APPENDIX A

context factors list

1. Empathy as core capability of social beings
Empathy refers to a wide range of psychological capacities that are thought of as being central for constituting humans as social creatures allowing us to know what other people are thinking and feeling, to emotionally engage with them, to share their thoughts and feelings, and to care for their well–being.
principle/psychology
(Empathy Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2019)

2. Globalization
The development of closer economic, cultural, and political relations among all the countries of the world as a result of travel and communication becoming easy
development/sociology
(Globalization, 2025)

3. Fearism shapes individual and national reactions to migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers.
Fearism, is the systematic, often unconscious, production and perpetration of fear on others. Fearismis fed by mass media and popular culture, it has become a framework for identities production and social engagement.
trend/social psychology
("Amsterdam Review of European Affairs," 2022b)

4. Labeling the migration wave a "crisis", justifies the deployment and normalization of "controversial policies".
Securitization occurs through a "speech act". The verbal identification of a threat renders it real in the political arena.
principle/ communication-politics
("Amsterdam Review of European Affairs," 2022b)

5. Biological existence does not justify participation in society.
Western nation-states manipulate the distinction between biological existence ("zoe") and one's participation in society ("bios") as a central tool of inclusion and exclusion.
state/ philosophy
("Amsterdam Review of European Affairs," 2022b)

6. Ideological divide between genders in youth.
Young men tend to be increasingly conservative in their political and everyday choices, whereas women have become more liberal. While there might be different reasons for this, social media 'bubbles' foster ideological biases, as we increasingly inhabit separate virtual spaces with divergent values, cultures, and content.
Trend/ cultural
(European Parliament et al., 2024b)

7. Public support in controversial policy issues
Winning the support of large segments of the population is essential because public policy on controversial issues reflects public perceptions of the advantages and disadvantages of various courses of action.
state/policy
(Environment, Ethics & Behavior, n.d.)

8. Crisis as moments of truth.
Crises are 'open moments' that impact on rulers and ruled, testing existing paradigms, policies, institutional roles and rules. They are 'moments of truth', critical junctures replete with risk and characterized by a high level of contingency.
principle/ policy
("Amsterdam Review of European Affairs," 2022b)

9. Framing is the way we understand a (policy) problem.
Policymakers exercise power to generate one particular understanding at expenses of others through selective presentation of facts coupled with emotional appeals.
Power also relates to political agendas setting.
principle/policy
(Policy Concepts in 1000 Words: Framing, 2016)

10. States' opportunism in international law.
According to realistic scholars' view, international law only matters to the extent that it constitutes a 'self-enforcing equilibrium' where states have clear interests in participating.
state/ geopolitics
(Gammeltoft-Hansen, 2014b)

11. Post-national citizenship.
The post-national citizenship is the attribution of human rights on the basis of personhood not for being part of a nation.
state/policy-philosophy
(Tonkiss, 2022)

12. The European Union's principle of Solidarity.
The principle of solidarity of the European Union is a fundamental principle based on sharing both the advantages, i.e. prosperity, and the burdens equally and justly among members.
principle/ geopolitics
(Eurofound, n.d.)

13. Party Identity and Policy Legitimacy.
For political parties in Parliament, policy is legitimized through norms or values associated with a particular party's conception of itself and of what it represents (Sjursen, 2002: 495).
state/politics
(View of Shaping the Grammar of Security., n.d.)

14. Urbanization.
People move from rural areas to towns and cities to look for better opportunities such as jobs, education or services.
trend/ demography
(European Commission. 2023, December 1)

15. Populism.
The ideational approach defines populism as an ideology which presents "the people" as a morally good force and contrasts them against "the elite", who are portrayed as corrupt and self-serving. Populists differ in how "the people" are defined, but it can be based along class, ethnic, or national lines.
trend/politics
(Populism - ECPS, n.d.)

16. There is a growing wealth gap between the world's richest and poorest.
The share held by low-income countries of global wealth remains below 1 %, even though they represent around 8 % of the population.
development/economics
(European Parliament et al., 2024b)

17. Elections as the main instrument to influence politics.
Elections remain the main formal means by which people have the opportunity to influence the political process.
state/politics
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023)

18. Human rights.
The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights protects Human Rights, including the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, the right to the protection of your personal data, and the right to get access to justice.
principle/ law
(EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, 2021)

19. Rise of multilingualism.
The number of people speaking a second language other than they mother tongue is expected to increase.
trend/ cultural
(European Commission. 2024, May)

20. Place of birth is a determinant in inequality.
Global inequality of opportunity means that what matters most for your living conditions is the good or bad luck of your place of birth.
principle/socio-economics
(Roser, 2019)

21. The Easterlin Paradox.
A higher long term growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is not accompanied by a statistically (or economically) significant higher growth rate of happiness. (This nil relationship holds separately for developed, transition, and less developed countries.)
state/ socio-economics
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

22. Trust enhances social cohesion.
Trust in others acts a 'synthetic force' for social cohesion, as it creates all kinds of collectively beneficial actions. It is typical for engaged, tolerant, democratic and prospering societies.
principle/sociology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

23. The trust loop.
Institutional trust can build institutions that can help governments perform effectively, which again raises trust. Conversely the lack of trust in others, in government and more broadly in institutions, prevents the implementation of public policies that could remedy social ills.
state/sociology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

24. Youth's disinterest in traditional politics.
The fact that young people are increasingly turning away from traditional politics and structures is also reflected in their lack of intention to stand in future elections.
development/politics
(Deželan 2015)

25. Social Identity.
Social identity is defined as a person's sense of who he or she is, based on group membership(s).
principle/ social psychology
(Tajfel, H. 1974)

26. Feeling "European" is a rational, not an emotional connection.
Europeans generally harbour warm feelings for their own country. In the past decades, even the rational bond has been under stress. The benefits of the Union are no longer evident to everybody.
Atlas of European
state/cultural
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

27. Immigrant population is younger than the European national population.
In the EU non-nationals are younger than nationals.
developments/demography
(Migration and Asylum in Europe – 2024 Edition - Interactive Publications - Eurostat, n.d.)

28. Online opinion sharing.
More than a quarter of young people in the EU publish their opinion on a political or social issue online.
trend/ cultural
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023b)

29. Opportunity to choose influences happiness.
The 'opportunity to choose' and the 'capability to choose' are among the strongest predictors of satisfaction and happiness. Both aspects are linked to the concept of 'locus of control': the degree of perceived control that individuals have over choice
state/psychology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

30. Voter turnover is lower in minority groups.
Members of ethnic, religious and other minorities have lower voter turnout than members of the dominant population.
state/socio-politics
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023b)

31. Trust boosts society's development.
Mutual trust does not only stimulate social interaction, solidarity, cooperation and community spirit, but it also drives economic prosperity. Trust decreases the need for formalities, and tends to prevent conflicts and legal processes. It also increases openness to change and innovation, and investments in education.
state/sociology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

32. Political participation is essential for any functioning democracy.
Political participation involves individuals actively participating in the formulation, adoption and implementation of public policy. A situation in which only a few participate in the political process or in which certain groups are excluded from decision-making therefore imposes clear limits on democratic rule.
principle/political science
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023b)

33. Political participation is a pillar of representation, accountability and civic development.
Political participation is also the best mechanism for the articulation of interests, it fulfills an educational function for citizens, affects life satisfaction, provides a form of checks and balances on decision-makers and is directly related to the responsiveness of government.
state/political science
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023b)

34. Populism is not an ideology; it is a set of values in rhetoric.
state/politics
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

35. Local governance directly influences people's everyday life.
Although more and more laws are made at a higher level of government, local rules and policies influence people's daily lives and welfare to a large extent.
state/political science
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

36. Identity is built with three steps: self-perception, presentation, designation.
One step is someone's self-perception, a feeling of being or belonging. Then there is the step of presenting oneself to others as being that someone. A third step is designation: being seen by others as being that someone.
principle/sociology
(Heinich, 2018)

37. The competition theory
According to the "competition theory", a rising number of migrants will increase the perceived threat, especially when economic conditions in a country are harsh, or when the cultural or ethnic differences between groups are larger.
state/sociology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

38. Principle of trust.
Trust is the belief that others will not deliberately or knowingly do us harm, if they can avoid it, and will look after our interests, if this is possible.
principle/social psychology
(Delhey, 2005)

39. Inefficiency perception of democracy in times of adversity.
In times of economic or physical hardship, democratic governance may be perceived as inefficient compared to strong and decisive leadership.
trend/sociology-politics
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

40. Nationalism-populism clashes with European Union core values.
A struggle in the unification process are clashes of elected nationalistic-populistic rulers in Europe with the unions core values.
development/geopolitics
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

41. The political polarization of "identity".
In politics, identity is used for two very opposite purposes; on the right-wing side for defence of a majority position, and on the left-wing side for the defence of minority positions.
trend/politics
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

42. Security and welfare shift people focus from materialistic to post-materialistic needs.
In times of economic security, as is the case in affluent welfare states, people no longer focus on survival, but shift priorities to issues such as belonging, esteem, freedom of choice and self development.
principle/psychology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

43. Descriptive representation increases trust in marginalized/ disaffected groups.
Descriptive representation indicates the degree of similarity between the representative and the represented. Marginalised and/ or disaffected groups feel that their policy preferences need to be represented by someone who belongs to them in order to establish appropriate communication in contexts of mistrust.
state/sociology-political science
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023b)

44. Cause and issue-oriented youth's political participation.
Cause-oriented participation in specific issues of interest, often post-materialist in nature, is consistent with the values and citizenship of today's youth , and the internet and social media offer significant potential for mobilising youth for issue oriented campaigns, as they allow disparate groups of individuals with different and fragmented political identities to connect.
development/sociology
(DEŽELAN & European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, 2023b)

45. Social media fosters political polarization.
Polarization is believed to be fuelled by the rise of social media. Users tend to seek like minded friends and groups creating an 'echo well' or 'bubble' that strengthens their own opinions and limits their exposure to different thoughts and arguments.
trend/sociology
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)

46. Support deservingness is shaped by control, need, identity, attitude and reciprocity.
Deservingness is judged based on five criteria: the people's control over their situation (less control means more deserving), the level of need (greater need means more deserving), their identity (those closer or more similar are seen as more deserving), their attitude toward support (more gratefulness and compliance mean more deserving), and their reciprocity (those who have contributed or earned support are seen as more deserving).
state/social psychology
(van Oorschot, W., & Roosma, F. 2017)

47. Fear of the unknown.
Individuals experience fear or anxiety of the unknown when they relate to something they find unfamiliar. Fear of the unknown can arise also from lack of information and intolerance of uncertainty.
principle/psychology
(Lucchetti, 2025)

48. Scapegoat theory.
In times of economic and political difficulties people tend to address the problems to an out-group, especially if the latter is perceived as linked to the source of discontent.
principle/sociology
(Stowe, n.d.)

49. Understanding toward others' perspective arises from taking the role of others
When persons take the role of the other, and attempt to view the world from the other's perspective, they begin to understand the meaning of the other's world. Such understandings are central for interactions.
principle/social psychology
(Mead, 1934)

50. Dominant communication sustains stereotypes.
Stereotypes are shared perspectives of the dominant majority that are produced and sustained through primarily dominant-controlled communication channels-verbal, visual, and technological.
principle/cultural
(Canales 2000)

51. Stereotypes are ordinarily oversimplified beliefs and seldom correspond with the objective facts
Stereotypes are sets of beliefs, usually stated as categorical generalization, that people hold about the members of their own and other groups.
principle/sociology
(Rinehart 1963)

52. Media can influence the problems that the public perceives as important.
The way news is presented can shape how users perceive and form specific values and opinions; therefore exposure to skewed content may negatively affect an individual's perceptions and attitudes.
principle/sociology
(Liao, 2023)

53. Language is a means to perpetuate stereotypes.
Language is considered as the major means by which stereotypes are communicated through interpersonal discourse, by which they are transmitted from generation to generation, and by which the press and other mass media create social representations of social groups.
principle/sociology
(Maass, 1999)

54. Panta Rhei.
Panta rhei (Greek: πάντα ῥεῖ) literally means "everything flows." Heraclitus used this phrase to express his philosophy of constant change: that all things in the universe are in a state of flux and nothing remains static. According to Heraclitus, stability is an illusion, and the world is defined by continuous transformation.
principle/philosophy
(Guthrie, 1965)

55. Man is a social animal.
Human being is a gregarious being and by nature he/she lives with his/her fellows and likes it.
principle/philosophy
(Aristotle, 1998/ca. 350 B.C.E.)

56. Rhetoric plays a part in opinion formation, combining emotions with logical reasoning.
The word has an irrational power of imitation of facts, characters and human passions, but also a rational capacity to construct a logical reasoning. The rhetoric exploits both (poetry and philosophy), placing itself on the ground of opinion (δόξα), not of demonstrable truths, which belong to philosophy. Its scope is the probable.
principle/philosophy
(Aristotle, 2007/ca. 4th century B.C.E.)

57. Encouragement and shared responsibility in habit change.
People are more willing to change their habits, if they feel that this is a shared responsibility, and when the proposed measures focus on encouraging changes rather than penalising negative behaviours.
trend/psychology
(European Parliament et al., 2024c)

58. Personification generates empathy.
Personification creates a layer of empathy and relatability in the storytelling, inviting audiences to form deeper emotional connections with non-human elements.
trend/literature
https://glcoverage.com/2024/11/13/personification-2/
(Intelliminds, 2024)

59
Dehumanization as a result of denying other views of the world.
Blatant dehumanization can emerge not only from failing to consider others' minds but also from contemplating how others think about the world and believing their thinking to be aberrant.
principle/social psychology
https://www.nature.com/articles/s44271-024-00087-4
(Van Loon et al., 2024)

60. Public perception's influence on legislation and political discussion.
The public's perception of the veracity and accuracy of the information in the media is said to influence the initiation of legislation and discussions on various issues.
principle/political science
(Liao, 2023b)

61. State promotion of supremacy through discrimination.
When the State actively discriminates against a minority group, it advocates for them to be treated as second-class citizens. It promotes the supremacy of one group and prioritizes their rights and interests at the expense of others.
principle/sociology
(Dieng, 2019)

62. Reliance on soft-laws shifts the power from legislative to executive authorities.
The shift is justified by emergency rhetoric and it is problematic from a normative point of view as it reduces not only parliamentary involvement as well as judicial review but also the transparency and accountability of decision making in general.
state/political science
(Slominski & Trauner, 2020b)

63. Non-binding agreements guarantee flexibility within multi-partners organizations.
Non-binding agreements are usually less in the public spotlight and allow a more pragmatic and flexible approach. They do not set unwanted precedents. Overall, partner countries therefore maintain a higher level of flexibility and control in the context of non-binding international accords.
state/political science
(Slominski & Trauner, 2020c)

64. Systemic racism.
Describes forms of racism which are structured into political and social institutions. It occurs when organisations, institutions or governments discriminate, either deliberately or indirectly, against certain groups of people to limit their rights. This form of racism reflects the cultural assumptions of the dominant group, so that the practices of that group are seen as the norm to which other cultural practices should conform. It regularly and systematically advantages some ethnic and cultural groups and disadvantages and marginalises others.
trend/cultural
(Department of Education, NSW Government, 2025)

65. Prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination.
Prejudice is defined as feelings of hostility toward members of racial, nationality, and ethnic groups; stereotypes, as the beliefs people have about such members; and discrimination, as the differential manner in which people behave toward them.
principle/sociology
(Rinehart 1963)

66. Eurocentrism characterizes European society's perspective on non-western countries' histories and cultures.
The 'West' assumes the superiority of European values over non-European societies, and advocates for the imitation of the 'Western' model at the expenses of the other societies' histories, values and cultures.
state/cultural
(Pokhrel, 2011)

67. The Schengen Area.
Schengen is the world's largest area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers. It is composed by 29 states and guarantees free movement to more than 450 million EU citizens, along with non-EU nationals living in the EU or visiting the EU as tourists, exchange students or for business purposes (anyone legally present in the EU).
development/geopolitics
(Schengen Area, n.d.)

68. Without human capital, growth remains stunted.
Long-term [economic] growth in developed countries is driven by demography.
state/economics
(Europe 2050: Demographic Suicide, n.d.)

69. Racialized ethnicity is a political and sociocultural construct.
Racialized ethnicity is a political and sociocultural process of categorizing culturally specific populations through linking real or imagined phenotypical attributes to human qualities such as intellectual abilities, moral fiber, and personality.
state/sociology
(Canales 2000)

70. Borders are relative and artefactual.
It is perhaps rather a world where we are more preoccupied with borders than ever, because we now understand them - or many of them, at least - to be not absolute, natural, and therefore more readily taken for granted, but only relative, artefactual, and thus problematic.
state/social anthropology
(Hannerz, 1997)

71. Increasing longevity requires appropriate social care measures.
The longevity society requires a new framework and mindset to guarantee that individuals can lead resilient, equitable and sustainable lives.
development/demography-economics
(European Parliament et al., 2024d)

72. Equality is a humankind's matter.
Equality matters not only in terms of the extreme sides of the spectrum but also touches upon the majority of the people in between. It relates to their outlook on life: people's hopes, aspirations, expectations, and overall wellbeing.
state/socio-economics
(European Parliament et al., 2024d)

73. Many European countries are among the happiest places to live.
development/socio-economics
(European Parliament et al., 2024d)

74. Diffuse civic activity supports democracy.
Many vibrant civil society organisations and activities around the world defy threats and allow citizens to participate in policymaking.
state/political science
(European Parliament et al., 2024d)

75. European identity construction coincides with the construction of an "other".
'Europeanism' construction of identity based on clear 'European' characters that can set aside Europeans from non-Europeans.
state/cultural
("Amsterdam Review of European Affairs," 2022c)

76. Ongoing externalization of European borders.
Externalization of migration control has been carried out through delegation, as an outsourcing of control responsibilities and duties to third states and private parties.
development/geopolitics
(Gammeltoft-Hansen, 2014c)

