

Asylum for Sale

Profit and Protest in the Migration Industry

Editors: Siobhán McGuirk and Adrienne Pine

Foreword: Seth M. Holmes

This explosive new volume brings together a lively cast of academics, activists, journalists, artists, and people directly impacted by asylum regimes to explain how current practices of asylum align with the neoliberal moment, and to present their transformative visions for alternative systems and processes.

Through essays, artworks, photographs, infographics, and illustrations, *Asylum for Sale: Profit and Protest in the Migration Industry* regards the global asylum regime as an industry characterized by profit-making activity: brokers who demand extortionate fees to facilitate border crossings; contractors and firms that erect walls, fences, and watchtowers while lobbying governments for bigger "security" budgets; corporations running private detention centers and "managing" deportations; private lawyers charging exorbitant fees; "expert" witnesses building their reputations in courthouses; and NGO staff establishing careers while placing asylum seekers into new regimes of monitored vulnerability.

Asylum for Sale offers a fresh and wholly original perspective by challenging readers to move beyond questions of legal, moral, and humanitarian obligations that dominate popular debates regarding asylum seekers. Digging deeper, the authors focus on processes and actors often overlooked in mainstream analyses and on the trends increasingly rendering asylum available only to people with financial and cultural capital.

The reader is invited to carefully probe every aspect of the asylum process from crossings to aftermaths. Exhaustive in scope, the book covers a sweeping range of national contexts providing an in-depth exploration of complex, international networks, policies, and norms that impact and implicate people seeking asylum around the world. In highlighting protest as well as profit, *Asylum for Sale* strikes a crucial balance of critical analyses and proposed solutions for resisting and reshaping current and emerging immigration norms.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Siobhán McGuirk is an anthropologist, journalist, curator, and filmmaker whose work focuses on gender and sexuality in the context of migration and the affective impacts of social justice organizing. She is a postdoctoral early career researcher at Goldsmiths University of London, and is a member of the editorial collective of *Red Pepper* magazine.

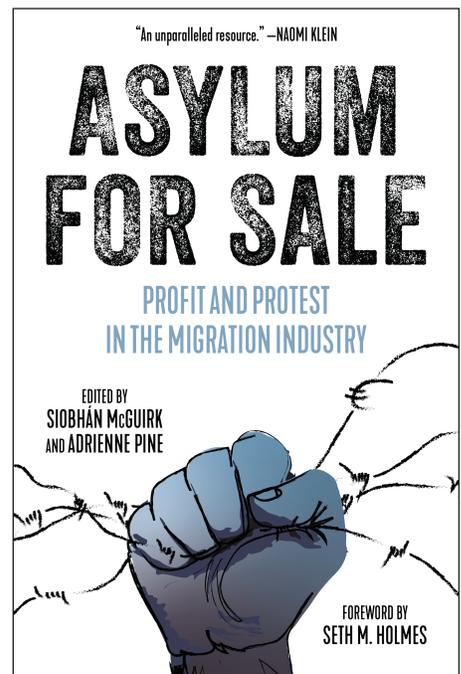
Adrienne Pine is a critical medical anthropologist whose work has explored the embodiment of structural violence and imperialism in Honduras, cross-cultural approaches to revolutionary nursing, and neoliberal fascism. She is assistant professor at the American University and author of *Working Hard, Drinking Hard: On Violence and Survival in Honduras* and *Anatomy of a Coup*.

Seth Holmes is a cultural and medical anthropologist, physician, and faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*.

ACCOLADES

"As the frontiers of disaster capitalism expand, the same systems that drive migration are finding ever-more harrowing ways to criminalize and exploit the displaced. This book is part of how we fight back: connecting the extraordinary stories and insights of people studying, personally navigating, and creatively resisting the global asylum industry. An unparalleled resource."

—Naomi Klein, author of *On Fire: The Burning Case for the Green New Deal*



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