



**European Politics and Society:
Václav Havel Joint Master Programme**

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Institute of International Studies
Department of European Studies

Master's Thesis

2023

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**European Politics and Society:
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**DETERMINANT OF MIGRATION AMONG
AFRICANS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Master's Thesis

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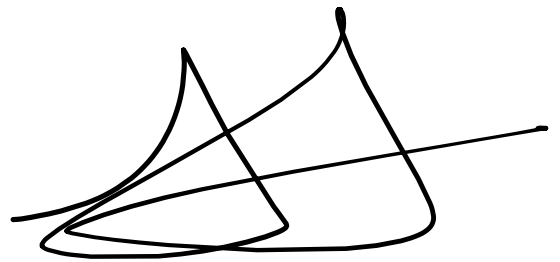
Year of the Defence: 2023

Declaration

1. I hereby declare that I have compiled this thesis using the listed literature and resources only.
2. I hereby declare that my thesis has not been used to gain any other academic title.
3. I fully agree to my work being used for study and scientific purposes.

Prague, July 30th, 2023.

Yinka Azeez Adenuga

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bibliographic Reference

Adenuga (2023). Determinant of Migration Among Africans in the Czech Republic. Master's Thesis (Mgr.). Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of International Studies. Department of European Studies, Prague. Supervisor. PhDr. Barbora Menclová, Ph.D.

Length of the thesis: 19349 words

Abstract

This study deals with African migrants in the Czech Republic. Given the absence of general knowledge about African migrants in the Czech Republic, it contributes to the knowledge production of African migrants by examining the general features of their composition and structures in the Czech Republic. More primarily, this study deals with the motivation for migration among Africans who chose the Czech Republic as their destination. Understanding the determinants of African migration in the Czech Republic remains poor and insufficient, as there is little empirical study that has specifically examined the determinants of migration among Africans in the Czech Republic. As a result, this study is a novel study that aims to investigate the factors that influence African migration to the Czech Republic. Thus, it represents novel research toward examining the factors determining African migration to the Czech Republic. The analysis of this research is grounded in qualitative methods derived from in-depth interviews with African migrants in the Czech Republic. The finding of the research suggests that African migrants career goals, linked life, class, and desire for safety, play a huge role in their migration decision to the Czech Republic. While gender, language, ethnicity, and migration distance play little or no role in their migration decision.

Keywords: African Migrants, Africa, Migration, Determinants of Migration, Czech Republic

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Almighty Allah for making this work a complete success.

I would also like to thank my supervisor, PhDr. Barbora Menclová, Ph.D., for her guidance, suggestions, and understanding throughout the course of this thesis. Particularly for her patience with me at the start and end of this thesis.

Many thanks to Ayobami Eremiye, Oluwaseun Jegede, Tahir Ijaiya, and Odunlola Oladeji for their suggestions, encouragement, editing, and love during the research process. More gratitude is extended to Ayobami for his inspiration and moral support throughout the process of this work.

I am deeply grateful to my parents and my amazing siblings - Babatunde, Pelumi, and Timilehin Adenuga - for their constant support and prayers. I hope that the love we share for one another will never fade away.

Finally, I would like to thank all the participants who volunteered to participate in this research. Their contribution is highly valued.

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List of Abbreviations

AEF	Africa Europe Foundation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CR	Czech Republic
CSU	Czech Statistical Office
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KSH	Hungarian Central Statistical Office
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIF	Mo Ibrahim Foundation
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MOI	Ministry of Interior
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

CHAPTER ONE

1.1

INTRODUCTION

Human migration has been in existence since the dawn of civilization and is as old as humankind itself (Anitha & Pearson, 2013). The earliest human migrations were traced back to around 70,000 years ago, when Homo sapiens left Africa and began to spread across the globe (Lily, 2017). The world is now more interconnected than ever before, and human migration is increasingly becoming an important phenomenon. In recent years, the number of individuals residing in countries other than their country of birth has increased exponentially (United Nations, 2017). In 1990, it was estimated that approximately 153 million migrants resided in a foreign country; this number increased to 249 million in 2015 and exceeded 281 million in 2020 (International Organization for Migration, 2022). It is also the case of the migrants from African countries. The total number of Africans outside Africa increased from 17 million in 2015 to 19.5 million in 2020 (Africa Union 2017; International Organization for Migration 2023).

The Czech Republic belongs to the popular destination for foreign migrants, including Africans (Czech Republic Ministry of Interior, 2023). As a matter of fact, the number of Africans who entered the Czech Republic from 2000 to 2021 has risen significantly. It was estimated that about 8,384 African migrants entered the Czech Republic in 2021, a significant increase from 2020, when the Czech Republic received around 2,108 migrants (Czech Statistical Office, 2022). The highest number of immigrants in the Czech Republic from Sub-Saharan African states are from Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa. These countries are also considered a priority in the Czech foreign policy towards sub-Saharan Africa (Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019).

Over the years, various scholars have provided different explanations why people migrate across the world, and African migrants are not exempted from these explanations. Tataru (2019) opined that safety and security concerns owing to violence, conflicts, and political persecution constitute a great importance in people's migration decisions. However, Massey (1998) argues that people migrate due to the economic opportunities in terms of employment and wages in their origin and destination countries. Interestingly, the International Organization for Migration (2023) stated

another plausible explanation for migration, noting that natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, and climate change force people to migrate. On the other hand, Zelinsky, 1971 (cited in Czaika & Reinprecht 2022) opined that demographic and social factors both play a great role in people's migration decisions. These factors, which can be categorized into political, economic, environmental, and demographic contexts, are the major driving force of African migrants out of Africa (Venturini & Goldstein, 2021). Over time, there has been a source of contention on individual's migration decisions (Agu, Orji, and Onodugo, 2017). There is no general agreement among researchers on the causes of migration (Kassegn & Endris 2020; Lee, 1966 cited in Castelli 2018). As a result, a systematic understanding of the diversity of the underlying reasons still does not exist (Kuhnt, 2019).

Even though there is no general agreement on the determinants of migration, understanding the various elements that influence migration as well as the dynamic nature of migrants' decision-making is mostly required for rights-based, efficient, and successful migration regulation (Triandafyllidou & Yeoh, 2023). Understanding migration determinants facilitates human migrations that improve individual and societal outcomes, reduce migrations that diminish well-being, and provide sufficient support and protection (Kuhnt, 2019).

This thesis deals with African migrants in the Czech Republic. Given the absence of general knowledge about African migrant in the CR, it contributes to the knowledge production of African migrants by examining the general features about their composition and structures in the CR. More importantly, this thesis deals with the motivation for migration among Africans who chose the Czech Republic as their destination. The understanding of the determinants of African migrants in the Czech Republic remains poor and insufficient. There is little empirical study that has specifically examined the determinants of migration among Africans in the Czech Republic. This study seeks to address this knowledge gap by examining the motives influencing African migration to the Czech Republic. As a result, the main objective of this thesis is to identify the motives of African migrants when choosing to migrate to the Czech Republic. It analyzes the social, economic, and political backgrounds of factors that influence African community migration into the Czech Republic. Also, it covers the motivations of people from the three selected Sub-Saharan African states who decided to live in the Czech Republic. This thesis aims to contribute to current understanding on migration motivation as one of the first academic studies to address this major,

understudied topic. The information gathered will help to guide immigration, asylum, and refugee policy, as well as aid in the understanding and integration of African immigrants into the Czech Republic, thus strengthening African and Czech Republic cooperation. This thesis will answer the main research question of what motivates African Migrants to migrate to the Czech Republic? To answer this adequately and comprehensively, two sub-questions will be deployed:

1. What social factors influence African migrants' migration motives?
2. To what extent do life-course events influence African migrants' motives?

This research thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter comprises an introduction that encompasses various aspects such as the research objectives, questions, structure, methodology, theoretical framework, literature review, terminology, and limitations of the research. The second chapter explores the overview of African migration in Africa, Europe, and the Czech Republic. It also presents a general overview of migration and migration policy in the Czech Republic. The third chapter investigates and describes in detail the factors influencing African migration to the Czech Republic. The results of the interview are analyzed in this section. And the final chapter is the conclusion, which summarizes the research's data and significant findings.

1.2 Literature Review

Several academics have addressed the issue of African migration to Europe. The work of Flahaux & de Haas (2016); Kohnert (2007); Giménez-Gómez, Walle, and Zergawu (2017); Idemudia, & Boehnke (2020); Laine (2020); Fargues (2016); Gonzalez-Garcia and Mlachila (2017); Damoc (2016); Ionescu & Lu-chian (2016); Moraes da Costa & Thomas Reusch (2016), and Maru (2021) have been particularly phenomenon in the field of African migration to Europe. Their work is devoted towards understanding the causes, effects, and solutions of African migration to Europe, as well as African-European cooperation on migration-related issues.

Giménez-Gómez, Walle, and Zergawu (2017), Idemudia, & Boehnke (2020) and Kohnert (2007) all agree that political instability, wars, poverty, and violence on the African continent are the root reasons of migration. However, Giménez-Gómez, Walle, and Zergawu (2017) deviated from this position, arguing that the causes of African migration to Europe should be analyzed from the human security perspectives. As a result, they emphasized the role of migrant networks, shared

languages, physical distance, and residing in a landlocked country as the human face factors underlying migration from Africa to Europe. Idemudia & Boehnke (2020) noted that globalization is the primary driver of migration from Africa to Europe. They argue that the emergence of communication and transportation technologies because of globalization have increased international social networks and brought the various regions of the globe closer together. Consequently, they played a more significant role in the migration of Africans to Europe. Kohnert, however, prefers to place the blame on the EU for the reasons why Africans migrate to Europe. He believed that the EU's exploitation-based selfish foreign trade strategy and its participation in installing corrupt and autocratic regimes led to political unrest, wars, poverty, and conflict in Africa. Because of this, many Africans move to Europe in search of safety.

Flahaux and de Haas (2016) argue that majority of African migration occurs within the African continent. They believe that most African leaving emigrating are moving to other African countries rather than Europe. Their analysis revealed that the number of migrants within the African continents is more than those moving outside the continents to Europe. However, Fargues (2016) and Gonzalez-Garcia and Mlachila (2017) contend that majority of African migration have occurred outside of the continent. According to them, many Africans prefer to migrate to other continents rather than to various countries within Africa due to the prospect of obtaining better opportunities. Their findings revealed that the primary objective of African migrant is to secure greater opportunities in Europe. Most of them preferred moving to western European countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and Netherlands.

The work of Kohnert (2007), Idemudia and Boehnke (2020), Damoc (2016), Ionescu & Lu-chian (2016), and Fargues (2016) demonstrates that migration from Africa to Europe has significant consequences for both African and European countries. Focusing on Africa, Idemudia and Boehnke (2020) in their work analyzed the advantages of migration to African countries. They emphasized the significance of remittances from host countries (European countries). According to them, money (remittances) sent to Africa by African migrants in Europe contribute to the care of migrants' families and the reduction of poverty in migrants' home country. They added that migration from Africa to Europe enabled migrants to transfer the skills and knowledge they acquired in their host country back to their country of origin, thereby contributing to the development of their home country. However, Kohnert (2007) was eager to point out the negative

effects of migration from Africa to Europe. According to him, African migration to Europe has culminated in brain drain, with highly skilled and professional migrants migrating to Europe. This has a greater impact on the labor market, as most newly trained professionals, such as medical doctors, leave for Europe without utilizing their skills in Africa. On the other hand, Damoc (2016), Ionescu and Lu-chian (2016), and Fargues (2016) perceive migration as the ideal remedy for the demographic crisis in European countries. They observed the migration of Africans to Europe improves the quality and quantity of labor force in numerous European nations, thereby reducing their public debt. They noted that, despite the positive effect, the influx of Africans could generate an economic burden by increasing competition for employment and social services in some European countries.

The work of Kohnert (2007), Laine (2020), Manu (2021), and Marcedo da costa and Thomas Reuse (2016) attempts to explain the contradictory perceptions of Africa migration held by the EU and African governments. According to Manu (2021), Africa migration is viewed as a positive phenomenon capable of generating socioeconomic progress in the majority of African countries. As a result, most African governments regarded migration as the least important of their problems and assigned a low level of urgency and importance to migration on their national policy agenda. Kohnert (2007) and Laine (2020), on the other hand, agree that the dominant perception of African immigration by the EU and its member states is predicated on the notion that African migration poses a threat to the EU and its member states. Consequently, African migration has risen to the top of the EU's agenda. Both authors agree that the EU and its member states perceive African migration to Europe as a problem that must be addressed. And their collaborative attempt to solve it has been built on the prevention, securitization, and foreclosure of their exterior borders. But Laine (2020) noted that this approach has created an additional problem in the form of an unequal partnership between the two continents, with the EU dictating and exerting pressure on Africa and its governments to implement their policies necessary to resolving the problem. According to her, migration should not be a factor in determining the relationship between the EU and Africa; rather, the EU and Africa should strive for multisectoral collaboration on an equal footing in order to achieve mutual benefit (Laine, 2020). While Marcedo da costa and Thomas Reuse (2016) recommended that, as globalization now pervades all societies, it is critical for the EU to stop erecting obstacles and preventing people's free mobility, they believe that stringent rules are undesirable. While Marcedo da costa and Thomas Reuse (2016) recommended that, as

globalization now pervades all societies, it is critical for the EU to stop erecting obstacles and preventing people's free mobility, they believe that stringent rules are undesirable.

