

What are the impacts of restrictions on participation in the labour market and civic life on young migrants?

Les Back and Shamser Sinha Goldsmiths





THE EUMARGINS PROJECT

A collaborative project financed by The Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7) of the European Union. The research focus is on inclusion and exclusion of young adult immigrants in seven European countries.

- 250 detailed biographical case studies
- Seven European cities
- London, Tallinn, Oslo, Genoa, Barcelona, Gothenburg, Nancy
- Young migrants active observers in their own lives through the use of photography, poetry, art, scrapbooks

Mobile Lives and Tighter Regulation

- Humankind is more mobile than at any other moment in human history
- Vitality of globalised London confounds the rhetoric of protectionism and control
- Unrealistic promises
- Micro-borders and internal policing
- The case for a pragmatic and humane turn in immigration policy

Tier 4 (G) Application Form (version 04/10) -

Tier 4 (G) Application Form (version 04/10) - page 38

"We have to write our life"

Kätrifi Application Form (version 04/10) - page 40.

Tier 4 (G) Application Form (version 04/10) - page 41



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Lessons from the young lives

- Control and monitoring seeps into every aspect of everyday live
- Young migrants experience the immigration service as an inefficient bureaucracy
- These young lives are fragmented and disorganised as a result
- The limits on work and access to welfare results in institutionalised marginalisation

The Social Production of Suffering

A Different Vision

- Harnessing migrants' desire for civic involvement
- Building communities of diversity
- A moral and welfare case for less regulation
- Facilitating greater social inclusion



A Pragmatic Approach: Recommendations

On work, we suggest:

- Declaring a London-wide amnestry allowing those who are defined as as overstayers, or who are otherwise undocumented the right to work
- Allowing all those with temporary leave to remain the right to work and the opportunity to support themselves
- Automatically granting National Insurance Numbers to young migrants over 16 whose cases are currently being processed by The Home office

On *immigration processes*, we suggest:

- Offering young migrants better access to legal advice and providing greater public investment in welfare organizations dedicated to supporting them.
- Addressing the inadequacies and failures within the immigration bureaucracy particularly in relation to the loss of documents, inaccuracies and delays in progressing cases.
- A working group into streamlining the documents needed to support immigration claims for students and asylum seekers.
- Formal acknowledgement to solicitors and Applicants of documents submitted in support of immigration claims.
- Provision within the UK Border Agency of dedicated and responsive consultants and a more open tracking system to allow young migrants to be updated on the current state of their cases.

On *education*, we suggest:

- Asylum seekers should be charged home fees rather than international student fees.
- Greater flexibility in the amount of hours overseas students are allowed to conduct paid work.