77. Migrants crisis vs crisis for migrants.
The increased number is a crisis for who is migrating. The European Union's resources would allow it to handle the inflow of migrants; the crisis is related to the different reactions and interpretation of principles, such as the one of solidarity.
state/politics
(Grimmel, 2020b)
78. Mass society.
A population which had rapidly grown, urbanized and atomized, bringing new imperatives for humans to live together in vast numbers and with closer proximities.
state/philosophy
(Arendt, 1951)
79. Security is a **social** construction.
The Copenhagen School holds that security is a social construction developed through the security speech act . In the speech act, an actor makes the claim that a referent object, in this case, the citizenry or demos, confronts an existential threat.
trend/sociology
(View of Shaping the Grammar of Security., n.d.-b)
80. Population growth is higher in the poorest countries.
World's population will grow by 83 million people every year, reaching 9.8 billion in 2050. The poorest countries will experience the highest concentration of population growth. The EU's population is expected to fall moderately to around 450 million by 2040. In contrast, Africa's population is projected to expand from 1.4 to 2.1 billion between 2023 and 2040 – when about half of the population will be under the age of 21.
development/demography
(United Nations, n.d.)
81. Increasing old-age dependency ratio.
By 2050, more than two thirds of the EU Member States are projected to have an old-age dependency ratio above 50.0 %; in other words, they will have less than two persons of working age for every person aged 65 years or more.
development/demography-economics
(Statistics Explained, 2023)
82. Climate change is a global migration's driver.
In the future, climate change is expected to be a driver of global migration patterns. In the next 30 years alone, rising sea levels, drought, increasing temperatures and other climate catastrophes are expected to force globally around 143 million persons to flee their homes, and possibly contribute to continuing high immigration levels into the EU.
development/demography
(Statistics Explained, 2023)
83. Net migration will be positive over the entire period and will be the only component contributing to the population growth.
Net migration is projected to be almost constant, on average 1.2 million, over the entire projection horizon; and natural change (defined as the difference between the numbers of live births and deaths) will be negative over the entire period, hence contributing negatively to the population growth; its decrease will continue until 2060, followed by a modest increase by 2100.
development/demography
(Statistics Explained, 2023)
84. Religiosity in Europe.
By 2050 the 23% of the European population is expected to have no religious affiliation. While Muslims will make 10% of Europe's population.
development/religion
(Wormald & Wormald, 2025)
85. Decline of European Union's share of global GDP.
In the next twenty years, the EU's share of global GDP is projected to decline from 17.9 % in 2021 to approximately 14.2 % by 2040.
development/economics
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
86. Global economic inequality could spiral into increased fragmentation and conflict within states.
trend/socio-economics
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
87. Europe has the highest gender parity score. However, gender parity is expected to be reached in 67 years.
Across all subindexes, Europe has the highest gender parity of all regions at 76.3%, with one-third of countries in the region ranking in the top 20 and 20 out of 36 countries with at least 75% parity. Overall, there is a decline of 0.2 percentage points in the regional score based on the constant sample of countries. At the current rate of progress, Europe is projected to attain gender parity in 67 years.
development/socio-economics
(World Economic Forum, 2023)
88. The quality of life for Europeans will increasingly depend on where exactly they live.
By 2050, the EU's level of urbanisation will increase to almost 84 %. At the same time, various parts of Europe will be increasingly difficult or even impossible to live in due to water stress, extreme weather or heat.
development/demography
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
89. Europe will enlarge, possibly creating a membership of over 30 states.
development/geopolitics
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
90. Technology impacts social life.
Technologies increasingly shape the way we meet, interact, access information, take our decisions, or consume.
development/technology
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
91. Rising loneliness.
Technological and societal changes are contributing to the rise in the epidemic of loneliness, with 13 % of respondents in the EU feeling lonely most or all of the time.
development/psychology
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
92. Technology benefits democracy and public services through wider and more effective access
Technology could contribute not only to more transparent policy making and democratic rights exercise through wider consultation of citizens, but also to more accessible and effective public services.
development/socio-technological
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
93. Increasing polarization and fragmentation.
Across geopolitics, democracy and inequalities polarization and fragmentation are growing or increasingly likely to occur.
trend/sociology
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
94. Hybrid warfare contributes to geopolitical competition.
The battle of narratives, disinformation, information manipulation and interference, cyber space, and even a battle for primacy in outer space, pose new threats. While this new hybrid warfare is expanding, traditional warfare continues to represent one of the major risks of the ongoing geopolitical competition and friction.
development/geopolitical
(European Parliament et al., 2024e)
95. Racism.
A doctrine that claims to see, in the intellectual and moral characteristics attributed to a group of individuals however defined, the necessary effect of a common genetic heritage.
principle/anthropology
(Lévi-Strauss, 1985/1983)
96. Humankind has a propensity to migrate.
It is safe to assume that when our ancestors first became fully human they were already migratory, moving about in pursuit of big game. The rapidity with which hunting bands occupied all the continents (except Antarctica) in about 50,000 years attests this propensity.
state/anthropology
(McNeill, 1984)
97. Populists use Christianity to manipulate human rights.
Right-wing populists have seen no contradiction in mobilizing Christianity to support political agendas which patently limit the rights of 'others' deemed 'culturally [in]compatible' with their particular vision of the nation.
trend/politics
(Johnston-White, 2021)
98. 'Homeland' is a cultural construct.
Essentializing the link between displaced people and their 'homeland' confirms the nationalist view of the world responsible for creating the so-called "refugee problem".
state/political science
(Bakewell, 2008)
99. Liquid Modernity: it is defined by a chronic weakening of the relationship between labour and capital and the unleashing of capital's power to dissolve social and communal bonds.
Zygmunt Bauman's term for the present historical condition of globalized capitalism. It is defined by a chronic weakening of the relationship between labour and capital and the unleashing of capital's power to dissolve social and communal bonds. It is characterized by the pervasiveness in contemporary society of what Bauman refers to as the 'unholy trinity' of uncertainty, insecurity and unsafety, or as he more bluntly puts it the failure of government to act as the principal guarantor of existence.
state/sociology
(Bauman, 2011)
100. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
The right to conscientious objection is recognized, in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of this right.
principle/law
(Article 10 - Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion, 2025)
101. Freedom of expression and information.
Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.
The freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected.
principle/law
(Article 10 - Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion, 2025)
102. New forms of "politics".
Platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Twitter are bursting with political content, from vloggers reciting socialist pamphlets to French right-wing influencers raving about refugees. A new form of "politics" is visible on NBA courts and NFL fields, in the most popular Netflix shows, and in the ways people describe themselves on their social media pages.
trend/cultural-media studies
(From Post-Politics to Hyper-Politics, 2022)
103. The decline of collective institutions.
The rapid individualization and decline of collective institutions experienced in the 1990s has not been halted. Around the world, civil society is still mired in a deep and protracted crisis, with what passes for political action monopolized by flash mobs, NGOs, and philanthropists with weak democratic mandates and nonexistent membership bases.
development/cultural-political science
(From Post-Politics to Hyper-Politics, 2022)
104. Electoral opportunism is one of the driving forces behind the new political 'movementism'.
For most European parties, the recent conversion to the movement model takes place against the backdrop of a double shift — a long-term decline in the number of party members and a continuous shrinkage in their electorate.
development/political science
(From Post-Politics to Hyper-Politics, 2022)
105. Policy tends to overlook real-life everyday matters.
Notions of policy tend to focus on formal organizations and their interactions with people. These are an unreliable guide to what will bring about significant changes, as other aspects of people's social worlds may be of much greater important in their day to day lives.
state/political science
(Bakewell, 2008b)
106. Policy inertia is the tendency of governments to resist changing existing policies, even when change is clearly beneficial.
Once a policy path has been chosen, reform will be difficult if a number of actors feel that they benefit from the status quo and these interest groups have a strong incentive to mobilize.
state/political science
(Guiraudon, 2017)
107. In the collective imaginary, the migrant embodies the eternal vagabond, roaming about the European continent and wreaking havoc.
"An object of deep fascination and utter indifference, or horror and pity, he stalks the borders of the rich world, sowing panic, wrecking election campaigns, and generating headlines as he goes."
trend/migration studies
Andersson, Illegality
(Amsterdam Review of European Affairs, 2022)
108. Those who have been displaced are measured against the frame of the 'grateful refugee.'
The grateful refugee is expected to be deferential to the laws, culture, and even discriminatory practices of the receiving state. At the same time, this idealised and imagined refugee is also entrepreneurial, as in, not dependent on state resources and economically productive.
trend/cultural
(Ozkaramanli, Schwobel-Patel, 2024)
109. International law's refugee notion is outdated.
With internal conflict increasing, climate change impacting on living conditions, and a global political economy that is skewed in favour of the Global North, there are increasing flows of people who are seeking refuge, but do not necessarily fit the requirement of being persecuted.
development/political science
(Ozkaramanli, Schwobel-Patel, 2024)
110. Refugees remain placed in the space of emergency which is deemed to exclude agency.
To participate in public life also means to participate in the labour force, and generally to be able to claim certain benefits from this productivity, guaranteed by the state. Refugees, however, are mostly not permitted to participate in public life.
state/migration studies
(Ozkaramanli, Schwobel-Patel, 2024)
111. The contact hypothesis claims that hostility will reduce as the likelihood of contacts between groups increases.
Under appropriate conditions interpersonal contact is one of the most effective ways to reduce prejudice between majority and minority group members. If one has the opportunity to communicate with others, they are able to understand and appreciate different points of views involving their way of life.
Principle/ social psychology
(Allport, 1954)
112. Migration is a fundamental force shaping society.
Migration is a fundamental feature of human mankind, it is part and parcel of the society we are in and it is driven by deep changes in society.
principle/sociology
(de Haas, 2014)
113. Cultural media shape how individuals experience the world, creating a collective imaginary.
There is a give-and-take relationship between cultural media—including literature, film, television, video games, etc.—and the individual's experience of the world. This oscillating relationship between individual experience and cultural context forms what can be called a collective imaginary.
principle/ cultural
(Vidergar, n.d.)
114. Ignoring the nature of migration, policy treats the phenomenon ineffectively.
By denying that migration is part of human society and development our vision is limited and we delude ourselves into thinking that restrictive policies will solve the "problem".
development/sociology-political science
(de Haas, 2014)
115. Migration can deeply transform receiving societies' fabric in the long run.
For receiving societies the settlement of migrant groups and the formation of ethnic minorities can fundamentally change the social, cultural, economic and political of societies, particularly in the long run.
Principle/sociology
(Castles, de Haas, Miller, 2015)
116. Global migration rates remained stable but gained attention in the political debate.
While global migration rates have remained relatively stable over the past half century, the political salience of migration has strongly increased.
Development/Political science
(Castles, de Haas, Miller, 2015)
117. Development often leads to increased migration rates and complexity.
The volume and complexity of migration often increases with development. This is because improved access to education and information, social capital and financial resources increases people's aspirations and capabilities to migrate, while improved transport and communication also facilitates movement.
Development/Migration studies
(Castles, de Haas, Miller, 2015)
118. Environmental changes are a driver of mobility within Europe.
Environmental changes are affecting Europe not only in terms of immigration, but also of out migration and mobility within Europe in general.
development/migration studies
Migration expert
119. Personal experience shapes one's perception of the world.
Meanings and ideas that people develop about things depend on their own personal experience.
principle/psychology
Migration expert
120. Public debate attributes the failure of public infrastructure to the arrival of immigrants.
Public infrastructures -such as health system or welfare system- in Europe is crumbling down. That's not because of more people coming. However the public debate around the topic focuses on migrants and refugees.
trend/political sociology
Migration expert
121. The economic side of immigrants is the one Europeans accept the most.
European society tends to accept immigrants only in part. Mostly, it's the economic part to be accepted.
trend/sociology
Migration expert
122. Legal contracts shape people's personal lives and access to social rights.
Policies and legal contracts, (i.e. employment contracts) influence how people are treated and how they relates with each other, and create distinctions in terms of the access to social rights.
state/socio-legal studies
Migration expert
123. In today's interconnected world, the governmental choices of one state can influence others.
Political and governmental choices of external countries influence the geopolitical equilibrium and have consequences worldwide.
development/ geopolitics
Migration expert
124. Europe's attraction of high-skilled migrants creates competition in the job market.
Europe is attracting high skilled workers from foreign countries, creating competition for highly aspired professional positions.
development/ socio-economics
Migration expert
125. Transformations caused by immigration can raise hostility.
The level of acceptance can depend on how many newcomers arrive. In some cases local residents may feel overwhelmed if the number of immigrants is too high. This can lead to a sense of cultural displacement, where long time residents feel they have lost the familiar aspects of the place they grew up in.
trend/sociology
Migration expert
126. In cities tolerance is higher because of frequent contact among diverse social groups.
People residing in cities tend to be more tolerant because they are frequently exposed to contact with others. They are more likely to gain personal experience with diverse populations compared to those living in isolated areas.
trend/sociology
Migration expert
127. Convictions are not immutable.
Even if they are strongly embedded within society, convictions can be changed.
principle/ social psychology
Migration expert
128. Personal contact can change the relevance of collective ideas in one's mind.
The collective idea of a certain social group can be reconsidered by the individual once he gets in contact with people part of that group.
trend/ social psychology
Migration expert
129. Europe offers some comforts that result attractive for immigrants.
Work/life balance, safety and easy way of travelling are drivers attracting migration in Europe.
trend/sociology
IDE students
130. The culture of the receiving state influences acceptance of immigrants.
Acceptance of immigrants depends on the state's tradition. If a country is highly liberal, acceptance is easier.
state/socio-cultural
IDE students
131. Stereotypes influence perception and tolerance toward immigrants.
Stereotypes around the country of origin become a factor influencing how the immigrant is perceived.
trend/social psychology
IDE students
132. Migration is a hot topic in political propaganda.
Immigration is strongly used in political propaganda, but that urgence is not translated into political action.
development/political science
IDE students
133. Resilience born from suffering can be unsettling to those who haven't faced it.
People often fear those who are 'no longer afraid' because they have already endured extremely difficult experiences.
trend/psychology
IDE students
134. The intentions, of the immigrant influence how (s)he is perceived.
Immigrants who have clear and defined (working) intentions are perceived more positively than those immigrating without a "plan".
trend/social psychology
IDE students
135. Travelling has become more accessible.
Technology advancement made travelling increasingly accessible.
development/technological-economics
IDE students
136. Language barriers make interactions difficult.
Language barriers affect the interactions between 'native population' and immigrants, creating difficulties in understanding in both ways.
state/socio-cultural
IDE students
137. Moral judgments shape social attitudes.
Social information, social approval, and conformity to group norms shape moral values and judgments, and are thus a source of contextual influences on social attitudes.
trend/social psychology
(Kelly, Ngo, Chituc, Huettel, & Sinnott-Armstrong, 2017)
138. Moralized political beliefs, combined with othering and aversion, fuel political sectarianism and hinder compromise.
Moralization has become a hallmark of many political attitudes across the ideological spectrum. When combined with othering and aversion, strong moral convictions contribute to political sectarianism that impedes mutually beneficial compromises.
state/ political science
(Yoder, 2022)
139. Moralization leading to intolerance and violence.
Moralization tends to decrease tolerance of differing opinions, and can lead to an increased willingness to accept violent solutions to conflicts.
state/sociology
(Yoder, 2022)
140. Anti-migrant messages diffused by right-wing populism influenced more centrist parties.
Anti-migrant messages sit at the core of nearly all contemporary right-wing populist movements and parties. At the extreme, migrants are portrayed as the vanguard of apocalyptic racial, religious and civilisational struggles. Even though such views may be rejected by the rest of the political spectrum, their influence on the debate has pulled other more centrist parties in the direction of anti-immigrant platforms.
trend/political science
(The Transnational Diffusion of Populism, n.d.)
141. Instability will characterize the world in the upcoming decades.
The world seems destined to live with 'permanent instability' for the foreseeable future.
development/socio-economics
(European Commission Joint Research Centre, 2023)
142. Disinformation online promotes hate speech and dehumanization towards people holding different ideas.
Extremist parties seek to dehumanise individuals and groups with which they disagree. This development parallels the growth of hate speech; both are actively promoted by targeted disinformation online by both domestic and foreign actors.
development/sociology
(European Parliament et al., 2024b)
143. Immigrants' ethnic and religious diversity is used by neo-nationalist movements for propaganda.
In several advanced economies, neonationalist movements have leveraged concerns about immigration and ethnic/ religious diversity to make electoral gains.
trend/political science
(European Parliament et al., 2024b)
144. Great powers are often powerless when trying to re-establish order after a global crisis.
Several crises have shown the increasing inability of the so-called 'great powers' to provide a stable world order.
development/political science
(Kimmage & Notte, 2023)
145. Irregular migration gets greater attention in the public debate.
While irregular migration is often in the spotlight, the reality is that irregular entries account for a small fraction of migration in the EU.
development/migration studies
(Statistics on Migration to Europe, n.d.)
146. When the Other is dehumanized, they are excluded from moral concern, allowing Europeans to uphold a self-image of compassion while justifying exclusion.
"Once the Other is constructed in the position of debasement, abjection and evil, they are excluded from the field of human values, civic rights and moral obligations, and maintaining the boundary that divides 'us' from 'them' becomes even more crucial," argued Papastergiadis. No longer human in the European collective imaginary, their existence is devoid of intrinsic value. As a result, they do not fall within European citizens' psychological realm of humanitarianism, solidarity, or compassion, which allows the latter to safeguard their self-image of altruism and integrity.
trend/social psychology
(Amsterdam Review of European Affairs, 2022)
147. Migrants are overrepresented in crime statistics. That's the result of systemic barriers and socioeconomic disadvantage, rather than simply individual choice or inherent criminality.
Migrants, and more specifically second-generation migrants, tend to be overrepresented in crime statistics, which are typically dominated by lower educated men of low financial-economic status. Because language problems and (indirect) discrimination reduce opportunities on the labour market and many migrants hold unskilled jobs, this overrepresentation may be called a 'logical' consequence.
development/migration studies
(Atlas of European Values | Open Press Tilburg University, 2023)
148. Negative events have a greater impact on our cognitive system.
The negativity bias is a cognitive bias that results in adverse events having a more significant impact on our psychological state than positive events. Negativity bias occurs even when adverse events and positive events are of the same magnitude, meaning we feel negative events more intensely.
Principle/psychology
(Negativity Bias - the Decision Lab, n.d.)

APPENDIX B

connections shaping emerging patterns

Section 1

36
Identity is built with three steps: self-perception, presentation, designation.
One step is someone's self-perception, a feeling of being or belonging. Then there is the step of presenting oneself to others as being that someone. A third step is designation: being seen by others as being that someone.
principle/sociology
Nathalie Heinich

Alessandra

3
Fearism shapes individual and national reactions to migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers.
Fearism, is the systematic, often unconscious, production and perpetration of fear on others. Fearismis fed by mass media and popular culture, it has become a framework for identities production and social engagement.
trend/social psychology
Selective Solidarity? Racialized Othering in European Immigration Politics

Alessandra

65
Prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination
Prejudice is defined as feeling of hostility toward members of racial, nationality, and ethnic groups; stereotypes, as the beliefs people have about such members; and discrimination, as the differential manner in which people behave toward them.
principle/sociology
The Meaning of Stereotypes
James W. Rinehart
https://www.jstor.org/stable/1475640?seq=1

Alessandra

46
Support deservingness is shaped by control, need, identity, attitude and reciprocity.
Deservingness is judged based on five criteria: the people's control over their situation (less control means more deserving), the level of need (greater need means more deserving), their identity (those closer or more similar are seen as more deserving), their attitude toward support (more gratefulness and compliance mean more deserving), and their reciprocity (those who have contributed or earned support are seen as more deserving).
state/social psychology
Wim van Oorschot
https://repository.tilburguniversity.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/1f6531e8-cb9e-4444-ae34-08f4df6a990c/content

Alessandra

146
When the Other is dehumanized, they are excluded from moral concern, allowing Europeans to uphold a self-image of compassion while justifying exclusion.
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trend/social psychology
Selective Solidarity? Racialized Othering in European Migration Politics

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Self identity is built through self perception as feeling of belonging, presenting to others as that self-perceived and being seen as such.
36

Self identity is built not through an individual process, but in contact with others. Already in the first step the individual perceive himself through a sense of belonging. This sense of belonging goes hand in hand with a sense of exclusion; if you identify with something you're automatically distancing yourself from something else. The second and third steps represent the real contact moment, as the individual present himself to others and he tries to create a certain perception of himself, the identity he built for himself.
36

Fearism has become a framework upon which identities and social engagement is built. Individual and national reactions to migrants, refugee and asylum-seekers are shaped by fearism.
3

If identities are built upon fear of the other, people will try to protect themselves from the ones they feel they do not belong with.
If, for fear, people fail to identify with the 'other' and they build their identity against the one of the 'other', then social engagement will be based on protection, hence closure .
36+3

Prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination arise from beliefs, not from objective knowledge nor real direct experience with the object group .
65

If fear prevents from contact and engagement, prejudice arises. Feeling threaten by an 'other' inevitably generates hostility toward them, which will consequentially give rise to prejudice, then fueling stereotypes and resulting in discrimination.
Hence, if identity is built against the one product of a prejudice of a stereotyped group, then that group will not be treated as peer but it will be discriminated.
36+3+65

People give support based on their perceived level of deservingness of the person/group they are helping. Factors shaping deservingness are level of control over their situation, level of need, identity, attitude toward support and reciprocity.
46

Not all people deserve support, or at least not at the same level. Deservingness is judge on the basis of the perception of a set of factors. What is interesting is that these factors are not completely objective, they are relative and interpreted by the person based on her perception. Interpretation can be very personal and nuanced.
46

Identity is one of the variables we keep into account when evaluating whether other people deserve support. When we perceive the subject in need of support as similar we are more willing to help.
Failing to see (or look for) similarities with the 'out group' due to a othering process, will inevitably compromise the openness to support them.
36+3+65+46

Fearism prevents engagement with the 'other', creandro contemporaneamente un'identità propria che

95
Racism.
A doctrine that claims to see, in the intellectual and moral characteristics attributed to a group of individuals however defined, the necessary effect of a common genetic heritage.
principle/anthropology
Claude Lévi-Strauss, The view from afar

Alessandra Bernardi

59
Dehumanization as a result of denying other views of the world
Blatant dehumanization can emerge not only from failing to consider others' minds but also from contemplating how others think about the world and believing their thinking to be aberrant.
principle/social psychology
https://www.nature.com/articles/s44271-024-00087-4

Alessandra

49
Understanding toward others' perspective arises from taking the role of others
When persons take the role of the other, and attempt to view the world from the other's perspective, they begin to understand the meaning of the other's world. Such understandings are central for interactions.
principle/social psychology
http://tankona.free.fr/mead1934.pdf

Alessandra

Denying or lessen other's intellectual sphere sets the necessary condition to deny other's humanity. Dehumanization emerges also from failing to take into consideration the way others think, because it is different from what we consider to be the norm. Conversely, when we take the role of other we get a step closer to their perspective. That's a starting point to see how and what a person thinks, and why she thinks so. By acknowledging the other's perspective we acknowledge their intellectual sphere and their humanity.
59+49

Racism is a form of dehumanization as it links moral and intellectual characteristics of a particular group, to their genetic heritage, denying the possibility of the existence of a different morality or intellectual sphere.
95+ (59+49)

The creation of an 'other' and its dehumanization in the collective imaginary exclude the attribution of existence value, shaping attitudes toward them and justifying such attitudes.
Within the European society - which is traditionally and officially rooted in moral values - non-human 'other' is not worthy of receiving compassion, solidarity or a moral treatment.
146 + (59+49)

66
Eurocentrism characterizes European society's perspective on non-western countries' histories and cultures.
The 'West' assumes the superiority of European values over non-European societies, and advocates for the imitation of the 'Western' model at the expenses of the other societies' histories, values and cultures.
state/cultural
https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-1-4020-9160-5_25

Alessandra

Adding upon failing to even consider and acknowledge the existence of another way of thinking; this 'sentiment' is characterizing of diffuse Eurocentrism in the European society.
Europe history, development, scheme is consider to be the norm and represent the frame through which 'others' are evaluated.
59+49+95+66

58
Personification generates empathy
Personification creates a layer of empathy and relatability in the storytelling, inviting audiences to form deeper emotional connections with non-human elements.
principle/literature
https://glcoverage.com/2024/11/13/personification-2/

Alessandra

1
Empathy as core capability of social beings
Empathy refer to a wide range of psychological capacities that are thought of as being central for constituting humans as social creatures allowing us to know what other people are thinking and feeling, to emotionally engage with them, to share their thoughts and feelings, and to care for their well–being.
principle/psychology
https://plato.stanford.edu/Entries/empathy/

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In storytelling, personification - using human qualities when describing objects or abstract ideas- generates empathy toward the subject, resulting in an emotional connection.
58

As empathy is a core capability of human as social creatures - meaning that social beings experience empathy - the storytelling around a topic is able to build or negate an emotional connection in the audience.
Narratives using personification or dehumanization are responsible for shaping perception of the 'other' who is being depicted as human or non-human, determining eventually if they are worthy of a moral treatment or not.
Changing the narrative around a group/topic can change the attitude toward it.
58 + 146+5949

Section 2

30
Voter turnover is lower in minority groups
Members of ethnic, religious and other minorities have lower voter turnout than members of the dominant population.
development/socio-politics
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

Alessandra

17
Elections as the main instrument to influence politics
Elections remain the main formal means by which people have the opportunity to influence the political process.
state/politics
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

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39
Inefficiency perception of democracy in times of adversity
In times of economic or physical hardship, democratic governance may be perceived as inefficient compared to strong and decisive leadership.
trend/sociology-politics
Atlas of European Values

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105
Policy tends to overlook real-life everyday matters.
Notions of policy tend to focus on formal organizations and their interactions with people. These are an unreliable guide to what will bring about significant changes, as other aspects of people's social worlds may be of much greater important in their day to day lives.
state/political science
https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/21/4/432/1582770

Alessandra

33
Political participation is a pillar of representation, accountability and civic development.
Political participation is also the best mechanism for the articulation of interests, it fulfils an educational function for citizens, affects life satisfaction, provides a form of checks and balances on decision-makers and is directly related to the responsiveness of government.
state/sociology
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

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92
Technology benefits democracy and public services through wider and more effective access.
Technology could contribute not only to more transparent policy making and democratic rights exercise through wider consultation of citizens, but also to more accessible and effective public services.
development/socio-technological
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

32
Political participation is essential for any functioning democracy.
Political participation involves individuals actively participating in the formulation, adoption and implementation of public policy. A situation in which only a few participate in the political process or in which certain groups are excluded from decision-making therefore imposes clear limits on democratic rule.
principle/politics
(Moyser 2003, 174)
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

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Political participation is the best mechanism for the articulation of interests and provides a form of checks and balances on decision makers. Within political participation, elections are the main instrument to influence the political process. Clear limits on the democratic rule are imposed by low or selective political participation, as less people actively participate in the formulation, adoption and implementation of public policy.
33+17+32

Members of minority groups have less power to influence politics as their engagement in voting is lower. The dominant population's political expression prevails on minority groups everyday life and choices.
30+17

If democratic governance is questioned in times of hardship, perception of democracy's value in disadvantaged layers of population will be negative. Therefore, a loop is created in which these groups engage progressively less with democratic instruments and end up being less represented, reducing their power of influencing the course of politics.
30+17+39

+
Already excluded portions of population are less likely to see their everyday life needs taken into account, as their influencing power over political trajectories is reduced. The lack of expression of what truly matters in their day to day life, results in policies that are far away from their reality, even more than already "idealized" representation of life.
30+17+105

A sense of shared responsibility and encouragement are needed in habit change. When the sense of responsibility is spread around population and people are engaged in civic activities, threats to democracy are defeated. Political participation goes hand in hand sense of shared responsibility. As political participation results in more representative and responsive government, trust in institution is boosted, flowing into the trust loop.
57+74+33+23

Technology can contribute in making policy making more transparent and increasing the accessibility of democratic rights exercise. This means that a wider portion of population - even the one that is normally excluded - would be able to participate in politics, expressing their wishes and needs.
92

Youth population is increasingly turning away from traditional politics and structures, and it is loosing interest/incentive in stand as representative in the future.
This unwillingness of standing for representing the group of belonging in traditional politics structures influences the level of descriptive representation that can be achieved, affecting the feeling of trust in some portion of population.
24+43

43
Descriptive representation increases trust in marginalized/disaffected groups
Descriptive representation indicates the degree of similarity between the representative and the represented.
Marginalised and/or disaffected groups feel that their policy preferences need to be represented by someone who belongs to them in order to establish appropriate communication in contexts of mistrust.
state/sociology-politics
Mansbridge (1999)
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

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24
Youth's disinterest in traditional politics
The fact that young people are increasingly turning away from traditional politics and structures is also reflected in their lack of intention to stand in future elections.
development/politics
(Deželan 2015; Flash Eurobarometer 375 2014; European Parliament's Youth Survey 2021).

Alessandra

23
The trust loop
Institutional trust can build institutions that can help governments perform effectively, which again raises trust. Conversely the lack of trust in others, in government and more broadly in institutions, prevents the implementation of public policies that could remedy social ills.
state/sociology
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

74
Diffuse civic activity support democracy
Many vibrant civil society organisations and activities around the world defy threats and allow citizens to participate in policymaking.
state/political science
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

57
Encouragement and shared responsibility in habit change
People are more willing to change their habits, if they feel that this is a shared responsibility, and when the proposed measures focus on encouraging changes rather than penalising negative behaviours.
principle/psychology
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

a connection could be with information and the risk of getting a one-sided distorted view.

60
Public perception's influence on legislation and political discussion.
The public's perception of the veracity and accuracy of the information in the media is said to influence the initiation of legislation and discussions on various issues.
principle/political science
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10451722/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20cultivation%20theory,perceptions%20and%20attitudes%20%5B10%5D.
Kenski, K.; Jamieson, K.H.; Tsfati, Y. Public and Elite Perceptions of News Media in Politics.

