

**Panel 07: Across Borders: Patterns of Mobility from and to Europe.**

Thursday 17, 11-13, Aula A9

Convenors: **Pina Sodano** (University of Roma Tre), **Maria do Céu Pinto Arena** (University of Minho, Braga)

Discussant: **Francesco Antonelli**, University of Roma Tre

The aim of this panel is to highlight patterns of transnational mobility in the context of the current intensification of border regimes and tightening of border controls in Europe. The forms of mobility we would like to deal with are linked to economic, social, and political dimensions – mobility as a strategy through which people seek more or less successfully to secure a living, reproduce and celebrate familial relationships, or also fight for a political/religious/ideological cause. The panel is primarily concerned with thinking critically about the presuppositions border regimes involve and the forms of mobility they uphold and curb. In so doing, we will also try to suggest few directions in the study of borders. We build on scholars' call for the need to “move beyond the discussion of whether borders are best defined in terms of fluidity or rigidity and examine how these aspects are ultimately interconnected” (Pelkmans 2006: 13; see also Walker 1999). Contra popular representations that tend to focus exclusively on the function of borders in restraining mobility, we wish to emphasize also their capacity to produce new patterns of mobility. The specific regulation undergoing the functioning of borders in Italy, as well as in other countries, has been the cause of much plight and suffering amongst labour migrants and asylum seekers. However, the borders that separate from the “outside” may create also important opportunities for the would - be migrants – such as, for example, the creation of new commercial and social activities, the opening up of alternative and clandestine routes. How do migrants talk of national borders and interact with, either as a resource to exploit or as an obstacle to challenge? How do they cope with tightening border controls and security measures? Furthermore, we also aim to problematize the popular belief that the role of a strong, functioning border is to limit the flux of people: if mobility and passage rise in intensity, they also so increase the opportunities for the nation-state to consolidate its role through border regulations. Those who forecast the post-modern erosion of nation-state borders with the rapid growth in trans-border flows, fail to appreciate this point (Walker 1999). Panelists will not merely repeat those critiques of border regimes that have occupied scholarly debates in recent years. Instead, we wish to launch an inquiry into forms of mobility that have been enhanced by the existence of national borders, the establishment of border regimes, and the intensification of border control.

Papers givers:

- 1) **Maria do Céu Pinto Arena** (University of Minho, Braga), *The Nexus Terrorism - International Migration: What Is The Evidence From The Field?*

The growing numbers of migrants and asylum seekers fleeing turmoil in Africa and the Middle East poses complex challenges for European policymakers. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, terrorism has become much of a priority for governments in Europe and the

West in general. Migration and asylum policy have largely been the target of an intensified securitisation. With concerns about Islamic terrorism looming large across the continent, it remains unclear if political headwinds will facilitate a new climate of immigration reform or closure of EU borders. Already, the head of the EU's judicial co-operation agency, Eurojust, has warned that Islamic State terrorists are taking advantage of the waves of western sympathy towards would be asylum seekers and sending trained operatives to Europe hidden among migrants crossing the Mediterranean. That is a concern which has equally been voiced by the Italian foreign minister and the Hungarian prime minister. Due to its trans-border and trans-national characteristics, international terrorism has been viewed as an issue closely linked to international migration. The main aim of this paper will be to ascertain the link between illegal migrants and a rising threat of terrorism using evidence from the field.

2) **Pina Sodano** (University of Roma Tre), *Migrants crossing the Mediterranean, not hedges but bridges*

In 2014, the main entry route for migrants in the European Union was the Mediterranean route with 170,664 arrivals, in 2015 instead of the most important route was the Balkan passing from Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary (Frontex 2015). This paper focuses on analysis of the complexity mobility policies and the ways that the migrants decided to choose for arriving in Europe. From where they have to arrive? And why they have decided to leave their homeland? For sure, building walls will not stop millions of people, (e.i. Melilla, Callais) a syrian refugee said: “I left my country (Syria) because I lost every things, if I look back I don't have nothing I can just hope to look in front of me and find a new life” (interview). So this paper will give a panoramic of the migrants present in Italian country, in particular those that passed through Italy in some shelter for refugees and asylum seekers.

3) **Marco Omizzolo** (Director magazine of ISTISSS - Istituto per gli studi sui servizi sociali, Roma), *The environmental migration in the Mediterranean Sea: the case of the Middle East and North Africa, crossroad of the globalization and the effects of climate change*

This study aims to analyze the complex issues that go into determining the environmental migration in the Mediterranean Sea with particular reference to the Middle East and North Africa. The proposed analysis will include the complexity of the environmental refugees concept's that is determinate by various factors such as socio-economic, political, geopolitical and industrial, variously related to the broader concept of globalization, related to environmental degradation and the effects of climate change. The goal of the essay, then, is to investigate not only the phenomenon of forced migration caused by environmental factors, but also the possible interrelations between these with other factors like the economic and social effects the living conditions in the areas of origin of flows and push to migrate.