

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Monday, January 23rd, 2016

13.00-14.00

Room 24.400

“Return Migration and Diaspora Entrepreneurship: Transnational Migrants as Agents of Development?”

Zenia Hellgren – GRITIM-UPF Researcher

Abstract

There is a vast body of research on migrant entrepreneurship in European countries, but the extent to which these business activities become transnational, or their links to increasing return migration in the wake of the global financial crisis, is still a largely unexplored area. Based on empirical research performed in Spain, Chile and Morocco within the framework of the international research project DiasporaLink (funded by the EU Horizon 2020 program), this paper intends to represent pioneer work within this field of research. The author has followed the trajectories of returning migrant entrepreneurs, interviewed stakeholders and examined what policies and programs there are to support sustainable return migration and transnational entrepreneurship in the Spanish > Chilean and Spanish > Moroccan migration corridors. The main aim of this paper is to contribute to shed light on who become “transnational diaspora entrepreneurs,” and what are the implications of such entrepreneurship for socio-economic development in the countries of origin.