Alessandra

Section 3

6
Ideological divide between genders in youth
Young men tend to be increasingly conservative in their political and everyday choices, whereas women have become more liberal. While there might be different reasons for this, social media 'bubbles' foster ideological biases, as we increasingly inhabit separate virtual spaces with divergent values, cultures, and content.
Trend/ cultural
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

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45
Social media foster political polarization
Polarization is believed to be fuelled by the rise of social media. Users tend to seek likeminded friends and groups creating an 'echo well' or 'bubble' that strengthens their own opinions and limits their exposure to different thoughts and arguments.
trend/sociology
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

28
Online opinion sharing
More than a quarter (26 per cent) of young people in the EU publish their opinion on a political or social issue online.
trend/ cultural
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

Alessandra

87
Europe has the highest gender parity score. However, gender parity is expected to be reached in 67 years.
Across all subindexes, Europe has the highest gender parity of all regions at 76.3%, with one-third of countries in the region ranking in the top 20 and 20 out of 36 countries with at least 75% parity. Overall, there is a decline of 0.2 percentage points in the regional score based on the constant sample of countries. At the current rate of progress, Europe is projected to attain gender parity in 67 years.
development/socio-economics
https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/digest/

Alessandra

102
New forms of "politics".
Platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Twitter are bursting with political content, from vloggers reciting socialist pamphlets to French right-wing influencers raving about refugees. A new form of "politics" is visible on NBA courts and NFL fields, in the most popular Netflix shows, and in the ways people describe themselves on their social media pages.
trend/cultural
https://jacobin.com/2022/02/from-post-politics-to-hyper-politics

Alessandra Bernardi

Young women and young men are embracing differing ideologies, creating a discrepancy between systems of beliefs. Men tend to be increasingly conservative whereas, women have become more liberal in their political preferences as well as in their everyday life choices.
The divide between is caused by various reasons, among which social media bubbles, fostering biases and generating hermetic virtual spaces characterized by divergent values, content and cultures.
6

By interpretating this context factor, it emerges that a considerable portion of the population - youth- is polarized. The distance between conservative-mostly-male and more-liberal-female ideologies is widening. Among the causes: the surface of the bubbles created by social media, are hardening.
As outlined by the text, the conservative wing resonates greatly with men. It is evident that men still cover higher positions in our society.
6

Social media create likeminded bubbles where opinions are confirmed and strengthen. Due to these bubbles users' exposure to differing point of views is limited.
45

Social media users end up being part of likeminded bubbles, where they are exposed to a certain type of content. Although this 'tunneled' exposure fosters polarization, it can be convenient from the users' perspective, as it allows to look for and find content they are interested in.
Moreover, as bubbles function like echo chambers for a certain type of information, it means that positive messages can be spread within them and reinforced, eventually embedding in the sets of beliefs of users.
45

26% of the young people in Europe share their opinion on political and cultural themes online.
28

A large portion of the young population uses online platforms to express their point of view on political and cultural topics. An interpretation this factor suggests is that many young people engage with political and cultural themes and they are willing to express their own opinion on what it's going on in the world.
As several online platforms - let's think about social media, for instance- are easily accessible, people have quite some freedom to share their opinion. As a direct consequence, they are widely exposed to others' thoughts.
28

Online media allow for wide opinion sharing. However this sharing might not assume the traditional meaning of 'use together' neither ideas circulation. So maybe we could call it online opinion exposure.
Social media users tend to be exposed to a tunneled view of the world as they get in likeminded bubbles where they encounter more easily a type of content that resonates with their own interest.
We attend the production of ideas that don't blend and contaminate with each other but remain fixed and opposing, creating tension instead of dialogue.
It is clear in the context of politics. Polarization of political opinions/preferences is evident between liberal and conservatives as mentioned above
6+28+45

Gender parity level in Europe is high compared with other regions, however, it has not been reached fully. The process to achieve it is expected to last 67 years.
87

The context factors suggests that in Europe there is a disparity between genders. We see men prevailing on women and being more privileged then women.
Men are covering more powerful and influential positions, besides having stronger economic power.
87

Since gender parity is not totally achieved, male's perspective results the dominant one.
Yet, we are assisting at a widening ideological divide between genders in youth. The conservative ideology, preferred by young men is then projected to prevailing on the liberal female one, eventually impacting on society because of the results of their political choices.
Conservatives aim to traditions' protection and are most of the time against more progressive ideas. Indeed the conservative ideology is known to be the one denying - or attributing less generously- social and human rights and their extension.
Since that is the prevailing ideology -because of gender disparity- the impact on society is that traditions are preserved and change is more difficult to achieve.
6+87

Politics is changing and assuming new forms, increasingly embedded in everyday life activities. Indeed, politics is widely discussed in mass media or social media platforms.
102

As outlined by this factor, people are increasingly exposed to political content, even unconsciously. Fruition of political content at this point comparable with entertainment.
Once more, politics is becoming more accessible and within everyone's reach, meaning that the whole population can be potentially involved in the political discourse, or at least assist at it.
This new form of politics' fruition is not relegated to an elite.
102

Exposure to social media generates polarization as it tends to be tunneled to resonating ideas or views.
Ubiquitous political content express in its new forms has a strong grip in sympathizing bubbles. Augmenting its resonance and further tunneling users' vision eventually resulting in political polarization.
102+45

93
Increasing polarization and fragmentation.
Across geopolitics, democracy and inequalities polarization and fragmentation are growing or increasingly likely to occur.
trend/sociology
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

+1

Section 4

124
Europe's attraction of high-skilled migrants creates competition in the job market.
Europe is attracting high skilled workers from foreign countries, creating competition for highly aspired professional positions.
development/ socio-economics
Migration expert

Alessandra

37
Competition theory.
According to the competition theory, a rising number of migrants will increase the perceived threat, especially when economic conditions in a country are harsh, or when the cultural or ethnic differences between groups are larger.
state/ sociology
Atlas of European Values - Gordon Allport (contact hypothesis)

Alessandra

133
Resilience born from suffering can be unsettling to those who haven't faced it.
People often fear those who are 'no longer afraid' because they have already endured extremely difficult experiences.
trend/psychology
IDE students

Alessandra

125
Transformations caused by immigration can rise hostility.
The level of acceptance can depend on how many newcomers arrive. In some cases local residents may feel overwhelmed if the number of immigrants is too high. This can lead to a sense of cultural displacement, where long time residents feel they have lost the familiar aspects of the place they grew up in.
trend/sociology
Migration expert

Alessandra

115
Migration can deeply transform receiving societies' fabric in the long run.
For receiving societies the settlement of migrant groups and the formation of ethnic minorities can fundamentally change the social, cultural, economic and political of societies, particularly in the long run.
Principle/sociology
The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World.
Stephen castles, Hein de Haas, Mark J. Miller.

Alessandra

85
Decline of European Union's share of global GDP.
In the next twenty years, the EU's share of global GDP is projected to decline from 17.9 % in 2021 to approximately 14.2 % by 2040.
development/economics
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

+1

According to the competition theory people increasingly perceive the 'other' as a threat when they find themselves in harsh economic conditions or when the differences between them and the 'other' are strong.
In Europe competition for aspired professional positions is increasing, reinforcing the perceived threat.
124+37

Transformations experienced in the world can fundamentally alter societies in the long run. early signs of these changes can be seen by people in everyday life, creating a sense of displacement and making them feel overwhelmed.
115+125
It is human nature to feel fear or anxiety when they have to relate with unknown matters. Fear of the unknown can stem from lack of information or uncertainty.
47
When knowledge is based on stereotypes it is characterized by a lack of information, as they are based on generalization and categorization. Stereotypes can add upon perceived differences feeding fear of the unknown and making relations with unfamiliar groups more difficult or less likely to happen.
Lack of direct contact and difficulties in communication can reinforce and at the same time be reinforced by stereotypes, resulting in a loop of fear of the unknown.
115+125 + 47 + 51+133+136

↓

Transformations and perceived threats, adding upon fear of the unknown can create an hostile climate.

↓

These can be translated in feel unsettling by perceived differences in resilience level and determination/motivation

47
Fear of the unknown
Individuals experience fear or anxiety of the unknown when they relate to something they find unfamiliar. Fear of the unknown can arise also from lack of information and intolerance of uncertainty.
principle/psychology
https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/fear-of-the-unknown#definition

Alessandra

136
Language barriers make interactions difficult.
Language barriers affect the interactions between 'native population' and immigrants, creating difficulties in understanding in both ways.
state/socio-cultural
IDE students

Alessandra

51
Stereotypes are ordinarily oversimplified beliefs and seldom correspond with the objective facts
Stereotypes are sets of beliefs, usually stated as categorical generalization, that people hold about the members of their own and other groups.
principle/sociology
The Meaning of Stereotypes
James W. Rinehart
https://www.jstor.org/stable/1475640?seq=1

Alessandra

Section 5

67
The Schengen Area.
Schengen is the world's largest area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers. It is composed by 29 states and guarantees free movement to more than 450 million EU citizens, along with non-EU nationals living in the EU or visiting the EU as tourists, exchange students or for business purposes (anyone legally present in the EU).
development/geopolitics
https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/schengen-area_en

Alessandra

111
The contact hypothesis claims that hostility will reduce as the likelihood of contacts between groups increases.
Under appropriate conditions interpersonal contact is one of the most effective ways to reduce prejudice between majority and minority group members. If one has the opportunity to communicate with others, they are able to understand and appreciate different points of views involving their way of life.
state/ sociology
Gordon Allport

Alessandra

100
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
The right to conscientious objection is recognized, in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of this right.
principle/law
Art. 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Alessandra Bernardi

+1

135
Travelling has become more accessible.
Technology advancement made travelling increasingly accessible.
development/ technological-economics
IDE students

Alessandra

38
Principle of trust
Trust is the belief that others will not deliberately or knowingly do us harm, if they can avoid it, and will look after our interests, if this is possible.
principle/social psychology
Jan Delhey

Alessandra

22
Trust enhances social cohesion
Trust in others acts a 'synthetic force' for social cohesion, as it creates all kinds of collectively beneficial actions. It is typical for engaged, tolerant, democratic and prospering societies.
principle/sociology
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

25
Social Identity
Social identity is defined as a person's sense of who he or she is, is based on group membership(s)
principle/ social psychology
Henri Tajfel

Alessandra

18
Human rights
The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights protects Human Rights, including right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, the right to the protection of your personal data, and the right to get access to justice.
principle/ law
EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Alessandra

+1

55
Man is a social animal
Human being is a gregarious being and by nature he/she lives with his/her fellows and likes it.
principle/philosophy
Aristotle

Alessandra

91
Rising loneliness.
Technological and societal changes are contributing to the rise in the epidemic of loneliness, with 13 % of respondents in the EU feeling lonely most or all of the time.
development/psychology
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

78
Mass society.
A population which had rapidly grown, urbanized and atomized, bringing new imperatives for humans to live together in vast numbers and with closer proximities.
state/philosophy
Hannah Arendt

Alessandra

The Schengen agreement allows for freedom of movement within the territory of the member states. Freedom of movement implies easy circulation from country to country, potentially making Europe subject to flows of people and to social encounter/contamination not only between Europeans but also with foreigners residing there s or visitors.
67
The contact hypothesis outlines that increased likelihood of social contact between groups will reduce hostility, as it reduces prejudice and expose people to multiple point of views.
111

As the Schengen Area allows for free movement, opportunity of contact between different groups increases, possibly generating openness toward the other.
67+111

The European Union, legally, guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion, their expression and manifestation.
100

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion added upon freedom of circulation and increased social contact are premises for ideas, beliefs and cultures sharing and contamination.
67+111+100

The European Union is expected to enlarge, arriving to count 30 member states. This means that the area of freedom of movement and expression will extend, reinforcing and increasing diversity within the Union.
67+100+89

Adding to an extended European Union, urbanization will continue. More and more people will move to cities, looking for better opportunities and services.
Linking back to the contact hypothesis, across Europe we will see growing urban areas densely populated and significantly diverse - thanks to extended freedom of circulation - increasing social contact and reducing hostility. Hence it is already experienced that in cities people tend to be more tolerant toward what is diverse compared to habitants of isolated areas, because of the frequency of exposure to that diversity.
67+100+89+111+126

Favouring contact among divers groups is the rise of multilingualism. Hence, a growing number of people will be able to speak other languages other than their own mother tongue, demolishing a barrier that usually prevents from engaging with different cultures.
111+19

When hostility decreases trust rise, favoured by social contact, boosting society's development with solidarity, community sense. High level of mutual trust also decreases the need for formalities and prevents conflicts.
111+31

14
Continuing urbanization
People move from rural areas to towns and cities to look for better opportunities such as job, education or services.
trend/ demography
https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/continuing-urbanisation_en

Alessandra

89
Europe will enlarge, possibly creating a membership of over 30 states.
development/geopolitics
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

Urbanization is spreading, bringing a great number of people to live in the same area. Yet, More and more people in the European Union feel lonely.
Here two opposing forces are at play. Tha nature of human being as a 'social animal' and the structure of the mass society, in which population founds itself living in closer proximity but in an atomized manner.
14+91+55+78

126
In cities tolerance is higher because of frequent contact among diverse social groups.
People residing in cities tend to be more tolerant because they are frequently exposed to contact with others. They are more likely to gain personal experience with diverse populations compared to those living in isolated areas.
trend/sociology
Migration expert

Alessandra

19
Rise of multilingualism
The number of people speaking a second language other than they mother tongue is expected to increase
trend/ cultural
https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2979

Alessandra

31
Trust boost society's development
Mutual trust does not only stimulate social interaction, solidarity, cooperation and community spirit, but it also drives economic prosperity. Trust decreases the need for formalities, and tends to prevent conflicts and legal processes. It also increases openness to change and innovation, and investments in education.
state/sociology
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

Section 6

50
Dominant communication sustains stereotypes.
Stereotypes are shared perspectives of the dominant majority that are produced and sustained through primarily dominant-controlled communication channels- verbal, visual, and technological.
principle/cultural
https://journals.lww.com/advancesinnursingscience/fulltext/2000/06000/Othering_Toward_an_Understanding_of_Difference.3.aspx#O5-3-2

Alessandra

53
Language is a means to perpetuate stereotypes.
Language is considered as the major means by which stereotypes are communicated through interpersonal discourse, by which they are transmitted from generation to generation, and by which the press and other mass media create social representations of social groups.
principle/sociology
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0065260108602725

Alessandra

64
Systemic racism.
Describes forms of racism which are structured into political and social institutions. It occurs when organisations, institutions or governments discriminate, either deliberately or indirectly, against certain groups of people to limit their rights. This form of racism reflects the cultural assumptions of the dominant group, so that the practices of that group are seen as the norm to which other cultural practices should conform. It regularly and systematically advantages some ethnic and cultural groups and disadvantages and marginalises others.
principle/cultural
https://racismnoway.com.au/about-racism/understanding-racism/institutional-racism/#:~:text=Institutional%20racism%20(or%20systemic%20racism,people%20to%20limit%20their%20rights.

Alessandra

145
Irregular migration gets greater attention in the public debate.
While irregular migration is often in the spotlight, the reality is that irregular entries account for a small fraction of migration in the EU.
development/migration studies
European Commission- Statistics of Migration to Europe.
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en

Alessandra

147
Migrants are overrepresented in crime statistics. That's the result of systemic barriers and socioeconomic disadvantage, rather than simply individual choice or inherent criminality.
Migrants, and more specifically second-generation migrants, tend to be overrepresented in crime statistics, which are typically dominated by lower educated men of low financial-economic status. Because language problems and (indirect) discrimination reduce opportunities on the labour market and many migrants hold unskilled jobs, this overrepresentation may be called a 'logical' consequence.
development/migration studies
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

148
Negative events have greater impact on our psychological system.
The negativity bias is a cognitive bias that results in adverse events having a more significant impact on our psychological state than positive events. Negativity bias occurs even when adverse events and positive events are of the same magnitude, meaning we feel negative events more intensely.
Principle/psychology
https://thedecisionlab.com/biases/negativity-bias

Alessandra

Dominant stereotyped perspectives are produced and spread through communication channels that are controlled by the dominant majority.
50

Language is a means through which stereotypes are perpetuated. Communication happens at various levels and naturally uses language, often in unconscious ways. If common language is imbued with stereotypes, and it's the norm, in using it and listening to it people will not realize that those representation are artifactual and they will keep embedding in society.
50+53

Communication channels are strictly connected to political and institutions. When the dominant view is embedded and sustained by those structure, minorities and marginalised groups are systemically disadvantaged and discriminated.
If racism is institutionalized, becoming aware of it and distancing from it will be harder.
The dominant and discriminating view is authorized and made common by the language used as by its ubiquity in all the structures of society.
50+53+64

Collective imaginary is shaped by individual experience and the cultural context. Part of the cultural context are media, which are capable of influencing how the public perceive problem they are presented with. Exposure to skewed content and disinformation therefore contribute in generating a collective imaginary of a specific topic that is distorted and often one-sided.
113+52+142

Often the negative sides of controversial issues get greater attention and resonance within the public.
One reason for this is that due to the negativity bias, negative events impact more significantly on people's psychological state - compared with positive events. Therefore, if an event is presented as negative it will receive greater attention and share.
Moreover some situations can be presented in a simplified manner, obscuring the systemic issues that are at the basis.
145+147+148

113
Cultural media shape how individuals experience the world, creating a collective imaginary.
There is a give-and-take relationship between cultural media—including literature, film, television, video games, etc.—and the individual's experience of the world. This oscillating relationship between individual experience and cultural context forms what can be called a collective imaginary.
principle/ cultural
Fictions of Destruction: Post-1945 Narrative and Disaster in the Collective Imaginary.
https://www.proquest.com/openview/967a3f0a99d9feb39707ca8984fcbe28/1?cbl=44156&pq-origsite=gscholar

Alessandra

52
Media can influence the problems that the public perceives as important.
The way news is presented can shape how users perceive and form specific values and opinions; therefore exposure to skewed content may negatively affect individual's perceptions and attitudes.
principle/sociology
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10451722/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20cultivation%20theory,perceptions%20and%20attitudes%20%5B10%5D.

Alessandra

142
Disinformation online promotes hate speech and dehumanization towards people holding different ideas.
Extremist parties seek to dehumanise individuals and groups with which they disagree. This development parallels the growth of hate speech; both are actively promoted by targeted disinformation online by both domestic and foreign actors.
development/sociology
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

61
State promotion of supremacy through discrimination.
When the State actively discriminates against a minority group, it advocates for them to be treated as second-class citizens. It promotes the supremacy of one group and prioritizes their rights and interests at the expense of others.
principle/sociology
https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/Adama%20Dieng-Systematic%20Dehumanization%20in%20Europe.pdf
Adama Dieng is a former UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Alessandra

Section 7

72
Equality is a humankind's matter.
Equality matters not only in terms of the extreme sides of the spectrum but also touches upon the majority of the people in between. It relates to their outlook on life: people's hopes, aspirations, expectations, and overall wellbeing.
state/socio-economics
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

86
Global economic inequality could spiral into increased fragmentation and conflict within states.
trend/socio-economics
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

88
The quality of life for Europeans will increasingly depend on where exactly they live. By 2050, the EU's level of urbanisation will increase to almost 84 %. At the same time, various parts of Europe will be increasingly difficult or even impossible to live in due to water stress, extreme weather or heat.
development/demography
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

118
Environmental changes are a driver of mobility within Europe.
Environmental changes are affecting Europe not only in terms of immigration, but also of out migration and mobility within Europe in general.
development/migration studies
Migration expert

Alessandra

129
Europe offers some comforts that result attractive for immigrants.
Work/life balance, safety and easy way of travelling are drivers attracting migration in Europe.
trend/sociology
IDE students

Alessandra

73
Many European countries are among the happiest places to live.
development/socio-economics
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

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With all the drawbacks it carries or better is perceived to carry, Europe offers an high quality life.

look for other piece you wrote (if you wrote it) about how other people who don't live in the priviledges as we do are attracted to it.

Equality is at core of humankind. It relates to aspirations, expectations and wellbeing which are fundamental divers in humans. Therefore it is able to ignite strong (re)actions in people who are mobilize to try to get a step closer to equality.
72

As equality is a humankind's matter, able to mobilize people, global economic inequality characterizing the world could increase fragmentation and tensions.
72+86

High level of urbanization paired with environmental and climate changes result in differences in quality of life depending on the location within Europe.
88

Mobility within Europe is shaped by changing environmental and geographical conditions. The powerful and often-irreversible changes we are experiencing affect also the European population, which sometimes can find itself forced to move as an adaptation strategy to what is happening.
88+118

Changing 'external' conditions -such as environment extreme weather or drought- affect quality of life and mobility decisions.
Localized quality of life contributes in increasing inequality, which eventually results into a climate of tension and discontent.
72+86+88+118

Even though Europe itself is facing increasing challenges due to global changes, which lead to transformations and the emergence of tensions, the region is still considered an attractive destination for migrants. In fact, the European Union offers comforts — such as work/life balance, safety, and ease of travel — that we tend to take for granted out of habit, but which represent a great privilege for those who are not guaranteed these advantages.
(72+86+88+118) + 129

20
Place of birth is a determinant in inequality.
Global inequality of opportunity means that what matters most for your living conditions is the good or bad luck of your place of birth.
principle/socio-economics
https://ourworldindata.org/global-inequality-of-opportunity

Alessandra

21
The Easterlin Paradox
A higher longterm growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is not accompanied by a statistically (or economically) significant higher growth rate of happiness. (This nil relationship holds separately for developed, transition, and less developed countries.)
state/ socio-economics
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

42
Security and welfare shift people focus from materialistic to post-materialistic needs
In times of economic security, as is the case in affluent welfare states, people no longer focus on survival, but shift priorities to issues such as belonging, esteem, freedom of choice and self development.
principle/psychology
Atlas

Alessandra

Economic security and welfare lead people to focus on post-materialistic needs. Hence, economic growth doesn't statistically goes hand in hand with happiness growth. Once material needs are satisfied, people increasingly look at their non-material situation. 21+42

Being free and capable to choose is a factor influencing happiness. Some aspects of life are not per se negotiable, yet they affect living conditions. As place of birth is not negotiable, but responsible for the life opportunities it presents, can it influence the level of happiness a person achieve?

29
Opportunity to choose influence happiness
'opportunity to choose' and the 'capability to choose' are among the strongest predictors of satisfaction and happiness. Both aspects are linked to the concept of 'locus of control': the degree of perceived control that individuals have over choice.
state/psychology
Ruut Veenhoven
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

16
There is a growing wealth gap between the world's richest and poorest
The share held by low-income countries of global wealth remains below 1 %, even though they represent around 8 % of the population.
development/economics
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

+1

Section 8

12
The principle of Solidarity
The principle of solidarity of the European Union is a fundamental principle based on sharing both the advantages, i.e. prosperity, and the burdens equally and justly among members.
principle/ geopolitics
https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/european-industrial-relations-dictionary/solidarity-principle

Alessandra

35
Local governance directly influences people's everyday life.
Although more and more laws are made at a higher level of government, local rules and policies influence people's daily lives and welfare to a large extent.
state/policy
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

10
States' opportunism in international law
According to realistic scholars' view, international law only matters to the extent that it constitutes a 'self-enforcing equilibrium' where states have clear interests in participating.
state/ geopolitics
https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/27/4/574/2798182

Alessandra

123
In today's interconnected world, the governmental choices of one state can influence others.
Political and governmental choices of external countries influence the geopolitical equilibrium and have consequences worldwide.
development/ geopolitics
Migration expert

Alessandra

62
Reliance on soft-laws shifts the power from legislative to executive authorities.
The shift is justified by emergency rhetoric and it is problematic from a normative point of view as it reduces not only parliamentary involvement as well as judicial review but also the transparency and accountability of decision making in general.
state/political science
(Garben 2019; KreuderSonnen 2016), (Andrade 2018; Curtin 2014). https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/01402382.2020.1745500?needAccess=true

Alessandra

76
Ongoing externalization of European borders
Externalization of migration control has been carried out through delegation, as an outsourcing of control responsibilities and duties to third states and private parties.
development/geopolitics
https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/27/4/574/2798182

Alessandra

63
Non-binding agreements guarantee flexibility within multi-partners organizations.
Non-binding agreements are usually less in the public spotlight and allow a more pragmatic and flexible approach. They do not set unwanted precedents. Overall, partner countries therefore maintain a higher level of flexibility and control in the context of non-binding international accords.
state/political science
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/01402382.2020.1745500?needAccess=true

Alessandra

Local governance has the power to influence to what degree the principle of solidarity is applied and carried on, on one hand.
On the other hand, it is responsible for what the member states have to share, advantaged or burdens.
12+35

States are opportunistic in adopting international laws or taking part in international organizations. They have to see their interests to be fulfilled.
10

States interest can overweight the solidarity principle creating reluctance in observing it, especially when it comes to share burdens.
12+35+10

States have to deal with consequences of governmental and political choices taken in other countries. Internal international equilibrium is shaped by the interconnectedness of todays world.
123

Opportunism and crumbling unity are opposed to the high level of interconnections and inter-reliance among states. Thinking and acting in terms of State, overlooking the impact that other nations' have on the governmental choices is no longer possible or desirable.
12+35+10+123

In the contemporary context of interconnected states, each minding its own interests, policy inertia is bypassed with non-binding agreements.

