

KARIM BOUHASSOUN, *Que veut la Banlieue? Manifeste pour en finir avec une injustice française*, L'Harmattan, 2017, Paris, 226 pages

The paper of Karim Bouhassoun brings to discussion the issue of suburbs (“banlieue”) and of “fragile territories” from France. The author has the merit to choose a good moment to publish this book generated by the terrorist acts that have recently affected Paris and other cities from France. Written as a “manifesto for ending the French injustice”, the paper is different from other ones which tackle the same theme (that of suburbs), firstly through the fact that it is written by “a child of Parisian suburbs” who managed to go beyond the condition of the suburb immigrant and graduated philosophy courses in Sorbonne and formed himself at Sciences Po Paris. After graduating the faculty, his evolution was in agreement with his specialization, Bouhassoun being a person with more positions in the French public administration. However, he did not forget his origins and due to this fact he felt it was his duty to draw the attention upon suburbs when France had to deal with the unfortunate events generated by terrorist acts.

The author is not an idealist or a passionate advocate of suburbs who ignores or hides the negative aspects of these communities. On the contrary, he starts by emphasizing the risks which suburbs have for France, because they are “the grave of our principles”. In his paper, the author constantly refers to his own experience or to the experience of his family or of the members of the community that he left behind. He also talks about problems identified in the suburbs by the French specialists and about solutions or strategies used by the local and central authorities from the past up to the present moment. Bouhassoun arguments thus each and every problem that is to be analyzed. He arguments his choice through his personal/familial/community experience because he personally had to deal with those issues, but he had the chance and capacity to overpass all the difficulties that a suburb inhabitant meets. Although it has been a while since he left the Parisian suburbs, the situation of the inhabitants from there does not seem to be improved. Moreover, the situation is not limited only to the suburbs of Paris, but we can also identify it in the suburbs of other cities or in “rural territories”. The statistical data identified in the official documents and statistics confirm every problem mentioned

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by the author. Due to this fact, the author becomes the spokesman of all “fragile territories”. He proves thus that he knows very well the reality of these “fragile territories” that have a situation which demands the immediate intervention of the political power. The solution for the problems of the suburbs can be “the three fives” described below:

“Five priorities over five years with a budget of five billion Euros. These priorities are the education that a citizen acquires, employment, formation, local democracy and geographic and social opening up” (p. 25)

The author appeals to all the political powers regardless of their political color and he asks them to get involved in the debates regarding the resolution of the situation of suburbs. In order to make the actions of politicians more efficient, Bouhassoun proposes the creation of a “Ministry of Development of Suburbs” which can develop national projects dedicated to these fragile territories. Moreover, the last chapter of the paper (which represents more than a third of the paper) was dedicated to this ministry and to the directions of intervention which should be considered priorities for this ministry. This time also, the author brings solutions for each and every problem that the ministry should include in the activity program. He also emphasizes the emergency of the intervention in suburbs by facilitating the access to culture and education for all the inhabitants, by reducing the school drop and unemployment. In order to develop the suburbs, the author proposes: investments in “the economy of neighborhoods”, stimulating small entrepreneurs, reducing discriminations for the work force and creating an “agency of economic development dedicated to fragile territories” (p.185). In this regard he provides like example the good experience of *France entrepreneur*.

The book is addressed to both specialists interested to formulate solutions for avoiding “radicalization” of suburbs and to politicians and French elite who seem to have lost their connection with the reality of “fragile territories”. The paper is also easy accessible to the public that is least documented and yet interested in the tackled problem. In the author’s opinion, the book “says what we should do for reducing the impact of biasness over inhabitants and over the country” (p. 224).

*ECATERINA BALICA*

ECATERINA BALICA, VALENTINA MARINESCU (EDS), *Migration and crime. Realities and media representations*, 2018, Palgrave Macmillan, 278 pages.

