Claudia Anamaria IOV, (2020), *Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus,* **Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 289pp.,
presented by Rareș-Alexandru VĂSCAN[1]**

A Scientific Researcher with over 12 years of experience in the field of international relations and also a university lecturer with a career spanning more than 10 years in security studies at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Claudia Anamaria Iov, author of the book *Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus*, presents in this ambitious, well-documented work an

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[1] Phd, Department of International Studies and Contemporary History, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Email: rares.vascan@ubbcluj.ro.

approach to the complex relationship between migration, identity, and security within the European Union, particularly in the case of the Roma minority. This examination is set within a broad context marked by geopolitical shifts and waves of migration, which are seen as challenges to European security. The book *Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus* is based on Claudia Anamaria Iov's doctoral thesis, in which she set out to examine and address east-to-west migration and the issues faced by the Roma ethnic minority in France, thereby highlighting the numerous social tensions and interactions that label intra-EU migration *as a meta-problem for destination states.*

Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus stands out from the outset with a holistic approach to the theoretical framework under scrutiny – namely, "security" – and with an effort to clarify and define the concept of security, considering the evolution and transformations it has undergone through the perspectives shaped by different schools of thought and the international scene. Moreover, in my view, this book addresses, introduces, and delves deeply into the theme of societal security in a logical manner, well-supported with genuine examples, along with an exploration of how cultural elements can be used as tools within security policies.

Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus, noted as a bold piece of research from the outset due to the objectives set forth by the author, Claudia Anamaria Iov, offers a rigorous analysis through a transdisciplinary approach structured into two distinct, theoretically and methodologically coherent sections. Each part contributes to an overarching goal, which, in my critical opinion, is to facilitate an understanding of the migration-identity-security triad, specifically concerning the Roma minority in France from 2007 to 2012.

The first chapter introduces the general field of security studies and international relations, presenting the new theoretical framework of the "umbrella" concept of security and illustrating how its meaning has been expanded by the new schools of thought from Copenhagen and Paris, extending beyond traditionalist and realist approaches. Although this book provides one of the most comprehensive explanations of societal security and security approaches, it also highlights the challenge

of formulating an exhaustive definition of the concept of security, given its dual nature – both objective and subjective.

In the second chapter, the author, Claudia Anamaria Iov, aims to offer a new perspective for research in the field of International Relations by closely examining the interdependence and causal relationship between migration, identity, and security. Her goal is to bring a novel element to this period by exploring the effects on the European Union's integration process. Through this approach, which emphasises the impact of migration on identity construction, security, and even the well-being of European societies, the author asserts that migration within the European Union is part of a "security continuum" where the boundaries between internal and external threats become blurred, arguing that migration effects have necessitated the integration of multiple once-distinct sectors into a single security issue.

The third chapter combines an objective characterisation of the Roma minority by presenting its history, culture, and traditions, which both define and preserve its group identity. This chapter's role is to provide a balanced and impartial analysis of the myths and folklore surrounding Roma identity, as viewed from various perspectives provided by Roma leaders and specialist researchers.

Chapter four examines and thoroughly reviews, with extensive documentation, the international legislative framework regarding the protection of ethnic minorities and human rights. In this part of her research, Claudia Anamaria Iov captures the influence of ethnic minority legislation on the relationships between majority and minority groups within European Union states.

The final chapter, which serves as the cornerstone of originality and distinction in comparison to other research within both International Relations and minority studies, provides a pragmatic yet critical analysis of the situation of the Roma minority with Romanian citizenship in France from 2007 to 2012. Throughout this chapter, the researcher introduces a new perspective on the Roma minority in France, which she terms the "poverty-migration-security complex," analysing it through the lens of social integration measures. Through this new complex, Claudia Anamaria Iov's chapter examines and presents the effects of European security policies on the Roma in France, combined with the

challenges of their integration process. The author also critiques securitisation practices, arguing that they erode and negatively influence the inclusion of the Roma minority.

In the conclusions of *Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus*, researcher Claudia Anamaria Iov, with her strong theoretical and professional expertise, highlights new research directions regarding the Roma minority within the context of the security complex. At the same time, the final section presents a series of potential scenarios for managing the Roma minority issue, along with a set of solutions that take into account the actors involved, the scale of the phenomenon, and the severity of the situation of the Roma, both in their countries of origin and in destination countries.

In an objective and appreciative manner, regarding the scope of the issue analysed, *Rethinking (In)Security in the European Union: The Migration-Identity-Security Nexus* contributes to the field of security studies and international relations through this comprehensive analysis of European perceptions concerning the Roma minority and their migration.