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Homo viator, homo migrator, or homo ante portas? **Observations Made When Reading Book Entitled *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges and Perceptions of Migration and Integration***

Homo viator, homo migrator czy homo ante portas? Obserwacje poczynione podczas lektury książki zatytułowanej *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges and Perceptions of Migration and Integration*

Abstract

This article critically examines the philosophical, sociological, and legal paradigms of human mobility – *homo viator*, *homo migrator*, and *homo ante portas* – inspired by the collective monograph *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges and Perceptions of Migration and Integration*. The inspiration for this article stems from an in-depth engagement with this book. This multidisciplinary volume, edited by Cezary Smuniewski, Andrea Zanini, Cyprian Aleksander Kozera, and Błażej Bado, presents migration as a central challenge of our time, intersecting socio-political, legal, economic, and cultural domains. The monograph's chapters – ranging from analyses of refugee integration in Poland to historical studies of migratory dynamics in Genoa – provide a rich foundation for rethinking the duality of migrants as “unwanted people” versus “desired citizens.” This paper concludes by emphasising the critical need for a balanced approach to migration that transcends fear-based securitisation frameworks. It advocates for inclusive policies informed by historical insights, cultural adaptability, and a commitment to human dignity. By engaging with the constructs of *homo viator*, *homo migrator*, and *homo ante portas*, this article contributes to a deeper understanding of the ontological and ethical dimensions of migration in an increasingly globalised yet fragmented world.

Keywords: migration, globalisation, economy, Russia's war against Ukraine, pacifism

Abstrakt

Artykuł krytycznie analizuje filozoficzne, socjologiczne i prawne paradygmaty ludzkiej mobilności – *homo viator*, *homo migrator* i *homo ante portas* – zainspirowane zbiorową monografią *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges and Perceptions of*

Migration and Integration. Inspiracją do napisania tego artykułu było dogłębne zapoznanie się z tą książką. Ten multidyscyplinarny tom, pod redakcją Cezarego Smuniewskiego, Andrei Zaniniego, Cypriana Aleksandra Kozery i Błażeja Bado, przedstawia migrację jako centralne wyzwanie naszych czasów, przecinające się z domenami społeczno-politycznymi, prawnymi, ekonomicznymi i kulturowymi. Rozdziały monografii – od analiz integracji uchodźców w Polsce po historyczne studia dynamiki migracji w Genui – stanowią bogate podstawy do ponownego przemyślenia dualizmu migrantów jako „niechcianych ludzi” względem „pożądanych obywateli”. Niniejszy artykuł kończy się podkreśleniem krytycznej potrzeby zrównoważonego podejścia do migracji, które wykracza poza ramy sekurytyzacji, oparte na strachu. Opowiada się za politykami inkluzywnymi opartymi na historycznych spostrzeżeniach, kulturowej adaptacji i zaangażowaniu w godność człowieka. Poprzez zaangażowanie się w konstrukcje *homo viator*, *homo migrator* i *homo ante portas* artykuł ten przyczynia się do głębszego zrozumienia ontologicznych i etycznych wymiarów migracji w coraz bardziej zglobalizowanym, ale rozdrobnionym świecie.

Słowa kluczowe: migracja, globalizacja, ekonomia, wojna Rosji przeciwko Ukrainie, pacyfizm

Introduction

The book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges, and Perceptions of Migration and Integration*¹ examines critical issues surrounding migration, with a particular emphasis on its implications for national and international security. This collective volume, edited by Cezary Smuniewski, Andrea Zanini, Cyprian Aleksander Kozera, and Błażej Bado, addresses pressing global challenges where migration intersects with socio-political dynamics and security policies. In the introduction to this book, the authors state: “Many perceive migration as an existential threat, leading to its securitization. Numerous media outlets and political parties cry ‘immigrants ante portas’ evoking imagery of outsiders at the gates, reminiscent of the ‘savage’ Carthaginian leader Hannibal threatening Western idyllic communities.”² These sentences provoke a reflection on the conceptualisation of humanity within migration studies. What image of humanity – *homo viator*, *homo migrator*, or *homo ante portas* – emerges from the analysis presented in *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges, and Perceptions of Migration and Integration*? This question is addressed through the diverse perspectives offered in the contributions to this volume, which reflect insights from various disciplines, including political science, law, economics, security studies, and history. The aim of this article is to provide a synthetic and critical presentation of the migration issues described by the authors of the texts included in the book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens*.

