

# POLARISED NARRATIVES ON MIGRATION: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE JOURNEY TO THE CANARY ISLANDS

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PROYECTO COMPASS CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE MIGRACIÓN LABORAL CIRCULAR

30-31 de Octubre 2025, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

## African Perspective

- Circular labour migration = legitimate strategy
- Emphasis: resilience, training, youth



## European Perspective

- Migration framed as crisis
- Focus on: security, service pressure, labour market

## Canary Islands as Migration Hub

- Strategic location near Africa
- Dual role: emigration & immigration

## “Cayuco Crisis” 2006

- Mass arrivals from West Africa
- Highlighted humanitarian risks & EU limits

## Governance & Security

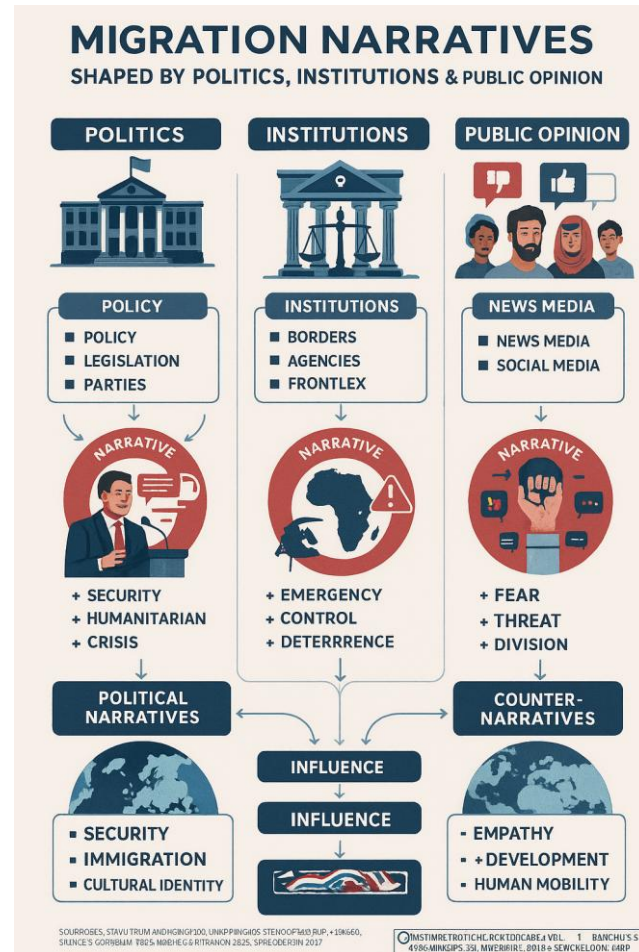
- Strategic location near Africa
- Dual role: emigration & immigration

## Integration Challenges

- Migrants in agriculture, construction, tourism
- Social exclusion, xenophobia, limited settlement

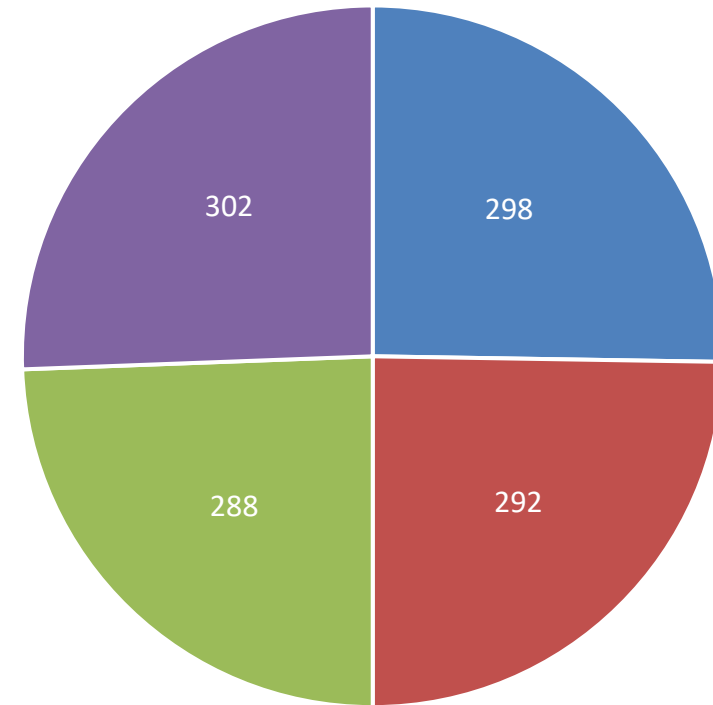
## Aim of Study

- Examine narratives in Canary Islands media
- Combine computational methods & critical analysis



