

**MIGRATION AND TERRITORIAL DYNAMICS IN BORDER REGIONS:
CULTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC POLICIES**

**MIGRAÇÃO E DINÂMICAS TERRITORIAIS EM REGIÕES DE FRONTEIRA:
CULTURA, DESENVOLVIMENTO REGIONAL E POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS**

**MIGRACIÓN Y DINÁMICA TERRITORIAL EN LAS REGIONES FRONTERIZAS:
CULTURA, DESARROLLO REGIONAL Y POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS**



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ABSTRACT

This article examines the theoretical contributions that connect migration, border, culture, regional development and public policy, with emphasis on the territorial dynamics produced in border regions. The study adopts a qualitative bibliographic approach based on the analytical reading of classic and contemporary works in sociology, geography, political science and development studies. The central argument is that migratory flows cannot be understood in isolation, since they are linked to the social production of territory, the negotiation of identities, the circulation of cultural practices and the institutional strategies of regulation and planning. By reviewing authors such as Sayad, Castles and Miller, Portes, Raffestin, Foucher, Grimson, Haesbaert, Boisier, Sen, Perroux and Furtado, the text shows that the border goes beyond a geopolitical limit and becomes a relational space marked by mobility, cooperation, conflict and the recomposition of belonging. The discussion also highlights that regional development, when approached from a territorial perspective, requires public policies that are sensitive to the sociocultural specificities of border spaces. It concludes that an interdisciplinary approach broadens the analytical capacity of migration studies and provides stronger foundations for understanding inequality, interdependence and development possibilities in border contexts.

Keywords: Migration. Border. Territoriality. Regional Development. Public Policy.

RESUMO

Este artigo analisa as contribuições teóricas que articulam migração, fronteira, cultura, desenvolvimento regional e políticas públicas, com ênfase nas dinâmicas territoriais produzidas em regiões fronteiriças. A pesquisa é de natureza qualitativa e bibliográfica, baseada na leitura analítica de obras clássicas e contemporâneas da sociologia, da geografia, da ciência política e dos estudos do desenvolvimento. O argumento central sustenta que os fluxos migratórios não podem ser compreendidos de forma isolada, porque se vinculam à produção social do território, à negociação de identidades, à circulação de

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práticas culturais e às estratégias institucionais de regulação e planejamento. Ao revisar autores como Sayad, Castles e Miller, Portes, Raffestin, Foucher, Grimson, Haesbaert, Boisier, Sen, Perroux e Furtado, o texto demonstra que a fronteira ultrapassa a condição de limite geopolítico e se afirma como espaço relacional, marcado por mobilidade, cooperação, conflito e recomposição de pertencimentos. A discussão também evidencia que o desenvolvimento regional, quando pensado a partir do território, requer políticas públicas sensíveis às especificidades socioculturais dos espaços de fronteira. Conclui-se que a abordagem interdisciplinar amplia a capacidade analítica do estudo da migração e oferece bases mais consistentes para a compreensão das desigualdades, das interdependências e das possibilidades de desenvolvimento em contextos fronteiriços.

Palavras-chave: Migração. Fronteira. Territorialidade. Desenvolvimento Regional. Políticas Públicas.

RESUMEN

Este artículo analiza las contribuciones teóricas que articulan migración, fronteras, cultura, desarrollo regional y políticas públicas, con énfasis en las dinámicas territoriales que se producen en las regiones fronterizas. La investigación es de naturaleza cualitativa y bibliográfica, basada en una lectura analítica de obras clásicas y contemporáneas de sociología, geografía, ciencia política y estudios del desarrollo. El argumento central sostiene que los flujos migratorios no pueden entenderse de forma aislada, ya que están vinculados a la producción social del territorio, la negociación de identidades, la circulación de prácticas culturales y las estrategias institucionales de regulación y planificación. Mediante la revisión de autores como Sayad, Castles y Miller, Portes, Raffestin, Foucher, Grimson, Haesbaert, Boisier, Sen, Perroux y Furtado, el texto demuestra que la frontera trasciende la condición de límite geopolítico y se afirma como un espacio relacional, marcado por la movilidad, la cooperación, el conflicto y la recomposición de la pertenencia. El análisis también subraya que el desarrollo regional, concebido desde la perspectiva del territorio, requiere políticas públicas sensibles a las especificidades socioculturales de las zonas fronterizas. Se concluye que el enfoque interdisciplinario amplía la capacidad analítica de los estudios sobre migración y ofrece una base más sólida para comprender las desigualdades, las interdependencias y las posibilidades de desarrollo en contextos fronterizos.