However, it is important to note that the dominant narratives of African migration in Europe in the aforementioned literatures have always centered on Western Europe. Many of these scholars discussed the historical migration of Africans to Europe, omitting their connections with Eastern and Central European countries (Tarrósy, 2014). In many Central European countries, research on Africans is ongoing (Rudwick & Schmiel 2023). As a result, it has become challenging to locate substantial literature on migration from Africa to countries in Central Europe (Cibian, 2017). This is a significant gap in literature. By filling this gap, this research thesis seeks to contribute to the production of knowledge about African migration to central Europe, with an emphasis on African migration to the Czech Republic.

Presently, there is dearth of literatures on African migrants in the Czech Republic. Only few studies have examined the historical trajectories of African migrants in the Czech Republic (Ifeadikachukwu, 2023; Miškařík, 2019; Jakubcová 2018; Zídek & Sieber 2007; Machalík 2007; Gedlu 2006). While some studies addressed the integration of African migrants in the Czech Republic (Jiroušková, 2002, Gerstnerová, 2011, Ambenji, 2022), other studies focused on the experiences of Namibians living in Czechoslovakia (Mildnerová 2020 a, b, 2021). More recently, a study analyzed the influence of race and language towards identities of African migrants in the Czech Republic (Rudwick & Schmiel 2023).

The work of Gerstnerová (2011) focused on the integration of sub-Saharan Africans in the Czech Republic. He argued that the success of an integration policy depends on the collaborative action of both the immigrants (sub-Saharan Africans) and the host society (Czech society). He concluded that integration policy should be predicated on inclusiveness and diversity. Centered on racism, the findings of Rudwick and Schmiel (2023) suggest that less attention have been paid to individuals of African heritage in the Czech Politics. As a result, the Czech society hasn't had to deal with widespread racism against Africans as much as it needs to. Most Czech people are largely oblivious of the concept of Black Lives Matters.

However, the few studies on African migration to the Czech Republic do not provide a comprehensive understanding of Africans in the Czech Republic. More importantly, they fail to ask the crucial question of what pushes African migrants to the Czech Republic in the first instance.

Before the issues of historical trajectories, integration, ethnicity, and language emerged, there were various factors that influenced the migration of Africans to the Czech Republic. Previous studies have solely concentrated on the post-arrival experiences of African migrants in the Czech Republic, neglecting to examine their pre-arrival circumstances. Addressing African migrants in the Czech Republic requires a comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence their decision to migrate here.

Against this backdrop, it is crystal clear that studies of the determinants of African migrants to the Czech Republic remain inadequate and insufficient. As a result, this research will be devoted towards examining the determinants of African migration to the Czech Republic.

1.3 Theoretical Framework

Scholars have often provided several reasons why people migrate. Giménez-Gómez et al., (2017) argued that political persecution, poor governance, ethnic cleansing, structural violence, and conflicts in the source countries are the main factors that determine migration decisions among individuals. Similarly, Suarez (2008) noted that in a dictatorial regime where political instability and staunch opposition of interests are the order of the day, people are more likely to move away from that country to another country where they can experience peace and stability. On the other hand, Kunhnt (2019) argues that people migrate due to the differences in economic opportunities in terms of employment and wages in their origin and destination countries. Migrants in their country of origin migrate to countries where productivity and wages are far higher than where they come from (Ozden & Schiff, 2006). The income gaps enable potential migrants to compare expected wages, net of potential unemployment risk and moving costs (Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, 1994). Migrants in their country of origin migrate to countries where productivity and wages are far higher than where they come from (Ozden & Schiff 2006). However, Obokata et al. (2014) argued that even though individuals might migrate due to economic motivations, the underlying reasons were of an environmental nature. This is because migration causes displacement, or the forced movement of people (FMO 2012). While Deward et al. (2012) and Kim and Cohen (2010) suggested that more people migrate from larger origin countries to larger destination countries due to demographic factors.

However, noticeably, the views of scholars do not offer a more explanatory power towards understanding determinants of migration. They only describe and do not provide a deeper understanding of migration determinant. As a result, I will be employing theories towards explaining and understanding determinant of migration. Theories provide structural framework for organizing and understanding various determinants of migration. They give a theoretical framework for explaining and understanding human movement in a broader context (Wimalaratana 2017).

There are several theories that explain why people migrate. The neoclassical economic theory explains that people migrate due to their rational economic considerations of relative benefits and costs, primarily higher wages in the destination country (Todaro, 1969). As a result, people move due to the difference in low wages and income between their origin and destination countries. While Everett Lee, in his study 'A Theory of Migration', he develops the push-pull migration theory, where he argues that people move based on their rational and progressive decisions, which are often reliant on the interplay between cost and benefits that confronts them at their place of origin and destination, resulting in a push-pull effect (Niraula & Triandafyllidou, 2022). It is important to note that existing theories of causes of migration, neoclassical and push and pull theories, are not antithetical in that one theory does not invalidate another but brings to light a different aspect of the migration process (Massey et al. 1993; Portes, 1999; Battistella, 2014). Theories of the causes of migration are mostly complementary; Haas (2010) argues that even though each of these theories has certain limitations, they still offer something different for the understanding of migration.

Therefore, this research will adopt a mixture of two theories that offer something different and dynamic to the study of migration causes and that will also contribute to the knowledge of migration. More so, to offer a more theoretical and empirical approach to the understanding of the causes of migration, this study will adopt both life course theory and the intersectionality theoretical approach. These two theories are a combination of different authors and scholars who worked on each theory. The life course theory focuses on the causal relationships between determinants and outputs, highlighting the significance of social pathways in historical time and place (Elder et al., 2003; Erlinghagen, 2021). While intersectionality theory focuses on the interrelationship between gender, race, ethnicity, and class and how it influences migrants'

migration decisions (Niraula & Triandafyllidou 2022). These two theories offer interpersonal and empirical perspectives on migration decisions, and combining two of them will enable us to know the background context, role of intermediaries, and social and personal motivations that influenced people's migration decisions.

1.3.1 Life Course Theory

Life course theory is a multidisciplinary approach that emphasizes the importance of understanding the interplay between individual experiences and social context throughout the lifespan. It proposes that human development is shaped by a complex interplay of individual characteristics, family background, historical time and place, and social institutions.

The concept of life course itself is basically a sequence of socially defined events and roles that individuals enact over time. As a result, the life course theory draws attention to the powerful connection between individual lives and the historical and social context in which these lives unfold (Giele & Elder 1998). It is an approach that examines an individual's activity and clearly deals with its dynamic nature on a microlevel (Kulu & Milewski 2007). It is multidisciplinary in the sense that it borrows ideas and knowledge from various disciplines to study individual lives, their structural contexts, and their social change (Mitchell, B.A. 2003). As a result, it focuses on the life events and transitions of individuals and the ways in which these events define their lives and trajectories or careers, thus giving them a sense of meaning (Elder 1985b: Elder 1994: Marshall & Mueller 2003). The theory focuses on the importance of time, context, process, and meaning in human development and family life (Bengtson & Allen 1993). However, its objectives go beyond individuals, as its overall goal is to be able to explain and understand social change and social phenomena (Mayer & Tuma 1990).

The development of life course theory can be traced to the work of Thomas and Znaniecki in the early twentieth century. In their work, 'The Polish Peasant in Europe and America', they examined the migration of Polish migrants migrating to the United States using the life course approach. By doing so, they focus on the interaction between individual migrants and their host society, with the goal of explaining social change and changes in family relations (Wingens et al. 2011). During this period, they were motivated mainly by the rapid increase in social change that drew attention

to not only the historical influence but also the complexity of processes involving family change and continuity (Mitchell, 2003). Their work ultimately laid the foundation for the work of other scholars working on the life-course approach. Elder carried out research in the early 1960s, where he discovered that the Great Depression of 1930 had a strong economic impact on individuals and family pathways (Elder 1974). Other scholars from interdisciplinary disciplines investigated the joint significance of age, period, and cohort in explaining the relationship between individuals and social change (Clausen 1991; Riley 1987; Hagestad & Neugarten). Neugarten examined individuals' deviations from shared age expectations about the timing of some major transitional events (Mitchell, 2003). Due to advances in statistical techniques and the emergence of new methods to analyze longitudinal data (Mitchell, 2003), life course theory became an emerging paradigm towards the end of the twentieth century (Rodgers & White 1993).

Toward explaining the life course theory better, Gele and Elder (1998) identify human agency, linked life, historical, and geographical context, and the timing of life events as important factors that determine the shape of an individual's life course (Giele & Elder 1998). While Michael and Elder added developmental risk and protection and diversity in life course trajectory as other important factors that also influence individual life courses (Hutchison 2004), The first factor recognizes that in a fast-changing society, under different constraints, people born in different years face different historical worlds. The second factor, which is human agency, emphasizes the use of personal power to achieve one's goals (Elder 1998; Heren, 2000). The third factor, which is the linked life, emphasizes the interdependence of human lives and the ways in which relationships influence individuals' behaviour. The timing of events talks about the age at which certain life events and transitions happen (Hutchison 2004). While the diversity in life course trajectories recognizes the variability within cohort groups (Elder 1998), And the last talks about the link between life events and the transitions of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood (Shanahan, 2000). (Hutchison, 2004) offers that using life course theory enables us to pay more attention to the effect of historical and social change on human behaviour. It attends to the biological, psychological, and social processes in the timing of individual lives. However, heterogeneity in complex societies makes it difficult to search for patterns when using the life course approach (Hutchison, 2004).

Hagestad and Dannefer (2001) have criticized the life-course theory for its ‘microfication’ and recommend that it broaden its view to include the asymmetry of power relations both within and beyond national borders. Clearly, in studying international migration, it is important not to restrict oneself to micro approaches but to acknowledge factors on the macro level of sending and receiving countries (Bailey & Mulde).

1.3.2 Intersectionality Theory

Intersectionality as a concept stem from feminism, where women argue that their engagement with gender cannot be removed from gender’s intersection with race, ethnicity, sexuality, and beyond, and as a result, they believe that the ties that bind women to each other are stronger than the lines dividing them (Thimm & Chaudhuri, 2021). It is a systematic study of the ways in which differences such as race, gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and other sociopolitical and cultural categories interrelate (Fotopoulou, 2012). According to Brah and Phoenix (2004), the interconnection, interdependence, and interlocking of these categories of disadvantage makes them the core objectives of intersectionality. This aims to analyze how various forms of disadvantage intersect, explaining the specific experiences of certain groups of women based on gender, race, and class (Bastia 2014). More specifically, intersectionality theory focuses on the multiple sources of women's oppression and the experiences of those who have been excluded from the feminist analysis (Anthias & Yuval-Davis 1983; Nash 2008). According to Ferree (2018), intersectionality challenges inequality and opens a collective space for both recognizing common threads across complex experiences of injustice and responding to them politically. Intersectionality tends to enable the analysis of multiple experiences, distinguish multiple and fluid identities that are time- and context-dependent, and show how such identities intersect to produce inequalities, disadvantages, and privileges for different individuals (Taha, 2019).

