

Call for Researchers

Eroding the Rule of Law: Racism and Migration in Europe

Deadline: 15 May 2024 (23:59 CET)

ENAR aisbl is seeking several researchers to conduct a comprehensive research study and produce a report on racism and migration in Europe, with a focus on the eroding rule of law. The research will significantly contribute to ENAR's advocacy efforts and aid its members and stakeholders.

Research background

In very few areas is the erosion of the rule of law in Europe more visible than in the EU and approach(es) to migration 'management' by member states. In response to movement to and within Europe, member states have adopted securitised discourses and restrictive policies. The recently agreed upon Migration Pact institutionalises the arbitrary and de facto detention of migrants at EU borders, employing accelerated procedures and the legitimisation of returns mechanism which emphasises convoluted meanings of a 'safe third country' to expedite and justify repatriations. At the same time, the Schengen Borders Code reform risks exacerbating fundamental rights violations against people on the move, as well as against those perceived as migrants, particularly racialised individuals. The Facilitator's Package, which is currently under negotiation, expands policing and surveillance across the EU as well as criminalises support for migrants.

These 'criminalisation', 'externalisation', and 'securitisation' diverge from the rule of law principle which is one of the fundamental values upon which the European Union is based on. They contrast the principle of non-refoulement, access to justice, fundamental rights and civic space, the right to dignity, non-discrimination and equality, prohibition of torture, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

While civil society actors decry the end of asylum in Europe, EU member states argue that this 'new' approach to migration is meant to stop 'irregular migration'. Yet, borders are mirrors that

reflect and represent exclusionary attitudes and racialised anxieties. They are technologies of race-making that reflect the anti-immigrant discourse and attitudes in Europe often targeting groups and migrants defined in and through racial lenses. As Achiume has argued, contemporary borders are structured by 'imperial inequity', are 'inherently racial' and 'privilege whiteness', with race operating as a means of enforcing these neocolonial borders. As such, to understand migration governance in Europe, one must adopt a decolonial and racial justice lense.

This study as such aims to achieve the following;

- **Center racism and colonialism in Europe's migration polices** as well as the wider legal framework governing migration using an intersectional analytical framework.
- Conduct, map, and analyse the existing legal framework and policies on migration in Europe **highlighting inconsistencies and contradictions** with legal frameworks and action plans in other areas of EU policy making and governance, including (but not limited to) the EU Action Plan Against Racism.
- **Demonstrate how migration is the principal face of the backsliding of the rule of law in Europe.**
- Using the rule of law as a methodological tool, **document racial violence and rights restrictions on racialised individuals** and groups at the Italian-French, Czech-German, German-Austrian, Slovenia-Croatia, and the Basque region, and monitor how AI is used by law enforcement, migration control and national security authorities, to justify discriminatory surveillance on the most marginalised in society.
- Examine the precarity of living as a racialised migrant in Europe using the case studies of France and Cyprus/Greece.
- Propose a **racial justice framework for migration management** in Europe.

Methodology

The researchers responding to this call are expected to:

- In addition to quantitative data, to utilize **qualitative research methods such as ethnographic studies, interviews, and participant observation** to provide in-depth insights into the lived experiences of people on the move and to uncover the instances of violence they face.

- Engage with **critical discourse analysis** which examines the language and narratives used in local/national migration policies and public discourse coupled with historical contextualisation and intersectional analysis is encouraged.
- Document **instances of racial violence at internal borders**, such as the Italian-French, Czech-German, German-Austrian, Slovenian-Croatian, and Basque region borders. Utilize various sources of data, including reports from human rights organizations, media articles, and testimonies from affected individuals.
- Engage with **relevant stakeholders**, including migrant and racialised communities, human rights organizations, policymakers, and legal experts, to validate findings, and gather insights,
- Respond to the questionnaire on time and consult and liaise with the relevant Policy and Advocacy Advisers and ENAR Secretariat throughout the whole process.
- Ensure **ethical considerations throughout the research process**, particularly when collecting data on sensitive topics such as racial violence and human rights violations. Prioritize the protection of participants' privacy and confidentiality.

Application Requirements:

Candidates interested in applying should meet the following criteria:

- **Candidates can be registered research or academic institutions, legal persons or private individuals registered as self-employed with a license to operate within the European Union.**
- **Strong understanding of European legal frameworks related to migration, human rights, and anti-racism.** Familiarity with international human rights instruments and EU directives and regulations is essential.
- **Demonstrated experience conducting research at borders**, migration patterns, border policies, and interactions with people on the move, particularly at the specific borders relevant to this study. Ability to navigate border regions, engage with local communities, and collect primary data is crucial.
- **Experience in conducting qualitative research**, particularly in the areas of migration, human rights, racism, or related fields. Experience with fieldwork, interviews, and data analysis methodologies is highly desirable.

- **Excellent understanding of intersectionality and decoloniality** and the ability to apply these analytical frameworks to examine racism, colonialism, and their impacts on migration policies.
- **Ability to analyse complex legal documents, policies, and socio-political contexts** to identify inconsistencies, contradictions, and trends related to racial violence and rights restrictions, in the context of migration.
- **Strong writing skills in English is required**, as the output will be in English. Proficiency or working knowledge of additional **languages commonly spoken in the target regions/countries (such as French, German, Italian, Slovenian, Greek, etc.) would be advantageous** for conducting interviews and accessing local sources.
- Availability and flexibility to be able to conduct the **research during the summer** is desirable.
- **Candidates who are racialised and/or have lived experience of migration are encouraged to apply.**

If selected, you are expected to begin the work on this project as of **3 June 2024** and provide us with your final report by **27 September 2024**.

Compensation:

As compensation for the duties listed above, selected researchers will receive:

Researchers on internal borders (Italian-French, Czech-German, German-Austrian, Slovenian-Croatian, and the Basque region): **5000 EUR** per border region.

Country researcher - mainland (France): **3000 EUR**.

Country researcher - mainland (Greece and Cyprus): **4000 EUR**.

How to apply to this call?

Applications should indicate the subject heading as follows:

- “Racism and Migration in Europe + your name”

Please include in your application:

- CV and cover letter detailing your research experience, including your expertise on race equality and human rights.
- One relevant writing sample demonstrating your ability to conduct qualitative research and analyse complex issues related to migration, racism, or human rights.
- Contact information of one reference.

If you are interested in this call, please submit your application by email to JobApplication@enar-eu.org by **Wednesday, 15 May 2024 (23:59 CET)**.

“...we should understand today's national borders – especially those of the ‘First World’ – as racial technology, in the sense that the default output of these borders is differential treatment and outcomes based on race, with white supremacy as one important ordering principle, among others, that determines benefit or advantage. Racial borders, then, are also a form of imperial technology that facilitate exploitation and prosperity within a transnational, political, and economic association of neocolonial empire. Notably, these borders structurally exclude and discriminate on a racial basis as a matter of course often through facially race neutral law and policy.” – Tendayi Achiume in ‘Racial Borders.’

In Solidarity.

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