Palabras clave: Migración. Frontera. Territorialidad. Desarrollo Regional. Políticas Públicas.

1 INTRODUCTION

Migratory processes occupy a central place in contemporary social sciences, especially when examined in territories crossed by intense circulation of people, goods, norms and symbols. In border regions, migration cannot be reduced to the simple displacement of individuals between different political units. It involves labor relations, family networks, disputes for recognition, cultural negotiations, and state control mechanisms that, together, reconfigure the social space.

The analytical relevance of borders stems from the fact that these territories condense different scales of interaction. In them, macroeconomic and national political decisions coexist with daily practices of mobility, commerce, kinship, and belonging. For this reason, the study of migration in border contexts requires an interdisciplinary approach, capable of articulating contributions from sociology, geography, anthropology, regional economics and political science.

From this perspective, migration is understood as a complex historical and social phenomenon. It is not just an individual response to economic incentives, but a process shaped by structural inequalities, collective trajectories, social networks, and institutions. At the same time, the border is no longer seen only as a line of separation between States and is now understood as a relational space, in which territorialities, identities and development strategies are produced.

The objective of this article is to analyze, in a bibliographic key, the theoretical contributions that articulate migration, border, culture, regional development and public policies. It seeks to demonstrate that the understanding of border dynamics depends on the integrated reading of these fields, as migratory flows alter the organization of the territory, tension identity categories and demand specific institutional responses. As a research problem, it is asked how social relations in border regions develop when human mobility, territoriality, regional development and public action are simultaneously considered.

In addition to this introduction, the text presents the methodology used, discusses the main theoretical contributions on migration, border, culture and regional development, examines the implications of these perspectives for public policies and, finally, synthesizes the analytical contributions of the study. The review was restructured to reduce conceptual repetition, strengthen argumentative cohesion, and adapt the writing to the academic standard expected in scientific journals.

2 METHODOLOGY

The research is characterized as qualitative, bibliographic in nature and with analytical-interpretative purpose. The corpus was composed of books and reference articles in the fields of migration studies, political geography, culture, regional development and public policies. Priority was given to classic and contemporary works that offer consolidated categories to interpret human mobility, borders, territoriality, cultural identities and territorial planning.

The literature review was organized into three complementary procedures. The first consisted of the selection of authors with recognized theoretical relevance to the theme, such as Sayad, Castles and Miller, Portes, Raffestin, Foucher, Grimson, Haesbaert, Boisier, Sen, Perroux and Furtado. The second involved the analytical reading of the works, with the identification of central concepts, convergences, tensions and possibilities of interdisciplinary articulation. The third corresponded to interpretative systematization, focusing on the construction of an analytical axis capable of relating migration, border, culture, regional development and public policies.

From the methodological point of view, the review did not seek to exhaust all the available production on the subject, but to select consistent contributions to the construction of an integrated theoretical framework. The inclusion criterion favored texts that explain migratory processes beyond economism, define the border as a social and political category, problematize culture in contexts of mobility and treat regional development as a territorially situated process.

The analysis of the material was based on comparative and interpretative reading. Instead of presenting authors in isolation, we sought to highlight how their formulations complement or oppose each other. This procedure allows us to understand that migration in border regions should be read as a multidimensional phenomenon, whose explanation requires dialogue between economic structures, sociocultural practices, social networks and forms of state regulation.

3 MIGRATION, BORDER AND CULTURE: THEORETICAL BASES OF ANALYSIS

In the field of migration studies, Abdelmalek Sayad occupies a central position by demonstrating that migration cannot be reduced to statistics of entry and exit or to strictly individual choices. For the author, it is a total social fact, that is, a process that simultaneously mobilizes economic, political, legal, symbolic and affective dimensions. Its formulation shifts the analysis of the migrant as a labor force to the social condition produced by emigration and immigration. By insisting that all immigration refers to emigration, Sayad shows that the

phenomenon must be understood from the historical relations between the society of origin and the society of destination.