The emergence of intersectionality emerges from Kimberle Crenshaw's opinion in 1989 that "All the women are whites, All the blacks are men, but some of us are Brave: Black women’s studies" (Hull et al. 1982). By trying to challenge homogeneity and essentialize women’s experiences and identities Taha (2019) and Crenshaw developed the US Black Feminist movements, whose goal was to recognize how race-based inequality became a fundamental structure through which gender-based inequalities were shaped (Tanja et al., 2022). She rejected the fact that gender, class,

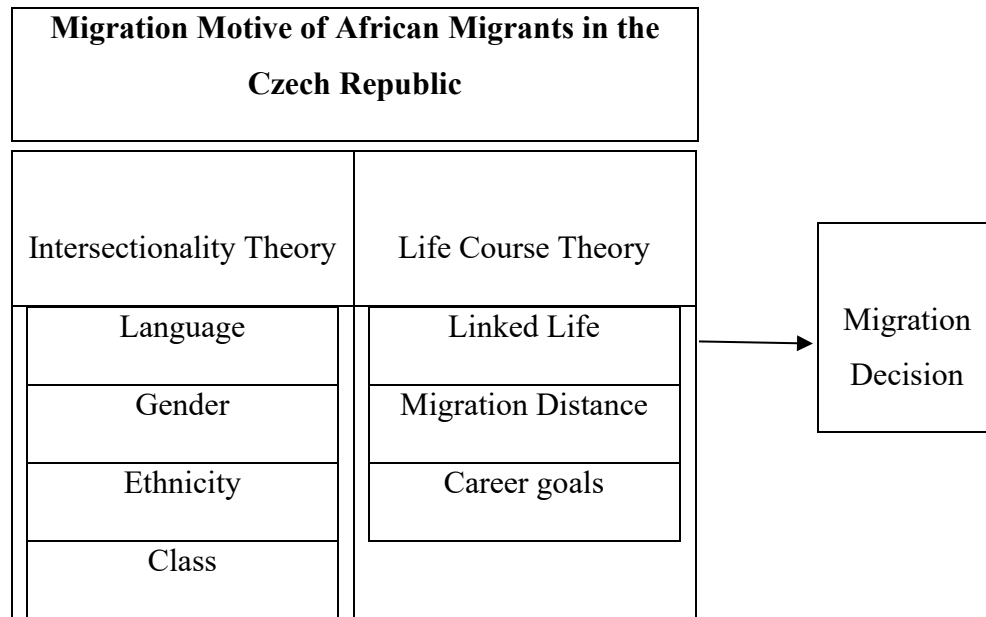
and race are separate categories of oppression but believed that other dimensions of women's identities, such as race and class, play an important role in the violence and oppression women experience (Tanja et al., 2022). However, not only Crenshaw's work played an important role in the emergence of intersectionality as a field of study; the works of other US Black feminist scholars such as Anthias, 1998; Anthias & Yuval-Davis, 1983; Collins, 2000; and Yuval-Davis, 1997, also played an important role in the development of intersectionality, where they emphasized the marginalization of women of colour among white western feminism (Fotopoulos, 2012). Since then, intersectionality has been adopted in various fields, including the field of migration. It was used to highlight the interplay of categories of difference and identity in Bulgarian migration to Austria (Ludvig 2006). Bastia (2011) employed intersectionality to address the choices women migrants make when they return to their country of origin following time spent abroad (Bastia 2011, 2012). Bailey and Mulde (2017) regard migrants as social, cultural, and political agents marked by ethnicity, class, and gender. The theory has also been used to address issues of sexuality in migration studies (Kosnik, 2011).

One of the foremost contributions of intersectionality theory lies not only in drawing attention to multiple forms of oppression but also in challenging the ideas of homogenous and essential social identities, categories, or labels (Anthias 2012, cited in Taha 2019). Interestingly, Gutierrez et al. (2022) argue that intersectionality serves as a solution to various social problems, they recognize that the intersection of race, social class, gender, sexuality, and age needs to be considered when solving various social ills. However, as good as the theory is, it has its own limitations. Squares (2008) argue that when it comes to inequality and oppression, using intersectionality only focuses on the characteristics of the subject under study instead of the structural factors that create these inequalities and oppressions. (Squares 2008, cited in Bastia 2014). While it also leads to a multiplicity of different forms of 'oppression' or 'disadvantage, which makes the whole concept vague (Bastia 2014).

1.3.3 Conceptual Model

Based on the two theories of migration determinants adopted for this research, I was able to formulate a conceptual model for understanding migration determinants. This model comprises concepts that will be employed towards explaining and understanding the migration motives of African migrants in the Czech Republic.

Figure 1: Conceptual Model



Source: Author's Conceptualization

1.4 Methodology

This research employs a qualitative research method, utilizing both primary data sources and secondary literature. To achieve the research objectives and address the research questions, a carefully crafted semi-structured interview guide was developed. All face-to-face interviews were conducted in English to ensure effective communication, as both the researcher and participants are fluent in English. English is the commonly used language among the selected participants, namely Nigerians, Ghanaians, and South Africans, thereby eliminating any potential language barriers. This research is ground-breaking as it explores the motivations of African migrants in the Czech Republic, a topic that has not been extensively studied before. However, a challenge

encountered was the lack of sufficient secondary sources on African migrants in the country, as this area of study is still emerging. To overcome this limitation, the researcher extensively utilized semi-structured interviews, which allowed for accurate and meaningful data collection from participants from three biggest African community in the Czech Republic.

The current study is a case study of African migrants presently staying in the Czech Republic who are qualified for either permanent residency, long-term residency, or immigrants who have already obtained Czech citizenship. 15 participants from three sub-Saharan African countries- Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa - were chosen for this research. In choosing the participants sample, a purposive and snowball sampling methods was employed. Out of the five participants from South Africa, four are white, and one is of mixed race with one Czech parent.

Participants fall into the age groups of 18–30, 31–45, and 46 and above. Out of which 47% fall in the age range of 31–45, 40% fall between the age range of 18–30, and 13% fall in the age range of 46–and above. 53% of them were Male, and 47% were Female. None of the respondents identified as non-binary, transgender, or even gender non-conforming individuals. There is a slight gender imbalance in the selection of participants. When it comes to marital status, 60% are single, while only 40% are married. But the percentage of participants (60%) who live with family members in the Czech Republic is higher than the percentage of participants with no family members (40%). And most of the participants with no family members are single and not married. Even though the number of participants who are single is higher than the number of participants who are married, the number of people with family around is still higher than the number of people with no family. This is because, out of those participants who are single, single moms with aunts and families are included. Most of the participants with family members live with their wife, husband, aunt, children, or grandparents.

The highest length of stay among the participants in the Czech Republic is 25 years, and only one participant from the sample has lived that long in the country. And the lowest length of stay in the Czech Republic is 2 years for four participants. While the average length of time for the participants in the Czech Republic is 7 years. When we talk about the migration history, only 33% had lived in another country before coming to the Czech Republic. Some of these participants have lived in Malta, Norway, Switzerland, Slovakia, England, Italy, Singapore, Italy, Taiwan, and the United States of America, and the number of years they lived in these countries fell between 2 and

10 years—participant 15 from South Africa lived in the US for 10 years before coming to the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, 67% of the participants had never been to any other country before coming to the Czech Republic. They came directly from their home country to the Czech Republic. Lastly, 26.67% of the participants interviewed are students, 6.67% are not working, and 66.67% are employed in the Czech labour market. The number of participants working is greater than the number of people studying. Even though few participants refused to disclose the type of job they do, this research found that most participants work in sales, IT, accountancy, teaching, engineering, and beauty consulting. While most participants studying study at the Czech University of Life Science, majoring in Psychology, International Development, and Agriculture.

After the completion of all interviews with the participants, the recorded data was then transcribed verbatim. Once the data was fully transcribed, it was then coded. The coding was mainly deductive but had some inductive aspects. The primary codes and variables were based on the main concepts of this research, as illustrated in the theoretical framework and conceptual model. A certain aspect of inductive coding, however, was used when migration motives were identified that did not correlate with prior deducted codes. Then, the data was analyzed, categorized, and organized into themes and sub-themes. The first theme, which was social factors, included sub-themes such as gender, language, class, and ethnicity. The second theme, Life- course events, is divided into sub-themes such as career goals, family dynamics, and relationships. Then, the transcripts and codes were reviewed again to ensure verification and due diligence. The research will adopt a conceptual framework based on intersectionality theory and life course theory. The framework would serve as a guide in the in the analysis of the migratory determinants of African migrants.

1.5 Terminology

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2023), there is no universally accepted definition of the term migration, and even the term is not defined by international law. The implication of this is that various scholars give varying interpretation and understanding of the term migration. Nevertheless, for this study, the definition of ‘migration’ by the International Organization for Migration is adopted, which defined migration as “the *movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a*

population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whether its length, composition, and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification” (International Organization for Migration 2011).

From this definition, one can observe that the movement of persons can be either across international borders or within a national border. And this brings us to the two forms of migration which are Internal migration and international migration. Internal Migration is the movement of people from one area of a country to another with the intent or effect of establishing a new residence temporarily or permanently (IOM 2011). From this, Internal migrants migrate but remain in their country of origin.

But given the focus of this research, I would emphasize more on International Migration. The International Organization for Migration defines international migration as the movement of people who leave their country of origin or country of habitual residence to settle permanently or temporarily in another country. International migrants are people who move outside their home country to another country to settle either temporarily or permanently. Excluding refugees, the UNHCR (2023) categorize international migrants as those who move across border not due to a direct threat of persecution, severe harm, or death, but for other reasons, such as to improve their circumstances by pursuing employment or education opportunities, or to reunite with family. They continue to enjoy the privileges of their national government while abroad, and they continue to enjoy these privileges upon their return.

Depending on the movement of migrants in relation to their home and host countries, emigration and immigration are two important concepts used in the field of migration. Emigration is the act of leaving one state with the intention of residing in another. While immigration is the process by which foreigners enter a country with the intention of settling there. As a result, emigrants are individuals who leave their home country with the goal of settling in another, and they become immigrants once they arrive in the host country (International Organization for Migration 2023)

From the aforementioned, it is important to note that African migrants in the Czech Republic falls in the international category of migrants and are also known as immigrants in the Czech Republic, and emigrants in their home country. These African migrants are from the sub-Saharan African. Sub-Saharan Africa relatively mean the whole of African continents except countries on the

Mediterranean coast (Department of Political Science, Philosophical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové). It is a region located adjacent to the European Neighbourhood (Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2019). Meanwhile, African migrants are those migrants in the Czech Republic that are born in sub-Saharan Africa. Children of these migrants that are born in the Czech Republic are not considered African migrants unless they themselves migrate to another country.

Quite distinctively, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Czech Republic described immigration as the spatial movement of groups and individuals, as well as the process of foreigners settling in their host countries. Immigrants, according to the ministry, are foreigners, including second and third-country nationals, who arrived at the Czech Republic for a long-term stay in order to get a temporary or permanent residence card (Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic 2023). African migrants in the Czech Republic are foreigners that falls in the third country national's category.

Finally, the terms determinants, motives, and influence have been employed in this research to describe why people migrate. These three terms are often used interchangeably in many migration literatures, and they basically mean factors influencing the likelihood of migration occurring, as well as its direction, intensity, duration, and implications for both sending and receiving societies (Portes & Rumbaut 2006). During this research, I used the term "determinant" more frequently to refer to the factors that led African migrants to the Czech Republic.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1

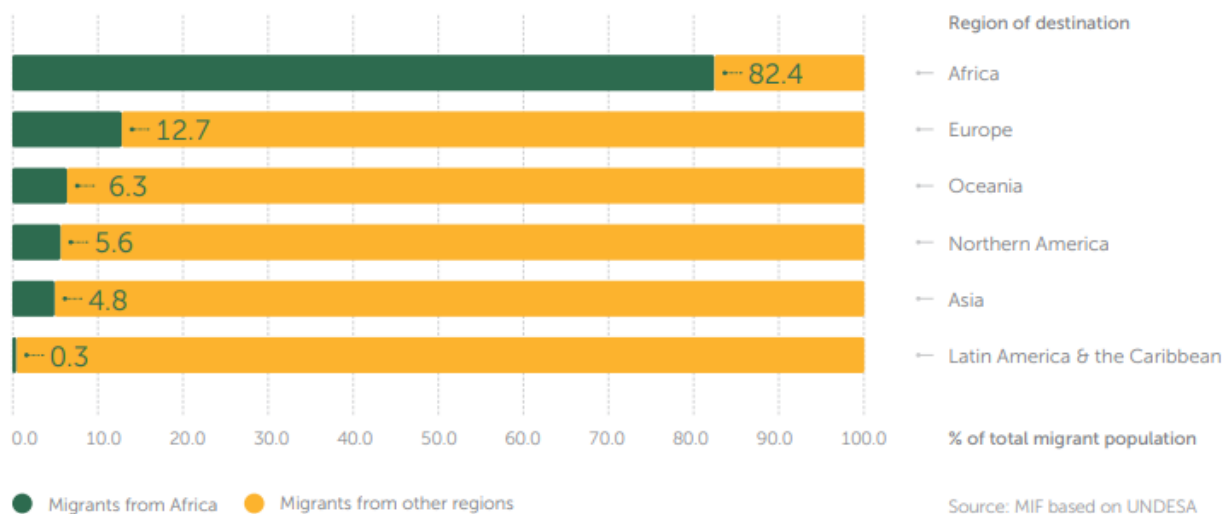
OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC: A FOCUS ON AFRICAN MIGRANTS

After the 2015 migration crisis, African Migration to Europe remains a topic of intense interest and debate at the top of the EU political agenda (Ahmed & Gough, 2018). As a result, the western media and politicians presented Africa as a continent of mass migration (Clerck, 2015). The dominant narrative is that millions of desperate Africans are irregularly migrating to Europe to escape poverty and conflict in their native country (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). This narrative, however, is far from the true dynamics of African migration (Magri, 2017). To begin with, Africa is never a continent of mass exodus since most Africans do not migrate, and those who do migrate tend to move geographically within the continent (Adepoju, 2007). Furthermore, in 2020, only 3.0% of Africans lived outside their home country, compared to 8.5% of Europeans (AEF and MIF 2022). Less than one-third, specifically 27.2%, of all African migrants reside in Europe (UNDESA, 2017). This represents roughly 12 percent of all international migrants residing in Europe (FAO, 2017: see fig 1). Secondly, it is important to note that Africa migration is not solely about irregular movement, but also about regular movement, as evidenced by the fact that Africans continue to leave the continent with valid passports, visas, and other travel documents (Schoorl et al., 2000). The migration patterns in Africa are not fundamentally distinct from those observed in other regions across the globe. Thirdly, the causes of migration in Africa are not solely tied to poverty and violence; other social processes such as the search for an education, a spouse, or a better life have also encouraged Africans to travel to various parts of the world (Bakewell & Bonfiglio, 2013).

