

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Thursday, October 19th 2017

12.00-14.00

Room 24.400

1. The “balloon effect” in the Mediterranean. A proposal for a new analytical framework to understand interactions between migratory flows and the external dimension of European migration policies.

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Abstract

The management of migration and mobility in the Mediterranean is constantly developed under the pressure of a specific ‘emergency’ or “crisis”, though these ‘crisis’ has now become a structural feature of the region. Political answers of European countries and EU are driven by this crisis-based and securitarian logic fostering the external dimension of immigration policies and producing de facto an extra-territorialisation of migration control policies towards third countries. These short-term measures build a remote control of migrations based on the delegation of migration flows’ control to the main transit countries of the African continent, in order to create a 'buffer zone' around their territories and supposedly discourage migration.

In this frame, European governments resort to a heterogeneous set of agreements with sending and transit African countries to push and secure their collaboration in controlling migratory flows to Europe. The emerging inter-regional framework in the Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African spaces is based on a very blurred concept: this of “transit”, referred both to migration and to non-EU countries. These “transit” areas constitute the main target of the external dimension of European immigration policies – primarily because of the internationalization of immigration policies, but also because of the externalization of migration flows’ control in neighbouring areas outside Europe.

The emergence and consolidation of an external dimension of European migration policies, as well as the collaboration with Mediterranean countries, has received a growing attention also from scholars that, in the last decade, have analysed this topic from several epistemological and methodological approaches, looking at different cases also from different academic disciplines. These dynamics are approached by scholars through the analytical prisms of ‘remote control’, ‘externalisation’, ‘extra-territorialisation’ or ‘delegation of migration control’ towards third countries.

At the same time, scholars also look at the consequences for migrants and refugees of this increasing cooperation on migration control between partners at the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, in the academic literature, there is a gap concerning the absence of more global, in terms of space and time, and systemic analysis. Generally, the existing researches are focused on a specific European receiving country, on a specific third country or, sometimes, on a specific migratory route towards Europe and, generally, on a reduced time frame linked to recent evolutions of policies or flows. Moreover, I consider that there is also an inter-disciplinary gap concerning the study of interaction between the external dimension of policies and the migratory flows in the Mediterranean. Generally, political scientists or IR scholars are considering migration and border control policies, as well as collaboration between European and neighbouring countries. Similarly, scholars coming from anthropology and using ethnographic techniques are focusing mainly on migrants and refugees experiences, but they often miss to connect these ones to the larger political framework in the Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African spaces. The most evident result of the Euro-African framework of migration management is a repeated displacement of the border between EU and Africa *vis-à-vis* of migratory flows every time more to the South, as well as the creation of a series of buffer zones in the African continent. In terms of flows, the emerging inter-regional governance of migration in the Euro-African space has mainly displaced the migratory paths back and forth following the negotiation and the implementation of the cooperation, more than curbing the arrivals of people to Europe.

Without considering systematically the entire Mediterranean framework, with the appendix of Sub-Saharan Africa, in a long term it is impossible to exactly understand the full results of interactions occurring between the aforementioned two elements: the externalised migration policies and the flows dynamics.

The existing analysis of current migration control policies in the Mediterranean emphasizes the redundancy of the cooperation framework, the frictions with human rights and asylum regime, the ephemeral effects of these policies and their dramatic collateral effects on migrants' and refugees': growing exposure to violence, the rise in migrant deaths in the Mediterranean space, disrespect of human rights and refugee rights, as well as the rise of trafficking and smuggling activities. There is then a tragic need to develop a proactive, evidence-based and ethic-based policy framework of migration and mobility in the Mediterranean.

To promote a deep evidence-based paradigm change of migration policies it is essential to take into account the interactions between the policy framework of cooperation between countries at the two shores of the Mediterranean, from one hand, and evolution and displacement of migratory paths, from the other. To do so, I will propose a theoretical framework based on a concept not usually employed in migration literature - the 'balloon effect' - based on the idea beyond is that when a balloon is squeezed on one side, it will produce a bulge on the other side. This framework is based on a dynamic approach of migration phenomena, inspired by the migration system theory, will take in consideration qualitative and quantitative data, crossing the analysis of formal and informal cooperation agreements (both at bilateral and multilateral

level) with those of time and special evolution of crossing-borders flows in the Mediterranean, as well as of death in this space.

In our view, this will demonstrate that “migration crisis” in the Mediterranean are a constant fact in the region, a structural feature of this space. Dismantling this idea of “crisis” will also put into question the reactive and short-term bases policies addressed to externalisation and will clearly point out a crucial necessity of a deep reorientation of the paradigms and tools of the current European migration policy framework – centred exclusively on destination States’ security - in order to prioritize beyond all the security of people on the move.

2. Immigrants and native citizens in schools: addressing ethnic prejudice and trust formation

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Abstract

The main aim of this paper is to explore the role of prejudice in how natives regard immigrants in the school context and how it reflects in their trust formation in local schools. It reviews the existing literature on prejudice and intergroup relations and the main concepts of trust formation in schools related to school culture and climate. A qualitative methodology based on in depth interviews and focus groups is used in order to get a richer picture of the settings and familiarize with the ideas that are formed in the link between prejudice towards immigration and trust in local schools. The research is done in Barcelona as a first case study, comparing the discourse of parents with children in schools in neighborhoods with high and low levels of immigration. The data from the fieldwork indicate that the evaluation of the immigrants by the natives is based on their value system. The cultural, social and physical distance perceived by the natives, and different language and religion of the immigrants constitute the major sources of prejudice. Moreover, in our analysis we have distinguished between two different ways that these prejudices result in distrust in institutions: prejudices that result in distrust within the schools and prejudices that result in distrust in higher level institutions, such as city or regional level institutions.

Key words: prejudice, intergroup relations, trust formation, school community, local schools