This reading broadens the understanding of the effects of migration on forms of belonging. The migrant does not completely abandon the social universe of origin nor does he integrate fully and immediately into the new space. On the contrary, their experience is marked by ambivalence, disengagement, and continuous negotiation. In analytical terms, this perspective is decisive for border contexts, in which the daily circulation between territories tends to intensify multiple bonds, overlapping loyalties, and complex forms of social insertion.

Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller contribute to this discussion by situating migrations on the scale of globalization. In his approach, the contemporary intensification of displacements stems from economic, political, and technological transformations that increase the interdependence between regions. The authors demonstrate that migratory flows have diversified, feminized, politicized and come to involve countries of origin, transit and destination simultaneously. Such a perspective allows us to understand that migration is constitutive of the global order, and not an exceptional or residual phenomenon.

Alejandro Portes' contribution complements this picture by highlighting the role of migratory networks. By emphasizing family, community, and economic ties that connect migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants, the author shows how mobility tends to acquire social continuity. Networks reduce costs, share information, enable occupational insertion and create solidarity mechanisms. In border spaces, this logic is particularly relevant, as territorial proximity favors lasting relationships, commercial circuits, and circulation strategies that do not end with the formal passage through a checkpoint.

An important consequence of this approach is the overcoming of readings that rigidly separate economic causes and cultural effects of migration. When displacement is seen only as a rational decision oriented by income, there is a tendency to make invisible the way in which the labor market itself is structured by state policies, ethnic hierarchies, community networks and social representations of the foreigner. The literature reviewed suggests, on the contrary, that the economic insertion of the migrant is already mediated by cultural and territorial markers.

Also for this reason, the border should not be treated only as an object of geopolitics, but as a category of experience. The crossing can take on very different meanings depending on the mobility regime, the subject's social profile, the available documentation, the language, the gender, the occupational position and the density of social networks on both sides of the state boundary. In many situations, the social distance between groups that share the same

border territory is greater than the physical distance that separates them. This observation helps to understand why cooperation and conflict coexist in the same spaces.

In border territories, everyday life tends to produce specific forms of social pragmatism. Families distribute their members among different cities, workers build commuting routines, merchants organize informal and formal supply circuits, students cross the international line to access services and opportunities. These movements do not nullify the presence of the state, but show that social life often operates through arrangements that combine legality, custom, and practical adaptation to the conditions of the territory.

From a cultural point of view, the border offers particularly favorable conditions for the observation of situational identities. Subjects can activate national, local, ethnic, linguistic or religious belongings according to the circumstance. This plasticity does not mean the absence of identity, but the permanent reorganization of repertoires. Hall helps to understand this process by rejecting the idea of cultural essence, while Canclini demonstrates that social practices in contact contexts produce combinations that cannot be described in terms of purity or simple assimilation.

If migration needs to be understood as an expanded social process, the same is true for the border. Claude Raffestin proposes a relational reading of territory, understood as the result of mediations and power relations. In this key, the border is not a simple natural datum or neutral cartographic layout; it expresses political operations of delimitation, control and organization of space. Michel Foucher, in turn, deepens the geopolitical dimension of state borders by emphasizing their strategic function in the affirmation of sovereignty, in the production of national identities and in the management of differences.

The articulation between Raffestin and Foucher allows us to distinguish two complementary movements. On the one hand, the border is a political institution, associated with state authority, legal regulation, and territorial surveillance. On the other hand, it is socially constructed and continuously reinterpreted by the subjects who cross it. For this reason, border regions cannot be defined only by state norms; it is necessary to observe the practices that are developed in them, the circuits of circulation and the social uses of space.

Alejandro Grimson reinforces this inflection by treating the border as a complex social and cultural space. His approach is particularly relevant to Latin America, where international lines coexist with historical neighborhood relations, economic exchange, bilingualism, kinship, and daily circulation. The border, in this sense, does not only separate; it also connects, mixes, and produces contact situations in which identities are negotiated. The author draws attention to the fact that the border experience combines asymmetries of power with dense forms of interaction.