However, it is crucial to note that the majority of African migration has occurred within the African continent rather than in Europe (Flahaux & Haas, 2016; Policy Centre for the New South, 2021). This is attributed to regional integration processes that has effectively facilitated the unrestricted movement of individuals, commodities, and services across borders within the continent (African Union & IOM, 2020; Atong et al, 2018; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2018). Some of these integrated processes include the formation of Regional Economic Communities, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the South

African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) (Adepoju, 2001; Ricca, 1990). These Regional Economic Communities developed a protocol that facilitates the free mobility of Africans within each subregion of Africa (Adeola 2019). Furthermore, it is noteworthy to mention that the African Union has made commendable strides in its endeavor to embrace the African migration policy framework for Africa in 2006. This initiative aims to promote the unrestricted movement of African individuals within the continent. A pivotal development in this regard was the official adoption of the protocol on the freedom of movement within the continent in 2018 (Zanker, 2019).

Figure 2: World regions shares of African Migrants of total migrants’ population (2020)



Source: MIF based on UNDESA

Moreso, cross-border trade within the continent has essentially increased mobility within the continent as people traverse borders in quest of economic opportunity. Among the busiest border crossings in the region are Busia and Malava between Kenya and Uganda, Rwanda-Democratic Republic of the Congo in Gisenyi and Goma, Beitbridge between South Africa and Zimbabwe, and Seme-Krake between Nigeria and Benin (Odhiambo, 2022). Since 2010, intra-Africa migration has experienced a significant increase of 43.6%, surpassing the growth rate of African migration to Europe, which stands at 26.0% (AEF and MIF 2022). In 2020, more over half of African migrants lived on the continent, because they (migrants) chose to settle in neighboring

African countries, with nearly 42% of them in West Africa (Kohnert, 2007). Despite the fact that Europe remains the preferred destination for most African migrants (Kohnert, 2007), more African migrants are now migrating to Gulf countries, other regions of Asia, and Oceania (Atong et al., 2018; Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). They also can now be found in countries such as China, India, Turkey, Brazil, Russia, and Argentina in quest of better opportunities (Odhiambo, 2022).

Geographically, the majority of migration from Africa to Europe originates primarily from Northern African countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya. (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). Northern Africa is widely recognized as the region with the highest emigration rates in Africa, as approximately 9.7 million individuals are currently residing outside of the region (Flahaux & De Haas, 2016). Even though the final destination of most West Africans is still Europe, about 84% of migration in the region is still internal (AU, 2017). Most migrants from this region are domiciled in France, Portugal, Italy, and the UK (Pew Research Center, 2018). Nonetheless, in Central Africa, only 46% of Cameroonian migrants reside in Europe, with France and Italy as their preferable destination countries (European Commission, 2018). Migrants from Eastern Africa are relatively low compared to other regions in Africa, as they make up approximately 27% of all migrants from the continent. The primary cause of this is that most of them choose to migrate to other neighboring countries including Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda (Idemudia & Boehnke, 2020).

Research findings have revealed that several factors, including geographical proximity, colonization, and post-colonization, have significantly influenced the patterns of African migration to Europe (Flahaux and De Haas, 2016; Adepoju, 2004; de Haas, 2009). European countries, being closer to Africa than other developed countries like the USA, Canada, Australia, and Japan, have seen the impact of historical ties due to colonization and post-colonization, which have shaped their migration dynamics. Linguistic and cultural relationships between African countries and their former colonial powers have also played a role in influencing the migration patterns (Adepoju, 2004). It is essential to recognize that many of these colonial powers were predominantly Western European countries. As of 2015, an estimated 12.5 million African migrants resided in Western European countries such as France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Italy (OECD and AfDB, 2019). Various African nationalities demonstrated distinct settlement patterns, with migrants from Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana mainly settling in the United Kingdom,

those from Northern Africa favoring France and Italy, and those from Congo tending to settle in Belgium (Bade, 2003).

However, it is crucial to recognize that official figures in certain central European countries, such as Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary, indicate that the African population is considered a minority compared to other ethnic groups (Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary official statistics). For instance, the number of Africans entering Hungary from 2017 to 2021 was lower compared to Asians, Americans, and Ukrainians entering the country (KSH, 2022). Similarly, Poland's¹ statistics show that the number of Asians and Americans entering the country in 2021 was higher than the number of Africans (Poland Statistics Yearbook, 2022).

The situation is similar in the Czech Republic where the total number of Africans who entered the country in the last five years is 35125 people. This is significantly less compared to the biggest migrant communities living in the Czech Republic such as Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, Russia, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, and the United States of America.

In the Czech Republic, almost two-thirds of the African immigrant population (64%) originated from five countries, with Egyptians forming the largest group (17.5%). Tunisia, Nigeria, Algeria, and Ghana were the next prominent countries of origin (Czech Statistical Office, 2021). Approximately 43.5% of the citizens of these top five countries were from Northern Africa (Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria), while 20% were citizens from Sub-Saharan Africa (Nigeria and Ghana), and about 36.5% were from other African countries. Notably, 26% of immigrants in the Czech Republic came from the three largest sub-Saharan African countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa (Czech Statistical Office, 2021). The data as illustrated in Table 1 showed that Egypt and Tunisia attracted the most migrants from Northern Africa, while Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa had the highest numbers from sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, Equatorial Guinea, Comoros, and Eswatini had the smallest number of African migrants in the Czech Republic during this period (Czech Statistical Office, 2021).

¹ The Poland statistical book does not provide information on the total number of African immigrants who entered Poland between 2017 and 2020.

Table 1: African Immigrants living with a valid residence permit in the Czech Republic (2021)

	Country	Number	Share of Foreign Nationals %
1	Egypt	1463	17.5
2	Tunisia	1328	15.8
3	Nigeria	976	11.6
4	Algeria	856	10.2
5	Ghana	702	8.4
6	South Africa	500	6
7	Morocco	512	6.1
	Other	2047	24.4
	Total	8384	100
	The three most numerous group (1+2+3)	3767	45

Source: Author's Construction (Adapted from CSU, 2021)

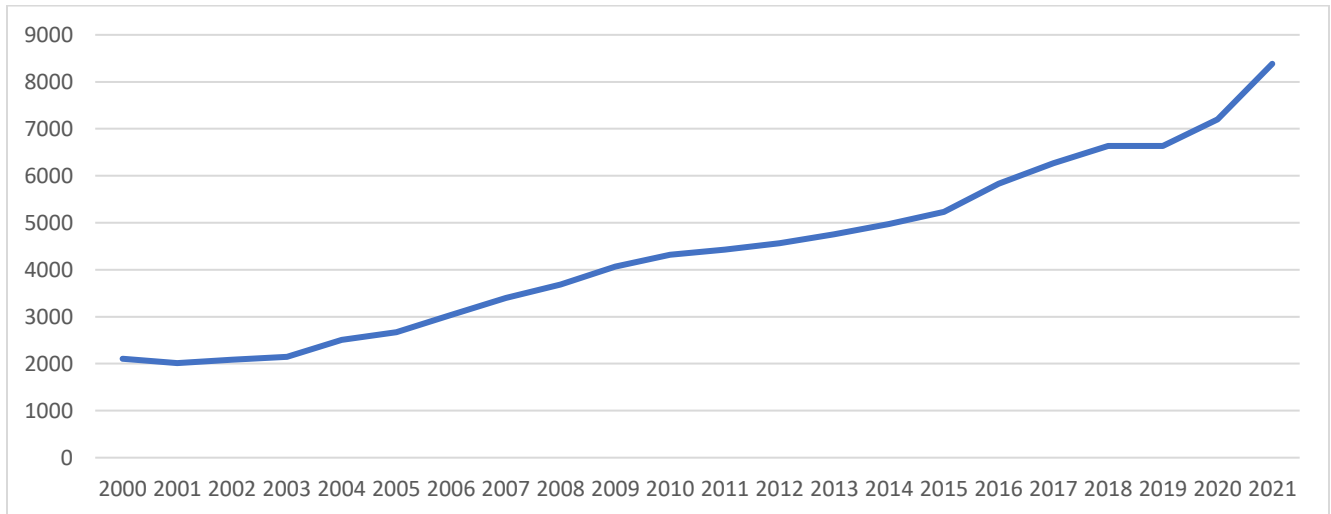
However, historically, the immigration of African migrants to the Czech Republic can be traced to the period when there was a rich contact between socialist Czechoslovakia (former name of the Czech Republic) and some African states. Due to the Soviet Union influence, Czechoslovakia closely followed African activities and politics by engaging with and providing diplomatic support to African countries in the process of decolonization from colonial rule (Zidek & Sieber 2007). According to Noubel (2020), Czechoslovakia established bilateral relationship with some African states (Angola, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea- Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia). Form of this relationship which include scholarship

benefits and training opportunities provided a pathway through which some Africans from these aforementioned African countries migrated to Czechoslovakia to study and receive host of training opportunities (Aspaturian, 1984: Barbara, Praeger and Oprea, 2009: Felcer 2019). In 1960, it was estimated that hundreds of African students received scholarships to study in the fields of science, technology, military science, and medicine at various universities in Prague (Noubel, 2020). Between 1978 and 1979, approximately 139 Ethiopian students studied in Czechoslovakia, while in 1984, 194 Angolan students were enrolled in Czechoslovakian universities and secondary schools. Meanwhile, some of these recipients never returned to their home country after the completion of their studies and training (Noubel, 2020). As a result, most of them stayed in the Czech Republic following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia (Noubel, 2020).

Presently, the case is that there has been growing number of African immigrants in the Czech Republic from 2000 to 2021. Between these periods, the lowest number (2108 persons) of African migrants in the Czech Republic was recorded in 2000, while the highest number (8384 persons) was recorded in 2021 (Czech Statistical Office 2021). This population has increased significantly from 2000 to 2021. According to the Czech Statistical Office, approximately 2,108 Africans entered the Czech Republic in 2000. There was a 27% increase in 2005, a 105% increase in 2010, and a substantial increase of 148% in 2015. In 2021, the number increased geometrically to 297% (Czech Statistical Office 2021). (see fig 2)

However, despite their increase, the study carried out by the Prague – the Metropolis of All (2023) indicated two official African communities in the Czech Republic, which are the Humanitas Afrika, o. p. s. and Alliance-Benin En Republique Tcheque (A.B.E.T.). The Humanitas Afrika, o. p. s. was established in 2000 to promote mutual tolerance and understanding between Czechs and Africans and to increase Czech society's awareness of Africa, Africans, and their culture. In 2005, the community established the African Information Center, which offers an African library service, functions as a meeting place, and aids Africans living in the Czech Republic in integrating into Czech society while maintaining their own culture and identity. While the Alliance-Benin En Republique Tcheque (A.B.E.T.) was founded in 2021 to aid Africans in their social integration in the Czech Republic. However, its membership and activities are restricted to only Beninese Africans (Prague - the Metropolis of All 2023).

Figure 3: Rising number of African Immigrants in the Czech Republic (2000-2021)



Source: Author's Construction (Adapted from CSU, 2021)

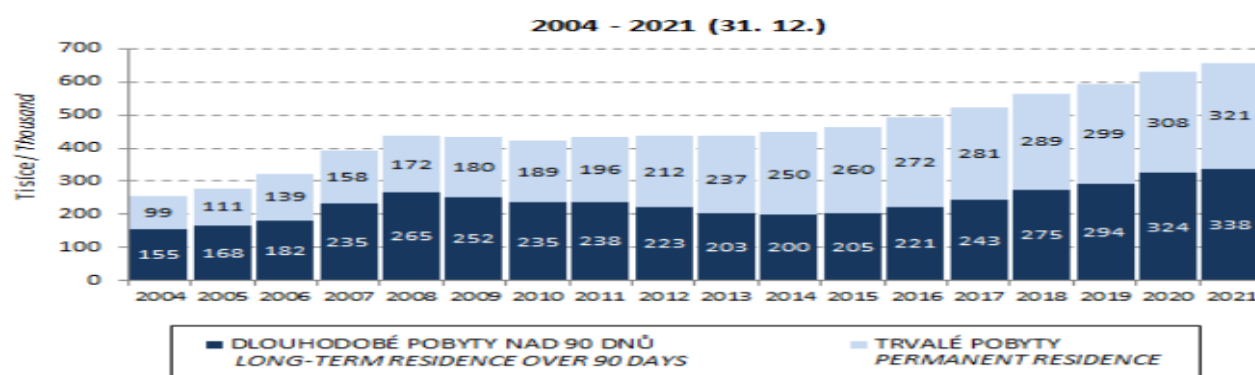
2.2 Migration and Development Policy of the Czech Republic

Migration in the Czech Republic has evolved significantly since the country inception. Since regaining its independence in 1989 and peacefully splitting from the Slovak republic in 1993, there has been significant rise in the number of immigrants in the Czech Republic. The number of foreigners living in the Czech Republic in 1993 was about 78,000 foreigners. And two years later in 1995, this figure rose to 159207 foreigners living in the Czech Republic (Seidlová, 2018). During this period, majority of the immigrants comes from Poland (23053 persons; 14% of all foreign nationals), Slovakia (39725 persons; 25%), Ukraine (28158 persons; 18%) Vietnam (14213 persons; 9%), and Germany (5553 persons; 3%) (CSU 2021).

