

The Impact of Colonial Legacies on European Migration Policies UNTOLD Europe Workshop on Migration Narratives Hosted by the European Centre for Populism Studies (ECPS)

Date: Tuesday, 21 October 2025

Venue: Residence Palace, 155 Wetstraat / Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

Language: English

Format: In-person, interactive workshop

The UNTOLD Europe Workshop on migration narratives brings together scholars, civil society representatives, journalists, and activists to critically explore how colonial legacies and historical hierarchies continue to shape migration discourses in Europe. By amplifying diverse perspectives, the workshop seeks to envision more just, inclusive, and humane approaches to migration policy and communication across the continent.

Programme Schedule

08:50 – 09:00 | Opening Remarks

Welcome remarks from the UNTOLD Europe Project Partners (ECPS, Oxfam Intermón, Qalia)

09:00 – 09:15 | Presentation of the UNTOLD Europe Project

Maria Jesús Zambrana Vega – Project Coordinator, Oxfam Intermón

An introduction to the UNTOLD Europe Project, its overarching goals, and collaborative framework.

09:15 – 10:30 | Introductory Panel

Who Tells the Story? Power, Perspective, and the Politics of Migration

This opening panel sets the tone for the day by examining how migration narratives are constructed and whose voices shape them. It explores the interplay of power, history, memory, and representation in European migration discourses.

Speakers:

- **Ilhan Kaya** – Professor of Human Geography, University of Ghent
“The Right to Tell: Power, Memory, and Migration in Europe”
- **Nawab Khan** – Independent Journalist
“Why the EU Migration Policy Has Failed Till Now?”
- **Marwa Neji** – Researcher, Ghent University
- **Ahsen Ayhan** – Solidarity With Others
“Home We (Can't) Carry: Migration, Gender and the Politics of Inclusion”

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 | Session II: Migration Experiences – Voices and Perspectives *Personal Testimonies and Reflections on Migration Journeys*

This session highlights lived experiences and first-hand perspectives on migration, emphasising intersections of identity, integration, and systemic barriers.

Speakers:

- **Ilias Ciloglu** – Professor of Economics
“My Personal Journey of Building a New Life in Belgium from the Ground Up”
- **Becky Slack** – Former Journalist and Co-director, Your Agenda
“Migration/gender narratives, the role of the media/communications”
- **Reda Majahar** – Lecturer
“Global North–South Hierarchies in Refugee Research under European Funding Regimes”
- **Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc** and **Mojca Harmandić**
“In Between Journeys and Belonging: Intersections of Migration, Integration, Support, and Systemic Barriers in Slovenia”

12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 | Session III: Country Case Studies *Colonial Legacies and Migration Narratives in Contemporary Europe*

A comparative session analysing how colonial histories and postcolonial relationships continue to shape migration narratives and policy frameworks across Europe.

Presentations:

- **Romania** – *Andriana Cosciug*
- **Spain** – *César Santamaría Galán, Oxfam Intermón*
- **Morocco** – *Fouzia Assouli – Fédération de la Ligue Démocratique des Droits des Femmes (FLDF)*
- **Tunisia** – *Anissa Thabet, Sociologist*

15:30 – 16:00 | Case Study Preparation (Small Groups)

Participants form groups of five to analyse one country case. Using provided resources and brief online research, groups identify key themes and patterns illustrating how colonial logics persist in migration narratives.

16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:00 | Case Study Discussions (Small Groups)

Participants discuss their assigned case in depth, focusing on how gender, human rights, and historical continuities intersect within migration management and discourse.

17:00 – 17:30 | Group Presentations and General Discussion

Each group presents its findings (3–5 minutes)

The workshop concludes with a collective discussion on shared lessons and strategies for developing more inclusive and rights-based migration narratives in Europe.