This perspective converges with Rogério Haesbaert's notion of multiterritoriality. Instead of supposing that mobility dissolves territorial bonds, the author shows that subjects and groups can maintain simultaneous insertions in different scales and spaces. The migrant can work on one side of the border, reside on another, preserve family ties in a third place, and participate in transnational symbolic circuits. Territoriality thus becomes plural and procedural. This category is especially fruitful for interpreting regions in which social life is organized by multiple belongings and recurrent mobility.

On the cultural level, Stuart Hall contributes by understanding identities as historical, relational and discursive constructions, and not as fixed essences. Migration, in this context, does not cause a mere loss of identity, but processes of repositioning and reinterpreting belongings. Néstor García Canclini expands this discussion with the notion of cultural hybridization, which allows us to understand how practices, codes, and references recombine in situations of unequal contact. In border regions, the coexistence of different national norms, languages, markets and traditions produces hybrid repertoires and specific forms of sociability.

The notion of diaspora, systematized by William Safran, also illuminates the relationship between migration and culture by highlighting the permanence of symbolic links with the land of origin, even after spatial dispersion. Although later literature expanded and criticized its model, the category remains useful for thinking about collective memories, transnational networks, and identities sustained by origin narratives. In summary, cultural and migratory studies converge by showing that mobility and border do not eliminate belonging; they reorganize it on multiple bases, often tense, but socially productive.

This debate is close to Homi Bhabha's formulations about the in-betweens of culture. Although his work is not specifically dedicated to international borders, it contributes to thinking about spaces of enunciation in which difference is produced by translation, negotiation and ambivalence. In migratory contexts, such a contribution allows us to understand that culture does not remain intact, but neither does it disappear. It is re-inscribed in new relations of power and communication.

For this reason, the category of territoriality cannot be dissociated from symbolic processes. The territory is appropriated materially, but also narrated, remembered and represented. Migrants construct affective maps of space, define places of safety and risk, attribute meanings to institutions and create circuits of sociability. In border regions, these maps tend to cross formal national boundaries, composing a vivid geography that often does not coincide with state cartography.

Another relevant point is that cross-border circulation can intensify both integration and stigmatization. If, on the one hand, spatial proximity favors economic exchanges, kinship and cultural familiarity, on the other hand, it can produce discourses that associate certain groups with illegality, unfair competition or threat to public order. The literature on migration shows that control policies often operate by selective classifications, differentiating legitimate and illegitimate mobilities according to economic, racial and national criteria.

In summary, the theoretical basis discussed in this section allows us to understand that migration, border and culture form an inseparable analytical triangle. Mobility transforms the territory; the territory conditions the experience of mobility; and culture mediates the meanings attributed to this process. Any analysis that intends to interpret border regions rigorously must therefore simultaneously consider these three dimensions.

4 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC POLICIES IN BORDER CONTEXTS

In the field of regional development, classical approaches show that the economic space is marked by persistent inequalities. François Perroux, when formulating the theory of growth poles, demonstrates that economic expansion tends to be concentrated in activities and places capable of radiating effects on other productive units. Celso Furtado, in turn, shows that development is not to be confused with simple growth of the product, as it depends on structural transformations and the overcoming of historical patterns of dependence and underdevelopment. These contributions remain relevant for the analysis of border regions, in which investments, infrastructure, and trade flows tend to produce uneven effects between neighboring locations.

Contemporary formulations expand this discussion by incorporating territorial, institutional and social dimensions. Sergio Boisier understands territorial development as a process built by the capacity for coordination between actors, by the mobilization of endogenous resources and by the formation of synergistic capital. From this perspective, the territory is not a mere physical support of the economy, but a space for collective action. Michael Storper and Georges Benko, in different ways, reinforce the idea that regional dynamics depend on articulations between the productive base, institutions, networks and knowledge.

Amartya Sen's approach adds a substantive criterion to the debate by defining development as the expansion of freedoms. Centrality no longer falls exclusively on economic indicators and starts to include effective capacities for social participation, access to rights, education, health, security, and mobility. Applied to border regions, this reading suggests that development should be evaluated based on the concrete opportunities available to

populations that live with intense circulation, institutional asymmetries and frequent precariousness in the provision of public services.

