

Unravelling Europe's "Migration Crisis": Journeys over Land and Sea

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that woman, as a figure, can rewrite her gendered script. Chakraborty offers visual interpretations of three texts creating thick descriptions of how each addresses language, history, and myth as a driver of a continuum of extreme forms of everyday violence. The book interrogates normative representations of the Partition of India and has the capacity to deepen the audience's knowledge, no matter the level of familiarity with the topic. Though the book does not read like a poem, there is an overall rhythm to it as Chakraborty thoughtfully circles back to themes and analogies. "This book is a study of the relationship between women and the nation in what postcolonial studies would describe as the

early decades of postcolonial nationhood in the Indian context" (271). Chakraborty concludes the book by addressing why she focuses on the Hindu woman. She acknowledges the absence of the Muslim woman in her study and states that her intent is not to perpetuate a view that the Partition of Bengal was only the site of Hindu trauma.

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Unravelling Europe's "Migration Crisis": Journeys over Land and Sea



Heaven Crawley, Franck Duvell, Katherine Jones, Domon McMahon, and Nando Sigona
Bristol: Policy Press, 2018, 183 pp.

Despite popular conceptions, large-scale migration into, within, and out of Europe is not a new phenomenon, let alone a "crisis." If anything, as Crawley et al. demonstrate, the "migration crisis" is a policy-driven predicament: a creation of mismanaged, disjointed, and inhumane migration policies that fail to consider the geopolitical and historical contexts of global movement. Migration in itself is not the "crisis." Rather, it is the ill-informed responses to contemporary mobility flows that contribute to the exacerbation of humanitarian predicaments around the world. The prevailing notion that migration across European borders constitutes a "crisis" of epic proportions has dominated the public and policy spheres across the continent. Crawley et al. argue that such "crisis"-driven narrative fuels ineffective responses that fail to address the needs of refugees and migrants arriving on European shores.

Prioritizing the journeys and decision-making of refugees and migrants themselves, *Unravelling Europe's "Migration Crisis"* provides insights into the drivers, triggers, and mobility constraints of refugees and forced migrants; their lived experiences during their precarious journeys; and their reception upon arrival in Europe. This comparative study of four European countries is a result of in-depth data analysis of over 500 interviews with refugees and migrants who initially arrived in Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Malta during the "peak" of the migration "crisis" from late 2015 into early 2016.

Each chapter takes readers on a journey along the path of migration. The book first describes different itinerant

patterns emergent from distinct migration routes; it then takes the readers through the decision-making processes of refugees (i.e., when, where, and how to leave); next, it critically examines the role of smugglers in navigating border controls; it then proceeds to describe the dangerous journeys that refugee and migrants embark upon to reach safety and a new place to call home; and finally, it looks at how Europe responds to arrivals of refugees and migrants at its borders. Several key findings from this book demystify common assumptions about migration into Europe. First, the research debunks the myth of migration as a single flow of refugees and migrants across the Mediterranean. The second myth exposed is that migration across the Mediterranean Sea is driven solely by economic opportunities. A third myth debunked is that the refugees and migrants coming into Europe undertake a direct journey from their countries of origin into an intended European state.

Myth #1: A Single European Migration Flow

Crawley et al. highlight the fact the migration into Europe is not a single (Mediterranean) flow, but rather composed of multiple routes and journeys of people from different countries of origin—such as Middle Eastern countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and Syria), as well as African states (Gambia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Eritrea)—who are driven away from their home countries. A key finding reveals that most people arrived in Europe "after making *multiple* decisions about where and when to go rather than by making a singular and

direct journey to Europe” (74). The research focuses on two distinct migration routes into Europe: an Eastern Mediterranean route that originates primarily in Central Asian, Middle Eastern, and North African states transiting through Turkey and arriving in Greece; and a Central Mediterranean route that originates primarily from African states transiting through Libya and arriving in Malta and Italy. However, the book fails to explore another important but less common migration route: the Western Mediterranean route originating in Algeria and Morocco into Spain. As the research highlights, it is important to understand and recognize the unique characteristics and circumstances of each migration flow, including the different countries of origin, demographics of refugees and migrants, drivers and reasons for fleeing, and settlement patterns in Europe.

Myth #2: They Are All Economic Migrants

Highlighting the distinction between “primary” and “secondary” drivers of migration, the research also reveals that the decision to leave one’s country of origin is not made lightly by refugees and migrants and often includes complex and interconnecting reasons/motifs. The “primary” drivers for leaving seem to be security and safety from conflict, persecution, insecurity, and human rights abuses. These decisions are motivated mainly by fear and desperation, and the prospects of a safer life for themselves and their children. The “secondary” drivers of migration relate closely to economic and social factors such as the inability to find employment or access social services, and the hope for a better future for their families. Often there are mixed motivations for leaving one’s homeland, as illustrated by a forced migrant: “First we wanted to be safe and second, we wanted to build a better future for our family” (65). As the authors highlight, there is an intricate relationship between “forced” and “economic” drivers of migration. While the primary motivation to leave one’s homeland is triggered by intolerable conflict and insecurity, economic factors such as poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and the desire to have a better life for their children often overlap with the aforementioned political and security factors.

Myth #3: Migrants Undertake a Direct Journey into Europe

Perhaps most revealing are the findings highlighting that most refugees and migrants never intended to migrate to Europe. The vast majority had no particular destination in mind when leaving their homelands and made decisions about where, when, and how to move at segments throughout their journeys. Most refugees and migrants interviewed spent months, if not years, in neighbouring countries before arriving in Europe. As Crawley et al. demonstrate, it becomes easier to understand the decisions that refugees and migrants make to risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean in the context of knowing what preceded their journeys. Often media, politicians, and policy-makers focus solely on the dangers of sea crossings when reporting/engaging with the topic. In doing so, they neglect to delve into the specifics of their entire journeys. Findings from Crawley et al. highlight that, prior to arriving at sea, refugees and migrants undertaking these risky seaborne journeys also faced dangerous journeys over land through interactions with smugglers, state officials, difficult terrain, and non-state actors.

Crawley et al. debunk these common assumptions about the nature and dynamics of migration into Europe through a compilation of rich data based on the lived experiences and decision-making processes of refugees and migrants. Unravelling ill-informed assumptions about migration into Europe can lead to the formation of more compassionate and humane migration policies that take into consideration the drivers, motivations, and complex decision-making processes of those on the move. The authors highlight the need to rethink the response to migration that centres and prioritizes the needs of refugees and migrants. *Unravelling Europe’s “Migration Crisis”* is essential reading that contextualizes the dynamics of migration over land and sea and has important policy implications not only for the European context, but for the rest of the world as well.

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Human Security and Migration in Europe’s Southern Borders



Susana Ferreira

Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, pp. 211

L’ouvrage de Susana Ferreira est issu d’une thèse de doctorat s’inscrivant dans l’étude du nexus entre la migration et la sécurité. Il prend pour point d’appui

l’analyse du régime de gouvernance européen des migrations au sein du pourtour méditerranéen. Au regard de la difficile gestion de la « crise des migrations » par l’Union européenne