Today, Czech Republic is now an attractive destination as it has become a popular destination for foreigners (Seldova, 2005; Drbhohlav & Seldovia, 2016; MOI, 2023). At the end of 2021, there were a total of 658,564 foreign nationals living in Czechia. (see fig 3). Two-thirds of the current immigrant population (66%) came from 5 countries (when comparing with 2018, the only change is that Romania replaced Germany among the top 5), while more than one-quarter came from Ukraine (196637 persons; 29.8%). Ukrainians are currently the largest group of immigrants and have lived in the Czech Republic for over 20 years. The second largest group is Slovakia (114630

persons; 17.4%), followed by Vietnam (64808 persons; 9.8%), Russia (45154 persons; 6.8%), Romania (18806 persons; 2.8%), Poland (17936 persons; 2.7%), Bulgaria (17295 persons; 2.6%), Germany (14792 persons; 2.2%), Mongolia (11000 persons; 1.6%), and the United States (8700 persons; 1.6%). Other nationalities account for 22.5% (148800 persons) of the total foreign population in the Czech Republic (Czech Statistical Office 2021). This shows that almost (46.4%) are three citizens of three countries outside the EU (Ukraine, Vietnam and Russia), and one quarter (20.2%) are citizens of two neighboring countries EU member states (Slovakia and Romania), and about a (33%) is made of citizens of all other countries of the world. It is important to note that most immigrants are concentrated in Prague. Other than Prague, large number of them can also be found in cities like as Brno, Ostrava, Plzen, Liberec, and Olomouc (The Immigrant Population in the Major cities of the Czech Republic 2020).

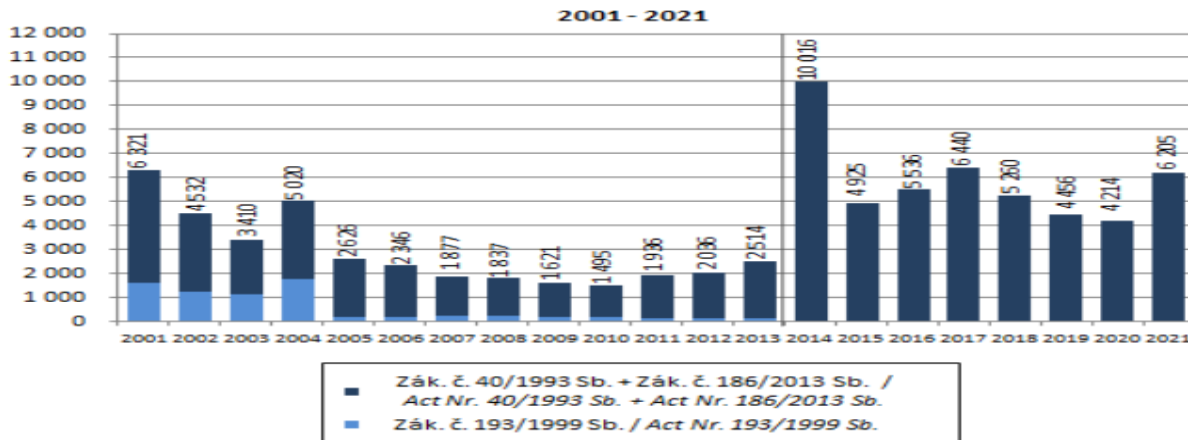
Figure 4: Rising number of Immigrants in the Czech Republic (2004-2021)



Source: CSU 2021

Furthermore, the Czech Republic recorded the highest number of citizenships granted to immigrants when about 10016 immigrants were granted citizenship status in 2014. This was the period when legislation allowing dual citizenship was being implemented. From 2014, it was possible for immigrants to acquire Czech citizenship without having to give up their previous citizenship. The lowest number of citizenships acquired by foreigners was in 2010 when about 1495 immigrants were given citizenship status. In 2021, only 6205 immigrants were granted Czech Citizenships (see Figure 4).

Figure 5: Acquisition of the Czech Citizenship (2001-2021)



Source: CSU 2021

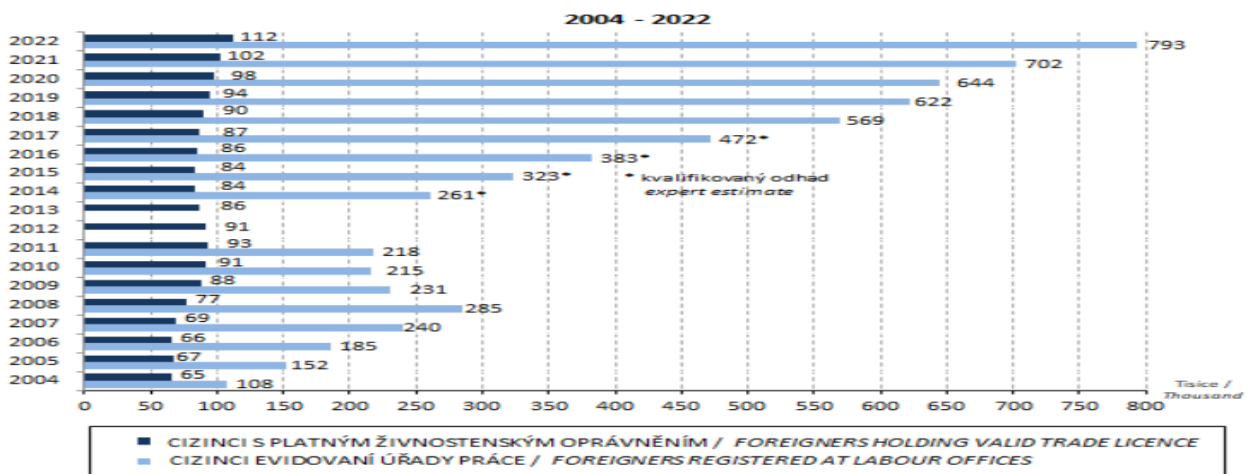
However, Drbohlav and Janurová (2019) argued that the most significant influence of migrants in the Czech Republic is felt more in the labour market. This is because the Czech economy relies heavily on migrant workers of various qualifications, and they themselves have been indispensable to the economic boom of the past years (caritas). Currently, highly and low-skilled migrants are still in high demand in the Czech labor market (Caritas Czech Republic, 2019; Burianová & Votradovcová, 2015; Stojanov et al., 2022). The demand for both labor (skilled and unskilled) has always been one of the Czech Republic's key issues, and foreigners are the ideal solution to this problem (Caritas Czech Republic (2019). In fact, some labor migration programs, like Green Cards and the Blue Card Project, have evolved into crucial instruments for supporting economic growth in the Czech Republic (Drbohlav & Valenta, 2014, pp. 47–48; Ministry of the Interior, 2012, pp. 70–71; Caritas Czech Republic 2019). Some specific programs were even created to help qualified immigrants transfer into the Czech labor market. The highly qualified workers program was developed for highly qualified migrants from Ukraine and India. The program qualified workers were created for migrants with medium to low qualifications from Ukraine, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Serbia. While the key and research staff program were developed for both old and new foreign investors in the Czech Republic (Ministry of Industry and Trade 2019).

Foreign employees in the Czech Republic are divided into two categories: foreign workers from EU member states and foreign workers from third-country nationals, including those from African nations (Drbohlav & Janurová, 2019). According to the Czech Republic's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 30% of foreign workers are employed in the manufacturing sector, with more than 90,000 coming from the European Union and 22,000 from a third countries including African migrants. 17% are employed in the Administrative and Support Services sector, of which 47,000 are from the EU and 13,000 are from a third country, including an African country. The wholesale and retail trade consists of 28,000 EU nationals and 12,000 nationals from non-EU countries. And 9% are from the construction sector, with 25, 000 coming from the EU and 12, 000 coming from third countries (Drbohlav & Janurová, 2019). It can be deduced that a significant proportion of foreign labour in the Czech Republic are employed in administrative and support services, manufacturing, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. In these sectors, EU nationals outnumber third-country nationals. This can be attributed to the fact that there is much preference of Czech citizens and other EU nationals over third country nationals in the Czech Labour Market. A job offers to a third-country national is permitted under Czech law only when no applicants from Czechia or another EU country are available. As a result, EU member countries have free access to the Czech labor market, whereas third country nationals face greater restrictions, including the provision of work permits, trade licenses, visa permits, and intra-company employee transfers that allow them to work in the Czech Republic under certain conditions (Drbohlav & Janurová, 2019). More challenging is that administrative procedures are convoluted and time-consuming, as it can take up to four to six months to obtain documents such as work and residence permits, visas, and employee identification cards (Drbohlav & Janurová, 2019).

Foreigners are frequently permitted to establish their own businesses as opposed to being employed by a company. It was estimated that Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Slovak nationals make up the largest proportion of Czech Republic entrepreneurs. More than two-thirds of foreign enterprises in the Czech Republic are from these three countries, according to the Ministry of the Interior (2018). It should be noted that African countries are not in the top ten in terms of citizens with the most trade licenses. Overall, Ukrainians, Vietnamese, and Russians had the greatest labor-force participation rates in the Czech Republic, with 70%, 50%, and 31%, respectively (Caritas Czech Republic, 2019).

The largest number of economically active migrants was recorded in 2022, when around (793000) migrants were employed in the Czech labor market. In 2004, the lowest number of economically engaged migrants was recorded (108000 persons). No migrants were recorded between 2012 and 2013, as only trade licenses were issued during this time. However, the number of active migrants engaged in the Czech labor market increased steadily from 2014 to 2022. Furthermore, the number of trade permits issued is always smaller than the number of migrants admitted to the labor market. The most trade licenses were issued in 2022 (112000), and the least number of trade licenses were issued in 2004. The number of trade licenses granted to foreign immigrants increased significantly between 2004 and 2022. (see Fig 5)

Figure 6: Immigrants in the Czech Labour Market (2004-2022)



Source: CSU 2022

2.2.1 Development of Immigration Policies and Migrant Perception

It is important to note that Foreigners in the Czech Republic are subject to numerous legal regulations, such as the Foreigners Act, the Refugee Act, the Employment Act, the Temporary Protection Act, the Border Protection Act, and their subsequent amendments (see Ministry of the Interior 2017). The development of these regulations was in different stages and began following

the balkanization² of Czechoslovakia in 1993 (Haimannova, 2015). After balkanization, in order to reflect the new political and economic climate, the Czech Republic adopted a laissez-faire, non-systematic approach to towards migration. (Barša & Baršová 2005; Drbohlav et al., 2010; Burianova & Votradovcova, 2015). This approach was far too simplistic in that there was virtually no restriction or limit on the number of immigrants entering the Czech Republic. (Drbohlav, 2003. pp.218). These immigrants were permitted to apply for long-term residence permits directly within Czech territory (Burianova & Votradovcova, 2018). Migrants from outside the Czech Republic were permitted to enter the country with a tourist visa and then legalize their stay if they find employment. And irregular employment was not a significant issue during this time (Haimannova, 2015). But then, Immigrants could not legally apply for a permanent residence permit or naturalization unless they married a Czech citizen (Drbohlav et al., 2010, p. 72; Drbohlav et al., 2009a, p. 46). As a result, (Baršová & Barša, 2005) characterize the country's stance on migration as passive yet "tolerant." There was a relatively high level of tolerance, but a low level of acceptance of immigrants. Also problematic was the integration of these foreign migrants into the larger Czech society (Bauerová, 2018). Regardless, the number of immigrants entering the country increased. As a result, the Czech Republic became an attractive destination for immigrants during this time (Seldova, 2015; Drbohlav et al., 2016).

The continuous increase in the number of immigrants entering the country had a significant negative impact and ultimately altered the approach and dynamics of migration management in the country (Haimannova, 2015). Continuous immigration led to a variety of domestic issues, including a rise in the unemployment rate, an increase in the number of illegal immigrants entering and working in the country, and an increase in the number of asylum seekers (Drbohlav et al., 2010; Drbohlav, 2003). In response to these domestic issues, the Czech government adopted a more restrictive and limited migration management strategy (Burianova and Votradovcova, 2018). In addition, the need for the Czech Republic to satisfy the prerequisites for future EU membership and to align Czech law with EU law also contributed to the tightening of migration regulations (Baršová and Barša, 2005). Consequently, the laws and regulations governing the admission of foreign nationals were revised and amended. In order to make it more active and systemic, the

² The term "the balkanization of Czechoslovakia" refers to the dissolution or breakup of Czechoslovakia into smaller independent countries or entities, similar to the process of Balkanization that occurred in the Balkans region during the early 20th century. The term "balkanization" is often used metaphorically to describe the fragmentation of a larger entity into smaller, sometimes conflicting parts, similar to the historical events that took place in the Balkans region.

