immigrants.

## Discussion

A dynamic process of positive adaptation in the Arctic context demonstrates competences of all related actors and sectors despite continuous or cumulative adversity (Bottrell 2009). There is limited research on the integration of immigrants in the Arctic context.

Therefore, it is necessary to carry out research on the attachment strategy between the Arctic social-ecological model and immigrants, which can construct physical and psychological bonds over territoriality; the model needs more attachments between the actors and the sectors that are significantly related to the effective integration process. There is a lack of a sense of security among immigrants and the majority population in the context of immigration. The anticipation of the majority is that they will need to protect the social-ecological trends of the host region or country that are under threat because of the presence of immigrants in the Arctic society. Changing this behaviour of the majority indeed needs a positive adaptation framework on both a regional and national government level, a framework that would be transparent enough and consistent over a longer period of time to establish a trustworthy relationship between the locals and immigrants. A crucial aspect is to increase societal understanding of positive knowledge in the Arctic migration context in order to develop and sustain the Arctic community, a community that has been restructured by the drastic demographical challenges.

This study is a combination of five hypotheses that have been added in the dissertation as five individual chapters. The whole study discusses the integration of immigrants in Lapland. The focus of the paper is the effective integration of immigrants into the north, which does not require the subjective participation of immigrants. A brief discussion about each HP can provide a clear understanding of the context of the study. HP I contains a series of overall points regarding the study, and it also connects its relationship to other HP(s).

HP I describe the macro-level factor, and the study focuses on global governance such as the EU, so the study details its role in regional and transnational governance. Although international organizations provide a necessary platform for discussion on the integration of immigrants on a national level, integration issues remain in the national political discourses, which also has macro factor influences. Many of the aspects of integration are experienced as a non-binding and incomplete framework, such as the human rights of immigrants. To some extent, that civil societies are the major players negate many issues that have been discussed in global governance.

Non-binding policies have an impact on national policies, since the incomplete framework of some groups of people from the mainstream society causes differential

attitudes amongst groups of people and the community. Therefore, HP II describes individuals' manners of awareness towards immigrants and vice versa, the rational behaviour of hosts such as attitudes, which are diverse towards various groups that divide societies. A successful stable or binding framework can develop skills, knowledge and attitudes of people towards one another. The integration of immigrants depends on interpersonal relationships: the attitudes of the majority towards immigrants, and the attitudes of immigrants towards immigrants (Forsander 2001) who belong to different stereotypes.

Immigrants are divided into two groups in which western immigrants are the successful group and well-resettled in Finland, and the second group comprises immigrants from third-world countries poorly settled in Finland. Integration into a new society very much depends on the sharing of new relationships, new beliefs, and new values. Finns are not familiar with the values and beliefs of the third-world countries. Therefore, the attitudes of Finns towards western immigrants are more positive, since western values and beliefs are close to Finns' (Jaakkola 2000). According to Heikkilä (2005), there are more jobs in larger southern cities than in smaller northern ones; this is indeed a reason why immigrants move to the south. This southwards movement trend of immigrants also hinders the integration process in the North. The HP II states that the differential attitudes of societal actors and sectors e.g. local employers' attitudes (Heikkilä 2005; Pehkonen 2017; Pehkonen 2006), voters' attitudes, different attitudes of different communities, political attitudes, socio-cultural differentiation all directly and indirectly affect the integration process. So, fostering positive emotions in the majority towards immigrants can support integration.

HP III states that civil societies are the major actors that can affect national territoriality. The discussion on violations of immigrants' human rights explains the civil society's attitudes towards immigrants, which is clearly emphasized although the nation states are unwilling to give up some degree of control over international immigration and internal politics. Therefore, within the country it affects the integration process because the reality on the ground level does not offer positive circumstances and necessary collaboration between immigrants and the majority in the civil society. This rejection of civil society towards immigration leads to discrimination and social exclusion.

HP IV of the study describes the economic integration of immigrants, which also requires

a strong network in which immigrants need support from the civil society and network in keeping with national policies. Balancing the economic growth of the nation-states, policies could reflect the demand of the labour force and the success of entrepreneurial activities in terms of employment (Joronen 2012). However, there are some factors that can either hinder or enable the entrepreneurial success of immigrants, and employment has a direct impact on integration. The study also states that there is a need to reform some sectoral policies for the determinants of sustainable immigrant entrepreneurship, and also a need to establish a strong mind-set for integration into the host society.

HP V discusses cases in which immigrants' economic integration depends partially on individual competencies as well as on regional concentration on support factors, e.g. stakeholder networking (Joronen 2002). The implementation of existing policies regarding public procurement can support the operational activities of co-operatives that are run by immigrants and could be a successful model for economic integration.

## Conclusion

As the study synthesises, all weak ties (like the immigrants facing the problems) have a positive influence on effective integration when the weak ties of individuals and social structures are connected with high-status individuals and contacts. These weak ties also bridge the substantial social distances between immigrants and hosts. When high-status respondents need to use weak ties of similar status then there are no status differences to grasp to demonstrate that such ties bridge (Granovetter 1973). It is significant to firmly connect the ties, because weak ties provide information and resources beyond their own social circle whereas strong ties are easily available and can grasp weak ties easily. Both strong and weak ties depend on the various levels of ties and the utilities of those ties.

In the social-ecological system, higher groups (it is majority population in this respect) will take advantages from the weak ties of other circles. Strong ties make relationships stronger, but weak ties make the relationship informative. Since immigrants try to follow the information of the host society, society conversely also needs the information about immigration.

Immigration discourses attract the majority population since it concerns the weakest part of their society. Stronger ties between only majorities cannot create innovative services and information within or outside of

the society because of their similar acquaintances, and there is no new information that could be mutually beneficial to each party. However, weak ties strengthen stronger ties by providing new knowledge and information. Therefore, integration makes host ties stronger and the economy stronger and strengthens community development. Weak ties cultivate ideas about a new job, a new start-up business, new transnational connections, and new skills and abilities – things that strong ties might not provide. Weak ties create egocentric networks that attract strong ties to grasp weak ties.

The study points to the alteration process and opportunities of integration in a specific territory, and it suggests a contingent nature of the location/territory that can establish a new conception of territorial integration. A territorial integration can emphasize a viable economic condition and subjective well-being that are needed for an active lifestyle, and good territorial planning may encourage or discourage the physical participation of immigrants. Study argues that successful integration, especially economic integration, requires firstly cooperation then coordination which denotes to formal and informal relationships between immigrants and locals (e.g. actors, sectors, individuals, entrepreneurs etc). It creates will power and determination through regular interactions and joint efforts for working together and create strength of commitments. This intensity facilitates durable relationship which is called collaboration. This collaboration then can generate innovative opportunities and ties between stronger and weak cohorts in the communities according to Gronovetter to ease successful integration in the Arctic.

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