

‘Migration crisis’ in the media: Making or reflecting a ‘crisis’?

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Why study the media?



Ο Τσίπρας καλεί στο Μαξίμου δημάρχους και μητροπολίτες SOS για τα νησιά και τους πρόσφυγες

Μέτωπο αλληλεγγύης σε Λέσβο, Χίο, Σάμο, Λέρο, Κω ◊ Ετοιμάζει και ταξίδι στην Αγκυρα ◊ Ελπίζει σε στήριξη από τη Μέρκελ ◊ Απορρίπτεται το άνοιγμα του Εβρου



Συμπάρτωση αλλά και ανησυχία από την ελληνική κοινωνία

ΤΑ ΚΑΣΤΑΝΑ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΕΔΩ
Γιατί ΕΙΜΕΝΟΣΥΝΕΡΓΕΙΣ
Ευχαριστοι έμε-
νον όσοι διά-
βασαν τις τελε-
ταιες παύρες της
εφημερίδας της
Συντηρητικής Δε-
μοκράς. Η «Αγνή»,
με όσα ευρήκα και
φωτοε, μου έλε-
ξε να προσηγάλλω
Συντηρητική εκδότη

ΤΡΑΠΕΖΕΣ
Υπό διαρκή
επιποθεία,
τρέχουν
για κεφάλαια

ΕΚ ΑΓΡΟΤΕΣ, ΣΧΟΛΕΙΑ
Αναταραχή
από το νέο
κύμα φόρων
και μέτρων

ΜΙΛΑΕΙ Η ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΟΣ
Τα μυστικά
της Πύλου και
ο θησαυρός
του πολεμιστή

Αίνους έφραξαν μετά
Το δεύτερο κύμα φόρων
Το δεύτερο κύμα φόρων
Το δεύτερο κύμα φόρων

ΕΠΙΜΑΣΧΙΝΕΣ
Λειτουργεί οσωτά ο εγκέφαλός σας;



Réfugiés: l'Europe sous le choc après un nouveau drame



Political leaders polarized by crisis over migrant quotas | Borders of Britain washed upon beaches



Inside: The pictures that prove...
MIGRANTS SWARM TO BRITAIN

The study: Work in progress

- Three-phase analysis: June 2015/September 2015/November 2015
 - Content analysis of influential ‘serious’/broadsheet press across 8 countries + Arab-language European press
 - Discourse analysis of same media
 - Discourse analysis of social media
 - Visual analysis of coverage
- Communicative architecture of the border – qualitative study in Greece

Preview: Emerging themes

Divided Europe I:

Narratives of nationhood

- *Calls to a national imagined community*
- *Greek press*: locals compensate for lack of state/European support
- *Serbian press*: praise of own citizens for sympathetic stance
- *British press*: stories focusing on British volunteers (or tourists)
- *French press*: need to uphold French values

Divided Europe II: Militarization Vs Humanitarianism

- *East/West divide?*
- *Divides within and across:* Refugees are people like us; Europe/'our' country has ethical responsibility towards refugees Vs Europe/'our' country has responsibility to protect its own people
- *British press:* Distant problem (and keep it like that)
- *Serbian press:* Emphasis on positive national response to refugees unlike neighbours and many EU countries
- *Greek press:* Greece carries (alone) Europe's humanitarian/protection burden

United Europe I: Militarization

- *Across countries*: Gradual shift from humanitarianism to militarization
- *UK; Greece; Hungary*: Security and border control
- *UK; France; Ireland*: Terrorism fear and control
- *Across countries*: Need for European co-ordination



United Europe II

Voiceless presence/absence

- *Continuity*: voiceless others
- *The gradual shift*: from sufferers to perpetrators
- *The Telegraph; UK*: Refugees hardly ever speak – stark contrast to state actors (heads of states and policy makers) who are frequently quoted
- *The Independent, Ireland*: Refugees and migrants are spoken about
- *Hungarian press*: Female refugees are silent, only seen (never quoted)



Conclusions I

Europe's Securitisation Nexus

HUMANITARIAN
SECURITISATION

MILITARIZED
SECURITISATION



CRISIS MANAGEMENT

GUILT

NATIONALISM

Conclusions II

- Media (can/do) support a possibility of an encounter with strangers – common humanity even if others suffer
- Media (can/do) support informed publics and shared responsibility

...but what's missing

- Europe's narrative of 'the crisis' is one of threat to its territory, values, identity, and security
- Balanced debate
- More and better contextualization – history; war; geopolitics
- Recognition of who these people are and what they bring to Europe and to Europe's ethical space

Critical questions

- Do media support ethical citizenship?
- or
- Do media support citizenship of numbness and indifference?

And with what consequences?