In the case of European Union flexibility is used especially when it comes to burdens, overlooking the principle of solidarity.

Even when the contextual transformations calls a change in existing policies, this will hardly happen if a number of actors benefit from the status quo.
109+106

States are opportunistic in adopting international laws or taking part in international organizations. They have to see their interests to be fulfilled. The tendence in Europe is to rely on non-binding agreements as they allow for flexibility and a more pragmatic approach. In this way local governments maintain a higher of control on the policy actions.
Parallel and going toward an opposite to the tendence of relying of non-binding and soft laws, there is the tendence of externalizing the responsibility over certain inconvenient topics through outsourcing and delegation of control.
In other words, European states try to delegate their responsibilities over inconvenient matters, but when they are 'forced' to deal with them they find strategies that enable them to benefit the most, therefore the propensity to soft laws and re-centralizing authority.
This scenario presents itself in a context of high interconnectedness across countries in the world, in which what political and economic decisions in one state, influence the course of action in others.
Regardless diffuse changes, some policies remain outdated as the status quo benefits a number of actors.
35+10+123+63+62+76+106+109

Crisis test existing paradigms, policies and institutional rules as they are moment characterized by a high level of risk and contingency. As such crisis require adequate measures to be treated and are not protracted in time.
8

Some inconvenient topics are depicted as crisis in the public discourse even if they cannot be considered as such. Actually, the crisis depicted by these narratives are related to different reactions and interpretations of principles, such as the one of solidarity.
8+77
Again, even though flexibility of non-binding agreements and soft-laws applies to dealing with crisis, they are mostly used to preserve the status quo.
8+77+106

Europe is doing what it is possible to not take responsibility over migration influxes. Making an emergency out of it contributes to not take care of it properly. Migration is put it into a bubble and pushed away.
62+76

109
International law's refugee notion is outdated.
With internal conflict increasing, climate change impacting on living conditions, and a global political economy that is skewed in favour of the Global North, there are increasing flows of people who are seeking refuge, but do not necessarily fit the requirement of being persecuted.
development/political science
Ozkaramanli, D. & Schwobel-Patel, C. (2024). Aesthetics and the construction of the 'Grateful Refugee'. Critical perspectives from law and design.

Alessandra

106
Policy inertia is the tendency of governments to resist changing existing policies, even when change is clearly beneficial.
Once a policy path has been chosen, reform will be difficult if a number of actors feel that they benefit from the status quo and these interest groups have a strong incentive to mobilize.
state/political science
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41304-017-0123-x

Alessandra

8
Crisis as moments of truth
"crises are 'open moments' that impact on rulers and ruled, testing existing paradigms, policies, institutional roles and rules. They are 'moments of truth', critical junctures replete with risk and characterized by a high level of contingency."
principle/ policy
Selective Solidarity? Racialized Othering in European Immigration Politics

Alessandra

77
Migrants crisis vs crisis for migrants
The increased number is a crisis for who is migrating. European Union's resources would allow to handle the inflow of migrants; the crisis is related to the different reactions and interpretation of principles, such as the one of solidarity.
state/politics
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41269-020-00171-7

Alessandra

Section 9

80
Population growth is higher in the poorest countries.
World's population will grow by 83 million of people every year, reaching 9.8 billion in 2050.
The poorest countries will experience the highest concentration of population growth.
The EU's population is expected to fall moderately to around 450 million by 2040. In contrast, Africa's population is projected to expand from 1.4 to 2.1 billion between 2023 and 2040 – when about half of the population will be under the age of 21.
development/demography
https://www.un.org/en/desa/world-population-projected-reach-98-billion-2050-and-112-billion-2100

Alessandra

82
Climate change is a global migration's driver.
In the future, climate change is expected to be a driver of global migration patterns. In the next 30 years alone, rising sea levels, drought, increasing temperatures and other climate catastrophes are expected to force globally around 143 million persons to flee their homes, and possibly contribute to continuing high immigration levels into the EU.
development/demography
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Population_projections_in_the_EU_-_methodology

Alessandra

117
Development often leads to increased migration rates and complexity.
The volume and complexity of migration often increases with development. This is because improved access to education and information, social capital and financial resources increases people's aspirations and capabilities to migrate, while improved transport and communication also facilitates movement.
Development/Migration studies
The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World.
Stephen castles, Hein de Haas, Mark J. Miller.

Alessandra

27
Immigrant population is younger than European national population
In EU non-nationals are younger than nationals.
developments/
demography
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/interactive-publications/migration-2024

Alessandra

68
Without human capital, growth remains stunted.
Long-term [economic] growth in developed countries is driven by demography.
state/economics
https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/european-issues/0462-europe-2050-demographic-suicide

Alessandra

81
Increasing old-age dependency ratio.
By 2050, more than two thirds of the EU Member States are projected to have an old-age dependency ratio above 50.0 %; in other words, they will have less than two persons of working age for every person aged 65 years or more.
development/demography-economics
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/SEPDF/cache/80393.pdf

Alessandra

83
Net migration will be positive over the entire period and will be the only component contributing to the population growth.
Net migration is projected to be almost constant, on average 1.2 million, over the entire projection horizon; and natural change (defined as the difference between the numbers of live births and deaths) will be negative over the entire period, hence contributing negatively to the population growth; its decrease will continue until 2060, followed by a modest increase by 2100.
development/demography
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Population_projections_in_the_EU

Alessandra

112
Migration is a fundamental force shaping society.
Migration is a fundamental feature of human mankind, it is part and parcel of the society we are in and it is driven by deep changes in society.
principle/sociology
Hein de Haas

Alessandra

96
Humankind has a propensity to migrate.
It is safe to assume that when our ancestors first became fully human they were already migratory, moving about in pursuit of big game. The rapidity with which hunting bands occupied all the continents (except Antarctica) in about 50,000 years attests this propensity.
state/anthropology
https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1973159.pdf

Alessandra Bernardi

Global population will grow in the next decades. Growth rates will be higher in the poorest countries of the world while Europe's population is expected to decrease. As in Africa population will grow, it will also be young, half of it will be under the age of 21.
80

It is evident that population growth will follow uneven paths, scoring higher in poorer countries. These countries will also have a quite young population. While in Europe the natal rate is decreasing.
As a result, the limited economical resources of poorer countries need to be divided among a larger number of people. As parallel effect, the percentage of young people will be high, this brings simultaneously advantages and burdens. Increased young population means for example more people that need education, but also a stronger population, more workforce more openness to change - as usually young people bare changes in a easier way.
Young people are also more likely to migrate.
80

Climate change consequences on the environment represents one of the drivers of migration as, in some areas inhabitants will be forced to flee.
These migration pattern could contribute to continuing high immigration levels unto the EU.
82

Climate change consequences on the environment are experienced worldwide. Within Europe territory, some areas are affected and are changing rapidly, requiring the local population to adapt. Migration and mobility are possible adaptation strategies.
82

Premises for migration to increase are clear and unavoidable. Global chances are part of the evolution of our world and are also consequence of historical facts - for example, climate change is caused by industrialization and increasing pollution, and colonialism with third world countries exploitation contributed to unequal distribution of wealth.
Demographic changes in world's population can also represent a driver of migration, and can add upon or overlap with other drivers, such as the above mentioned climate change.
80+82

Development can lead to increased volume and complexity of migration because of improved access to education, information and capital, people's aspirations and capabilities to migrate increase. Movement is also facilitated by improved transport and communication.
117

As suggested in this context factor, development leads to increasing migration. Based on this theory, it's clear that the phenomenon of migration is not only experience in underdeveloped countries, which is what we tend to think when we think about migration.
117

What make me think about a connection between these factors is that we are experiencing multiple and diverse changes that can be related or affect others. Moreover, it is evident that migration is a multilayer phenomenon and that global changes can affect each layer differently, creating tensions.
Many layers of migration are not visible or blatant and for sure not taken in consideration in the common discourse around the topic.
80+82+117

Migration is a fundamental feature of human mankind, a shaping force of society that has accompanied him throughout its history and development.
112+96

The premises for Europe to accept migration are given by its demographical conditions.
European population will decrease and age. The economic impact of such old and reduced population is a high old-age dependency ratio and low human capital producing economic growth.
68+81
Therefore, the young-immigrant population, coming to Europe and representing the only source of demographical growth, can heal these negative economic tendencies.
27+83+68+81

For these reasons, the economic side of immigrants is the most accepted.
However, when focusing on just the economic sides and benefits of migration leads to overlooking the nature of the phenomenon focusing on a limited vision and resulting in ineffective measures to deal with it.
Failing to acknowledge that migration is part anf parcel of society will confirm the status quo of the how the phenomenon is perceived and treated.
+121+114

121
The economic side of immigrants is the one Europeans accept the most.
European society tends to accept immigrants only in part. Mostly, it's the economic part to be accepted.
trend/sociology
Migration expert

Alessandra

114
Ignoring the nature of migration, policy treat the phenomenon ineffectively.
By denying that migration is part of human society and development our vision is limited and we delude ourselves into thinking that restrictive policies will solve the "problem".
development/sociology-political science
Hei de Haas

Alessandra

Moreover economic partial acceptance can be sustained by legal contracts as they shape how people access to social rights.
Immigrants with clear working intentions are perceived more positively and 'used' for their inherent benefits. Yet, even in the work-economic sphere, they are tied with legal contracts that limit their participation to society's public life. They are kept on an emergency space that exclude agency and often social rights. The possibility to participate in society is a tool shaping inclusion and exclusion.
122+134+110+5

110
Refugees remain placed in the space of emergency which is deemed to exclude agency.
To participate in public life also means to participate in the labour force, and generally to be able to claim certain benefits from this productivity, guaranteed by the state. Refugees, however, are mostly not permitted to participate in public life.
state/migration studies
Ozkaramanli, D. & Schwobel-Patel, C. (2024). Aesthetics and the construction of the 'Grateful Refugee'. Critical perspectives from law and design.

Alessandra

5
Biological existence does not justify participation in society
Western nation-states manipulate the distinction between biological existence ("zoe") and one's participation in society ("bios") as a central tool of inclusion and exclusion.
state/ philosophy
Agamben - Selective Solidarity? Racialized Othering in European Immigration Politics

Alessandra

134
The intentions, of the immigrant influence how (s)he is perceived.
Immigrants who have clear and defined (working) intentions are perceived more positively than those immigrating without a "plan".
trend/social psychology
IDE students

122
Legal contracts shape people's personal lives and access to social rights.
Policies and legal contracts, (i.e. employment contracts) influence how people are treated and how they relates with each other, and create distinctions in terms of the access to social rights.
state/socio-legal studies
Migration expert

Alessandra

Section 10

99
Liquid Modernity: it is defined by a chronic weakening of the relationship between labour and capital and the unleashing of capital's power to dissolve social and communal bonds.
Zygmunt Bauman's term for the present historical condition of globalized capitalism. It is characterized by the pervasiveness in contemporary society of what Bauman refers to as the 'unholy trinity' of uncertainty, insecurity and unsafety, or as he more bluntly puts it the failure of government to act as the principal guarantor of existence.
state/sociology
Zygmunt Bauman
https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100108465

Alessandra Bernardi

103
The decline of collective institutions.
The rapid individualization and decline of collective institutions experienced in the 1990s has not been halted. Around the world, civil society is still mired in a deep and protracted crisis, with what passes for political action monopolized by flash mobs, NGOs, and philanthropists with weak democratic mandates and nonexistent membership bases.
development/political science
https://jacobin.com/2022/02/from-post-politics-to-hyper-politics

Alessandra Bernardi

141
Instability will characterize the world in the upcoming decades.
The world seems destined to live with 'permanent instability' for the foreseeable future.
development/socio-economics
EU JRC (2023) Reference foresight scenarios on the global standing of the EU in 2040, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/773aa7a0-47a6-11ee-bbdc-01aa75ed71a1/

Alessandra

144
Great powers are often powerless when trying to re-establish order after a global crisis.
Several crises have shown the increasing inability of the so-called 'great powers' to provide a stable world order.
development/political science
espas
Michael Kimmage and Hanna Notte, 'The age of greatpower distraction: what crises in the Middle East and elsewhere reveal about the global order', Foreign Affairs,

Alessandra

78
Mass society.
A population which had rapidly grown, urbanized and atomized, bringing new imperatives for humans to live together in vast numbers and with closer proximities.
state/philosophy
Hannah Arendt

Alessandra

here or with urbanization?

84
Religiosity in Europe.
By 2050 the 23% of the European population is expected to have no religious affiliation. While Muslims will make 10% of Europe's population.
development/religion
https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/#:~:text=By%202050%2C%20nearly%20a%20quarter,up%20from%205.9%25%20in%202010.

Alessandra

54
Panta Rhei
Everything in the universe is in constant change.
principle/philosophy
Heraclitus

Alessandra

2
Globalization
The development of closer economic, cultural, and political relations among all the countries of the world as a result of travel and communication becoming easy
development/sociology
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/globalization#google_vignette

Alessandra

90
Technology impacts social life.
Technologies increasingly shape the way we meet, interact, access information, take our decisions, or consume.
development/technology
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

Liquid Modernity describes the uncertainty experienced in contemporary society, caused by the present historical condition of globalized capitalism. In this condition the connection between labour and capital is weak, as labour nature has changed and got less secure and capital got more powerful influencing further workers' insecurity. As a result traditional social ties sway and start to crumble. Uncertainty, insecurity and unsafety are diffusely experienced in society. Governments, are increasingly less present in or able to guarantee protection.
99

Like traditional social institutions, also collective institutions are crumbling. New forms of collective organizations are rising.
99+103

Instability will keep characterizing the world in the upcoming decades. As demonstrated by several crisis, even great powers are powerless in re-establishing order after global crisis. This appears to be a loop, in which instability takeover.
141+144
Adding the impossibility of great powers and their institutions (governments) to their unwillingness to intervene and guarantee protection, a sense of instability spreads.
99+141+144

Religiosity has characterized Europe for several decades. Christianity shaped the European culture and values, influencing European society way of doing life, but also its institutions (both social and political).
However religious affiliation is increasingly fading. In parallel the rate of Muslims will reach 10%. This projection represent a deep change in Europe's society.
84

Extensive crumbling of certainty, shaping forces redesigning the paths, opening up for new possibilities.
99+141+144

In this horizon of uncertainty and reorganizing structures we need to keep into account that we live in a mass society, which is atomized. Which is at the same time logical and paradoxical. Logical for the crumbling of 'traditional' social institutions. Paradoxical for the contamination and blending brought by globalization and fluidity of modernity.
(99+141+144) + 78 + (44+54+11+2+90)

44
Cause and issue-oriented youth's political participation
Cause-oriented participation in specific issues of interest, often post-materialist in nature, is consistent with the values and citizenship of today's youth , and the internet and social media offer significant potential for mobilising youth for issue oriented campaigns, as they allow disparate groups of individuals with different and fragmented political identities to connect.
development/sociology
Dalton 2009; Inglehartand Welzel 2005, Chadwick 2006, 29; Martin 2012, 108)
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/745820/IPOL_STU(2023)745820_EN.pdf

Alessandra

11
Post-national citizenship
The post-national citizenship is the attribution of human rights on the basis of personhood not for being part of a nation.
state/policy-philosophy
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/13621025.2022.2091253?needAccess=true

Alessandra

Society is assuming ways of doing that are increasingly less structured. More fluid, sensible to changing forces and contaminations. One example is the changing political participation that youth tend to engage with.

The reality we live in is in constant movement, vulnerable to the action of diverse changing forces overlapping and adding upon each other. Boundaries are demolished, reshaped, adapted. Technology, for instance, transformed how we experience basic aspects of everyday life. Globalization is erasing the border between states and cultures, with the contribute o technology. With globalization cultures are contaminating, blending and to certain extents homogenizing. Crossing the personal borders and the ones that define us as persons, as in the attribution of human rights regardless the nation of origin.
This flowing reality calls for 'structureless' fluid organizations. Society is reorganizing according to this flexibility and instability.
44+54+11+2+90

it was here

Section 11

48
Scapegoat theory
In time of economic and political difficulties people tend to address the problems to an out-group, especially if the latter is perceived as linked to the source of discontent.
principle/sociology
https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/c6072c0b-f49d-4aa2-8130-860713b0e11c/content

Alessandra

120
Public debate attributes the failure of public infrastructure to the arrival of immigrants.
Public infrastructures - such as health system or welfare system- in Europe is crumbling down. That's not because of more people coming. However the public debate around the topic focuses on migrants and refugees.
trend/political sociology
Migration expert

Alessandra

15
Populism
The ideational approach defines populism as an ideology which presents "the people" as a morally good force and contrasts them against "the elite", who are portrayed as corrupt and self-serving. Populists differ in how "the people" are defined, but it can be based along class, ethnic, or national lines.
trend/ politics
https://www.populismstudies.org/Vocabulary/populism/

Alessandra

13
Party Identity and Policy Legitimacy
For political parties in Parliament, policy is legitimized through norms or values associated with a particular party's conception of itself and of what it represents (Sjursen, 2002: 495).
state/politics
Shaping the Grammar of Security

Alessandra

Morality and sense of belonging generate an identity built in contrast with an outer group, often defined by class, ethnic, or national traits. In the political arena, the identity created around parties and embraced by their supporters legitimizes political actions, as these actions align with the values associated with that identity.
15+13

In many European countries, public infrastructure system is becoming losing quality and falling apart due to several factors - such as underemployment or privatization. However, in the public discourse the topic is addressed to immigrants arriving in the countries and adding pressure to the system, exploiting the services meant for European citizens. That's a clear example of scapegoating. The attention and blame is moved to another topic, eventually avoiding to really face the issue.
48+120

In public debate around controversial and polarizing topics there is the tendence to circumvent the real causes by moving the public attention to another 'issue' that can be easily identified. Often some scapegoats are identified in groups of perceived 'others', which are problematized and blamed.
48+120

139
Moralization leading to intolerance and violence.
Moralization tends to decrease tolerance of differing opinions, and can lead to an increased willingness to accept violent solutions to conflicts.
state/sociology
(Garrett & Bankert, 2020; Skitka & Morgan, 2014)
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945222000843

Alessandra

137
Moral judgments shape social attitudes.
Social information, social approval, and conformity to group norms shape moral values and judgments, and are thus a source of contextual influences on social attitudes.
trend/social psychology
(Kelly, Ngo, Chituc, Huettel, & Sinnott-Armstrong, 2017; Mooijman et al., 2018).
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945222000843

Alessandra

143
Immigrants' ethnic and religious diversity is used by neonationalist movements for propaganda.
In several advanced economies, neonationalist movements have leveraged concerns about immigration and ethnic/ religious diversity to make electoral gains.
trend/political science
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

138
Moralized political beliefs, combined with othering and aversion, fuel political sectarianism and hinder compromise.
Moralization has become a hallmark of many political attitudes across the ideological spectrum. When combined with othering and aversion, strong moral convictions contribute to political sectarianism that impedes mutually beneficial compromises.
state/ political science
(Finkel et al., 2020)
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945222000843

Alessandra

97
Populists use Christianity to manipulate human rights.
Right-wing populists have seen no contradiction in mobilizing Christianity to support political agendas which patently limit the rights of 'others' deemed 'culturally [in]compatible' with their particular vision of the nation.
trend/politics
https://pure.rug.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/214258769/a_moral_language_for_our_time_human_rights_and_christianity_in_historical_perspective.pdf

Alessandra Bernardi

Moral judgments and values coming from social approval and conformity to the belonging group, shape people's social attitudes. Hence moralization often leads to intolerance toward differing opinions, closure and adversity.
137+139

The political parties across the spectrum promotes strongly moralized convictions. The result is difficulty to see each other's point of view and get o compromises.
(137+1339) + (143+138+97)+ 40

The Christian values that form the foundation of traditional European culture are being twisted by right-wing populist parties to justify their political agendas.
The political discourse is moralized, leveraging ideological beliefs justified by a narrative that stems from an interpretation of tradition as something that needs to be protected from changing forces. As the narratives create a sense of threat, reactions are of closure and adversity toward
143+138+97

Even if they stem from those that are depicted as core values of Europe, expressing its cultural heritage, nationalist-populist movements promote ideologies that clashes with the Union funding values.
The appeals used by those political movements result in polarization and stronger othering and aversion.
(143+138+97)+ 40

40
Nationalism-populism clashes with European Union core values
A struggle in the unification process are clashes of elected nationalistic-populistic rulers in Europe with the unions core values.
development/geopolitics
Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

75
European identity construction coincide with the construction of an "other"
'Europeanism' construction of identity based on clear 'European' characters that can set aside Europeans from non-Europeans.
state/cultural
https://www.europeanhorizonsamsterdam.org/_files/ugd/79a695_dbd76026a17f488ea00cae358bfebe8d.pdf#page=47

Alessandra

26
Feeling "European" is a rational, not an emotional connection, and it's swaying.
Europeans generally harbour warm feelings for their own country. In the past decades, even the rational bond has been under stress. The benefits of the Union are no longer evident to everybody.
Atlas of European
state/ cultural
https://assets.pubpub.org/0k7l6nt3/51652084537989.pdf

Alessandra

As feeling European is not an emotional connection, The construction of European identity coincides with the construction of an 'other'. This identity, defined by characteristics that clearly distinguish it from non-Europeans, is used opportunistically.
75+26

Morality lays at the basis of identities construction, reflecting specific ideologies and values. Yet is a dividing force, building groups of others that are increasingly atomized.
So within Europe we find various groups that perceive themselves as opposing, yet when for many of them it is easy to appeal to Europeanism, as the European identity made of clear distinctive European characters.
(137+1339) + (143+138+97)+ 40 + 15+13+ 75

Section 12

56
Rhetoric plays a part in opinion formation, combining emotions with logical reasoning.
The word has an irrational power of imitation of facts, characters and human passions, but also a rational capacity to construct a logical reasoning. The rhetoric exploits both (poetry and philosophy), placing itself on the ground of opinion (δόξα), not of demonstrable truths, which belong to philosophy. Its scope is the probable.
principle/philosophy
Aristotle

Alessandra

7
Public support in controversial policy issues.
Winning the support of large segments of the population is essential because public policy on controversial issues reflects public perceptions of the advantages and disadvantages of various courses of action.
state/policy
https://books.google.it/books?hl=en&lr=&id=x7v7q6A21QsC&oi=fnd&pg=PA122&dq=resistance+to+change+in+society&ots=i28KGH4I_W&sig=3zJSoWxYQnrkgF3c450NyaFah-8&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=resistance%20to%20change%20in%20society&f=false

Alessandra

41
The political polarization of "identity"
In politics, identity is used for two very opposite purposes; on the right-wing side for defence of a majority position, and on the left-wing side for the defence of minority positions.
trend/politics
Nathalie Heinich Atlas of European Values

Alessandra

69
Racialized ethnicity is a political and sociocultural construct.
Racialized ethnicity is a political and sociocultural process of categorizing culturally specific populations through linking real or imagined phenotypical attributes to human qualities such as intellectual abilities, moral fiber, and personality.
state/sociology
https://journals.lww.com/advancesinnursingscience/fulltext/2000/06000/Othering_Toward_an_Understanding_of_Difference.3.aspx#O5-3-2

Alessandra

By using logical reasoning and emotional appeals rhetoric persuade the listener. Even if it's not based on demonstrable truths but on an emotionalized way of logically articulating arguments,
56

Rhetoric is a powerful means able to capture and convince people, relying on what is probable not what is objective.
Rhetoric is strongly used in presenting and debating public issues/topics.
56

When talking about controversial policies it is said that it's important to **win** public support. To win public support means that people need to be convinced. As outlined by Aristotle, rhetoric plays a part in opinion formation.
Therefore, the rhetoric used to present advantages and disadvantages of the policy problem will eventually have an impact on how these are perceived in the public.
56+7

Identity in politics is used to gain consent and strengthen ideologies, resulting in polarization.
Politicized identity amplifies the discrepancy on how we perceive the 'in-group' in contrast with the other, depending on the set of beliefs we espouse.
41

When phenotypical attributes are linked to human qualities such as intellectual abilities, moral fiber and personality, for sociocultural or political reasons, a racialized ethnicity is built. A precise ethnic group is characterized on the basis of that linked, which is an artificial construction.
69

Even though they are not by definition debatable, elements like identity and ethnicity have gained a strong political meaning.
These elements are used as emotional -rather than rational- appeals in the public and politic discourse, distancing the focus from objectivity.
41+69

The connection here lies on the form the political/public discourse assumes especially around controversial topics.
Politicized elements presented with a strong rhetoric achieve political gain at the expenses of a unpolarized dialogue.
(56+7)+ (41+69)

9
Framing is the way we understand a (policy) problem
Policymakers exercise power to generate one particular understanding at expenses of others through selective presentation of facts coupled with emotional appeals.
Power also relates to political agendas setting.
principle/policy
Policy Concepts in 1000 Words: Framing

Alessandra

116
Global migration rates remained stable but gained attention in the political debate.
While global migration rates have remained relatively stable over the past half century, the political salience of migration has strongly increased.
Development/Political science
The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World.
Stephen castles, Hein de Haas, Mark J. Miller.

