



## **EDITORIAL STATEMENT**

### **On the Journal of Identity and Migration Studies**

**Lia POP**

#### **1. Defining the scope and goal of the publication**

The Journal of Identity and Migration Studies (JIMS) is designed to host scientific contributions on the suggested topics: migration and identity. It relies on the contributions of the academics, PhD and MA Students, young researchers, politicians and different officers working in the field. It welcomes the results of the academic projects, as well as the experience and wisdom enrooted in the experience of working with and for migrants. For this reason the review is conceived to combine multiple and complementary perspectives on migration and identity issues.

Firstly, JIMS aims to host materials and theoretical positions emerged from the perspective of the South- Eastern and Central European countries. The characteristics share several common features. They – as polities - are facing an ambivalent status in managing migration and fostering integration – they are countries both sending and the receiving migrants countries. They are states that have been encountering the flux of emigration – to EU 15 countries and to Canada and US - losing their most skilful, active and creative labor, losing a population usually speaking the second foreign language, socialized as Christians and familiar with the European values. They are in the condition of starting to receive an increasing flux of immigrants with no ability of speaking the official language(s) – rarely educated and socialized according to European and Christian values. Their citizens – as citizens of new EU Member States - experienced an ambiguous position as non-welcoming people in enjoying, practically, *The Free Movement of Citizens in EU*, the founding liberty of European construction and as legally entitled EU citizens to move, to work and to reside anywhere in the EU. These countries - as societies - are encountering the problems of managing migration and fostering

integration without a political tradition in dealing with differences; without a complete political, economical, cultural and religious modernization, in a moment of severe hemorrhages of the most qualified of their people (engaging in brain drain toward developed countries); without a cultural preparation in fostering integration and with a limited technical training in dealing with the perverse and adverse phenomena connected with migration;

The countries from this region are the most solicited and the first front of the EU - and not the best equipped - in combating: the illegal migration; the routes of the trafficking and smuggling persons; the routes of trafficking drugs and arms; the most vulnerable points of terrorist attacks. They are countries with a non-famous national or regional identity, not very well qualified to assimilate migratory groups coming from far-Asia - Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and China or from Ukraine, Turkey or Africa.

Secondly, JIMS aims to host materials and theoretical positions that are looking at migration and identity from a political perspective. That means we gather articles and events – much more designed by political scientists and scholars – but we are welcoming also scholars in Economy, Law, Sociology, Philosophy, Media, Communications and all other scientists concentrated on this type of phenomena. We can call our perspective, briefly, a political perspective. But, as a matter of fact, it is' a perspective of policies. It envisages to analyze policies; to constructively criticize the laws and the institutions designed to implement these specific policies; to explore philosophical approaches on the phenomena on migration and identities – as personal and group identity; to provide data about the reality of migration and its challenge for re-defining identity; to offer, for decision makers, syntheses about the public acceptances and preferences in changing their lives according with a different social environment; to gather information about the outcomes of policies' implementations.

## **2. The Philosophical approach of the Journal of Identity and Migration Studies**

The philosophical understanding of the above-mentioned fields – migration and identity – embraced by the editors is simple: they are inter-related phenomena of our time that challenge the humanity to define itself on new bases. But, they can redefine humanity as the most human society only by preserving traditional roots of humanism: religion and patriotism (nationhood or *umma* culture).



The philosophy inspiring the publication celebrates the chance to meet the diversity as a source of cultural, economical and societal richness. But it, also, is aware of the possibilities of misunderstandings or even of conflicts in an unprepared cross-cultural society. An unprepared society is the society that is missing the custom of solving misunderstandings by talking about them. It is a society which does not assume the problems and does not communicate on them. The most unprepared societies are those that have not the practice the conflicts with a solution embraced by all the parts.

The review editors reject and fear only the unacceptable tools to forge the nationhood, the war and the hatred toward the others. The philosophy embraced by the editors is to host the richest diversity of views and theoretical positions. This is in the hope and the goal of structuring a vision of a most welcoming world to otherness and most open newcomers in cooperating trustfully with the natives and old timer inhabitants. The unacceptable positions for the review will be an intentional offense to a specific group, the intolerance and the incitation to hatred and negative discrimination against the other, especially against the people in need.

### **3. Type and the Structure of the JIMS**

JIMS is designed to be a semi-annual publication, in line, with a future *forum* attached, for discussing the issues.

The structure of the review will unify:

**PART I. Thematic articles - focused on migration and identity.** We are welcoming in this section, contributions: presenting philosophy, political theory, political positions in the field; sharing good practices from all around the world in defending the dignity and the Human Rights of migrant persons, on working with refugees and asylum seekers; reporting significant personal experiences; reporting in media columnist style dramatic events connected with the main topics; on discrimination of migrants; on policies addressed to manage the migration flux; to prevent adverse and perverse effects; to keep the personal right to free movement of the persons; the human rights warranted by the Human Rights Declarations; on policies designed to foster the integration of migrants of the first, second and third generations; on specific policies on asylum and refugees.

**PART II. Research articles - focused on migration and identity.** The editors call for articles grounded in field or desk research: on migration flux - from and in - Eastern and Central European Countries; on the public acceptance of newcomers; on the difficulty and success in integration; on discriminations against migrants, especially against the child; on different roles of the institutions in integration or preventing personal alienation philosophy; on policies addressed to managing migrations and fostering integrations - comparative analyses are specially welcomed; on positive discrimination for migrants; on public acceptance and tolerance to them. Works in progress of research or policy proposals are also welcomed.

**PART III. Review materials - focused on migration and identity.** Reviews of books, academic periodicals, scientific conferences, will be published in this section

**PART IV. Events Reports and Announcements – concerning migration and identity issues.** We expect here signals on academic opportunities to study migration and identity problems, as well as signals on specific professional associations, organizations dealing with migration and identity issues.

**PART V. Note on the contributors**

As concerns the *style*, we would like to host articles and studies elaborated in a classical academic style

#### **4. Expected outcomes**

The editors hope to create around the publication an *enduring network* of researchers, experts, professionals, politicians and social activists from NGOs concerned with the problems of the persons in movement; of the persons and groups non-integrated (or even excluded as group) in the host society.

We believe that this network created by the review could: provide, in the near future, a founded and analytic point of view regarding the theories, ideologies and other types of trends addressing or even manipulating public opinion in our times; offer support in drafting different policies in the field; be involved in *asserting the entrepreneurial initiative and the expertise* in the field, in the benefits of the dis-rooted persons and groups. We would like to address our gratitude to all the current contributors and to our sponsor: The Soros Foundation Romania through the program East-East Partnership beyond Borders Program.

Oradea, 2007