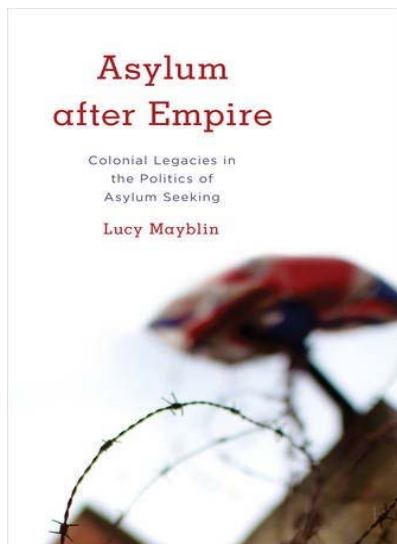


Philip Abrams Memorial Prize

2018 Winner

Asylum after Empire: Colonial Legacies in the Politics of Asylum Seeking

By Lucy Mayblin



Asylum seekers are not welcome in Europe. But why is that the case? For many scholars, the policies have become more restrictive over recent decades because the asylum seekers have changed. This change is often said to be about numbers, methods of travel and reasons for flight. In short, we are in an age of hypermobility, and states cannot cope with such volumes of 'others'.

This book presents an alternative view, drawing on theoretical insights from Third World Approaches to International Law, as well as post- and decolonial studies, and presenting new research on the context of the British Empire. The text highlights the fact that since the early 1990s, for the first time, the majority of asylum seekers have originated from countries outside of Europe, countries which, until thirty to sixty years ago, were under colonial rule. Policies which address asylum seekers must, this book argues, be understood not only as part of a global hypermobile present but also within the context of colonial histories.

Lucy Mayblin Dr. Lucy Mayblin is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick, UK. She holds degrees in Human Geography, European Studies, Social Research Methods and Sociology. She is co-convenor of the British Sociological Association's Study Group on Diaspora, Migration and Transnationalism, has been Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, and 2015-2018 holds a prestigious ESRC Future Research Leaders fellowship for research in to the economic rights of asylum seekers. This book is based on her doctoral research, which was funded by the ESRC.