



**Universitat  
Pompeu Fabra  
Barcelona**



## **GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session**

Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

12.00-14.00

Room 24.400

### **1. "Why don't you bring them to your house?" A qualitative research on refugees' domestic reception.**

[Mackda Ghebremariam Tesfau](#)

University of Padova

#### **Abstract**

The research seeks to investigate domestic hosting of refugees in locals' households. The goal is to understand what situations, paths and motivations led to the choice of hosting, how it is formally structured, and what role (material and symbolic) such experiences assume in the lives of all the people involved, within local communities and in the wider socio-political landscape. Attention is given to how the concept of solidarity is worked out and negotiated within these experiences, with an emphasis on the presence (or absence) of exchanges and slippages between the conceptual and emotional corpus traditionally linked to the humanitarian dimension and the practices, motivations and knowledge that are considered related to the political sphere.

The research is comparative as it involves three case studies from two national contexts (Italy and Spain): Ciac Onlus (Parma, Emilia Romagna, Italy), Refugees Welcome (Veneto, Italy) and Bienvenidos Refugiados (Barcelona, Catalunya). The comparison is brought further due to the different organizational structure of the associations involved. While Ciac is part of the national reception network, Refugees Welcome is a non-governative actor, and its activities depend mostly on volunteering.

The methods used in the study are: participant observation, in-depth interviews and visual methods (interviews with visual questions).

## **2. From intercultural discourse to de facto representation? The role of the ethnic majority in integration processes.**

[Zenja Hellgren](#)

Marie Curie Research Fellow at GRITIM-UPF

### **Abstract**

Interculturalism as policy approach to ethnic diversity and integration has gained significant presence in Europe, most importantly at the level of local administrations. Scholarship on interculturalism often transmits certain optimism, viewing the intercultural agenda as a means to achieve what earlier eras' assimilationist or multiculturalist approaches failed to do: promote social cohesion while recognizing ethnic and cultural pluralism. There is however a lack of empirical assessment of whether and with what results discourses and agendas on interculturalism are being translated into practice. In this paper, I suggest that intercultural policies could be evaluated in terms of de facto representation of ethnic diversity at different levels in a society, for instance within its institutions and workplaces, applying what Vertovec (2012) has referred to as the *politics of presence*. This approach is based on the assumption that underrepresentation of immigrants and ethnic diversity hampers integration processes, and that representation of diversity at the institutional level is crucial in order to provide members of ethnic minority groups with role models and increase their identification with society. Inherent in this approach is the recognition of the ethnic majority's role in integration processes. The paper aims to contribute to developing a conceptual framework where also the native majority "mainstream citizens" are considered subjects of integration and diversity policies, based on a recognition that the outcome of such policies to a high degree depend on the ethnic majority population's attitudes and actions in a wide range of situations.