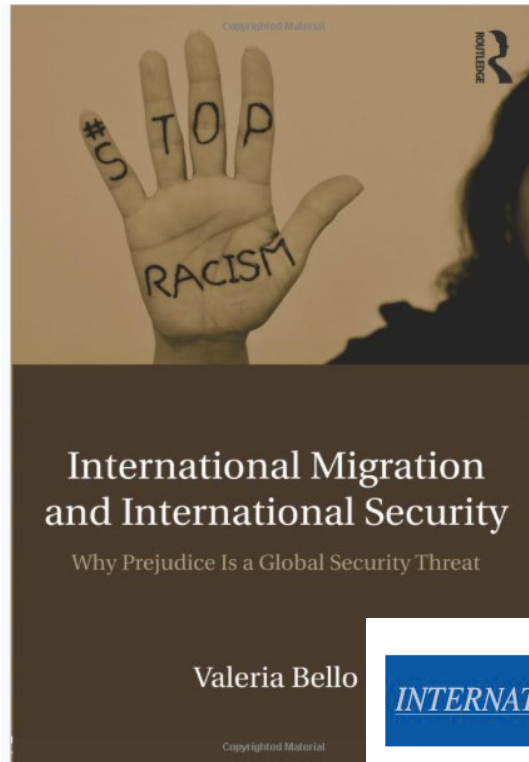


Connecting the Dots: Interdisciplinary and Multi-Methods (Quan/Qual)



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Inclusiveness as Construction of Open Identity: How Social Relationships Affect Attitudes Towards Immigrants in European Societies



Original Article

Interculturalism as a New Framework to reduce Prejudice in Times of Crisis in European Countries

Valeria Bello

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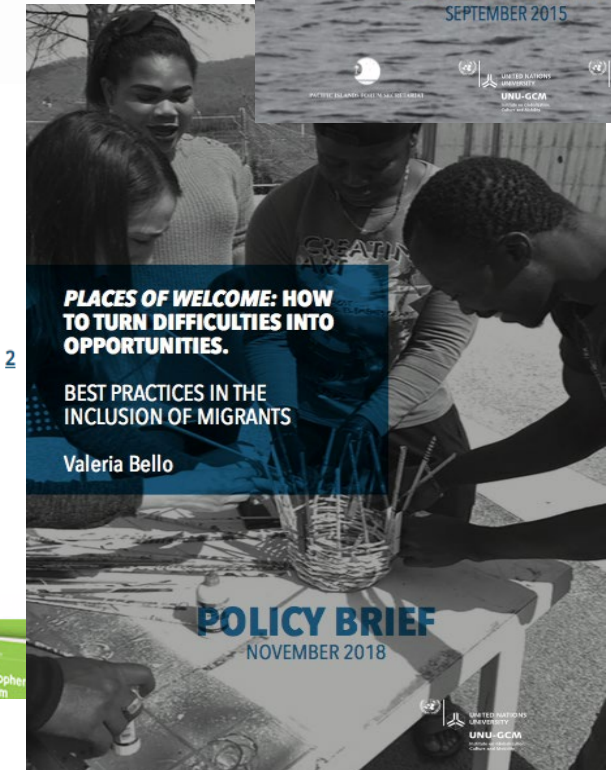
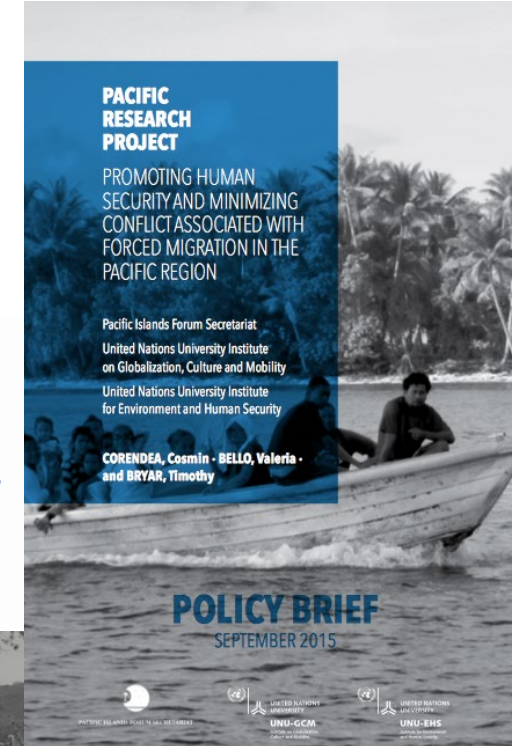
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Outline

