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Transnational Retirement Migration Movements to Thailand

Retirement Facilities for German-speaking Retirees in Thailand

Research on new forms of transnational retirement movements

The emergence of nursing homes for foreigners in Thailand is a relatively new and hardly examined phenomenon of the 21st century (International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy 2012 (32): 708-719). Global interrelations provide the elder generations with increasing opportunities to live a potentially more convenient life in countries outside the Western hemisphere. So far, the development has occasionally been addressed by the public media in television shows or in magazines, however, properly conducted research has hardly been done on the subject. Up until now research topics have mainly focussed on global intertwined connections and the socioeconomic backgrounds facilitating the movement as well as personal motivations of the migrants and political and societal opportunities arising for the Kingdom of Thailand (Soziale Passagen 2015 (7):132-138).

Backgrounds of retirement migraton

Due to an ageing population, decreasing state pensions, problems inside Western health care systems and an increased mobility between countries, transnational retirement movements have become a way for foreigners to increase their living standards in old age. Care facilities such as homes for the elderly in Thailand provide a more affordable way of nursing for Western pensioners. Many Southeast Asian countries facilitate the movement through lifelong visa offers for foreign retirees. They regard them as financially resourceful and therefore as a welcome economic force (Soziale Passagen 2015 (7):132-138)



Visa document as shown on www.retireinasia.com

Emerging fields of interest

What I find particular interesting as a research topic in the context of nursing homes in Thailand are facilities for German-speaking patients suffering from dementia. What advantages and disadvantages emerge for those patients in comparison to Western nursing standards? What does the migration of those patients say about the German nursing system? In my research I will also have a closer look at the moral and ethical interplays that emerge out of this field: What role does the patient's illness play in moving him or her abroad? What challenges arise for their relatives back home? Finally, particular attention to the attraction of those patients by the facilities through online media will be paid.



Being part of a community

Advertisement for a „care resort“ for the elderly in Chiang Mai (www.careresortchiangmai.com)

Literature:

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