

(UN)EQUAL TREATMENT OF REFUGEES?



MAASTRICHT'S POPULAR RESPONSE TO MIGRATION CRISES

The recent Ukrainian refugee crisis has raised questions of **differences in public perception towards different refugee groups**. While Middle Eastern refugees have had considerable difficulties integrating in the EU, Ukrainian refugees have been more positively received (Draanová & Geddes, 2023).

Why?

Assessing how different factors shape different attitudes towards refugees

- is a first step to **understand, identify and eradicate issues of inequality**.
- The case study of **Maastricht** targets a diverse and international environment to evaluate the differences in popular perception



Our Process

Mixed-method approach

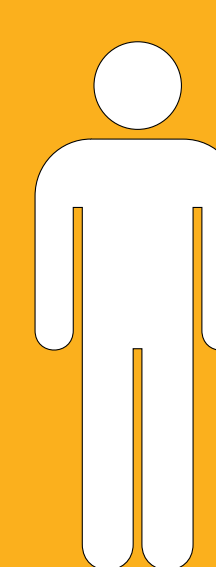
- **survey** conducted among students of Maastricht University to assess their attitudes toward refugees.
- Semi-structured **interviews** with the RMP volunteer and a Syrian refugee currently residing in Maastricht

Characteristics



Ukrainian refugees

- **90%** were women with children
- flew a war of aggression



Middle Eastern refugees

- **>50%** men in their 20's
- flew a civil war



Our Research

Threat Theory

"the idea of threat is already enough to cause prejudice towards an outgroup (Croucher, 2012).

Empirical data collection

Survey based on two indicators: housing and willingness to donate

Interview to a Syrian Refugee

"I don't "feel" that, I know it, you know it, governments know it, and the EU knows it."

"I never felt welcomed in any of the countries I lived since becoming a refugee, which started before arriving in Europe."

Findings

Dynamics in society are always more nuanced than they appear. Moving away from the white Christian versus coloured Muslim narrative, the result of our research on Maastricht highlights that difference in perception is the cumulative effect of a variety of socio-demographic factors.