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Citizenship, Migrant Activism and the Politics of Movement (Routledge Research on the Global Politics of Migration)

By Peter Nyers, Kim Rygiel



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Migration is an inescapable issue in the public debates and political agendas of Western countries, with refugees and migrants increasingly viewed through the lens of security. This book analyses recent shifts in governing global mobility from the perspective of the politics of citizenship, utilising an interdisciplinary approach that employs politics, sociology, anthropology, and history.

Featuring an international group of leading and emerging researchers working on the intersection of migrant politics and citizenship studies, this book investigates how restrictions on mobility are not only generating new forms of inequality and social exclusion, but also new forms of political activism and citizenship identities. The chapters present and discuss the perspectives, experiences, knowledge and voices of migrants and migrant rights activists in order to better understand the specific strategies, tactics, and knowledge that politicized non-citizen migrant groups produce in their encounters with border controls and security technologies. The book focuses the debate of migration, security, and mobility rights onto grassroots politics and social movements, making an important intervention into the fields of migration studies and critical citizenship studies.

Citizenship, Migrant Activism and the Politics of Movement will be of interest to students and scholars of migration and security politics, globalisation and citizenship studies.



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Editorial Review

Review

'Luca Mavelli offers an original contribution to the discussion of *Europe's encounter with Islam*. The book is a remarkable attempt to offer insight and develop research on the contradictions within the European political project. In this respect, the book offers a compelling argument by suggesting that the present debate on Muslim integration is led on one hand by Europe's incapacity to perceive Islam as an opportunity rather than a threat and that this debate has its roots in a tension at the heart of the secular episteme, on the other hand by the attempt to integrate the Muslim Other through the imposition of universal narratives, which do not offer any perspective for who does not comply with the image of the European self.' - **Marco Scalvini**, LSE Review of Books, August 2012

'Why is the presence of Muslim communities in Europe considered politically problematic? Most European observers point to their cultural and religious difference from the non-Muslim majority. But European states claim to be secular, that is, based on the principle of religious neutrality. In this book Luca Mavelli takes a more original approach by linking the 'problem' to epistemological shifts that he identifies in the emergence of modernity. The result is an intelligent and learned study that deserves to be widely read and pondered over.' - **Talal Asad**, Distinguished Professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, author of *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*

'Luca Mavelli has written a very timely and provocative book. Comparing a variety of Euro-American takes on secularism to each other and all of them to several perspectives on Islam in Europe, he opens new lines of possibility for a post-secular culture. This is a sparkling and compelling book.' - **William E. Connolly**, Krieger-Eisenhower Professor, Johns Hopkins University, author of *Why I am not a Secularist*

'Luca Mavelli offers a sophisticated 'alternative' genealogy of European secularity to help us rethink and reframe Europe's problematic 'encounter with Islam.' The end- result is an original, elegant and thought - provoking monograph that both illumines the conceits of secularisation theory as well demonstrates the constricting horizon of extant critique. Mavelli problematizes and deconstructs the secular, situates it within the *longue durée* of Western Reason, and uncovers the *episteme* that continues to reproduce scopic regimes of capturing Islam's ontological presence in Europe. ' - **Mustapha Kamal Pasha**, Sixth Century Chair & Head of International Relations, University of Aberdeen

'This is a truly original and extraordinarily timely 'intervention' that should be welcomed by an overlapping scholarly community. It is the product of a cumulative, synthetic endeavour that bundles together thus far scattered layers of social and political theory and the often too dispersive discussion of current affairs. It does so in ways that facilitate the mutual clarification of both a type of theory that might otherwise appear too distant from facts (like some key concepts from Foucault's oeuvre), and of facts that without appropriate theoretical backgrounds might fall prey to simplifying interpretive schemes (like the 'clash of civilizations' theorem and cognates). On this account, the level of knowledge produced by Luca Mavelli is really outstanding.' - **Armando Salvatore**, University of Naples 'L'Orientale', author of *The Public Sphere: Liberal Modernity, Catholicism, Islam*.

'Rather than a study of the question of Muslims in Europe, Mavelli offers a critical engagement with 'the variable "Europe" ': engaging the terms in which Europe encounters Islam, exploring the genealogy of

Europe's privileged secularity, and marking the intellectual and political limits of European secularism(1).'

- *Anne Norton* is Professor of Political Science and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

About the Author

Peter Nyers is Associate Professor of the Politics of Citizenship and Intercultural Relations at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Kim Rygiel is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

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