

Research in Progress: Eline Waerp

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Research Focus

- Digitalization of EU air border controls
- Securitization of migration
- Irregularized migration
- European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)

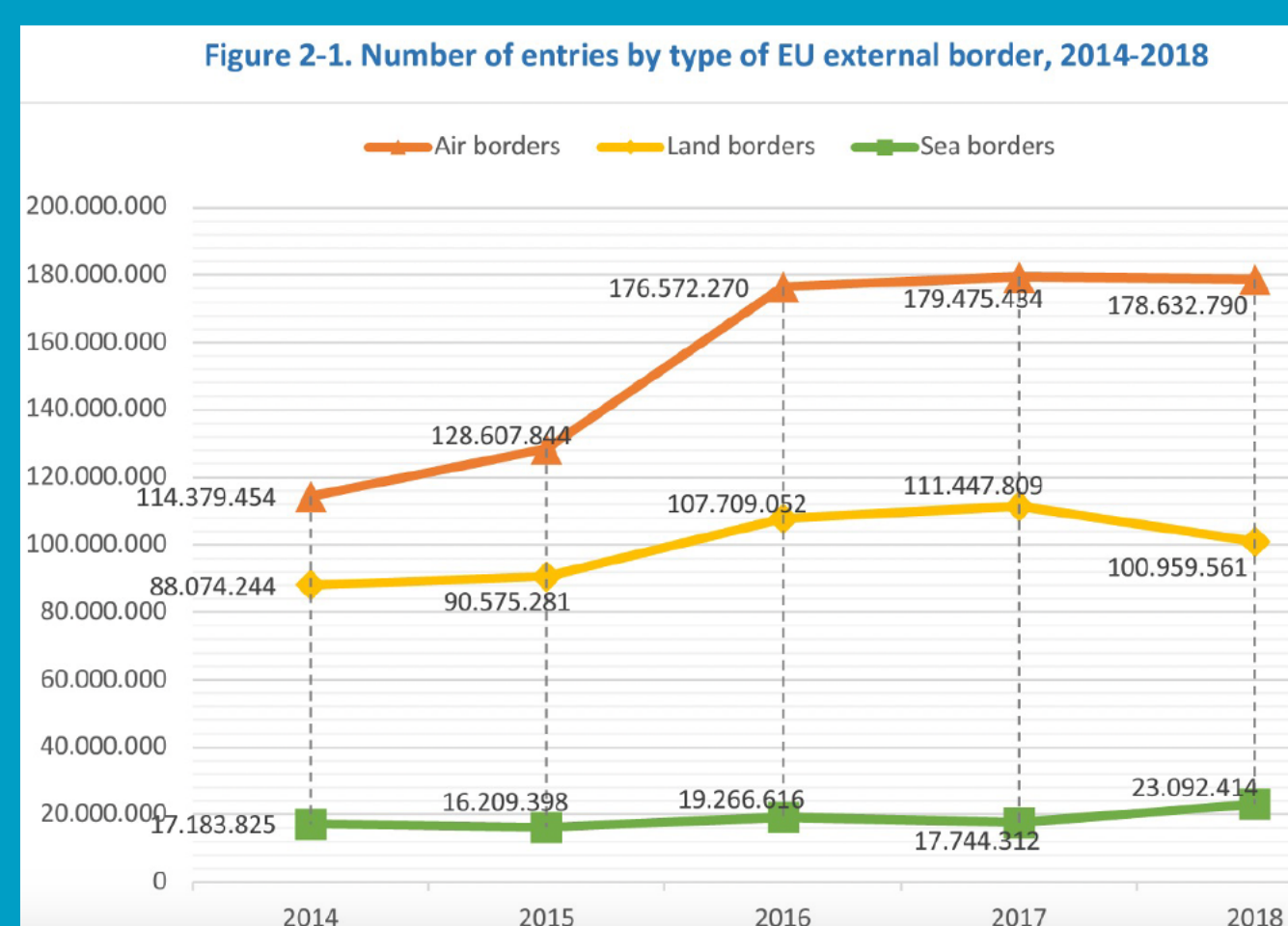


Digitalizing EU Air Border Controls

- Border controls are becoming more digitalized.
- The next few years will see the introduction of new technologies such as the Entry/Exit System (EES), European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), and the Digital Travel Credential (DTC).
- These systems will impact millions of travelers on an annual basis, most of whom are categorized as 'bona fide'.
- This project investigates the impacts of these emerging tools on border guards' work and travelers' journey, focusing on the filtering between supposedly 'risky' vs. regular mobility.

Theory & Methods

- Securitization theory (Paris & Copenhagen School) --> banal securitization.
- Fieldwork/participant observation at Schiphol and Frankfurt airport, as well as interviews with border guards, airport operators, carriers, tech companies, and data protection authorities.



Why does this matter?

- Regular border crossings dwarf the number of 'irregular' crossings, but still receive less academic attention.
- Air travel has increased significantly the last few decades, and is expected to continue to do so in the future.
- The air borders account for the majority of border crossings to Europe, despite the media's and policymakers' focus on dangerous boat crossings in the Mediterranean or in deep woodlands.
- The project moves away from the sensationalized focus on irregularized migration at the external sea and land borders, to this neglected area of research.

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- Border and migration studies.
- Critical, constructivist perspectives

