

Keywording

the European Irregularized Migration Regime

reflections from/on the peripheries

book of abstracts

Zagreb, 11 – 13 April 2024

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Zagreb
11 – 13 April 2024

conference venue:
Association of Croatian Architects
Trg bana Josipa Jelačića 3/1

Programme

Thursday

11 April 2024

14.00–15.00 **Registration**

15.00–15.30 **Opening of the Conference**

Iva Niemčić, Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research
Marijana Hameršak, the research project *European Irregularized Migration Regime at the Periphery of the EU: From Ethnography to Keywords*

15.30–17.00 Session 1

Bojan Mucko, chair

15.30–15.45 **Soline Ballet, Julija Kekstaite, Maud Martens, Tancrede Pagès & Robin Vandevooort**

Of Solidarity, Activism and Academia:
Manifesto as a Collective Method of Inquiry

15.45–16.00 **Uršula Lipovec Čebren**

The e-ERIM Keywords as a Research and Didactic Tool
for Researching Migration Processes

16.00–16.15 **Helena Tužinská**

Clarity in Informed Consent for Asylum Applicants and
Transformation of Instructions: Keywords on Ethnographic
Initiative on Plain Language Versions

16.15–16.30 **Nina Khamsy**

Keywords and Technologies on the Balkan Circuit

16.30–17.00 **Discussion**

17.00–17.30 Coffee Break

17.30–19.00 Session 2

Drago Župarić-Ilić, chair

17.30–17.45 **Roberta Altin**

Migratory Stratifications from the Borders

17.45–18.00 **Sabine Hess & Jens Adam**

Internalization

18.00–18.15 **Cavidan Soykan & Şeyma Saylak**

At the Edge of the Balkan Route: What Is the Role of Turkey?

18.15–18.30 **Sarian Jarosz**

Stuck at the Dark Place: State Hostility, State Hospitality and
Criminalization of the Border Solidarity Infrastructure(s) in
Borderscapes of Poland-Ukraine-Belarus in 2021–2023

18.30–19.00 **Discussion**

Friday

12 April 2024

10.00–11.30 Session 3

Duško Petrović, chair

10.00–10.15 **Yolanda Weima & Claudio Minca**

Routing Camps

10.15–10.30 **Srboljub Peović**

An Exploration on "Camps" Along the Balkan Route

10.30–10.45 **Joanna Jordan**

Makeshift Camps and "New Vocabularies" of Informal Migrant Dwellings *en route*

10.45–11.00 **Milica Švabić**

Squat (Informal Settlement)

11.00–11.30 **Discussion**

11.30–12.00 Coffee Break

12.00–13.30 Session 4

Teodora Jovanović, chair

12.00–12.15 **Roberta Gentili**

The Shifting of the Balkan Route to the Una-Sana Canton and the Informal (Im)Mobility of People on the Move

12.15–12.30 **Synnøve Bendixsen**

"Going on the game": Containment, Structural Violence and Mobility Along the Balkan Route

12.30–12.45 **Irina Fehr**

Rethinking "Crimmigration": The Under-Criminalization of Migration Control at External EU Borders in Croatia

12.45–13.00 **David Suber**

Closed Borders and Unintended Consequences: A Border Ethnography of People Smuggling Networks and Border Enforcement Practices

13.00–13.30 **Discussion**

13.30–15.30 LUNCH BREAK

15.30–17.15 **Session 5**
Jelka Zorn, chair

- 15.30–15.45 **Cosimo Pica**
Solidarity Networks with Migrants in a Context of Urban and Social Precarity on the Periphery of Europe: The Experience of the Mayısta Yaşam Kooperatifi Group in Tarlaabaşı (Istanbul)
- 15.45–16.00 **Stefano Mastromarino & Camillo Boano**
Maraudes as Practices of Reception Beyond Shelters
- 16.00–16.15 **Robert Rydzewski**
Crafting Activists from Tourists:
Volunteer Engagement During the "Refugee Crisis"
- 16.15–16.30 **Katarina Peović**
The Fallacy of Everyday Notions: Irregularized Migrations
- 16.30–16.45 **Chiara Milan**
Care Practices of Refugee Solidarity Movements
Along the Western Balkans Route
- 16.45–17.15 *Discussion*

17.15–17.45 **Coffee Break**

17.45–19.15 **Session 6**
Uršula Lipovec Čebren, chair

- 17.45–18:00 **Francesca Fortarezza, Ophelia Nicole-Berva & Noemi Bergesio**
Navigating Seasonalities in Ethnographic Fieldwork:
A Methodological Dialogue on the Italian-Slovenian Border
- 18.00–18.15 **Karolina Bielenin-Lenczowska**
Balkan Route as a Non-Subject
of Ethnographic Research in Macedonia
- 18.15–18.30 **Jure Gombač & Nataša Rogelja Caf**
Writing and Walking as Methods for Researching Border
Regions: The Case of Balkan Migrant Route Through Istria
- 18.30–18.45 **Natalia Judzińska & Inga Hajdarowicz**
Distance: Reflections on an Ethnographic Walk
as a Research Method on a Polish-Belarusian Border
- 18.45–19.15 *Discussion*

20.00 **CONFERENCE DINNER**

Saturday

13 April 2024

10.00–11.15 Session 7

Romana Pozniak, chair

- 10.00–10.15 **Elissa Helms**
Race Is Elsewhere:
Scales of Othering in a Bosnian Balkan Route Town
- 10.15–10.30 **Dagmar Nared & Aslihan Öztürk**
Transit Tales: Reflections on Race in the Balkans and
Balkan Refugee Route Through Public Transportation
- 10.30–10.45 **Joanna Urbańska**
"The Tatars are good and all the others are bad": Islamophobia
and the Humanitarian Crisis on the Polish-Belarusian Border
- 10.45–11.15 *Discussion*

11.15–11.45 Coffee Break

11.45–13.15 Session 8

Tea Škokić, chair

- 11.45–12.00 **Lorenca Bejko**
Beyond the Center: Deciphering the European Irregularized
Migration Regime from the Margins
- 12.00–12.15 **Samer Arkawi**
Autonomy of Migration
- 12.15–12.30 **Mirna Šolić**
"Neither here, nor there": Riverscapes in Films on Migration
- 12.30–12.45 **Roberta Nikšić**
Essays on Migration: Perspectives from the Margins
- 12.45–13.15 *Discussion*

13.15–15.00 LUNCH BREAK

15.00–16.30 Session 9

Marta Stojić Mitrović, chair

- 15.00–15.15 **Simon Campbell**
External Border and/or Periphery
- 15.15–15.30 **Eva Fekonja**
Constructions and Subversions of Refugees'
Liminality Within the Framework of Hospitality:
The Case of Afghan Refugees in Albania
- 15.30–15.45 **Theresa Wagner**
Borderline Experiences: The EU External Border in
Bosnia and Herzegovina Mirroring Migrant Perspectives
- 15.45–16.00 **Richard Lee Peragine**
Geo-
- 16.00–16.30 **Discussion**

16.30–17.00 Final Discussion & Closing of the Conference

18.00–19.00 After Conference Audio Walk

meeting point: in front of the *Hotel Central* (Kneza Branimira 3)
please, bring your headphones!

Keywording the European Irregularized Migration Regime

reflections from/on the peripheries

call for papers

Almost half a century after Raymond Williams' seminal *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, keywords have become a prominent format of textual elaboration and exchange in many fields across the humanities and social sciences. Migration and border studies seem especially suited for keywording and keywords knowledge formatting. In the last decade, a number of keywords related to these and complementary research fields were published, starting with *New Keywords: Migration and Borders* (De Genova, Mezzadra & Pickles, eds. 2015) and *Europe/Crisis: New Keywords of "the Crisis" in and of "Europe"* (De Genova & Tazzioli, eds. 2016) to *Keywords of Mobility: Critical Engagements* (Salazar & Jayaram, eds. 2016), *Humanitarianism: Keywords* (De Lauri, ed. 2020), *Minor Keywords of Political Theory: Migration as a Critical Standpoint* (De Genova & Tazzioli, eds. 2022) and *Keywords on Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* (Banerjee, Singh & Chowdhory, eds. 2023).

In 2020, we, a group of researchers from Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia, initiated the research project *ERIM – The European irregularized migration regime at the periphery of the EU* in order to explore the multiple pathways on the way "from ethnography to keywords", as stated in the project subtitle. After the publication of the e-ERIM online network of keywords and a number of research articles, the finalization of a book collection of keywords (in print) and organizing a series of round tables, presentations, workshops and student seminars, we wish to go further and create a space in the form of a conference dedicated to the rethinking, redefining and reflecting on keywords of the European irregularized migration regime from specific peripheral and ethnographic perspectives.

Our research focus is mainly on the so-called Balkan Route and the south-eastern borderlands of the EU. While adhering to that focus in this conference, we also invite contributions from colleagues researching in different internal and external, political, economic, material, symbolic and other peripheries of the EU and beyond.

