



ROUTLEDGE BORDERLANDS STUDIES

UK BORDERSCAPES

Sites of Enforcement and Resistance

Edited by Kahina Le Louvier
and Karen Latricia Hough



UK BORDERSCAPES

This book analyses bordering practices and their negative effects as well as the many creative and often grassroots ways in which borders are resisted and reinvented.

From the hostile environment to Brexit and the Nationality and Borders Bill, the UK border regime has become increasingly strict and complex, operating both at the edge of the state and within everyday life in unprecedented ways. At the same time, this securitisation approach is often contested, and its effects are fought daily by many groups and individuals. This book explores this tension, documenting and analysing how the contemporary UK border is imagined, constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed in multiple ways. To draw together the different pieces that compose this evolving and conflicting landscape, this book uses the concept of “borderscapes”, which views borders as sites of multiple tensions between hegemonic, non-hegemonic, and counter-hegemonic imaginaries and practices. This lens enables contributors to draw a multifocal overview of the UK border that includes the different human and material actors that form it, the spaces and practices they shape, and the imaginaries and counter-imaginaries that emerge from their conflictual encounters.

Bringing together contributions by researchers from a variety of disciplines, this book will be of interest to scholars and students in the fields of migration and border studies, refugee studies, human geography, criminology, sociology, and anthropology.

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Routledge Borderlands Studies

Borderlands are spaces of transition between cultures, societies and states. Often, like in the case of the US and Mexico, they are understood as static territorial lines and buffer zones, subservient to the development of states and state territories. However, borderlands can also be fluid and ambiguous spaces, moulded by processes of economic and political integration or shifting geopolitical dividing lines. Moreover, borderlands cultures can be found far from borders, in cities, multicultural neighbourhoods and diasporic communities. They also exist as both future-oriented geographical imaginations and imaginaries with profound historical roots. Today, globalisation, integration and new transnational forms of communication change the complex interrelationships between state, society, space and borders. Consequently, borderlands become more and more places in their own right, reflecting broader supranational patterns of political, economic and social change.

With this series, we encourage inter- and multidisciplinary investigation on borders and borderlands throughout the world. We engage with the political, social and historical richness of borderlands, reflecting their unique (geo)political and cultural significance in contexts of colonial rule, nation-building and integration. The Series will explore, among other things, shifting social and political relations and place-related identities that emerge in borderlands, as well as cross-border interaction and the historical memories of every-day life at borders. With this series, we will both contribute to the rich tradition of North American and European borderlands studies and provide a forum for new growing interest in research on borderlands in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

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*Edited by
Kahina Le Louvier and
Karen Latricia Hough*

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We dedicate this book to all the individuals who have to leave their homes, who undertake life-threatening journeys to reach safety, and who face and resist borders every day. We would also like to recognise the courageous work that frontline practitioners and activists do in assisting these people.



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GLOSSARY

Asylum Right to seek protection against persecution in a country other than the country origin/residence, under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Asylum seeker/Asylum claimant Person who has submitted an asylum claim in the UK and is waiting for an initial asylum decision or the result of an appeal.

Asylum support services Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are eligible to a specific type of support, which can include accommodation and financial assistance, accommodation only or financial assistance only. Since 2014, asylum support services have been managed by the charity Migrants Help.

Asylum system Administrative framework that determines the rights of asylum claimants and the procedures they go through. In the UK, the asylum system is managed by the Home Office.

Brexit Brexit is an abbreviation of two English words: ‘Britain’ and ‘exit’, and refers to the withdrawal process of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union regulates the withdrawal process of any Member State. The process started on 23 June 2016, after the referendum passed by 51.9% to 48.1%.

Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) Concession Exception made for individuals on spouse visas who are victims of domestic violence to apply for indefinite leave to remain before the end of the probationary period and to access public funds.

Dispersal System introduced in the 1999 Asylum and Immigration Act that consists in sending people seeking asylum who are entitled to asylum support to zones of accommodation across the UK on a no-choice basis.

The management of asylum accommodations in the dispersal areas is sub-contracted to private companies.

Externalisation Practice through which states aim to prevent migrants from reaching their borders by implementing controls in third countries or private entities (e.g., visa restrictions, sanctions for carriers who transport individuals without visas, agreements with third countries such as France or Rwanda, etc.).

Home Office National department for policies on immigration, passports, counter-terrorism, policing, drugs and crime. The Home Office also manages the asylum system. The head of the Home Office is the Home Secretary.

Hostile environment Set of administrative and legislative policies implemented since 2012 by the Home Office, which aims at making life in the UK as difficult as possible for those without a leave to remain. Under the hostile environment, employers, landlords, NHS staff and other public servants have to check your immigration status before offering you a job, housing, healthcare or other support.

Immigration detention Individuals can be detained under Immigration Act powers for a number of reasons: they are awaiting determination of their right to entry to the UK, they have claimed asylum and their claim has been refused, they have been refused permission to enter and are awaiting removal, they have overstayed the expiry of their visas or they are lacking the required documentation to live in the UK. Unlike most European countries, the UK has not legislated a statutory upper time limit on individual periods of immigration detention.

Leave to remain Legal permission to stay in the UK. There are different types of leave to remain: spouse visa, employment visa, student visa, Indefinite Leave to Remain, Refugee Status or Discretionary Leave (Humanitarian Protection). One's rights depend on the type of leave they have and the conditions attached to it.

Modern Slavery A situation of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception and/or abuse of power. It includes forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices and human trafficking. In the UK, the Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidates existing offences of human trafficking and slavery and makes provision for the protection of victims through the National Referral Mechanism and for an Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner.

No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 states that a person will have 'no recourse to public funds' if they are 'subject to immigration control'. This means they have no entitlement to most welfare benefits, including income support, housing benefit and a range of allowances and tax credits.

- Non-refoulement** Principle of international law that forbids a state from returning asylum seekers to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.
- Probatory period** Period during which people who are on a spouse visa are depending on their partner to remain in the UK. They can only apply for indefinite leave to remain if they are still married and living together in the UK at the end of this period.
- Refugee** In the UK, a refugee is someone who has been granted refugee status (leave to remain) under the Refugee Convention. They may have been recognised as refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and arrived via a resettlement programme (e.g. Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme) or have claimed and been granted asylum in the UK.
- Refused asylum seeker** Person whose asylum claim has been refused and who has exhausted their rights to appeal. Refused asylum seekers may not be able to return to their country of origin and therefore remain in the UK without legal status.
- Removal** Forced removal occurs when the Home Office enforces one's removal from the UK because they do not hold a leave to remain.
- Rwanda deal** The UK and Rwanda agreed a Migration and Economic Development Partnership in April 2022. It includes a five-year 'asylum partnership arrangement' as detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the UK Home Secretary and Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs.