

Suspended Lives: Navigating Everyday Violence in the US Asylum System

Friday, February 2, 2024 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time
Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



Author: Bridget Haas

Bridget M. Haas is a visiting assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University in the Department of Anthropology. She is the co-editor (with Amy Shuman) of *Technologies of Suspicion and the Ethics of Obligation in Political Asylum* (Ohio University Press, 2018).

Suspended Lives vividly explores the lived experiences of asylum seekers in the midwestern United States. Drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork among Cameroonian and other African asylum seekers, Bridget M. Haas traces the embodied, emotional, and social effects of being embedded in the US asylum regime. Appealing to the United States for protection, asylum seekers are cast into a complex and protracted bureaucratic system that increasingly treats them as suspect. Haas shows how the US asylum system both serves as a potential refuge from past violence and creates new forms of suffering. She takes readers into the intimate spaces of asylum seekers' homes and communities, in addition to legal and bureaucratic settings that are often inaccessible to the public. Poignantly foregrounding the lives and voices of asylum seekers, *Suspended Lives* exposes the asylum system as a site of multiple, yet often hidden and normalized, forms of violence. Haas also illuminates how asylum seekers respond to these harms to actively endure the asylum process.

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