The conference is looking for empirically, predominantly ethnographically based comparative and historical contextualizations, as well as theoretical and critical discussions of keywording and "key" words of the irregularized migration regime on/from the peripheries. Contributions on the following topics, but not limited to them, are welcome:

- **keywords and keywording of borders, bordering and irregularization:**
border control, border violence, necroviolence, externalization, internalization, weaponization of the landscape, fencing, incarceration, surveillance, deportation, detention, pushback, manhunt, vigilante groups, border abolition, categorizations, conceptualizations, victimization, securitization, spectacularization, technology, media, literature, documents, orders, agreements, strategies, policy papers etc.
- **keywords, keywording and life and death at the border:**
actors, objects, vehicles, places, practices, peripheralization, precarity, mobility, immobility, hypermobility, border crossing, smuggling, search and rescue, humanitarianization, securitization, relocation, resettlement, encampment, stuckedness, waiting, disappearances, game, escape, transit, everyday life, health, education, work, struggle, sights, sounds, emotions, affects etc.
- **methodological and theoretical perspectives on keywords and keywording:**
academic research, academic and other writings, formats and genres, ethnography, reflexivity, textuality, political, poetical, engaged, militant, decolonial and related research approaches, extraction, academic exploitation and business etc.

abstracts

(in alphabetical order)

Roberta Altin

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Migratory Stratifications from the Borders

Starting from research I am conducting on 70 years of migration in the border area of Trieste, I would like to open a scientific debate on the importance of adopting an approach to migration that takes greater account of the temporal factor and the interweaving of different migratory stratifications. In order to avoid falling into the trap of media sensationalism or essentialist and ideological narratives about migrants, it is proposed, especially from the most marginal areas, such as border zones, to consider migration processes in local contexts as total social facts (Sayad 1999), implying transnational connections and intersections with previous migratory stratifications, inserted in local contexts with a holistic approach.

By avoiding rigid dichotomies, the migratory stratification approach obliges the social scientist studying migratory phenomena and social transformations to focus on "what remains" and on stratification, rather than on "what is disappearing" or simply "making way for something else." It obliges him/her to observe migrations, holding together the lines of continuity – but also of discontinuity – in a perspective that is not segmented and tends to isolate facts and events from the socio-historical structure in which they take shape and are stratified (Della Puppa, Sanò & Storato 2023).

Roberta Altin is an Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the Department of Humanities, University of Trieste (Italy). Her research has mainly focused on transnational migration, refugee studies, museum and media anthropology. Since 2017 she is the coordinator of the University of Trieste Centre for Migration & International Cooperation on Sustainable Development (CIMCS), and since 2020 the Vice President Italian Society for Applied Anthropology (SIAA).

Samer Arkawi

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Autonomy of Migration

This paper aims to analyze the autonomy of migration and the production of the narrative on migration, as well as power relations between state and refugees. By examining the autonomy of migration, freedom of movement and the relation between state approaches to dealing with migration on the one hand and the practices of integration on the other, this research aims to define the position of autonomy of refugees given the state practices and strategies. Relying on the ego history of the author as a guiding tool of research and moving between different stages of the experience of migration this research is further based on different theories of migration as a theoretical framework, as well as interviews and discussions with fellow experts (refugees and migrants) in order to account for the bias in the writing of the ego history and comparative purposes. State reactions and approaches to control migration are connected to geographic and cultural similarities/differences between refugees and host countries.

Autonomy of migration and freedom of movement are relative to citizenship, and mostly applied to citizens of Western countries. Narratives and knowledge are constructed by states' control policies and populist discourse in order to serve an agenda that supports and advocates state approaches towards migration. Integration of refugees in the host country is correlated to the state approach towards migration that could vary from a human and moral obligation to open borders approach and implementation of experiences, expertise and participation of refugees.

Samer Arkawi is a refugee from Syria, activist, film maker. He lives in Ljubljana, where he writes a master thesis on the autonomy of migration.

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Of Solidarity, Activism and Academia: Manifesto as a Collective Method of Inquiry

Over the last years, multiple crucial keyword initiatives within critical border and migration studies have been developed. Inspired by their potential, we – a group of critical migration scholars and activists – initially sought to build on these efforts by crafting keywords specifically centred on solidarity practices with people on the move. As such, we started from a collective reflection and writing exercise asking ourselves what it means to do research in solidarity with people on the move. Gradually, however, our exchanges and thoughts emerging out of our various positionalities as researchers-activists across different geographies, turned into a manifesto, in which we articulate what it means for us to act in solidarity. In this contribution, we aim to provide insight into the motives for, and the process and a/effects of manifesto writing as a collective method of inquiry. Accordingly, we understand our manifesto not merely as a format or end product, but as a process of becoming, and

Soline Ballet is a doctoral researcher at the Migration Law Research Group and a member of the interfaculty Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees at Ghent University. Their research includes processes of illegalisation, solidarity and activism. Their current research project focuses on various socio-legal and psychosocial support for illegalised migrants in Belgium.

a tool for speculation and intervention. In line with feminist and queer methodology, a manifesto goes beyond a call for action, and is essentially "a way of doing" (Harris 2017), and a collective method of critical inquiry.

Julija Kekstaite is a doctoral researcher in Sociology at Ghent University. Her research interests include sociological examination of forced migration, civic engagement, immigration policies and feminist theory. Her current project investigates civic engagement with illegalised migrants at Lithuania-Belarus borderland and racialised migration governance in Lithuania.

Maud Martens is a member of the interfaculty Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees and a doctoral researcher at the Migration Law Research Group at Ghent University. Maud's current research project examines how socio-legal support for migrants in transit zones is organized and which implications these support practices have for migrants' il/legal status.

Tancredi Pagès is a doctoral researcher at the Social Work and Social Pedagogy department and a member of the Center for Social Study of Migration and Refugees at Ghent University. His research interests include solidarity practices, direct action, and the politics of care. His current project focuses on squats as spaces of solidarity for illegalized migrants and practices of mutual aid.

Robin Vandevoordt is an Assistant Professor in Migration and Refugee Studies at Ghent University. Most of his research and teaching focuses on the politics of borders, humanitarianism, solidarity, migration policy, and critical theory. Robin is currently conducting and supervising two lines of ethnographic research: migrant solidarity movements combining humanitarian with political action, and the impact of migration-related policies on the lived experiences of asylum seekers.

Lorenca Bejko

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Beyond the Center: Deciphering the European Irregularized Migration Regime from the Margins

The European irregularized migration regime is a complex web of policies, legal norms, and practices that govern the movement and settlement of non-standard migrants within the European Union (EU). This paper critically examines the key terminologies and concepts associated with this regime, focusing especially on perspectives from the peripheries – both geographical and conceptual. Drawing on a combination of legal analysis, socio-legal fieldwork, and insights from border regions and transit countries, we highlight how the regime's normative structures often obscure the lived realities and challenges faced by migrants, especially those in peripheral locations. We argue that a more holistic and grounded understanding of migration requires a shift away from centralized EU-centric narratives towards a more inclusive dialogue that embraces the nuances and complexities of peripheral experiences. By re-centering the discourses around irregular migration, this paper seeks to promote a more equitable and just migration policy framework for Europe.

Lorenca Bejko is a full-time university lecturer, former diplomat of the Albanian Embassy in the Netherlands with the ranking of first secretary. She is a Doctor of Diplomacy from the Center of Diplomatic and Strategic Studies in Paris and a PhD candidate in Constitutional Law.

Synnøve Bendixsen

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"Going on the game": Containment, Structural Violence and Mobility along the Balkan Route

"Going on the game" was the first key term I learned whilst starting my fieldwork in Serbia on how EU's externalization policies shape the experience of irregular migrants along what has been called the Balkan Route. My anthropological investigation of "the game" foregrounds the insights emerging from everyday experiences of the border, im/mobility, containment (Tazzioli & Garelli 2018) and what I call the interruptive effects of border and mobility management (Bendixsen 2023). I argue that the region has labyrinthian characteristics in that journeys are interrupted, transformed and continued at different speeds – creating the ground for the game as practice. What has the game come to mean in the context of externalization of EU's borders and national policies that contain migrants, making them wait or being stuck, and where slow and structural violence takes place?

In this analysis of the game, I am inspired by the extensive literature on borders that increasingly recognizes the relevance of migrant agency in responding to that border control (Mezzadra & Neilson 2013; Papadopoulos et al. 2008), seeking to displace the dichotomy between border control and migrant agency (McNevin 2014; Squire 2016; Vaughan-Williams & Pisani 2020).

I base this paper on ethnographic fieldwork with irregular migrants along the Balkan Route (carried out during five weeks in the summer of 2019, three weeks in February 2020 and ten days in 2022) that was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. I spent time in the Afghan park in Belgrade (Serbia), as well as in Tuzla, Sarajevo, Ključ and Bihać (Bosnia and Herzegovina). I talked with more than fifty refugees and other migrants, conducted fifteen interviews with NGO volunteers, and eight interviews with local residents.

Synnøve K. N. Bendixsen is a Professor in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen, Norway. She has conducted anthropological research on irregular migrants, refugees and other migrants in Germany, Norway, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and on parenting practices and egalitarianism in Norway. Her research focuses on questions of marginalization processes, border constructions, the Norwegian welfare state, urban life and diversity. She was a researcher in the Research Council of Norway Project *SuperCamp: Genealogies of Humanitarian Containment in the Middle East*. Bendixsen is the co-editor of the Palgrave Macmillan series *Approaches to Social Inequality and Difference*.

Karolina Bielenin-Lenczowska

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Balkan Route as a Non-Subject of Ethnographic Research in North Macedonia

North Macedonia is part of the Balkan Route, and there are still people on the move who cross its borders with Greece and Serbia to reach Western Europe. Although there are numerous NGO reports and some scientific papers related to the border (mostly concerned with crime and security), there is virtually no ethnographic research on this issue in North Macedonia. Nor is there the double role of researchers being activists and doing humanitarian work. My question is why people on the move and irregularized migration are not a topic of ethnographic research in North Macedonia. This question goes further to the broad issue of what and why can and cannot be a "research problem" in anthropology. The possible answers to why the Balkan Route is not written about in North Macedonia touch upon: fear, (lack of) curiosity, silencing, and tensions between "practising anthropology" and "engagement." I would also like to touch upon the following keywords to answer my question: responsibility, engagement, and a positivist paradigm. My aim is to inquire into the politics of research and engagement in anthropology, especially within the current border crises.