¹ C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). (2024). *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens: Contemporary Attitudes, Challenges and Perceptions of Migration and Integration*. Dom Wydawniczy ELIPSA. Warsaw.

² C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (2024). *Introduction*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*, p. 8.

Importance of the topic

Migration, historically a natural human phenomenon, has evolved into a complex socio-political and economic challenge, particularly in the modern era of globalisation. This reality is thoroughly examined in the monograph under analysis, where the authors critically explore the issue of migration through diverse lenses – legal, economic, social, and cultural – highlighting its dual role as both a catalyst for development and a potential source of insecurity. As conflicts, economic inequalities, and climate change persist on a global scale, migration flows continue to test the resilience of existing legal frameworks and societal structures. The relevance of this book is anchored in its timely exploration of these dynamics, particularly in light of recent events such as the war in Ukraine, which has prompted unprecedented refugee movements into Europe. The monograph thus aligns with a significant strand of migration research, encompassing historical,³ legal,⁴ social,⁵ and wartime issues,⁶ as well as those related to security studies.⁷

As we begin reading the book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens*, the “Introduction” states: “Integration is a multifaceted endeavor that plays a pivotal role in the narrative of migration. As newcomers seek refuge or better prospects in unfamiliar lands, the process of melding into the social fabric becomes paramount not just for the migrants but for the host communities as well. While integration demands adaptability and cultural acclimatization from migrants, it equally requires understanding, openness, and receptivity from the indigenous population. Properly managed integration can lead to rich cultural exchange, innovation, and economic benefits. Yet, if overlooked or mishandled, it may result in societal fractures and missed opportunities

³ E.g. P. Manning, T. Trimmer (2020). *Migration in World History*. Routledge. London; D. Horder (2002). *Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in the Second Millennium*. Duke University Press. Durham.

⁴ E.g. C. Costello (2015). *The Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees in European Law*. Oxford University Press. Oxford; T. Gammeltoft-Hansen (2011). *Access to Asylum: International Refugee Law and the Globalisation of Migration Control*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.

⁵ E.g. S. Vertovec (2009). *Transnationalism*. Routledge. London, New York; G. Tsourapas (2021). *Migration Diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa: Power, Mobility, and the State*. Manchester University Press. Manchester; A. Portes, P. Fernández-Kelly (eds.). (2015). *The State and the Grassroots: Immigrant Transnational Organizations in Four Continents*. Berghahn Books. New York, Oxford.

⁶ E.g. S.C. Lubkemann (2008). *Culture in Chaos: An Anthropology of the Social Condition in War*. University of Chicago Press. Chicago, London; R. Cohen, F.M. Deng (1998). *Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement*. Brookings Institution Press. Washington D.C.; A.R. Zolberg, A. Suhrke, S. Aguayo (1989). *Escape from Violence: Conflict and the Refugee Crisis in the Developing World*. Oxford University Press. New York.

⁷ E.g. A. Geddes, P. Scholten (2016). *The Politics of Migration and Immigration in Europe*. SAGE Publications. London; H. de Haas, S. Castles, M.J. Miller (2020). *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. Guilford Press. New York, London; O. Wæver, B. Buzan, M. Kelstrup, P. Lemaitre (1993). *Identity, Migration and the New Security Agenda in Europe*. Pinter Publishers. London.

for both the newcomers and their host societies. In the European context, fostering a successful integration strategy is both a challenge and a necessity, ensuring that the dynamism brought by migrants complements the existing societal structures and adds to the collective strength of the continent.”⁸ This excerpt provides an excellent introduction to the complexity of analyses brought together in this monograph by the researchers Cezary Smuniewski, Andrea Zanini, Cyprian Aleksander Kozera, and Błażej Bado. For a fuller perspective, it is worth noting that the monograph in question is the result of an international research project,⁹ and its publication was financed by the Interdisciplinary Research Center of the University of Warsaw “Identity – Dialogue – Security.”