The volume *Migration and Crime. Realities and media representations* is an interesting project initiated and coordinated by the authors Ecaterina Balica – Senior researcher, Institute of Sociology – Romanian Academy and Valentina Marinescu – Professor at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work – University of Bucharest that bring forward topical and relevant events, contexts, reactions and information in such a manner that articles structuring the book represent not only a scan of the European society confronting itself with the immigration phenomenon, proposing pertinent and exact sociological analysis, but even a breaking news type reaction similar to the one through which media usually points out vital news and information. From my personal standpoint, *Migration and Crime* represents an essential and very practical academic endeavor and, in addition, a manner of attributing an informative value regarding a new reality that the society is confronting itself with and which needs to be fully perceived and understood.

As a detailed review, one can observe the fact that among several themes, one of the focal areas is based on the analysis of the correlations between migrants/refugees and the crime phenomenon and that migrants/refugees are often associated with terrorists and delinquents.

More and more interest on this phenomenon became obvious across Europe, amongst researchers, media and politicians after the unfortunate terrorist attack in Paris in 2015 and continuing with other situations from January 2016 when media associated refugees/migrants with inappropriate conduct and sexual assaults on women in Köln (Germany). This moment represents the turning point when news aired worldwide and set the scene for debates with respect to how migrants generally represent a menace for the communities that faced the migration wave directly.

Some politicians inclined to stress the negative consequences of immigration and to point out the connection between the increase in crime activity and immigration. This idea was also noticed by some European researchers interested in the study of immigrant issues in the European space.

Carefully systematizing the sequences that structure the general frame of this volume and reading through the particularity of each article and the approached themes, the reader may conclude that the immigration and refugees' phenomenon is one of great amplitude, further developing and increasing, having its epicentrum at European level.

As stated above, Europe became more and more involved and concerned with the phenomenon starting 2015, and also starting to be confronted with the immigrants' wave from Syria and Iraq on one hand, as well as relocation of population from Eastern Europe to Western Europe, to a great extent to Great

Britain. Among other causes, this reality also generated the uncontrolled reactions which ultimately lead to the occurrence and development of the Brexit reality.

Some researchers initiated several actions in the attempt to verify the hypothesis based on which the public opinion frequently used themes of increased delinquency within the communities that accommodated a great number of immigrants.

In the context of an increasing number of public discourses about migrants/refugees and the relationship between crime and migration, and the lack of scientific studies about migration and crime in Europe, the authors' intention is for *Migration and Crime – Realities and media representations* to present the results of several empirical research within the European space on this topic.

The volume consists of two parts: *Migration and crime in Europe* and *Media coverage of migration and crime*. The first part includes the results of few empirical researches on the European migrants' crime/delinquency. In the second part of the volume, the authors enclosed studies related to the way European mass media had covered the violent acts in which immigrants were involved in some European countries.

The volume proposes an interdisciplinary and multicultural contemporary approach of the controversial link between migration and crime and the authors that have contributed to this volume analyze those connections from different perspectives. The material combines the writings of contributors from various countries, some of them being host countries and some of them having a large number of emigrants leaving (UK, Turkey, Slovenia, Kurdistan, Albania, Republic of Moldavia and Romania). The authors express views from their societies based on their native culture, being from different fields of research: criminology, sociology, political sciences and communication. The new perspectives offered by this volume will be of interest to criminology, sociology and media studies scholars because they present new ideas, new methodologies and results that could further be developed. This volume allows readers to explore unique insights and to easily digest the content and acknowledge the impact of migration on crime.

An idea that remains striking as a result of reading this volume is the one related to the underlying motivation for the generation of such huge population relocation waves at a global level, as this might definitely have economic and social origins, humanity not having the ability to attain a balanced and equitable development and generating profound unbalances between close geographical areas, thus triggering potential conflict areas. Main issue related to the refugees' waves is not solely one of an economic nature, but also of a profound cultural nature, rooted in religion and tradition, issue that is almost impossible to address without one of the populations involved losing particularities of its own cultural and national identity.