Alessandra

4
Labeling the migration wave a "crisis", justifies the deployment and normalization of "controversial policies"
Securitization occurs through a "speech act". The verbal identification of a threat renders it real in the political arena.
principle/ communication-politics
Selective Solidarity? Racialized Othering in European Immigration Politics

Alessandra

140
Anti-migrant messages diffuse by right-wing populism influenced more centrist parties.
Anti-migrant messages sit at the core of nearly all contemporary right-wing populist movements and parties. At the extreme, migrants are portrayed as the vanguard of apocalyptic racial, religious and civilisational struggles. **Even though such views may be rejected by the rest of the political spectrum, their influence on the debate has pulled other more centrist parties in the direction of anti-immigrant platforms.**
trend/political science
https://www.cidob.org/en/publications/transnational-diffusion-populism

Alessandra

How facts - even if they are objective- are presented in the public-political arena influences not only their salience and attention they get, but also the measures taken to address them and attitudes toward the topic.
Frames around a topic of public interest are able to direct the public toward a certain way of thinking. When in the political arena, a topic is labeled as a 'crisis' topic for instance, the population will feel threaten and start looking at the ongoing situation through 'emergency' lenses, resulting more keen to accept strong measures.
116+4
Frames around topics of public interest, especially controversial topics, affect also the political action carried out by a governments. Policymakers exercise the power to generate a particular understanding of a 'problem', and set political agendas according to that understanding. (9)
Even if certain political views are not shared across the whole political spectrum, the way they are presented affect the perception. A strong rhetoric is able to persuade parties with slightly different ideologies, eventually impacting on the political course.
9+140

What we assist to today is a battle of narratives, carried out at the internal and international level.
In an interconnected world in which interdependencies between states are strong and politics is available like entertainment on a global level, the power of narratives is amplified. Rhetoric then is key to gain consent.
116+4+94

The European Union guarantees the freedom of expression and information, meaning that everyone is free to hold opinions and to receive and spread information without the interference of the public authority. This right is also meant to preserve freedom and pluralism of the media.
101
People is therefore exposed to a variety of sources presenting information in different ways. This freedom allow for independent opinion formation, however how facts are presented affect the process.
101+ 116+4+94

101
Freedom of expression and information.
Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. The freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected.
principle/law
Art. 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

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94
Hybrid warfare contributes to geopolitical competition.
The battle of narratives, disinformation, information manipulation and interference, cyber space, and even a battle for primacy in outer space, pose new threats. While this new hybrid warfare is expanding, traditional warfare continues to represent one of the major risks of the ongoing geopolitical competition and friction.
development/geopolitical
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/2024%20ESPAS%20Global%20Trends%20to%202040%20Choosing%20Europe%27s%20Future.pdf

Alessandra

34
Populism is not an ideology; it is a set of values in rhetoric.
state/politics
Pippa Norris Atkas

Alessandra

+1

Section 13

108
Those who have been displaced are measured against the frame of the 'grateful refugee.'
The grateful refugee is expected to be deferential to the laws, culture, and even discriminatory practices of the receiving state. At the same time, this idealised and imagined refugee is also entrepreneurial, as in, not dependent on state resources and economically productive.
trend/cultural
Ozkaramanli, D. & Schwobel-Patel, C. (2024). Aesthetics and the construction of the 'Grateful Refugee'. Critical perspectives from law and design.

Alessandra

98
'Homeland' is a cultural construct.
Essentializing the link between displaced people and their 'homeland' confirms the nationalist view of the world responsible for creating the so-called "refugee problem".
state/political science
Turton 2005
https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/21/4/432/1582770

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107
In the collective imaginary, the migrant embodies the eternal vagabond, roaming about the European continent and wreaking havoc.
"An object of deep fascination and utter indifference, or horror and pity, he stalks the borders of the rich world, sowing panic, wrecking election campaigns, and generating headlines as he goes."
trend/migration studies
Andersson, Illegality
https://www.europeanhorizonsamsterdam.org/_files/ugd/79a695_dbd76026a17f488ea00cae358bfebe8d.pdf#page=47

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79
Security is a social construction.
The Copenhagen School holds that security is a social construction developed through the security speech act . In the speech act, an actor makes the claim that a referent object, in this case, the citizenry or demos, confronts an existential threat.
trend/sociology
(Buzan et al., 1998)
https://ejournals.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php/ameriquests/article/view/3968/1991

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70
Borders are relative and artefactual
It is perhaps rather a world where we are more preoccupied with borders than ever, because we now understand them - or many of them, at least - to be not absolute, natural, and therefore more readily taken for granted, but only relative, artefactual, and thus problematic.
state/social anthropology
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1468-2451.1997.tb00043.x

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66
Eurocentrism characterizes European society's perspective on non-western countries' histories and cultures.
The 'West' assumes the superiority of European values over non-European societies, and advocates for the imitation of the 'Western' model at the expenses of the other societies' histories, values and cultures.
state/cultural
https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-1-4020-9160-5_25

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Who have been displaced are 'evaluated' through the 'grateful refugee' frame: they are required to be both deferential and entrepreneurial.
108

Migrants and refugees are required to fit into a frame which is artificial and paradoxical as it builds upon opposing powers. They are expected to be deferential, passive toward the receiving state's practices, people, culture, discrimination. But at the same time they have to be entrepreneurial and do not depend on the state resources, as they would consume resources destined to the 'local-real' citizens.
108

Homeland is a cultural construct, as such its meaning and relevance can differ from one culture to another. By thinking and explaining the bond between who has been displaced and their country of origin through our cultural point of view we address the phenomenon from a nationalistic point of view.
That represent a risk as it limits the vision on migration and prevent to deeply understand the migrant's perspective. As we get stuck on our own vision, it will remain the right one, and we will keep evaluating what is diverse through that lenses.
98

Reactions to migration often stem from artificial constructs, yet these constructs are deeply rooted in cultural and emotionally charged beliefs. The result is the formation of a structure upon which politicians and policymakers operate, enabling them to manipulate or sway public sentiment.
108+98

The culture of a society influences how sensitive topics are addressed and perceived. It is not only the level of tradition or openness of the culture, but also other constructs and beliefs that act as a lens through which the population examines and evaluates what is presented to them. In the case of European society, a deeply rooted cultural phenomenon is Eurocentrism, which assumes the superiority of European values over others and promotes the European model as the one to be emulated.
66+130+131

Reactions to difficult subjects in society often stem from artificial constructs, yet these constructs are deeply rooted in cultural and emotionally charged beliefs. The result is the formation of a structure
upon which politicians and policymakers operate, enabling them to manipulate or sway public sentiment.
Emotional appeals are used to politicise sensitive issues in society. The human layer added to the discourse is mainly to recognise and acknowledge the "local" population on the one hand and to objectify and dehumanise the topic under discussion within society on the other. For this reason, the emotional layer surrounding the issue is polarised and used opportunistically to gain political approval.
108+98+107+79

When these artificial constructs begin to falter because they are understood not as absolute and natural, but as relative and man-made, they become problematic, raising public's concern.
70
Problematic and concerning issues are exploited in political propaganda to gain support. However, often, the urgency emphasized before elections is not translated into political action afterward.
70+132

But, if policies are built upon an illusion artificially constructed, whose reliability in real life is fading anyway, can they be realistically effective?

130
The culture of the receiving state influences acceptance of immigrants.
Acceptance of immigrants depend on the state's tradition. If a country is highly liberal, acceptance is easier.
state/socio-cultural
IDE students

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131
Stereotypes influence perception and tolerance toward immigrants.
Stereotypes around the country of origin become a factor influencing how the immigrant is perceived.
trend/social psychology
IDE students

Alessandra

The migrant is associated with images of uncertainty and chaos, generating emotional reactions that fluctuate between conflicting feelings, such as pity and horror. He becomes a 'hot' topic in political campaigns and news articles.
107

The reactions arising from the strong emotional charged images associated with the migrant are exploited and amplified by the alarmist tones used in politics and the media.
The whole discourse around migration is charged with almost-dramatic intensity. Even though, these images make the discourse more human, adding an emotional layer to it, the stress is generally on negative emotions associated with the uncertainty newcomers bring with them within their 'diversity'.
107

There's a fil rouge connecting all the artificial representations of immigrants and the topic of migration coming to Europe the emotional charge they carry.
These emotional appeals are used to politicize the topic. The human layer added to the discourse -to me- appears to be protective toward the 'local' population while picturing the immigrants as an external entity, difficult to understand and treat. For this reason, the emotional layer around the topic results polarized and it is used in an opportunistic manner to gain political consent.
108+98+107

132
Migration is a hot topic in political propaganda.
Immigration is strongly used in political propaganda, but that urgence is not translated into political action.
development/political science
IDE students

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104
Electoral opportunism is one of the driving forces behind the new political 'movementism'.
For most European parties, the recent conversion to the movement model takes place against the backdrop of a double shift — a long-term decline in the number of party members and a continuous shrinkage in their electorate.
development/political science
https://jacobin.com/2022/02/from-post-politics-to-hyper-politics

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+
The realization that the concept of 'border' is swaying and loosing its power, is an additional factor fueling the urgence of distancing the 'migration problem'.
Putting back together the shreds of what once upon a time was the untouchable "Border" results therefore necessary. The mended idea of a strong, secure frontier, give us the illusion that we can somehow protect the fortress from the 'problem'.
But, if policies are built upon an illusion artificially constructed, whose reliability in real life is fading anyway, can they be realistically effective?
62+76+70

this can go to political engagement

Section 14

Move here?

119
Personal experience shapes one's perception of the world.
Meanings and ideas that people develop about things depend on their own personal experience.
principle/psychology
Migration expert

Alessandra

128
Personal contact can change the relevance of collective ideas in one's mind.
The collective idea of a certain social group can be reconsidered by the individual once he gets in contact with people part of that group.
trend/ social psychology
Migration expert

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127
Convictions are not immutable.
Even if they are strongly embedded within society, convictions can be changed.
principle/ social psychology
Migration expert

Alessandra

Direct personal experience of the world shapes individuals' meanings and ideas and it is able to change the relevance of or reconsider the collective ideas embedded in individuals' mind.
119+128
Convictions are not immutable. Even though deeply rooted in a society's cultural sphere, convictions can be changed. Personal experience of reality can support this process, as it enables individuals to distance themselves from collective ideas and develop a critical evaluation of their experiences.
119+128+127

APPENDIX C

ideation phase

1. ~~Blind acceptance of policy representations undermines civic responsibility~~

EUROPEAN CITIZENS AS PART OF: CULTURAL/INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

1. Blind acceptance of policy representations and negative dominant communication undermines citizens' understanding of immigration

The gap between convenient and inconvenient layers of immigration will widen. Convenient layers will be maximized: policies will focus on making the most out of immigration. How? By treating immigration as an asset, valued solely for its economic contribution.
On the other hand, inconvenient layers will be kept hidden or will be portrayed through negative lenses, maintaining a distance from the convenient ones. In this case, rhetoric and media will play a key role.
We will see how different layers of immigration will be processed by different institutional structures.
Indeed, due to the push to maximize the convenient layers, these will be handled within the policy arena. The processing will be objective.
Meanwhile, the inconvenient layers will be processed through public discourse and media, turning them into subjects of heated political debate and embedding dominant views within the broader structures of society. This processing will be emotional.

Consequences:
From this perspective, **immigration will appear as multiple, fragmented phenomena**. There will be no comprehensive or unified picture of it.
Citizens will get detached by the convenient layers of immigration as they will be kept in the policy arena. But they will be exposed to the inconvenient layers that will mostly be filtered through negative and alarmist lenses by media, which use emotional appeals to communicate.
How will citizens react? European citizens will **more easily accept the convenient layers**. That sphere will be **kept at a distance** and relegated to the policy/governance area: it's regulated and it's convenient, so there is no need to deepen the topic or to intervene. These layers will be separated from the understanding of the inconvenient ones.
On the other hand citizens will develop an e**motional understanding of the inconvenient layers**, related to the narrative they decide to listen to. These layers will be central in the public-political arena, therefore will be related to the citizenship sphere, with its rights, duties and instruments.
Citizens will exercise their rights and feel responsible for fulfilling their duties, but they will be driven by emotional reasons. Citizens action will be mostly reactive and protective, as the dominant view on the topic is alarmist.

Leverage points:
Acceptance of convenient layers, citizens' sense of responsibility

Statement:

I want citizens to extend their understanding of immigration by getting conscious of the ~~convenient~~ multiple layers of immigration and bring them in the civic sphere. ~~(The objective treatment of convenient layers and higher acceptance will be leveraged.)~~

I want citizens to extend their understanding of immigration by getting conscious of the multiple layers of immigration, helping them exploring the connections between the layers and showing how they relate to their civic sphere.

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- Understanding: it's about seeing and being able to connect the dots, in order to reflect on it.
- Getting conscious: be aware, in an active way.
- Convenient layers on immigration: aspects of immigration that are instrumentally useful to European society in practice. Related to economics, ageing society, labour shortage etc.
- Civic sphere: related to citizenhood, choices, rights, duties. It means collaborating toward the well-being of individual citizens and community.

Analogy:

When you buy a product at the supermarket and you check the ingredient list on the label, you learn about the composition of the product and you might need to look for information to understand what some ingredients are.

>The relationship between European citizens and what I want to design is like the relationship between the person learning about the composition of the product and the ingredient label combined with the research.

User experience qualities:
- Attentive
- Demanding
- Informative
- Eyeopener (it can lead to not buying the product anymore)
- Trustworthy

Product qualities: (ingredient label)
- Official
- Complicated
- Extensive
- Checked
- Trustworthy

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  An extensive understanding coming from the realization that immigration is a multilayered phenomenon and explore them, drawing connections between convenient and inconvenient.
  - why?
  Because convenient and inconvenient layers are addressed in different ways by citizens, their attention is caught by the negativity of representations of inconvenient ones, while convenient are not considered even if pertinent to their civic sphere (e.g. policy). The result is a partial and scattered view on immigration.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides explanations and in-depth analysis of the theme. Information are officially checked and wide.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: convenient (economic) layers are more accepted, migration is affected by policies, rhetoric and framing shapes understanding, they are important factors in (official/political) communication and policy making/approval. Disinformation creates the foundation for hate and intolerance.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:
  -work out the shape of the design a bit more, is it a website?
  -In this case the official check is important, what organization could do it?

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something showing the composition of immigration and giving official explanations about all the aspects' implication.

in the label you don't only have the ingredient list but you also have the nutritional values. Maybe could be interesting to see how those ingredients contribute to the nutritional values.

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being able to see regulations and policy effect?

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-An official website where you can insert a news and are given official information about the topic, with in depth-analysis, links to official websites, infographics etc.

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-A coordination project between EU organization that takes care of immigration study, regulation, and information, providing in-depth analysis, with accessible explanation.

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A. The utilitarian political framing of immigration:
[9] Migration is a multilayered phenomenon; however, many of its layers are perceived as problematic and remain invisible in public discourse, while the more convenient aspects (such as economic benefits) are selectively emphasized. Recognition of immigration is partial, and this partiality is maintained through policies and socio-legal frameworks.
Inertia is sustained through the utilitarian handling of migration's convenient and inconvenient dimensions, resulting in limited and fragmented recognition.

9. Migration has always been a fundamental component of human development, yet its recognition in policy and public opinion often remains selective and utilitarian.

Migration is a multilayered and fundamental feature of humankind. It is driven by interconnected global forces such as climate change, inequality, and demographic shifts, many of which are rooted in historical processes. However, many dimensions of migration remain invisible or subtle and are often overlooked in the mainstream discourse on the topic.
While Europe relies on migration to counter population aging and support economic growth, public acceptance is often conditional and centered solely on economic utility. This narrow perspective overlooks the deeper societal role of migration, resulting in ineffective policies and treating migrants as **temporary resources** rather than as full members of society.
Even within the economic sphere, migrants are frequently bound by legal contracts that place them in a precarious, emergency-like status, limiting their agency and access to social rights. The ability to participate in society is a powerful mechanism that shapes both inclusion and exclusion.

D. Macro-level: Institutional media and rhetoric polarization
The macro-level encompasses EU-wide institutional actions, political discourses, cultural narratives, and structural conditions.
[12] Rhetoric elicits emotional responses to certain elements, which in turn become politicized and fuel polarization. It helps create a particular understanding that stands in opposition to another, thereby denying the possibility of common ground. [6] The media reinforce the effects of rhetoric by spreading skewed and partial content, perpetuating dominant and entrenched biases.
These forces operate on the macro level of society through social structures and institutions. They lead to emotional detachment because, while they strongly influence opinions, beliefs, and even political agendas, they also create rigid ideologies that make meaningful dialogue impossible.

12. Rhetoric and framing shape public perception and political agendas on controversial issues, amplified by global media and emotional appeals.

Public support for controversial policies is heavily influenced by rhetoric, which shapes how people perceive issues. Even objective facts are often framed to elicit emotional responses and secure public support. Politicized elements, when presented through strong rhetoric, can achieve political gains at the expense of balanced and constructive dialogue.
Policymakers use framing to cultivate a specific understanding of a situation, thereby shaping political agendas accordingly.
In today's interconnected media environment, where political content often overlaps with entertainment, competing narratives amplify the persuasive power of rhetoric and contribute to growing polarization.
While the EU upholds freedom of expression and media pluralism, the way information is framed and presented remains a crucial factor in shaping public opinion and influencing political decision-making.

6. Media play a central role in shaping the collective imaginary, heavily influencing how the public understands and interprets issues.

Media - such as information media, digital and social media, and cultural media - play a crucial role in shaping public perception and the collective imagination.
In Europe, media are closely connected to politics, serving as a platform for political debate and enabling it to reach the public.
Often, dominant discriminatory views are embedded within political and institutional systems, disadvantaging marginalized groups and normalizing social inequality. Media can therefore become a tool for perpetuating these entrenched biases.
Moreover, systemic problems are frequently obscured by oversimplified portrayals in the political discourse. Narratives surrounding these issues often spread skewed content and disinformation, creating a distorted and frequently one-sided perspective.
The prevalence of biased media content and the influence of negativity bias reinforce these distortions, making it difficult to address the root causes of sensitive issues.

Show the impact of immigration policies

What resources does he produce?

What public resources does he use?

What public resources can he access?
Why?
In what time frame?

Fact + infographic explanation and w means for soci

-An information channel, where immigration policies are explained showing the impact on EU.

-An official infographic (journey map, system blue print) showing the impact of an immigrant on society and the policies that regulate it.
To achieve this a collaboration between EU, policymakers and migration experts is needed.

Alessandra

A. THE UTILITARIAN FRAMING OF IMMIGRATION

TREATING IMMIGRATION WITH PUBLIC INERTIA

UNDERLYING MOTIVE : UNDERSTANDING

EMOTIONALLY DETACHED SOCIETY

D. MACRO-LEVEL: LOUD RETHORIC FUELING POLARIZATION

2. A utilitarian approach to immigration leads to interactions that are either avoidant or purely instrumental

Engagement with immigration will be instrumental, not reaching a human connection which is differently reached in the own identity groups.
Engagement with immigration will become increasingly fragmented and utilitarian. In different contexts, social groups will engage with immigration in varying ways. This means that the very same group of people will choose to engage, or not engage, with another group depending on their perceived "usefulness" within a given context.
This tendency will **reinforce the atomization of groups, which will interact only in instrumental terms, avoiding deeper human connections with those perceived as outside their own social bubble**. As a result, hostility and suspicion between groups will increase, hindering the development of society.

Consequences:
Engagement with immigration will happen within the convenient layers' context shaped by policies and stereotypes. It will remain instrumental , failing to foster genuine human connections, which will instead be confined to interactions within one's own group, bound together by a shared identity.
Communities will perceive and understand outer groups as extraneous, treating them with suspicion.
So, **understanding of immigration will be fragmented, arising from partial engagement coming from an instrumental relation with convenient layers and a lack of connection with inconvenient layers, prevented by collective fear**.
How will communities react?
Communities will develop a dual reaction to immigration. On one side, within the inconvenient layers of immigration, they will close up and seek refuge within their own identity group, developing a specific othered identity for the immigrant group, and **avoiding contact** with it. On the other, they will develop a **instrumental-neutral relation** (neutral in the sense that it's not questioned neither deepen) based on convenience.

Leverage points:
Meeting points offered by convenient relations

Statement:
I want communities to reshape identity boundaries by expanding and adding nuances to convenient layers of immigration through the understanding of their importance in shaping society's every day life, ~~leveraging the meeting points offered by those convenient relations.~~

Analogy:
~~When you stop by to observe a building~~ ... work. ~~You read the plaque you discover~~ ... person lived there .

~~When you take time to observe something you have never questioned but he~~ ... you. ~~You discover details that you didn't notice before and when you learn at~~ ... reconsider its meaning and change the way you look at it.

~~Qualities:~~
~~=Silent~~
~~=Attentive/accurate~~
~~=Contemplative~~
~~=Transformative/eyeopener~~

~~It's the think~~ ... ~~ground that~~ ... ~~experience with the one of another person.~~

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  Citizens reconsider the elements defining their (European) identity, by getting conscious of the impact immigration has on society, starling from the everyday life things.
  – why?
  Because European communities will develop an instrumental, avoidant relation with immigration, taking advantage of the benefits the phenomenon brings, without engaging with it. Community identity will be built on an othered image of immigrant groups.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides an explanation of what immigration's convenient contributions means for society and how they actively take part in the construction of the European identity.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes
  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: the first step in identity building is self perception, Support deservingness is shaped by control, need, identity, attitude and reciprocity, dehumanization and othering of immigrant groups, Eurocentrism, migration can transform society in the long run.
  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:
  -target of the video and display platform/context

When you stop by to observe a building on your way to work. You read the plaque you discover it was a shelter during WWII, so your consideration of it changes because you see its importance in your history.

>The interaction between EU citizens and what I want to design is like the interaction ...etween the person discovering the ...mportance of the building and the observation ...nd reading the plaque.

