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Border-network & Migration of Contact. Intermarriages in Belgium, France and Italy

Laura Odasso

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Since the end of 1990s and during the 2000s, European Member States have restrained foreigners' access to residence permit and citizenship through marriage. To implement the reforms, new administrative dispositives have been created.

Binational marriages are depicted by policy-makers as:

- the main reason for entry and stay in Europe,
- a new migratory chain (i.e. intracommunitarian & kin marriages, etc.)
- a danger to 'national identity' and public security (i.e. "hyphenated identities" (Yuval Davis 2011), fraud, etc.)

Policy makers' debates rely rarely on the analysis of migration law regimes (i.e. illegalisation of foreigners) and international relations (i.e. colonisation & economy) Lack of continuity and recognition: no "ethic of responsibility".

Binational marriages management hides the broader question of NEW BORDERS and BOUNDARIES in European societies.

What are the consequences for the members of the couples, after marrying until obtaining a common European citizenship ?

WHERE ?

European Comparison:

Belgium (Brussels), France (Strasbourg), Italy (Turin)

WHAT ?

HOW ?

Interactionism

Tribal Stigma (Goffman 1965)

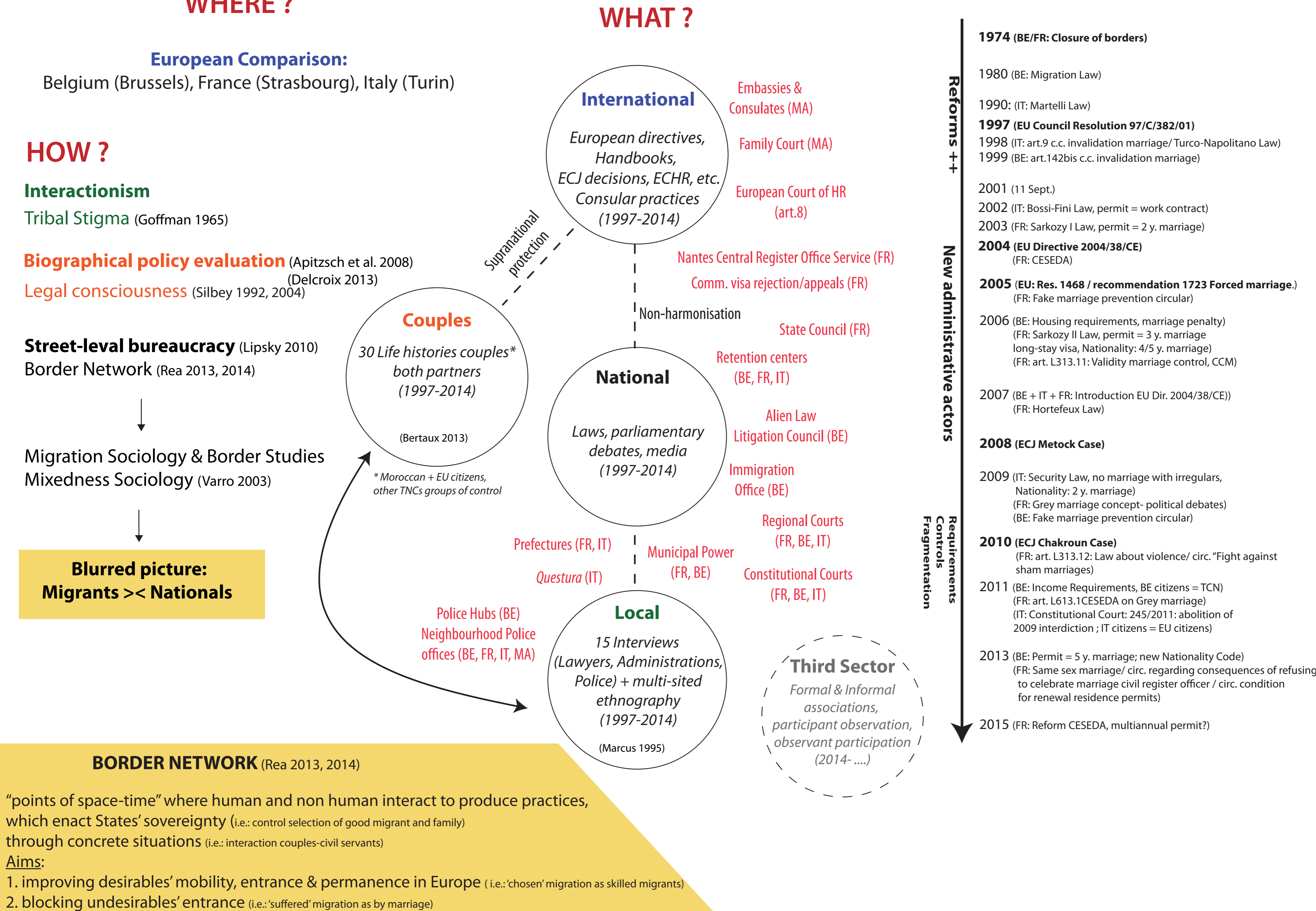
Biographical policy evaluation (Apitzsch et al. 2008)
(Delcroix 2013)

Legal consciousness (Silbey 1992, 2004)

Street-level bureaucracy (Lipsky 2010)
Border Network (Rea 2013, 2014)

Migration Sociology & Border Studies
Mixedness Sociology (Varro 2003)

**Blurred picture:
Migrants >< Nationals**



SOFT BORDER NETWORK

Family protected (better norm has to be applied)
Less power to municipality >> More power to *questura*
Rare controls, no integration requirements

PROBATIONARY BORDER NETWORK

Multiplication of procedures to obtain permit (withdrawal)
Reverse discrimination / Partners' dependency
Files with private data to prove love / paternalism
Power to municipality --> Discretionary power

CONDITIONAL BORDER NETWORK

Family reunification procedure to obtain permit (withdrawal)
Requirements on BE citizen to TCN's permit / files with private data
Multiplication of actors (specific police hubs) / Discretionary power
Controls' target : Moroccans & Turks

Findings:

- 1) Degradations of legal status' stability and restrictions to mobility illegalize foreigners (TCNs)
- 2) Due to TCNs' legal status, couples search for administrative stability: injunction to marry = encounter with the border-network
- 3) Outcomes of the border-networks: fragments the access to long-term residence differently in EU States ->States' interest > EU harmonisation
- 4) New selective instability (i.e.: renewing, withdrawal permit) and dependence between partners (i.e.: unattended consequences: violence, blackmail)
- 5) Couples' local experiences help to understand how differently family migration affect the nationals (cf. EU route)

MIGRATION OF CONTACT (Odasso, 2013): The national partner experiences **what it is like to be « migrant »** !

Laura ODASSO, Postdoctoral Marie Curie Fellow, Group for Research on Ethnic Relations, Migrations and Equality, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Marie Curie Postdoctoral Project: Awareness and Migration: Organisation for binational family Right Empowerment (AMORE)

PhD dissertation: "The conjugal mixedness: an experience of migration. A comparative study of the effects of the stigmatization on "natives" and their Arab partners in Venetia (Italy) and Alsace (France)", 2013.
email: Laura.Odasso@ulb.ac.be