The book was published by the prestigious Palgrave Macmillan Publishing House with a history of more than 170 years and which is specialized in

publishing researches from various domains such as humanities, social sciences and business. Published materials target academics, professionals and librarians to the same extent.

The volume *Migration and Crime - Realities and media representations* was published in 2018 and may be purchased in hard cover format, as well as eBook.

*Lecturer DAN-NICULAE PODARU, PhD*

ECATERINA BALICA, *Homicide-suicides in Romania. Statistical data and media representations*, Peter Lang, 2016

Based on the result of a wide and in-depth two-year research project, the book offers a clear and detailed image about the phenomenon of homicide-suicide in Romania. The value of the paper is even more significant as this book is the first one that analyzes the homicide-suicides in a South-East Europe country. If information on the topic is precarious in Europe in general it was almost missing in regard to the post-communist countries. The information presented in the book allows therefore to compare for the first time the characteristics of homicide-suicides in a former communist dictatorship country with the particularities revealed by the scientist in the Nordic, Central or Western countries. As the author herself declares one of the research questions taken in consideration was precisely to underline the cultural differences between motivations of homicide-suicides and therefore comparisons are performed across the text whenever possible.

The study carried out by the author gathers a broad number of relevant information on homicide-suicides and some subtypes of homicide-suicides: intimate partner homicide-suicides, femicide-suicides, familicide-suicides and filicide-suicides in Romania. The book presents in a scientific and attractive manner - not only for researchers but also for the regular public the results of the study carried out by the author that had analyzed all the homicide-suicide cases committed in Romania in 2002–2013.

The book is structured in two main parts. The first one presents the data collected on the cases of homicide-suicides committed in Romania between 2002 and 2013. In order to present a fully detailed picture two sources were taken in consideration: police data and parquets data. The second part of the book is debating the media coverage of homicide-suicide cases and takes specifically in consideration the attention paid to preventing this form of violence.

The first part is structured into four chapters: the first one is taking into analysis the incidence, risk factors and particularities of homicide-suicides in Romania. The prevalence is analyzed in comparison with other countries, data revealing the lowest values registered in Romania in comparison with all the other

societies. In describing the peculiarities of homicides-suicides the author takes into account the country where committed, the environment (rural-urban), the migratory status, the victim-aggressor relationship, aggressors' and victims' characteristics, place, time, motivation or modus operandi.

In the second chapter the author performs an innovative comparison between intimate partner femicides and intimate partner femicide-suicides cases in Romania. In addition to the data from criminal files and online media information, the comparison relies also on data from interviews with intimate partner femicide perpetrators from the penitentiary system.

The third chapter focused on the comparison between cases of intimate femicide-suicide committed in Eastern and Western European Countries, while the fourth chapter two specific types of homicide-suicide were analyzed: filicide-suicides and familicide-suicides. The author takes into consideration the items analyzed in connection to homicide-suicide in chapter two, such as offenders' and victims' characteristics, the details of the femicide and suicide or the motivation, in order to emphasize some particularities of IPFS in Romania.

The second part of the book focuses on the analysis of the way cases of homicide-suicides are presented by the media.

In chapter V the media coverage of femicide-suicide cases committed in the period 2010–2015 is examined. Both articles about femicide-suicides committed between Romanian citizens in Romania and the articles about the cases committed in other countries between Romanian emigrants were selected by the author. The sixth chapter describes the media interest in homicide-cases that involve Romanian emigrants.

The seventh chapter is focused on a specific type of homicide-suicides – those committed by policemen, military personnel and/or security agents who represent 15% of the homicide-suicide cases. In most cases they were committed against the intimate partner of the aggressor. The chapter is structured into two main parts: the first presenting objective data on the cases while the second one analyzes their media representation. The conclusion is that even though the general perception on this occupational category is generally positive, when perpetrators of homicide-suicides their violence is not excused by the media neither their prior professional achievements are mentioned.

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