Aperitivo con AI

The Ontology Explorer: A method to assess semantic interoperability across border management data systems

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The Ontology Explorer

- Open access at Zenodo, OpenAire, http://processingcitizenship.eu

Digital registration of migrants as co-production of citizens, territory and Europe

HOW DOES MIGRATION ENACT EUROPE?

This question can be answered legally and politically, as most policy-makers, activists and media distill migration. Can
Processing Citizenship, 2017-2023

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The data **infrastructures**, informational **practices** and bureaucratic **procedures** that **co-produce** individuals and polities (and territory)
Methods to enact people at the border

- Methods rely on **databases**
- In Europe, they are deployed at national and supranational scale
- I.e., Greek Register of Foreigners, SIA, SIS II, Eurodac, Jora, VIS, ETIAS, EES, etc.
How databases can enact people at the border

1. By making assumptions about people
   E.g., “Is the person aggressive?” on SIS II

2. By not providing for some categories and attributes, by silencing them
   E.g., “School director” on dropdown menu
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• Objectives:

1. Semantic analysis of data models to reveal how border crossers are enacted through databases (e.g. as “regular travellers”, “irregular migrants”, “threat”, etc.)

2. How diverse authorities running diverse databases enact populations in diverse ways (more later)

The Ontology Explorer
The Ontology Explorer principles

1. Ontologies as discursive 'meta layer' of data for the observer. They reveal **assumptions** about people, but also the **possibilities** that are excluded by design.

2. Meaning emerges from **comparison**. The meaning of categories and attributes stems from their presence in some databases, and lack in some others (or lack with respect to actual use).
   - how do national and European authorities differ in the way they enact migrants? (Pelizza 2019, Pelizza and Van Rossem forthcoming 2021)

“CATEGORICAL STRETCHING” CONTESTING EUROPEAN CATEGORIES (PELIZZA 2019)

Practices of resistance exerted by actual people emerge as a contestation of authorities’ ontologies, data models, classifications, rather than in a vacuum.
Thanks

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Thanks