Foreign Act and Refugee Act concept was adopted (Drbojov & Janoová, 2019). The Foreign Act restricts visa applications and immigrant residence, while the Asylum Act regulates refugee entry into the country (Drbohlav, 2004; Ank and Insk, 2011; Barová – Bara, 2005; Drbohlav et. al., 2010; Drbohlav et. al., 2009).

From 2000-2005, the majority of policies produced reflected domestic issues and internal migration in the country. The government began to focus more on internal issues in order to create rules and regulations to guide migration management (Haimannova, 2015). The primary objective of this time period was to develop a conceptual and proactive approach to Czech migration policy; as a result, the laws regulating foreigners' entry and residence on Czech territory were strengthened and institutionalized (Drbohlav et. al., 2010; Kušniráková & Čížinský, 2011). The Action Plan for Combatting Illegal Migration and The Principle of Government Policy in the Field of Migration of Foreigners were both introduced in 2004 and 2003, respectively. The former was designed with the goal of limiting the influx of unauthorized immigrants and addressing the issue of international humanitarian crises (Stojanov et al. and Barša a Baršová, 2005). While the latter aimed to support all forms of immigration that are beneficial (Haimannova, 2015). This made specific groups of migrants targeted as they were allowed to gain permanent residence. Also qualified foreign workers were allowed to come and work in the territory (Drbohlav & Janurová, 2019).

The period between 2005 and 2008 was characterized by consistent economic growth, low unemployment rates, and a high demand for additional labor force (Burianová & Votradovcová, 2015). As the influx of immigrants and illegal immigration increased at the end of 2007, migration laws were tightened and restricted once more in order to get control of the migration crisis (Kušniráková & Čížinský, 2011). The global economic crisis exacerbated the situation in 2008. As a result, more immigrants applied for jobs in the Czech Republic during the period. It was estimated that third-country nationals made up roughly 45% of job applications (Drbohlav, 2010). This became a concern, and in response, the Czech government stepped in and established some restrictive legislation aimed at limiting foreign labor access to the Czech market (Drbohlav & Valenta, 2014). As a consequence, between 2008 and 2012, the number of third-country nationals employed in the Czech Republic decreased significantly. As the number of work permits and visas issued to nationals of third countries decreased by 70% (Stojanov, 2022).

The influx of immigrants into Europe in 2015 gave the Czech Republic's migration laws a new dimension, albeit one that was not radically different from the previous restrictive laws. In reaction to the crisis, the Czech Republic's government implemented a tougher and more secure approach to migration (Stojanov,2022). The Czech Republic was the first country to close its borders prior to the arrival of the initial enormous wave of migrants (Wintour, 2018). In 2016, the Czech government rejected 2,691 asylum claimants, accepting only 12 (Antosova, 2019, MFA, 2017). More generally, absence of cooperation at the EU level and long-term conceptualization of the external dimension of the EU migration are among the bigger challenges facing Czech migration policy (Labeda & Mensikova, 2016).

Beyond migration policy, it is important to note that reception of migrants and refugee by Czechs in the Czech Republic is often met with hostility (Drbohlav & Janurová, 2019). In the 2015-2016 migration crisis, more than 80% of Czechs had unfavourable opinions about immigrants, particularly those coming from third country nationals (Eurobarometer 2017). Immigration of migrants from third country was perceived as a threat to both the Czech nationals, and various political parties in the country (Naxera & Krcal, 2018). Consequently, successive governments depict immigration as a crisis, blaming it for the country's economic problems and emphasizing its negative impact and illegality on the Czech economy (Stojanov et al., 2021). As a result, the Czech government adopted an anti-immigration stance, and since then the majority of Czech citizens have consistently supported this stance (Červenka, 2018; European Commission, 2017; Jurečková, 2020). This is hardly surprising given the Czech population's lack of sensitivity and social perception of foreigners (Baverova, 2018; Drbohlav, & Janurova, 2019; Jungwirth, 2018). However, the implication of the anti-immigration position has resulted in immigrants being subjected to complex and lengthy administrative procedures and being denied access to information in their native language (Stojanov et al., 2021).

CHAPTER THREE

3.1

ANALYSIS OF DETERMINANT OF MIGRATION AMONG AFRICAN IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

This research primary objective is to investigate the factors influencing African migration to the Czech Republic. This chapter provides a comprehensive empirical analysis of the factors that motivate African migrants to migrate to the Czech Republic. It presents a more nuanced and detailed explanation for migration among Africans, focusing on individual experiences and examining the phenomenon at a microscopic level. Consequently, it investigated the social factors and life course events that influence African migrants' migration to the Czech Republic. In so doing, it examined in depth the social, economic, and political backgrounds of African migrants. Furthermore, the chapter relied on the conceptual model developed from the theoretical framework to achieve the aims of this research. Based on the conceptual model, the major topics that emerged from the data analysis following the interview were language, gender, class, ethnicity, career goals, migration distance, security, and linked life (marriage, family, and relationships). This chapter provides a detailed study of how these factors serve as a push factor for African migration to the Czech Republic.

3.2 Career

Life course does not precisely define career goals; rather, it explains how career goals evolve and change over time based on an individual's life experiences, transitions, and opportunities. As a result, it has a significant impact on the migration decisions of people seeking better opportunities, professional development, and an enhanced quality of life.

Nearly all participants indicated that their career goals, pathway, and development had a greater impact on their migration decisions. From the interview result, the majority of them came to the Czech Republic primarily for employment and education. When evaluating some participants' migration options, their professional ambition was a determining factor. Four participants – participants 2, 3, 5, and 6 – reported that they came to the Czech Republic to obtain a master's

degree in international space. They acknowledged that what they came to study in the Czech Republic aligns with their career goals. And at that time, the Czech Republic was the ideal destination for them due to its ambivalent environment and living costs, and central European location. They chose to pursue a master's degree in the Czech Republic primarily because of their career pathway.

Participant 2 applied for a master's program in the Czech Republic with the aim of pursuing her career goals in the international field of project management and product management. According to her, this field is not common in her home country.

I came to the Czech Republic specifically to earn a master's degree in an international space, I found it affordable in Czech Republic compared to other countries and I read on social media that they use English as much as could help me study and interact. This is in line with my career path because I would love to work with corporate organizations in Project and product management, and I feel that opportunities are bound in the Czech Republic. This would enable me to connect with people of like minds, and I can definitely go back home or anywhere in the world to fit into any space because I would have related and connected with people from different backgrounds. With this, I would be able to achieve my career goals, and navigate my path towards project management (Participant 2).

Participant 3 arrived in the Czech Republic to advance his career. Coming to the Czech Republic allowed him to fulfill his career ambition. He emphasized the fact that the cost of tuition fees for a master's degree is very affordable in the Czech Republic, which is an important factor that contributed to their decision for choosing Czech Republic.

In Ghana, I started from HND where I did furniture design and production, and then I went to the University where I made a slight switch to Forestry where I studies wood science and technology. So, after I dreamt of dreamt of having my masters abroad. I checked out the Czech Republic, and I realized that the school fees is very cheap, and the environment is very conducive for students. So, when I got the opportunity to travel, in line with my career trajectory I came here to study tropical agroforestry, and now I am a forest engineer (Participant 3).

Another participant 5 who was employed in the banking industry had already left his native country for Malta. He stated that he left the banking industry in Nigeria to study here in order to develop himself, which was consistent with achieving his professional objectives. His decision to come to the Czech Republic was predominantly motivated by the low cost of tuition fees, similar to other participants.

Back then in the banking industry, the more you equip yourself, you develop yourself academically coupled with your experience gives you leverage. So that was one of the reasons I left to further my studies. I was initially studying in Malta, but I got a scholarship here to study, which the school fees is way cheaper than what I was paying in Malta. So that was a deciding factor for me to come to the Czech Republic (Participant 5)

Participant 6, a student, expressed that pursuing her master's degree in the Czech Republic was a means of accomplishing her career objectives.

For me to get advanced education was my career goal. During my research to study abroad, I compared different schools and different courses in Europe, and I realized that Czech University of Life Sciences in the Czech Republic was a great university and choice for me because my background is in the Agric sector, and it is in line with my career goals (Participant 6)

However, participants 7 and 11 mentioned that their decision to come to the Czech Republic was primarily driven by job opportunities, although they acknowledged that it was somewhat serendipitous. They did not intentionally choose the Czech Republic. However, they both acknowledged that coming here totally aligned with their career ambitions.

It wasn't specifically the Czech Republic that drew me here. It was my work. The department that I worked for in a global company in south Africa was restructured, and then centralized. So, I was offered the opportunity or the option to either stay in cape town or come over to the Czech Republic. So, It wasn't specifically to do with the Czech Republic, it was more that there was an opportunity to move or come and live in Europe (Participant 11)

My career goals and development is the major reason why I moved to the Czech Republic. I had the option to stay back in Nigeria, but I wanted to have an international experience with an international company and international clients. However, my coming to the Czech Republic was more like accidents, not necessarily planned. So, I got the job back in Lagos, Nigeria and one of

the first things to do on the job was to go for a one-year training in Prague, in Czech Republic. I didn't plan to come here, but because of that job I moved to come and get trained for one year in the Czech Republic. And after the training was done, COVID happened and then the company was changed and basically got another opportunity in the same company to stay back in Prague. So that's why I decided to just stay back in Czech Republic (Participant 7).

And finally, another participant who had previously lived in Norway stated that she came to the Czech Republic specifically because of Job. According to her, employment opportunities in Norway are limited.

Well, it's easier to get a job here in the Czech Republic, so that was my main reason for moving. I schooled in Norway and after school it was not easy to get a job. And I needed to survive, and I wasn't getting any job even though I tried. But once I got a job offer in the Czech Republic, I took it, and it definitely influenced my decision to come here (Participant 8)

3.3 Linked Life (Family, Marriage, and Relationship)

Based on the life course theoretical framework, individuals' lives are interconnected with those of others, including family members, friends, colleagues, and even the community. This theory explores how these connections influence an individual's decision to migrate.

As a result, the work of Bailey and Mulde (2017) acknowledge that family, marriage, and relationships play a significant influence in individuals' migration decisions. Smits, Mulder, and Hooimeijer (2003) agreed to this acknowledgement by arguing that among families and couples, the partner with the highest human capital, or the male partner regardless of human capital, is most responsible for influencing the decision to move. Most of the time female are always known as tied movers (Föbker & Imani 2017). This discovery is identical to the outcomes of the interviews I conducted with the participants. Four Participants' lives were primarily impacted by the pull effect of linked existence. In addition, almost all participants agreed that marriage and family play a significant role in determining where people migrate to.

Participant 1 from South Africa met his wife while visiting Japan. He had planned to settle in Japan and work as an English tutor, but when he discovered that his wife is from and resides in the Czech Republic, he opted to move there to be with her.

After finishing my studies in South Africa, I wanted to immigrate for work because I didn't want to stay and work in South Africa. So, I was going to Japan to be an English teacher but then I met my wife there who is Czech. So instead, I decided to come to the Czech Republic to stay with her because she lives here (Participant 1).

Another participant 10 from South Africa came to Czech Republic purposely because of her husband who was also a South African. She became a tied mover when her husband got a job in the Czech Republic, and she decided to move her with him.

The other case was the participant 13 who moved to the Czech Republic predominantly because of her family. Her family were diplomats, and the Czech Republic was one of the countries in which they served. She found herself in the Czech Republic as a result but made the choice to remain there due to its perceived peacefulness.

I came down to the Czech Republic through the influence of my family. My parents are diplomats, so they travel every four years and because of that we are able to move to another country for 18 months or so. So, they moved down to the Czech Republic, that was many years ago. And I decided to stay back because of the peace which I found here (Participant 13).

Participant 15 from South Africa noted that she came to the Czech Republic through the influence of her brother who has been staying in the Czech Republic for almost 14 years. Her brother met somebody who's Czech and got married to her. For her, she prefers to move to a place where she has family members rather than moving to any country randomly.

The main reason I chose to come here is that my brother had already been here for approximately 14 years. So, it just made sense that I moved and relocated somewhere that I have at least some family members to join rather than just randomly anywhere (Participant 15).

However, participant 14 from Ghana, who has family in the Czech Republic, indicated that it would be challenging for him to move to another country, given that he must consider his family

and is already stable in the Czech Republic. Marriage or having a family makes the notion of moving to another country extremely challenging for him (Participant 14).

Of course, with the marriage and the kids, I am more kind of stable here. It's not an easy decision to then make to say, next year I am migrating to another country. Because now I have a family and kids here, so it's more stable. So, marriage and family definitely has made me very stable and so make the idea of maybe migrating to another country bit more difficult (Participant 14).

In contrast, Participant 7 from Nigeria, who is currently single and does not have a family, expressed that making the decision to migrate is relatively easy for him. However, he emphasized that once he is married, he intends to relocate with his wife, regardless of the destination country, even if it means leaving the Czech Republic.

