

'The Securitization of Migration and Refugee Women provides compelling evidence that a gendered analysis is essential for understanding the unique character of refugee women's social exclusion, economic vulnerability, health risks, and experiences of danger and violence at all stages of their migration journey. Eloquently written and carefully researched, it is essential reading for those interested in migration and refugee policy, border enforcement, gender and human rights.'

Nancy A. Wonders, *Northern Arizona University, USA*

'Alison Gerard has conducted an exemplary piece of feminist research, charting the fraught journeys of Somali women as they seek a secure future in Europe. The book combines rigorous socio-legal analysis, bold theoretical framing and unique data obtained by "hanging out" with Somali women who have negotiated the hazardous route to Malta. Using powerful first-hand accounts Gerard is able to bring home the true meaning, in human terms, of the securitization of borders.'

Leanne Weber, *Senior Research Fellow, Monash University, Australia*

Humanized accounts of restrictions on mobility are rarely the focus of debates on irregular migration. Very little is heard from refugees themselves about why they migrate, their experiences while entering the EU or how they navigate reception conditions upon arrival, particularly from a gendered perspective. *The Securitization of Migration and Refugee Women* explores the journey made by refugee women who have traveled from Somalia to the EU to seek asylum. This book reveals the humanized impact of the securitization of migration, the dominant policy response to irregular migration pursued by governments across the globe.

The southern EU member state of Malta finds itself on the frontline of policing and securing Europe's southern external borders against transnational migrants and preventing migrants' on-migration to other member states within the EU. The securitization of migration has been responsible for restricting access to asylum, diluting rights and entitlements to refugee protection, and punishing those who arrive in the EU without valid passports—a visibly racialized and gendered population. The stories of the refugee women interviewed for this research detail the ways in which refugee protection is being eroded, selectively applied and in some cases specifically designed to exclude.

In contrast to the majority of migration literature, which has largely focused on the male experience, this book focuses on the experiences of refugee women and aims to contribute to the volume of work dedicated to analyzing borders from the perspective of those who cross them. This research strengthens existing criminological literature and has the potential to offer insights to policy makers around the world. It will be of interest to academics and students interested in international crime and justice, securitization, refugee law and border control.

Alison Gerard is a lawyer and senior lecturer in justice studies at Charles Sturt University.