

# MIGRATION AS CRISIS



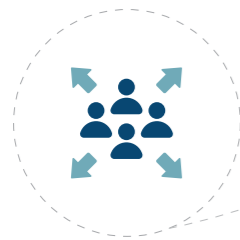
Over the past decades, migration has become inseparable from a narrative of crisis across contexts.

The term **'migration crisis'** is actually an assemblage of fragmented, changing, and contested discourses, representations, and practices. But these discourses influence the perception of the social world and call for certain ways to govern migration.

The **migration as crisis framework** helps to understand the connection between migration and perceptions of migration in societies. It makes sense of 'migration crisis' discourses, and explains both their pervasiveness and contingency.

## THE MIGRATION AS CRISIS FRAMEWORK

By speaking of 'migration as crisis', we aim at reconciling three core and interrelated dimensions. These dimensions are deeply imbricated: events change policies and representations; representations and policies fuel each other; and policies also influence events.



The empirical realities of **migration flows**, which vary across space and time, and which may be more or less acute, chaotic, intense, fast, massive, and so on.



The **representations of migration** that are born out of different political, media, or academic discourses, by different actors.



The **governance of migration**, and the ways in which policymaking builds upon - and nurtures - the association between migration and crisis.

### MORAL PANIC

Migration as crisis illustrates a case of moral panic, i.e.

*"A condition, episode, person or group of person emerges to become defined as a threat to societal values and interests; its nature is presented in a stylized and stereotypical fashion by the mass media."*

Stanley Cohen, 1972

### COUNTER FACTUAL

Even if the migration as crisis framework has become pervasive in Europe in the 2010s notably with the inflows of Syrian asylum seekers, in certain contexts, mass migration inflows do not generate moral panics and discourses of migration crisis. An example are the refugees from Ukraine in Europe.

### RESEARCHERS INVOLVED

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## THE CRISIS NARRATIVE BOOMED IN 2015

Although migration crises are old news, the 2015 events around the **arrivals of Syrian refugees** crystallized the representation of migration as a generic and prominent crisis in contemporary Europe and beyond.

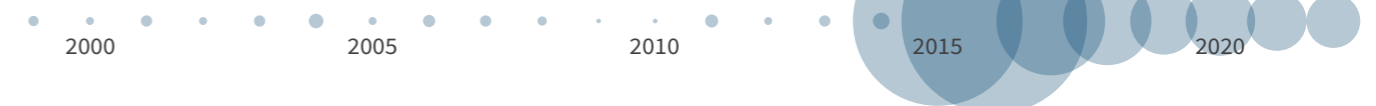
### FRANCE

"crise migratoire" | "crise des migrants" | "crise de l'asile" | "crise des réfugiés" in Le Figaro, le Monde, Libération, Les Echos, Le Parisien, La Croix



### GERMANY

"Migrationkrise" | "Flüchtlingskrise" in Süddeutsche Zeitung or taz - die tageszeitung



### UNITED KINGDOM

"migration crisis" | "refugee crisis" | "migrant crisis" | "asylum crisis" in The Guardian, The Times, Daily Mail



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## MIGRATION CRISIS



### Coming our way

The migration crisis in Europe has been escalating and testing the European Union's commitment to human rights and open borders. The sudden influx of people sparked a crisis - both humanitarian and political - as Europe struggled to respond. Thousands died attempting to reach its shores and