Once I do get married, I would like to be in the same country as the person I'm married to. The same thing I want to be in the same house, at least at the beginning. I think that that's very critical. So definitely it could be either way. Either she's moving or I'm moving, whichever way we decide. But I believe I should be with my wife when I do get married (Participant 7).

3.4 Class

The Intersectionality theory holds that class is a hierarchical division of society based on socio economic factors, which include income, wealth, occupation, education, and social status. It asserts that individuals in certain class positions may possess power and privilege, while others may experience marginalization and oppression. In the context of migration decisions, individuals with a higher socio-economic status may have access to better education and a more luxurious lifestyle. An individual from a low-socioeconomic background may encounter obstacles and limited resources. Consequently, they may migrate in quest for better economic opportunities.

Nearly all participants from the three focused countries admitted that the economic conditions in their respective home country are quite bad and not very encouraging. Additionally, most of these participants were being affected by these conditions as they were battling with limited job opportunities, underemployment, and low wages before leaving their home country. They

basically perceive migration to the Czech Republic as one of the ways out to improve their economic status.

Participant 11 from South Africa who got a job directly to the Czech Republic from South Africa saw moving out of South Africa as an opportunity boost his economic status given that he came from a low ethnicity and economic status. He saw it as a big privilege which someone of his economic background doesn't get more often, and thus played a role in his migration decision.

I would say unfortunately limited opportunities that are available to youth in South Africa and this opportunity is something that doesn't come along to someone from my background every day. There is a Big South African expat community within the Czech Republic and just by looking at that community itself, I fall in the minority in terms of ethnicity and economic status. So, for sure this opportunity, I keep on using the word opportunity because that's what it feels like for someone from my background to come across here and it was for sure a driving force because someone similar status and ethnicity to me doesn't get that opportunity that often (Participant 11).

Participant 14 from Nigeria felt moving out of the country would enable him to be financially independent and be completely free from his limited family resources.

Looking at my financial situation and that of my family, I felt getting a scholarship to go outside and be completely independent of family resources was the best way out. So, I made the decision to take on the scholarship income. (Participant 14).

One participant from Nigeria who was working in a fashion institute before coming here admitted that job opportunities are very hard to come by in her country, and she decided to seek masters in the Czech Republic to boost her economic status and become more competitive in the job industry in her country.

People are moving out of Nigeria; it is a very common thing. Employment opportunities are not very encouraging, especially from the part that I am from, which is the southwestern region. In my state there are more civil servants' jobs. But for me, I would prefer to work in the developed space that is not limited to the government parastatals, but the opportunities in that area are not very encouraging. So, I just thought I would be better for me to earn a higher degree for me to fit into the competitive world of job employment in my country (Participant 2).

Another participant from Ghana who studied furniture design and product but was a technical teacher before leaving stated that due to his background he was supposed to work in an industry but due to unavailability of jobs in the market, he had to settle teaching in the classroom for seven years.

It is very difficult and stressful finding work in Ghana. Only government jobs are available. Even for government jobs, if you don't go to school to the highest level, it will be very difficult to get. Because everyone is relying on the government job, and if you don't have a degree such as masters or PhD it is very difficult to get the government job. And besides, government jobs are even saturated (Participant 3)

A participant from South Africa who was working in an online call center stated unemployment as a big and persistent problem in South Africa.

The unemployment rate in South Africa is really bad, and it's really hard to find work for anybody. Even for entry level jobs because when you're just coming out of college, students find it very hard to find work when they don't have a lot of experience. There's not that many jobs because there's a lot of people. Too many people and not enough jobs (Participant 10).

3.5 Security

Even though safety as a factor is neither a social factor nor life course, the concept consistently came up in the response of some participants who had relatives and friends here in the Czech Republic prior to their arrival. For them, escaping the insecurity in their home country contributed to their migration decision coming to the Czech Republic. They considered Czech Republic to be a peaceful country, and that is why they decided to migrate here. And under the literature review section, various scholars identified safety as one of the reasons people do migrate all over the world.

Participant 9 who is a student revealed that she came primarily to the Czech Republic because of the insecurity in her home country. This insecurity affected her studies as she was unable to complete her education in her home country. So, she came to the Czech Republic to complete her studies in peace.

It was primarily because of safety I came to the Czech Republic. South Africa has an extremely high crime rate. As a result, I came here to be able to sort of complete my studies in peace (Participant 9).

Participant 1 discussed the comparison of security in his home country, South Africa, and the Czech Republic, specifically focusing on transportation. He noted that public transport is always unsafe for people in South Africa, and for one to be safe, he or she needs to drive a car.

Yeah, it's also a lot safer here in the Czech Republic because kids can take the tram when they're like 6 years old by themselves, but in South Africa you would never do that. And then in South Africa you'd always need to drive a car because it's not safe on public transport (Participant 1).

Another participant who entered the Czech Republic through the influence of her parents revealed that what made her to stay back in the Czech Republic was the peace and safety she felt here which she never experienced in her home country. She made mention of the fact that she's even scared going back home due to the high rate of insecurity in her country.

Czech Republic is quite safe. I could go out of my house around 2-3 am, I can even wake up in the morning at 4:00 AM and go jogging and do other things. But in Nigeria, once it's already like 6pm, it becomes unsafe for me, especially if I am outside and leaving far away from my home. Also, being a mother, sending my children to school, there's no guarantee that they're going to come back home. But here in the Czech Republic, sending my children to school, I'm very sure they will be back home, even if anything happens to them, it must be explained. So, these are the things that make me want to stay here even though I want to go back home because whenever you go in the world, home is always home. But the first thing you think about it is safety. I might go home, and not come back. Even from the airport, the car that will pick me up maybe will take me somewhere else and that's the end of my life. So, the main thing that makes me want to stay back in the Czech Republic today is the safety and the stability (Participant13).

3.6 Language

In the context of the intersectionality framework, language does not have a specific definition. Instead, more emphasis is placed on the significance of language in shaping individuals' identities, experiences, and their access to opportunities and resources.

Applying this to migration decision, (Chiswick and Miller, 2005; Isphording and Otten, 2011) argue that it is easier for a foreigner to learn a language if his native language is more similar to the target language. The ability to acquire and speak a foreign language may be a significant factor in the decision-making process of potential migrants (Adserà & Pytláková, 2015). However, this is not the case for all of the participants. One thing that all of the participants have in common is that they all speak English. This is partially due to the fact that English is extensively spoken and considered an official language in Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa. Only one of the fifteen participants interviewed speaks Czech, and this is because she is half Czech. In addition, her mother taught her Czech while they were both in South Africa. Unlike the Slavic languages, the English language is not similar to the Czech language, making it difficult for non-Slavic speakers, particularly Africans, to understand it.

According to the interview, the Czech language plays little or no influence in the participants' migration decisions. The majority of participants acknowledged that the Czech language never played a role in their decision to migrate to the Czech Republic, as other factors were significantly more influential. An individual participant stated:

When I was coming to Europe, the opportunity to learn different European Language was something that appealed to me but that was without actually knowing about the Czech language. I can say the Czech language was not a draw card for me to come live here but the Job opportunity. (Participant 11).

I didn't consider the Czech language as getting a job in the Czech Republic was my main focus then. Once I got the job, I moved down here knowing fully well that the language at workplace was English (Participant 8)

One participant from Ghana noted, however, that although he came to the Czech Republic on a scholarship, the language indirectly influenced his decision regarding which country to begin the scholarship. He said:

I would say my decision to leave Ghana for the Czech Republic had nothing to do with the Czech language. I was awarded a fully funded scholarship by the Ghanaian Government, and because of that I just wanted to come study and gain knowledge. It was difficult to down the scholarship by that time.

But when I wanted to choose between Russia, Turkey and the Czech Republic, I thought of the language spoken in all these three countries since I will be coming to study. For the Russian language, I thought I'm actually now going to learn how to write ABCD because they write completely different, and I was 20 years old at that time. I looked at the Turkish language, and I'm like this is even worse as I have to learn new characters and because of my age then I thought this wasn't the time to learn ABCD from the scratch. But, when I looked at the Czech language, I could at least recognize some Greek letters as we are used to in English (Participant 14)

On the other hand, many participants who had friends and relative in the Czech Republic prior to their arrival were motivated to come to the Czech Republic due to the high demand for English language skills in the country. This made it easier for them to adapt and thrive in their new environment. Many people pointed out that Prague is home to several international companies that require English speakers. Additionally, they mentioned that individuals can attend schools where English is the primary language of instruction. This is evident given that the majority of participants who are currently employed work for companies where English is the primary mode of communication. In addition, students attend institutions where English is the language of instruction. Therefore, despite not speaking Czech, they were able to migrate to the Czech Republic, knowing that English speakers are in high demand there.

Meanwhile, some participants mentioned that prior to their arrival, they believed that the Czech language had limited use, assuming it was only recognized and widely spoken within the Czech Republic. For them, the desire to learn the Czech language was never a motivating factor.

If I would want to learn a new language, it wouldn't be Czech language. I would maybe want to go to France to learn French or go to Germany to learn German or go to Spain to learn Spanish. Nobody will travel to Czech Republic just for the sake of the language, because it is spoken by just 10 million people and then maybe part of Slovak or Slovak will understand it (Participant 14)

No, no, because aside Czech Republic no other countries Speaks Czech (Participant 6)

Despite the fact that each participant stated their own reasons for wanting to learn the language when they arrived, they all agree that Czech is a difficult and complex language. As a result, they were unmotivated to learn the language and might have contributed to some of them not wanting to stay in the Czech Republic for an extended period of time. Participant 13 admitted that one of the logical reasons why some people would not be able to remain in the Czech Republic because they do not understand it is the Czech language.

A South African participant who married a Czech citizen remarked that the Czech language is quite tough and very different from English. He needed to learn Czech in order to converse with her wife's relatives, who did not speak English. He stated how relieved he would have been if he hadn't had to learn Czech.

Even though Czech language is quite language is quite difficult, different from English, I have to learn it because of my wife's family that only speaks Czech (Participant 1)

Participant 3 appeared visibly discouraged by his supervisor's response when expressing his desire to learn the language.

I got to a point in time that I just said to myself that since I'm in the country, I need to learn the language, so I wanted to enroll a program at school before and then I went to my supervisor, and he said the language is too difficult that I will not be able to learn it. So that just demotivated me into learning the language (Participant 3)

Participant 15 was initially enthusiastic about the language but quickly lost interest after she arrived in the Czech Republic.

I didn't specifically come here with a plan or having a desire to learn a new language, but obviously I knew that I would learn a new language and I was very positive about it. But after experiencing the difficulties of the language, my motivation has really dropped a lot (Participant 15)

3.7 Gender

In the intersectionality framework, gender identity extends beyond the biological definition of male and female. The term "gender" is socially constructed, and societal norms, expectations, and power structures shape and determine how individuals understand and perform their gender. When applied to migration decisions, this theory explores how roles, expectations, and power inequalities within a structure influence and motivate individuals to migrate.

Bagguley and Hussain 2007; Riaño and Baghdadi 2007 argued that gender norms may act as push factors for women to migrate. From the interview result, for most participant, gender norms have nothing to do with their migration decision to the Czech Republic. But few female participants commented that they experienced some form of inequality, discrimination, and insecurity in their country of origin that played some role though marginal in their migration decision. But then all male participants had no issue with being a male in their home country and non-of them commented on this part.

A woman from Ghana stated that women are marginalized and discriminated against in the Ghanaian labor market. She noted that the labor market largely favored males, and that the problem stems from the country's structural organization, where it is a norm. She remarked that this issue has never been a problem in her country because people see no reason to contend for women's recognition in the workplace. This contributed in part to her decision to leave her home country for the western world, including the Czech Republic, where she knew there were equal employment opportunities for men and women.

I will say in Ghana it's a bit difficult for ladies to get jobs, because most of the jobs are occupied by men. Few women are landing the job positions, and moreso, top positions are exclusively reserved for men. Yeah, I would say work opportunity is a bit unequal wise.

I was looking at what kind of job I would be able to secure after school, and I know that usually when you move to the western world everybody has an equal opportunity as long as you can prove yourself. It's not about your gender, it's just if you can prove yourself, as long as you're willing to learn, your employers will be willing to give you on the job training. So, it did indirectly influence my decision to move out of Ghana because I knew that no matter what, I can manage to get a job and it won't be because I'm a female or male (Participant 8)

However, a female participant from Nigeria highlighted the issue of inequality in marriage as one of the primary challenges faced by women in her home country. She acknowledged that Nigeria is a country with a male-dominated society, where women's rights and voices are often suppressed, even within the institution of marriage. However, she quickly observed that the situation was different in the Czech Republic.

