

This PhD aims at studying the implementation of integration and inclusion programs for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (MRAs) in Greece and the role of the relationship that is created between street-level bureaucrats (actors working in the field either for the government or for an NGO-CSO) and MRAs in this case. More specifically, this PhD focuses on the evaluation of the implementation of the already existing and upcoming integration programs between 2016-2024 on two levels. First, it will examine the adequacy of these programs based on the needs of the migrant population, assessing if the guidelines and instructions in place are applicable and sufficient. Additionally, it will investigate how these programs are implemented by street-level bureaucrats and how their relationship with the beneficiaries influences their work.

To understand how these relationships are shaped and what factors affect them, this PhD will examine the role of social identities in the relationship between street-level bureaucrats and beneficiaries, such as gender and race. Motivated by the scarce literature available in this field and especially regarding the Greek case, the study aspires to explore and understand the correlations between sociology and migration, as migration should be analysed through sociological lenses to be effectively understood. Therefore, the study combines existing literature while seeking to discover and develop new streams of literature regarding this topic and, in particular, the Greek case.

The chosen method of data collection is in-depth, semi-structured interviews in combination with the compilation and analysis of existing literature and quantitative data. The interviews will be conducted both amongst actors that work in the field, whether they are employed by the state, an NGO-CSO or work voluntarily in the implementation of integration and inclusion programs, and amongst MRAs that have obtained a residence permit in Greece and are beneficiaries of such programs.

Overall, this study presents a distinctive opportunity to explore the connections between two fields, migration and sociology, that have much to offer to the academic world and government policy advisers.