Overview of the monograph

The book is organised into several chapters, each addressing specific aspects of migration and integration. Let us take a closer look at the chapters of the monograph. The monograph opens with a chapter authored by a scholar from the University of Genoa. Agostino Massa’s¹⁰ analysis of transnational social protection offers both a theoretical and empirical perspective on the interaction between states and their diasporas. Using Genoa as a case study, he demonstrates how institutional cooperation can improve migrant welfare, thereby reducing potential sources of insecurity. Cyprian Aleksander Kozera and his colleagues¹¹ provide a compelling discussion on the perceptions and policies concerning migrants from Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. This comparative study highlights how public and political narratives influence migration policies, often prioritising economic interests over humanitarian considerations. These two texts provoke reflection on the issue of human migration in both global and local terms. Such a perspective in migration studies appears particularly important and should not be overlooked, either in academic research or in legal solutions applied on the international stage and within individual countries.

The book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens* addresses critical issues related to migration and integration in the context of the migration crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine. This topic is particularly significant, as armed conflicts generate the

⁸ C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (2024). *Introduction*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*, p. 7.

⁹ The publication is the result of the international research project “Mikrogranty INOP – 2 Ed.” carried out at the Institute of Political Science Foundation from 1st November 2020 to 31st October 2022. Research team: Cezary Smuniewski (principal investigator), Andrea Zanini (co-investigator 1), Cyprian Aleksander Kozera (co-investigator 2), Marcin Górniewicz (co-investigator 3).

¹⁰ A. Massa (2024). *International Migration and Transnational Social Protection: Theory and Practice*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹¹ C.A. Kozera, P. Bernat, C. Güre, B. Popławski (2024). *Immigrants Ante Portas and Desirability of People on the Move: Selective Perceptions of Forced Displacement and Voluntary Migration from Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

largest migratory movements in Europe since the Second World War, necessitating immediate humanitarian actions as well as long-term integration strategies. The analysis concerning Ukraine in this book encompasses various aspects – legal, political, social, cultural, and security-related. Particular attention is given to the migration of Ukrainian citizens to Poland, which has become the primary host country for refugees following the Russian invasion in February 2022. Chapters such as “Taking up Employment by Ukrainians in Poland: Polish Legal Status Before and After the Outbreak of Russia’s War Against Ukraine” by Sławomir Chomoncik¹² and “Integration of Ukrainian Immigrants in Poland: Analysis of Selected Problems” by Alina Betlej, Krzysztof Jurek, and Iwona Niewiadomska¹³ focus on the impact of migration on the labour market, legal systems, and the social challenges of integration. The war has created a dynamic demand for employment among Ukrainians, who often take up jobs requiring low qualifications, despite many possessing high professional competencies. Sławomir Chomoncik examines changes in employment structures and emphasises the role of professional integration as a key component of the long-term process of incorporating migrants into society.

The chapter by Izabela Stańczuk, titled “Legal Status of Foreigners in Light of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland,”¹⁴ analyses the legal framework regulating the status of foreigners in Poland, with reference to the provisions of the Polish Constitution and their practical application. The author discusses the rights and obligations of foreign nationals, including the right to legal protection, employment, and access to basic social services such as education and healthcare. The chapter sheds light on potential conflicts between state sovereignty and obligations arising from international humanitarian law, highlighting the critical role of migration policies in balancing state security with the protection of human rights.

An important chapter titled “Reliable Aid: Support of the Polish Armed Forces for Ukrainian War Refugees after 24 February 2022” by Przemysław Wywiół¹⁵ highlights the role of state institutions and the military in responding to the refugee crisis. It emphasises that, in addition to humanitarian actions (providing shelter, food, and medical assistance), the engagement of various levels of administration and international organisations was crucial. In another chapter, “Ukrainians in Poland After the

¹² S. Chomoncik (2024). *Taking up Employment by Ukrainians in Poland: Polish Legal Status Before and After the Outbreak of Russia’s War Against Ukraine*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹³ A. Betlej, K. Jurek, I. Niewiadomska (2024). *Integration of Ukrainian Immigrants in Poland: Analysis of Selected Problems*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹⁴ I. Stańczuk (2024). *Legal Status of Foreigners in Light of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹⁵ P. Wywiół (2024). *Reliable Aid: Support of the Polish Armed Forces for Ukrainian War Refugees after 24 February 2022*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

Outbreak of War: Possible Types of Social Presence,” Ewa Maria Marciniak¹⁶ analyses the different forms of social presence of Ukrainians in Poland. She underscores that integration is a two-way process, requiring both effort from migrants and openness from the host society. Her analysis addresses key themes: integration challenges (including language barriers, cultural differences, and difficulties in adapting to new living conditions) and types of social presence (migrants may function across a spectrum, from full integration and assimilation to the formation of parallel communities that maintain cultural distinctiveness).

