

Migrants Rights versus symbolic boundaries in the European context.

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General Sessions: Europe as a hub for inclusiveness and democratic values

Background: Spain serves as a prominent gateway to Europe, with arrivals via boats “pateras” and instances of express returns (“devoluciones en caliente”) being commonplace. However, immigrants often encounter significant hurdles in accessing the country through regular channels, leading some to resort to irregular entry. Access to regularization in Spain is fraught with difficulty, exacerbating the challenges faced by migrants [1]. Moreover, there exists a phenomenon of Symbolic Boundaries, delineating who is included and excluded within society [2].

Aim: This paper aims to explore the various intersecting barriers—legal, social, discriminatory, abusive, violent, and symbolic—that migrants encounter in Spain, posing a challenge to inclusiveness and democratic values in Europe.

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