## Dataset

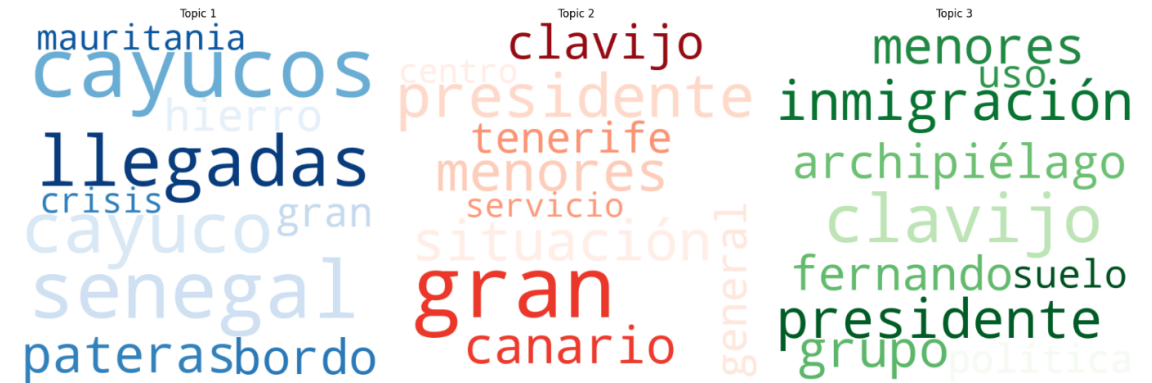
- Examine narratives in Canary Islands media
- Combine computational methods & critical analysis
- RTVC most coverage (302 articles)
- Relatively balanced among outlets



■ Canarias 7 ■ El Día ■ La Provincia ■ RTVC

# Methodology

- **Preprocessing steps**
- **Word2Vec Embeddings**
- **Principal Component Analysis**
- **Latent Dirichlet Allocation**

