Transnational Borders, Transnational Lives

"Academic Mobility at the Borderland"

Migrating is a life-changing decision that academics might take because of career. But leaving a homeland is a lot more than a job issue. Many other factors and adjustment challenges are put in the line.

This book tells the stories of a selected group of geographers who migrated to one side to another of the Canada-US border. The often emotional autobiographical testimonials of those academics go a long way toward capturing the full range of feelings and experiences related to migration and settlement decision-making, especially as personal processes play out within the larger context of North American mobility.

Common themes, issues, and questions emerge from their texts: the push-pull factors influencing their migration decision-making; the role of the department or university’s reputation in their decision to relocate abroad; the potential attraction of the physical/environmental characteristics of their new site of residence; the career or personal impacts of relocation; their attachment to place, sense of belonging, or feelings of “otherness” after relocation; and other opportunities or challenges they may have faced living and teaching abroad.

As these various authors remind us, becoming a migrant is about much more than finding the right job or ending up in a particular locale. Mobility is also about seeking and finding pathways that lead to personal growth and a deepened trust in oneself and one’s family.


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