

**Transition to Motherhood and Migration in the Life-Course:
Case of Kyrgyz female migrants in Russia**

This paper addresses the question of interrelation of gender, migration and life-course while studying the junction of migration and pregnancy/ child-birth in the biographies of female migrants from one of the Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan) to Russia. The region of Central Asia is now a major source of migration flows to Russia, with a growing share of women, especially younger ones. In this region, the biggest share of females is in the flow from Kyrgyzstan (40%). Moreover, there is now a growing infrastructure aimed at providing services for the Kyrgyz youth in Moscow to get acquainted and marry – which testifies to the transnational nature of migration from Kyrgyzstan to Russia and to the fact that this migration does not mean postponing of sexual and reproductive behavior.

However, coming to a megalopolis like Moscow means getting acquainted with a wider repertoire of life course choices – some of which may challenge the normative ‘ideal biography’ of the Kyrgyz. Looking at the junction of pregnancy/ child-birth and migration in biographies of Kyrgyz female migrants (interviews conducted in 2011-2012 in Moscow), this presentation deals with two blocks of questions. The first one is concerned with the ‘pregnancy/ child-birth in the context of migration’ and deals with the normative scenarios women-migrants are expected to realize while coming and going to and from Russia, the strategies women take in order to negotiate these scenarios and their own status in the extended transnational families. The second one is about ‘migration in the context of pregnancy/child-birth’ and deals with the way structural and cultural conditions shape women’s experience of pregnancy, child-birth as well as transnational mobility.