

Debate on Research-Policy Nexus and the Interaction between Politicians and Researchers in Mediterranean Migration Issues

Day: Thursday May 21st, 2020

Time: 15:00 – 17:00

This session will be live streamed on the [IEMed Streaming Video Channel](#).

Framework of the debate

There seems to be a widespread concern among researchers and policymakers alike that Mediterranean migration needs more evidenced-based policies as well as a joint work of collaboration. This has become even more evident with the advent of the so-called migration crisis in 2015, which challenged migration governance in the region and produced an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. This context has also reactivated the outspread feeling that politicians, in both sides of the Mediterranean, have been implementing policies that fail to fulfill their stated goals, being highly ineffective and even producing undesirable side-effects. As a result, within the Euro-Mediterranean area, the debate about research-policy nexus seems to be gaining each day more prominence, especially concerning the discussion of what is or should be the role of expert knowledge in policymaking and the extent to which research can shape the policy process and influence the political debate. So far, the most resonated discourse has been that research should aim policy success, being an essential tool to make policies more effective. However, it has been argued that lack of communication and contact between researchers and policy-makers is one of the main obstacles preventing researchers to be policy relevant. For this reason, it is common to hear arguments and initiatives in pro of improving the mechanisms of communication and level of trust, enhancing knowledge exchange and impact.

Undoubtedly, the literature indicates that this nexus is far from being straightforward and that it should be subject to further questioning. In this sense, it should be a matter of debate not only how research might impact policies, but also how the policies and politics in the Euro-Mediterranean region might be affecting knowledge production and transmission. Finally, the ethical implications of the research-policy nexus should be also central for this debate, especially when it comes to an area as controversial as migration issues in the Mediterranean, which suffers from an increasingly politicization and polarization on the one hand, and a pressure for applying an evidenced-based approach on the other.

Further questions for debate:

- To which extent should the relation between researchers and policy-makers lead to the politicization of research? Could it constrain or influence in any sense academic freedom?
- What is the role of science in transforming the social world and with which consequences? Can scientific production only provide solutions for social problems or also create them?
- Should we take for granted that the policy impact of research is necessarily and always good? Even taking into consideration that expert knowledge can either inform policy or legitimize political interventions?
- How to conciliate these two spheres with such different dynamics, priorities and goals? How to make research useful for policy without damaging its capacity of producing critic and independent knowledge?

Chair/Moderator: [Luisa Faustini Torres](#) (GRITIM-UPF, Barcelona)

Participants: [Guia Gilardoni](#) (ReSOMA, Milan) and [Ivan Martin](#) (EuroMedMig Associated Member, GRITIM-UPF, Barcelona)

Bios of Speakers (in alphabetical order)



H2020.

Guia Gilardoni (g.gilardoni@ismu.org) is International Research Project Manager at ISMU Foundation, Milan, where she is in charge for the International Relations. She has a research scholarship at the Catholic University in Milan. Her topics of interest are European migration policy, refugees and migrant integration. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and Research Methods from Catholic University of Milan, where she specialized in the integration of young generations in multicultural society, and a Bachelor's Degree in Modern History from Bologna University. She is member of the Steering Group of Metropolis International and the Board of Directors of IMISCOE and now leading ReSOMA - Research Social platform on Migration and Asylum



Luisa Faustini Torres (luisa.faustini@upf.edu) is Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at UPF and a member of GRITIM-UPF. In 2015, she completed a Master of Immigration Management at UPF. Prior to that, she did a Master in International Relations at the Barcelona Institute for International Studies (2012), where she specialized in global governance and foreign policy. She also holds a B.A. in International Relations from the IBMEC University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her main research interests are migration policies and international relations. Her PhD research focuses on the impacts of the externalization of EU migration policies on the democratization of countries of origin and transit of migration in the Southern Mediterranean neighbourhood. She is particularly interested on the nexus between these two political processes, which she investigates empirically by focusing on Morocco as a case study.



Iván Martín (ivan.martin@upf.edu) is Economist. Currently, he is Associate Researcher at GRITIM-UPF, where he teaches a master course on International Labour Migration Policies Compared. Between 2013 and 2016 he was Part-time Professor at the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute in Florence, as well as member of the Expert Group on Economic Migration of the European Commission and Key Expert on Labour Migration providing External Technical Expertise on Migration to DG DEVCO of the European Commission (ETEM V Project). Formerly, he has been Senior Research Fellow at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs-CIDOB (2014), where he was the scientific coordinator of a FP-7 project on Arab Youth; Associate Research Fellow at the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales in Madrid (2008-2013); Research Administrator at the College of Europe, Natolin Campus, Poland (2010-2011); Director of the Socio-Economic Forum of Casa Árabe (Arab House) and its International Institute for Arab and Muslim World Studies in Spain (2006-2008); and Adjunct Professor at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (2002-2006). He has coordinated several international research projects and since 2010 he has worked as consultant and trainer on labour migration, youth employment and migration and development in Southern Mediterranean Countries, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America for the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the European Commission, the European Training Foundation, the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, the EuroMed Migration project and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat, as well as AECID and the Swiss Development Cooperation. Publications: <http://eui.academia.edu/IvánMartín>.