Karolina Bielenin-Lenczowska is a social anthropologist and linguist. She is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences. In 2019-2021 she was a visiting professor at the Department of Linguistics at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianopolis, Brazil, working on the cultural heritage of Brazilians of Polish origin. Her research interests include fieldwork methods, gender, ethnographic and sociolinguistic aspects of migration and diaspora. Author of a book *Spaghetti with Ajvar: Translocal Everyday Life of Muslims in Macedonia and in Italy* (in Polish, Warsaw, 2015).

Simon Campbell

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External Border and/or Periphery

The European Union's "external border" is over 12,000 kilometres long, encircling 27 member states, 13% of which is securitised with fencing (Nielsen 2023). From many vantage points the external border is seen as, or as sitting on, the "periphery" of EUrope, an outer margin, or "cordon sanitaire" (Rexhepi 2023), which controls the inward movement of migrants. In this intervention I want to think through "external border" and "periphery" together as concepts, spaces and practices, looking at the contact points and ruptures between these two terms.

"Peripheries" have been usefully elaborated in studies of the border regime to analyse the range of geographies, political economies and migration management infrastructures which the EU uses to govern mobility, such as along the so-called Balkan Route (Vidimar Horvat 2022; ERIM project). Meanwhile the "external border" emerges as a far more technical framing of post-national border enforcement from the EU Commission, but one that also produces and reproduces the-in-and-the-out of EUrope, a spatial-juridical tool which overlaps with and implicates the periphery. Here I pose some questions to see where and how these framings coincide, reconstitute and depart from one another: What parts of the external border are seen as peripheries (such as the Croatian border with Bosnia and Herzegovina), and which parts aren't (such as the post-Brexit Channel), and why? What peripheries are not on the external border (such as inner-Schengen borders)? Or are not visualised in a Euro-centric geography of borders (such as overseas EU territories)? Or externalisation policies in other continents)?

Through these questions, I'd like to explore the way peripheries transpire (or are narrated) relevant to particular asymmetric geographies of EUropean racial-capitalism and imperialism, but are also obscured in other inter-imperial contexts through the technical language of the external border.

Simon Campbell is an activist-researcher focusing on border infrastructures, state violence and abolitionist struggles against the border regime. In recent years, Simon has been part of a number of solidarity groups engaged in documenting pushbacks at European borders, including the Border Violence Monitoring Network, and has studied a joint MA in South Eastern European Studies at the University of Belgrade and University of Graz.

Ahmet Ertan Çölgeçen

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Turkey as Europe's Border Guard: Everyday Forms of Resistance of Irregular Migrants from Turkmenistan and Afghanistan

With globalization, non-Western populations have gained an important function for the continuity of capitalism. While developing countries like Turkey standardize precarity and informality in labor relations in connection with globalization, transnational migrants and minorities of migrant origin are the main carriers of precarity. Mezzadra (2011) emphasized the importance of taking undocumented migrants as a starting point for understanding precarity. Undocumented migrants in Turkey are positioned as a political category with ethnocentric articulations against the status of citizenship. Despite the country's open-border policy, "invading" and "fugitive" migrants who violate the "sacred" borders of state space are criminalized with populist-nationalist accusations. The precarious environment produced by marginalizing migrants allows for the comprehensive surveillance and control of everyday life as a whole. As De Genova argued, "the spectre of migrant 'illegality' is rendered spectacularly visible. (...) An ever increasingly militarized spectacle of apprehensions, detentions, and deportations lends migrant 'illegality' the commonsensical air of a 'natural' fact" (2011: 103–104). Therefore, the politicization of anti-migrant sentiment plays an important role in the production of precarity and the politics of control. This study focuses on the experiences of precarity, the production of subjectivity, and the areas of conflict of local and migrant laborers in day-laborer areas of İstanbul. Day-laborer areas are areas where precarity is normalized. In contrast, daily laborers produce their own areas of autonomy in day-laborer areas.

Ahmet Ertan Çölgeçen is

continuing his PhD studies at the Department of Turkish Studies at Hacettepe University. Irregular migration, informal economy, precariousness and diaspora studies are among his research interests. He is the editor and author of several books in Turkey and has participated in many national and international conferences.

Irina Fehr

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Rethinking "Crimmigration": The Under-Criminalization of Migration Control at External EU Borders in Croatia

The increasing criminalization of migration and the use of criminal law to control migration have been identified as major developments in European migration control over the past two decades. This trend is commonly described as "crimmigration," which has become a pertinent keyword in migration studies, law, and criminology. This presentation advocates for a shift in crimmigration scholarship based on a more holistic understanding of the crime-migration nexus. It argues that the link between criminal law and migration control can not only be found in the criminalization of migration, but also in the crimes committed by state officials during migration control, which largely go unpunished. This includes, for example, pushbacks, which are only rarely understood as crimes, and are most often addressed from a human rights perspective. First, the paper explains why criminal conduct during migration control should be studied within the realm of crimmigration complementing the traditional understanding of the keyword. Building on critical criminology and the concepts of "under- and over-criminalization," it is examined how criminal law is socially constructed, and to what extent it can be invoked selectively to favor state interests in the context of migration control. Second, the selective use of criminal law in migration control is analyzed based on the case study of external EU borders in Croatia. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, this study investigates both the (over-)criminalization of migration-enabling practices, such as migrant solidarity, as well as the under-criminalization of state-perpetrated border violence in Croatia. Thereby, the paper presents an innovative and empirically based approach to rethink crimmigration. Moreover, it adds to the theoretical foundation underlying the use of criminal law to hold perpetrators of border violence accountable, exploring a legal framework that has thus far been neglected in efforts to challenge illegal migration control practices in Europe.

Irina Fehr is a PhD candidate at Tilburg University, the Netherlands, studying the role of criminal law in migration control at external EU borders. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the criminalization of migration and crimes committed during migration control. Her doctoral project is at the juncture of EU migration law and policy, criminal law, and border criminology, combining legal, political, and ethnographic theories, methods, and data sources. She holds a socio-legal M.A. in European Global Studies and a B.A. in Political Science and Modern History.

Eva Fekonja

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Constructions and Subversions of Refugees' Liminality within the Framework of Hospitality: The Case of Afghan Refugees in Albania

In the ethnographic tradition, hospitality is most often understood as the structuring principle of the relationship between guest and host – the relationship that implies unequal distribution of power (Pitt-Rivers 2012 [1977]). Hospitality can also be viewed as a process through which the space is appropriated as home by the host (Derrida 1999), while the guest is relegated into precarious social position that implies temporality (Rosello 2001; 2013) and liminality.

The paper analyzes the structural position of Afghan refugees in the Albanian town of Shëngjin. It does so by tracking various discourses, ideologies and practices of hospitality as enacted by different actors: the Albanian government, local authorities, international organizations and the Afghans themselves. It counterposes the political discourse of hospitality to the examples of hospitality practices enacted by the refugees themselves. It also takes a look into Afghans' homemaking processes and uses ethnographic examples (such as street art and opening of the Afghan restaurants) to problematize the dichotomy between being at home and being displaced.

When part of the authorized statal discourse, the notion of hospitality (and its potentials to evoke images of generosity and gift-giving), plays an important role in constructing the refugee as a liminal and precarious social subject. At the same time, the frameworks of hospitality and homemaking can be used to subvert the notion of home as static and territorialized and thus challenge the idea of a refugee as a displaced and passive subject of foreign generosity. Therefore, hospitality can be used as a fruitful framework, through which the entanglements of the refugees' political subordination as well as refugees' agency can be accounted for, without resorting to simplified and dichotomized representations of refugees' lives.

Eva Fekonja is a psychologist and anthropologist, enrolled in the 1st year of a PhD program in social and cultural anthropology at the University of Ljubljana. For the last ten years, she worked as a psychologist in the fields of social services, education and the non-governmental sector. She conducted research in the fields of migration, refugee music, hospitality and homemaking. Since October 2023, she is employed as a Junior Research Fellow at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, where she researches affective and political potentials of Balkan music in Slovenia.

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Navigating Seasonalities in Ethnographic Fieldwork: A Methodological Dialogue on the Italian-Slovenian Border

In this paper we engage with the concept of "seasonality" to analyse three intertwined experiences of ethnographic fieldwork in the border town of Trieste. To do so, we build on the perceptions, observations and reflections developed during our respective research experiences in this key transit zone for irregularized migrants who travel along the so-called Balkan Route.

With the keyword of "seasonality" we encompass different time horizons: from the cyclical unfolding of the seasons of the year to the different phases of our research process, from the political seasons that constituted the backdrop to our personal immersion in the field to the outbreak of unexpected events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine.

Drawing from extensive periods of ethnographic fieldwork that the three of us have carried out in Trieste, both on our own and together, over the course of the years 2020–2023, we use seasonality as a methodological lens through which we approach and analyse access to the field, relations with the research participants, and data collection. We engage in a collective and interdisciplinary discussion aimed at putting in dialogue our embodied experiences as three European female early-career scholars throughout the research process at the Italian-Slovenian border.

Francesca Fortarezza is a PhD candidate in Political and Social Sciences at Scuola Normale Superiore (Florence) and is currently a visiting researcher at the Centre for Research and Sociology Studies of the Lisbon University Institute. Her research focuses on the governance of immigration and the relational dynamics between state and non-state, formal and informal actors in border zones. Her methodological approach is mainly qualitative and ethnographic.

Through developing a sensitivity to seasonalities we show that, despite our different research focus and approaches, some practices and processes recur over time, thus allowing for a more comprehensive picture of the daily life at the border and the interrelations among different actors involved in the phenomenon of migration. Ultimately, a reflection on seasonality draws attention to the various temporalities that characterize ethnographic fieldwork and the almost paradoxical "suspension of time" resulting from the immersion in the research context and the social and personal relations that originate from it.

