

**“It is refreshing how this book avoids the pretence of many approaches to methodology and instead opens up the difficult questions around research construction and the role of the researcher in work with vulnerable migrants. Apart from opening up the space for honest debate, it also refuses to recommend one ethic of migration research. Full of detailed deconstruction of the emotional and political aspects of this type of research, the book skilfully invites critical thinking and raises awareness of why it is often so hard to stand for integrity as researchers in a context of injustice. A very welcome high-level contribution to a much-needed debate.”**

**Dr. Christien van den Anker,  
Reader at University of the  
West of England (UWE), Bristol**

The recent increased attention given to qualitative research, and especially research involving vulnerable persons, has not yet been adequately translated into corresponding research on the methodological and ethical challenges researchers face. The relative scarcity of such scholarship reflects the dilemma of the multidisciplinary nature of the study of migration.

The aim of this book is to present the difficulties that researchers working with migrants in precarious situations have to contend with, and to contribute to the development of methodological and ethical discussions relevant to the topic of migration as an interdisciplinary field of research. The contributors to the volume do this through a threefold approach: Discussion of methods and ethics in institutional settings; a rethinking of basic research methods; and defining the role of the researcher.

Earlier research – focusing on document analysis (police files and court cases), expert interviews and narrative interviews with smuggled migrants – indicated that there is a strong need for a deepened debate on methodology when researching human smuggling, trafficking and other forms of irregularity. Subsequent workshops (in Geneva and Toronto) on the topic of interviewing vulnerable migrants confirmed the necessity of finding solutions for the methodological challenges encountered. This book is essential reading for all persons and organizations dealing with vulnerable migrants.

### **Ilse van Liempt**

is a Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sussex. She completed her PhD in 2007 at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES) in Amsterdam and has extensive experience in conducting qualitative research.

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