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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>This thesis examines memories and emotions about the home left behind by the Gambian immigrants in Finland. It elucidates what kinds of emotions are brought out by the memories of home, and how people describe and interpret those emotions. It also discusses the different kinds of ideas and conceptualisations about home as well as the significance of the home left behind when living in the migrant condition.</p> <p>It is argued that home left behind affects the life of immigrants: people are not without history when they arrive to their new homeland. Moreover, it is assumed that there are emotional connections to home, the place where we care for people, and those connections do not disappear when we move. The study challenges the Western notion of emotions as individual inner events untouched by culture and thus readily understandable across cultures.</p> <p>The study is situated in the fields of psychological anthropology and migration studies. The theoretical framework consists of theories of home, migration, transnationalism and diaspora, anthropological theories of emotion, and theories of collective memory.</p> <p>The qualitative data is derived from fieldwork among the Gambian immigrants in the metropolitan area of Finland (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa) and it consists of participant observation and semi-structured in-depth interviews with 10 informants, as well as informal interviews.</p> <p>The study shows that emotionally loaded memories centre around social relationships. Closeness and the collective way of life of the Gambia is remembered and longed for. Emotions are often expressed implicitly and also through the medium of body: sometimes memories, loneliness and longing are experienced as mental and somatic symptoms. Gambian conception of emotion differs from the Western one and conveys the cultural norms of controlling and balancing emotions. Home left behind is apparent in the lives of immigrants as practices learned, values, morality, beliefs, and social order. The home left behind also means concrete contacts and responsibilities of maintaining social relations as well as economically contributing to those left behind. The home left behind signifies responsibilities as well as dreams about return to the place where “people know who you are”.</p>			
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