



MIGRATION, REPRESENTATION AND DEBATES

A challenge for researchers in Serbia

Public knowledge, debates and representations of migrants in the public have been dominated by biased opinions, xenophobic attitudes and portrayals, that have been accentuated by numerous recent crises – the financial crisis, the migration “crisis” and the COVID-19 crisis.

Effects of research into MIGRATION, REPRESENTATION AND DEBATES should be:

- ✓ contextualising and interpreting dominant public discourses in relation to anti-immigrant sentiments;
- ✓ documenting links between the policies, politics, knowledge and public debates, discourses, opinions and perceptions on migration issues across the different societies;
- ✓ documenting the impact of various stakeholders – policy makers, civil society organizations, academics and citizens on the dominant debates and representations of migrants;
- ✓ nourishing the bottom-up and participatory approaches to include migrants and their genuine experiences and life stories into debates;
- ✓ mapping the most important factors and stakeholders that influence public debates and perceptions in the national context, exploring the ways in which the political stakeholders and other “elites” use media representations for pushing their own agendas (e.g. attempting to mobilize the citizenry against migration and migrants).

Populist rhetoric, hate speech directed towards migrants and anti-immigrant sentiments, have been on the rise all around Europe, including Serbia and the region. The spectacularization of the migration “crisis” (i.e. the spectacular representations of migrants) intensified the racism and hate speech in the long run. Therefore, the development of a reflexive approach to migration and migrants should govern research in this field.

Some of the emerging complex and core issues under the topic of **MIGRATION, REPRESENTATION AND DEBATES** are:

**VISUALISATION OF MIGRATION DATA, DATA MANAGEMENT, ETHICS AND
SECTORAL COOPERATION**

**NARRATIVES AND DISCOURSES OF MIGRATION, PUBLIC DEBATES, RACISM AND
HATE SPEECH**

**MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF MIGRATION, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES, USED BY MIGRANTS FOR SELF-REPRESENTATION**

CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON MIGRATION REPRESENTATIONS

**IMPACT OF POPULISM AND NARRATIVES ON KNOWLEDGE, DEBATES AND
REPRESENTATIONS**



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