

Abstract

This thesis examines the extent of collaboration between local governments and non-state actors in governing reception and integration policies for LGBTQI+ migrants, focusing on the cases of Barcelona and Rotterdam. It contributes to the literature on the "local turn" in migration policy, urban governance, and LGBTQI+ studies, and advances Multilevel Governance (MLG) theory by addressing the underexplored case of LGBTQI+ migrants. Using collaborative governance as an analytical framework, the study analyses collaborative activities between local governments and non-state actors on LGBTQI+ migration-related issues in both cities.

The results show that full collaboration, as the goal of collaborative governance, was not achieved in either city during the studied period (around and after the 2015 migration crisis) due to various factors. These include the political climate, the involvement of non-state actors, and the relationship between local actors and higher levels of governance, all of which hindered full collaboration. Local governments in both Rotterdam and Barcelona maintain significant power, relegating non-state actors to a secondary role in collaborative activities. Consequently, the potential of this collaboration remains unrealized, and non-state actors have yet to make a substantial contribution to LGBTQI+ migration policies.

By establishing the significance of the "local turn" in migration policy-making and collaborative governance for vulnerable migrant populations, this study contributes to our understanding of the intricate dynamics of migration governance at multiple levels.