

**Discourses on Immigration in Times of Economic Crisis: A Critical Perspective.**  
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Discourses on Immigration in Times of Economic Crisis: A Critical Perspective, edited by María Martínez Lirola focuses on the discursive and visual elements that are involved in representing ethnic and racial prejudices in contemporary press discourse. It includes contributions of academic experts on immigrants' discourses as well as of professionals working in Migrations Centres and Institute. They underline the role of public discourse, especially the mass media one, in the reproduction of racism presenting evidence coming from Spain and other countries, mainly UUSS, the United Kingdom and Central Europe.

The central idea is that expressed by Van Dijk in the prologue to the book, that is to say that "discriminatory practices presuppose shared social cognitions, such as prejudices, that can only be acquired, legitimated and socially reproduced by discourse."

The main objectives of this book are the following: a) to observe the ways in which the global economic crisis has affected the discourses on immigration; b) to analyse the main linguistic, visual and sociological characteristics of immigration in the press of different countries in order to show to what extent the journalistic treatment of immigration contributes to racism and xenophobia within societies in general; c) to study the way in which female immigrants are represented in the press; d) to make readers aware of the ways in which the texts on immigration are created and help readers to develop critical abilities in order to deconstruct the texts under analysis.

The theoretical frameworks of the articles collection are CDA and Visual Grammar, because they offer the possibility of "studying the texts paying attention to discursive forms of domination; in addition, they are appropriate frameworks because they are interdisciplinary since they give importance to the relationships between discourse and society, especially when they analyse the relationships of power, domination or inequality through the linguistic or visual characteristics of texts" (Lirola, p. 24). This integrated approach makes it possible to reveal relationships of power and injustice in discourses related to immigration, especially within the present time of economic crisis and uncertainty.

Chapter 1, by María Martínez Lirola, analyses how the return of immigrants is portrayed in the press by paying attention to the visual and linguistic characteristics of the news items dealing with this topic in three newspapers: *El Mundo*, *Información*, and *Latino*.

Chapter 2, by Jessica Retis, compares mainstream media representation of immigrant Latinas in the United States and Spain. A comparison of how immigrant

Latinas are portrayed in American and Spanish press will demonstrate that there are similarities in the representation of otherness.

Chapter 3, by Isabel Alonso Belmonte, Daniel Chornet Roses and Anne McCabe, has as its main purpose to identify and describe the ideological positions in user-generated online commentaries in the Spanish newspaper *El País*, and to shed light on the representations of immigrants within these ideological stances.

Chapter 5, by Antonio M. Bañón Hernández, Samantha Requena Romero and María Eugenia González Cortés, makes an analysis of the media discourses on immigration in relation to information linked to health and education.

Chapter 6, by F. Javier García Castaños, Antonia Olmos Alcaraz and María Rubio Gómez, focuses on the way diversity is shown – in relation to foreign immigrant pupils at school – in public discourses.

The objective of chapter 7, by Francisco Checa Olmos, Juan Carlos Checa Olmos and Ángeles Arjona Garrido is to understand the role played by political parties – through their party platforms – in shaping the migratory phenomenon and its related discourses.

Chapter 8, by Jan Chovanec, analyses the discursive construction of immigrants and domestic minorities in news reports.

Chapter 9, by Nicolás Lorite, tries to answer the following question: How do the media affect how immigrants are integrated into the social and intercultural fabric of society in a time of financial crisis?

Chapter 10, by Antolín Granados Martínez, F. Javier García Castaño, Nina Kressova, Lucía Chovancova and José Fernández Echeverría aims at providing some data for analysis of institutional actions which clearly focus on constraining the emergence of ideologies and the implementation of public policies that may provide the basis for social and/or cultural discrimination.

Chapter 11, by Gema Rubio Carbonero, aims at systematically analyzing Spanish political discourse on immigration between years 2010 and 2011. Thus, all the political speeches dealing with immigration in these two years produced in the Spanish parliament (*Pleno del Congreso de los Diputados*) by any political party are carefully studied in order to find out what attitudes and ideologies can be observed and, therefore are transmitted to Spanish population about immigration.

To conclude, I consider this book an interesting investigation on institutional and public discourses on immigration and a useful and powerful tool to understand critically how media discourses can contribute to build social and cultural prejudices.