

## Haven: The Mediterranean Crisis and Human Security

New Horizons in Human Geography series

Edited by John Morrissey, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

The Mediterranean refugee crisis presents states across Europe with a common security challenge: how to intervene responsibly in mitigation and support. This book seeks to advance the UN concept of 'human security' in showing how a human security approach to the crisis can effectively conceptualize and respond to the intricacies of the challenges faced. It argues for a politics of solidarity in proffering integrated solutions that call out the failure of top-down, statist security measures. Leading international authors from a range of disciplines document key dimensions of the crisis, including: the legal mechanisms enabling or blocking asylum; the biopolitical systems for managing displaced peoples; and the multiple, overlapping historical precedents of today's challenges.

'Can the framework of human security be reconstituted to provide an ethical grounding for international politics? The chapters in this volume grapple with this question as they incisively critique the Global North's response to the so-called "refugee crisis", and consider what kinds of conceptual and institutional changes are necessary to prioritize solidarity over securitization.'

– Emily Gilbert, University of Toronto, Canada

'Can human security be salvaged from the violence, exclusions, and cruelties created by the geopolitics of humanitarianism? Haven suggests that it can, offering important insights into opportunities for developing geosocial solidarity with refugees with safer forms of space-making and human rights work. But it does so without succumbing to siren songs about safety and pity that perform protection and care in damaging and uncaring ways. It thereby reminds us that while the "Mediterranean Crisis" is most definitely a crisis of human insecurity, it remains a crisis created by exclusionary approaches to security as much as by war, disease and human vulnerability. A call to ongoing critical thinking about what might make "safe space" safe for all, it brings together well-informed interdisciplinary arguments about the human geographies of human rights that human security urgently needs.'

– Matt Sparke, University of California Santa Cruz, US

'With adroit editorial leadership, John Morrissey and contributors take us on an intellectual journey. They convey vividly what is at stake for those enduring inhumane security. As they sweep through and with the crisis affecting the Mediterranean, it feels all the more poignant as the migration crisis is co-joined with the Covid-19 pandemic. Both have been described as 'invisible' and yet the consequences for human security are far from invisible.'

– Klaus Dodds, Royal Holloway University of London, UK



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