



Call for Papers

Receptionsapes: Comparing Mobilization Patterns of Pro- and Anti-Migration Actors

This call is for a special issue of the journal [Mobilization: An International Quarterly](#)

This special issue of *Mobilization* furnishes a novel perspective on **how local mobilization dynamics unfold through and in the aftermath of migration crises by examining the interaction of pro- and anti-migrant actors**. While much scholarship has examined these actors separately, the **simultaneous study of mobilization for and against migration** remains scant. Rather than focusing on either agential side of the migration landscape, this volume aims to systematically examine the **interactive aspects of mobilization**. It also aims to situate **localised mobilization initiatives within dynamics that are distinctive to subnational, rather than national contexts**. And it additionally aims to elucidate **the evolution of mobilization and de-mobilization in the aftermath of refugee crisis**, tracing processes over the longer-term rather than at the peak of crisis and addressing the effects of critical events and ongoing activist work.

We invite papers that shed light on these understudied aspects of migration contestations, offering new perspectives on questions of how liberal and illiberal trajectories reverberate through and beyond receptionsapes. The papers should leverage qualitative comparative approaches to critically examine the dualities between pro- and anti-migrant actors, to nuance the meaning of pro- and anti-migration discourses, to refine the oppositional relationships between political, societal and institutional actors, and ultimately to better understand the role of migration in the political processes of reception states.

Specifically, we seek contributions that address questions like:

- *How do pro- and anti-migrant activisms develop in relation to one another?*
- *To what extent do such accounts refine or complicate our understanding of dichotomous conceptions of mobilization and counter-mobilization?*
- *What are the prevalent aspects of localised everyday mobilization?*
- *And what new insights can we gain by examining these less spectacular aspects beyond the often-assumed association between the center and the periphery?*
- *How do bi-directional mobilisation / de-mobilization processes unfold in receptionsapes and what are the drivers of perceived de-mobilization?*
- *How can longer-term perspectives help us understand the links between the regulation of migration by the liberal state and the institutionalization of the actors involved in its contestation?*

- *And how can this perceived institutionalization help us better understand the links between the protest and the electoral arena of politics?*

We invite empirical contributions across the fields of politics, sociology and anthropology that explore comparisons of the various actors involved across different localities, or situate dynamics in their local political contexts, as well as contributions that chart new methodological terrain in the analysis of these receptionscapes through novel uses of ethnography in a comparative perspective. We are especially interested in studies that focus on refugee reception locations and examine how mobilization dynamics in these settings diverge from wider and assumedly similar patterns of mobilization at national level.

The special issue will appear in the first 2028 issue of *Mobilization*. Prospective authors are invited to submit extended abstracts of 500 words of their intended paper by 1 June 2026. Full manuscripts will be submitted for peer review by 31 January 2027.

Please feel free to contact the special issue editors prior to submission at:
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