

Michael Eve

PERSONAL DATA

Born Seascale (UK) 10.03.1952
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BIO AND EDUCATION

After my studies in Britain (University of Leicester, London School of Economics), I worked freelance in Italy and France for research institutes and local authorities, and then started my academic career. I have carried out research on some problems arising when we try to make international comparisons, on the theory and applications of social networks, on social inequalities and on the sociology of consumption. In recent years I have devoted much time to research into the integration of children of migrants in the school system and the labour market, stressing the consequences of migration itself. Comparison with the careers of children of internal migrants has made it possible to develop an approach which stresses the importance of “the migration process” rather than ethnicity.

UNIVERSITY CAREER

2005-	Associate Professor, Università del Piemonte Orientale
2002-2005	Adjunct Professor, Università del Piemonte Orientale
2001-2002	Grantholder, University of Eastern Piedmont
2000-2001	Grantholder, University of Turin

SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS

2004-	Member of IMISCOE Research Network
2002-	Member of FIERI (Italian and European Forum of Research on Immigration)
2012-	Member of editorial committee of CAMBIO

MAIN FIELDS OF INTEREST

1. Sociology of migration
2. Social stratification and social mobility
3. Social inequality
4. Social trajectories of children of migrants
5. Sociology of consumption

1. Internal and international mobility: some long-term consequences

Data from the Turin Longitudinal Study is used to show similarities between the position in the labour market of internal and international migrants in different historical periods (1971-2011) and similarities in the settlement pattern in the city. It is emphasized that internal migration, as well as international migration, had major effects on the local pattern of social stratification. It is hypothesized that migration itself (rather than ethnicity) may have had effects on the educational attainment of children of migrants – perhaps mediated by residence patterns.

2. Transitions from higher education to work in comparative perspective

There are now significant numbers of children of immigrants in all western European countries who have finished high school and at least started university. However, relatively little is known of the difficulties which students may face at university nor of their success in entering skilled jobs and coping with the relevant work ambiances. Evidence will be collected from different countries and the social mechanisms in play will be explored.

3. What is labour migration?

In northern Europe since the second world war mass labour migration has been almost exclusively that of foreign immigrants. This has led to a tendency to confound effects of labour migration with those of ethnicity and ethnic identification. The mass internal migration of the post-war decades in Italy provides useful data which suggests that many of the sociological patterns – including long-term consequences on the children of migrants (in international migration termed “second generation”) are similar in the two cases. The deep similarities between internal and international labour migration suggests a different view of social mechanisms underlying “ethnic inequalities”.

4. A “less ethnic” view of ethnic inequalities associated with migration

Although most scholars recognize that ethnicity is “socially constructed” as Brubaker, Wimmer and others have pointed out, this recognition rarely seems to have consequences in actual empirical research. In fact researchers continue to order their research in terms of ethnic “groups” and to assume that the social mechanisms in play are essentially ethnic. This approach is documented and an alternative is presented, based on seeing children of migrants not as members of an ethnic group but as children of *migrants* with a particular experience associated with migration itself.

5. Children of migrants in the crisis

Have children of migrants been affected differently by the current economic crisis than children of Italians in their transition to adult status? Evidence is examined from available data on university attendance and family formation, and qualitative interviews with children of migrants are analyzed to investigate the factors which seem to affect decision-making.

CURRENT FUNDED PROJECTS

PROGRAMME	FUNDED PROJECT
IMISCOE Research Network, Education Group	Transitions from higher education to work in comparative perspective
PRIN	Sustainable everyday practices in the context of crisis in Italy: toward the integration of work, consumption and participation

TOP FIVE PAPERS

1. « Is Friendship a Sociological Topic? », Archives européennes de sociologie, 3, 2002.
2. "Paradigmi nazionali: percezioni del "particolarismo in Italia e in Inghilterra", Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia, a.XXXIV, 3, 1993.
3. "Integrating via networks: foreigners and others", Ethnic and Racial Studies, 33, 7, July 2010.
4. "Modelli di consumo, modelli di famiglia. La costruzione della famiglia "casa-centrica" nei decenni del dopoguerra", Studi culturali, 3/2009.
5. "I figli degli immigrati come categoria sociologica", Quaderni di Sociologia, 63, LVII, 2013.