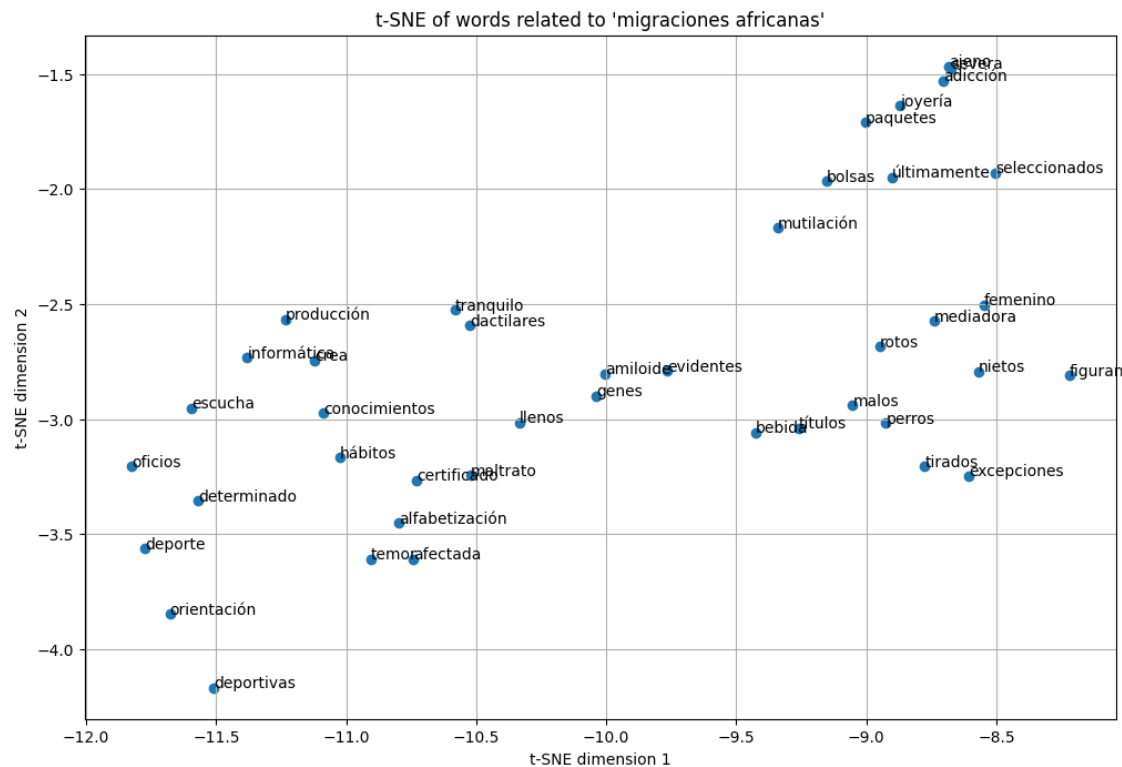


# Results (1)

	Canarias 7	El Día	La Provincia	RTVC
RTVC	0.39	0.41	0.41	1
La Provincia	0.78	0.57	1	0.41
El Día	0.68	1	0.57	0.41
Canarias 7	1	0.68	0.78	0.39



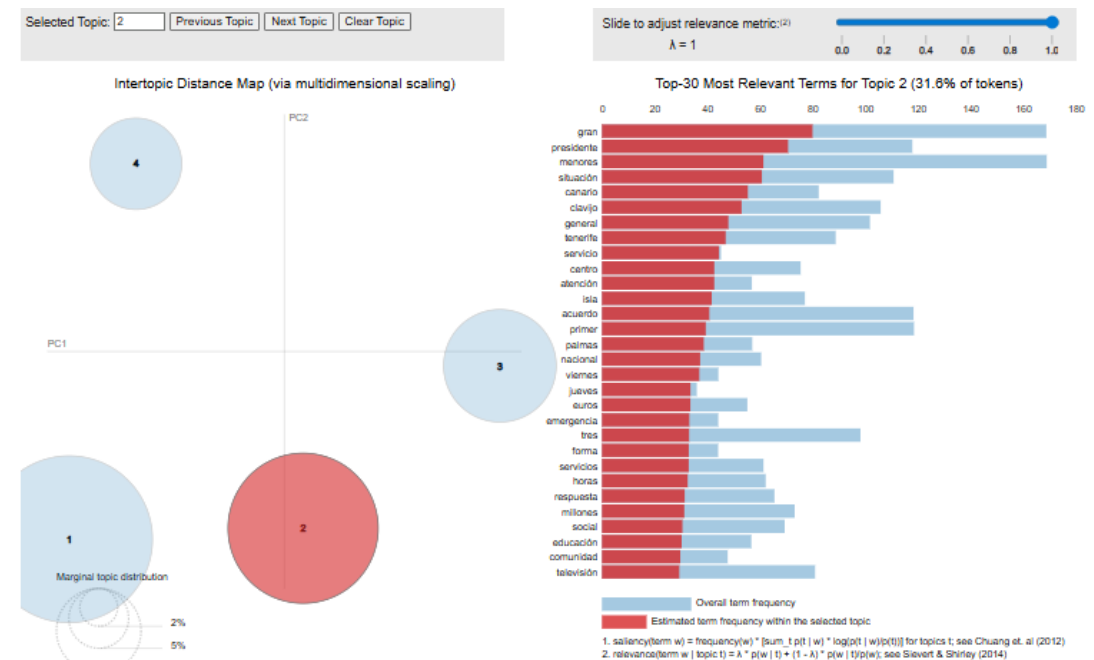
# Results (PCA)



- Skills & Education: Words like producción, informática, certificados suggest integration themes.
- Stereotypes: Adicción, mutilación cluster around dehumanising frames.
- Support Services: Orientación, escucha, deportivas hint at aid or policy terms

