

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES



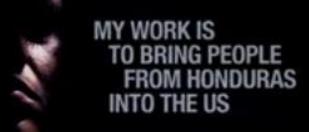
The Portrait of a Smuggler?

Re/crafting Smuggling Facilitation Research









Portrait of a people smuggler





For the cartel and the smuggler, there is an unmovable bottom line: the migrants are merchandise, to be profited from one way or the other.





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Our challenges

- Absence of empirical data
 - Focus on "violence"
 - Coupling, interchangeability of HT with HS.
- Unwillingness in counter-smuggling, anti-trafficking circles to be critical of research methodologies, findings and representations
- Mainstreaming of smuggling as primarily a transnational crime issue.
 - Often obscures fundamental socio-cultural dimensions of irregular migration facilitation processes
 - Hides important human rights implications







Who are the "smugglers"?

US Sentencing Commission (2009-2016)

- Almost 2/3: US citizens
- Male
- Age range 32-34
- No criminal history, no criminal record
- No reports of weapons (97%);
 no physical injury (96%)
- Most from border communities in TX, AZ.

Smuggling Workshop (Comparative Smuggling)

- Migrants and Refugees themselves
- Working poor women, youth, children, the elderly – supplemental/ survival income
- No weapons, no prior criminal history
- No ties to organized crime









Who is made invisible in the process?





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The need for critical approaches to mobility

- Transnational crime, violence-centric framework must be supplemented.
- Critical, innovative engagement with data sources, research, methods is urgently needed. Some examples:
 - UNODC: The Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal & Case Law Database
 - IOM: Special Issue of Migration Policy Practice on innovative ways to measure irregular migration
 - EUI/UTEP/Monash: Smuggling Workshop





The need for critical approaches to mobility (cont.)

- Inclusive methodologies
 - Gender, race, ethnicity, age
 - Smuggling facilitators are <u>essential</u> partners in the analysis, prevention.
 - <u>Circuit Minors</u>
 <u>Project in Cd. Juarez</u>,
 <u>Mexico</u>



Neither "criminals" nor "illegals": children and youth in the migrant smuggling market on the US-MX Border





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