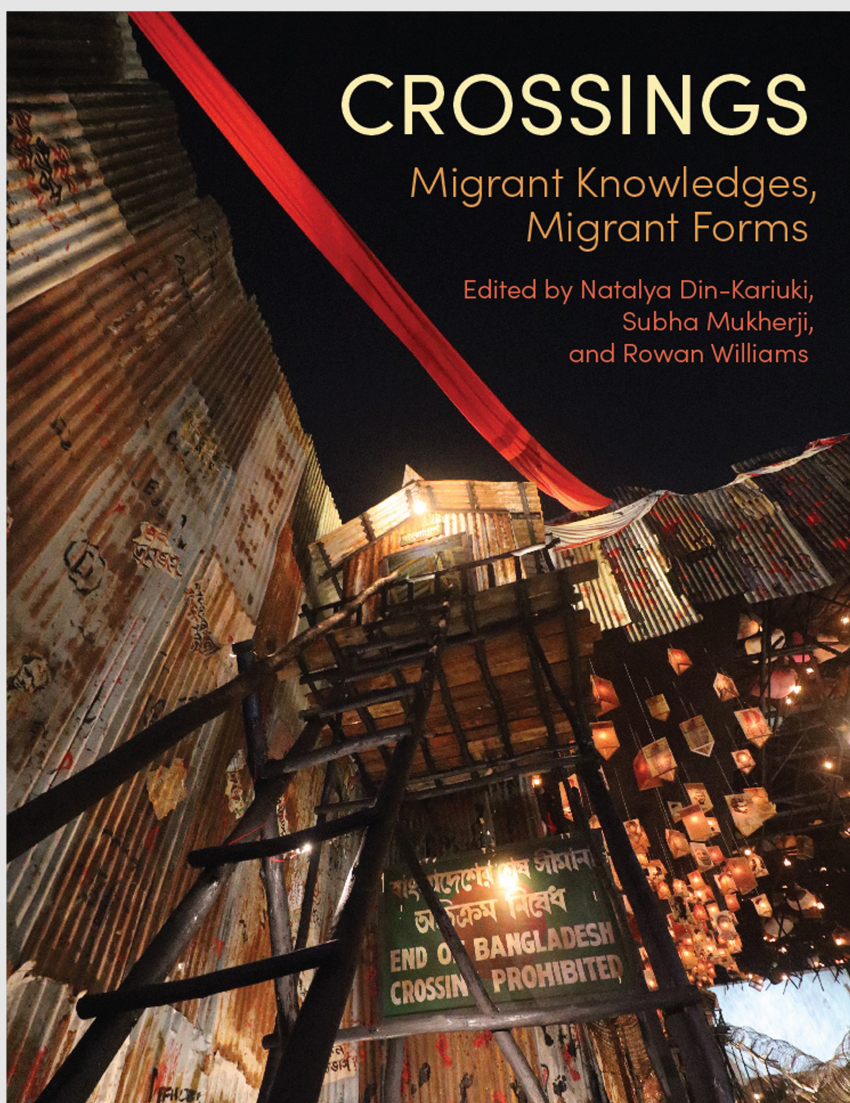


CROSSINGS

Migrant Knowledges, Migrant Forms



Contributors

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Crossings gathers activists, artists, poets, scholars and migrants – including those who traverse these identities – to explore what migration means for knowledge, and how migrant knowledges find expressive forms. As the authors think about physical and imaginative crossings, the book itself traverses critical and creative interventions. Crucially, it brings voices emerging out of the experience of displacement in dialogue with those who encounter and respond to it. Its discussions of migrant knowledge and migrant aesthetics connect the historical with the contemporary, and the local with the global. Collectively, the book stakes the claim that creative art, in collaboration with humanities-based thinking, can meet the imaginative and ethical demands that the reality of mass dislocation makes on us, in a way that governments, institutions and public discourse have calamitously failed to do.

But aesthetic practice itself needs to be re-positioned if it is to be attuned to the matter of migration. Crossings offers 'migrant forms' – art about migration, objects from migrant life shaped into artefacts, and migrant self-expressions – as the means of this imaginative re-orientation. It takes its place in an emergent ecology of migrant forms, even as it speaks to it.

Given the global debate on migration today, the book is more timely than ever.