The chapter by Ilona Urych, “Migrations and Their Meaning for State (In)security: Outline of the Problem,”¹⁷ situates Ukrainian migration within the broader context of state security. The author notes that, firstly, migration represents a pressing challenge for security. The mass influx of people requires effective border management to prevent potential risks associated with illegal migration and transnational crime. Secondly, Ukrainian migration in the Polish context is intertwined with demographic and economic issues. While migration can counteract challenges such as an ageing population and labour shortages, it may also generate social tensions. A complementary perspective is offered by Małgorzata Czerwińska’s chapter, “Freedom of Movement at the Regional Level,”¹⁸ which examines critical legal aspects of migration. Her analysis of the right to freedom of movement within international legal frameworks highlights the challenges of harmonising migration policies across the European Union, particularly for border countries like Poland.

In the book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens*, historical themes play a significant role, providing context for contemporary issues of migration and integration. History is used as a backdrop to analyse present phenomena, allowing for a deeper understanding of migratory dynamics over the long term. The authors explore historical examples of migration and social, political, and economic relations to illustrate how past experiences shape contemporary approaches to these matters. The chapter by Maria Stella Rollandi and Andrea Zanini, “Economic Interest and Good Government: Foreigners and Social Control in Early Modern Genoa,”¹⁹ and Luisa Piccinno’s contribution, “Foreign Labor in the Port of Genoa: Privileges, Integration and Conflicts (15th–19th Centuries),”²⁰ offer fascinating insights into the workings of migration in the early modern period. The authors highlight the role of economic integration, often

¹⁶ E.M. Marciniak (2024). *Ukrainians in Poland After the Outbreak of War: Possible Types of Social Presence*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹⁷ I. Urych (2024). *Migrations and Their Meaning for State (In)security: Outline of the Problem*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹⁸ M. Czerwińska (2024). *Freedom of Movement at the Regional Level*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

¹⁹ M.S. Rollandi, A. Zanini (2024). *Economic Interest and Good Government: Foreigners and Social Control in Early Modern Genoa*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

²⁰ L. Piccinno (2024). *Foreign Labor in the Port of Genoa: Privileges, Integration and Conflicts (15th–19th Centuries)*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

shaped by systems of privileges and restrictions, such as granting foreigners special trading rights or limiting their access to local labour markets. Maria Stella Rollandi and Andrea Zanini also shed light on the tensions between local populations and migrants, stemming from competition for resources, as well as cases of successful integration facilitated by mechanisms of social control and pragmatic approaches adopted by municipal authorities.

The chapter “Between Perception and Reality: Migration to Italy in the Last 20 Years” by Andrea Tomaso Torre²¹ juxtaposes contemporary migration challenges with historical precedents. The author highlights that current tensions surrounding migration, such as issues related to the perception of migrants, have deep historical roots. Italy, with its rich migratory history, has long balanced its dual role as both a sending and receiving country for migrants. The analysis demonstrates that migration policies currently implemented in Europe draw on the experiences of past centuries, although they often fail to address the new demands posed by globalisation. Daniela Tarantino’s chapter, “‘Migrating or Staying’ The Church’s Magisterium on the Migration Phenomenon in the Post-Covid Era for an ‘Inclusive’ Citizenship,”²² references the historical involvement of the Church in migration issues. The author examines how the Church’s approach to migration has evolved over the centuries, analysing how papal teachings across various historical periods, from social encyclicals to Pope Francis’s contemporary messages, frame migration as both an ethical and social challenge.

