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## Editorial

The issue of migration has become a central focus in global contemporary political discourse. In Europe, it is considered a priority in the current and future European agenda, represented as a matter of urgency and emergency. Since 2015, the European Commission has presented the, regularly updated, document “European agenda on migration” to the European Parliament. This document describes several pragmatic and programmatic measures are described, in order to manage the migration flows inside European territories, but also to control the pressure of migration pushing from the outer European boundaries. It seems that one of the main issues related to migration is the possible conflict between EU citizens’ legitimate aspiration to feel safe and secure inside European borders and non-EU citizens’ right to be hosted and protected when running away from poverty, war, natural disasters, famine, severe political tensions, and so on.

The plain distinction between economic migrants and refugees/asylum seekers cannot be easily claimed, due to the different intersecting factors that can be considered as responsible for the migration process. For example, poverty is associated with migration: does this association explain migration as a process based on economic motivations? It may seem that it does, but it cannot be forgotten that poverty is very often associated with other conditions of vulnerability, which make a person more exposed to social exclusion, segregation, discrimination, and persecution. What we want to state here is that when we consider a migration process, which begins in a poor region not involved in an actual conflict with other regions, we are pushed to explain that process as due to economic motivating factors. This could be an oversimplified thought. What we face, in reality, are the multifaceted consequences of poverty, which always result in different and increasing levels of inaccessibility to the different layers of society, meaning, for those affected by it, a precarious, difficult or impossible realisation of one’s own individual rights.

Notwithstanding such complexity, it seems to us that a sort of “simple thinking” dominates the contemporary common opinion on migration. This topic has indeed polarised several political campaigns, causing the presentation of opinions and consensus, which seem to stand in front of one another as counterposed blocks. We are however convinced that the migration issue is too important to be dismissed as a rigid and unproductive contraposition of pros and cons. For this reason, we have decided to participate in the public debate on migration, offering a scientific, multidisciplinary, multi-professional contribution, with the idea that a patient exploration of this phenomenon can

be used in order to overcome the militant contraposition, which characterises the current political debate.

We got this opportunity to open this debate when we succeeded in organising a summer school in Rome, in June 2019, named “From Africa to Europe through Italy”, which was attended by psychology and social work students, together with academic scholars and prominent professionals, coming from three different European countries.

The first country we have to mention is Germany, which made real the summer school project. The summer school was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD in the framework of the programme “Hochschuldialog mit Südeuropa” (University dialogue with southern Europe) supported by the German Foreign Ministry. With this initiative, Germany has shown openness and the will to involve young generations in rationally confronting the topic so that better possible solutions can be found.

The second country is Italy, which hosted the seminars. Italy is a place often involved in migration events, due to its 5000 km long coasts, and to the short distance, less than 170 km, severing the small isle of Lampedusa from the Tunisian coast. In Italy, thousands of diverse and disconnected migration experiences can be detected and can serve as case studies, but can also contribute to the attempt of a systematic consideration of migration.

The last country involved in this project is Northern Macedonia, which testifies to the difficulty of realising truly inclusive processes; it is a small section of South Eastern Europe, with the Balkan Route in the background, walked across by families, or lone children, or vulnerable women, all longing for the desired European boundaries.

Although the summer school is enrooted in a multidisciplinary background, a preminent contribution is due to social work and psychology. Social workers are among the professionals with a higher probability of direct contact with migrant and refugees: they work in the field, they are often involved in emergency situations, they stand in the middle, on the psychosocial, emotional boundary, work in the very sensitive space between strangers and residents. They have to keep in mind that everyone is a stranger to someone else.

As for psychology, we wanted to share a particular theoretical perspective that is offered in some Italian universities: clinical psychology, based on psychoanalysis, aimed at exploring and intervening in social contexts. Differently from what is normally intended by the term “clinical psychology”, often focused on psychopathological individuals, this “Italian” theoretical perspective is interested in analysing the emotional dynamics modeling people behaviour and sense-making in a tight relationship with their culture and social contexts.

We wanted to offer our audience the possibility to reflect, with the support of theory and empirical research, on the socialised emotions that can explain some irrational behavior and emotional contagious among individual sharing the same social environment.

The different chapters forming this volume wind through a multicultural and multi-perspective dialogue, where studies and research, as well as descriptions of services to support migrants and refugees and case studies took part in building this common narration.