When articulated with migration studies, these perspectives show that migration is not only a consequence of uneven development, but also an element that reconfigures regional economies. Migrants expand markets, produce trade networks, introduce cultural repertoires, redistribute labor force and change patterns of consumption and occupation of the territory. At the same time, they may face document barriers, discrimination, labor segmentation, and unequal access to social policies. For this reason, the relationship between migration and regional development is ambivalent: it contains dynamic potential, but it also reveals and reproduces inequalities.

Celso Furtado's reading is particularly useful to avoid linear interpretations of development. By drawing attention to historical structures of dependence, productive heterogeneity and concentration of income, the author shows that the territory does not respond homogeneously to economic stimuli. In border areas, this warning is fundamental, because proximity to another country does not guarantee, by itself, virtuous integration or equitable distribution of the benefits generated by circulation.

Similarly, the idea of the growth pole in Perroux needs to be read critically when applied to frontier contexts. Certain cities can concentrate services, credit, logistics infrastructure and business opportunities, radiating dynamism to their surroundings. However, polarization can also deepen dependencies and empty neighboring localities. Regional development, in this context, requires coordination mechanisms capable of distributing capacities and preventing spatial asymmetries from becoming lasting exclusion.

Boisier adds to this debate a decisive emphasis on territorial governance. Development is no longer conceived as an automatic effect of the market or exogenous investment and starts to depend on the articulation between public, private and collective actors. In border regions, this means recognizing that municipalities, national bodies, community entities and even institutions from the neighboring country can participate, formally or informally, in the management of common problems. Cooperation, in this case, is not only desirable; it is usually a condition of effectiveness.

Sen's approach to capabilities further broadens the normative horizon of the analysis. By shifting attention to what people are actually capable of doing and being, the author offers a valuable criterion for evaluating policies in border territories. It is not enough to register growth in trade or increase in the flow of goods; It is necessary to verify whether the local population has real means to access education, health, income, legal protection and social participation in dignified conditions.

Public policies assume, in this scenario, a decisive role. In border regions, state planning needs to consider that the population served does not always coincide with the formal limits of national citizenship. Health, education, assistance, security, document regularization, urban mobility and economic inspection services are strained by continuous cross-border flows. Public management thus faces the challenge of reconciling sovereignty, rights, inter-institutional cooperation and local specificities.

This finding requires abandoning policies formulated from homogeneous models of territory. Borders are spaces in which social life often goes beyond the traditional administrative cut. The presence of transnational families, commuting workers, circulating students, and informal commercial networks demands flexible instruments, coordination between scales of government, and cooperation mechanisms with entities located on the other side of the international line. Without this recognition, state action tends to produce gaps in care and low effectiveness.

In addition, public policies aimed at regional development need to incorporate the cultural dimension of the border. Actions that ignore linguistic repertoires, local forms of sociability, historically consolidated economic practices, and specific migratory experiences tend to fail to implement. The recognition of cultural diversity is not ancillary; it conditions the ability to formulate legitimate policies, adhering to the territory and guided by social inclusion.

In analytical terms, the border can be understood as a privileged laboratory for observing the relationship between State, territory and mobility. In these contexts, the formulation of public policies clearly reveals the tensions between control and shelter, social protection and surveillance, economic development and the reproduction of inequalities. Therefore, the reviewed literature suggests that planning in border regions should combine fine territorial reading, attention to migratory social networks, and commitment to rights.

In many border areas, the provision of public services is crossed by administrative ambiguities. People living in constant circulation may depend on equipment located in another jurisdiction, while local governments face difficulties in planning policies based on fluctuating populations. This affects the production of statistics, the financing of policies, and the definition of institutional responsibilities. The reviewed literature suggests that such problems are not marginal, but structural for territorial management.

Migration policies, social policies and regional development policies should not, therefore, be formulated in isolation. Document regularization influences access to work and social protection; the design of the infrastructure affects commercial circuits and everyday mobility; cultural and educational programs can favor integration and reduce conflicts; Intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms expand the capacity to respond to shared

demands. In frontier contexts, institutional fragmentation tends to generate inefficiency and deepen vulnerabilities.