The historical perspective in the book is brought to a close with the chapter by Błażej Bado and Cezary Smuniewski, “In Search of Freedom? Migrations of Pacifists According to Peter Brock.”²³ The authors reflect on the migrations of pacifists, drawing inspiration from the works of Peter Brock, a distinguished scholar of pacifist movements. This chapter represents a unique synthesis of the history of ideas, migration studies, and the analysis of ethical values that play a pivotal role in migration decisions. The argument presented in the text is grounded in an examination of migration as a means of seeking freedom by individuals guided by ideological and moral convictions, particularly in the context of opposition to war and violence. The authors pose the question of whether contemporary societies can fully accept and understand migrations motivated by values that, in certain contexts, may be perceived as incompatible with dominant social norms. They also consider how the migrations of pacifists may contribute to a redefinition of the concept of citizenship – one that extends beyond loyalty to the state to encompass universal values such as peace and the protection of life. This chapter by Błażej Bado and Cezary Smuniewski can be viewed as a continuation and

²¹ A.T. Torre (2024). *Between Perception and Reality: Migration to Italy in the Last 20 Years*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

²² D. Tarantino (2024). ‘*Migrating or Staying: The Church’s Magisterium on the Migration Phenomenon in the Post-Covid Era for an ‘Inclusive’ Citizenship*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

²³ B. Bado, C. Smuniewski (2024). *In Search of Freedom? Migrations of Pacifists According to Peter Brock*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*

deepening of their previous research on peace, pacifism,²⁴ and migration.²⁵ It can be expected that these two scholars will continue conducting research in the field they explore so effectively, especially given their statement in the article: "In the context of future research on pacifist migration, it is important to think about the methodological considerations. It seems that striving to use a variety of research methods is crucial. Such methods should include analysis of quantitative data, for example, migration and demographic statistics, and qualitative methods, such as interviews, case studies, and analysis of historical documents. Equally desirable may be comparative studies of various cases of pacifist migration throughout history and in different regions of the world. Such research can help to understand both the universal and unique aspects of this phenomenon. It can also be assumed that a lot of important content from the point of view of the development of the culture of communal living would be revealed in studies focused on the impact of international political relations and conflicts on the migration of pacifists."²⁶

The analyses of Ukraine in the book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens* provide valuable insights into contemporary migration challenges. Addressing the topic in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine underscores the urgent need to develop

²⁴ B. Bado (2021). *Directions of Peter Brock's Research on Pacifism: The Security Studies Perspective*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Massa, A. Zanini (eds.). *Person, Nation, State: Interdisciplinary research in security studies*. Wydawnictwo Akademii Sztuki Wojennej. Warsaw; B. Bado (2022). *Ideological and organizational changes in American peace movements on the eve of the Civil War: A study of Peter Brock's thought*. "Polish Journal of Political Science", 7(4); C. Smuniewski, B. Bado, K.P. Kądzelski, K. Majka (2022). *The war in Ukraine through the eyes of experts taking part in the ISMS 2022 conference in Lisbon*. In L. Buller (ed.). *Security in Crisis Situations in the Border Regions of Poland and Ukraine: Scientific Papers of the International Scientific Conference*. Bonus Liber. Lublin; C. Smuniewski, B. Bado, M. Składanowski (2024). *Christian Communities During Russia's War Against Ukraine: Perception of the Churches' Aid Involvement Through the Eyes of Poles from Lviv – A Pilot Study*. "Religions", 15(11). DOI: 10.3390/rel15111312; C. Smuniewski (2019). *Church and Pacifism: The Role of Religion in the Face of Security Threats*. "Politeja", 16(4(61)). DOI: 10.12797/Politeja.16.2019.61.19; C. Smuniewski (2018). *Pacyfizm oczami chrześcijan. Przyczynek do badań nad rolą religii w procesach tworzenia bezpieczeństwa*. "Teologia w Polsce", 12(1). DOI: 10.31743/twp.2018.12.1.06.