Noemi Bergesio is a PhD candidate at the University of Bologna, and a visiting researcher at the University of Warwick (Coventry, UK). Her research focuses on vernacular practices and the everyday lives of migrants in the city of Trieste, with a focus on the spaces that they inhabit and the network of actors with which they interact, thus looking at how life at the border unfolds. Her broader research interests include border studies, migration, the Balkan Route, and feminist methodologies.

Ophelia Nicole-Berva is a PhD candidate at the European University Institute, Italy. For her dissertation, she conducted a multi-sited ethnography with activists supporting people on the move at the internal borders of Italy. In particular, she focuses on the narratives, practices and emotions of activists. Her broader research interests include social movements, borders, migration, qualitative methodology, ethics, political and critical theory.

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The Shifting of the Balkan Route to Una-Sana Canton and the Informal (Im)Mobility of People on the Move

Despite the formal closure of borders since 2016, thousands of people on the move continue to move through the Western Balkans. In the spring of 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina also became one of the key countries along the Balkan Route – particularly in the cities of Bihać and Velika Kladuša in the Una-Sana Canton – where the first transit reception centres were established, and the largest informal camps emerged.

With the increase in arrivals in the Canton and the subsequent rise in pushbacks and violence by the Croatian police, authorities made controversial decisions, such as banning support for people on the move outside the formal camps and establishing the informal camp of Vučjak, a few kilometres from the Croatian border. The COVID-19 pandemic, subsequent restrictions on the freedom of movement for migrants, and city protests led to a new arrangement regarding the migration situation in the Canton, with the closure of most formal and informal camps and the relocation of migrants to the new Lipa camp, built after the December 2020 fire.

This presentation aims to investigate the closure of formal camps in the region – TRC Bira, Sedra, and Miral – and the formation, and subsequent dissolution, of new informal spaces in the area, such as abandoned buildings in Bihać, Šturlić, and Velika Kladuša. Finally, the role of institutions and the local population in addressing this emergency will be explored, along with the impact of border externalization policies and pushbacks on the Una-Sana Canton, especially on the bodies of people on the move, and how they respond to their needs for free movement along the route and across borders.

Roberta Gentili is a PhD candidate in Histories, Cultures, and Policies of the Global at the University of Bologna with a background in International Relations. Her research interests revolve around the study of the informal mobility of migrants and refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the functioning of migration routes in the Western Balkans region. An activist and advocate for human rights and refugees, her project centres on the role of informal spaces created by migrants during their mobility to Europe and will contribute to the discourse on the Balkan Route and camp studies with an emphasis on political geography.

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Writing and Walking as Methods for Researching Border Regions: The Case of Balkan Migrant Route through Istria

Writing and walking as well as routes and borders are at the heart of this presentation. In comparison to walking, writing as a method is an under-researched topic as there is a persistent belief that writing comes at the end of a scholarly enquiry, following the consecutive read-research-write logic. We want to loosen the rigidity of these prescribed steps and use writing as a full-blooded method in its own right – an "art of knowing," vital to broader methodological and epistemological concerns that bring walking and writing more closely together, opening windows to new (key)words and concepts such as counter-mapping, counter-infrastructure, counter-archive of migrant artefacts etc.

The presentation of writing-walking seminars realized within the project Route Biographies will be focused on the case study of the Balkan Migrant Route through Istria, discussing the process through which writing might find the particular form adequate to what it describes. The idea of experimental, unfinished texts – standing between fieldwork diaries and published scientific articles – will be discussed, showing the process, where metaphors and loose language effectively invite uncertainty, non-linguistic understanding (Bloch 1991) and atmospheric as well as emotional details to be discussed. Combining walking with experimental ethnographic writing proved to be of special importance for complex fieldwork situations such as research on forced and irregular migration, characterized by uncertainty, violence, and emotional density.

Jure Gombač holds a PhD in Sociology and is a researcher at the Slovenian Migration Institute at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and a professor at the University of Nova Gorica. His research focuses mainly on migration and border studies. He is interested in counter-mapping and counter-infrastructures in Istria between Croatia and Italy.

Nataša Rogelja Caf holds a PhD in Social Anthropology. Since 2011 she has been working as a research fellow at the Slovenian Migration Institute at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Her work focuses on lifestyle migrations, mobility studies, new forms of nomadism, women's work migrations, and, more recently, experimental ethnographic methodology as well as creative non-fiction. Her latest book *FootNotes: Ethnographic Essays with Methodological Reflections on Walking and Writing* (in Slovenian, Ljubljana, 2023) is coauthored with Špela Ledinek Lozej with whom she walks and writes for more than 25 years.

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Race Is Elsewhere: Scales of Othering in a Bosnian Balkan Route Town

This paper addresses new ways of thinking and talking about race and racism in Bihać, a Bosnian border town, that appeared after the arrival of migrants, refugees, and other people moving through the Balkan Route to the EU. Despite visible forms of racial profiling and racist discourse against the migrants as well as local residents referring to themselves as white in ways that had not been common previously, it was common to hear that concepts of race, racism, or racialization have ever been salient in Bosnia, or that they were absent until the arrival of the migrants. Bosnian social divisions are about ethnicity and religion, not race, many people asserted. In the scholarly realm, attention to race in the regions traversed by the Balkan Route has emerged mostly only recently as part of a burgeoning interest in global connections, decolonial approaches, and regional diversity. Scholars have also connected global racial hierarchies, of which Bosnia is part, to localized racialization of the Roma, while Islamophobia as a form of racism has been directed towards Bosnian Muslims. Yet, as I show in this presentation, everyday talk in Bihać, where a large majority of the population is of Muslim background (Bosniak), tends to see race as a foreign concept. I show how migrants stuck in the town can be racialized according to global hierarchies while the notion that race comes from outside remains. When the scale shifts to the local, racialization of the Roma is often explained through ethnicity and culture, again distancing the concept of race from local understandings. Based on ten months of ethnographic research in Bihać, I use the spectrum of responses to migrants and friends' attempts to explain the position of race to me to chart an analytical framework for understanding race in this region.

Elissa Helms is a socio-cultural anthropologist and Associate Professor at the Department of Gender Studies at Central European University, Vienna. Her publications cover gendered nationalism, postwar reconciliation and activism, and local responses to Balkan Route migration to the EU, including *Innocence and Victimhood: Gender, Nationalism, and Women's Activism in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2013); *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Memories, Identities, and Moral Claims in a Postwar Society*, edited with Xavier Bougarel and Ger Duijzings (Ashgate, 2007); and *Borders of Desire: Gender and Sexuality at the Eastern Borders of Europe*, edited with Tuija Pulkkinen (Manchester University Press, 2023).

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Internalization

For a long time, international border studies have been focusing on "externalization" policies and practices as one main paradigm and rationale of the EU border and migration regime. Whereas externalization remains one essential pillar of the post-2015 EU border regime, new(old) tendencies have been highly influential since such as the massive fortification and brutalization of the external (and increasingly also internal EU) border zones, accompanied by massive violations of international and European norms and rights. In this presentation we want to propose that the massive fortification of the EU border regime towards people on the move from the global South and East needs to be read not only as a "deterrence regime" directed outwards but in relation to its "internalizing effects" and in conjunction with the ongoing authoritarian transformation of European politics and societies. Against the background of our recent research at the Polish-Belarusian border, we will argue that the fortified border spectacle is not only a racializing machine but produces a certain spatio-moral regime we have been calling "fortified nationalism" (2023). Thereby we will show how the "fortified border spectacle" is instrumental for the rearticulation of Europe as a white, Christian continent and needs to be understood as a new round of what Goldberg has coined "racial Europeanization" (Goldberg 2006).

Sabine Hess is a Full Professor of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology at the University of Göttingen since 2011. She specializes in migration and border studies with a specific interest in the external border region in South-Eastern Europe and gender related perspectives. She is a founding member of the European interdisciplinary Network on Critical Migration and Border Studies (kritnet) and directs the interdisciplinary Laboratory on Migration and Border Regime Studies at the University of Göttingen. She is the author and co-author of several volumes and is a member of the editorial board of *movements: Journal on Critical Border and Migration Regime Studies*.

Jens Adam is a political anthropologist focusing especially on current struggles around democracy, the intersections of border regimes and authoritarian transformation in Europe as well as on cultural policy and heritage making. He is currently fellow within the research group *Internalizing Borders: The Social and Normative Consequences of the European Border Regime* at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld University as well as research associate at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology, University of Göttingen.

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Stuck at the Dark Place: State Hostility, State Hospitality, and Criminalization of the Border Solidarity Infrastructure(s) in Borderscapes of Poland-Ukraine-Belarus in 2021 – 2023

In the following work, I aim to capture the legislative hostility and absence the Polish state has created in the relief efforts at the Polish-Belarussian border; and collect and examine the experiences of those, who navigated this void and hostility, aim to provide humanitarian aid to the irregular migrants instigated by the Belarussian and illegally pushed back by the Polish law enforcement representatives. I conclude that the "smooth" chronological transition from the aspirations and motivations; through the collective efforts to maintain and impregnate the new solidarity infrastructure of Grupa Granica against the state hostility; and finally, to the emergence of "activist burnouts," withdrawals and testimonies of discouragement allow to trace how the trajectories and capabilities of informal infrastructure and individual activists itself may ramify, as the infrastructure itself navigates towards efficiency and professionalism, and the activists hit their "limits of compassion and care." Overall, I aim to compare the state responses to the border solidarity infrastructures at Polish borders with Belarus and Ukraine, to analyze the double standard of humanitarian response and refugee treatment, from state hostility at one to state hospitality at the same line of EU border.

