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THE LOCAL PRODUCTION OF DEPORTABILITY

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Field study in Gothenburg

- Informants – unmarried men, 20-50 years of age
- Asylum seekers and irregular migrants who were rejected asylum seekers
- Informants worked in the informal labor market
- Work was found in different sectors in all parts of Gothenburg

Methods:

- Interviews and participant observation

Resulted in a dissertation with the title:

Meanings of Social Networks and the Local Production of Deportability

The Example of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants in the Informal Labor Market in Gothenburg, Sweden



Deportability

- Inclusive interpretation of "deportability" that include asylum seekers not only irregular migrants
- "Spectacle of deportability" (see De Genova)



One example of informal labor market

- Examples of work was found in cleaning companies, construction companies, shops, trading companies, car mechanics and garages etc.
- Insecure work
- Risks of physical injuries
- Physical- and other kinds of violence in social relations with employers – threats.
- Unpaid salaries
- Working many extra hours for free
- Lower salaries and worse conditions for irregular migrants
- Deportability as market value (uncertainty, fear of deportation, fear of police, fear of employer was used a tool to keep low wages and bad conditions of work).



Deportability at work

“He told me that we had so much work, that I could not leave. He said, no, you must stay. But the other guy (the second employer) waited for me, what could I do, I must leave...He (the first employer) say that I am like a brother, he is doing many things to help me...but this is not right. This is a problem. If I go to work in the restaurant I think that I have no apartment and no work in the store. But working in the restaurant is not much money, only a couple of hours in the evenings.”

Derek



The self-employed employers

- Persons who never had succeeded in entering the formal labour market but had been "pushed" into self-employment.
- Heterogenic education- and employment backgrounds
- Self-employment as a strategy for economic and social mobility
- Self-employment as a strategy to escape control
- Strong ideologies about who to hire



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Current migration politics?



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Thank you!