Border-network
Migration of Contact. Intermarriages in Belgium, France and Italy
Laura Odasso

To cite this version:
Laura Odasso. Border-network
Migration of Contact. Intermarriages in Belgium, France and Italy. New research challenges on intermarriage and mixedness in Europe and beyond, Nov 2015, Paris, France. http://www.sciencespo.fr/osc/fr/node/1589. hal-01671521

HAL Id: hal-01671521
https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01671521
Submitted on 18 Jan 2018

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Since the end of 1990s and during the 2000s, European Member States have restrained foreigners’ access to residence permit and citizenship through marriage. To implement the reforms, new administrative dispositives have been created.

Binational marriages are depicted by policy-makers as:

- the main reason for entry and stay in Europe,
- a new migratory chain (i.e. intracommunautarian & kin marriages, etc.)
- a danger to ‘national identity’ and public security (i.e. *hyphenated identities*) (Yvel Davis 2011), fraud, etc.

Policy makers’ debates rely rarely on the analysis of migration law regimes (i.e. illegalisation of foreigners) and international relations (i.e. colonisation & economy) Lack of continuity and recognition; no “ethic of responsibility”.

Binational marriages management hides the broader question of NEW BORDERS and BOUNDARIES in European societies.

**What are the consequences for the members of the couples, after marrying until obtaining a common European citizenship?**

**WHERE?**

**European Comparison:**

- Belgium (Brussels), France (Strasbourg), Italy (Turin)

**HOW?**

- Interactionism
- Tribal Stigmata (Goffman 1965)
- Biographical policy evaluation (Apitzsch et al. 2008)
- Legal consciousness (Silbey, 1992, 2004)

**Street-level bureaucracy** (Lipinsky 2010)

- Border Network (Rea 2013, 2014)
- Migration Sociology & Border Studies
- Mixedness Sociology (Varro 2003)

**WHAT?**

**International**

- European directives, Handbooks
- ECLI decisions, ECHR, etc.
- Consular practices (1997-2014)

**National**

- Laws, parliamentary debates, media (1997-2014)
- Prefectures (FR, IT)
- Ques Turia (IT)
- Municipal Power (FR, BE)
- Nantes Central Register Office Service (FR)
- Comm. visa rejection/appals (FR)
- State Council (FR)
- Retention centers (BE, FR, IT)
- Alien Law Litigation Council (BE)
- Immigration Office (BE)
- Regional Courts (FR, BE, IT)
- Constitutional Courts (FR, BE, IT)

**Local**

- Prefectures (FR, IT)
- Ques Turia (IT)
- Municipal Power (FR, BE)
- Police Hubs (BE)
- Neighbourhood Police offices (BE, FR, IT, MA)

**BORDER NETWORK (Rea 2013, 2014)**

“points of space-time” where human and non human interact to produce practices, which enact States’ sovereignty (i.e. control selection of good migrant & family) through concrete situations (i.e. intersection couples-civil servants)

**Aims:**

1. improving desirables’ mobility, entrance & permanence in Europe (i.e. ‘chosen’ migration as skilled migrants).
2. blocking undesirables’ entrance (i.e. ‘failed migration as by marriage).

**PRESSURE POINTS**

Soft Border Network

- Family protected (better norm has to be applied)
- Less power to municipality < More power to ques turia
- Rare controls, no integration requirements

Probationary Border Network

- Multiplication of procedures to obtain permit (withdrawal)
- Reverse discrimination / Partners’ dependency
- Files with private data to prove love / paternalism
- Power to municipality -> Discretionary power

Conditional Border Network

- Requirements on BE citizen to TCN’s permit / files with private data
- Family reunification procedure to obtain permit (withdrawal)
- Requirements on BE citizen to TCN’s permit / files with private data

**Findings:**

1) Degradations of legal status’ stability and restrictions to mobility *illegalize* foreigners (TCNs)
2) Due to TCNs’ legal status, couples search for administrative stability: injunction to marry = encounter with the border-network
3) Outcomes of the border-networks: fragments the access to long-term residence differently in EU States ->States’ interest > EU harmonisation
4) New selective instability (i.e: renewing, withdrawal permit) and dependence between partners (i.e: unintended consequences: violence, blackmail)
5) Couples’ local experiences help to understand how differently family migration affect the nationals (cf. EU route)

**MIGRATION OF CONTACT** (Odasso, 2013): The national partner experiences what it is like to be « migrant »!