Sarian Jarosz is a Research Coordinator in Migration Consortium, Poland, former Amnesty International border investigator and research specialist, co-author of forensic reconstructions of border violence/pushbacks at the Polish-Belarussian border. He is an expert on intersectional violence towards vulnerable groups (LGBTI+, Roma Ukrainians), humanitarian, ethnographer and alumni of the Universities of Copenhagen and Warsaw.

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Makeshift Camps and "New Vocabularies" of Informal Migrant Dwellings *en route*

Makeshift camps have proliferated along the so-called Balkan Route in the last several years around transit and border zones where migrant journeys are both blocked and facilitated. Established and occupied by migrants, they act as key sites to rest, wait, access resources, meet smugglers and organize the next border-crossing attempt, while also becoming important venues for the "kaleidoscope of violence" to which migrants are exposed *en route* (evictions, internal deportations, "violent inaction" etc.). Despite the surge of scholarship on makeshift camps, there is a need for "new vocabularies" to engage with these vastly diverse spatial formations, constituted by a variety of actors, that are constantly shifting, disappearing, re-emerging elsewhere and overlapping with other spaces at border zones.

Drawing upon extensive recent literature on makeshift camps alongside multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Bihać in northwest Bosnia and Herzegovina, this paper examines: a) diverse material formations of makeshift camps, such as "jungles," "kadwallahs," urban squats and adjunct camps; b) makeshift camp temporalities, including cyclical evictions, "contingent camps," mutations, disappearance and camp absences; and c) "makeshift methodologies" and approaches for defining and demarcating makeshift camps as they shift and blur with other sites, such as institutional camps, paid or private accommodation. This paper not only refines and specifies existing terms and naming practices around makeshift camps, but also proposes new registers and lines of inquiry through which to approach the study of these informal geographies. In doing so, it contributes to the ongoing conceptualization of makeshift camps as key sites of migrant dwelling, daily life, violence, solidarity and logistics of the game in Bihać and other zones of migrant im/mobility in and around Europe.

Joanna Jordan is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Bologna in Italy. Her project examines the geographies of informal mobilities along the Balkan Route, with a particular focus on the makeshift camps and infrastructures established and put to use by migrants in northwest Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of their journeys towards destinations in Europe. She is interested in transit hubs and corridor-formation, makeshift camp temporalities and the diverse forms of solidarity and violence that shape informal migrant geographies *en route*. Joanna has been carrying out field research and activist work across various border locations of the Balkan Route over the past several years.

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Distance: Reflections on an Ethnographic Walk as a Research Method on a Polish-Belarusian Border

The Białowieża Forest, known as Europe's oldest forest, is constantly being transformed, understood both literally and metaphorically, especially, since the fall of 2021 when the humanitarian crisis began there. The critical perspective adopted here makes it possible to reveal spaces of violence and domination, to show not only inequality, but violence against people who cross the border in an undocumented way. The walk, as a method thus, aims not only to mobilize allyship and solidarity towards people on the move, but also to integrate spatial reflection on the Polish-Belarusian border into the wider intellectual reflection on border crises in other geographic regions.

One of the intellectual inspirations for the walk here is the Lefebvrian perception of the production of the space. Analyzing abstract space as a form of contradictory space, Henri Lefebvre (1991 [1974]) drew attention to its dialectical character, above all to the division of the space into permitted and forbidden. For space or a particular place, as Andrea Lauser (2022) argues, is not just a bounded structure, but is shaped, negotiated and transformed during daily interactions in the network of people's relationships with objects and their material surroundings. In our presentation we will pay attention to something more – the distance. Distance here is understood both as a symbolic space in-between that eludes these divisions, and as a physical length from the point to point fulfilled with practices.

Natalia Judzińska is a cultural studies scholar, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She is a member of the coordination committee of the group Researchers on the Border, dedicated to the documentation and scientific study of the ongoing humanitarian crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. Her scholarly work deals with interwar antisemitism in universities and the Holocaust, as well as the material dimension of the humanitarian crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. She is an activist, guitarist and bassist of independent music bands, as well as a co-founder of several informal art and activist groups. Since October 2021 she has been providing humanitarian support to people on the move on a Polish-Belarusian border.

Inga Hajdarowicz holds PhD in Sociology. In her research and activism, she explores the topics of participatory democracy, grassroots initiatives, feminist movements, and migration. She has studied and implemented participatory tools aimed at increasing the influence of residents on decision-making processes in the city and the inclusion of previously excluded groups in the co-creation of the city. Since 2015, she has been using similar methods in working with refugees. Her PhD research tackles grassroots strategies to support refugee women on the example of activities of Syrian feminist initiatives in Lebanon. She is a member of a coordination group of Researchers on the Border.

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Keywords and Technologies on the Balkan Circuit

The articulations between new technologies and forced displacement at EU external borders is ever-expanding. On the one hand, governments invest in drones, biometrics, and surveillance technologies to control their borders and contain illegalized migration. On the other hand, people on the move on land trajectories increasingly use smartphones to navigate their way to safety. For those who attempt to pass perilous, weaponized forest landscapes (Hameršak & Pleše 2021), it is common to rely on GPS coordinates and information shared on online messaging platforms to move on. In this technopolitical system, digital practices of the people on the move represent more autonomy and independence from smugglers, but they also leave digital traces and hence represent a risk of crimmigration and criminalisation of solidarity.

This paper is based on my fieldwork in the early 2020s in border areas between Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Hungary, mainly among Persian speakers and Afghans on the move. The so-called Balkan Route is more accurately qualified as the Balkan Circuit because of repeated pushbacks at EU borders due to processes of EUropeanisation which oblige people to engage in multidirectional mobility (Stojić Mitrović et al. 2020). In such a context, how do vernacular and multilingual keywords used by people on the move link to the changing technopolitics on the Balkan Circuit? How are such keywords linking "offline" and "online" fields? What are the stakes and ethical concerns when publishing about such keywords? To answer these questions, I first present ethnographic accounts of keywords emerging in Persian and multilingual contexts, in particular linked to the "geym" (game) metaphor. I then reflect on the ways multimedia formats and hyperlinks allow for particular modes of knowledge circulation – representing both new opportunities and risks for people on the move.

Nina Khamsy is a PhD candidate at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology of The Geneva Graduate Institute. Her ethnographic research on digital technologies and forced migration in southeast Europe and Switzerland focuses mainly on smartphone use among young Afghans on the move. She has published on the topic in the *Antropologia Publica* in 2022.

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The e-ERIM Keywords as a Research and Didactic Tool for Researching Migration Processes

Within the framework of the scientific research project *The European Irregularized Migration Regime at the Periphery of the EU: From Ethnography to Keywords* (ERIM) coordinated by the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, and financed by Croatian Science Foundation (2020–2024), ethnographic research has been carried out for many years along the so-called Balkan migration route (mainly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia). The key concepts that emerged during the ethnographic research have been published on the e-ERIM virtual platform, as well as in a scientific monograph (*Balkan Route: Keywords of The European Irregularized Migration Regime at the Periphery of the EU*, in Croatian and Serbian, 2024).

In this paper, I will present the development of the e-ERIM keywords, which has proved to be an important research and didactic tool in researching migration processes, paying special attention to the role that the e-ERIM has played in the pedagogical practice. Based on the field research we conducted in Bihać (in 2022) and in Trieste (in 2023) with students from the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, I will show how an international group of students and researchers from the former Yugoslav countries transformed some of their fieldwork experiences into the e-ERIM keywords texts and why this process was transformative in many ways.

Uršula Lipovec Čebtron is a professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Her research interests are in the areas of anthropology of migration and medical anthropology, with a special focus on fieldwork in Slovenia, Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In her scientific work, she deals with health aspects of migration as well as cultural and other barriers to healthcare access. She was a leader and researcher in different national as well as international projects (ERIM, MoST, WHOLE, WebWise, SH-CAPAC, MIPEX etc.), where she researched intercultural mediation, cultural competence in healthcare as well as COVID-19 vulnerability assessment in the framework of Sonar-Global project.

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Maraudes as Practices of Reception Beyond Shelters

The verb "marauder" in French means "stealing fruits, vegetables from gardens and farms" (Larousse) and it refers to specific clandestine practices committed by soldiers while straying from their army. At the same time, the term is used among taxi drivers as the action of circulating slowly within neighbourhoods searching for clients.

Within the context of humanitarian agency and informal solidarity, the term is well-known in France to indicate various forms of assistance, outreach, and information to unhoused people and people in transit. Drawing from the clandestine heritage, Cefai and Gardella argue that the term, untranslatable in other languages, has contributed to the common perception of marauders ambivalently as "modern saviours" and "cleaners of the public space" (2011: 17). As analysed by Giliberti (2020), maraude is not always employed with the same meaning among collectives supporting people in transit across borders. It might be used to refer to save-and-rescue operations of people in transit in distress along mountain paths of the northern French-Italian border in Briançon; at the same time, it is commonly used to indicate food distributions and outreach around the southern part of the border, in the city of Ventimiglia or across the rural villages of the Val Roya.

Our contribution stems from ethnographic research accomplished in Greater Paris and at the French-Italian border between September 2021 and August 2022, where we looked at the makeshift practices of sheltering and assisting people in transit through participant observation and volunteering support. The action of marauder is far from exceptional within solidarity practices in Europe and elsewhere, yet it allows us to question the opaque (Glissant 1990) holding relations between dynamics of control and care across spaces of displacement in European urban and rural environments; it shapes spaces of ambivalence and difference, legitimising practices of makeshift reception beyond shelter.