The first contribution (Carli & Paniccia, 2020) is a psychosocial research study carried out within the psychoanalytical theoretical framework, comparing German and Italian cultures on security and governance fields, with a specific focus on the migration topic. The authors help us to comprehend to what extent the sense of belonging to one's own community allows the individuals and groups to face changes – here represented by the social impact of the migration flows on the host communities – with a reasonable confidence that the changes can be dealt with. Without a sense of belonging, on the contrary, an individualistic tendency, eventually unscrupulous and predatory, may prevail.

The next contribution (Hein, 2020) illustrates an updated and synthetic juridical framework on European laws and regulations on migration, completed with a statistical analysis of migration flows in Europe during the last decade.

The following two contributions help to understand the social representation of the migrant/refugee, with a particular attention to its affective symbolic component. The emotional aspects evoked by the “stranger” and socialised in the host cultures will be discussed in the first of these two pieces of research (Marinelli et al. 2020), through the analysis of narratives collected interviewing people in Viernheim, a tiny town in Assia distinguished for its programmes in supporting the refugees. The other work (Pschiuk et al. 2020) is instead focused on the narratives of women talking about themselves, their journey to Europe, the emotions evoked by the relationship with their country of origin.

The volume continues with several contributions focused on professionals that may play a crucial role in managing and facilitating the relationships between migrant communities and host communities: social workers, cultural mediators, educators, psychologists. Here language is to be considered as an element of one's own identity (we call it “mother tongue”) as well as an instrument of communication and construction of relationships with the others (Filmer & Sturiale, 2020; Pirchio et al., 2020).

Finally, we have a set of contributions represented by the chapters describing some services offered to the migrants/refugees provided by the host

communities, with the aim to take charge of the apparent fragile situations related to the migration flows. These services can offer health care assistance to migrants and poor people (Tumiati et al., 2020), psychological support to children and families (Laezer & Leuzinger-Bohleber, 2020), or protection to victims of human trafficking and smuggling (Cesarano, Groterath & Moretti, 2020; Georgievska, 2020; Mannino et al., 2020).

The last contribution, again on the topic of the family and its influence on a migration decision, is focused on the analysis of the complex processes of family reunification that, when disregarded, may increase the likelihood of irregular ways of reuniting migrant family members in destination countries or supporting their relatives financially from abroad (Schiefer, 2020).

We decided to publish all the papers presented during the summer school in order to share and make accessible the common effort of all the speakers to offer a meaningful perspective, a rational view and a passionate attitude.

We hope that this book can benefit all the persons, students, professionals, scholars, and volunteers that are trying to help the management of this impressive global phenomenon, studying and researching, as well as carrying on theory-oriented and empirically based actions on the field; persons who are guided and inspired by their sense of responsibility towards human beings who bet on their own life and their future on the precision of the long jump that they will be able to perform, with our help or alone. They already made their decision. We can choose to be silent spectators only, distrustful or even hostile, or can accept to be a stranger to someone else and share solidarity.

Angelika Groterath, Viviana Langher, Giorgia Marinelli

# The Culture of Security and Governance in Italy and Germany: a comparison

*Renzo Carli, Rosa Maria Paniccia*

## **Aims**

This research study intends to show the local cultures evoked by the issues of Security and Governance in two populations: Germans and Italians.

The research was carried out by administering a specific questionnaire for each of the two issues to groups of Italians and Germans whose work was related to each issue. For each issue, young people aged 17 to 25 were also questioned.

By “local culture” we mean the set of symbolic mental dimensions that are evoked in talking about security and immigration, or governance.

The research hypothesis is that the themes elicited by the questions in the two questionnaires will bring out different interrelated symbolic visions. Our aim is to analyse these different symbolic visions and to show how they are related<sup>1</sup>. The data analysis will therefore enable us to describe the whole culture evoked by the issue and the different emotional dynamics making it up.

The analyses of the data emerging from the statistical elaboration of the responses to the two questionnaires will then be presented.

The questionnaire responses were subjected to factorial analysis of multiple correspondences and cluster analysis.

The interpretation of the data will consider the different clusters of questionnaire responses and the relation between them and the factorial space that emerges.

1 Usually the questionnaires are read using the range of different individuals responding to the questionnaire, question by question. In the methodology we used, both the range of respondents and the range of questions are “processed” statistically, presuming that the interaction between these ranges defines the local culture evoked by the issue being investigated. The methodology used can pinpoint the interactions between this double source of variability and diversity of data. The diverse range we are talking about is not related to a summation of elements (objects of symbolisation and individuals who symbolise) but to the interaction between these elements.