

Review of: "Is It Real? The Construction of Prejudice Against Nigerian Immigrants in Italy: A Case Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Strengths

1. **Relevant Topic:** The paper addresses an important and timely issue—human trafficking and the criminalization of migrants, with a focus on Nigerian migrants in Italy. This subject is significant in both legal and human rights discourses.
2. **Comprehensive Literature Review:** The paper includes a thorough review of existing literature, providing multiple perspectives on human trafficking and the sex industry, including legalistic, human rights, and feminist approaches.
3. **Unique Case Study:** The use of a specific case involving Nigerian migrants adds depth and context to the theoretical discussions, offering empirical insights into the judicial processes and societal perceptions.

Weaknesses

1. **Methodological Clarity:** I believe the methodology section lacks detailed information on how data was collected and analyzed. This makes it difficult to assess the reliability and validity of the findings.
2. **Argumentation and Structure:** While the paper raises critical points, it sometimes lacks a clear argumentative structure. The transition between theoretical discussions and empirical analysis could be more seamless. This may lead to confusion regarding the main arguments and contributions of the paper.
3. **Empirical Evidence:** The paper's argument that the criminalization of Nigerians is influenced by societal stereotypes and legal biases is compelling. However, it relies heavily on qualitative data from judicial materials and media analysis. While this is a valid approach, the inclusion of more quantitative data or broader empirical evidence could strengthen the findings.

Recommendations

Minor Revisions:

- **Methodology:** Enhance the methodology section by providing more details on the data collection and analysis processes. Clarify the sources of data, how they were selected, and the analytical methods used.
- **Argument Structure:** Improve the structure and flow of the argumentation. Clearly delineate the transition between the discussion of literature, the presentation of the case study, and the conclusion.

- Additional Evidence: Consider incorporating more empirical evidence, potentially including quantitative data, to support the qualitative findings and provide a more comprehensive analysis.

Conclusion: The paper has strong potential and addresses a critical issue. With some refinement, especially in methodological rigor and argument structure, it could make a significant contribution to the field.

Specific changes:

Methodology Section: Areas Needing More Detail

Data Collection:

- Judicial Materials: The paper mentions the use of indictment 10428/2017 from the Bologna Court, media reports, and an interview with a solicitor. However, it does not detail how these materials were selected, nor the criteria for their inclusion.

Clarify:

- How were the judicial materials accessed and chosen?
- Were there specific criteria for selecting media reports (e.g., time frame, type of media)?
- How was the solicitor selected for the interview, and what was the interview protocol?

- Media Analysis: While the paper references media sources, it could elaborate on:

- The range of media outlets reviewed (local, national, international).
- The types of articles included (news reports, editorials, opinion pieces).
- The process for identifying and analyzing relevant media content.

- Interviews: More details are needed regarding:

- The interview format (structured, semi-structured, unstructured).
- The questions or topics covered during the interview.
- How the interview data was recorded and transcribed.

Data Analysis:

- Analytical Framework: The paper mentions analyzing the mindset of judicial actors and media representations, but it should specify:

- The theoretical framework or analytical lenses used (e.g., discourse analysis, thematic analysis).
- The specific steps taken to analyze the content of judicial materials, media reports, and interview data.
- How themes or patterns were identified and interpreted from the data.

Suggested Structure for Better Clarity and Flow:

1. Introduction:

- Briefly introduce the main issue (prejudice against Nigerian immigrants and their criminalization).
- State the paper's objectives and main arguments.
- Outline the structure of the paper.

2. Theoretical Framework:

- Introduce the key theoretical perspectives (legalistic, human rights, feminist) used to analyze human trafficking and the sex industry.
- Explain the relevance of these perspectives to the current study.

3. Methodology:

- Clearly outline the data sources and methods of data collection.
- Detail the analytical approach and justify the selection of methods.

4. Empirical Analysis:

- Case Description: Provide a detailed account of the case, including the background, key events, and main actors involved.
- Media Analysis: Analyze how the media portrayed the case and Nigerian immigrants.
- Judicial Perspective: Examine the judicial materials and their framing of the case.

5. Discussion:

- Synthesize the findings from the empirical analysis.
- Discuss the implications of these findings for understanding societal prejudices and legal biases.
- Compare with existing literature and theoretical perspectives.

6. Conclusion:

- Recap the main findings and arguments.
- Suggest policy implications or recommendations.
- Propose areas for future research.

This suggested structure could help improve logical flow from theory to methodology, empirical findings, and discussion, providing a clear and cohesive narrative throughout the paper.