


Chapter 23

Albanian Migratory Literature: Identity, Tradition, and Global Belonging

Valbona Kalo

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5282-5918>

Aleksander Xhuvani University, Albania

Mirela Shella

Aleksander Xhuvani University, Albania

ABSTRACT

This chapter examines Albanian migratory literature as a critical site for reflecting on identity, tradition, and globalization in the post-communist era. Analyzing the works of Gazmend Kapllani, Elvira Dones, and Ardian Kyçyku, it investigates how trauma, hybridity, and memory are represented through narrative fragmentation and stylistic experimentation. Drawing on theoretical perspectives by Homi Bhabha (hybridity), Jan Assmann (cultural memory), and Cathy Caruth (trauma), the chapter explores how these authors disrupt essentialist national identities and foreground liminal, multilingual subjectivities. The study positions Albanian literature within transnational and postmodern frameworks, engaging with discourses on displacement, epistemic resistance, and symbolic rupture. Ultimately, it reveals migration as a literary mode that interrogates historical continuity and reimagines identity in conditions of loss and transition.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-1355-9.ch023

INTRODUCTION

Albanian migratory literature has emerged as one of the most dynamic voices of the post-1990s period, reflecting identity crises, cultural dislocation, and the historical trauma that followed the collapse of the communist dictatorship and the dismantling of the ideological order. Often produced beyond the geographical borders of Albania, this literature inhabits an intercultural space where memory, language, and displacement converge. Scholars such as Bashkim Kuçuku (2009) have emphasized the need for a more structured scholarly approach to this literary corpus, viewing it as a continuation of national discourse under conditions of exile and historical rupture. Yet institutional academic evaluation of this body of work remains fragmented. As Agron Tufa (2023) has argued, Albanian exile literature often challenges classical narrative forms and demands critical frameworks capable of addressing the disintegration of national identity under conditions of globalization and linguistic marginalization.

Migration has become a defining theme in Albanian cultural production since the early 1990s, when the collapse of the communist regime led to a massive wave of emigration toward neighboring and Western countries. Literature emerged as a crucial medium for expressing the psychological, social, and political consequences of this displacement. Albanian migratory literature provides not only intimate portrayals of the migrant experience but also critical reflections on identity, tradition, and globalization.

This chapter examines how three prominent authors—Gazmend Kapllani, Elvira Dones, and Ardian Kyçyku—navigate the themes of trauma, liminality, and cultural hybridity through narrative strategies that both document and challenge national identities. Their works illustrate broader issues addressed by this volume, including the negotiation of belonging in transnational spaces, the effects of historical ruptures on individual memory, and the role of literature in resisting exclusionary discourses.

The chapter contributes to the scholarly understanding of post-communist migratory narratives by situating Albanian literature within global debates on migration, identity, and cultural memory. This study is critical for understanding how Albanian migratory literature not only reflects personal and national upheavals but also contributes to global literary discourses on memory, displacement, and resistance. The chapter underscores the value of analyzing literature as both a site of representation and a medium of epistemic transformation, particularly in contexts marked by historical rupture and sociopolitical exclusion. At the same time, it confronts significant methodological and ethical challenges: How can trauma be represented without sensationalism? How can marginalized voices be amplified without appropriating or simplifying their experience? These concerns are especially relevant in contexts where gender-based violence, state collapse, and ethnic conflict intersect,

26 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/albanian-migratory-literature/380615

Related Content

Capital Account Liberalization and Capital Movement in China

Badar Alam Iqbal, Nida Rahmanand Mohd Nayyer Rahman (2021). *Journal of Comparative Asian Development* (pp. 63-78).

www.irma-international.org/article/capital-account-liberalization-and-capital-movement-in-china/272584

China's Shifting Labour-Intensive Manufacturing Firms to Africa: A Particular Focus on Ethiopia and Rwanda

Ezihuelen Michael Mitchell Omoruyi (2021). *Journal of Comparative Asian Development* (pp. 1-36).

www.irma-international.org/article/chinas-shifting-labour-intensive-manufacturing-firms-to-africa/285550

Identifying Forward and Backward Linkages From China's Infrastructure Investment in Africa

Ehizuelen Michael Mitchell Omoruyi (2021). *Journal of Comparative Asian Development* (pp. 1-31).

www.irma-international.org/article/identifying-forward-and-backward-linkages-from-chinas-infrastructure-investment-in-africa/272582

The Geopolitical Transformation of Dependency in International Relations: Ukraine–Russia Equation

Olgun Ukaland Murat Yorulmaz (2026). *Global Geopolitical Dynamics in Eurasia* (pp. 221-238).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-geopolitical-transformation-of-dependency-in-international-relations/396108

aworoid: A Depiction and Analysis of the Political and Socio-Cultural Characteristics of the Yorùbá Talking Drum

Rhoda Titilopemi Inioluwa Abioluand Ruth E. Teer-Tomaselli (2019). *Music and Messaging in the African Political Arena* (pp. 65-86).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/aworoid/220122