

Abstract

Amidst the backdrop of transnationalism and cultural pluralism, the constructs of identity and belonging of immigrant youth and children of immigrants have evolved, reflecting a shift towards bifocality and hybridity. Based on twelve in-depth semi-structured interviews, the study explored the variations in identity negotiation of the second generation and the 1.5 generation of Vietnamese descent in Prague. The findings reveal that the interlocutors constructed their own idea of two poles of Czechness and Vietnamese-ness and positioned themselves within these polarities. Specifically, the second-generation participants were most inclined to identify as Czech, followed by the Czech-oriented 1.5-generation interviewees, while the Vietnamese-oriented 1.5-generation respondents identified as Vietnamese. The results show that the feeling of home of the migrant children and the children of migrants is determined by citizenship, age, upbringing environment, the role of Czech nannies, language, exposure to the ethnic community, understanding of Vietnamese heritage and participation in cultural organisations or pan-ethnic networks. Considering the variations between and within generations, the research also features the significance of the life course perspective in the study of identity development, emphasising the dynamic interplay of individual, interpersonal, and structural factors over time. It suggests that subsequent generations will have more variations of identity and ethnic boundaries will further erode. The findings of this study contribute to a better understanding of immigrant experiences and cultural dynamics, which can help develop programs aimed at fostering diasporic people's inclusivity and social cohesion within host societies.