

# Interdisciplinary understandings of the cultural discourse of economic emigration in Latvia

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This paper introduces the challenges that the EC researcher might face when engaging with and borrowing from the respective fields of Labor, Migration, and/or Nationalism studies. While being rather interdisciplinary endeavors themselves, the aforementioned fields of study often go hand in hand with the corresponding policy recommendations (e.g. Hazans, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015a, 2015b). As such, the emphasis on quantitative data and generalizability are preferred qualities and, as such, they are rooted in the economically motivated understandings of the workforce. While useful for policy development, this orientation provides only partial understanding of the phenomenon. Nevertheless, the dominance of this kind of scholarly interest signals about the urgency of the studied issue, and, as such, is helpful for gaining an insight into general context where the studied cultural discourse occurs. However, aforementioned approach stems from the neo-liberal approach to human resources, thus, often dismissing the lived human experiences that reaches far beyond expressed economic rationale to emigrate, and/or to return; motivation to maintain national identity and cultural practices while abroad, etc. When attempting to explore the perspective of the discourse participants, some of the productive interdisciplinary links I am able to identify are rooted in migration researches carried out by scholars from the fields of Cultural Geography, Social Anthropology, and Sociology (e.g. Dzenovska, 2012, 2013; Ķešāne, 2011; Lulle, 2007, 2012). On the broader scale, while interpreting and comparing the communicatively constructed meanings in relation to economic emigrants' national and professional domains, I borrow from philosophers and sociologists of work (e.g. Ciulla, 2000; Weber 1920/2002; Thompson & Hilde, 2000). In doing so, I also see these domains as contextualized in Post-soviet space, which inform meanings surrounding the concepts of nation and identity (e.g. Verdery, 1996a, 1996b; Dzenovska, 2013; Ījabs, 2014; Kaprāns, 2015).

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