



Call for Papers

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MIGRATIONS AND THE MEDIA

Edited by

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As with other social processes, even migratory phenomena need to be studied starting from the dynamics of symbolic representation, as they affect the perception and the construction of public discourses, the latter deeply interwoven with political choices. In this regard, the dimension of media and communication not only constitutes an accessible and expressive version of the structural characteristics of a social process, but lies into dynamics of social construction, representation, and reality perception, where the wide range of actors involved interact, defining imaginaries, values and policies. Nowadays, this symbolic and communicative dimension seems perfectly significant and crucial in respect to migration and all the related issues (entry into a country, settlement, integration, politicization and polarization of the matter, perceptions of natives, the status of second and successive generations, gender issues, xenophobia and racism, etc.).

In the last fifteen-twenty years, the theme of the media representation of migrations – a well-established and dense research field in the international academic panorama – has begun to appear even in national literature. Nevertheless, while the continuous relevance of migratory issues and the unavoidable political implications of journalistic information have now made evident the pivotal role of media narrations in the managing of “open” and multicultural societies, the scientific debate on the topic, at least in our country, is still conditioned by certain significant limitations. First of all, there is a simplistic prejudice – uncritically negative – towards media as such: plenty of studies confine themselves to the investigation of the stereotyping function of media discourse, without trying to penetrate the complexity of news media mechanisms as tools for the construction of reality, as well as the profundity and the ambiguity of their effects; many reflections seem to underestimate the fact that media texts are fundamental cognitive and cultural resources for citizens of the contemporary world. Secondly, the vast majority of research relies on various methods of content analysis – even sophisticated ones – that often culminate with a list of all the distortions and accentuations diffused by a medium, without attempting the connection with media theories, or the development of more sophisticated forms of analysis of the linguistic and iconic construction of representations of reality and alterities, or the comparison between different situations and realities. A third major

concern consists in the fact that most of the time the analysis is focused on news media (and, sometimes, cinema); there is little research committed to other media, confronting different media and languages, or facing the complexity of the current communicative scenario; such as the investigation of the plethora and the intersections of arenas and formats, the hybridization of languages and media logics, and the role of different actors in the online ecosystem (starting from media professionals, activists, and social operators to migrants as content “producers”, to the role of big platforms in distributing, addressing and underlining narrations, images, news streams). Besides, there is a certain demand for the intensification of connections and comparisons in an international perspective, while considering, of course, the differences in terms of media systems and practices, political and social contexts, as well as the specific dynamics of migratory flows in different national contexts and the following political responses. As suggested by this brief and concise premise, a monographic issue focused on the media representation of migrants seems to be the occasion for revitalizing and deepening the debate on the topic. According to the previously exposed coordinates, papers based on empirical research conducted with original approaches (even interdisciplinary ones), discussing in depth one (or more) of the prominent themes listed as significant for the understanding of the relationship between media and migrations, as well as theoretical contributions aimed at opening up the reflection towards new perspectives and analysis, will be privileged.

Deadline

Those interested are invited to send their original essays and a short biographical note **no later than November 30, 2019**.

Submissions

Texts must be sent through the Mondì Migranti pages, on the website of the publisher Franco Angeli: <https://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/Sommario.aspx?idRivista=149>. Authors should follow the procedure indicated after clicking the link “propose an article”).

Essays, including notes and bibliographical references, **must not exceed 35,000 characters (spaces included)** and can be written in Italian, English, French, Spanish.

Only texts that comply with the editorial standards will be accepted. Editorial standards are available at this address: <http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/NR/Mm-norme.pdf>.

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