Stefano Mastromarino is an architect, PhD candidate at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London and grant holder of an ESRC UBEL Studentship. A former associate at the ENSA Paris-Belleville for the development of the platform Architecture et précarités, he worked and studied at the Polytechnic of Turin and Technical University Dortmund. Stefano works as a UASC Support Worker for a non-profit organisation providing support and accommodation to young people seeking asylum in the UK. His research interests focus on the encounter between makeshift inhabitations and solidarity towards people on the move, combining architectural enquiries with activism and assistance in France, Italy, and the UK.

Camillo Boano is a Full Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), Polytechnic of Turin, Italy and a Professor of Urban Design and Critical Theory at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London. Camillo is a qualified architect with a master's in urban development and a PhD in Planning. He has over 25 years of experience in research, design consultancies, and development work in South America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia.

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Care Practices of Refugee Solidarity Movements along the Western Balkans Route

Over the last years, the notion of care has become central in the social movements scenario, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The notion of care has gained traction and become widespread also among refugee solidarity groups active along the Western Balkans Route since the 2015 reception crisis, due to the interplay of three factors: the diffusion of the feminist narrative and practices of care, which re-signified the concept by attributing to it a political meaning; the COVID-19 global pandemic, which spawned new forms of activism to face the crisis of care; and the criminalization of solidarity, which drove grassroots groups to frame their actions in less contentious terms to gain support from the wider society. Especially since 2020, grassroots refugee solidarity groups foregrounded care as a keyword in their discourses and put it at the centre of their practices.

This contribution aims to explore the concept of care from a theoretical perspective, that is to say by exploring it as a discursive frame employed to define solidarity practices aimed at overcoming the power asymmetries between solidarity actors and people on the move; and from an empirically grounded level, namely by analysing how the concept of care was embodied into everyday solidarity practices implemented by refugee solidarity groups in different nodes of the Western Balkans migratory route. Care informed both the practices directed towards people on the move, and the internal dynamics of solidarity groups.

The contribution will thus elucidate how the concept of care was borrowed from the feminist narrative and reclaimed as having political significance and transformative potential. Furthermore, it will contextualize the notion of care by exploring, with concrete examples, the care practices implemented by grassroots refugee solidarity groups active in supporting people on the move along the Western Balkans route since 2015.

Chiara Milan is an Assistant Professor in Political Sociology at the Department of Political and Social Sciences and coordinator of the Jean Monnet Network "Transnational Political Contention in Europe" (TraPoCo) at Scuola Normale Superiore. She has been Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Centre for Southeast European Studies of the University of Graz and holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute. She has published several articles in international journals on the topics of refugee solidarity movements, citizenship and migration, with a specific focus on Southeastern Europe. She authored the monograph *Social Mobilization Beyond Ethnicity: Civic Activism and Grassroots Movements in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Routledge, 2020).

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Transit Tales: Reflections on Race in the Balkans and Balkan Refugee Route through Public Transportation

In recent developments, Bosnian border towns have become a focal point of what the European Union has designated as a "migration crisis." To this day, many people on the move travelling through the Balkan Route find themselves stranded in Bosnian border towns due to frequent and often violent pushbacks by the Croatian police (Hameršak et al. 2020).

Existing research has predominantly explored the lived experiences of people on the move along the Balkan Route (Augustova & Sapoch 2020), media representation and coverage (Lekić-Subašić 2018), and grassroots organizations and solidarity (Cantat 2021; Davies et al. 2021). In our two-month ethnographic study during the summer of 2022 in Bihać, Bosnia, we provided critical insights into various actors engaged in voluntary and humanitarian work at the border. Our focus centred on race and racialization processes rather than ethnicity or religion (Nared et al., forthcoming). We observed instances of racializations in many contexts, one of those also being in public transportation. We also noted this phenomenon in Ljubljana during the summer months of 2023 when people on the move had access to public transportation in Slovenia.

We, therefore, aim to explore the keyword "public transportation" through the lenses of racialization and a comparative analysis between the border town Bihać and the capital city Ljubljana. Our investigation delves into the context of Bosnia and Slovenia, both post-socialist countries, and with the former often viewed in a post-war and peripheral context. To make sense of racialization processes involving different actors in the realm of public transportation, we reconceptualize racial triangulation (Parvulescu 2016) and seek to overcome methodological nationalism. This research contributes to theoretical and methodological discussions on race in the Balkans through observing public transport and the events taking place there.

Dagmar Nared is a Junior Researcher and a PhD candidate at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Ljubljana. Her research focuses on gender, visual anthropology, and Turkey. She is also interested in migration studies; hence, she conducted a two-month ethnographic fieldwork in Bihać, focusing on race and humanitarian work in the Balkans. The research was carried out while interning at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in Zagreb.

Aslihan Öztürk is a Junior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Amsterdam and a project officer at the City of Amsterdam. She also conducted a months-long fieldwork research in Istanbul, intercepting religion and race. By combining methodologies from Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Historical Sociology, she aims to understand how the theorization of race can be thought through in non-hegemonic contexts and become intersected with gender, sexuality, class and Islamophobia.

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Essays on Migration: Perspectives from the Margins

This paper aims to present a collection of essays focused on short stories, essays, documentary texts, and newspaper articles that follow the fate of refugees and migrants as they move across borders, with a specific focus on the situation at the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. The essays delve into the dynamics of border police, documenting instances of violence by the Croatian police against migrants, capturing public opinion, and examining the relationship between local media and the community. The texts, in a way, inhabit the spaces where refugees and migrants find themselves, from temporary reception centers like Lipa to squats where refugees await border crossings.

The essays also track the ghettoization of refugees, documenting their experiences along the so-called Balkan Route – capturing the struggles, insults, hopes, and dreams. The texts aim to echo a specific period, speaking through the voices and experiences of refugees, illustrating how time and space affect those entangled in the web of border control, camp surveillance, uncertain routes, and vulnerability on the journey to the EU. Additionally, the essays record what happens when refugees finally reach the EU. The texts are diverse, covering various genres, all intending to convey the hardships and hopes of refugees.

Roberta Nikšić, theologian, graduated in Franciscan Theology in Sarajevo, and completed Women's Studies in Zagreb. She has published reviews in *Bosna Franciscana*, and *Motrišta*, short stories, reviews, columns and reportages in *Svjetlo riječi*, articles on socio-political engagement of women theologians in journals of theological provenance. She also published two books of poetry. Last year she was the European Press Prize nominee in the category Public Discourse for the text "Manana" which shed light on the lives of refugees from Afghanistan. Nowadays, beside her journalist work, she is also an Advocacy Officer in Jesuit Refugee Service Bosnia and Herzegovina (JRS BiH).

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The Fallacy of Everyday Notions: Irregularized Migrations

Can we ignore the global causes of the so-called refugee crisis in political, sociological, economic and media presentations of this topic? In particular, the media presentation reduces the problem to images and numbers of people "flooding" Western Europe arriving from the Global South without any socioeconomic analysis of the capitalist mode of production responsible for contemporary migrations. The paper will raise questions about the genesis and conditions of the emergence of economic inequalities and irrational and anarchic profit-oriented capitalist mode of production.

The focus will shift from the Global South to the wealthy West that is responsible for climate changes, wars caused by political and military interventionism, and inequalities not only between the global North and global South but also between the European centre and periphery, as well between capitalist elites and working class within rich countries.

The paper will also focus on the recent domestic political and geopolitical turmoil since Croatia entered the Schengen Zone and the regime change regarding irregular border crossings. The status of the capitalist periphery of Europe, reflected in the socioeconomic position of the majority, also determines the attitude towards refugees. In this case, the capitalist periphery not only causes the poor status of workers in Croatia, but the problem of the ossified economy that led to such status of the majority of workers in Croatia today intertwines with the problems of foreign workers. The extreme right politics misuses this problem, while the task of scientifically based analysis of the problem of lowering the cost of labour should benefit both foreign and domestic workers and encourage workers' solidarity. The fallacy of everyday notions – the term used by Canadian Marxist Michael Lebowitz – can describe how such doctrinaire translations of economic and political context arise.

Katarina Peović is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Rijeka, Croatia. She teaches graduate, postgraduate and doctoral seminars on media studies, psychoanalysis and Marxism. She holds a BA and master's degree in Comparative Literature and an MA and PhD of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. She earned her doctorate (under the supervision of N. Katherine Hayles) in 2010 on the problems of new media literacy.

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An Exploration of "Camps" along the Balkan Route

In this presentation, we embark on an exploration of the notion of "camps" along the Balkan Route, a significant pathway for irregular arrivals in the European Union. Utilizing the approach proposed by Raymond Williams, we investigate the historical and contemporary meanings of "camp" and the "Balkan Route". We scrutinize how these terms have been influenced by and mirror the political, economic, and social contexts of the Balkan Route.

Our research methodology combines media analysis, discourse analysis, and interviews with individuals who have experienced the Balkan Route and the camps along it. This multi-faceted approach allows us to capture a wide range of perspectives and experiences, providing a more nuanced understanding of the situation. Through our analysis, we uncover the intricate dynamics within these camps and the contested meanings and implications of the term "camp" itself. We delve into the lived experiences of individuals navigating the Balkan Route, shedding light on the challenges they face and the resilience they demonstrate.

Furthermore, we critically examine the broader societal and political implications of the Balkan Route and the camps that mark it. We discuss how these camps are not just physical spaces, but also symbolic and contested spaces that reflect broader power dynamics and societal attitudes towards migration.

