

- One sentence thesis statement;
- One paragraph summary;
- Personal interaction with specific themes in the readings;
- Two questions for further engaging this topic.

Rynkiewich Ch 11 Interaction Paper

Athaley Albania

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There are various reasons that people might choose or be forced to migrate, but those who move forward in this journey will be faced with challenges that will cause these individuals to engage with the formation of their own cultural identity, adaptability, and how they will interact in relationships both from the home country, and the country which they will be migrating to. For some, they were forced to migrate due to dangerous political situations, violence, or a lack of resources available to meet their basic needs. During the era of conquest and colonialism, there were those who were choosing to leave their home countries to colonize others, but there were also eleven million Africans who were forced to leave their homes to become part of the slave trade. Modern day migration consists of both men and women migrating, single, married, with or without children, and each of these dynamics impact the individuals on different levels. Leaving the familiar and entering the unfamiliar impacts their cultural formation, leading to many experiencing an identity of “hybrid culture.” The evolution of cultural formation is present in multigenerational families of migrants, associated with the diaspora, where the first generation is more strongly rooted in the practices of the home country, but as more generations are born in the new country, their cultural practices become more blended with the hosting country until the later generations are almost completely assimilated with the home country. This can create tension within a family between the generations and cause misunderstandings due to a lack of awareness of cultural assumptions one generation

might have. For refugees who are displaced from their homes due to either violence or natural disasters, some have not been able to find a new home for three decades and have resided in facilities meant to house refugees for a short-term period until they could successfully transfer to another country. The intake of these refugee camps is only growing, while those who are already living in them have not yet been successful in finding a new place to call home. The diasporic community is described as “neither at home nor fully abroad.”

This chapter helped me reflect on my experience as a second generation Filipino-Canadian, and the formation of my identity. I felt connected with my ethnic heritage being in a church community which was predominantly Filipino immigrants, yet I felt that I learned early in life how to “flip the switch” between Filipino and Canadian when I went to school with mainly white students who had little to no exposure to people of color. This mostly caused issues within the home as I reflect on chores that I was asked to do that were lost in translation because of the cultural gap between myself and my parents. A specific example that comes to mind is when my mom asked me to “clean the toilet” so I cleaned only the toilet bowl using the toilet brush and cleaner. Later when she checked the bathroom, she told me it wasn’t cleaned after I said I cleaned it and she explained to me that “cleaning the toilet” refers to the whole room and not only the toilet bowl. Many small miscommunications like this happened over the course of my life and I didn’t realize how it was associated with me being raised in a culture different from my parents. If I were to have a family, I would wonder what types of miscommunications would occur due to cultural differences if I move to another country. I also would further engage this topic by considering if there is truly a benefit to staying put rather than choosing to move.