When, when it comes to being a woman and being recognized in the society and that you can have the same equal right, yes Czech Republic. In the Czech Republic, being a woman, your voice can always be heard, and you have the same equal right as male. No one will look down on you because they believe you have the same equal rights as a man, but as a woman you still have to give your husband the respect. But in Nigeria, it is the other way round. Being a woman, you do not have the right to speak to your husband. Your husband has to make every decision. And you just have to tag along and at a point where you have to say ok, we have to agree to do this. It's a very big thing for both of you to agree. But in the Czech Republic it doesn't work like that. You both have to sit down and make plans to work together. But, being a woman, you're being pressed down and looked down in Nigeria (Participant 13)

Surprisingly, one female South African participant stated that she suffered greater discrimination as a single mother in the Czech Republic than in South Africa. She claimed that the Czech Republic values traditional families more. But she never had this experience in South Africa.

I would say that in South Africa I experienced I don't think I experienced a lot of discrimination as a female. I experience it more here in Czech Republic, I experienced greater discrimination. For example, you know I had my kids two years ago in 2020. And I had fertility treatment and so I had my children by means of fertility treatment with an anonymous donor. And so, this means I'm a single mom or a solo mom. And I feel that I've experienced quite a lot of strange treatment in the hospital. I feel CR is very much family oriented as it is more in support of traditional family like Matt, husband, wife and kid (Participant 15).

One female participant from South Africa mentioned insecurity as a problem for women in South Africa, but one of the participants who is partly South African recognized that this is a generational and universal issue. It has been happening since time immemorial, and it is not limited to South Africa. What made matters worse was that she is also half Czech, thus the discrimination was too much for her.

Women are not seen as equals. There is a lot of gender-based violence and protest against it. It's quite dangerous because I felt unsafe, and also being half South African and half Czech, it's like you don't belong as a woman. It's a bit more psychological and deeper because you don't belong as a person either. I would say it partly played a role in my migration decision (Participant 9).

3.8 Ethnicity

From the intersectionality framework, an ethnicity is a set of common linguistic, religious, and cultural traits that characterize a particular group of people. It can influence an individual's access to power and privileges in society. This is because certain ethnic groups may encounter systemic advantages and benefit from socio-economic privileges, whereas others confront discrimination, marginalization, and structural barriers.

However, from the interview results, most participants stated that they experienced no form of inequality as regards their race and ethnicity in their home country. They stated that ethnicity was never a deciding factor for them when they were weighing their migration options while in their home country. This is more in credence to (Bailey and Mulde, 2017) assertion that Ethnicity has less of a push-pull influence on migration decisions to migrate. For the participants interviewed, even though ethnicity was not a deciding factor for them when looking at migration decision, they still had positive things to say about the state of diversity in their home country.

Everybody is proud of everybody in my home country. There is no sort of discrimination or inequality among us. The language that we speak from my tribe has the larger part or proportion of the whole country, but we don't discriminate. In my country we are just brothers. I had about three Northern friends, and three other guys from different tribes with different languages, but they all wanted to speak Twi with me which is my language because we understand each other. (Participant 3)

One participant emphasized the significance of a mechanism known as a quota system. The quota system is implemented in the realms of employment and education to address ethnic marginalization in her home country. She explains that this system may work in favor or against individuals based on their ethnic background. However, overall, it is not a negative measure.

As a white person from South Africa, I think historically discrimination would have been from white people towards black people. So, It didn't happen to me in reverse. However, I suppose the only place that I would have kind of felt discrimination or something is maybe when applying for a job. And maybe for studies too because you know when you're applying to do further studies there are a limited number of spots and then you know depending on your ethnicity, it can count for or against you in general (Participant 15)

However, another participant who is half South African and half Czech stated that she experienced discrimination in South Africa, but this did not influence her decision to leave the country.

In South Africa, people saw me as an immigrant because my mom is an immigrant from Czech. So, it was like you don't really fit in with other South Africans. But then it's the other way round in the Czech Republic. I would say I experience some kind of discrimination as regards my ethnicity, but I don't think it influenced me coming to the Czech Republic. (Participant 9).

But a participant also from South Africa stated that he felt more discriminated in the Czech Republic than in South Africa. It's been worse here for him than in South Africa. But it never played any role in its migration decision.

No, I wouldn't say so like I feel more discriminated here than in South Africa. I would say that It's been worse here than it has been in South Africa for me personally. As soon as you tell people you're from South Africa in the Czech Republic, then there's always issues, like in terms of legal proceedings or processes doing anything bureaucratic like bank accounts and stuff, there's always an issue, but in South Africa I have never experience that at all (Participant 1).

3.9 Migration Distance

From the life course perspective, Individuals relocate when they change their place of abode, usually from one region or country to another. This mobility could be modest distances within the same city or region. Others may travel vast distances or internationally in search of better economic opportunities, education, or to reunite with family members.

For the majority of those interviewed, distance isn't an issue as relocating away from family has no impact on them because they rank the pursuit of their career goals as more important. And they

are even ready to leave the Czech Republic in pursuit of their goals. The distance between the Czech Republic and their country of origin has little bearing on their migratory decisions.

A participant from Nigeria noted that he was already used to moving away from his family back in his home country prior to his arrival in the Czech Republic. And wasn't bothered moving away from them as long as he gets to see them once in two years or three years, and they always come visiting (Participant 7).

When I was in Nigeria I used to live far away from my family because my dad was a civil servant, so he would live in one state, and I will school in another state. So, we were always distant in a way quote and unquote when it comes to physical distance but we are always connected, you know, virtually through some other means. I have been used to being away from home since I was in Jss3. So, I've been away from home for a while, so being away from family over long distance is not necessarily a big, big problem for me (Participant 7)

Another participant revealed that he was ready to move farther away from his home country. He wanted to live in Japan initially and visited the US which was farther away than the Czech Republic when compared both countries to his home country. But for him, even though moving away from his family wasn't really a big deal for him, he was concerned that to see and visit his family would be difficult because they would always need visa to enter the Czech Republic, which won't be quite easy (Participant 1)

Participant 8, 13 and 10 stated that distance from family isn't a problem for them as long as they pursue their career goals. For them as long as they can get a good life, get a good job or a good school, moving away over long distance isn't a problem for them (8 and 13). But for participant 10, even though he took on the opportunity of coming to Europe, he was a bit sad leaving his family behind in South Africa, but quickly noted that he couldn't pass up the opportunity of coming to relocate to the Czech Republic.

Instead of the distance, one participant, 11, claimed that time zone in both countries made the decision of coming to the Czech Republic much easier for her.

To be fair. any country that I was going to leave South Africa for was going to be a long distance. It was going to be a distance not dissimilar to Czech Republic. And so, the distance wasn't a

problem. But what was convenient was the similarity in the time zone, which made the decision a lot easier (Participant 11).

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1

CONCLUSION

Even though the number of Africans in the Czech Republic is still comparatively small, their number and significance have increased over the past decades. Despite this, there is a lack of general knowledge about this community in the CR. This thesis contributes to overcoming this gap. Focused on the migrants from the three selected African states, from which the highest number of Africans living in the CR recruit, it shows not only some general features about the composition and structure of these communities, but primarily their motivations to migrate to the CR. Various studies have focused on the determinants of migrants in the literature, but not specifically on African migrants in the Czech Republic. For this, the research represents one of the first attempts towards understanding the determinants of migration among Africans in the Czech Republic.

For this purpose, this research adopts the intersectionality theory and life course theory to achieve the research objectives. Based on the two theories, I created a conceptual model for analyzing the findings of my research. The model connects African migrants with multiple social position and identities such as gender, language, class, ethnicity, career goals, relationships, and migration distance, and examine their role towards influencing African migrants' decision to move to the Czech Republic

It was noted that career choice, being one of the determinants of migration among Africans in the Czech Republic emerged as a main theme across all 15 interviews. Most participants stated that career goals played a dominant role in their migration decision to come to the Czech Republic. These goals which were basically either in the form of jobs or through education. For the jobs, most participants raised the issue of unemployment in their home country as a source of push factors for their migration decision. From information provided by various participants, the findings of this research revealed that unemployment in the three understudied African countries is directly related to the structure of the political and economic systems of the three African countries. The job market is extremely competitive, and the most jobs available are in the civil service, which are extremely competitive and require a higher degree of qualification. For most

participants, working in the civil service doesn't even fit their career path. Overtime, it was noted that getting a job could be a herculean task, with one of the main reasons for the difficulty being the issue of favouritism (who knows who) and, the number of available jobs is limited in relation to the overall population in the three countries. Most of the participants complain of the need to know someone in a higher position before you can get a job, meaning that getting a job is not solely by merit, and there are so many people competing for limited jobs. However, they feel the situation in Czech Republic is different, as getting a job is solely by merit, and there are numerous job opportunities in the Czech Republic, which provides flexibility for them to choose a job that fits into the career projection.

Furthermore, this research found out that class played an important role in the migration decisions of these participants as well. Based on the jobs they held prior to emigrating to the Czech Republic and the economic situations in each of the three countries, the study found that many migrants are from lower social economic classes in their home country and see migration to the Czech Republic as an opportunity to move up the social economic ladder. They all attest to the job availability and financial disparity between the Czech Republic and their home countries. Working in the Czech Republic puts them in better financial condition in their home countries and enables them to move up in the social and economic class.

For students, the need to get a higher degree internationally was part of their career goals, and Czech Republic happens to be the country where they could realize those goals. They all accounted for low tuition fees, geographical mobility in Europe, stability in the educational system, and the chances of attending top schools as the four factors they considered before coming to the Czech Republic to study. For most of them, going through the educational route is a better and easier way to enter the job market in the Czech Republic. This study found that a few of the participants already working were once students before transitioning into the Czech labour market.

More so, linked life was also an important migration determinant among Africans in the Czech Republic. This is in tandem with the emphasis on the importance of family dynamics and relationships for migrants. Almost all participants attest to the fact that marriage and family influence play an important role in people's migration decisions. For some of them, their coming to the Czech Republic was basically through marriage and family influence. The desire to unite with family members and loved ones is a very important aspect of migration decisions. Also, at

the same time, the prospect of having a family and settling down in the Czech Republic makes it difficult to leave the Czech Republic for somewhere else. However, a few of these participants admitted that leaving their families behind in their home country to pursue their goal was not a problem for them.

Interestingly, affinity for the Czech language or the possibilities of language barrier was never a factor considered by participants in their decision to migrate into Czech Republic. It does play a minimal role in participants' migration decisions. All the participants are naturally English speakers, given the history of their country with the British. According to them, the Czech language is limited in usage and very hard to learn at the same time. The Czech language is only being used in the Czech Republic, which has a population of almost 10 million people; thus, there is no need to learn as it is believed it does not have universal coverage. At the same time, the Czech language is very difficult to learn. As a result, most of the participants neither speak Czech nor are motivated and willing to learn the language. However, most of them admitted that it is better to learn the language to survive in the Czech Republic, while most of them knew that one could still survive with English language because English speakers are in high demand due to the existence of international companies in the Czech Republic. And there is a high rate of universities with English as their language of instruction. Most participants who are students are studying in English at Czech Universities.

Meanwhile, ethnicity and gender play no role in participants' migration decisions. Most of the participants did not experience any form of inequality as regards their ethnicity and gender in their home country which might have influenced their decision to come here. Although they attest to the fact that there is inequality as regards gender in Africa generally, only a few of them have experienced it, and they are mostly female. They reported that they experience some form of inequality as regards their gender with respect to the job market, as some top positions are meant for men, and in terms of rights and family management. Even though they knew that there is gender equality in the Czech Republic with respect to these areas, it was not enough motivation for some of them to leave their country for the Czech Republic. They prioritized other major reasons for their migrating to the Czech Republic. Females are always on the receiving end, as none of the male participants ever experienced any form of inequality as regards their gender. Just like gender, ethnicity was not a big factor in their migration decision to the Czech Republic. Most of them

never experienced any form of inequality about ethnicity, and they claim that everybody is just like brothers in Africa, regardless of the tribe they come from or the language they speak. They noted that there is a mechanism in place to resolve or prevent ethnic inequality and discrimination. However, few claimed that they mostly experienced inequality in the Czech Republic, but it was not a deciding factor for them to leave the country as other things were more important to them.

Similarly, distance is not a significant barrier to the migration motivation of African migrants. Based on the interview, the majority of individuals moved farther distances. And are prepared to pursue their aims and objectives further.

The key finding emerging from the study was the issue of safety and stability, even though it was not part of the conceptual framework, The theme of safety came up consistently among the participants interviewed. Most states in African countries are insecure, including the three focused countries: Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa. This is consistent with the findings in the literature, where safety was regarded as one of the main reasons why people migrate. This is true of the participants interviewed, as they believe that they will be safe if they migrate to the Czech Republic. Also, students stated that they feel secured in the Czech Republic, and at the same time, there is stability in the educational sector, unlike what they experience in their home country. In Czech Republic, there are higher chances of completing their studies on time.

In conclusion, this research adequately examined how concepts such as gender, language, class, ethnicity, career goals, relationships, and migration distance act as push factors for African migration decisions to the Czech Republic. By answering the research question, this research found out that the career goals of African migrants, linked life, class, and desire for safety, play a huge role in their migration decision to the Czech Republic. While variables like gender, language, ethnicity, and migration distance play little or no role in their migration decision. The findings provide new empirical evidence of the variables that influence the migration of African migrants into the Czech Republic.

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