

### Edited anthology on asylum seekers and refugees in Finland (in Finnish)

The Migration Institute of Finland (MIF) published an edited peer-reviewed anthology regarding asylum seekers and refugees in Finland in January 2019. This anthology is edited by Dr. Eveliina Lyytinen (MIF), who was working for the *Coming of Age in Exile* (CAGE) project in 2015-2018. This book presents part of her work in the CAGE project. Besides the academic contributions, the book provides research-based knowledge for societal discussions and political decision making.

The edited volume examines forced migration in Finland from interdisciplinary perspectives, without forgetting the global context. The anthology consists of 15 chapters regarding the experiences, practices, policies, and legal frameworks of receiving and giving international protection. In total, 25 researchers from Finland contributed to this book.

Even though Finland has provided international protection for refugees since the 1970s, the analyses presented in several chapters of this book indicate how the current asylum policies and practices contribute to increasing vulnerability of those who seek protection. During the past years, Finland has tightened its asylum and family reunification policies and subsequently the number of undocumented migrants and people separated from their families is growing.

Moreover, the asylum processes are prolonged, and waiting for the asylum decision in a reception centre for a long period of time is difficult. How other people and actors in Finland perceive asylum seekers and refugees can also at times lead to excluding practices. Yet, asylum seekers and refugees often learn to navigate this somewhat harsh reception and integration context, and are able to reinforce their resilience.

Besides writing the Introduction and Conclusions, Dr. Eveliina Lyytinen has also co-authored a chapter with Dr. Elli Heikkilä (MIF, CAGE Team Leader for Finland). In this chapter, they analyse the temporal characteristics of refugees' labour market integration in Finland, focusing on Iraqis with a refugee background. The qualitative analysis is based on interviews conducted for the CAGE 3B project. Additionally, Dr. Marja Tiilikainen (MIF, CAGE Deputy Team Leader for Finland) has co-authored a chapter (with Dr. Outi Fingerroos) regarding the meaning of a family and family reunification amongst Finnish-Somali men.

This anthology is one of the first scientific peer-reviewed edited volumes written in Finnish in the field of refugee studies. Moreover, it contributes to literature documenting the migratory events of the 2015-2017. The anthology is aimed at migration and refugee studies scholars, students, people working with refugees, decision makers, forced migrants, and all others interested in the theme.

#### More information:

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