"Geo-political instability, economic recession and security fears: implications for the integration of past and future migrants"

Joaquín Arango
Complutense University of Madrid

Autumn Academy
Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity
St Anne College, Oxford, September 2016

Outline

- Introduction
- Three simple ideas about integration
- The financial and economic crisis
- Austerity policies
- Geo-political instability and the 'refugee crisis'
- Terrorist attacks and security fears
- Is there anything that can be done?
- Concluding remarks

Introduction

- Preliminary remarks
- Aim
- Turbulent times
- External shocks on immigration and asylum
- Rising anxiety

Three simple ideas about integration

- A couple of complementary definitions
- The context of reception and society's acceptance
- A multidimensional process
- External shocks' impacts on different domains

The financial and economic recession

- A marked rise in unemployment and increasing ethno-stratification
- Has it entailed an integration crisis?
- Austerity policies (not an automatic relationship)
- Impacts on native workers and feelings of relative deprivation
- Economic recession and rising populism and anti-immigrant feelings (another non-automatic relationship)
- An unfavourable context for integration

Geopolitical instability and the 'refugee crisis' (1)

- Vast, multidimensional, with multiple implications, and unresolved
- The collapse of the European asylum system and the failure of burden sharing (a widespread lack of solidarity among governments and towards refugees)
- Unilateral, nationalistic and restrictive responses: a worsening of the immigration climate
- The end of the *willkommenskultur* and the 'death of the most generous nation on earth'?

Geopolitical instability and the 'refugee crisis' (2)

- 'Economic migrants' also affected
- Rising xenophobia and anti-immigrant feelings
- Integration in the labour market: grounds for concern
- Indications from the past
- Lack of predictability
- Many shadows, but also some lights

Terrorist attacks and security fears

- Not new, but intensified in recent times
- Unwarranted associations with the refugee crisis
- Security fears and public anxiety
- The securitarian excuse and its corollary
- Negative representations and processes of stigmatisation

Is there anything that can be done? (1)

- Hard to say
- Little about the economic recession, except to maintain or increase integration programs
- And not ignore native 'losers'
- A vigorous European response to the refugee crisis
- Reform the asylum system
- "Fast processing times, fast access to the labour market, active integration programs" (Dustmann et al.)

Is there anything that can be done? (2)

- To assuage security fears: improve intelligence and police services, increase internal coordination and international cooperation
- Insist on separating immigration and terrorism
- Fight disinformation
- "Avoid facile securitarian slogans" (Johan Lehman)
- Avoid making mistakes

Concluding remarks (1)

- Turbulent times
- Challenges for structural integration
- Lack of solidarity
- Nationalistic, restrictive responses
- The context of reception is becoming less receptive
- The social and affective dimensions of integration are also affected
- The external shocks are likely to persist, and also the negative politicisation of immigration

Concluding remarks (2)

- The context for integration is anything but favourable and promising
- But this applies to the national and supranational context, much less to the local one
- And cities are crucial for integration

Thank you!