There is also a symbolic dimension of public policy that deserves attention. By naming certain groups as a problem, risk or threat, the State produces classification effects that impact social trajectories and belongings. On the other hand, policies that recognize cultural plurality and the legitimacy of mobilities can favor inclusion, institutional trust and civic participation. The quality of public action depends, therefore, not only on material resources, but also on the categories through which the territory and its population are understood.

In a propositional key, the literature examined points to the need for territorialized policies. This means formulating actions based on localized diagnoses, attentive to the concrete flows of people, to the effective economic circuits and to the cultural forms that organize daily life. The frontier demands situated planning, capable of combining multi-scale coordination, production of qualified information, institutional strengthening and social participation. Without this, public intervention runs the risk of reproducing abstractions that have little dialogue with lived reality.

5 ANALYTICAL ARTICULATION OF REFERENCES

The integrated reading of the authors examined allows us to sustain four central propositions. The first is that migration must be treated as a structural and relational process. Sayad, Castles, and Miller and Portes show, through different paths, that population displacements result from inequalities, state policies, social networks, and global transformations. This combination prevents simplified explanations and reaffirms the need for interdisciplinary approaches.

The second proposition is that the border does not operate only as a geopolitical limit. Raffestin, Foucher, Grimson and Haesbaert show that the border space condenses power, circulation, territorialization and multiple belongings. In this sense, the border is not a neutral scenario for migration; it actively participates in the production of the social, economic and cultural dynamics it intends to regulate.

The third proposition is that culture cannot be treated as a residual variable. Hall, Canclini and Safran allow us to understand that mobility and territorial contact produce procedural identities, hybrid forms of belonging and lasting transnational bonds. In border regions, culture organizes daily practices, mediates conflicts, guides economic strategies and influences the institutional reception of migrant groups.

The fourth proposition is that regional development, when thought of in a territorial key, depends on the articulation between economy, institutions, rights and recognition of

sociocultural diversity. Perroux, Furtado, Boisier and Sen converge in the criticism of the reduction of development to economic growth and reinforce that the territory must be considered in its materiality, in its institutional density and in its capacity to produce inclusion.

These four propositions, when put together, offer a robust theoretical basis for empirical studies on border regions. They allow us to examine both the economic and social insertion of migrant groups and the ways in which public policies can respond to contexts of intense mobility. More than listing authors, the review demonstrates that the articulation between migration, border, culture, and regional development produces a coherent interpretative field to analyze territories marked by interdependence, inequality, and social innovation.

The articulation proposed in this article also helps to reposition the very notion of region. Far from designating only a delimited portion of space, the region appears as the result of interactions, flows and institutions. In frontier areas, this definition becomes even more evident, as regional life is often organized by cross-cutting connections that cross the international line and defy rigid administrative classifications.

Another analytical gain is to recognize that mobility does not necessarily represent territorial disorganization. Although public discourses often associate circulation with lack of control, the literature shows that migrants build relatively stable patterns of displacement, work, residence, and sociability. Migratory networks and multiple territorialities produce their own forms of ordering, although not always recognized by the state apparatus. The problem, in this case, is not the absence of order, but the coexistence of distinct orders.

This observation is important for future empirical research because it guides the choice of indicators and categories of analysis. Instead of measuring only formal inputs and outputs or aggregate volumes of trade, it is necessary to observe daily practices of circulation, differential access to rights, density of social networks, cultural repertoires in interaction, and local institutional capacity. Theory, in this sense, does not only work as an interpretative framework, but as a tool to define what should be observed in the territory.

Finally, the integration between the references examined allows us to overcome frequent dichotomies in the public debate: legal/illegal, national/foreign, center/periphery, tradition/modernity, growth/development. Such oppositions, when taken rigidly, obscure the complexity of border experiences. The literature reviewed here indicates that the relevant social phenomena occur precisely in the zones of contact, mediation, and overlap. It is in this analytical space that the frontier reveals its greatest explanatory power.

Although the bibliographic focus of this article is predominantly theoretical, it has direct implications for the reading of concrete situations in twin cities, migratory corridors and areas

of cross-border integration. In such contexts, the territory usually operates simultaneously as a space of opportunity and restriction. The proximity between markets, services and family networks can facilitate social reproduction; However, the difference between legislation, state capacities and citizenship regimes also creates areas of uncertainty. The theory helps to interpret this ambivalence without reducing it to an anomaly.

