



Turkey's migration narratives and strategic temporality

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During its 10 years hosting massive numbers of Syrian refugees and as a transit hub for so-called irregular migrants and country of origin for many migrants, Turkey has adopted a wide repertoire of political narratives. The narratives contain strategic ambiguities that give space for the speakers to manoeuvre in terms of defining the audience (e.g., domestic versus international public), the agenda of the event and support for policy changes (e.g., accommodative to restrictive). These narratives constitute the core of policy responses and provide strong mechanisms for legitimizing them. They also cross over to issues such as development, security and politics. They function not only to construct the nation-state in terms of humanitarianism, generosity and being a great power but also to mobilize social and political resources to manage migration. These narratives are dynamic; they change as they are challenged by multiple non-state actors such as municipalities, civil society organizations, political parties or migrants themselves.