

Disrupting European Citizenships: Logics of alterity and the new orientalism

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The research investigates the origins, interpretations and mutations of the strategies, discourse and technologies for the construction of abject immigrant identities (foreigners, terrorists, criminals, anti-socials). Considering how restrictive immigration policies and denying migrants political subjectivity are vestiges of orientalism, I explore acts through which criminalized, undocumented, orientalised immigrants disrupt contemporary European citizenships.

- Are restrictive immigration policies and denying migrants political subjectivity vestiges of orientalism?
- How do those criminalized, undocumented, orientalised immigrants question the contemporary conceptions of European citizenships?
- Do they question an internal East-West division that has been constituted in Europe today?
- What are these strategies that these abject groups developed in the streets of *cosmopolis*, in detention centres or at the borders to become subjects with the right to claim rights?



Foreigners Detention Center of Zona Franca, Barcelona



Mothers, sisters, daughters reclaiming respect for "Raval eleven" detainees



Demonstration in Barcelona streets. "No terrorism. Respect for immigrants"

New European Orientalism

A Eurocentric interpretation of occidental secularism, rule of Law, democracy or citizenship is opposed to an orientalist vision of migrants, irregularity, anti-social behaviour or terrorism. If we follow this logic, "they" should never become citizens". These ideas fuel, and are fuelled by the emergence of anti-immigration political parties and their interpretations.

Case Study

The city itself becomes the battle ground for instituting this selective Europe. In the global city of Barcelona, a high percentage of South Asians (70%) live in the stigmatized neighbourhood of *El Raval*, or as sometimes it is called, *Ravalistan*. Most of the social behaviour control policing and police interventions is implemented here. In the last few years, especially after the Madrid bombs various multiple detentions have taken place: the *Dixan Comando Case* and the *Raval Eleven Case*.

Internal logics of alterity

From a legal point of view, multilevel institutional Europe (the EU, Member states, regional governments) has developed multiple strategies and technologies in order to establish a selective Europe through border controls, detention centres, deportation machine and immigration laws.

Acts of disruption

In mid 90's the *Papeles para todos* (Papers for all) collective composed by multiple social movements, alternative parties and unions, started organizing sit-ins, solidarity protests, hunger strikes, civil disobedience, boycotts, camps and demonstrations against Spanish immigration policy. For the last 10 years South Asian communities and the *Papeles para todos* collective have worked together for the right and dignity for immigrants.