

Project: Monitoring xenophobic political discourses: a pilot study in Catalonia

Researchers: Ricard Zapata-Barrero and Gema Rubio-Carbonero.

Summary: The purpose of this project is to construct a heuristic framework to monitor xenophobic discourses. As a pilot study it is aimed to make it reproducible in other territories. With the construction of this tool and its application the objective is to identify and counter whatever tendency of political parties of radicalising their position towards xenophobia and racism. This is an especially urgent task to do in times of crisis, which is a favourable context for xenophobia and racism. In order to do so, we take as departure point the theoretical framework proposed by Zapata-Barrero (2009, 2012) with the aim to make it operative. It also intends to strengthen the argument appearing in 2012 that xenophobia is a political construction rather than a social fact in Spain (and Catalonia)

Combining the academic and social dimension of the project, there will be two consultative boards

a) International Academic Board: related to studies of racist and xenophobic discourse, and quantitative and qualitative analysis, immigration related.

- 1) Mohamed-Ali **Adraoui**: Lecturer and researcher in Science Po. Association Graines de France.
- 2) Jamie **Bartlett**. Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos.
- 3) Scott **Blinder**. Senior researcher, Migration Observatory Compas.
- 4) Sebastien **Chauvin**: Department of Sociology. University of Amsterdam.
- 5) Regis **Dandoy**: Department of Political Science. University of Zurich.
- 6) Catherine **Fieshi**: Director of Counterpoint.
- 7) Dirk **Jacobs**: Department of Sociology. Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- 8) Nonna **Mayer** Research director at CNRS/Researcher of Centre of European Studies of Science Po.
- 9) Anna **Triandafyllidou**. Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence.
- 10) Teun A. **van Dijk** Department of Translation and Language Sciences. Pompeu Fabra University.
- 11) Ruth **Wodak**: Department of Linguistics. Lancaster University.

b) Socio-political local board:

- 1) Carles **Campuzano**. President of ACSAR and member of the parliament of CiU.
- 2) Alba **Cuevas**. Director of SOS Racismo.
- 3) Ghassan **Saliba**. President of CITE-CCOO in immigration
- 4) Anna **Terrón**. Exsecretary of the State of immigration and member of PSC.
- 5) Daniel **de Torres**. Expert of Council Of Europe in interculturality and Excommissioner of immigration in Barcelona City Council.
- 6) Juan **de Dios Ramírez Heredia**. Lawyer and journalist. President of Unión Romani y exDeputy in the congress and European parliament
- 7) Gemma **Ubasart**. Vice-president of CONFAVC and responsible of social action.

Period of time: December 2012- December 2013.

Participating institutions

- GRITIM-UPF
- This Project is funded by the Open Society Fund to Counter Xenophobia (<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/>)
- This project is a complementary action for DIVERSIDAD project, on Municipalities and immigration: interculturality and the index of Governability, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness. Ref.: CSO2011-28885. Main Researcher: Ricard Zapata-Barrero. (<http://www.upf.edu/gritim/projectes/nacionals/estatals/diversidad.html>)
- This project is also a complementary action of the International Project ACCEPT. Main Researcher: Anna Triandafyllidou. (<http://www.upf.edu/gritim/projectes/internacionals/accept.html>)

References

Zapata Barrero, R. (2009). *Fundamentos de los discursos políticos en torno a la inmigración*. Madrid: Trotta.

Zapata- Barrero, R., Díez Nicolas, J. (2012). *Islamophobia in Spain?: political rhetoric rather than a social fact*. In M. Helbling (ed.) *Islamophobia in Western Europe and North America* (p. 83-97). London: Routledge, Taylor and Francis