



# Frontiers of belonging: Understanding everyday acts of anti- migrant boundary drawing

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*This series is an ANU-wide collaboration spearheaded by the **Migration Hub @ ANU**, in collaboration with the **School of Archaeology and Anthropology***

In my presentation I will engage with the question of what role migration researchers might play in creating a more nuanced understanding of the backlash against refugees and migrants following the summer of displacements 2015 in Europe. I will suggest that due to its closeness to people's everyday processes of meaning-making, ethnographic research can play a crucial role in understanding the xenophobic, anti-cosmopolitan and illiberal sentiments that are currently sweeping through European societies. This, however, means that migration scholars need to overcome their traditional reluctance of studying groups they cannot sympathise with.

By reflecting on my previous and on-going research I will show why, after a decade of studying refugees' struggles for emplacement in Western host societies, I decided to "change sides" and study the experiences of people who believe that the influx of refugees is a threat to their values and ways of life. I will argue that if we are to understand the current backlash against liberal and cosmopolitan ideas we need to pay attention to genealogies of exclusionary practices, or "cultures of unwelcome".

## Details

**Thursday 10 Aug, 3-4pm**

In person, HC Coombs  
Extension, Teaching Room 2.10  
(level 2)

[Online via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 865 5770 1787

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## Contact

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