- Preamble: Interdisciplinary research: connecting the dots in the field of migration across Sociology and International Studies.
- The Securitization of Migration and Forced Migration. The Global Compact for Migration.
- The scapegoating: Prejudice and the retreat from multilateralism and the scapegoating of migration, the UN and gender empowerment. Some comments on the report "Gathering Storms and Silver Linings"
- Two types of Recommendations: 1) Some internal guidelines on how to rebuild trust in institutions for the UN; 2) Recommendations for Members States.



Connecting the Dots

- The interdisciplinary effort of connecting the sociological findings on prejudice - which is a prejudgment based on faulty assumptions and it is actually what allows that a scapegoating activity is successful – and the International Studies' works on the securitization of migration – the social construction of migration as a threat.
- In sociology, from the '50ies various studies have tried to explain those individuals' characteristics that are associated with prejudice (socioeconomic, political, psychological and cultural factors). Other studies from the '90ies, have tried to analyze the macro-level variables that intervene (mostly migrants percentages, GDP) with ambiguous results. In recent works (Bello 2016 SOCI and Bello 2017 IM and Routledge), several of these theories have been tested and two specific theories were formulated:
- The 2016 findings: it is the way through which a country constructs its collective identity, if in exclusive or inclusive ways, that is associated with the formation or not of prejudice. It is not education per se but the type of education (if embedded in intercultural values) that is associated with fostering positive attitudes.
- The findings 2017a and b: it is not the percentage of migration per se but of the temporary presence of migrants hosted in precarious conditions that is associated with a prejudice increase. An economic crisis alone does not explain prejudice (ex.



The Securitization of Migration

- In International Studies, the securitization of migration has focused on the social construction of migration as a threat (Buzan, Weaver, Huysman, Balzaq, Leonard, Bello)
- It has been already explained how the hardening of border policies has produced more irregular journeys, increasing the business of smugglers and human traffickers, the creation of further vulnerabilities among migrants and so more reasons to force migration, but it has also increased prejudice (Bello 2017 Routledge).
- With Sarah Léonard, we are currently considering the effects of prejudice in spiralling the securitization of migration (JEMS 2020). So, prejudice creates a negative cycle: it is socially constructed through securitization and then reinforces and self-fulfills the predicaments of the securitization of migration.
- This situation makes the scapegoating of migrants successful in electoral campaigns. Hence, the GCM has focused on “governing safe and regular migration” rather than the “management of current migration crises” as emergency and extraordinary measures that leave to the discretion of executive powers (But



The scapegoating and counter forces

- The scapegoating activity is at the core of electoral campaigns of antiestablishment movements and parties (ex. Italy La Lega and M5S) and focuses on three issues at the moment: 1) migration, 2) gender empowerment, 3) globalization, the UN and the neoliberal system.
- These are accounted as the sources of all evils. If one now says less migration, then the next step is “less gender empowerment” and “less UN and neoliberal system”, because this is their logic and by following it, there is a concrete risk to reinforce their arguments (Bello 2017 Routledge).
- Also, to take into account: not everybody, luckily, agrees with them. However, media focus on the negative and sensationalist reporting. Change media approach. In addition, even among antiestablishment's electorates, people do not agree with everything they say, but they have no alternative political options, because the moderate parties (both progressive and conservative) have either retreated from political life (conservatives) or failed to meet their goals (moderate leftist parties).
- Civil society fighting these movements exists, from volunteers, to religious leaders and spontaneous and less spontaneous social movements. The UN needs to get in



