Covering the Refugee Crisis: Is the Media Getting it Right?

Round table

Around 3,000 people who desperately tried to reach Greece this year by sea are either dead or missing.

More than 600,000 refugees and migrants have embarked on the perilous Mediterranean crossing to Greece so far in 2015, on an arduous journey towards central and northern Europe.

In Spielfeld, on the Austrian border with Slovenia, thousands of refugees wait every day for onward transportation. Thousands more wait on the Slovenian side to cross. They are but a small portion of the world’s 20 million refugees – half of them children – according to the UNHCR.

The media give them a voice and a face, providing important information and shaping opinions through public debate. Journalists covering the story can help society deal with rapid social change sparked by the crisis, while contributing to the reinforcement of democratic values.

But are they getting it right?

How well are they covering this extraordinary story of human suffering and social transformation? Are they upholding – or jeopardising – the core democratic values of Europe?

Join us at this Round Table for answers.

Panel:

- Mag Joanna Bostock, Chief Editor Reality Check FM4, ORF
- Prof. Gabor Halmai, Professor of International Law and Fundamental Rights Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Senior Visiting Fellow Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna.
- Tawanda Kanhemba, MA Al Jazeera, AJ+ producer in charge of digital content, San Francisco
- Mag. Olivera Stajic-Fidler, Editorial Director DaStandard, Editor-in-chief DerStandard.at
- Dr. Birgit Wolf, InterEuropean Human Aid Association e.V., Lecturer in Communication and Gender, University of Vienna, Danube University Krems

Moderation: Univ.-Prof Dr Katharine Sarikakis

December 2, 2015
19:00
Hörsaal 1, Department of Communication
Währinger Straße 29, 1090 Vienna

The event will be followed by a small, informal reception.

The event is organised by the Media Governance and Industries Research Lab, Department of Communication, University of Vienna.
http://mediagovernance.univie.ac.at/