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Research proposal

The present research investigates the role of international humanitarian organizations' discourses and practices in the contemporary migration governance and border-making in the Southern European border regime. Inscribed at the intersection of the growing academic literature concerning the re-bordering of Europe, the migration management field and the emerging humanitarian border regimes, this research aims to go deeper in the exploration of the ongoing transformations in the forms of government and control of migration.

In this sense the deployment of the hotspot approach at the Italian Southern shores (adopted in 2015 by the European Commission) provides a privileged standpoint to observe the contemporary modes of border and migration management. Moreover this context offers a key angle to grasp the way through which humanitarian discourses and practices contribute to shift, construct and deconstruct the border itself.

Based on an empirical investigation, and in particular on the triangulation of qualitative research methods - document analysis, semi-structured interviews and observation - this research is expected to show how international humanitarian organizations' interventions contribute to transform and extend the forms of governance, control and differential inclusion of migrants.