

## Book Review

**Immigrant Integration in Europe: Subjective Well-Being Perspective.** Paparusso, Angela, Cham: Springer, (2021, ISBN: 978-3-030-78504-8).

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Immigrant integration has become an issue more than ever, not only for the host countries but also for the countries of origin as well as for the immigrants themselves. An integrated immigrant also means that all of these parties achieve legal, economic, socio-political and cultural gains in a way to promote human well-being on a global scale. At this point, well-being or life satisfaction of immigrants in a host country becomes more and more important.

Angela Paparusso takes a valuable step in explaining the importance of immigrants' subjective well-being as a measure of individual and societal progress in terms of immigrant integration. In her book, *Immigrant Integration in Europe: Subjective Well-Being Perspective*, she argues that objective indicators are not enough especially while dealing with policy outcomes and setting policy goals on integration, so we need subjective indicators to clarify the missing parts in the puzzle. Paparusso starts with a brief historical overview of immigration in Europe from 1945 to present, and then, it is followed by the definition of integration and some significant details on immigrant integration policies in the continent. From the very beginning, the author achieves to attract reader's attention by questioning the efficiency of civic integration, one of the subtitles of these policies, which is argued to be based on migration control, security and selection, and hence, to have a risk of undermining the social cohesion of European societies.

Is integration a one-way process developing with the efforts of immigrants alone or does it also assign host societies the responsibility of answering immigrants' needs and expectations, also called life satisfaction? Referring to some key official European documents, Paparusso gives a clear message on the importance of division of responsibility between these two parties for the success of integration. In this context, the author does not avoid criticising some countries as well as the Europe Union (EU) as a whole in certain points. The timeline of the key points on the EU integration policy, the recent data showing the level of integration in Europe and the reflections regarding the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the immigrants' integration contribute to the book's well-organized and fresh content. It should also be noted that the author's use of boxes for some details and her own photos related to the issue makes the book reader-friendly. The boxes, particularly the ones on Italy, also help ensure the integrity of the chapters in the context of immigrants' subjective well-being.

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After giving a detailed picture of immigration and integration in Europe in the first chapters of the book, Paparusso defines and discusses subjective well-being and life satisfaction in terms of immigrant integration in Europe. The references from the relevant literature are satisfying enough to make the book easily readable and understandable for the readers from various fields. Still, the author emphasizes some methodological challenges and scantness of comparative studies on the self-reported life satisfaction of immigrants living in European countries. Paparusso refers to one of her previous studies to overcome this issue, and shares data from the Immigrant Citizens Survey of 2011-2012 concerning seven European countries including Italy. It is also important to note that she comprehensively elaborates the micro and macro factors shaping immigrants' self-reported life satisfaction in the host countries. While exploring the factors associated with subjective well-being, she is good at distinguishing between legal and illegal immigrants, first- and second-generation immigrants, and immigrants and natives.

The last chapters of the book focus on Italy, which is one of the key countries in Europe in terms of immigration and immigrant integration. The author endeavours to do her best to fill in the gap in the literature on immigrants' subjective well-being in Italy. Following some information on the recent historical background of immigration in Italy, she briefly reviews the current literature on the subjective well-being of first-generation immigrants in the country. The data based on the Social Condition and Integration of Foreign Citizens in Italy of 2011-2012 and related to the main individual factors associated with first-generation immigrants' self-reported life satisfaction in Italy give interesting results, such as the fact that males are less satisfied with life than females, the level of satisfaction with life depends on the period of arrival in Italy, and the immigrants who frequently visit their home country are more satisfied with life than those who do not. However, as accepted by the author, the study is weak in performing a comparative analysis for immigrants and natives in Italy in this context, which is explained with the scarcity of pertinent data. Finally, Paparusso takes a close look at the subjective well-being of children with a migrant background at schools in Italy, comparing them with their native peers as much as possible. This is particularly important because these children's well-being and life satisfaction will also influence the future of Europe critically facing population ageing and decline in fertility. The policy recommendations as a conclusion are useful for understanding the factors associated with immigrants' life satisfaction, and thus, for the achievement of full integration of immigrants in the host countries.

Paparusso's book is a must read for those who are willing to see the other side of the coin, immigrant integration going beyond of objective indicators.

