

## **GRITIM-UPF organizes the Roundtable IEMed Interdisciplinary Research Seminars**

# **Mediterranean Migration Governance Systems: New Patterns and New Issues within the Research Agenda**

**Day:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2019

**Time:** 9h30 - 11h15

**Place:** Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC), Carrer del Carme, 47, 08001, Barcelona. Room Nicolau d'Olwer.

### **Framework of the roundtable**

The roundtable aims to introduce new debates on Mediterranean Migration both at the policy and research levels, at the North and South of the Mediterranean basin. The idea is to promote a forum of debate on the new policy patterns in the Mediterranean Migration Governance systems. The overarching goal is to place Mediterranean Migration within the global agenda, underlying what is singular about the region and its relevance for the broader global migration debate.

**Chair:** [Zouhair El Hairan](#), GRITIM-UPF, Barcelona

**Discussant:** [Hélène Thiollet](#), Sciences Po, France

### **Titles, Abstracts**

**Controversial impacts of EU's externalisation of migration policy towards Turkey: Case of "EU-Turkey Statement"**, Ayselin Yildiz

The presentation aims to argue how and to what extent the externalisation of EU's migration policy affects Turkey's migration governance with respect to border management, readmissions and providing international protection. Referring to the highly dynamic and complicated factors in the region, it focuses specifically on the EU-Turkey statement and its controversial impacts within the broader externalisation debate. Based on field research conducted in Izmir, Turkey (a transit and migrant-smuggling hub), it argues that the Statement has generated significant changes in Turkey concerning the border management practices, readmissions, and moreover triggered increasing human trafficking as part of smugglers fast response to the changing policy practices. In that respect, the Statement works "successfully" as a direct consequence of externalisation policies based on security driven "remote-control approach" but has nothing to do with EU's vague rhetoric on development and humanitarian responsibility.

**The impacts of EU external migration policies on the democratization of the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood: A case of challenge or opportunity?**, Luisa Faustini Torres

There is a broad agreement in the literature that EU External Migration Policies have the common feature of having the participation of and an impact on countries of origin and transit of migration. Despite this, the

debate around this topic has been highly Eurocentric, and these actors have been broadly disregarded as objects of analysis. Moreover, the impacts of these policies on the dimensions of domestic politics and international relations are still underexplored, which means that there is a scarce knowledge with regard to their (side-)effects on state and power relations. Considering that most countries of origin and transit of migration target by EU external Migration Policies are either autocracies or hybrid regimes, in my research I expect to contribute to the current debate by exploring their impacts on the democratization of countries located in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood.

In this presentation, the main aim will be to discuss whether these policies constitute an opportunity or a challenge for this political process and in particular, identify what mechanisms might explain this particular outcome. The main hypothesis identified has been that even if within EU External Migration Policies narrative there is an intention to have a positive impact on democratization, a contrary effect seems to be taking place: in order to fulfil its goal of controlling migration, these policies produce negative impacts in terms of democratic development. This would be mainly because such policies would (a) favour the maintenance of core socio, political and economic power structures that reinforce the status quo (b) disfavour domestic forces of political change and (c) shape the capacity and willingness of EU democracy promotion efforts. Therefore, this presentation echoes the voices of the debate that question the EU role as a 'normative' actor, arguing that the EU is not only ineffective when promoting democracy in the neighbourhood, but might be acting as a negative actor, since its external actions and policies in the field of migration seem to be producing adverse and counterproductive effects in terms of democratization.

### **Training as an operational tool to support public officials in the fight against xenophobia towards migrants in Morocco, Abdellatif Bensfia (this lecture will be held in French)**

At the time of adoption, in Marrakech, of the two global pacts on migration and asylum, Morocco is forced to manage the massive flows of migrants and refugees, mostly sub-Saharanans. This is a new and unusual social phenomenon facing people in large and small urban centers. Morocco is for these migrants a gateway to Europe, which is gradually becoming a destination country. But as the numbers of migrants increase, new problems emerge that continue to grow, including violent confrontations between migrants and the local population. Beyond the difficulties of reception, integration and socialization, the incidents in big cities like Casablanca or Tangier, are there to confirm an urgency: That of combining the political discourse of the government with regard to the migratory question with concrete actions that go hand in hand with the spirit of the two covenants, especially the human and protective dimension they carry. The fight against xenophobia towards migrants is at the forefront of these actions and is one of the responsibilities of public authorities. Thus, the objective of the proposed intervention is to question the training methods designed for public officials working with migrants in Morocco to counter xenophobia against them.

