

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016

12.00-14.00

Room TBC

1. Attitudes towards Immigrants by the Native Population and Trust in the Local Welfare State Institutions (Case Study: Barcelona)

Mina Prokic

PhD Candidate, GRITIM-UPF

Abstract

An important aspect of social trust and cooperation in society is institutional trust and the welfare system. With better functioning institutions citizens are more trustful and willing to cooperate and contribute to welfare services, thus resulting in more social cohesion. When immigration comes into the picture, the question arises on how it will impact the trust native citizens have in their welfare state institutions. This thesis will aim at getting a richer picture of the settings and familiarizing with the ideas and concepts that exist in the link between the formation of immigration attitudes by the native population and their trust in welfare state institutions. The theoretical framework will introduce on one hand the main theories concerning immigration attitudes, as well as the formation of prejudices, and on the other hand the main concepts of institutional trust in a broader context of social trust and at the end the interrelation between the two theoretical approaches will be given. The institutions that will be analyzed are health, education and social services. An exploratory case study, including interviews of native citizens, will be conducted at the local level in the city of Barcelona.

2. The impacts of EU external migration policies on democracy development in North Africa: a case-study in Morocco.

Luisa Faustini Torres

PhD Candidate, GRITIM-UPF

Abstract

Since Tampere Council in 1999 and throughout the last fifteen years, the externalization of EU migration policies has become the principal way through which the EU manage migration flows directed towards the continent. The policies implemented under this approach have the common feature of having the participation of and an impact on the countries of origin and transit of immigrants. This thesis intends to provide a critical analysis of these policies through exploring the impacts of EU external migration policies (EMP) on countries and societies of North Africa. Even though the literature has addressed some of its impacts, a research that considers EMP effects on the democratization of these societies is still missing. In this sense, the main goal is to understand why and under which conditions EMP constitute an obstacle for the democratization of countries and societies of origin. The main argument I want to put forward is that in order to fulfil its goal of controlling migration flows, EMP produce negative impacts in terms of democratic development. This is mainly because the implementation of these policies reinforces the status quo – i.e. undemocratic situations – in mainly two ways: by favouring the maintenance of core socio-economical structures and by reinforcing the role of the political elites of these countries. I take Morocco as a case-study and carry on an in-depth research at the *meso* level, focusing on the impacts at the society level and the role of social actors. Three democracy indicators are analyzed: gender relations, liberty of expression and political structure of opportunity.