NEUTRAL LANGUAGE AND MENTAL HEALTH

DO MIGRANTS FEEL MIGRANTS?

In the recent years, from Carta di Roma adopted by Italian Journalists Federation in 2008 to the Media friendly glossary on migration proposed by United Nations Alliance of Civilization in 2014, among political institutions all over the world, ethical journalism is on the rise aiming at spreading a coverage of migration phenomena as neutral as possible, far from biases, stigmas, and derogative connotations.

Following these guidelines, the word "extra communitarian", originally used to refer to the old European Economic Community, is now considered a derogatory term referred to non westerners arriving from countries perceived as non developed and it has been universally replaced by the word "migrant" considered to be more neutral. The word "migrant" now applies to all who for one reason or the other leave their country of origin.

In this presentation we'll discuss how this word is perceived by migrants themselves, and if and how "neutral" communication affect their identity, sense of belonging and ability to integrate, and ultimately their mental health. We'll discuss that collecting interviews with tens of migrants who are in therapy and their therapists.

People we'll have the chance to interview come from Africa, Middle East, East Europe and South America.

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