

Book review:

**Cristina Ilie, Comunitatea românilor din Spania.
Dimensiunile discriminării și tipurile de aculturație
[The community of Romanians in Spain. Dimensions of
discrimination and types of acculturation], Bucharest,
University of Bucharest Publishing House, 2014,
328 pp., ISBN: 978-606-16-0439-5**

Alexandra Porumbescu^{a*}

^a *University of Craiova, Craiova, Romania*

It is without doubt that international human migration is one of the most defining phenomena of the world we live in. Tackled from various scientific fields, defining and explaining it is still a challenging task for any scholar. For the contemporary Romanian society, the emigration of extremely large amounts of population seems to be a potential national risk, not enough discussed on the public agenda, nor efficiently controlled by any state policy or legal frame. Approaching the topic of international migration by the country of origin and destination creates a clear territory for sociological study, providing the possibility to extract regulations and analogies applicable for the entire group of population that follows the same migratory route.

Mrs. Ilie`s work is a thorough analysis of the Romanians` community in Spain, focused on its characteristics and evolutions between 1990 and 2012. As a consequence of this scrutinizing process, and, as the author confesses, following the experiences recalled by the responders of her field research, the construction of the paper becomes incidentally directed towards the study of the types of acculturation and their degree of discrimination in the Spanish society. Therefore, the main hypotheses that lead the research, based on the „actual conflict theory” and „scapegoat theory” is that, in an economic crisis, the Spanish state and its citizens tend to discriminate the Romanian community in Spain. Thus, the main objective of the research was to identify the level of discrimination of Romanians in Spain in all aspects of social life. Another key objective in conducting this research was to identify the level of acculturation of Romanian immigrants in Spanish society

The author sets three main directions in building the book: she starts by presenting the Romanian migration phenomenon to Spain, widely discussed in the professional literature (books, treaties, official documents, investigation reports, legislation, press, etc.); secondly illustrating the acculturation and integration of immigrants as well as the stereotypes and prejudices as elements of discrimination and, the last direction, which has as starting point the individual field sociological research, that wants to be a new approach to the type of acculturation of Romanian citizens in society Spanish and the perception of their degree of discrimination.

*Alexandra Porumbescu, Tel.:004-0740-364-309. E-mail address:
alexandraporumbescu@yahoo.com.

Therefore, the volume is harmoniously structured in accordance with the rules of a genuine scientific approach, consisting in 7 chapters¹ that follow a logical progression, subdivided into thematic chapters, plus the introduction, conclusions, bibliography, annexes consisting of the interview guide, questionnaire, table distribution of Romanian communities in Madrid, illustrating the means of transportation of the Autonomous Community of Madrid and facsimiles of some representative documents for the Romanian community in Spain, as well as images captured during the field research carried out in Madrid.

The first chapter of the book introduces us the coordinates of immigration to Spain, undertaking historical and demographical characteristics. Far from being just a sociological approach to the study of international migration, the book "*Comunitatea romanilor din Spania. Dimensiunile discriminării și tipurile de aculturație*" (The community of Romanians in Spain. The dimensions of discrimination and types of acculturation) creates a complex image of the phenomenon, bringing along legal and economical points of view. In order to accomplish this, the author dedicates the second chapter of her work to a thorough overlook on the legislation and policy of the Spanish state on immigrants' regime, offering the reader a real radiography of the current Spanish legislation on immigration and the Hispanic state policy oriented in this direction. Furthermore, the third chapter of the book is dedicated to the study of the effects of the current economic crisis on Spanish society, starting with a remembrance of past economic crisis effects on migration and an overview of the effects of the global economic crisis in 2008 on the migration phenomenon as well as a description of its main effects on Spain.

The fourth chapter of the book presents the Romanian community in Spain, highlighting the context of external migration of Romanians, the evolution of Romanian migration to Spain and the current situation of the Romanian community in Spain, detailing the demographic structure of the Romanian community, the restriction of free movement of Romanian citizens in Spain by applying the safeguard clause, the mass media of Romanians, churches, Romanians' associations and cultural and artistic events organized by the community of our countrymen. In the fifth chapter, entitled *The image of Romanians in Spanish society*, the author analyses the media trends in the Spanish state, the aversion reactions of Spanish citizens against our countrymen as well as the decisions issued by the Government of Spain in the summer of 2011 to restrict the labor market for Romanian workers, concluding on the existence of a trend of discrimination against Romanian immigrants in Spain.

In the sixth chapter of the volume, a complex demonstration on the forms and theories regarding discrimination and acculturation is created by the author. The concepts are further studied in the final chapter, by discussing the results of an opinion survey on the *Types of acculturation and the perception on the degree of discrimination of Romanian immigrants in Madrid*, performed by Mrs. Ilie in the Romanian

¹Chapter I: Communities of immigrants in Spain;
Chapter II: Legislation and politics of Spanish state regarding immigrants;
Chapter III: Effects of the current economic crisis on Spanish society;
Chapter IV: The community of Romanians in Spain;
Chapter V: The image of Romanians in Spanish society;
Chapter VI: Discrimination and acculturation. Forms and theories;
Chapter VII: Types of acculturation and the perception on the degree of discrimination of Romanian immigrants in Madrid (opinion survey).

community in Madrid, located in the Madrid region (Comunidad Autonoma de Madrid).

Going through the pages of volume, the reader gets acquainted with the characteristics and regulations of the community of Romanian immigrants in Spain. The conclusions following this analysis reveal several discrimination related issues that this community is confronted with, issues they tried to cope with by undertaking a behavior that aims at helping them integrate in the host society. Unfortunately, the Romanian immigrants do not only face this kind of problems in the society, but also in public institutions, in the education and justice systems, and, as the respondents confessed, mostly on the labor market.

One of the angles the author focused on was the Spanish media representation of the Romanian communities and various actions performed or related to it. This examination resulted into revealing that Romanians do not benefit from a positive reflection in the means of public information in the country of destination, and this fact also influences the perception of the Spanish society towards this group of immigrants.

However, in the final part of the book, the author also introduces a couple of solutions for the improvement of these situations, solutions that could be easily set into practice as a national Romanian policy meant for the support of the Romanians living abroad.