

## **The Making of Illegality: Gender and Undocumented Migration in Italy and Portugal**

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Empirical research on undocumented migration in the European context exposes the need to review the modern notions of nation, time and space, embedded in concepts like “assimilation” and “integration”. This paper aims at giving a contribution to such debate, in line with the transnational and comparative approach developed in the project “Migratory Trajectories of African Origin, Illegality and Gender” coordinated by Marzia Grassi at the Institute of Social Sciences –University of Lisbon. Based on interviews with migrants of African origin and specific elements of media and legislative contexts in Portugal and Italy, the project aims at providing evidence regarding the construction of “illegality”. The analysis focuses on the perceptions and representations attached to this process, as well as on the gendered impacts on the conditions of access to the job market and citizenship rights, in particular on the issues regarding conjugality in the context of undocumented migration.