...experiences qualities:
-Surprising
-Attentive
-Connecting
-Heart-felt

Product qualities:
-Eyeopener
-Transformative
-Attentive
-Informational
-Reflective

36
Identity is built with three steps: self-perception, presentation, designation.
One step is someone's self-perception, a feeling of being or belonging. Then there is the step of presenting oneself to others as being that someone. A third step is designation: being seen by others as being that someone.
principle/sociology
Nathalie Heinich
Alessandra

~~Qualities:~~
~~=Transformative/eyeopener~~
~~=Connecting~~
~~=Relatable, heart-felt~~
~~=~~

9. Migration has always been a fundamental component of human development, yet its recognition in policy and public opinion often remains selective and utilitarian.

A. The utilitarian political framing of immigration:
[9] Migration is a multilayered phenomenon; however, many of its layers are perceived as problematic and remain invisible in public discourse, while the more convenient aspects (such as economic benefits) are selectively emphasized. Recognition of immigration is partial, and this partiality is maintained through policies and socio-legal frameworks.
Inertia is sustained through the utilitarian handling of migration's convenient and inconvenient dimensions, resulting in limited and fragmented recognition.

Migration is a multilayered and fundamental feature of humankind. It is driven by interconnected global forces such as climate change, inequality, and demographic shifts, many of which are rooted in historical processes. However, many dimensions of migration remain invisible or subtle and are often overlooked in the mainstream discourse on the topic.
While Europe relies on migration to counter population aging and support economic growth, public acceptance is often conditional and centered solely on economic utility. This narrow perspective overlooks the deeper societal role of migration, resulting in ineffective policies and treating migrants as **temporary resources** rather than as full members of society.
Even within the economic sphere, migrants are frequently bound by legal contracts that place them in a precarious, emergency-like status, limiting their agency and access to social rights. The ability to participate in society is a powerful mechanism that shapes both inclusion and exclusion.

1. Fearism, fed by dehumanizing narratives, prevents social contact with the 'other', reinforcing the Eurocentric vision that offers support for those who are seen as similar, hence deserving.

4. When societal transformations, perceived competition, and the fear of the unknown intersect, they can generate a hostile social climate.

E. Meso-level: Collective fearism
The meso-level includes institutional and group dynamics, the collective scale. [1] Fearism is shaped by dehumanizing narratives and stereotypes, influencing—or even preventing—the way we engage with groups perceived as 'other'. [4] It can be fueled by uncertainty brought about by societal transformation and perceived competition, which together create a sense of hostility.
These forces operate at the meso-level of society, influencing group and collective dynamics. As fear and suspicion often hinder social engagement, detachment emerges at the collective or group level. Groups, formed around a shared sense of identity and belonging, become reluctant to engage with those they perceive as 'other'.

Fearism is a framework that shapes social engagement and identity building. A diffuse fear of the 'other' prevents social contact with groups perceived as different from one's own, leading to social closure and a protective stance.
Due to this lack of contact, prejudices arise, fueling stereotypes and widening the distance between one's own group and the 'other.' Moreover, the process of othering can lead to dehumanization. When we fail to consider and acknowledge other ways of thinking, we deny the intellectual validity of the 'other.' This tendency is reinforced by the Eurocentric perspective embedded within European society.
Narratives play a central role in determining whether the 'other' is perceived as human or non-human, as storytelling has the power to build, or deny, empathy in its audience.
A direct consequence of dehumanization is the withholding of compassion and support. Those perceived as non-human are not considered deserving of moral treatment.

According to competition theory, in times of economic hardship and rapid societal change, people are more likely to perceive culturally different groups as threats, especially when competing for limited resources.
Europe is currently undergoing major changes in various fields (such as demography, the environment, the labour market, and culture) that are reshaping society in the long run. These transformations are experienced by people through early signs in their everyday lives, sometimes creating a sense of displacement.
Fear of the unknown -which is a natural part of human psychology - arises from a lack of information or uncertainty. It can be intensified by stereotypes and a lack of contact, creating a feedback loop that reinforces social divisions.
The combination of these transformations and the perception of competition contributes to a growing climate of hostility and exclusion within the European Union.

There's no European society without migration

Show how eu would be without immigration or what it is thanks to immigration

Alessandra

Telling the story of a strawberry but you're actually telling the impact of immigration

Alessandra

-A label indicating when a product or service is provided by an immigrant, to show it's importance also in the convenient layers.

Alessandra

A video showing the story of a product from the choice to the use and then show the story behind the product, produced by immigrants, and how it will be without immigration.
(example a strawberry on a birth cake and then the price increase)
(or, maybe better example: made in Italy leather, renowned and image of identity, show what's behind, immigrant workers in tanneries, and how it would be without them.)

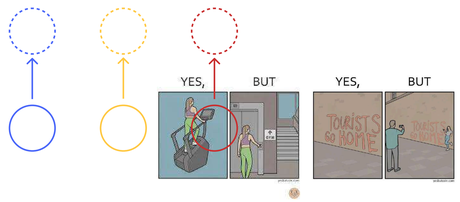
Alessandra

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/235-it.pdf

- Communities: groups of people with a shared identity and interest (e.g. native nationals communities)
- Reshape: question, adapt, erase or transform
- Identity boundaries: limits defined by a set of characteristics
- Adding nuances: detail, emotions, different meanings and perspectives
- Convenient layers of immigration: aspects of immigration that are instrumentally useful to European society in practice. Related to economics, ageing society, labour shortage etc.
- Convenient relations: arising from interactions in the context of convenient layers

What I want people to do require attention and being able to observe and reshape their way of thinking of others.
By adding nuances and expanding the convenient layers people can reconsider the criteria that shape identities.

When you observe the details of the building you start reconsidering your previous experiences with it. When you discover that person lived there you can reconsider your relation to them or recognize some similarities, making connections between your ~~experience and theirs.~~



3. The instrumental use of immigration lies outside the realm of citizenhood.

Immigration will be limited to the context related to its convenient layers, regulated by policies and socio-legal frameworks. It's **representations and explanations will be partial and fragmented**, focused on **convenient layers that will be used with utilitarian/instrumental goals**, serving material needs of society.
At the same time, European society will face the implications of mayor **environmental-societal changes, experiencing inequalities, tensions and discontent, which will lead to social detachment.**
Therefore, individual **citizens are not enabled to develop a personal non-materialistic meaning of immigration** as their personal exposure will be limited by social detachment and confined to utilitarian interactions.

Consequences:
Individual citizens will **fail to see and engage with the inconvenient layers of immigratio**n (such as cultural diversity) **in the sphere of citizenhood.** They wil also **fail to reflect on and develop a personal meaning of immigration through non-materialistic lenses**.
How will individual citizens react?
They will **stick to societal/institutional representations**- sense making of immigration, without seeing the connection with their personhood and citizenhood, **failing to attribute themselves with a role in society in relation with immigration.**

Leverage points:
~~Personal values conflict~~ non-materialistic lenses

Statement:

~~I want people to see hidden layers of immigration through non-materialistic lenses by questioning societal/ institutional representations clashes with their own values.~~

Analogy:

~~Throwing a sweater that you are attached to because you don't use it but you don't want to let it go.~~

~~When you have to throw or sell a sweater because it's old and you don't use it anymore, but when you're about to do it you start remembering some important memories with it that make you feel emotionally attached.~~

~~Qualities:~~

~~-Conflicting~~
~~-Personal~~
~~-Thoughtful~~
~~-Emotional~~

I want European citizens to see hidden layers of immigration through non-materialistic lenses by educating and guiding them to a beneficial relationship with immigration.

Alessandra

- Hidden layers of immigration: the ones that are kept away from the public or that are not blatant, because people just don't know about it or don't think about it.
- Non-materialistic lenses: connected to the emotional and personal more intimate sphere.
- Questioning societal ...values: to reflect on societal representations through personal values, to see clashes and discrepancies between the two. Reflect on the clash, use it as a staring point to inquire how immigration is perceived and treated.

When you have to throw something you are attached to you're conflicted: you see the need to get rid of it, but you start seeing the object as a collector of memories and emotions. The same can be achieved when thinking about immigration, if you inquire what has been told by societal representations through something you value you will start attributing it a different meaning.

For example if I autonomy and immigrants aren't given the possibility to be autonomous, how do I evaluate the representations?

The relationship between the European citizens and what I want to design in the field of immigration is like the relationship between someone who made the choice of becoming vegetarian and the recipes of a famous vegetarian chef.
becoming vegetarian and following the recipes of a mous chef's cookbook to discover how to cook and be getarian making the best out of it. By following the cipes you discover new ingredients, flavors, eparations.

A. The utilitarian political framing of immigration:
[9] Migration is a multilayered phenomenon; however, many of its layers are perceived as problematic and remain invisible in public discourse, while the more convenient aspects (such as economic benefits) are selectively emphasized. Recognition of immigration is partial, and this partiality is maintained through policies and socio-legal frameworks.
Inertia is sustained through the utilitarian handling of migration's convenient and inconvenient dimensions, resulting in limited and fragmented recognition.

9. Migration has always been a fundamental component of human development, yet its recognition in policy and public opinion often remains selective and utilitarian.

Migration is a multilayered and fundamental feature of humankind. It is driven by interconnected global forces such as climate change, inequality, and demographic shifts, many of which are rooted in historical processes. However, many dimensions of migration remain invisible or subtle and are often overlooked in the mainstream discourse on the topic.
While Europe relies on migration to counter population aging and support economic growth, public acceptance is often conditional and centered solely on economic utility. **This narrow perspective overlooks the deeper societal role of migration, resulting in ineffective policies and treating migrants as temporary resources rather than as full members of society.**
Even within the economic sphere, migrants are frequently bound by legal contracts that place them in a precarious, emergency-like status, limiting their agency and access to social rights. The ability to participate in society is a powerful mechanism that shapes both inclusion and exclusion.

F. Micro-level: Transformations creating tensions and misalignments
The micro-level refers to the individual scale. [7] Europe is undergoing extensive environmental and societal transformations that localize quality of life and create inequalities, resulting in social tension and discontent. These transformations are also reshaping living conditions, impacting opportunities and needs, and influencing individuals' values and personal meanings of life through a more or less non-material orientation. [14] Personal exposure to events influences how individuals experience the world and the meanings and ideas they develop about it. These ideas can differ from the cultural convictions embedded within society and may lead individuals to reconsider them.
While transformations reshape individuals' living conditions and increase exposure to diversity, allowing for the development of new meanings and values, detachment is fostered by social tensions, discontent, and a misalignment between personal understanding and society's representations.

7. Economic inequality, environmental change, and migration are transforming Europe, highlighting tensions between material security and persistent social inequalities that impact well-being and opportunities.

14. Personal exposure shapes individual understandings of the world, leading people to reconsider their convictions.

In Europe, environmental and geographical conditions are changing, driving economic and social transformations. As a result, quality of life in Europe is becoming increasingly localized, contributing to growing inequality. This, in turn, can lead to a climate of tension and discontent, compounding non-negotiable factors - such as place of birth -that already influence living conditions.
Moreover, these changing external conditions are reshaping patterns of human mobility, both within Europe and from outside its borders. Despite the growing challenges posed by global change, Europe remains an attractive destination for migrants, offering advantages - such as work-life balance, safety, and ease of travel - that represent significant privileges for those who lack such opportunities elsewhere.
Thanks to relatively strong material security, much of the European population is able to shift focus from material to non-material needs. This shift influences individual values and shapes how people experience and interpret the world.

Direct personal experience of the world shapes individuals' meanings and ideas and it is able to change the relevance of or reconsider the collective ideas embedded in individuals' mind.
Convictions are not immutable. Even though deeply rooted in a society's cultural sphere, convictions can be changed. Personal experience of reality can support this process, as it enables individuals to distance themselves from collective ideas and develop a critical evaluation of their experiences.

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  Educate citizens to build a beneficial relationship with immigration, that allows them to see hidden layers of immigration in a non-instrumental light.
  - why?
  Because convenient engagement with immigration will happen exclusively at an instrumental level, guided by societal and political representations. Citizens in this context are not given the opportunity to understand the multiple layers of immigration, in relation to their personhood and citizenhood, apart from an instrumental point of view.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides a tool for citizens to deepen their understanding of immigration in practical relation to their life. It also helps them understanding how they wan to engage with the phenomenon and how it can shape their life.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: migration is part of humankind and shapes society, migration is driven and shaped by various factors, Opportunity to choose influence happiness, security and welfare shift people focus from materialistic to post-materialistic needs, Europe offers some comforts that result attractive for immigrants, convictions are not immutable.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:

action qualities:

-Supporting
-Guiding
-Explorative/curious
-Trustworthy
-Effortful
-Educative
-Autonomous (you have to pick up the book and try yourself)

Product qualities:

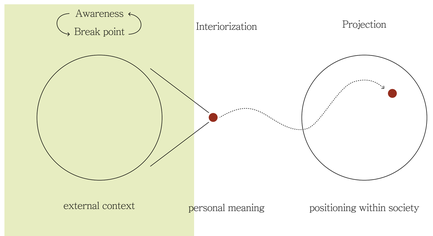
-Esteemed
-Accessible
-Explanatory
-Extensive
-Pragmatic

Show people how they can develop a beneficial relationship with immigration. > a platform with information and "exercises"

Alessandra

An online workbook published and updated by an immigration expert body, with information on immigration, practical implications and guidelines for EU citizens. It can include different media (illustrations, infographics, videos) and exercises.
Citizens can interact providing feedback that will be used to perfect the information and guidelines. The feedback can be in relation to citizens' experience and what type of "vegetarian" they are

Alessandra



A display of Immigration's impact on the European society.

-It's something that makes you think and open some conflicts in you, through emotional appeals.
-Something that makes the clash evident and start the questioning process

Alessandra

-A narrative/exhibition in which the tone used in the description doesn't match the image.
-or where the description used for societal representations match a 'native' situation

Alessandra

4. Surreal interpretations justify political inaction

Immigration will be analyzed and interpreted through moral lenses, leading to increasingly **rigid and polarized views that diverge from reality, which is dynamic and multifaceted.** These interpretations, made appealing through rhetoric, will be adopted in political discourse and amplified by the media, eventually becoming embedded in societal convictions. However, because they are disconnected from actual conditions and highly polarized, **political discourse will fail to establish common ground and will serve primarily to justify growing inaction** - or the absence of meaningful action - on immigration issues.
Absence of action includes lack of instruments that support citizens in relating with immigration.

Consequences:
At the macro-level of society, understanding of immigration will become surreal and strongly related to the chosen morality.
Understanding will be created through convictions that are detached from the reality. Citizens will find themselves in between polars, facing representations of immigration that do not reflect the reality, therefore hard to truly understand. Yet they will be captured by the morality that resonate with their values. **Justified political inaction, will reflect in fading of the political sense within citizens. In fact, morality differs from political responsibility,** as the first is related to the private or universal sphere (e.g. what is right or wrong) whereas, the latter is public and institutionalized.
How will citizens react? Citizens will develop a surreal understanding of immigration, they will adhere to one of the polar, embrace that morality and become intolerant toward the other. **Their reaction will be driven by morality, there will be no sense of political responsibility toward it. This will result in blind acceptance of the (in)action supported by the political polar opposite they chose, and detachment from reality.**

Statement:

I want citizens to recognize and question political inaction around immigration by drawing a clear distinction between morality and political responsibility, showing clashes between moralized discourse and what is achieved in the reality.

Analogy:

Reading a magic realism novel, in which you distinguish fiction from reality by recognizing the magic elements. When it make sense within the story, but you're doubting if it's really happened and then you see some magic elements that make clear the distinction between what's real and what's not.

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  Clearly show that moralized politics leads to inaction and delegation of political responsibility. Citizens deserve political action and must demand it.
  - why?
  Because immigration is treated with morality, preventing from addressing it in a meaningful way, yet citizens are unable to understand it because moralized discourses sound appealing and give a sense of certainty.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides a pragmatic overview of what the moralized politics promises would achieve if put into practice, highlighting the clashes between that and the current reality. The design provides a critical point of reflection.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: political representation failing to explain systemic issues, moralized discourse leads to intolerance, great powers unable to provide stability, skewed representation of immigration for political propaganda, framing, disinformation.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:
  -work out the details of the scenario building, for whom? citizens?
  -what if it is used as a check on political course?

>The relationship between the EU citizens and what I want to design is like the relationship between a reader reading a magic realism novel and the magic element in the story.

User Experience Qualities:

- Entertaining
- Engaging
- Curious

Product Qualities:

- Immersive
- Engaging
- Sly/cunning (clever in a sneaky or manipulative way)

Leverage points:
Clash between moralized politics and reality

- Recognize and question: be aware and doubting, taking distance and demand something different.
- Political inaction: political impasse, discourses not followed by meaningful action in the policy/practical sense.
- Morality: values and rules
- Political responsibility: application of morals with the aim of guiding and serving the community
- Moralized discourse: values preached and rhetoric used to depict facts.

B. The processing a fluid reality through rigid schemas:
[10] Europe is experiencing widespread instability, which is not only a reflection of failing institutional systems but also a catalyst for change driven by an increasingly fluid and dynamic reality. [11] In contrast to this fluidity stands the inflexibility of moralized politics spreading across Europe. Morality is employed as a rigid framework for interpreting events, relying on fixed convictions that lead to polarization and hinder political action.
Inertia emerges from the inability to effectively process this fluid reality through rigid, moralized schemas.

10. Traditional institutions are collapsing in the face of global instability, giving rise to new, fluid forms of social organization.

11. Moralization in European politics leads to polarization, intolerance and difficulty to compromise, deviating the attention from pressing systemic issues.

We are living in a time of profound transformation, where both traditional and collective institutions—such as conventional politics, religious institutions, and social groups—are crumbling under the weight of global instability. Despite their authority, state governments often appear powerless or unwilling to respond effectively to crises, fueling a cycle of uncertainty in which they seem incapable of guaranteeing protection.
This instability is not only a reflection of failing systems but also a catalyst for change, opening up new possibilities and forms of collective organization. Boundaries are being reshaped—or erased altogether.
In a constantly shifting and interconnected reality, vulnerable to overlapping forces such as globalization and technological progress, society increasingly demands fluid and adaptable structures that reflect the flexibility and impermanence of our times.

In Europe, public discourse around controversial topics often deflects attention from systemic issues by scapegoating or redirecting public focus to an easily identifiable "issue." European political discourse is increasingly moralized, drawing on ideological beliefs justified by narratives that frame tradition as something under threat and in need of protection from change. These narratives generate a sense of danger, prompting reactions of closure and hostility toward perceived "others."

address responsibility to governance

Political identity and belonging are progressively shaped through moralized contrasts with those seen as outsiders, leading to polarization, intolerance, and a diminished capacity for compromise, as political actors increasingly fail to consider opposing perspectives.
European identity itself is often constructed in opposition to non-European "others," reinforcing internal divisions even as political groups selectively invoke shared notions of Europeanism.

moralized othering, moralized Europeanism

D. Macro-level: Institutional media and rhetoric polarization
The macro-level encompasses EU-wide institutional actions, political discourses, cultural narratives, and structural conditions.
[12] Rhetoric elicits emotional responses to certain elements, which in turn become politicized and fuel polarization. It helps create a particular understanding that stands in opposition to another, thereby denying the possibility of common ground. [6] The media reinforce the effects of rhetoric by spreading skewed and partial content, perpetuating dominant and entrenched biases.
These forces operate on the macro level of society through social structures and institutions. They lead to emotional detachment because, while they strongly influence opinions, beliefs, and even political agendas, they also create rigid ideologies that make meaningful dialogue impossible.

12. Rhetoric and framing shape public perception and political agendas on controversial issues, amplified by global media and emotional appeals.

Public support for controversial policies is heavily influenced by rhetoric, which shapes how people perceive issues. Even objective facts are often framed to elicit emotional responses and secure public support. Politicized elements, when presented through strong rhetoric, can achieve political gains at the expense of balanced and constructive dialogue.
Policymakers use framing to cultivate a specific understanding of a situation, thereby shaping political agendas accordingly.
In today's interconnected media environment, where political content often overlaps with entertainment, competing narratives amplify the persuasive power of rhetoric and contribute to growing polarization.
While the EU upholds freedom of expression and media pluralism, the way information is framed and presented remains a crucial factor in shaping public opinion and influencing political decision-making.

6. Media play a central role in shaping the collective imaginary, heavily influencing how the public understands and interprets issues.

Media - such as information media, digital and social media, and cultural media - play a crucial role in shaping public perception and the collective imagination.
In Europe, media are closely connected to politics, serving as a platform for political debate and enabling it to reach the public.
Often, dominant discriminatory views are embedded within political and institutional systems, disadvantaging marginalized groups and normalizing social inequality. Media can therefore become a tool for perpetuating these entrenched biases.
Moreover, systemic problems are frequently obscured by oversimplified portrayals in the political discourse. Narratives surrounding these issues often spread skewed content and disinformation, creating a distorted and frequently one-sided perspective.
The prevalence of biased media content and the influence of negativity bias reinforce these distortions, making it difficult to address the root causes of sensitive issues.

A scenario building ~~or a representation~~ based on the electoral programs and political discourses, showing the ought. The scenario building is based on the political guidelines and values that have been preached.
The clash happen by looking at the reality of the facts.

Alessandra

How can this be displayed and to whom?
Do we also need to display reality facts?

Alessandra

De-moralized official news/media platform

-Toolkit/ tool: how to uncover political nonsense, a 10 step quiz

-Official tracker of what was promised/preached and the achieved results

Alessandra

A graph/tracker to compare political promises, actions, responsibilities. Could be a tool used on a governance level, displaying the results to citizens

And a gamified part could be added: e.g. match expectations with deeds.

5. Moralized politics fuel fearism between communities

Morality will be used to cope with instability, reinforcing fear and identity as primary frameworks for communities to engage with the groups perceived as 'other.'
Political discourse around immigration across Europe will increasingly rely on rigid moral narratives that offer a sense of certainty, yet fail to capture its complexity and consequential societal transformation, ultimately fostering polarization and hindering meaningful political action.
In this context, politics will focus on preserving rigid structures by fueling fearism which limits social engagement, leads to **widespread emotional detachment and deeper social fragmentation across European societies.**

Consequences:
Rigid moralized representation of immigration are appealing for people because they offer a sense of certainty that help them to cope the incertitude brought by immigration - an all the other societal-global changes. However, these **representations results partials and unable to capture some of the layers of immigration, unleashing fearism as framework of engagement with others**.
How will communities react?
Due to fearism, **communities will seek for protection within their own group and avoid contact with the othered groups.** To do so, they will **rely on a sense of identity**, which makes members feel part of a community. **Moralized and skewed representations of immigration will drive communities to build their identity in contrast with the one of the othered group, which is already strongly defined, yet stereotyped, in their imaginary**.

Leverage points:
Seek for sense of safety, EU morals

- Sense of safety: emotional security, comfort, feeling at place.
- Building identity from the inside: European because I share those values, not because I look different from non-European.

Statement:
I want citizens to develop sense of safety/trust in their communities by building their community identity from the inside, focusing on shared morality rather than stereotyped differences with others

Analogy:
A toddler looking for his parents to be comforted. They find comfort in a deeper and stronger bond, not in one that exclude other people.

>The relationship between the EU citizens and what I want to design is like the relationship between the toddler looking for his parents and the (profound) bond tying them.

User experiences qualities:
- Comforting
- Natural
- Emotional
-

Product qualities:
- Caring
- Unconditional
- Profound
- Dependent
- Trustworthy
- Universal

~~Athletes of a team trusting each others and the game thanks to the strategies they practiced together during the trainings. They develop trust because they know what is driving their team mates, not because they know the other~~

~~e EU citizens and what I want ip between the athletes and g the trainings.~~

~~duct qualities:~~
- ~~Shared~~
- ~~Guiding~~
- ~~Practicable~~
- ~~Articulate~~
- ~~Beneficial~~

- ~~Trustworthy~~
- ~~Demanding~~

~~I want citizens to develop sense of trust and build their community identity from the inside, by training on the values that are part of the European morality rather than building it based on the stereotyped differences with others.~~

Alessandra

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  European citizens to identify with an identity based on the core value of the Union. Develop a sense of safety on a community that is brought together by cohesion given by those values rather than by fear and othering of other communities.
  - why?
  Because European communities will face incertitude and the moralized representation of immigration will provide an apparent sense of certainty, yet they will fail to explain reality, unleashing fearism between communities as they are not provided the means to engage and recognized with them. Morality will eventually fail to provide real security.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides a celebration of the founding values of the European Union. A moment of reflection and deepening of their meaning, a day to work on the embedding of those values.
- Analogy check:
  –does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  –does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: instability, decline of collective institutions, moralized discourse fuel polarization and intolerance, European identity is constructed in contrast with an 'other', identity is used for political gain, fear of the unknown, steps for identity building, eurocentrism.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:
  –could be scaled, values embedding

They trust the behavior because it's driven by their morality.

