“WHEN THE PRESS MEETS THE MIGRANTS: THEMATICAL CORES, SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND ACCULTURATION STRATEGIES IN A COLUMN MANAGED BY AN IMMIGRANT ASSOCIATIONS’ NETWORK”

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At the moment in Italy there are around 3 million immigrants of which 10% live in the Emilia Romagna region, where they represent the 7% of the total habitants.

In the city of Reggio Emilia, the foreigners represent 10% of the population, but in some areas (e.g. the centre) this percentage becomes over 22%.

Reggio Emilia is the second Italian province when it comes to the percentage of foreign students at school (10.4% vs. the national average of 4.5%).

Caritas, Dossier Statistico 2005; Osservatorio sulle Famiglie, Comune di Reggio Emilia MIUR, 2005, Alunni con cittadinanza non italiana
National communities

Egyptians

Moroccans

The Union

Italian community

Northern natives

Southern migrants

Local community

National migrants

Natives

Foreign long term migrants

The Church

..unspecialized young male "short term" immigrants..

'75-80

'90
Financial support to create intercultural centres

The union’s know-how

Medium sized city

Productive environment

Left-wing oriented municipality

The present..
Guess who comes last?  ..he would be very proud to vote Italian

..and the future?
Gazzetta di Reggio  
13 October 2002 – 21 May 2006

37 numbers

CORPUS – N  
80542 word types

VOCABULARY - N(V)  
10509 words

HAPAX - V1(N)  
5469 words

LEXICAL richness  
\( n(v)/n = 0.13 \)  
\( v1(n)/v(n) = 0.52 \)

3648 sentences  
1702 (47%) analyzed

Italy, Reggio Emilia,  
foreigners, school,  
women, labor,  
language, integration,  
immigration, family, Italians, culture..
“What they miss most is the family network which was lost with the emigration”

“...the feeling of belonging that matures through the recognition in the community”

When you are a child and you get catapulted in a new country, it is fundamental knowing your own cultural identity; the research of your own cultural roots becomes a fixed idea.

Immigrants use public services and pay taxes as everyone else, so they have the full right to vote.

Because the present and the future of our city is multicultural: this is the great challenge of Reggio.

Anila is an Albanian woman that succeeds in building a professional future in our city.

If a factory shuts down, Italian workers become unemployed, foreigners become clandestine.

The fears, difficulties, sense of extirpation and the loneliness that emigration brings don’t frighten me.

My work condition in Italy doesn’t permit me to decide with serenity.

My mother tongue is French, so I can’t help my daughter with the school homework.
Local dimension, as “the” community within which people manage the personal and social development

Abstract, theoretical, ideological “tension”

Actual politics as cultural action to solve and cope with acculturation changes

Concrete, pragmatic, active dimension

New political actors: young “aware” citizens