

Abstract

The Balkan Crisis of 2015-2016, when thousands of migrants flocked to the European Union exposing themselves in many cases to even more violence than they were running from, went down in the history books. This study aims to look at the gender aspect as a factor leading to discrimination and violence against migrants as a whole solid group and multiple groups of people within this category causing intersectionality. To study these hidden gender relations and power hierarchies, the research suggests using the post-structuralist theoretical foundation developed by Foucault (1984) and discursive strategies created by van Leeuwen (1996) to recreate a “*truth regime*” based on news articles from five newspapers covering the whole region to compare and contrast two periods: 2015-2016 and 2018-2019. The research finds a diverse use of discursive strategies to discuss migrants and fortify the relations of power with real security consequences for different genders. In line with Foucault’s approach, some “*seeds of destruction*” were evident as several sources over time were talking more about discrimination and violence against migrants provoked by their gender identities. Based on such findings, this paper suggests incorporating a more gender-sensitive approach that would help to reduce multiple types of discrimination, thereby leading to a more secure international environment not only for migrants but also for citizens of countries where asylum seekers aim to arrive.

Keywords

Migration, Trafficking, Gender, Sex, Violence, Critical Discourse Analysis, Balkan Route, Foucault, Truth Regime, Semiotics

Title

Migration, Trafficking, Gender: Comparative Critical Discourse Analysis of States Along the Balkan Route in the Post-2015 Refugee Crisis Environment