

Abstracts

Forced Migrants, Gender, and Race in a Satellite City

Deindustrialized and attempting to position itself with cultural and education industries, Eskisehir is part of the satellite city system designed to provide temporary residence for refugees who live in a liminal state before their resettlement. With the extension of their resettlement process, the regulations on free movement shape the simultaneous inclusion and exclusion of forced migrants from the social, economic, and political life of these cities. The nature of Eskisehir as a satellite city and its particular image as open-minded and liberal have an impact on opportunity structures and institutional and discursive resources available for refugees from various countries of origin. Focusing on the legal and labor regimes in intersection with race and gender in Eskisehir, the research is positioned within a broader view of migration/refugee governance policies, and categories which simultaneously produce legal dispossession and illegality in Turkey. Refugees' inclusion in the labor market, traditionally segmented by class, race and gender, is a refinement of labor relations in spheres outside of the law. The legal, as well as physical, spatial and cultural exclusion of refugees creates precarious subjectivities and produces invisibility. Sharpened additionally by gender and racial discrimination as body politics, aforementioned exclusions shape the refugees' relations among themselves, as well as with the State and the host community. In the context of labor relations and legal regimes, the politics of care plays a role to "take care" of those who cannot "take care" of themselves. The policies and interventions of local and international institutional actors, such as local administrations and refugee aid NGOs financed and supported by the UNHCR and the European Union, play a crucial role in providing institutional resources to the livelihood possibilities of different forced migrant groups in the city. Protection and aid structures also contribute to maintaining surveillance and control over the refugee community who live in a 'modern-day open-air prison', as they name it.



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