

EDITORIAL

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At a time when anti-immigration sentiment and xenophobia are becoming increasingly widespread and more and more incorporated in the political mainstream in the Nordic countries and across Europe, academic research on migration is also put under pressure. The challenges to migration research come in different forms, but we would like to signal two phenomena that potentially threaten critical migration research. First, the increasing emphasis on impact and policy relevance in research and strategically steered research funding is one way which can potentially hinder research that does not conform to the concepts, methodological framework or time tables set by policy makers. Second, attacks on individual researchers ranging from hate speech to direct threats on physical integrity by anti-immigrant activists are an increasing concern to migration researchers.

There is more accessible and available space for scholars to contribute to public debate through different media and public fora, including social media, but it is also in the social media that the risks of being personally attacked are the greatest and the personal challenges the highest. Unfortunately, a not unusual reaction in this situation is to resort to self-censorship, such as evading publishing on topics that are likely to be met with hostile reactions, or to withdraw from migration research altogether. We have witnessed both phenomena also in the Nordic countries. Yet, the current political situation calls for *more*, not *less* academic research on migration. The solution is not silence, but ensuring that also in the future migration researchers have the possibility to publish research without having to worry for their safety or academic integrity. However, ensuring one's safety as a researcher should not be left to the individuals themselves, as it too often is, but collective and

institutional practices should be put in place to support researchers who are facing anti-immigration activism. Academic institutions need to take the safety of their researchers much more seriously than before.

In this environment, the sharing of research knowledge on migration issues through Open Access without author and reader fee is more important than ever. Migrant scholars have a pivotal role to play in light of the current global situation, and the Nordic Journal of Migration Research will continue to offer a free and completely open forum for migration researchers in the Nordic countries and beyond.

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