

## The Citizen's Other

### An examination of human rights in La Linière humanitarian camp, France

Non-citizens have been identified as the stateless, refugees, asylum seekers, trafficked persons or migrant workers. As such, the non-citizen has been much referenced by scholars as a means of exploring the tensions between sovereignty, citizenship and human rights. Such tensions have been acknowledged by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which has highlighted the discrepancy between the rights that international human rights law guarantees non-citizens, and the lived realities they face; as well as calling for a more wide-ranging approach to non-citizenship research.

Drawing on Arendt's work around 'the right to have rights' and Agamben's 'bare life' theory, the researcher sets out to explore this lacuna and what measures can be taken in order to address the discrepancy between legal instruments of nationality and rights. As such, the research aims to understand non-citizens, non-governmental organisations and policy makers' *perceptions* and *experiences* of human rights La Linière, France. The research then goes on to explore actors' subsequent *actions*, if any, to overcome these discrepancies.

The findings are based on a three month ethnographic study carried out with non-citizens in La Linière, France's first humanitarian camp approximately 40km east of Calais. Using a qualitative multi-method approach, comprised of in-depth, semi-structured interviews, focus groups and a cartography session, the researcher illustrates that rather than being the virtue of all humans, human rights are predicated on an individual's citizenship.

The empirical findings reveal, firstly, the French and UK governments' reluctance to acknowledge the rights of non-citizens, and as such the ineffectiveness of human rights against the sovereignty of the state. Secondly, the research shows how the poor living conditions of La Linière are contingent with 'bare life' theory and as such, work to disenfranchise the non-citizen further. Finally, in lieu of an adequate state response, the research draws attention to the illegal measures being employed by non-citizens in order to assert their rights.

This research offers new academic insight into how the challenges of accessing rights are experienced by non-citizens. As such, not only does it address the UNHCR's own acknowledgment of the discrepancy between human rights and the lived realities non-citizens face, but it also seeks to address scholarly calls for how distinct groups of non-citizens experience human rights.

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