

REVIEWS AND NOTES

Rareș Alexandru Văscan, *Discursuri și practici de securitate în contextul migrației din Uniunea Europeană în perioada 2019-2021* (Security Discourses and Practices in the Context of Migration in the European Union during the Period 2019–2021), Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2024, 167p.,

presented by Claudia Anamaria IOV*



The book *Security Discourses and Practices in the Context of Migration in the European Union during the Period 2019–2021*, authored by Rareș-Alexandru Văscan, PhD in International Relations and European Studies, is based on his doctoral research and focuses on the European Union's migration crisis and its medium-term effects on European

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security. It examines how European leadership communicated on the topic of migration during the 2019-2021 period, following the implementation of various EU-mandated measures in countries deemed key to managing the challenges posed by the 2014-2015 wave of immigration.

The integration of this subject into the broader theoretical framework of securitisation theory, as developed by the Copenhagen School, is also a well-chosen and appropriate approach. Although, more than three decades have passed since the first publications of the Copenhagen School and a range of new realist perspectives have emerged following the onset of the war in Ukraine, the author's research direction remains valid.

The title of the book, *Security Discourses and Practices in the Context of Migration in the European Union during the Period 2019-2021*, frames the research temporally and highlights the key concepts at its core – namely the relationship between security and migration, within the context provided by the EU refugee crisis. It also concisely suggests that the study focuses on the discursive practices of European leaders. From an objective standpoint, the work is original, as it analyses a post-crisis period (with the refugee crisis of 2014 being widely regarded as having ended in late 2018). At the same time, the topic remains highly relevant given that the nexus of migration and security has become increasingly pronounced in both European public discourse and EU policies, especially with the resurgence of nationalist currents in some Member States.

The development of the paper rests on a robust theoretical framework regarding the concept of security, essential both from the perspective of migration theories and the indisputable link between migration and security, and from the standpoint of designing the research. Equally comprehensive are the theoretical chapters on migration, which are crucial in my view for conceptually distinguishing between migrants, immigrants, and refugees, thereby avoiding erroneous generalisations and assumptions. In terms of how the EU, as the body responsible for unified European policy, managed the migration crisis, the author bases his analysis on primary data from a range of sources, including EU institutional platforms, Eurostat statistics, and asylum seeker data across different time periods.

Methodologically, Rareș-Alexandru Văscan adopts a constructivist paradigm, providing a well-founded theoretical synthesis supported by references across various branches of the social sciences. The dynamic nature of the constructivist approach is evident in references to the works of Berger & Luckmann, Foucault, and, notably, to authors who have incorporated Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) into socio-political studies. The originality of the research is also demonstrated through its discourse analysis on migration, which is based on a relatively limited corpus of 19 public speeches by EU leaders and leaders of EU Member States. Nevertheless, through the application of two original analytical grids, the research was able – somewhat unexpectedly, given the small number of speeches – to clearly highlight the themes, rhetoric, and ideologies employed by European leaders when addressing migration in the EU.

In conclusion, Rareș-Alexandru Văscan's *Security Discourses and Practices in the Context of Migration in the European Union during the Period 2019–2021* provides a highly coherent presentation of the relationship between security and migration in the EU over the past decade. It represents a well-structured synthesis combining the analysis of relevant social documents on migration, a constructivist theoretical paradigm, and discourse analysis of key EU actors. Furthermore, the findings regarding the securitisation and desecuritisation of migration through the discursive practices of European leaders offer a valuable starting point for future research on the interplay between migration and security.