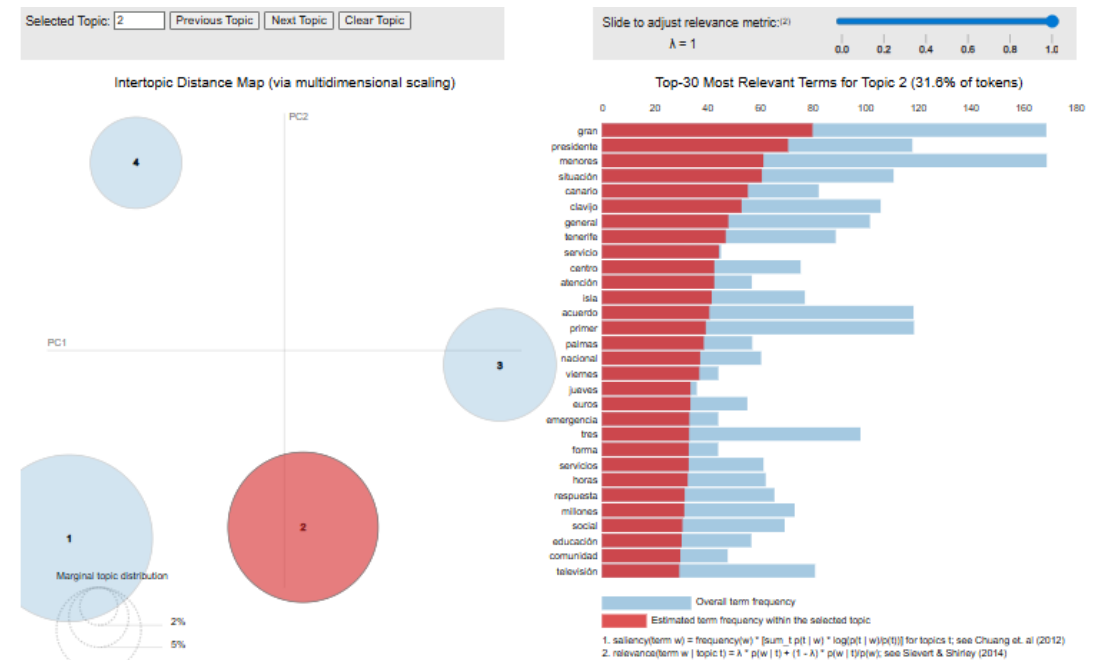
# Results (LDA2)

- **Topic:** Topic 1 is the largest, covering 39% of the corpus, focused on migration arrivals.
- **Key Terms:** Words like cayucos, senegal, llegadas, pateras, bordo dominate—framing migration as a maritime journey.
- **Crisis Framing:** Terms such as crisis, menores, ocupantes reinforce an emergency/security narrative.



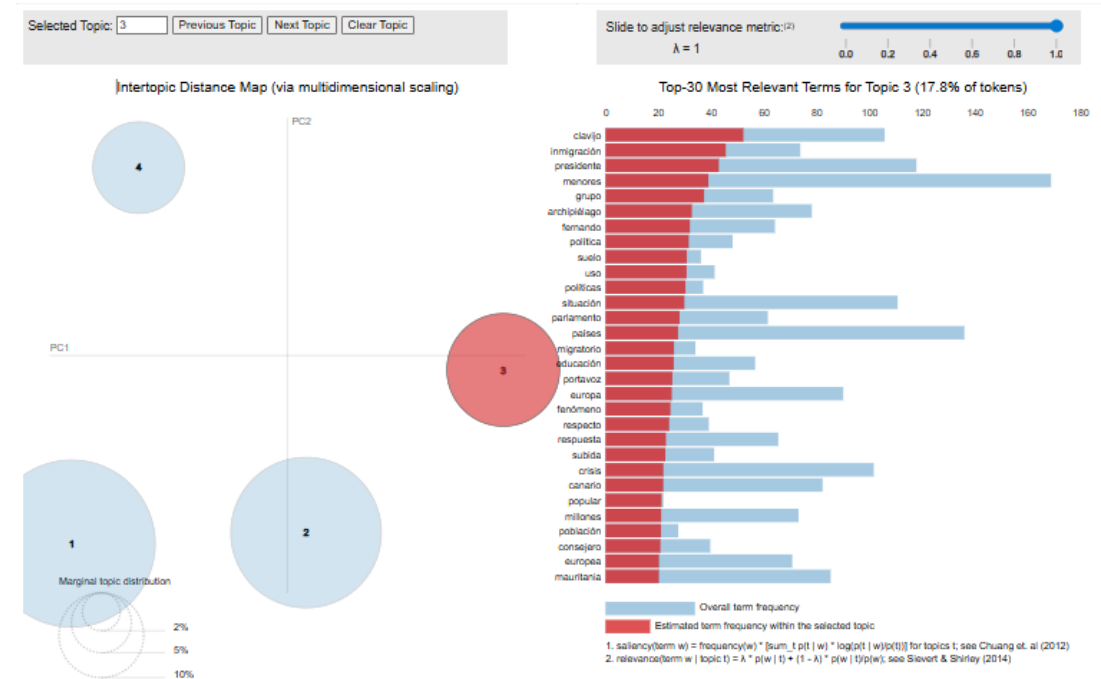
# Results (LDA3)

