



# The Handbook of Displacement

*Edited by*

Peter Adey · Janet C. Bowstead · Katherine Brickell  
Vandana Desai · Mike Dolton  
Alasdair Pinkerton · Ayesha Siddiqi

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ISBN 978-3-030-47177-4

ISBN 978-3-030-47178-1 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-47178-1>

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Cover illustration: Mary Turner / Contributor/getty images

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG. The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

# Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Department of Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London, for the financial support provided through the Geopolitics, Development, Security and Justice Research Group for us to go away together to plan the handbook and to assist us with extra administrative and copyediting capacity needed in the final stages of submission. Thank you to Carolyn Dodds for the dedicated work on the handbook in the final stages.

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# 1

## Introduction to Displacement Studies: Knowledges, Concepts, Practices

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### Introduction

Eight or nine pairs of shoes are lined up in a row outside a faded grey tent on the bare concrete floor of a disused warehouse in Idomeni, a small village in Greece, near the border with Macedonia. The shoes belong to a family of ten, their youngest twin toddlers. The picture on the front cover of this handbook, by documentary photographer Mary Turner, was taken before the informal camp—which is located on and around the train tracks—was later cleared by Greek riot police following the closure of the Macedonian border in 2015. The same thing happened again in 2016 leading to a second eviction. The migrants were seeking to enter central Europe through the so-called Balkan route, some after being bused by private companies from Athens after arriving in Greece from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but also Iran, and North and Central Africa. Many had blocked the railway line in protest of the closure by using rocks, tents, and their bodies. Police encouraged the refugees to board

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