

Asylum under dreaming spires

Refugees' lives in Cambridge today

A young ethnographer arrives from abroad to take up a position at Cambridge University. She quickly tires of the rituals of College life - the luxury, the academic robes, the snuff and evensong. Heading outside the College walls to explore this strange town, she crosses paths with refugees from all over the world who have built transplanted lives there.

So what do refugees think of their host society in England? How quickly do they recover from their traumas and integrate? How much do they contribute to their new country? Do they feel lucky?

An ethnographer's journey of urban listening, the book gives voice to a dozen lives that intersect under the dreaming spires of Cambridge - including one via mobile phone from a Syrian refugee camp. These adventures swerve between elites and the poor, ethnocentricity and internationalism, rarefied academia and the gritty work of public policy-making.

Published in partnership with the Living Refugee Archive at the University of East London, few books have listened so closely to refugees settled in England. But with refugee populations expanding worldwide, and waves of climate-change refugees to come in the decades ahead, it is crucial to find out now which refugee policies have worked well.

The book concludes with the programme of public policies implemented by the author together with local authorities, based on insights from the refugee speakers. This policy work has been showcased by government as a positive practice model that can be adapted for use elsewhere.

We are pleased to collaborate on the publication of this timely work. It highlights the complex interplay of identities experienced by refugees and asylum seekers during their flight and integration into a host community.

~ Living Refugee Archive, University of East London

An important and moving book - an unmissable insight into Cambridge lives.
~ Terry Sweeney, former Mayor of Cambridge

£10.99



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