

"Exploring the dispossessed and corporeal notion of precariousness in Algerian, Moroccan, and Tunisian novels, Hervé Anderson Tchumkam's concept and analysis of the homo expendibilis offers a most critical and timely reading of colonized, forced exiles, migrants, and contemporary slaves. As he explores the individual's mechanisms of resistance when facing violence and death, he redefines the relations between life and sovereign power in the North African geopolitical space."

—**Odile Cazenave**, Boston University

"Tchumkam's *Precarious Lives and Marginal Bodies in North Africa*'s innovation lies in that it reads Maghrebi social forms in light of their relationships to their governments and their failure to provide elementary civil rights. A major contribution to the study of African literatures and political theory, this fascinating book opens up new directions in the field, essential to pedagogy of Maghrebi and African literature studies."

—**Pius Ngandu Nkashama**, Louisiana State University

"In a wide-ranging study of scholarly virtuosity, Tchumkam centers the figure of homo expendibilis within North African literature and history. Reduced to zombie-like survival at the crossroads of Foucault's biopolitics, Agamben's thanatopolitics, and Mbembe's necropolitics, homo expendibilis embodies the widespread social vulnerability and precarity experienced across the African continent."

—**Paul Silverstein**, Reed College

Precarious Lives and Marginal Bodies in North Africa presents an examination of North African literature situated at the crossroads of literary analysis, political philosophy, and sociology. Hervé Anderson Tchumkam analyzes social categories in relation to civil and social protections and the ways in which disruptions to these protections can lead to social degeneration. His premise states that precarious lives in North Africa have become true bodies of exception, deemed dangerous, expendable, and unworthy of the rights and treatment accorded to full citizens. Thus, Tchumkam assesses portrayals of violence in contemporary literature as a crystallization of the existing disjunction between the socially disqualified and those wielding colonial, political, and religious power. Moreover, he argues that, in order to understand contemporary politics and the current climate of insecurity, a deeper understanding of precarity in North Africa from colonial times to the present is crucial. Though often inaudible and invisible, marginalized bodies nevertheless challenge the dominant ideas of the center.

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