

#CaravanaMigrante as affective publics
The doing of migration discourse in Twitter and Legacy Media

Doktorand: Antonio Romero

Betreuerin: Prof. Dr. Margreth Lünenborg

Abstract

In mid-October 2018, an event from Latin America captured the attention of people from all around the world through social media and digital news sites alike. A group of thousands of people from the Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala marched on to Mexico in an attempt to cross the border to reach the United States. The group was identified as a migrant caravan, and quickly, the phenomenon was built as a relevant social event. During those end months of 2018, the migrant caravan reached vast media relevance, in a convulsed period when migration dynamics and politics were changing drastically in the region with long-lasting effects.

The research project analyses the affective dynamics and discourses through which the phenomenon of Central American migrant caravans was debated and circulated on some legacy media outlets and Twitter as a social network site within Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States. The previous objective through a methodology that combines qualitative content analysis and a more in-depth critical discourse analysis of some legacy media contents and tweets. This proposal is based on theoretical approaches like media practice, which analyses daily routines of communication for the emergence of media-relevant events, and on affective publics, which concentrates on the relational constitution of publics through articulations of emotion, in moments of confrontation or solidarity and collective action. An essential purpose of the project is to investigate the doing and restructuring of publics in networked interactions, on a worldwide relevant topic like migration and its relation to media.