

Abstract

This master's thesis explores the topic of the securitization of migration in the Czech Republic and the gender dimension of the discourse on migration. After a theoretical exploration of the migratory process and the specificities of its female face, a discourse analysis of the Czech media will present the main epistemological core of the work. The primary research question attempts to identify the ways in which the Czech media contributes to the shifting perception of migration as belonging to the sphere of politics, even presenting migration as a threat to security.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter provides a theoretical insight into migration studies, the motives to migrate and the phenomenon of forced migration. Despite the general assumption of mainstream academics that migrants are mainly men, the second chapter shows that women's experiences with migration differ greatly from those of men. Based on the Copenhagen stream of thought, the discourse analysis of the Czech media carried out in the third chapter points to the construction of perceptions about migration within Czech society. The absence of gender in the public discourse on migration is further analyzed in the last chapter.

The missing gender dimension proved to be two-fold. First, the male-dominated academic discourse is neglecting half of the picture by leaving out women – authors Hansen (2000) and Aradau (2004) started the debates on this paradox. Second, the Czech public discourse on migration lacks any discussion concerning gender. The thesis aims at uncovering these two blank areas, shedding light on the academic and political benefits of including women in the discussions. The last sub-chapter summarizes outcomes of in-person interviews with both male and female refugees living in the Czech Republic, as well as the representatives from the UNHCR and OPU. These real-life examples support the conclusions of the paper and serve as a proof of the necessity of a more balanced public discourse regarding the topic of migration.