Contemporary processes of globalization, internazional migrations and multiculturalism. An anthropological point of view.
1.
WHAT ANTHROPOLOGY IS ABOUT

The topics of globalization, international migration, and multiculturalism, strictly connected with one another, could be examined and analyzed from the point of view of the anthropological science, which is characterized by the following principles:
- \textbf{a}. A \textit{holistic approach} (considering the social fabric as a whole and carefully analyzing the interferences between the different sectors and aspects: economy and work, social relations and social differentiations, ideas, beliefs, values and rituals);
- \textbf{b}. The systematic use of the \textit{comparative method} (consisting in a continuous and accurate confrontation of different social situations, in order to attain the understanding and explanation of the \textit{analogies} and at the same time of the \textit{differences});
- \textbf{c}. Thirdly, this social science utilizes a particular style of research through the collection of data by \textit{intensive and long term “field research”, “participant observation”, and informal questioning} of the social actors in a way that could permit the full registration of their \textit{point of view}.
- \textbf{d}. Finally, anthropology is accustomed also to parallel his field investigations with a systematic and intensive, critical and \textit{reflexive}, auto-analysis of the posture, interests, ideas, forms of power, that the same society which produces the anthropological interests, manifests – overtly or not – in relation with the social groups investigated.
2.

GLOBALIZATION

The two fundamental dimensions of globalization, frequently identified as such in an extended number of studies and researches, are the following:

-a) A widespread circulation of goods all around the world, in a general and unique universal market, without limitations (the previous forms of limitations were the difficulties of the international transport and the international customs, which influenced the rising of prices of external goods when entering national markets);

-b) The unlimited circulation of information and of ideas through radio, telephone, television and internet. This worldwide process also produces a progressive convergence of behaviour, conception of the world and daily habits of many nations, states and communities, through the continuous diffusion of the similar needs, necessities, preferences, aptitude to consumption, and ways of thinking.
3. THE “OTHER SIDE” OF THE GLOBALIZATION PROCESSES

Regarding the encroachment of ideas, customs, values, ways of life, which is typical of all globalization processes, we have to highlight that there is a sharp confrontation among two different positions about the cultural effects of globalization. The first one is the “optimistic” way of thinking, according to which the increasing homogenization of the world, the intensive westernization and the loss of ancient cultural traditions, are the most diffused and “good” consequences of the globalization processes. The second one is the “pessimistic” way of thinking, consisting in the vision of a diffused “cultural fragmentation” and the increase of intercultural conflicts between incompatible ideal worlds.

This radical opposition between the two points of view, two stereotypes, is overtly contrasted by a number of anthropological investigations in the peripheries of the world, where the goods and the ideas coming from the West are diffused. To a careful observer, the diffusion and overt circulation of goods and information all around the world frequently produces very complex reactions that have been labelled with the following terms and concepts:

adaptation, re-interpretation, re-adjustment.

If we observe what really people say and what they really do, we frequently find different matters. It is then important to understand the meaning that the local people attach to globally distributed goods and ideas. In this respect we could say that the internationalization and globalization process produces frequently a correspondent process of

re-localization

according to which a reaction coming from the receiving environment generates some creative and new aspects, that in some cases take the form of

appropriation or resistance
4. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES ON GLOBALIZATION PROCESSES

5.
THE PRINCIPAL DIMENSIONS OF THE MIGRATION PROCESSES

In general terms, we could say that the principal dimensions and problems of the migration processes, from the point of view of the migrant, are the following:

-1) Frequent disarticulation of the basic social links of the migrant (above all family and kinship relationships) as a social effect of the abandonment of the original social context;

-2) Rapid interruption of the previous links with the locality, material and symbolic, and the correspondent difficulty of creating new links with the new environment in a short time;

-3) Elementary difficulties of adapting to the new cultural customs (eating, social, religious), which can cause stressful situation;

-4) Ordinary difficulties with local bureaucracy of their new country (basic documents, residence permits and so on);

-5) Accepting low salaries and low status job.

On the basis of the mentioned reasons, the migrants normally live in precarious and fragile situations.
6. THE MIGRATION CYCLE

Studies and social researches on migration have also dedicated a special attention to the *migration cycle*, identifying in the temporal aspect a fundamental dimension of the problem. Migration is normally described as occurring in broadly three stages:

-1) The first stage is *pre-migration*, involving the decision and the preparation to move, with the identification of the main “push-factors”, pushing the social actors to migrate to another country;

-2) The second stage, the effective *process of displacement*, refers to the physical relocation of individuals from one place to another, with a special attention to the journey and the chosen itinerary (for example, passing to different countries before arriving to the final destination);

-3) The third stage, *post-migration*, consists in the progressive adaptation of the immigrant within the social and cultural framework of the new society. It is also important, at this third stage, to investigate what have been the factors of “attraction” towards a specific country, which are defined as the “pull-factors”;

-4) A fourth stage could be identified: that of the effects of *migrations on the original country of the migrant*. It has been observed that a great number of migrants come back periodically to the country of origin, investing money and work for limited economic initiatives. At the same time, they contribute to the diffusion of ideas, forms of economic actions, organization of work, coming from the new country where they reside. The frequent returns could also stimulate kinsman, friends, to take the same way to migration in the same country. So economic, social and cultural effects from the country of migration to the country of origin of the migrant could be noted in a few years.
7.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS

- IMI (International Migration Institute, Oxford), The impact of international migration on social and economic development in Moroccan sending regions: a review of the empirical literature, 2007.
- Third South American Conference on Migrations, Quito 2002.
8. THEORETICAL ORIENTATIONS AND POLICY STRATEGIES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF “CULTURAL DIVERSITY” WITHIN THE MODERN STATES

Terms and concepts currently used

*Cultural Pluralism* (USA, Horace M. Kallen)  intense conservation of cultural diversity

*Interactive Pluralism*

*Multiculturalism* (Canada, Australia, Sweden)

*Assimilationism*  progressive renunciation to cultural diversity

- *Integrationism*
9. 
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES ON MULTICULTURALISM