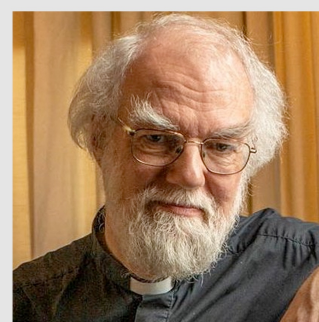
Natalya Din-Kariuki is from Nairobi. Migration has played an important part in her family's history: her maternal grandfather was a stowaway on a dhow from India to Kenya in the 1930s. She is Assistant Professor in the Department of English and

Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick, where she works on the literary and intellectual history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with a particular focus on travel writing, transnational and transcultural encounters, and rhetoric and poetics. She has held visiting fellowships at the University of Leeds, the Folger Institute, the University of Edinburgh, and the Newberry Library



Subha Mukherji was born in Kolkata, India where she grew up, and lives mainly in Cambridge in the UK. She is Professor of Early Modern Literature and Culture at the University of Cambridge. Her in-

terests and publications range across Renaissance English literature, early modern law and the theater, literary epistemologies, migration, and contemporary Indian art.



Rowan Williams was born in South Wales and taught Theology at Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, and Yale. From 2002 to 2012, he was Archbishop of Canterbury, and from 2012 to 2020, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge University. He has published widely

on religion, literature, and politics, and was Chair of the charity Christian Aid for eight years. He now lives in Wales, and is Chair of the Peace Academy/Academi Heddwch. Recent books include, with Mary Zournazi, *Justice and Love: A Philosophical Dialogue* (Bloomsbury, 2020) and *Collected Poems* (Carcenet Press, 2021).

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Endorsements

The world found nothing sacred in the abstract nakedness of being human,' Hannah Arendt wrote of the reception that greeted refugees and migrants in the 1940s. Patently, it still does not. And yet, for all the grim cruelty of our current anti-migrant age, there is something else – a moving world, and a moving earth, rich, challenging, and constant. This beautiful and capacious collection of essays, artworks, interventions, and conversations brings two existences into stark and stunning relief. A landmark text at a moment when a new conversation about what it means to inhabit this land together is so desperately needed.

– Lyndsey Stonebridge, Professor of Humanities and Human Rights, University of Birmingham

Crossings is moving, thought-provoking and deeply original. This dazzlingly rich and genre-bending volume feels like wandering through a brilliantly curated museum or like having a series of urgent conversations with friends from all over the world. It is an exploration of migrant knowledge (as well as migrant suffering) from many angles, some poetic, some historical, some culinary, some political, all deeply current (or what Subha Mukherji calls 'gut-wrenchingly present'). Crossings is essential reading for anyone who wants to explore some of what we all owe to migration...

– Bee Wilson, Food Writer, Journalist and Cultural Historian

This beautiful cornucopia of essays, stories, poems, conversations, objects, and images lets us see the vital ways in which the world is unmade and remade by human migration. Crossings highlights the great variety of conditions under which people move and have moved in the past – some of them harrowing – and shows us what happens next. Essential reading for all of us who wish to understand the condition of migrancy in the past and in the present – it gives us hope for a better future.

– Josephine McDonagh, George M. Pullman Professor of English, University of Chicago

This remarkable collection of essays and dialogues illustrates the vibrancy and urgency of our emerging awarenesses of migrant knowledges and migrant forms. Through this lens, a truly diverse range of perspectives are brought to bear on such recognizable humanistic topoi as reflection, empathy, memory, and imagination – all of which are bound to the human experience of place. As the collection demonstrates, the mobility of place – not just persons or groups – is what allows thought itself to be flexible, dynamic, and occasionally true.

– Michael Witmore, Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

Key features:

- Crosses borders between genres, and includes essays, poems, conversations, interviews, a photo-journal and a reverie
- Brings together scholars, artists, activists and migrants
- Joins up local with global, and connects historical with contemporary
- Channels migrant voices and practice alongside responses to the phenomenon of migration
- Brings established authors and artists into dialogue with new voices from the margins
- Unites critical and creative approaches
- Experiments with the form and format of 'the book' in response to the texture of transitory lives
- Possibly the first book to engage with music and food as migrant forms alongside more obviously aesthetic practices
- An international cast ranging across the West, the Middle East, Africa and the Global South.

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Afterword, Rowan Williams