

DETERMINANTS OF POSTCOLONIAL MIGRANTS' TRANSNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: VIETNAM AND ALGERIA IN FRANCE



By: Huong Dang

Primary Thesis Advisor: Professor David Lindstrom

Second Reader: Professor Ulrich Krotz

Transnationalism Literature: Progress and Weaknesses

- Fragmented and mostly descriptive
 - Transnationalism from below
 - Transnationalism from above
 - Transnationalism “in between”
- Discord in method: level of analysis
 - Macro-regional
 - **Meso-structural**
 - Micro/ Individual

**Independent variables
derived from antecedent
conditions:**

- **The class profile/ social strata of migrants**
- **Conditions of exit and arrival of migrants**

**Immigrant incorporation into the
receiving society: Residential and
Socioeconomic integration**

**Policies of sending and receiving
states**

**1. Areas of
focus:**

**Politics;
Economic/
Trade activities;
Knowledge
exchange/
Technology
transfer;
Cultural
exchange;
Humanitarian
assistance**

**2. Intensity of
participation**

Methodology

- Methodology:
 - Website analysis – Event calendar
 - Determine intensity level:
 - High: > 30 events in a year
 - Medium: 10 to 29
 - Low: < 10
 - Process tracing

Findings on Vietnamese Immigrant Organizations' Transnational Participation

Table 3.1. Vietnamese immigrant organizations' activities – areas of focus – by websites' content

Organization	Political	Cultural			Knowledge exchange/ Technology transfer	Humanitarian assistance	Economic / Business	Transnational participation in Vietnam	Fields of transnational participation in Vietnam
		Language classes	Cultural exchange (1)	Others					
UGVF http://www.ugvf.org/vn/laune.php	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes	Cultural, Knowledge exchange & Tech transfer, Economic, Humanitarian
<u>General Association of Vietnamese students in Paris</u> http://www.agevp.com	✓			✓				No	Engaged in political transnational network but not officially in Vietnam
Vietnamese Student Alliance in France (ADEVF) http://daugau.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Yes	Knowledge exchange & Tech transfer, Humanitarian
The Arrow Institute (allied with ADEVF) (since 2002) http://www.institutdufleuve.com			✓	✓		✓		Yes	Humanitarian
Vietnam Mutual Aid and Solidarity Association (AVNES) http://www.avnes.org			✓	✓	✓	✓		<u>Yes</u>	Cultural, Tech transfer, Humanitarian

Pont Viet Kieu http://pontvk.org					✓	✓		Yes	Tech transfer, Humanitarian
Vietnam House (Toulouse, France) (allied with UGVF) http://www.maisonvietnam.org	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		Yes	Knowledge exchange/ Tech transfer, Humanitarian
Sauvage School http://www.ecolesauvage.org		✓	✓	✓		✓		Yes	Humanitarian
Xuan Association http://www.assoxuan.com			✓	✓		✓		Yes	Humanitarian
AIGO Foundation http://www.fondation-aigo.com						✓		Yes	Humanitarian
VnFinance http://vnfinance.net					✓			Yes	Knowledge exchange & Tech transfer
Khanh Anh Pagoda http://chuakhanhanh.free.fr/khanhanh/index.htm	✓			✓				No	Engaged in political transnational network but not officially in Vietnam
Van Hanh Pagoda http://chuavanhanh.free.fr	✓ (2)			✓		✓		Yes	Humanitarian
VnTelecom http://vntelecom.org					✓			Yes	Knowledge exchange/ Tech transfer
Total number of organizations: 14	6	4	6	10	7	10	1		

Analysis on Intensity of Transnational Participation: Organizations' Event Calendars

Transnational cultural participation of France-based Vietnamese migrant organizations in Vietnam's affairs, by quantity of events/ projects

Organization	2007	2008	2009	2010
UGVF	6	5	6	7
ADEVF	2	3	3	4
Arrow Institute	1	2	4	3
Total	9	10	13	14

Transnational participation in Knowledge exchange/ Technology transfer of France-based Vietnamese migrant organizations in Vietnam's affairs, by quantity of events/ projects

