

Thursday, 12th November 2020, 5.30 pm
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Borders, immigrant policies and civil society between Italy and France.

Davide Rostan (Waldesian pastor) and Daniela Trucco (Ecole Française de Rome et Université Côte d'Azur ERMES/URMIS)

In the Maritime Alps, the border has once again become relevant since the summer of 2015. Since then, the reinforcement of the anti-immigration patrols on the major roads between Italy and France has been followed by solidarity and mobilization from both the local population and a part of the cross-border and international civil society. On both sides of the border, in Briançon and in the Valley of Susa, cases of solidarity have taken place inside the civil society. The support of the population has filled the void left by public institutions and has avoided a greater number of dead and injured people. In the past few years, in France, a network of solidarity was created in order to do information work and lobbying at an institutional level, involving organisations such as Amnesty International, Anafè, La Cimade, Medicine du Monde, and Medicine sans Frontières. In Italy, some ecclesiastic institutions, the NOTAV movement, a few municipal administrations and small non-governmental organisations like Rainbow4Africa have created a network that allows them to give shelter to those who are rejected. The presence of a significant number of people who were made illegal by the current European and National policies, in the urban areas like Ventimiglia, but also in the rural ones like the Valley of Roya and the Valley of Susa, has raised issues about cohabitation and hosting which have fueled the local, national and international political debate, but also the media and sensationalised narratives of the border. The connection between law and legality, mentioned in Jean Boiron Lajous's documentary, is a crucial point in the solidarity practices to the people transiting, which can be explored through *border studies* and *legal consciousness studies*. The encounter with migrants and solidarity work, which are often prevented by European countries, allow us to take a look at our notion of citizenship in the light of what happens along the borders of Italy and Europe.

Davide Rostan is a Waldesian pastor who has exercised his ministry in the Valley of Susa since 2012. He has directed the ecumenical center of Agape for 4 years and he has a long time experience of communal life with refugees and foreigners in different contexts, for example in the Jacopo Lombardini circle in Cinisello Balsamo. For some years now, he has been an activist of the Valsusa Oltre Confine network. He writes about migration in articles, interviews and conferences in order to help build a world where everybody can be a citizen with full rights.

Daniela Trucco is a Phd researcher in Political Science, specialised in the analysis of public and collective action in terms of migration, border and nationality policies. Associated with the ERMES and URMIS labs of the Université Côte d'Azur, she is among the founders of the Observatoire des migrations des Alpes Maritimes (<https://obsmigration.hypotheses.org/>) and she currently is a first-year member of the École française de Rome (www.efr.it). She recently edited *Le manège des frontières: criminalisation des migrations et solidarités dans les Alpes Maritimes* (ed. Le Passager clandestin) with Pinar Selek and collaborates with ANR DisPow (<https://dispow.hypotheses.org/>) in analysing the meaning and the use of the right to have borders in France.

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