

Mixed Marriage and Migration: Russian Brides in İstanbul

In the early 1990s, Turkey, a previously migrant-exporting country, has become the destination for immigrants from a range of different regions and countries. Most foreigners have come from the Union of Soviet Socialist and especially from the Russia. A great number of Russia women have come to İstanbul (Turkey) for work purpose, while many Turkish men have left for Russia for the same reason. By time, the period of stay of Russian women in İstanbul have increased and their reasons for migration have diversified, also by the influence of the political, social and economic changes in Turkey as well as in Russia. One of the migration reasons is the marriage between Russian women and Turkish men, the actors of the transnational mobility. In this paper I analyze some of the issues that enable the understanding of Russian-Turk mixed marriage and transnational lives of Russian brides, by presenting some preliminary empirical findings resulting from on-going qualitative research being carried out in İstanbul.

Key Words: Russian, Women, Marriage, Migration, İstanbul