

Political economy of Containment industries: Confinement and (im)mobilized Labor in the making of Linz | Ayse Çağlar, University of Vienna

Abstract

The dazzling light of the compartmentalized historiography of cities, labor, and displacement hinders us from seeing the common grounds and “contour lines” connecting disparate places, periods, processes, institutions, and groups of actors in the making and remaking of cities. On the bases of empirical and archival work on the historical geography of the city of Linz (Austria), this paper explores the long durée of the entangled processes of confinement, (im)mobilized labour as well as the capitalization and financialization of migrant and refugee lives and governance in the making of this city’s wealth as well as its social, political and affective fabric. By shifting our lens to the political economy of containment (industries), it aims to unearth the discontinuities, but also the striking continuities in the discourses and actors that shape the regulation, surveillance, and governance of the displaced, migrants/refugees/asylum seekers and spaces and practices of containment. It calls for developing an analytical vocabulary to move beyond the compartmentalized narrations of the economies of migrant/refugee/asylum seeker care and control in city-making.

Biography

Ayse Çağlar is University Professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna. Çağlar has widely published on the processes and interfaces of migration, urban restructuring, dispossession, displacement, confined labor, extractive and cultural industries, as well as on the entanglements between states and transnationalization processes with a special focus on cities. In addition to her co-edited *Locating Migration: Rescaling Cities and Migrants* (Cornell University Press, 2010) and co-authored *Migrants and City-Making: Dispossession, Displacement, and Urban Regeneration* (Duke University Press, 2018) volumes, she is the editor and the co-editor of *Urbaner Protest. Revolte in der neoliberalen Stadt* (Passagen Verlag, 2019) and the Special Issue on “Displacements and Dispossession” *Refugee Watch* Nr. 58 (2022) respectively. She has a forthcoming co-edited book *Sites of Statelessness: Laws, Cities, Seas* (with Ranabir Samaddar and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury), Albany: SUNY Press (in press).