Alessandra

B. The processing a fluid reality through rigid schemas:
[10] Europe is experiencing widespread instability, which is not only a reflection of failing institutional systems but also a catalyst for change driven by an increasingly fluid and dynamic reality. [11] In contrast to this fluidity stands the inflexibility of moralized politics spreading across Europe. Morality is employed as a rigid framework for interpreting events, relying on fixed convictions that lead to polarization and hinder political action.
Inertia emerges from the inability to effectively process this fluid reality through rigid, moralized schemas.

10. Traditional institutions are collapsing in the face of global instability, giving rise to new, fluid forms of social organization.

11. Moralization in European politics leads to polarization, intolerance and difficulty to compromise, deviating the attention from pressing systemic issues.

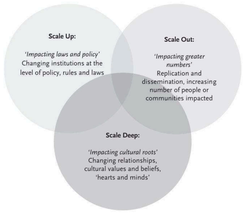
We are living in a time of profound transformation, where both traditional and collective institutions—such as conventional politics, religious institutions, and social groups—are crumbling under the weight of global instability. Despite their authority, state governments often appear powerless or unwilling to respond effectively to crises, fueling a cycle of uncertainty in which they seem incapable of guaranteeing protection.
This instability is not only a reflection of failing systems but also a catalyst for change, opening up new possibilities and forms of collective organization. Boundaries are being reshaped—or erased altogether.
In a constantly shifting and interconnected reality, vulnerable to overlapping forces such as globalization and technological progress, society increasingly demands fluid and adaptable structures that reflect the flexibility and impermanence of our times.

In Europe, public discourse around controversial topics often deflects attention from systemic issues by scapegoating or redirecting public focus to an easily identifiable "issue." European political discourse is increasingly moralized, drawing on ideological beliefs justified by narratives that frame tradition as something under threat and in need of protection from change. These narratives generate a sense of danger, prompting reactions of closure and hostility toward perceived "others."
Political identity and belonging are progressively shaped through moralized contrasts with those seen as outsiders, leading to polarization, intolerance, and a diminished capacity for compromise, as political actors increasingly fail to consider opposing perspectives.
European identity itself is often constructed in opposition to non-European "others," reinforcing internal divisions even as political groups selectively invoke shared notions of Europeanism.

-A European holyday day celebrating the founding values.
Every year the celebration could have a different theme, happen in a different city.
Can be celebrated in schools

Alessandra

Figure 1 Scaling out, scaling up and scaling deep for social innovation



Values

The European Union is founded on the following values:

Human dignity
Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected, protected and constitutes the real basis of fundamental rights.

Freedom
Freedom of movement gives citizens the right to move and reside freely within the Union. Individual freedoms such as respect for private life, freedom of thought, religion, assembly, expression and information are protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Democracy
The functioning of the EU is founded on representative democracy. A European citizen automatically enjoys political rights. Every adult EU citizen has the right to stand as a candidate and to vote in elections to the European Parliament. EU citizens have the right to stand as a candidate and to vote in their country of residence, or in their country of origin.

Equality
Equality is about equal rights for all citizens before the law. The principle of equality between women and men underpins all European policies and is the basis for European integration. It applies in all areas. The principle of equal pay for equal work became part of the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

Rule of law
The EU is based on the rule of law. Everything the EU does is founded on treaties, voluntarily and democratically agreed by its EU countries. Law and justice are upheld by an independent judiciary. The EU countries gave final jurisdiction to the European Court of Justice - its judgments have to be respected by all.

Human rights
Human rights are protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. These cover the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, the right to the protection of your personal data, and the right to get access to justice.

E. Meso-level: Collective fearism
The meso-level includes institutional and group dynamics, the collective scale. [1] Fearism is shaped by dehumanizing narratives and stereotypes, influencing—or even preventing—the way we engage with groups perceived as 'other'. [4] It can be fueled by uncertainty brought about by societal transformation and perceived competition, which together create a sense of hostility.
These forces operate at the meso-level of society, influencing group and collective dynamics. As fear and suspicion often hinder social engagement, detachment emerges at the collective or group level. Groups, formed around a shared sense of identity and belonging, become reluctant to engage with those they perceive as 'other'.

1. Fearism, fed by dehumanizing narratives, prevents social contact with the 'other', reinforcing the Eurocentric vision that offers support for those who are seen as similar, hence deserving.

4. When societal transformations, perceived competition, and the fear of the unknown intersect, they can generate a hostile social climate.

Fearism is a framework that shapes social engagement and identity building. A diffuse fear of the 'other' prevents social contact with groups perceived as different from one's own, leading to social closure and a protective stance.
Due to this lack of contact, prejudices arise, fueling stereotypes and widening the distance between one's own group and the 'other.' Moreover, the process of othering can lead to dehumanization. When we fail to consider and acknowledge other ways of thinking, we deny the intellectual validity of the 'other.' This tendency is reinforced by the Eurocentric perspective embedded within European society.
Narratives play a central role in determining whether the 'other' is perceived as human or non-human, as storytelling has the power to build, or deny, empathy in its audience.
A direct consequence of dehumanization is the withholding of compassion and support. Those perceived as non-human are not considered deserving of moral treatment.

According to competition theory, in times of economic hardship and rapid societal change, people are more likely to perceive culturally different groups as threats, especially when competing for limited resources.
Europe is currently undergoing major changes in various fields (such as demography, the environment, the labour market, and culture) that are reshaping society in the long run. These transformations are experienced by people through early signs in their everyday lives, sometimes creating a sense of displacement.
Fear of the unknown -which is a natural part of human psychology - arises from a lack of information or uncertainty. It can be intensified by stereotypes and a lack of contact, creating a feedback loop that reinforces social divisions.
The combination of these transformations and the perception of competition contributes to a growing climate of hostility and exclusion within the European Union.

Interrail pass, based on the freedom of circulation
>> something to celebrate all the other values

Interesting for partnerships

-A set of initiatives (e.g. summer camp for youth, educational projects, ...) each celebrating one of the values.

Alessandra

The EU is founded on six core values that form the basis of our society:
- Respect for human dignity
- Freedom
- Democracy
- Equality
- Rule of law
- Respect for human rights, including those of minorities

EU values are common to EU countries and ensure a society in which pluralism, **tolerance, justice, solidarity, non-discrimination** and equality prevail. They are enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty of European Union.

EU values explained in one minute | Topics | European Parli...
What are the six core values the European Union is based upon and...
europarl.europa.eu

6. Slippery morality fails to provide a sense of security

Europe wil face dynamic changes and instability, while **morality is used in the political discourse as a rigid framework to interpret events and making sense of them**, **resulting in polarization and impossibility to act**. Instability and transformations create at the same time potential exposure to novelty and diversity but also social detachment. **People are presented with a fluid, instable reality and refuge in social detachment and in moralized explanations that provide them with a sense of security**. However, there will be a **discrepancy between morality and fluid reality and morality** will become progressively **unable to provide explanations and certainty.**

Consequences:
Individual citizens will be provided with explanations that are no longer efficient and sufficient. **Morality will become slippery, individuals will lose grip on it, yet they will still be presented with transformation and instability**.
How will individual citizens react?
Individuals will keep looking for ~~explanations of reality that can provide them with a~~ sense of certainty.

Security

Leverage points:
Crumbling/questioning of politicized morality, dynamicity of events

Statement:

~~I want individuals to develop a personal sense of immigration by breaking down morality in personal values and use them to build connections between events.~~

Analogy:

~~Building a different Lego construction by using the pieces of a set.~~

~~A Lego user is given pieces and instructions and and image of a final construction (s)he's supposed to build, but decides to use the set to build something different, attributing a new function to each brick.~~

~~Qualities:~~

~~=Thoughtful~~
~~=Adjustable~~
~~=Modular~~
~~=Representational (of the events that are being evaluated)~~

I want individuals to feel secure in an instable reality (when facing challenges related to immigration) by providing them with the right tools rather than moralized stories.

Alessandra

A child learning how to cycle, he's given a helmet, training wheels and protection. He's also given instructions and upport by his parents.
the relationship between European citizens and what I vant to design is like the relationship between the child nd the tools he's given.
>it's supportive, temporary, dependent, trustworthy

interaction qualities:
- Supportive
- Temporary
- Dependent
- Trustworthy

Product qualities:
- Secure
- Reliable
- Multiple
- Additional
- Given

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  A sense of security to navigate uncertainties brought by immigration and societal changes, given by supporting tools and means.
  - why?
  Because moralized explanations of societal changes will fail to make people understanding what they are experiencing, therefore they will fail to provide a sense of certainty and security.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides solid and secure base for citizens to face societal uncertainty, by embracing the change and making it something valuable.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: security and welfare shift people focus from materialistic to post-materialistic needs, Europe offers some comforts that result attractive for immigrants, convictions are not immutable, equality is a humankind's matter, public debate attributes the failure of public infrastructure to the arrival of immigrants, moralization fuel intolerance, decline of traditional institutions, powerless states in front of instability.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:

B. The processing a fluid reality through rigid schemas:
[10] Europe is experiencing widespread instability, which is not only a reflection of failing institutional systems but also a catalyst for change driven by an increasingly fluid and dynamic reality. [11] In contrast to this fluidity stands the inflexibility of moralized politics spreading across Europe. Morality is employed as a rigid framework for interpreting events, relying on fixed convictions that lead to polarization and hinder political action.
Inertia emerges from the inability to effectively process this fluid reality through rigid, moralized schemas.

10. Traditional institutions are collapsing in the face of global instability, giving rise to new, fluid forms of social organization.

11. Moralization in European politics leads to polarization, intolerance and difficulty to compromise, deviating the attention from pressing systemic issues.

We are living in a time of profound transformation, where both traditional and collective institutions—such as conventional politics, religious institutions, and social groups—are crumbling under the weight of global instability. Despite their authority, state governments often appear powerless or unwilling to respond effectively to crises, fueling a cycle of uncertainty in which they seem incapable of guaranteeing protection.
This instability is not only a reflection of failing systems but also a catalyst for change, opening up new possibilities and forms of collective organization. Boundaries are being reshaped—or erased altogether.
In a constantly shifting and interconnected reality, vulnerable to overlapping forces such as globalization and technological progress, society increasingly demands fluid and adaptable structures that reflect the flexibility and impermanence of our times.

In Europe, public discourse around controversial topics often deflects attention from systemic issues by scapegoating or redirecting public focus to an easily identifiable "issue." European political discourse is increasingly moralized, drawing on ideological beliefs justified by narratives that frame tradition as something under threat and in need of protection from change. These narratives generate a sense of danger, prompting reactions of closure and hostility toward perceived "others."
Political identity and belonging are progressively shaped through moralized contrasts with those seen as outsiders, leading to polarization, intolerance, and a diminished capacity for compromise, as political actors increasingly fail to consider opposing perspectives.
European identity itself is often constructed in opposition to non-European "others," reinforcing internal divisions even as political groups selectively invoke shared notions of Europeanism.

- Personal sense: personal interpretation and meaning. How it relates to their life, what is its contribution, relevance...
- Breaking down morality in personal values: reflect on their personal values and build a morality based on them.
- Use them to build connections between events: interpreting reality and react to it through these values.

What I'm aiming for is having people embrace their own morality, which requires to develop one and being conscious of it first, as a means to reflect on events that they experience personally or through representations.
To break down morality means to inquire and become aware of how it is used by politics.
The goal is to skim the values, removing the artificial structure around them.

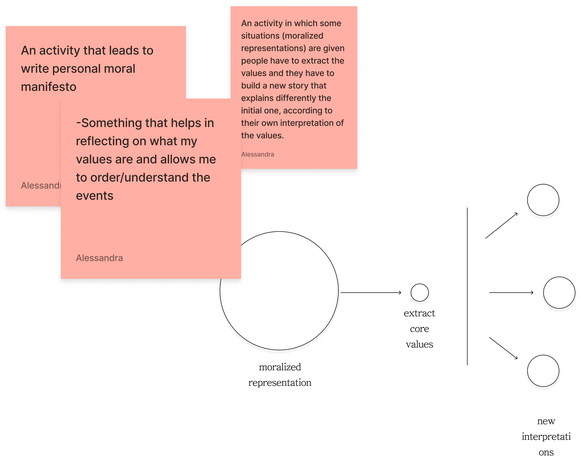
F. Micro-level: Transformations creating tensions and misalignments
The micro-level refers to the individual scale. [7] Europe is undergoing extensive environmental and societal transformations that localize quality of life and create inequalities, resulting in social tension and discontent. These transformations are also reshaping living conditions, impacting opportunities and needs, and influencing individuals' values and personal meanings of life through a more or less non-material orientation. [14] Personal exposure to events influences how individuals experience the world and the meanings and ideas they develop about it. These ideas can differ from the cultural convictions embedded within society and may lead individuals to reconsider them.
While transformations reshape individuals' living conditions and increase exposure to diversity, allowing for the development of new meanings and values, detachment is fostered by social tensions, discontent, and a misalignment between personal understanding and society's representations.

7. Economic inequality, environmental change, and migration are transforming Europe, highlighting tensions between material security and persistent social inequalities that impact well-being and opportunities.

14. Personal exposure shapes individual understandings of the world, leading people to reconsider their convictions.

In Europe, environmental and geographical conditions are changing, driving economic and social transformations. As a result, quality of life in Europe is becoming increasingly localized, contributing to growing inequality. This, in turn, can lead to a climate of tension and discontent, compounding non-negotiable factors - such as place of birth -that already influence living conditions.
Moreover, these changing external conditions are reshaping patterns of human mobility, both within Europe and from outside its borders. Despite the growing challenges posed by global change, Europe remains an attractive destination for migrants, offering advantages - such as work-life balance, safety, and ease of travel - that represent significant privileges for those who lack such opportunities elsewhere.
Thanks to relatively strong material security, much of the European population is able to shift focus from material to non-material needs. This shift influences individual values and shapes how people experience and interpret the world.

Direct personal experience of the world shapes individuals' meanings and ideas and it is able to change the relevance of or reconsider the collective ideas embedded in individuals' mind.
Convictions are not immutable. Even though deeply rooted in a society's cultural sphere, convictions can be changed. Personal experience of reality can support this process, as it enables individuals to distance themselves from collective ideas and develop a critical evaluation of their experiences.



An European welfare system or (policy?) that acts independently from member states and provide support and care to citizens. Needs to connect to the challenges posed by the fluid reality. Can be modular, have different focuses.
-based on immigration?

It's a system that makes sure that more arrival can be managed and can 'enrich' Europe. So it could be based on some value exchange between immigrant-citizen-EU

Alessandra

7. Political debate detached from polités' reasoning

The political discourse will increasingly follow a top-down logic, imposed on society and progressively disconnected from everyday realities. Dominant narratives and rhetoric will reinforce existing power structures and deepen polarization. In this stagnant context, **the preservation of rigid and unresponsive political systems will erode the perceived value of political participation at all levels of society.**

Consequences:
Politics will become increasingly detached from the polités (citizens), transforming into a framework devoid of meaningful content and unresponsive toward citizens needs. **This means that the topics/ matters discussed and faced within the political arena will get increasingly far from the citizenship sphere, so from the citizens' rights, duties and responsibilities.**
How will citizens react? **Citizens will increasingly rely on public debate as an outlet to express their needs, placing greater value on a discourse made of compelling and persuasive rhetoric rather than on actual politics.**

Leverage points:
Disengagement with traditional politics, growing public discourse

Statement:
~~I want citizens to attribute a new meaning to their civic responsibility by building a constructive public dialogue that reflects real life matters and give the possibility to express their needs.~~

Analogy:
~~Talking with a friend about something that is bothering/ concerning you and discover that they have other, more or less similar, concerns.~~

~~When you are able to express your needs and concerns and recognize them or the same feeling in your friend's words, feel a liberating sensation.~~

Qualities:
~~=Openhearted~~
~~=Genuine~~ also expressing a contrary opinion
~~=Informal~~
~~=Intimate~~

I want citizens to value their civic responsibility (or political essence) by finding its value in participating in a public dialogue that gives voice to real life matters and is based on a constructive opposition of different perspectives, producing a meaningful and workable output.

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Participating in the Olympic games. For athletes it's important and prestigious to participate in it, performing their disciplines and competing. Victory is only achieved through participation of multiple athletes and the respectful competition between them.

>The relationship between the EU citizens and what I want to design is like the relationship between the athletes competing and the Olympic games.

User experience qualities:
-Rewarding
-Challenging
-Exposing
-

Product qualities:
-Agonistic
-Renowned
-Sportsmanlike
-Celebrative
-

- Give a new meaning: see in a different light, attributing more importance and reconsider its relevance in life.
- Civic responsibility: engagement in public life, through different activities, with the aim of benefiting and advancing community/society, expressing needs, desire, concerns and try to find solutions.
- Constructive public dialogue: meaningful and respectful dialogue among actors in the public scene.
- Real life matters: events and concerns that are relevant in everyday life.
- Express their needs: give voice to what's important and needed from governance.

~~Talking with friends about something that is concerning you. In the dialogue you exchange and accept different point of views and stories, and this diversity helps everyone to work on/solve their concerns.~~
~~>The relationship between the EU citizens and what I want to design is like the relationship between the friends and the debate between point of views.~~

C. Preventing public's influence:
[2] Political participation is the primary means of articulating interests and influencing the political agenda. While technology can make political participation more accessible, the population is increasingly disengaging from its traditional forms, thereby limiting its impact.
Inertia is sustained through the maintenance of conventional political structures, which no longer resonate with much of the population, leading to disengagement and, consequently, a diminished capacity to influence political outcomes.

2. The importance of political participation and an increasing distance from traditional forms of politics

Political participation is the most effective mechanism for articulating interests and monitoring the actions of decision-makers. Consequently, limitations on political participation impose constraints on democratic governance.
Diverging trends are associated with this principle. On one hand, technology can enhance transparency in policymaking and make democracy more accessible. Increased engagement in civic activities and a widespread sense of responsibility lead to more representative and responsive governments, thereby boosting trust in institutions and creating a positive feedback loop of trust.
On the other hand, during times of hardship, democratic governance is often questioned. Among disadvantaged or disaffected groups, limited engagement with democratic processes can lead to a vicious cycle of misrepresentation and further disengagement.
Additionally, the youth population is increasingly turning away from traditional politics and institutional structures, displaying a growing disinterest in participating as representatives of the broader society.

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  Engage citizens in a constructive public dialogue between, different and also contrasting point of views, that leads to a workable output. I want citizens to understand that plurality of ideas is valuable and learning to create a floor for dialogue in which every voice is heard leads to bigger achievements.
  - why?
  Because loud politics is unable to have a conversation. Opposite polars are deafen by their own voice, yet their discourse is getting far from citizens, retaining them from any form of participation. Citizens are left with their concerns.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides a space for dialogue where needs and concerns can be expressed. The mock trial also teaches how to deal and respect differing opinions, and to see others' perspective. Moreover, the outcome can be used by policymakers or governance.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: political participation and civic activities are fundamental for democracy, shared responsibility for habit change, disinterest in politics in times of hardship, framing, freedom of expression.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  maybe the use of technology to make it accessible?
- Other observations:
  -work out the details of the mock trial , for whom?
  -can be scaled up

User experience qualities:
~~=Respectful~~
~~=Beneficial~~
~~=Open~~
~~=Enriching~~

Product qualities:
~~=Antagonisti~~
~~=Genuine~~
~~=Informal~~
~~=Honest~~
~~=Direct~~

-A mock-trial workshop: cases are chosen from real matters (people can come up with proposals), citizens have to develop their stance based on research. The mock trial take place, a jury determine the sentence, which can be used as guideline for policies or citizens advice.

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-A public roundtable discussion hosted by an official impartial body based on matters suggested by participan The outcome is used as guidelines for policymaking.

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D. Macro-level: Institutional media and rhetoric polarization
The macro-level encompasses EU-wide institutional actions, political discourses, cultural narratives, and structural conditions.
[12] Rhetoric elicits emotional responses to certain elements, which in turn become politicized and fuel polarization. It helps create a particular understanding that stands in opposition to another, thereby denying the possibility of common ground. [6] The media reinforce the effects of rhetoric by spreading skewed and partial content, perpetuating dominant and entrenched biases.
These forces operate on the macro level of society through social structures and institutions. They lead to emotional detachment because, while they strongly influence opinions, beliefs, and even political agendas, they also create rigid ideologies that make meaningful dialogue impossible.

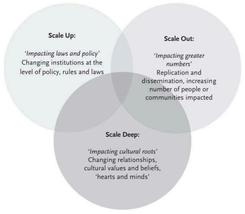
12. Rhetoric and framing shape public perception and political agendas on controversial issues, amplified by global media and emotional appeals.

Public support for controversial policies is heavily influenced by rhetoric, which shapes how people perceive issues. Even objective facts are often framed to elicit emotional responses and secure public support. Politicized elements, when presented through strong rhetoric, can achieve political gains at the expense of balanced and constructive dialogue.
Policymakers use framing to cultivate a specific understanding of a situation, thereby shaping political agendas accordingly.
In today's interconnected media environment, where political content often overlaps with entertainment, competing narratives amplify the persuasive power of rhetoric and contribute to growing polarization.
While the EU upholds freedom of expression and media pluralism, the way information is framed and presented remains a crucial factor in shaping public opinion and influencing political decision-making.

6. Media play a central role in shaping the collective imaginary, heavily influencing how the public understands and interprets issues.

Media - such as information media, digital and social media, and cultural media - play a crucial role in shaping public perception and the collective imagination.
In Europe, media are closely connected to politics, serving as a platform for political debate and enabling it to reach the public.
Often, dominant discriminatory views are embedded within political and institutional systems, disadvantaging marginalized groups and normalizing social inequality. Media can therefore become a tool for perpetuating these entrenched biases.
Moreover, systemic problems are frequently obscured by oversimplified portrayals in the political discourse. Narratives surrounding these issues often spread skewed content and disinformation, creating a distorted and frequently one-sided perspective.
The prevalence of biased media content and the influence of negativity bias reinforce these distortions, making it difficult to address the root causes of sensitive issues.

Figure 1 Scaling out, scaling up and scaling deep for social innovation



A public dialogue
A public newspaper

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-popular/communal news paper or podcast
-creating and personalize your own dialogue

agonistic democracy

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A platform in which citizens are able to talk and address topics that are important in their everyday life and discuss with a super partes body. In this way a space for a fruitful dialogue is created at a distance from rhetorical and polarized politics.

What could be the form of the dialogue? From citizens? they should set, plan/ organize it.
Could be a collaboration: citizens needs, words and prioritization + super partes experts.

Where is the fit in the system? create a space for that
Scale-up and deep? Creating new frames to start policies? Deep?

8. Collective reorganization into pragmatic political communities

As conventional political structures will remain intact, population will step away from them, losing the opportunity to articulate their interests. **Collectives will reorganize internally in response to the uncertainty brought about by societal transformation.** These new organizational forms are not recognized by institutional politics and therefore lack the ability to influence it directly. For this reason they will **develop alternative strategies to bypass formal political processes and pursue pragmatic solutions to achieve an internal stability**.
Because of fearism **communities will atomize** growing internal cohesion and deepening external fragmentation.

