

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

We present you with the issue 2/2016 of our *Acta Universitatis Carolinae – Studia Territorialis* journal. It brings, among other contributions, three original articles stemming from our summer 2016 call titled “Sudden Impact: Migration between Reality and Interpretation.” They reflect on and contribute to the ongoing international debate on migration which has been triggered by the European migrant crisis.

Each contribution offers a different perspective on migration and analyzes the ramifications the recent crisis has had for Europe as a whole as well as for individual European societies. Yet they complement each other well. In the opening contribution to this volume, Monika Gabriela Bartoszewicz looks at the European migrant crisis through the prism of politicization and securitization of migration. Employing the theoretical framework of societal security developed by the Copenhagen School, the author conceives the latest population influx from culturally, religiously, ethnically, and linguistically distant areas as a factor causing societal insecurity in Europe due to perceived threats to social cohesion and identity. She goes on to argue that migration has served as a catalyst for deep societal changes manifested i.a. in the rise of populist parties across Europe and the radicalization of European societies.

Jarmila Androvičová, for her part, develops this theme in her study of the current political situation in Slovakia. The author explores how immigrants and refugees were discursively represented in Slovakia in the wake of the 2016 parliamentary elections. She finds that securitization is the dominant migration discourse in Slovakia and that this dominance had been institutionalized already before the outbreak of the European migrant crisis. To explicate the institutional foundations of this framing, she uses the concept of moral panic.

Finally, the third contribution is a case study of South Tyrol/Alto Adige province between 1990 and 2014. In this contribution, Merita Meçe investigates how diverse migration flows affected the special status of this autonomous province of Italy with respect to its political, socio-economic, and cultural settings. We hope that you will appreciate our new issue.

On behalf of the editorial team,

Jan Šír