

Travel Report  
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I would like to thank the Centre for European Studies for providing me with a research grant for my MA research essay entitled *Readmission Agreements in the Governance of EU Borders: The Case of Morocco and Spain, 1990 – 2009*. During the first three weeks of June I conducted research in Brussels, Belgium where I have interviewed scholars and representatives from the European Commission and NGO organizations. I also consulted literature (not available to me at Carleton) at the European Commission Central Library.

In the last week of June and the first week of July I was in Madrid trying to fill in some gaps and uncertainties by conducting research at the Migration Institute at the Pontificia Comillas University (UPC). Consequently, I carried out more interviews with scholars, a journalist, a Minister from the Ministry of the Interior, and other researchers. The Director of the Migration Institute at UPC in Madrid has been instrumental in providing me with information (from a legal perspective) regarding Spain's position on Readmission Agreements. Other scholars at the UPC migration institute facilitated some statistical information and further contacts for me. Throughout the remaining three weeks of July and the two weeks at the beginning of August I conducted more interviews (in the South of Spain in Cádiz, Algeciras, and Jerez de la Frontera) with human rights activists, government officials, and a migration lawyer. The migration lawyer provided me with extremely valuable and undisclosed (in any official source) information. I also visited one migrant reception centre in Algeciras (Spain) where I have conducted an informal interview with a priest who runs this Centre.

This year's field work has been fundamental for my research because it exposed different interpretations (and practices) of Readmission Agreements. These distinct interpretations challenge me to define what exactly constitutes (or encompasses) Readmission Agreements. On another note, due to the lack of transparency and as a result of the sensitivity of this issue my core research question has been 'suspended' with regards to informal Readmission Agreements. The different people whom I have interviewed did not know much about the informal agreements or from the Spanish side the official simply said that "Spain has no informal Readmission Agreements". This is quite interesting because the official from the EU mentioned that informal agreements are carried out (ie., in the Mediterranean Sea) and that the border guards are responsible for carrying them out.

This travel report just like my research in Europe, reflect my 'work in progress' which would not be possible without the grant from the CES. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. DeBardeleben, the Director of CES, Dr. Gould, the Associate Director of CES, and Olga Arnaudova, the CES Programs Coordinator for their support in making this research possible.