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PhD Thesis:

European high-skilled immigration in Italy. Parental choices for educational paths in the host society

Abstract

The thesis regards the macro area of EU-labor mobility and questions one indicator that according to recent research contributes to perceived life quality of the high-skilled migrant in the destination country: educational opportunities for 2nd generation migrants.

In the light of the presumption that EU countries should engage in attracting high-qualified incomings instead of keeping high-skilled professional outgoings the research ties in with the following question:

Are family needs of highly qualified European immigrants regarding education considered and satisfied by corresponding institutions in the socio-political context of the host society and how is the correlation to perceived life quality?

The empirical research considers practices and mechanisms towards choices made by the parents for the education paths of their offspring, hence the acquisition, maintenance and cultivation of cultural capital (skills and habitus) in order to examine the nature and content of strategies applied with respect to key concepts as identity, culture, group position and reproduction.

It is envisaged to put into practice an exemplary empirical study in the Turin Province with participants belonging to the category of European high-qualified immigrants, to be classified in four groups according to their origin: immigrants with German, British and Romanian citizenship and a control group of Italians belonging to the same category of highly skilled.