Consequences:
Fear and hostility will lead to closure and atomization. At the same time people will see **denied** their **opportunity to articulate their interests**.
In this context, a **patchwork of fragmented actions** by reorganized collective groups will begin to shape social life, **operating at a distance from formal politics to achieve the group interests**.
How will communities react?
Atomized communities will reorganize into **political communities adopting pragmatic solutions to protect and achieve group interests**. Substituting the role of political institutions. **Citizens will step away from traditional institutional politics, and rely on their community.**

Leverage points:
Internal cohesion and reorganization

Statement:

~~I want citizens to extend their civic responsibility by attributing themselves with a meaningful role within their community, enhanced by cohesion within the group and pragmatic reorganization.~~

Analogy:

~~Bees working together to make honey, in the hive each knows its role .~~

~~Every bee has its specific role and contribute to the functioning of the colony. Without the colony bee cannot survive.~~

~~Qualities:~~

~~=Complex~~
~~=Communicative~~
~~=Community driven/dependent~~
~~=Laborious~~

I want citizens to extend their civic responsibility by sharing advices based on the efforts they did to achieve their community interests in the absence of political assistance with other communities facing the same struggles.

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In the mountains stonemen are small constructions made of piled up stones that signal the trail where the traditional signage is not present or visible. These constructions are built by hikers to make sure that others can find and follow the trail easily and safely.

An hiker building a stoneman to signal the trail for other hikers, because he struggled finding his way due to lack of traditional signage. He's moved by a sense of responsibility toward people hiking in the mountains, because he identifies himself with hikers, but he's helping people struggling with trail uncertainty.

>The interaction between the European citizens and what I want to design is like the interaction between an hiker that struggled finding the trail in the absence of signage and the stoneman he builds.

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  Enhanced sense of civic responsibility by sharing the 'expertise' developed by the internal reorganization in absence of political support. Pragmatic solutions can be shared between communities to help who is facing the same struggles.
  - why?
  Because politics will fail to provide support and stability, and communities will internally work to achieve their interests in pragmatic way. These forms of reorganization and the efforts to take care of the community can be celebrated through sharing.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides a meeting point between communities and the valorization of the efforts. At the same time it provides guidance and pragmatic support to communities that are struggling, substituting what political support should do.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: policies tend to overlook every-day life matters, trust loop and diffuse civic activities, encouragement of shared responsibility for habit change, lowering of the rate of political participation, identity building, deservingness is shaped by control, need, identity, attitude and reciprocity.
  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:
  -could be scaled, values embedding

User experience qualities:

- -Laborious
- -Caring
- -Responsible
- -Fraternal
- -Mentoring

Product qualities:

- -Visible
- -Directing
- -Universal
- -Practical
- -Precise (located precisely)

-A ~~platform~~ consultancy body in which communities can share and ask for advices and guidelines based on the solutions they developed to face challenges.

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In what form? can be a info-point or a mobile initiative, moving from city to city. They can be multiple but need to be connected, one community can benefit from what another distant community did.
Community members can participate on a volunteer base

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-A grassroot organization

-or a strategy/platform to steer the emergence of those organizations, and connectivity within/among and to scale up their impact

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-A platform in which communities share advices and stories about their internal challenges.
-A collective with delegates from the communities > a consultancy body with delegates of communities in a partnership with EU

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C. Preventing public's influence:
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On the other hand, during times of hardship, democratic governance is often questioned. Among disadvantaged or disaffected groups, limited engagement with democratic processes can lead to a vicious cycle of misrepresentation and further disengagement.
Additionally, the youth population is increasingly turning away from traditional politics and institutional structures, displaying a growing disinterest in participating as representatives of the broader society.

E. Meso-level: Collective fearism
The meso-level includes institutional and group dynamics, the collective scale. [1] Fearism is shaped by dehumanizing narratives and stereotypes, influencing—or even preventing—the way we engage with groups perceived as 'other'. [4] It can be fueled by uncertainty brought about by societal transformation and perceived competition, which together create a sense of hostility.
These forces operate at the meso-level of society, influencing group and collective dynamics. As fear and suspicion often hinder social engagement, detachment emerges at the collective or group level. Groups, formed around a shared sense of identity and belonging, become reluctant to engage with those they perceive as 'other'.

4. When societal transformations, perceived competition, and the fear of the unknown intersect, they can generate a hostile social climate.

1. Fearism, fed by dehumanizing narratives, prevents social contact with the 'other', reinforcing the Eurocentric vision that offers support for those who are seen as similar, hence deserving.

Fearism is a framework that shapes social engagement and identity building. A diffuse fear of the 'other' prevents social contact with groups perceived as different from one's own, leading to social closure and a protective stance.
Due to this lack of contact, prejudices arise, fueling stereotypes and widening the distance between one's own group and the 'other.' Moreover, the process of othering can lead to dehumanization. When we fail to consider and acknowledge other ways of thinking, we deny the intellectual validity of the 'other.' This tendency is reinforced by the Eurocentric perspective embedded within European society.
Narratives play a central role in determining whether the 'other' is perceived as human or non-human, as storytelling has the power to build, or deny, empathy in its audience.
A direct consequence of dehumanization is the withholding of compassion and support. Those perceived as non-human are not considered deserving of moral treatment.

According to competition theory, in times of economic hardship and rapid societal change, people are more likely to perceive culturally different groups as threats, especially when competing for limited resources.
Europe is currently undergoing major changes in various fields (such as demography, the environment, the labour market, and culture) that are reshaping society in the long run. These transformations are experienced by people through early signs in their everyday lives, sometimes creating a sense of displacement.
Fear of the unknown -which is a natural part of human psychology - arises from a lack of information or uncertainty. It can be intensified by stereotypes and a lack of contact, creating a feedback loop that reinforces social divisions.
The combination of these transformations and the perception of competition contributes to a growing climate of hostility and exclusion within the European Union.

- Extend/enhance: take beyond the limits of their own community, abstract.
- Civic responsibility: engagement in public life, through different activities, with the aim of benefiting and advancing community/society.
- Attributing with a meaningful role: take a position and responsibility for a set of activities within the community
- Cohesion arising from pragmatic reorganization: reorganization within community to achieve and protect group interests, contribute in creating social cohesion among members.

9. Loud and void politics distance citizens from ideologies

Political disengagement will rise resulting in **limited possibility for citizens to influence the political course and to articulate their interests**. Adding to deep t**ransformations in life conditions, needs and values, inequalities and discontent.**
Politics will keep discussing immigration as a topic of heated public debate, **providing discursive representations and meanings of the phenomenon but denying the possibility to citizens to concretely act on or modify them**.
Moreover, citizens will experience detachment from society caused by tensions and misalignments.

Consequences:
Individual **citizens are exposed to a loud political discussion of immigration** that charges them with tools/structures to interpret and make sense of it on a discursive level. However, this will **remain on the discursive level and will distance from them as they recognize the impossibility to act upon it**. They will also experience detachment, given by novel personal experiences that no longer align with political/societal representations.
How will individual citizens react?
They will **disengage with traditional politics and and gradually step away from the loud political discourse** and at the same time from societal representation of immigration.

Leverage points:
Moment of detachment from political discourse and societal convictions.

Statement:

~~I want individual citizens to take civic responsibility toward immigration by making sense of it through their own experiences and values, by leveraging detachment from politics and and societal convictions.~~

Analogy:

~~Moving out from your parents' house and start doing chores in the way that fits you take care of your house.~~

~~When you move out you gain freedom and responsibility a own way of doing and being.~~

~~Qualities:~~
~~=Courageous/rebellious~~
~~=Natural~~
~~=Empowering~~
~~=Making you responsible~~

Ideation check

- Statement: what do I want to achieve?
  Enhance civic responsibility by allowing citizens to explore immigration representations that are different from the outdated and meaningless political ones.
  – why?
  Because loud politics is no longer relevant in citizens' life, as it fails to concretely support them and it is detached from what they are really experiencing.
- Design Intervention what does it provide?
  The design intervention provides alternatives to political and societal representations, allow citizens to explore them and find the meaning that better fits their experience and values.
- Analogy check:
  -does the design reflects the relationship? yes

  -are there any missing elements? no
- Clusters check:
  -does the design reflects/builds on some elements? which?
  Yes: encouragement and shared responsibility in habit change, detachment from politics, political participation, opportunity to choose influence happiness, personal experience shapes one's perception of the world, convictions are not immutable.

  -are there additional important elements from clusters?
  no
- Other observations:
  -apply framework I developed

I want individuals to develop civic responsibility by leveraging detachment from politics and providing them with means to explore alternative representations of immigration and experiment them ~~tools to understand them~~.

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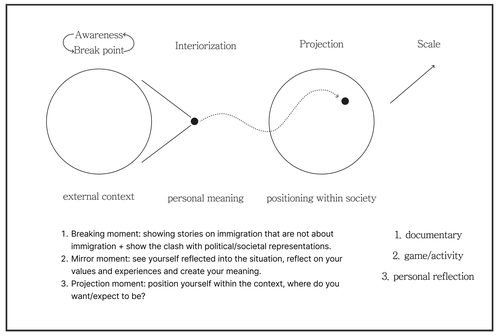

Moving out from your parents' house, becoming at the same time independent and free to choose how you want to live, and responsible for your own life and house. You look for alternative ways of doing and being and experiment yourself.

>The relationship between EU citizens and what I want to design is like the relationship between a young person moving out of his parents' house, gaining responsibility and freedom and the alternative ways of doing and being.

User experiences qualities:
–Hopeful
–Beneficial
–Longed for
–Stimulating
–Experiential

Product qualities:
–Multiple
–Suitable
–Impartial/neutral
–Experientiable
–Promising

C. Preventing public's influence:
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Additionally, the youth population is increasingly turning away from traditional politics and institutional structures, displaying a growing disinterest in participating as representatives of the broader society.

- Make sense: create th
- Own experiences: situations, events, interactions lived in first person and the feelings/ thoughts associated with them
- Own values: guiding principles that drive personal decisions (e.g. respect, achievement, freedom...)
- Detachment: disengagement, stepping away, not feeling involved or touched by
- Politics: governance and activities associated with it, but also power and exposure seek
- Societal convictions: a strongly held belief about what is right or wrong in society, often influencing behavior and interactions - about immigration: arrival of people from different cultural background leads to European culture erosion, or they have as a goal the colonization of Europe.

What I want requires citizens to be critical, to get to a better understanding of immigration, to question and inquire.

Moving out from your parents' house can be seen as a negative event, but here it's seen in a positive lights, as an act of liberation. It represents stepping away from a model of governance that you don't like and that has been imposed to you.

F. Micro-level: Transformations creating tensions and misalignments
The micro-level refers to the individual scale. [7] Europe is undergoing extensive environmental and societal transformations that localize quality of life and create inequalities, resulting in social tension and discontent. These transformations are also reshaping living conditions, impacting opportunities and needs, and influencing individuals' values and personal meanings of life through a more or less non-material orientation. [14] Personal exposure to events influences how individuals experience the world and the meanings and ideas they develop about it. These ideas can differ from the cultural convictions embedded within society and may lead individuals to reconsider them.
While transformations reshape individuals' living conditions and increase exposure to diversity, allowing for the development of new meanings and values, detachment is fostered by social tensions, discontent, and a misalignment between personal understanding and society's representations.

7. Economic inequality, environmental change, and migration are transforming Europe, highlighting tensions between material security and persistent social inequalities that impact well-being and opportunities.

14. Personal exposure shapes individual understandings of the world, leading people to reconsider their convictions.

In Europe, environmental and geographical conditions are changing, driving economic and social transformations. As a result, quality of life in Europe is becoming increasingly localized, contributing to growing inequality. This, in turn, can lead to a climate of tension and discontent, compounding non-negotiable factors - such as place of birth -that already influence living conditions.
Moreover, these changing external conditions are reshaping patterns of human mobility, both within Europe and from outside its borders. Despite the growing challenges posed by global change, Europe remains an attractive destination for migrants, offering advantages - such as work-life balance, safety, and ease of travel - that represent significant privileges for those who lack such opportunities elsewhere.
Thanks to relatively strong material security, much of the European population is able to shift focus from material to non-material needs. This shift influences individual values and shapes how people experience and interpret the world.

Direct personal experience of the world shapes individuals' meanings and ideas and it is able to change the relevance of or reconsider the collective ideas embedded in individuals' mind.
Convictions are not immutable. Even though deeply rooted in a society's cultural sphere, convictions can be changed. Personal experience of reality can support this process, as it enables individuals to distance themselves from collective ideas and develop a critical evaluation of their experiences.

'Citizens that voted for Trump didn't expect him to actually do what he promised during elections.'
This sounds quite absurd, we reached a point in which politics is so inconclusive and loud that voters don't really expect action following words.

- Exhibition with a personal guided reflection
- Card deck/puzzle with various part of immigration stories (related to various aspect, also of everyday life moments) need to create your own story. > could be either individual or shared
- A portable scanner/recorder to capture moments of interaction in real life + a journal or online platform with sensemaking activities.

Sensemaking
https://centreforpublicimpact.org/resource-hub/what-is-sensemaking/

https://thomasmtaston.medium.com/making-sense-of-all-the-sense-making-c6d6eff2994f

https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-01/UNDP-RBAP-Sensemaking-Workshop-Preparation-Guide-public-version-2021.pdf

https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/1868914.1868962

-Popular journal/ newspaper telling stories of public interest or everyday matters

Alessandra

-A citizens program in which themes of interest are discussed away from politics, organized and curated by members.

Alessandra

-An independent information body/platform that connects immigration matters' representations with local initiatives/ organizations to take part in workshops where citizens can apply their civic responsibility.

Alessandra

Do what the politics doesn't: make it practical, do what really means.

Alessandra

-A workshop
-A documentary series
-A magazine showing all the initiatives on immigration> examples of practical meaningful gesture
-A collective with volunteering organizations
-Business fair

Alessandra

A workshop: showing different narratives + activity connected (discussion, game...)

Alessandra

>>A documentary/film festival showing different narratives and effects of how the stories are represented + a discussion/reflection

Alessandra

APPENDIX C

project brief

Personal Project Brief – IDE Master Graduation Project

Name student Alessandra Bernardi **Student number** 5,900,816

PROJECT TITLE, INTRODUCTION, PROBLEM DEFINITION and ASSIGNMENT
Complete all fields, keep information clear, specific and concise

Project title Reframing Migration in Policymaking. A New Meaning for Europe

Please state the title of your graduation project (above). Keep the title compact and simple. Do not use abbreviations. The remainder of this document allows you to define and clarify your graduation project.

Introduction

Describe the context of your project here; What is the domain in which your project takes place? Who are the main stakeholders and what interests are at stake? Describe the opportunities (and limitations) in this domain to better serve the stakeholder interests. (max 250 words)

In recent decades, Europe has experienced an influx of displaced people from non-European countries, bringing migration into the spotlight in public and political discourse. European politics initially framed this influx as an emergency and later as a crisis, reviving historical patterns of 'othering' and 'national traditions' while fostering exclusionary and politicized thinking, entirely denying the interpretation of migration as a global change. The depiction of migration as a 'crisis' not only stigmatizes immigrants but also justifies emergency measures, presenting them as unavoidable (Krzyzanowski et al., 2018) and resulting in controlling policies that address the symptoms rather than tackling the root causes of challenges faced by displaced people (Ozkaramanli, Schwobel-Patel, 2024).

In addressing the 'refugee crisis', Europe appears fragmented, with nation-states seeking to exempt themselves from responsibility. At the same time, the continent results contradictory, balancing its core value of solidarity wuth the perceived need to protect its borders from an alleged threat (Triandafyllidou, 2017).

Current migration policies focus on restricting asylum systems and strengthening border control while implementing deterrent measures to prevent migrants from seeking asylum and externalizing migration control (Scipioni, 2017). However, these policies prove ineffective, often leading to counterproductive consequences such as irregular migration and the marginalization of migrant populations (Making Migration and Migration Policis Decisions, n.d.). Moreover, they overlook the potential benefits that migration flows could bring to receiving countries.

Since policymakers shape public perceprtion by emphasizing particular narratives at the expense of others (Policy Concepts in 1000 Words: Framing, 2016), reframing migration within the policymaking sphere can have a positive impact on how European society engages with this phenomenon. A more constructive approach could unlock migration's potential for fostering societal growth

→ *space available for images / figures on next page*

Personal Project Brief – IDE Master Graduation Project

Problem Definition

What problem do you want to solve in the context described in the introduction, and within the available time frame of 100 working days? (= Master Graduation Project of 30 EC). What opportunities do you see to create added value for the described stakeholders? Substantiate your choice.
(max 200 words)

Frames used in policymaking construct structural descriptions of policy issues, shaping one particular understanding over others. Therefore, framing is an excersise of power, as policymakers can not only reinforce dominant perspectives but also set political agendas, ultimately materializing in concrete governance actions. (Policy Concepts in 1000 Words: Framing, 2016)

Current framings of migration flows in Europe build upon a politicized view that stigmatizes and problematizes the phenomenon, making 'fearism' the foundation of both national and individual reactions to migrants. (Amsterdam Review of European Affairs, 2022)
'Crisis' frames draw a line between undeserving migrants (illegal) and deserving refugees (legal), distinguishing who deserves protection from who represents a threat to peace and security deserving criminalization and punishment (Ozkaramanli, Schwobel-Patel, 2024).

By introducing a new perspective through the ViP method, this graduation project seeks to transform how migration is framed in European policies. Developing new frames, starting from the understaning of the past and present context, aims to exchange how future European society perceives and engages with migration. These frames are designed to achieve a

Assignment

This is the most important part of the project brief because it will give a clear direction of what you are heading for. Formulate an assignment to yourself regarding what you expect to deliver as result at the end of your project. (1 sentence)
As you graduate as an industrial design engineer, your assignment will start with a verb (Design/Investigate/Validate/Create), and you may use the green text format:

Create a novel vision of migration to reframe the phenomenon in European policymaking, aiming to influence how European society understands and engages with it, ultimately fostering social progress.

Then explain your project approach to carrying out your graduation project and what research and design methods you plan to use to generate your design solution (max 150 words)

To reframe migration within European policymaking, the Vision in Product Design (ViP) method, developed by Prof. Ir. Matthijs van Dijk and Prof. Dr. Paul Hekkert, will be adopted.
The project will begin with an analysis of the present context, aiming to understand the instruments available to the European population for engaging with migration flows, the impact of these instruments on their perceptions of migration, the contextual factors shaping these interactions, and the underlying reasons behind them. Following this deconstruction of the current situation, the design phase will begin.
First, the domain of the design intervention will be defined. Then, a set of contextual factors will be generated through desk research and interviews, forming the foundation of a framework that will structure the context upon which the future vision will be built. The next step will be to design a roadmap that enables the transition from the present to the envisioned future.

The project focuses on framing, it draws from and builds upon the work of Deger Ozkaramanli and Christine Schwobel-Patel, which discusses the frames around migration in the fields of law and design, and the construction of the 'grateful refugee',

Project planning and key moments

To make visible how you plan to spend your time, you must make a planning for the full project. You are advised to use a Gantt chart format to show the different phases of your project, deliverables you have in mind, meetings and in-between deadlines. Keep in mind that all activities should fit within the given run time of 100 working days. Your planning should include a ***kick-off meeting***, ***mid-term evaluation meeting***, ***green light meeting*** *and* ***graduation ceremony****. Please indicate periods of part-time activities and/or periods of not spending time on your graduation project, if any (for instance because of holidays or parallel course activities).*

Make sure to attach the full plan to this project brief.
The four key moment dates must be filled in below

Kick off meeting	2 Apr 2025
Mid-term evaluation	4 Jun 2025
Green light meeting	6 Aug 2025
Graduation ceremony	10 September 2025

In exceptional cases (part of) the Graduation Project may need to be scheduled part-time. Indicate here if such applies to your project

Part of project scheduled part-time	✔
For how many project weeks	4
Number of project days per week	4,0

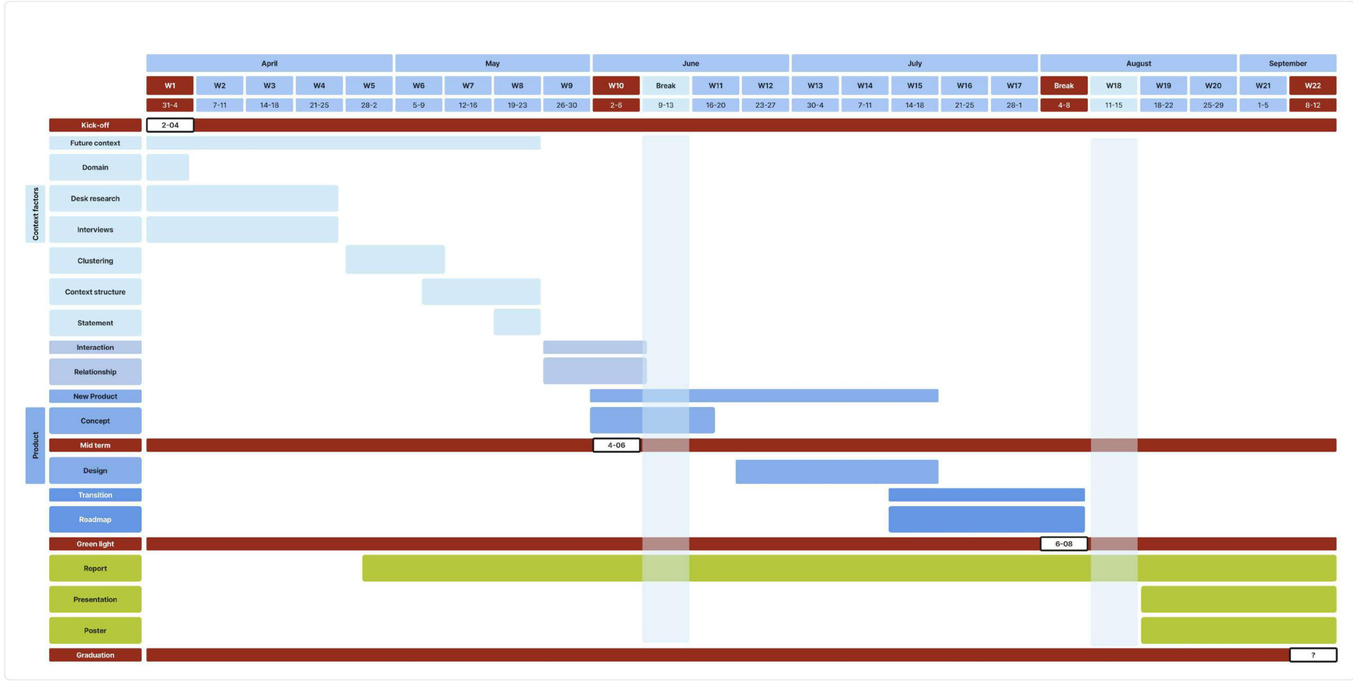
Comments:

Motivation and personal ambitions

Explain why you wish to start this project, what competencies you want to prove or develop (e.g. competencies acquired in your MSc programme, electives, extra-curricular activities or other).

Optionally, describe whether you have some personal learning ambitions which you explicitly want to address in this project, on top of the learning objectives of the Graduation Project itself. You might think of e.g. acquiring in depth knowledge on a specific subject, broadening your competencies or experimenting with a specific tool or methodology. Personal learning ambitions are limited to a maximum number of five.
(200 words max)

This project stems from my interest in migration as a highly polarized and politicized topic in European public discourse, as well as my curiosity about exploring the role of design in societal innovation, particularly its potential applications in the public sector.
Using the ViP method not only provides an opportunity to engage with and learn how to apply the approach but also enables me to work with a high level of complexity, develop a future vision, and create a roadmap for transitioning toward that vision. The project focuses on how migration is framed; since (re)framing is a key design competence, engaging with it will allow me to further develop this skill. In my view, these activities represent valuable learning experiences in the field of strategic design.

My Learning Objectives (LOs) for this graduation project are:
LO1: Deepen my understanding and knowledge of the ViP method, and consequently train my skills in context analysis and future visioning.
LO2: Use design as a tool to exercise objective understanding and critical thinking.
LO3: Engage with (re)framing as a design practice to change current political frames.
LO4: Gain confidence in working with the complexity characterizing societal challenges as well as in multidisciplinary domains.

Project Plan