



**UNU-GCM**

Institute on Global  
Migration and Mobility

# *Prejudice, Migration and Societal Challenges*

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# What is prejudice?

As opposed to racism or xenophobia;

Not limited to 'incidents';

Hard to identify or measure;

Often insinuated rather than overtly expressed;

Weighted, historically embedded: Orientalism, anti-semitism, attitudes to Africa, etc.

Bias, assumption, unchallenged 'norms' that are negative pre-judgments:

'women are bad drivers';

'men cannot multi-task'.

Reliant upon **commonly held stereotypes.**



# Prejudice against (Im)migrants

Key causes:

- Labour market competition
- Anxieties about 'what is ours'
- Waves of immigration
- Cultures of 'us' versus 'them'
- Class-based discrimination

# Catalysts

- Economic problems
- Past and present conflicts amongst specific groups (Kurds in Turkey, etc)
- Media: propagation of assumptions, attitudes, normative values
- Prevalent global tensions and what they unleash in the everyday

# Key Factors

- Types of nationalism;
- Ethnic focus versus civic focus;
- Emphasis on diversity and tolerance;
- Celebrating difference in lieu of assimilation
- Cultures of hospitality

# UNU-GCM's Research Findings

- Integration policies work best when combined with provisions for contact across communities;
- Emphasis on good citizenship practices;
- Due political participation;
- Solidarity (neighbourhoods, cities, society)
- Inclusiveness



# Dangers of Prejudice

- Prone to support populism or far-right parties;
- Threatens balance of social system;
- Triggers inter-community tensions;
- Causes tensions between sender and receiver countries
- Creates divisive cultures.

# Recommendations to States

- Investment in education based on intercultural values;
- Appreciation of diversities;
- Integration of immigrants into the labour market;
- Integration of migrants into political systems;
- Steps towards reducing class-based discrimination



# Recent Publications from UNU-GCM on Prejudice

- -Bello V. "Inclusiveness as Construction of Open Identity. How Social Relationships affect attitudes towards immigrants in European societies" Social Indicators Research. Online at:  
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11205-015-0881-1>
- -Bello V. "Why Prejudice is a Global Security Threat". OurWorld. Online at:  
<http://unu.edu/publications/articles/why-prejudice-is-a-global-security-threat.html>
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