

The prepared project focuses on ‘necromigrations’, understood as the post-mortem movement of human remains. To investigate this phenomenon, ethnographic fieldwork will be carried out in Spain, oriented on crossing national borders by the dead bodies of migrants who died while trying to cross the sea on their way into Europe. The research will involve interviews among local communities and observations of strategies and practices for handling migrant bodies. Ultimately, the project aims to investigate the local and spatial impact of those necromigrations and their political implications. Although fieldwork will only focus on one kind of necromigration, the project also aims to identify their diversity and develop original definitions of ‘necromigrations’ and ‘necromigrants’.

The choice of the research topic stems from the mass deaths of migrants in recent years due to the migrant/refugee acceptance crisis. The project assumes that migrant bodies found in different localities have significant social, political and economic influences that must be thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, it aims to highlight that the mobility of human remains is an important phenomenon that needs to be considered in research. Planned contributions of the study are field-based knowledge about necromigrations and innovative theoretical ideas. They will provide valuable insights into several areas of social anthropology, including the anthropology of politics, memory, and identity, and into the posthumanist theories of agency, the role of necropolitics and the ways of handling dead bodies.