Organization	2008	2009	2010
UGVF	3	5	6
AEDVF	2	2	3
<u>Maison Vietnam</u>	2	2	2
<u>VnFinance</u>	1	1	1
<u>VnTelecom</u>	1	1	1
Total	9	11	13

Transnational participation in humanitarian services of France-based Vietnamese migrant organizations in Vietnam's affairs, by quantity of events/ projects

Organization	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
UGVF	1	2	2	2	2	3	7	6	8	8
AEDVF										1
<u>Maison VN</u>								1		
Arrow Inst.	2	1	1					1		1
AVNES							1	2	4	4
Pont VK				8	8	8	37	24	19	16
<u>Sauvage Sch.</u>			1			1				
<u>Xuan Ass.</u>	2	2	2	3	4	6	6	6	5	5
AIGO Found.							1	2	7	11
<u>Van Hanh</u>						1				
Total	3	5	6	13	14	19	52	42	43	46

Findings on Algerian Immigrant Organizations' Transnational Participation

Table 3.5. Algerian immigrant organizations' activities - areas of focus - by websites' content

Organization	Political (1)	Cultural			Knowledge exchange/ Technology transfer	Humanitarian services	Economic / Business	Transnational participation	Fields of transnational participation in Algeria
		Language or Art classes	Cultural exchange (2)	Others					
Association of Algerian in France (AAF) http://amicaledesalgeriens.org	✓	✓		✓				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Political</u>
The Truth and Justice for Algeria Association http://www.algeria-watch.org/farticle/association.htm	✓							<u>Yes</u>	<u>Political</u>
Union of the Algerian Community in France (used to be part of AAF) http://www.ucaf.fr	✓						✓	<u>Yes</u>	Business
Union of Algerian Students in France http://ueaf.e-monsite.com	✓	✓	✓	✓				<u>Yes</u>	<u>Political</u> <u>Cultural</u>
Union of Algerian Community in Paris http://www.ucap-association.com	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	<u>Yes</u>	Business

France-Algeria Association http://www.asso-france-algerie.fr	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Yes	Political, Cultural, Economic, Humanitarian
France-Algeria Alliance http://www.alliancefrancealgerie.org		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Yes	Economic, Humanitarian
Franco-Algerian Association of Cardiology http://www.afacardio.com					✓			Yes	Knowledge exchange/ Tech transfer
Network of Algerian University Graduates in France http://www.reage.org	✓				✓		✓	Yes	Knowledge exchange/ Tech transfer
Forum of Algerians in Europe http://www.fdae.org (affiliated with the FLN)	✓			✓		✓		Yes	Political, Humanitarian services
Coup de Soleil Association http://www.coupdesoleil.net	✓		✓	✓				No	Bringing in artists and writers from Algeria, little transnational participation in Algeria
Colors of Algeria http://www.couleurs-algerie.fr			✓	✓				No	

Berber Cultural Association http://www.acbparis.org	✓		✓	✓				No	
Beur Radio http://www.beurfm.net	✓			✓				Yes	Political
Network of Algerian Industrial Entrepreneurs in France http://ceinaf.net	✓				✓		✓	Yes	Economic, Knowledge exchange/ Tech transfer
Medical Solidarity in Action (Solimed Algérie) http://www.solimed.net						✓		Yes	Humanitarian services
Union for the Interests of Repatriated French People from Algeria http://www.pied-noir.eu	✓		✓	✓				No	
National Organization of the French People of Algeria and Friends http://www.rnfaa.com	✓			✓				Yes	Political
National Association of the Progressive <i>Pieds-Noirs</i> and Friends http://www.anpnpa.org/?cat=24	✓			✓				Yes	Political
Non-Violent Opponents to the Algerian War http://www.refractairesnonviolentsalgerie1959a63.org	✓			✓				Yes	Political
Franco-Algerian Space http://espace-franco-algerien.org	✓			✓		✓		Yes	Political, Humanitarian
Total number of organizations: 21	17	5	7	15	3	6	6		

Patterns of Transnational Participation

France-based Algerian and Vietnamese migrants' transnational participation in their countries of origin, by areas of focus and levels of intensity