- **Focus on Institutions:** Dominant terms include gobierno, interior, estado, autoridades, pointing to institutional and political actors
- **National Framing:** Words like español, canario, territorio highlight a domestic/national lens
- **Security and Control:** Terms such as control, acuerdo, seguridad suggest a governance and enforcement narrative.



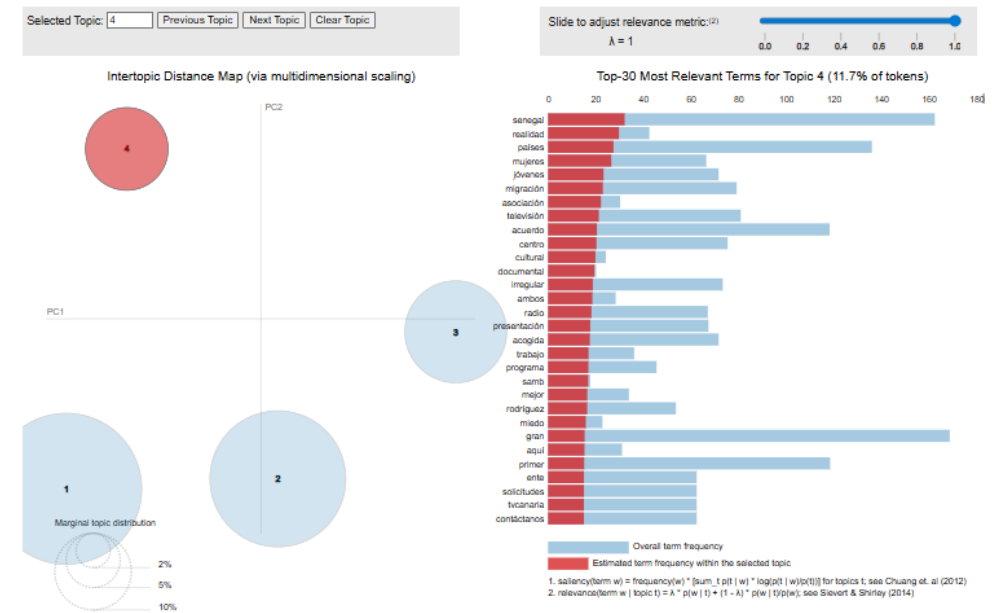
## Results (LDA3)

- **Terms such as crisis**, menores, ocupantes reinforce an emergency/security narrative
- **Geographic Coverage**: Includes canarias, islas, archipiélago, atlántico, reflecting a regional focus on the Canary Islands
- **Event Framing**: Words such as momento, información, publicación suggest a reporting/event-based perspective.





# Results (LDA4)

- **Focus on Youth and Women:** Terms like jóvenes, mujeres, realidad point to social and demographic profiles
- **Media and Awareness:** Words such as documental, televisión, radio, programa suggest awareness campaigns or storytelling
- **Support Structures:** Terms like acogida, asociación, solicitudes reflect integration and aid narratives.



# Conclusions

- (Canarias7, El Día, La Provincia) show high lexical similarity; RTVC diverges
- Common terms: “migrante”, “persona”, “isla” – but each outlet frames migration differently
- Word2Vec shows split between technocratic and humanitarian vocabularies
- LDA finds 4 topics: sea crisis, political response, integration, and border control
- Crisis/security themes dominate; integration is marginal
- Media discourse is fragmented, with little connection between emergency and structural causes

-  “Why are African youth risking their lives at sea... only to be portrayed as **threats instead of dreamers?**”
-  “How did a journey of hope from Dakar to El Hierro become a **media spectacle of boats, borders, and bureaucracy?**”

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Congreso Internacional  
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**THANK YOU!**