Immigrant Care Networks in Rural England

Joy Spiliopoulos and Sondra Cuban
ESRC study

• Place-rural area with high deprivation rates and few social services, low migrant settlement history

• People-migrants in the private care industry (nursing homes): various nationalities (10 men and women), former professions diverse-accountants, nurses, professors...highly skilled

• Work Lives-work many hours; most nurses, but also domestics in hierarchy in company; changing rotas

• Community Lives-parties; streets; church
Workplace networks

• Care diaspora: mixed ethnic groups coming together through segregated work; marginalisation as ethnic groups; work with the elderly; low wages and conditions, similar problems they face
• Get all their support from work-hours, lack of social services, have collegial kinship; elderly surrogates bind them to workplace
• Networks are as good as the support that they provide-emotional, material, and informational supports. Comprehensive supports are provided through a dense and small network of givers and receivers.
• Networks are for survival not necessarily for advancement in their careers-Sassen refers to these as “survival circuits” in urban areas but they also occur in rural areas, but in different formations
• Networks facilitate incorporation in rural areas but in limited ways and over long periods of time
Barbara-workplace networks as limiting

Barbara

Sister in UK

Filipino community

Sister in USA

Church

Managers

Student nurses

Friends in Ph

Family in Ph

Educational

Emotional

Informational

Emotional Material

Emotional

Emotional 

Emotional Material

Clients’ relatives
Rachel’s workplace networks as limiting

- Husband
- Children
- Church
- Filipino community
- Family in Ph
- Neighbour, Natalie
- Resident, Janine
- Residents
- Male colleague and his family
- Educational
- Emotional
- Material
- Informational
- Emotional
- Emotional
- Emotional

Rachael
Bonds in small rural communities

• Bridging and bonding no linking- lack of social capital
• Lack of cultural signifiers in community with demand for travel and further bonds
• Existence of discrimination means advancement is more difficult
• Families are the starting point for the networks (if they have them) Rachel vs. Barbara
• Something about the church: support but not same sense of spirituality/religiousity and something about the shops: ethnic bonding and information
Children’s parties as an anchor