	Political	Cultural exchanges	Technology/knowledge transfer	Humanitarian assistance	Trading and economic cooperation
Algerian immigrant organizations	Very high -negative impact on receiving society	Low - more cultural focus on connection within immigrant community and integration into French society	Low - recent trend of increase	Low - recent trend of increase	Low - recent trend of increase
Vietnamese immigrant organizations	Very low/ virtually non-existent	Medium	Medium	High	Low

Historical Conditions

- Long-established communities
 - Vietnamese: study-abroad students, colonial aristocrats, some colonial workers
 - Algerian: mostly low-skilled workers
- New joiners:
 - Vietnamese: post-1975 refugees
 - Algerian: political activists, students and scholars fleeing the conflict of early 1990s

State Policies

- Vietnamese insulation of expat politics
- France's recognition of the UGVF in 1981

- Algeria's organized expat voting, election 1995
- Algeria's efforts to expand support base in France – 2003: Year of Algeria in France

Immigrant Incorporation

- Algerian immigrants:
 - Low socioeconomic assimilation
 - Identity crisis
- Vietnamese immigrants:
 - Well-integrated socioeconomically
 - Strong emotional attachment to home country

Determinants of Transnational Participation: Projected Explanations for Patterns of Variations across Groups

- On Transnational Political Participation

	Effects of historical conditions of migration	Current social and political conditions in country of origin	Receiving state's (France) policies	Sending state's policy
Algerian immigrant community – High transnational politics	<p>_Arab/ <u>Kabyle</u> cultural divide</p> <p>_Pro-FLN/ anti-FLN divide: before and during War of Independence of 1954-1962 and since the political conflict of early 1990s</p> <p>_Long-established community before 1974: made up of colonial workers, low skilled low educated manual laborers</p> <p>_Newcomers, since 1974: more educated, more Westernized</p> <p>_Pied-noirs exodus of 1962: not actively involved in transnational activities</p>	<p>_Political instability in Algeria</p> <p>_Weak state</p>	<p>_Encourage the establishment of various political groups other than FLN</p> <p>_Ban FIS officers and other Islam extremist groups, however not very effectively</p>	<p>_Recognize migrants' voting</p> <p>_Attempt to expand political base in France → intensify transnational politics</p>
Vietnamese immigrant community – Low transnational politics	<p>_Pro-Hanoi/ <u>Anti-communist</u> divide.</p> <p>_Long-established community: educated, elitist</p> <p>_Newcomers of post-1975 political refugees: mostly low skilled, little educated.</p> <p>_Pro-Hanoi groups main transnational actors.</p>	<p>_Political stability</p> <p>_Insulation of domestic politics from expats' influence</p>	<p>_Designated the pro-Hanoi UGVF as the official representative of Vietnamese immigrants in France → undermined anti-communist groups</p>	<p>_Discourage migrants' participation in politics</p> <p>_Encourage positive transnational participation in other areas</p>

Determinants of Transnational Participation: Projected Explanations for Patterns of Variations across Groups

- On Transnational Participation in Cultural, Knowledge/ Technology, Economic and Humanitarian Affairs

	Transnational participation in Humanitarian assistance, Knowledge exchange/ Technology transfer, Cultural exchange and Economic cooperation	Historical conditions and flows of immigration into France	Socioeconomic integration in the French society
Algerian immigrants	Generally low. On the trend of increase.	<p>_ Long-established community mainly made up of low skilled laborers and colonial workers → struggling with low socioeconomic integration into the receiving society</p> <p>_ New influx of well-educated and Westernized immigrant class since the early 1990s: mainly involved in transnational politics.</p>	<p>_ Overall low.</p> <p>_ Identity crisis: Algerian or French or French Algerian?</p>
Vietnamese immigrants	High and medium. On the trend of increase.	<p>_ Long-established community of well-educated, socially viable immigrants of before 1975 → Main force participation in transnational activities of pro-Hanoi immigrant organizations</p> <p>_ Political refugees after 1975: low skilled, less educated, less involved in transnational activities.</p>	<p>_ Overall high economic integration with a certain degree of cultural segregation. Much emotional attachment to home country.</p>

Conclusion

- Transnationalism: a contemporary phenomenon
- A model of Migrant Transnationalism
- Impacts on local development and social stability