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Geo-

This contribution sets out to consider the word – rather prefix – "geo-" and how it might forward research debates on the relationship between migration, power and the environment. In fact, the word-prefix "geo-" highlights the current orientation toward understanding migration through the field of ecology and its critico-philosophical premises. Notions such as geopower or geontopower have been suggested as apposite to unpack how geomorphological environments are co-opted and weaponized into deterring, debilitating and killing migrant people in a way that seems, to official counts, somewhat less intentional – a more-than-human biopolitics predicated on the supposed immobility of Nature. In this sense, we might say the word-prefix "geo-" in migration studies underlines an active and liminal character of the environment that counters the ideological projection of a hollow Nature. In doing so, it brings to the fore the notion of the Anthropocene: one that implies a vast technological and commercial operation, as well as the Earth as the object of power. But against the ontological flattening implicit to political ecologies of a lively living Earth, migration underlines the Earth's opaqueness and, ultimately, relation to death. Moreover, the word-prefix "geo-" aptly captures the scale of the Earth as that proper to migration: not only for the sheer number of people forced into movement but also in light of the urgency of thinking migration as a condition and governmental logic proper to the Anthropocene. This contribution will consider the vast felling operation on mount Plješevica on the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia as a starting point to look at the reiterations of environmental weaponization in migration management in Europe's Balkan peripheries. In doing so, it will suggest a reflection on the implications, in terms of space, power, the Earth and death, of the word-prefix "geo-" in migration and border studies.

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Solidarity Networks with Migrants in a Context of Urban and Social Precarity on the Periphery of Europe: The Experience of the *Mayısta Yaşam Kooperatifi* Group in Tarlabaşı (Istanbul)

The so-called "refugee crisis" experienced in Europe in 2015, which saw the centrality of the Balkan Route, has produced an increase in the strategic importance of Turkey in international migration, enshrined in the EU-Turkey statement of 18 March 2016. The two-year period 2015–2016 marked the narrations and studies on migrations, not only as regards the processes of externalization of the European borders but also on the role of cities in the policies of inclusion or exclusion of migrants (Agier 2018).

Starting from the idea of the decomposition of the border as a mere delimitation of the national or continental space and its reproduction within the cities (Mezzadra 2006) I undertook ethnographic work in Tarlabaşı, a socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhood located behind Taksim Square in Istanbul, that has been marked, since the birth of the Turkish Republic, by demographic changes linked to Turkey's migratory history. At the same time, it has also been the subject of important urban transformations, from the demolitions for the construction of the Tarlabaşı boulevard after the 1980 coup d'état up to the urban transformation project started in 2006 (Erkan 2022; Kuyucu & Ünsal 2010) that shaped an environment characterized by urban precariousness and inequality, with more recently arrived migrants representing the most vulnerable part of the population.

Among the neighbourhood's migrant population, there is a high number of undocumented people who find a home and a chance to live in the urban interstices of this "territory of relegation" (Wacquant 2006). In this context, the role of

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solidarity networks, which have become a keyword in migration studies in recent years (Bauder 2020, 2021; Christoph & Kron 2019; Della Porta 2018; Kreichauf & Mayer 2021; Kron & Lebuhn 2020), takes on particular relevance.

In Tarlabaşı, over the years various social and political experiences organized both forms of mutual aid and mobilizations to counter urban and social precariousness. My communication focuses on the solidarity network called *Mayısta Yaşam Kooperatifi* (Life in May Cooperative) active in the neighborhood in mutual aid actions (in particular with Turkish language lessons and after-school classes for children) addressed to migrants. The aspect that makes this group particularly interesting is the focus on daily practice, encounters and self-organized social solidarity as tools to fight racism and social exclusion. According to Bauder (2022) I guess that these kinds of networks and groups play a crucial role in urban migrant and refugee solidarity because they aim to create a unified urban community that encompasses all inhabitants, including migrants and refugees, and that enables all inhabitants to participate as equal members.

This presentation aims to contribute to fostering the debate on the role of solidarity networks, animated by the direct participation of migrants, in practicing new forms of coexistence through the "quiet encroachment of the ordinary" (Bayat 2009) within the urban space.

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Crafting Activists from Tourists: Volunteer Engagement During the "Refugee Crisis"

The margins of the EU became meeting points for asylum seekers from the Global South and volunteers from the Global North during the period described as "the long summer of migration" or the "refugee crisis" in Europe in 2015 and 2016. Volunteers' numerous actions in different parts of the country significantly contributed to the protection of asylum seekers in Serbia and undermined the restoration of the EU border regime in Southeast Europe. This paper is based on data from ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Serbia and supported by literature on migration, activism, and tourism. It analyzes the movement on the fringes of the EU and illuminates the points of entanglements and interactions between white privileged subjects supporting asylum seekers' and volunteers' social and personal conditions for geographical mobility. Drawing upon concepts such as mobility, self-realization, and solidarity, it discusses intersecting mobilities that produced not only structural and hierarchical stratifications but also new forms of political action and solidarity. The key element of the solidarity movement is self-development, which plays an important role in volunteers' decision-making processes about whether or not to engage during the "refugee crisis" in Serbia.

Robert Rydzewski defended his PhD thesis with distinction at the Institute of Anthropology and Cultural Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM) in Poznań, Poland. Currently, he works as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Anthropology and Ethnology at the same University. He is also a part of the Center for Migration Studies at UAM. Currently, in cooperation with pro-migrant activists, he runs a project on the cooperation between pro-refugee grassroots groups and formal entities in Poland. His recent book is *The Balkan Route: Hope, Migration, and Europeanization in Liminal Spaces* (Routledge, 2023).

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At the Edge of the Balkan Route: What Is the Role of Turkey?

After the 2016 EU-Turkey agreement, it is claimed that the land and sea crossings from Turkey to Western Europe have been reduced (IOM, EU). The fact is that people on the move were stuck on the Greek islands and violent pushbacks in the Aegean Sea have increased. We, the researchers working on borders and migration know that if the state security apparatus attempts to block a route, a new way always emerges. Since late 2015 the Balkan Route has been in wider public discourse with the tactics put in place for the securitization of the Schengen Zone such as the introduction of new technologies, smart fences, drones, use of dogs, ill-treatment by the state agents amounting to torture and the involvement of Frontex with its funds.

Considering that the Balkan Route has also become not a unidirectional journey towards Europe, but a "circuit" (Stojić Mitrović & Vilenica 2019) where people are "caught in mobility" (Hess 2011), we claim that Turkey is also a part of this circular movement by the cooperation with Bulgaria and Greece that involve "illegal returns," pushbacks, detention, and undercover border operations. The new form of governance of the country, i.e., the Presidency since 2017 allows Turkey to easily navigate between different roles: either as a transit country that lets people move on or a country that quasi-blocks the route according to its own national interests in return for a political incentive/advancement. In this regard, we will look at the socio-economic and political – hostility and hatred towards refugees – factors that have an impact on people's decision-making processes before they take this route from Turkey.

Cavidan Soykan is affiliated with the School of Social, Political and Global Studies of Keele University in the UK as a non-resident fellow. She has a PhD from the University of Essex Sociology Department with a thesis on the Turkish asylum system. She is based in Izmir, Turkey and works on border violence, gender, migrants' rights and resistance.

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Closed Borders and Unintended Consequences: A Border Ethnography of People Smuggling Networks and Border Enforcement Practices

People smuggling and border corruption have long been intertwined in the facilitation of irregular migration, yet they have received limited attention in academic research. In this contribution I explore how smugglers interact with border controls through corruption and bribery to circumvent restrictions. I focus on the role of bribery in the survival economy of border communities, including migrants, smugglers, and border authorities, and on its role in facilitating cross-border movement. This study draws on extensive ethnographic research conducted on land routes between West Asia and Europe, interviewing smugglers specifically on the Syrian-Turkish border, on the Evros border between Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria and on the Serbian-Hungarian border. My findings indicate that in all three fieldwork locations, smugglers and border guards accommodate each other's interests in creative collaborative processes. As such, corruption and bribery are not merely illegal practices but rather strategic adaptations in response to harsher border enforcement policies, stemming from specific needs of local border realities. The ethnographic work presented in this contribution will build on the theoretical underpinnings based on the results of a systematic review of peer-reviewed journals published in English on the topic of people smuggling and border enforcement between 2000 and 2020, conducted prior to the fieldwork. Keywording will be analyzed as both in its theoretical contextualization and as a specific research method, reflecting on the keywords emerging from this research around "smuggling," "corruption," "adaptation" and "collaboration" between border actors including people on the move, facilitators and border officers.

David L. Suber is a researcher and freelance journalist, working on the intersections between organised crime, people smuggling and border policing at the University College London Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science. He is the co-director of the journalism platform *Brush&Bow* producing multimedia investigations and documentaries.

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"Neither here, nor there": Riverscapes in Films on Migration

This contribution examines how visual representations of riverscapes in films on migration inform our understanding of displacement, identities, and border-making processes not only on people on the move but local communities as well. The analysis is informed by films from different cinematic traditions – *The Melon Route* (dir. by Branko Schmidt, 2006, Croatia), *Frozen River* (dir. by Courtney Hunt, 2008, US), *Morgen* (dir. by Marian Crişan, 2010, Romania), and *Dooman River* (dir. by Lu Zhang, 2011, France/South Korea). I argue that, in opposition to maritime environments, Mediterranean crossings in particular, riverscapes remain medially and scholarly less exposed and less examined sites of violence and death. Yet, cinematic representations of rivers, the artistic documentation of their transformation from natural to biopolitical, and often weaponised landscapes, introduce context-specific perspectives on globally shared experiences of displacement and loss. Drawing from Diana Sorensen's concept of epistemological locations (2018), the paper suggests an alternative way of looking at the widely discussed notion of circulation within literary and cultural theory, usually understood in terms of movement, fluidity, and transmission. It argues that any discussion of circulation would benefit from consideration of stasis, and examination of complex reasons beyond the impossibility of crossing, staying behind, and confinement within space, understood in both physical and ontological terms.