## **Bios Speakers**

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**Abdellatif Bensfia** ([abensf@yahoo.fr](mailto:abensf@yahoo.fr)) is Doctor in Sociology of Information and Communication, Paris VII. He is Professor and Deputy Director of ISIC Rabat (Institut Supérieur de l'Information et de la Communication), Executive Director of CREM (Centre de Recherches et d'Education aux Médias). Dr. Bensfia is specialized in media practices and communication of organizations, and is the Author of several research papers on communication strategies and plan for development, and on media landscapes, including : aspects of self-regulation and co-regulation; journalistic approaches based on rights and gender, as well as ethics and deontology of media and communication.



**Ayselin Yildiz** ([ayselin.yildiz@yasar.edu.tr](mailto:ayselin.yildiz@yasar.edu.tr)) is Faculty Member of the International Relations Department and UNESCO Chair on International Migration at Yasar University (Izmir/Turkey). Dr.Yildiz received her Phd in international relations and MSc in European Studies from Middle East Technical University. She has been the founder and director of Yasar University European Union Center between 2005 and 2015. She held research fellowships at Wageningen University, University of California Berkeley and University of Pittsburgh. Her research and publications focus on migration and refugee studies, Turkey-EU relations, and external relations of the EU. She is the author of the book *The European Union's Immigration Policy: Managing Migration in Turkey and Morocco*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2016. Yıldız is also the committee member at UNESCO Turkey Management of Social Transformations (MOST) and Migration Group.



**Hélène Thiollet** ([helene.thiollet@sciencespo.fr](mailto:helene.thiollet@sciencespo.fr)) is CNRS Permanent Researcher. Her research focuses on the politics of migration and asylum in the Global South, and she focuses her empirical research on the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. She teaches international relations, comparative politics and migration studies at Sciences Po. She is a graduate from the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Ulm A/L98), holds a PhD in Political Science from Sciences Po and Master degrees in Geography of development (University of Paris 1 La Sorbonne) and Classics (University of Paris 4 La Sorbonne). In 2002-2003, she was a Visiting Student at the Harvard University Department of Government, with a fellowship from the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Oxford University in 2009-2010 with the OxPo Research grant and is now a Research partner at the International Migration Institute at Oxford. She has been a board member of *Critique Internationale*, a French language IR journal, since 2009. Hélène coordinated the ANR research project "MobGlob – Global Mobility and Migration Governance" (ANR 2012-2015) with Catherine Wihtol de Wenden. She a member of the research programme "Global-cities: comparative approaches to cosmopolitanism and migration" funded by USMPC "Société plurielles".



**Luisa Faustini Torres** ([luisa.faustini@upf.edu](mailto:luisa.faustini@upf.edu)) is Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) and a member of the Interdisciplinary Group on Immigration (GRITIM). 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.



**Zouhair El Hairan** ([zouhair.elhairan@upf.edu](mailto:zouhair.elhairan@upf.edu)) attained a Bachelor's Degree in Media and Communication from UPF, and a Master's Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Barcelona. He is also about to finish the Master's Degree in 'Politics/Current Democracies: Nationalism & Multiculturalism' at UPF. Zouhair is the Secretary of the Euro-Arab youth organization. He is also a member of the Journalists Institute of Catalonia and the Young Group of the UNESCO Association for Inter-religious Dialogue (AUDIR). He is the former President of the Moroccan Students Association in Catalonia, and participated in the "Access BCN", a project led by IOM to empower young immigrants to become politically active. He has given lectures on issues related to immigration, the Islamic-Arabic world and the media.