

Keywording the European Irregularized Migration Regime

reflections from/on the peripheries

call for papers

Zagreb

11 – 13 April 2024

deadline for abstracts:
15 November 2023

conference venue:
**Institute of Ethnology and
Folklore Research Zagreb**
Šubićeva 42

[abstract submission form](#)

[conference website](#)

[ERIM website](#)

contact:
erimconference@ief.hr

Almost half a century after Raymond Williams' seminal *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, keywords have become a prominent format of textual elaboration and exchange in many fields across the humanities and social sciences. Migration and border studies seem especially suited for keywording and keywords knowledge formatting. In the last decade, a number of keywords related to these and complementary research fields were published, starting with *New Keywords: Migration and Borders* (De Genova, Mezzadra and Pickles, eds. 2015) and *Europe/Crisis: New Keywords of "the Crisis" in and of "Europe"* (De Genova and Tazzioli, eds. 2016) to *Keywords of Mobility: Critical Engagements* (Salazar and Jayaram, eds. 2016), *Humanitarianism: Keywords* (De Lauri, ed. 2020), *Minor Keywords of Political Theory: Migration as a Critical Standpoint* (De Genova and Tazzioli, eds. 2022) and *Keywords on Forced Migration and Refugee Studies* (Banerjee, Singh and Chowdhory, eds. 2023).

In 2020, we, a group of researchers from Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia, initiated the research project [ERIM – The European irregularized migration regime at the periphery of the EU](#) in order to explore the multiple pathways on the way "from ethnography to keywords", as stated in the project subtitle. After the publication of the [e-ERIM](#) online network of keywords and a number of [research articles](#), the finalization of a book collection of keywords (in print) and organizing a series of round tables, presentations, workshops and student seminars, we wish to go further and create a space in the form of a conference dedicated to the rethinking, redefining and reflecting on keywords of the European irregularized migration regime from specific peripheral and ethnographic perspectives.

Our research focus is mainly on the so-called Balkan route and the south-eastern borderlands of the EU. While adhering to that focus in this conference, we also invite contributions from colleagues researching in different internal and external, political, economic, material, symbolic and other peripheries of the EU and beyond.

**programme and organizing
committee:**

dr. sc. Marijana Hameršak

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore
Research, Zagreb

dr. sc. Uršula Lipovec Čebren

Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

dr. sc. Duško Petrović

Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences, University of Zagreb

dr. sc. Mojca Piškorić

Academy of Music, University of Zagreb

dr. sc. Marta Stojić Mitrović

Institute of Ethnography of SASA,
Belgrade

The conference is looking for empirically, predominantly ethnographically based comparative and historical contextualizations, as well as theoretical and critical discussions of keywording and “key” words of the irregularized migration regime on/from the peripheries. Contributions on the following topics, but not limited to them, are welcome:

- **keywords and keywording of borders, bordering and irregularization:**
border control, border violence, necroviolence, externalization, internalization, weaponization of the landscape, fencing, incarceration, surveillance, deportation, detention, pushback, manhunt, vigilante groups, border abolition, categorizations, conceptualizations, victimization, securitization, spectacularization, technology, media, literature, documents, orders, agreements, strategies, policy papers etc.
- **keywords, keywording and life and death at the border:**
actors, objects, vehicles, places, practices, peripheralization, precarity, mobility, imobility, hypermobility, border crossing, smuggling, search and rescue, humanitarization, securitization, relocation, resettlement, encampment, stuckedness, waiting, disappearances, game, escape, transit, everyday life, health, education, work, struggle, sights, sounds, emotions, affects etc.
- **methodological and theoretical perspectives on keywords and keywording:**
academic research, academic and other writings, formats and genres, ethnography, reflexivity, textuality, political, poetical, engaged, militant, decolonial and related research approaches, extraction, academic exploitation and business etc.

The main conference format will include **20-minute presentations** followed by a discussion. Horizontal, group exchanges about key issues raised in the presentations and discussions will be organized at the end of each conference day.

Please submit your abstract (max. 300 words), including name, affiliation and contact details by **15 November 2023** via the online **[Abstract submission form](#)**. The authors will be informed of the outcome of their submissions by the **end of December 2023**.

Organizers will provide accommodation for two nights for all participants.

For any questions do not hesitate to ask: **erimconference@ief.hr**

The conference is funded by **The Croatian Science Foundation** and organized in collaboration of the **Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research** (Croatia), **Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana** (Slovenia) and **Institute of Ethnography of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts** (Serbia).