

From *Labour Immigration Policy in a Country Known for Emigration: Poland's Policy towards Economic Immigration after EU Accession* by Agnieszka Zogata-Kusz (2013).

Preface

When doing a literature review, one can easily notice that issues of migration and migration policy not so often lie within the area of academic interest of political scientists. Among the best-known people that deal with issues of immigration policy and politics there are often sociologists, e.g. Grete Brochmann, Roger Brubaker, Douglas Massey, or Alejandro Portes, economists, e.g. George Borjas, or specialists in other areas, e.g. in urban planning, such as Saskia Sassen. This does not mean, of course, that political scientists do not deal with migration. Examples are Tomas Hammar, James Hollifield, or Anthony M. Messina. Nevertheless, international migration is not widely recognised as a subject of research of political science. This is an observation of e.g. Erik Bleich, who points out the marginalisation of immigration and integration issues within political science.¹ Gary P. Freeman suggests that there are several reasons for that.² [...] Despite all these problems, Freeman urges political scientists to take a greater interest in migration.³ The current study responds to that appeal.

The main goal of the study is to explain labour immigration policy, i.e. to explain how a state decides about the number, composition and category of economic migrants to be accepted to the labour market. To achieve this aim, I was looking for the answer to the question of what factors shape immigration control policy towards legal labour immigration, and how they do that. I addressed the question by using an empirical-analytical approach, and, to be exact, a case study of Poland. I performed a qualitative analysis of the content of several dozen documents and – additionally – of records of several interviews I carried out with experts involved in policymaking.

A kind of starting point for the study was Eytan Meyers' *theory of the socio-economic and foreign policy factors shaping immigration control policy*, which I was inspired by.⁴

The study seeks to add another perspective to existing theories of immigration policies. This was one of the reasons why I chose Poland for the analysis. If there are studies which attempt to contribute to theory building, they are usually devoted to the immigration policies of countries which have been receiving various types of immigrants for decades. In

¹ Bleich 2008: 1-3.

² Freeman 2005: 111-115.

³ *Ibid.*: 115.

⁴ Meyers 2004.

contrast to those, I decided to research Poland, which is a country widely recognised as one of net emigration and which has started to accept immigrants only recently. Its labour immigration policy – and immigration policy as a whole – is still in its infancy. The study focuses on the period between the access of Poland to the European Union, which was an important turning point in Poland's recent history, and the middle of 2011. I believe that leaving Western European countries to search for determinants of labour immigration policy in other regions could throw new light on policymaking in questions of economic immigration.

[...]

The first [chapter] presents the theoretical basis of the study and research design. It demonstrates the goal and research question, Meyers' theory, which the study draws on, definitions of basic terms, description of the model of the study, hypotheses and research methods.

The second chapter introduces the context of the study, i.e. a review of the literature devoted to questions of immigration policy, together with a review of theoretical approaches to the issue.

The third chapter presents the context of the labour immigration policy in Poland. It focuses specifically on structural factors that influence it, the development of the Polish migration situation before the year 2004, the development of immigration control policy in general, and the access of foreigners to the labour market before that year. Additionally, it presents the main actors in the immigration control policy and, finally, basic information regarding the rules for the admission of labour immigrants to Poland's territory.

The fourth and the fifth chapter, where the development of the labour immigration policy is presented and analysed, are crucial for the study. The first five parts of the fourth chapter are organised chronologically – they are devoted to the development of the policy in particular years. Then there are two parts dealing with special cases, i.e. the instrument of Polish immigration policy called an employer's declaration of intent to employ a foreigner and the Polish Charter, issued to people of Polish origin. The chapter that follows discusses findings about factors shaping labour immigration policy in Poland in the period under examination.

The last, sixth chapter brings selected recommendations of the strategic document 'Polish Migration Policy' which is to be the basis for policymaking in the area of migration in the immediate future. [...].

[...] labour immigration policy [I understand in this study] as the policy aimed at the selection and admission of economic immigrants to the labour market along with their possible active recruitment.