TITLE OF THE RESEARCH THESIS PROPOSAL: The impact of European Border Externationalization in migrants human rights : The case of the Spanish Southern Border

DIRS DOCTORATE PROGRAMME : Human Rights


BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INTEREST OF THE RESEARCH THESIS PROPOSAL:

During last decades migration controls have significantly increased in external European border. European states have made several efforts in reducing migrants’ flows into Europe. Migration policies have progressively externalized to third countries the control of their borders. Externalization has involved other countries in controlling external EU borders.

Promotion of human rights and democracy are considered as European identity, Spanish southern border with Morocco has become a space of systematic violation of migrants’ human rights. As a consequence of different agreements and international context, Morocco has achieved an important role in controlling migration flows through Europe. Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla have become spaces of systematic violation of human rights. Migration policies facilitate the ground for impunity in controlling migration flows within the border.

Migration flows are increasingly affecting politics in Europe and are becoming a central issue in human rights and ethical responsibility of EU. Understanding policies on migration is essential in building new scenarios able to respect the core European values.

MAIN RESEARCH AIMS:
- To describe policies affecting human rights in European southern borders
- To understand to which extent border control dispositives’ creates no-law spaces and how this no-law spaces have been export to other European borders such as UE-Turkey.
- To show how migration control policies in Europe are facilitation the violation of human rights in border areas.

THESIS DIRECTOR(S): Joana Abrisketa and Cristina Churruca

EXCELLENCE

5 Main academic publications related to the topic (impact factor or other quality assessment criteria):


La Unión Europea como agente de paz: contradicciones y desafíos para el s. XXI, EUROBASQUE, Vitoria, pp. 15-17.

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

**Description of the different knowledge areas that the research proposal integrates:**
Candidates might cover areas of law, sociology, anthropology, political sciences (especially policy analysis) and political economy.

**Co-direction from different disciplines:**
International Law, international relations, forced migration, anthropology

**Other mechanisms different from co-direction to implement the interdisciplinarity:**
- Use of critical legal theories
- Methodology courses in different disciplines and approaches
- Combination of methodological approaches for case studies
- Working in an interdisciplinary environments (such as the host institution) or visiting Institutes with a different discipline environment from that of the PhD student

**INTERNATIONALIZATION**

**Relationship with H2020 topics or ERC bottom-up initiatives:**
- Reversing Inequalities H2020-SC6-REV-INEQUAL-2016-2017
- Topics relating to justice, migration, exclusion, human rights

**International mention:**
- Secondment in a foreign university

**International co-direction or international “co-tutelle”:**
Partner Universities in the international projects and proposals that are mentioned in this description could be approached for establishing international “co-tutelle” agreements. At the moment being, there are no standing agreements.

**Other mechanisms different from the previous to implement the interdisciplinarity:**
Secondments and research mobility, participation to the Institute’s projects in this area, participation to the Institute’s networks.
**INTERSECTORIALITY**

**Description of the social impact of the research:**
The proposed research would have an impact not only on the advancement of knowledge regarding complex issues in the area of human rights (inequality, discrimination and horizontal issues of human rights violations) but also in the methodologies and collaboration dynamics between the academia and the third sector (NGOs and CSOs working on xenophobia and racism, gender, migrant’s exclusion and marginalization). Knowledge-based approaches to these issues are a political priority. The research will contribute to NGO and CSO policy-trends proposals in order to protect migrants’ Human Rights at UE borders. Understanding how migration policies of externalization of border controls will contribute to modify realities pointing violation of migrants’ human rights. The research will contribute to build paths in order to respect and protect human rights in the borders.

**Social agent interested in the topic for thesis collaboration agreement**
Any of the associated partners that have signed collaboration agreements in the projects that the Host Unit has presented or is presenting on this issue (Cooperación Suiza, JRS, CEAR, Sos Racismo, APDHA, Delegación de Migraciones, ACNUR).

**EMPLOYABILITY OR FUTURE CAREER POSSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE RESEARCH POSITION:**
- International Organisations
- International, national and local public administration (technical bodies)
- Academic sector
- Civil Society Organisations
- Consultancy firms

**OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST :**
Intersectionality in equality and discrimination issues is a horizontal topic, both for international research funding strategies and within the work plans of Human Rights Institute. There are various items in the plans of the Institute for the next three year period (including project proposals, organization of events, publication strategy and national and international research group networks) that will deal with intersectionality. A PhD student in this area would be, therefore, most welcomed and integrated.

Among these initiatives:
- A Project proposal pending with the Basque Government “LA REFORMA DEL CONTROL DEL ASILO, EL REFUGIO Y LA MIGRACIÓN EN LA UNIÓN EUROPEA: LÍMITES Y OPORTUNIDADES - A project proposal currently in the making for Call CULT-COOP-01-2017 in the areas of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights. Title: Challenges to legitimacy of the EU LEGIT
- Panel proposal to IASFM conference etc
- A Research Group within the EM Master Human Rights Policies and Practice on methodology and possibly present a COST action or similar on human rights research methodologies