In many cases, the border experience produces a temporality of its own. Daily life is organized by customs opening hours, exchange rate variations, different school calendars, asymmetric health policies, and frequent changes in the intensity of inspection. These elements interfere in the economic and family life of the local populations. The border, therefore, does not act only on space; it regulates social times, rhythms of circulation and expectations of permanence or return.

This temporal dimension reinforces the importance of social networks. In scenarios of regulatory instability, they are often the ones who guarantee reliable information, logistical support, and adaptation mechanisms. The analytical value of the concept of migratory network lies precisely in showing that individual action is mediated by relational structures. The decision to migrate, stay, circulate, or return does not stem solely from economic calculation, but from shared expectations, reciprocal obligations, and collectively constructed repertoires of trust.

The urban dimension of the border regions is also noteworthy. Many migratory dynamics materialize in specific neighborhoods, commercial centers, popular markets, religious spaces, associations and public facilities. The border territory is not just an abstract extension; It is expressed in concrete urban forms, often marked by segregation, centralization of services and differentiated appropriations of space. The territorial reading of regional development needs to incorporate these intra-urban cuts, as it is in them that inequalities and institutional capacities become visible.

From a cultural point of view, border circulation can favor bilingualism, hybrid food repertoires, shared festivals, juxtaposed religious calendars, and new forms of symbolic consumption. Such processes do not cancel conflicts; on the contrary, they often coexist with moral disputes, prejudices and national or ethnic hierarchies. Culture, therefore, should be understood less as a static stock of traditions and more as a field for negotiation, classification and production of social legitimacy.

The literature on regional development also suggests that territorial competitiveness cannot be analyzed without considering social cohesion and institutional density. Territories that have cooperative networks, administrative capacity, information production and coordination mechanisms tend to respond better to external shocks and turn circulation into

opportunity. In border areas, this observation is even more relevant, because exchange rate volatility, regulatory changes, and political crises can rapidly alter mobility and trade patterns.

When the relationship between migration and public policies is observed from this perspective, it becomes evident that the challenge is not only to expand the supply of services, but to design institutional arrangements compatible with populations on the move. Registration, financing, planning, and evaluation are often based on stable residents and clearly defined jurisdictions. However, the border produces situations in which the daily use of services goes beyond these categories. Territorial governance therefore needs to develop instruments that are more sensitive to circulation and interdependence.

Ultimately, the contribution of this review lies in demonstrating that the analysis of border regions gains density when migration, culture, territory, development and public policies are treated as mutually constitutive dimensions. This formulation does not eliminate the need for specific empirical approaches, but it offers criteria for constructing them in a more rigorous way. By shifting the debate from partial explanations to an integrated framework, the article seeks to strengthen the conceptual basis of future research and expand the dialogue between different fields of knowledge.

6 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The literature review shows that migratory processes, when observed in border regions, require reading that goes beyond sectoral or monocausal approaches. Migration proved to be inseparable from power relations, social networks, identity negotiations, production of territory and state action. Thus, human mobility cannot be treated only as physical displacement or the border as a simple line of separation between sovereignties.

The analysis also showed that the border is a relational space, in which control, circulation, cooperation and conflict coexist. In these territories, identities are continuously redefined, territorialities become multiple, and regional development depends on institutional capacities capable of recognizing the complexity of local social life. The literature examined thus reinforces that the border territory is not an analytical periphery, but a privileged place to understand contemporary transformations.

In terms of regional development, it was found that approaches focused only on economic growth are insufficient to interpret contexts marked by institutional asymmetries and intense population mobility. Development, understood as structural transformation, territorial coordination and expansion of freedoms, requires public policies that are sensitive to the concrete social circuits of the border. This includes attention to rights, access to services, cooperation across government scales, and recognition of cultural diversity.

It is concluded, therefore, that the articulation between migration, border, culture, regional development and public policies constitutes a consistent theoretical axis for the analysis of border regions. By reducing conceptual repetitions and reorganizing the argument, this version of the text reinforces the study's contribution to the interdisciplinary debate and offers a more cohesive basis for future empirical investigations on migrant territorialities, governance, and development in border spaces.

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