Two types of recommendations:

- Internal Guidelines for the UN:

- 1) Coherence: All UN agencies and departments should make sure to never contributing to constructing migration as something to be limited (the same applies to gender empowerment), because this is counterproductive. It is not migration that needs to be limited but its scapegoating. But yes there is a need to highlight that forced migration (here, the issue of climate change and migration) needs to be limited while migration as a choice is positive for both migrants and receiving countries.
- 2) Communicate in new ways so as to rebuild the trust in institutions: 2-minute-videos on UN Success stories; S-G's visits to affected countries, particular important powers (UK, France, Italy, but also Greece, Venezuela,...).
- 3) Alliances and "Divide and Rule": support and give visibility to those who share UN principles and values (civil society, religious leaders, compliant states). Challenge media negative and sensationalist logics of reporting and disconnects them from antiestablishment information sources (which have its own media).



Two types of recommendations...:

4) Defend the value of human life that is increasingly challenged by the value of money (George Simmel's Philosophy of Money is very much anticipating our times). Do not share the business or the corporate model that only focuses on "monetary interests"

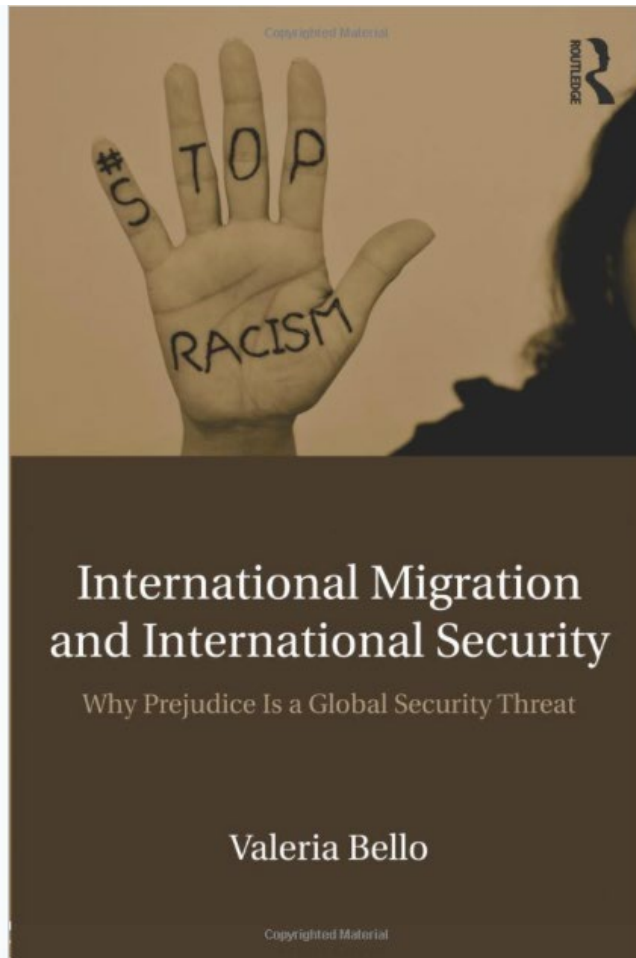
■ Recommendations for Member States in the report to fight anti-establishment:

1) Provide critical and intercultural education: critical approaches are indispensable to protect people's ability to discern the truth, and so to avoid the increase of prejudice.

2) Provide social and workers' rights, less precarious contracts, and more life balance to fight alienation and deprivation.

3) Launch a convention on the ethical issues that the development of robotics and new technologies bring about before it is too late. Technology and robotics are crucial in improving people's lives but they need to be ethically oriented and





Thank you so much for your attention and kind invitation!

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