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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** France Houle is a Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Montreal where she teaches immigration and administrative law. Before joining the Faculty in 1999, she worked as a Legal Counsel at the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board. Her current research focuses on admission of skilled workers and their integration in the Canadian labour market. She also participates in the development of the International Migration Policy and Law Analysis (IMPALA) Consortium Database which will eventually cover laws and policies governing migration and citizenship in 26 countries in the OECD over the period 1960 to the present.

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies*. Our aim is to contribute to the expanding field of research on migration and borders with a focus on the extent to which law and policy shape migration and border processes. Over the past several decades, these processes have most strikingly included various changes in the way migration and borders are understood by various vested actors.

Indeed, there is a global *proliferation* of measures aimed at securing borders and controlling migration flows. These have, for instance, included the expansion of visa requirements, carrier sanctions, increased penalties on migrant smuggling, and the considerable investment in human identification technologies. Such measures have been justified as necessary to fight irregular migration and terrorism and are presented as symbols of state capacity and national sovereignty. Of particular importance are the legal, spatial, and social *reconfiguration* of migration and border control. Multiple actors are increasingly co-opted in the regulation of migration flows far away from the physical borders of states, spanning a net of control from countries of origin (e.g., migration integrity officers at airports) to the social fabric of host societies (e.g., involvement of housing, employment and education providers in migration control). Some states have designated portions of their territory as zones in which undocumented migrants are barred from claiming territorial asylum, the most extreme example being Australia's 'excision zone' covering the country's entire coastline. There was also an increase in *multilateral* and *cross-thematic cooperation* over issues involving migration and border control. This includes broad international initiatives such as the intergovernmental United Nations' High Level Dialogue in Migration and Development, more informal initiatives driven by countries of the global North such as the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees, a plethora of intergovernmental initiatives at the regional level, but also civil society initiatives such as the World Social Forum on Migration.

On issues regarding migrants there have also been important changes. The development of ever-more *labour market-driven admission systems* for migrants, fuelling the expansion of temporary workers programs with limited legal entitlements. For instance, the number of temporary foreign workers admitted to Canada has more than tripled in recent years. This major policy change has occurred in the absence of a comprehensive debate on its social and economic consequences. There is also *increasing restrictions on the civil and social rights of the most vulnerable categories of migrants*, be it refugees, asylum-seekers, or victims of trafficking and smuggling. This has encompassed the narrowing of the refugee definition, limiting access to judicial control and increasing discretionary power in admission procedures, decreasing public funding for legal advice and social benefits, limiting access to the right to work, and expanding immigration detention. One final observation, which involves many states, pertains to a *shift* in settlement discourses and practices. The discourse ranges *from multiculturalism to social cohesion*, with increasing conditionalities attached to the granting of citizenship and in the context of mounting anti-immigration sentiments.

These trends feature many contradictions. For example, how can states strengthen border and migration control while aiming to attract migration so as to meet labour market demands? How is state autonomy and sovereignty to be defended if entry control depends on an ever-increasing number of actors who do not necessarily have the same motives and rationales? How can effective public policy and support of immigration be achieved if public scrutiny is discouraged? How can social cohesion be realised if public funding for integration is on the decline? What is the impact of the retreat from multiculturalism on increasingly diverse societies? And, how can states claim to be liberal democracies while curtailing the rights of the most vulnerable?

The *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies* wishes to address these and further contradictions so as to advance knowledge in the field of migration and border research and to improve policy practice in the field. The journal will welcome scholarly articles, book reviews and reports on ongoing research. We encourage methodological diversity and dialogue between disciplines. Following established academic standards, articles will be submitted to the double-blind peer review process of our international editorial committee as well as a worldwide network of collaborators. This peer-review process will also apply to single articles of special issues.

In this inaugural issue, we bring together perspectives from the fields of anthropology, critical border studies, legal studies, policy analysis, and public health. The contributors use qualitative and quantitative methodologies and offer analyses in European, African, US, and Oceanian contexts. Collectively, the articles in this issue investigate policy design as much as enforcement and migrant interactions with distinct policy and experiential settings.