Mirna Šolić is a Lecturer in Comparative Literature in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Glasgow. She is a co-director of the College of Arts Lab in Migration and Displacement in Arts&Humanities Research. Her current research focuses on cinematic, literary and artistic representations of riverscapes.

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Squat (Informal Settlement)

Squats (informal settlements) are self-organized places alongside the EU external borders where people on the move gather and reside for a certain period of time. Squats are neither official camps nor part of the state-run accommodation facilities. They are usually locations such as: tents in the forests or fields and abandoned buildings (houses, factories, farms). Some of the characteristic features of a squat are a lack of safety and privacy, a lack of basic facilities, no running water or electricity. Also, available services and protection of people on the move are very limited and up to only a few NGOs who are visiting these locations.

One of the first squats in Serbia was the old brick factory in Subotica which served as a transit squat. Transit squat refers to a place which serves as a gathering spot for people on the move, a place where they spend just a few hours before going on a "game". In 2018 people on the move started using squats as a place where they reside for a longer period of time. They spend days (or weeks) in a squat before going on a "game" and if they are pushed back from the northern borders they come back directly into the squat. In 2019, there were three such squats – site of a former Grafosrem factory in Šid, old train station in Subotica and the old farm in Horgoš. Over time, the number of squats and people on the move who reside in them has increased significantly. In 2023, there are more than 35 squats in Serbia, mostly on its northern borders.

Milica Švabić is a lawyer working for a Serbian-based NGO "Klikaktiv" which provides free legal and social support to people on the move, asylum seekers and refugees. With nine years of experience in the area of migration and asylum, Milica has represented dozens of asylum seekers in the asylum procedures before the state authorities. In the last four years, her main focus are EU and Serbia's migration policies, externalization of EU borders (pushbacks and police violence) and protection of people on the move who do not have access to an effective asylum procedure.

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Clarity in Informed Consent for Asylum Applicants and Transformation of Instructions: Keywords of Ethnographic Initiative on Plain Language Versions

The incomprehensibility of legally important documents for lay people represents one of the ways in which social inequality is reproduced. Combined with the linguistic diversity of asylum seekers, it can double the inaccessibility of routine state services. This paper focuses on issues related to rules of interaction and norms of interpretation of standardized communication practices in a state setting. The empirical data comes from long-term ethnographic research on interpreting for asylum seekers in Slovakia. The author explores the formal conditions of informed consent and participants' attitudes towards the challenges of interpreting instructions in asylum proceedings.

Unwritten rules of interaction, ethics and procedural neutrality are a frequently discussed part of the participants' communication strategies. Verification of recipients' understanding of legal terminology is rare. The normative neutrality of translators and interpreters is also related to the structural and situational conditions of interpreting. All participants have their own preconceptions about communication as well as about the applicability of ethical principles. However, if the state provides information to foreigners in a long and complex form, it leaves the abridgement and legal interpretation of complex directives to the interpreters.

Plain language initiatives have in recent years significantly contributed to the new perspectives of addressing the above-mentioned gaps. In this paper, the author will present a pilot initiative that aims to simplify the instructions that asylum seekers signed with informed consent. The project RESPLAIN (supported by UNHCR in 2023) resulted in plain language versions of the instructions complemented with the tested iconic symbols. State representatives, legal and language experts agreed on a version that refrained from legal complexity while preserving the original meaning of the original document. Subsequently, a plain version of the instructions was translated into foreign languages to cope with cases where an interpreter was not available in the applicant's mother tongue.

Helena Tužinská is an Associate Professor at the Department of Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, focused on issues related to communication, rituals, sociolinguistics and anthropology of law. She is currently publishing on topics related to communicative space, interpreting and cultural expertise. As a researcher, she implements the applied dimension of ethnography in a collaborative project between state actors, NGOs and UNHCR.

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"The Tatars are good and all the others are bad": Islamophobia and the Humanitarian Crisis on the Polish-Belarusian Border

The region of Podlasie is known for, and promotes itself through, the notion of multiculturalism, where Poles, Belarusians and Tatars (seen as Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim) have lived side by side for hundreds of years. Once in the very centre of Poland, it is now located on the eastern border of the country, and the European Union. It is also the place where a humanitarian crisis unfolded in Autumn of 2021 when a group of refugees had been unlawfully held on the Polish side of the Polish-Belarusian border, their pleas for asylum ignored and their rights violated. Many narratives about people on the move, including in the official government media, portrayed them as inherently evil, dangerous and threatening – mostly because of their (imagined) connections to Islam. Islamophobic discourses intertwined with racializing ones and built foundations for discriminatory practices such as pushbacks and other forms of violence. However, they also induced some acts of solidarity like hosting funerals of the deceased Muslims on the move by the local Tatar community. This situation posed a question of the image and position of all Muslims in Poland, and especially in Podlasie, who then needed to prove their Polishness or deservingness to stay. Based on ethnographic field research conducted in the region in 2022/2023, I would like to explore the ways in which Islamophobic and racializing discourses affected the lives of local Muslims, as well as people on the move. I pay special attention to everyday practices unfolding in Podlasie in relation to the introduced state of exception, and the ways in which they are affecting inhabitants' everyday lives.

Joanna Urbańska is an anthropologist and PhD candidate at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and a member of Centre for Migration Studies, as well as a human rights activist at the Polish-Belarusian border. Currently she is involved in a project about othering and racialisation of Roma and Muslims in a nation state. She is based in Ljubljana.

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Borderline Experiences: The EU External Border in Bosnia and Herzegovina Mirroring Migrant Perspectives

The EU's external border in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not only an obstacle for people on the move when they are formally or informally crossing the border into Croatia. Rather, it materializes in small moments of everyday life, in encounters with others and in the daily confrontation with the challenges of life in an EUropean border landscape.

In my contribution I will present why I conclude that the border becomes palpable for them through embodied experiences, meaning that they become physically relevant. I divided the analysis in different areas: physical violence at the border, dehumanization, being trapped in mobility and social exclusion. Especially, when it comes to the accommodation and care in official camps for the people on the move in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the extremely precarious conditions in unofficial squats on the streets, that often lead to a dehumanization of people. For them, survival becomes a challenge, providing for the most basic necessities and feat of strength. Racism and exclusion are daily experiences and the migrants are visibly recognizable as such due to the adverse circumstances. Thus, they carry the border on and in themselves and everywhere they go.

Despite numerous "borderline experiences" at the EU's external border, already the physical presence of the people on the move and their constant attempts to cross the "closed" border to Croatia, can be considered as a resistant practice in a system of unequal possibilities in a global mobility order. In addition, everyday resistance and subversive strategies can improve the individual living conditions and diminish the embodied experiences described before. Also, the solidarity structures that emerge, can contribute to a rehumanization and politization of the conditions and can be described as agency of those affected. The possibilities of people on the move and activists are limited, the balance of power in this "game" is unequal. Nevertheless, the people become part of the negotiations around the EU's external border, which is constantly changing with and through them.

Theresa Wagner, studied International Migration and Intercultural Relations at Universities of Osnabrück and Malmö from 2017 to 2022, and Southeastern European Studies and Political Science at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena and University of Zagreb from 2013 to 2017. She has recently been part of the research project "aktivzivil" at IMIS, working on civil society engagement in the field of migration in Germany since 2015/16. Collecting teaching experience as a guest lecturer, in 2023 she facilitated the excursion *Balkan Route(s): Studying through European Borderlands*.

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Routing Camps

In the realm of (forced) migration management, camps exist under a wide variety of euphemisms. The nomenclature of Temporary Reception Centres, Transit Centres, Asylum Centres, and more, all speak to biopolitical institutions for the management of undesired people on the move, with complementary securitizing and humanitarian functions. They vary greatly in degrees of openness and closure, including at a single site through time. The growing camp studies literature, which addresses such diverse sites, has particular strengths in the ethnographic study of individual camps. However, camps do not exist in isolation. In particular, the openings, functioning, and closures of camps shape and are shaped by the spatio-temporalities of the Balkan Route. Drawing from mobile research across the Balkan Route, we argue for an approach to studying camps that is not bound only by the scale of individual camps, but rather is more broadly attentive to how camps exist within and in relation to dynamic, border-crossing routes. Doing so requires multi-scalar approaches, bridging attention to everyday life in camps and on the move, with critical study of their geopolitical context. To conclude, we elaborate on the "camp archipelago" as a metaphor for examining the connections and relations between camps and routes, beyond national camp systems.

Yolanda Weima is a research fellow at the University of Bologna in the ERC project *TheGAME: Counter-Mapping Informal Refugee Mobilities Along the Balkan Route* and an external affiliate of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University (Toronto, Canada). She received PhD in Geography in 2022 from York University with a dissertation focused on the ways in which spatial closure, including camp closure, cause displacement to endure with varying temporalities of violence. Yolanda has a strong interest in research methods and ethics in refugee research and has co-organized two journal special sections on related themes (in *Area* and *Refuge*). Yolanda lives in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Claudio Minca is a professor of geography at the University of Bologna, with a strong interest in social and political theory. He has worked in a range of international contexts, including at the universities of Trieste and Venice, as Professor of Geography at Newcastle University and at Royal Holloway, University of London, as Head of Department at Wageningen University (Netherlands), and at Macquarie University (Australia). His main research projects have focused on the relationship between spatial theory, biopolitics and modernity. Claudio was recently awarded an ERC Advanced Grant for a project entitled *TheGAME: Counter-Mapping Informal Refugee Mobilities Along the Balkan Route*.

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