

# Diversity, Super-Diversity & Transnational Entrepreneurship

NVL network meeting Copenhagen

Eli Moen

Norwegian Business School

# Super-diversity

- Steven Vertovec:
- New configurations of ethnic, gendered, legal status, age-differentiated and labour market positions layered upon pre-existing contexts of diversity
- Literature on immigrant transnationalism:
- An alternative form of economic adaptation of foreign minorities in advanced societies based on the mobilization of their cross-country social networks

# Transnational entrepreneurship

- An emerging research field in the interface of social and regional sciences
- Transnational entrepreneurs are self-employed immigrants who live abroad but maintain strong linkages to community members in other countries to enhance their competitive advantage
- Enhance their ability to creatively and efficiently maximize their resource base

# Transnational entrepreneurship

- The growing impact of transnational entrepreneurship can be mainly attributed to the changing nature of international migration and diasporas, and to the complex nature of international business activities
- Understanding how transnational entrepreneurs translate, innovate, and modify structures remains a challenge for the field of entrepreneurship

# Super-diversity and TE

- Current research questions:
- Analytical boundaries of TE research
- In what ways might the varied institutional setting at either home or destination influence TE?
- How does the legal and regulatory regime impact transnational entrepreneurs?
- How do TE use social capital and knowledge for the purpose of setting and operating a business?

# Super-diversity and TE

- What are the issues in this context?
- To what extent is the public sensitised to this social phenomenon?
- Does it exist data on the extension of this phenomenon?
- How to link this issue to adult learning?

# Norway: The actual situation

- Highest immigration ratio in Europe
- 1999-2011: 525 000 immigrants (population ca. 5 million)
- 2011: 54 300 immigrants from outside the Nordic area
- Most from Polen and other Baltic countries
- Labour immigration most important (49% 2011)
- Increasing number of students (EU area, Asia, Russia)

# Norway

- Super-diversity and transnational entrepreneurship not visible in the public discourse
- Only marginal in national research
- Main focus: migration, integration, ethnic relations, social diversity, citizenship and public sphere, welfare issues



# Norway

## Research centres/communities

- University of Bergen: International Migration & Ethnic Relations Research Unit
- Peace Research Institute Oslo (Prio), Migration Team
- Institutt for samfunnsforskning, forskergruppe: Likestilling, inkludering, migrasjon (sekretariat for Nordisk nettverk for migrasjonsforskning 2011-14, Nordic Journal of Migration Research)

# Norway

## Research centres/communities

- Innovation
- Nordisk institutt for studier av forskning, innovasjon og utdanning, Oslo
- University of Oslo: Senter for entreprenørskap, enkeltstående forskere
- Norsk institutt for by og regional forskning
- Sintef, Teknologi og samfunn (Torvatn/Buvik 2011, Arbeidsvilkår og arbeidsmiljø blant polske arbeidere i Trondheimsregionen)

# Enkeltstående publiseringer

- A. Krogstad (2002), Etniske minoriteter og kulinarisk entreprenørskap, Internasjonal migrasjon og etniske relasjoner 1997-2001, Norges forskningsråd
- G. Orderud/K. Onsager (2005), Asians on the Norwegian labour market. Industrial concentration and self-employment careers, Abingdon: Routledge

# Enkeltstående arbeider

- M. M. Aaserud, 'Første jeg fikk var en oppvaskjobb i en restaurant'. Første generasjon tyrkere i norsk arbeidsliv 1960-1999, master i historie, UiO 1999.
- K. K. Wist, 'Pakistanere og indere i Norge – på vei oppover? Om pakistanere og indere i norsk arbeidsliv fra 1960-tallet – 2000, master i historie, UiO 2000