We start with two enlightening examinations of the reconfiguration of border and migration control in the Mediterranean. Combining theoretical insights from critical border studies and interactionism, Laure-Anne Bernes focuses on the Spanish enclave of Ceuta as a case study of border plasticity. Away from the frequent focus on the enclave's fortified checkpoints and the rhetoric of crisis surrounding the crossing of these checkpoints by undocumented migrants, the study, based on months of fieldwork and interviews with a broad range of actors, highlights often neglected social processes and routines establishing the reality of the border.

Also concerned with the complexity of bordering processes, Valeria Ferraris then focuses on the discrepancy between the letter of the law and its application in a study of

the evolution of Italian border control in the context of the surging arrival of migrants from Northern Africa during the Arab Spring which began in December 2010. She also illustrates the enduring agency of single EU states unilaterally adopting border control measures in spite of the existence of the Schengen regime supposedly ensuring free movement within the Schengen area.

Investigating policy coherence is equally at the core of Lea Siktin's article. Exploring enforcement of British measures aiming to prevent the settlement of irregular migrants through a 'street-level bureaucracy' lens, she highlights the lack of coordination and the absence of shared goals among the numerous public and private actors involved in the regulation of the labour market, access to health, education and housing. Such policy fragmentation strengthens public demand for harsher controls, increasing the vulnerability of irregular migrants in the UK.

Migrant perspectives are in the focus of Ana Martinez-Donate's et al. and Catherine-Lune Grayson's contributions. Martinez-Donate et al. present the findings of a survey on access to healthcare by undocumented migrants from Mexico in the USA. The survey reveals low level of health insurance and low access to healthcare among undocumented migrants across various US states, particularly among migrants employed in the agricultural sector and among those who return involuntarily to Mexico, as a regression analysis reveals. The article thus highlights the link between entry status and post-entry social stratification and debunks the view that undocumented migrants have better access to health facilities in US states hosting large populations of migrants. This hints at limits to migrant rights advocacy where its impact would be likely.

In an anthropological analysis of the collective identity of Somali refugees in the Kakuma camp in Kenya, Grayson shows how the shared experience of forced displacement and adversity has led to the formation, among a non-homogeneous population of Somali youth of a collective, camp-situated identity. This identity goes beyond established divisions between Somali clans while demonstrating continuity with established elements of Somali identity, such as their entrepreneurship. She highlights the agency of refugees who, in the precarious setting of the camp, are able to increase their material welfare with the development of commercial activities while remaining, collectively, keenly aware of their precarious circumstances and establishing their group identity as Somalis in transit rather than focusing on return to Somalia. The perspective challenges the widespread view of refugees' collective identity as focused exclusively on return to their country of origin as much as it nuances the concept of collective identity, uncovering generational differences.

The first ongoing research we present in this issue is Jean-Luc Bédard's account of the diversity and complexity of mutual recognition agreements between France and Quebec, which will be part of a larger study on migrants' experience with these agreements. The former aims to grant reciprocal accelerated access to the French and Quebecois labour markets to more than twenty-five professions. In light of the emerging Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union, which may include similar arrangements on a greater scale, Bédard's project has the potential to yield promising and enlightening results.

The issue concludes with a review of *Governing Immigration through Crime: A Reader* edited by J.A. Dowling and J.A. Inda. While focusing on the USA, the book resonates especially with this issue's article by Siktin.

In future issues, *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies* wishes to further explore the complexity and contradictions of modern regimes regulating border and migration control. We particularly hope to welcome contributions on the following topics:

- Local, regional and international mechanisms and logics that transform political and media discourse, norms, policies and practices related to border security and migration policy.
- Effectiveness and consequences of discourse, norms, policies and practices at the local, national and international level as well as their compatibility with states' domestic and international obligations of human rights and refugee protection.
- Changes in institutional, procedural and social arrangements to deal with border security and immigration policy.
- Role of international and local actors, institutions and agencies, employers and members of civil society in border security and immigration policy.
- Strategies in promoting the economic development while fostering the legal, economic and social inclusion of forced migrants.
- Coherence and coordination between various actors dealing with issues such as health, education, social welfare, employment and law enforcement.
- Role of gender, age, ability, race and other factors in border security and immigration policy.
- Innovative approaches and theories developed to foster knowledge on current norms, policies and practices linked to the exploration of concepts such as territorial sovereignty, borders and humanitarianism.

The *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies* publishes four issues per year. We welcome electronic submissions on an ongoing basis and we are interested to receive proposals for special issues.