²⁵ A. Torre, A. Zanini, A. Massa, C. Smuniewski, K. Majka (eds.). (2023). *Migracje a religia. Studia z „Mondi Migranti”*. Wydawnictwo Instytutu Nauki o Polityce. Warszawa; B. Łaciak, C. Smuniewski, M. Boguszewski (2022). *The 2021 Migration Crisis in the Eyes of the Polish Priests from the Polish-Belarusian Borderland*. "Studia i Analizy Nauk o Polityce", (2). DOI: 10.31743/sanp.14531; Ł. Przepiórka, M. Boguszewski, C. Smuniewski, S. Kujawski (2022). *Medical aid to war victims in Syria in 2019: a report of organized healthcare support from a charity organization*. "BMC Health Services Research", 22. DOI: 10.1186/s12913-022-08507-z; C. Smuniewski (2021). *Co nas kształtuje jako Polaków? Z zamyślenia nad tożsamością narodową w kontekście procesów migracyjnych*. In D. Zbrozczyk (eds.). *Życie. Wybrane obszary bezpieczeństwa publicznego*. Uniwersytet Technologiczno-Humanistyczny im. Kazimierza Pułaskiego w Radomiu. Radom; C. Smuniewski (2021). *National identity of the Poles and migrations*. In M. Spotorno, D. Tarantino (eds.). *Migrants and the Challenge of the Faith: Identity and Adaptation*. PM edizioni. Varazze.

²⁶ B. Bado, C. Smuniewski (2024). *In Search of Freedom? Migrations of Pacifists According to Peter Brock*. In C. Smuniewski, A. Zanini, C.A. Kozera, B. Bado (eds.). *Unwanted People... Op. cit.*, p. 220.

balanced migration policies that respond to humanitarian needs while also meeting the strategic objectives of host states. The book encourages reflection on the long-term impacts of migration on security and social cohesion.

Critical Evaluation

A critical evaluation of *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens* reveals its commendable contribution to the discourse on migration and integration, particularly through its interdisciplinary approach and comprehensive coverage of contemporary issues. The book successfully integrates theoretical frameworks with empirical studies, offering valuable insights into the socio-political dynamics of migration in Europe. However, while the volume excels in presenting diverse perspectives, it occasionally leans towards an academic density that may hinder accessibility for non-specialist readers. Additionally, some chapters focus predominantly on case studies from specific regions, which, though informative, may limit the broader applicability of the conclusions. Overall, the publication provides a robust foundation for further scholarly inquiry but would benefit from a more balanced integration of global migration narratives to enhance its universal relevance.

Further research directions

The book *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens* paves the way for further research into the evolving paradigms of human mobility, particularly in the context of the philosophical and sociological dilemma encapsulated in the terms *homo viator*, *homo migrator*, and *homo ante portas*. These constructs prompt critical inquiries into the ontological and ethical dimensions of migration, urging scholars to explore whether human mobility should be understood primarily as an existential condition, a socio-economic necessity, or a perceived external threat. Future studies could delve deeper into the intersections of identity, agency, and globalisation, examining how individuals navigate their roles as travellers, migrants, and potential outsiders within increasingly securitised borders. Moreover, interdisciplinary approaches could further investigate how these paradigms influence policy-making, societal perceptions, and the integration processes in host communities, thereby enriching the academic and practical understanding of migration in the contemporary era.

Conclusion: *Homo viator, homo migrator, or homo ante portas?*

The multifaceted discourse on migration and integration, as presented in *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens*, underscores the complex identities and experiences encapsulated by terms such as *homo viator*, *homo migrator*, and *homo ante portas*. Migration, historically a fundamental aspect of human existence, emerges as a dynamic process influenced by globalisation, socio-political changes, and cultural interactions. The book illuminates the nuanced realities of migration, where individuals are not merely subjects of displacement or opportunity but active agents negotiating identities within transnational contexts. The contributors highlight the dual challenges faced by host

societies and migrants, balancing the imperatives of security, cultural preservation, and economic pragmatism with the ethos of inclusivity and human dignity. The integration process, framed as a shared responsibility, calls for reciprocal adaptability – requiring openness from host communities and resilience from migrants. Yet, as the securitisation of migration grows, the narrative risks being co-opted into fear-based frameworks, overshadowing the economic, cultural, and humanistic contributions of migration. The examination of migration policies and practices across various contexts offers critical insights into the evolving perceptions of citizenship and belonging. The persistent tension between viewing migrants as “unwanted people” versus “desired citizens” reveals deep societal contradictions and opportunities for policy innovation and intercultural dialogue. In conclusion, *Unwanted People and Desired Citizens* provides an essential contribution to the scholarly debate on migration, urging a redefinition of contemporary attitudes towards mobility and integration. It advocates for policies rooted in empathy, balance, and pragmatism, challenging us to reconsider the boundaries of community and the futures we wish to construct.

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