



Didier Pruvot © Flammarion

Michel Agier France

Urban Studies

The Author

Michel Agier is the director of the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) and of the Centre of African Studies at the EHESS, Paris. He is also member of the board of Doctors Without Borders. He is engaged in anthropological research in cities of Africa and Latin America. He focuses his research, among other topics, on social groups in situations of precariousness and marginalization, and on refugee camps. Today he studies how peoples reconstruct their identities after being forced into exodus because of wars.

Bibliography

Managing the Undesirables, translated by David Fernbach (Polity, 2011. First published in French, *Gérer les indésirables: Des camps de réfugiés au gouvernement humanitaire*, Flammarion, 2008)

On the Margins of the World: The Refugee Experience Today (Polity, 2008. First published in French, *Aux bords du monde, les réfugiés*, Flammarion, 2002)

Le Couloir des exilés. Être étranger dans un monde commun (The Corridor of the exiled. Being a Foreigner in a common world) (Paris, Edition du Croquant, 2010)

"Je me suis réfugié là !" Bords de routes en exil, avec Sara Prestianni ("I Found Refuge Here!" Exiled on the roadside) (Edition Donner lieu, 2010)

Esquisses d'une anthropologie de la ville. Lieux, situations, mouvement (Towards an anthropology of the city: Places, situations, movement.) (Academia-Bruylant, 2009)

Salvador de Bahia: Rome noire, ville métisse, photographies de Christian Cravo (Salvador da Bahia: a Black Rome - a cross-bred/ an hybrid city) (Autrement, 2005)

La Sagesse de l'ethnologue (The ethnologist's wisdom) (L'Œil neuf, 2004)

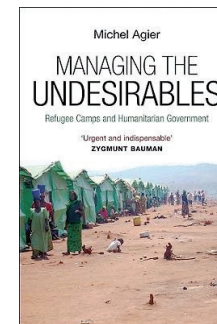
Anthropologie du carnaval : la ville, la fête et l'Afrique à Bahia (An anthropology of carnival: the city, festival and Africa in Bahia) (Éditions de l'IRD, 2000)

L'invention de la ville : banlieues, townships, invasions et favelas (The invention of the city: suburbs, townships, invasions and favelas.) (Éd. des archives contemporaines, 1999)

Zoom

Sunday 20th november 2013, Théâtre des Celestins

Managing the Undesirables, translated by David Fernbach (Polity, 2011)

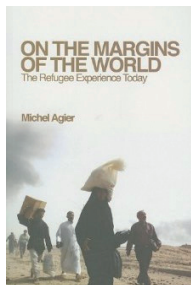


Official figures classify some fifty million of the world's people as 'victims of forced displacement'. Refugees, asylum seekers, disaster victims, the internally displaced and the temporarily tolerated - categories of the excluded proliferate, but many more are left out of count. In the face of this tragedy, humanitarian action increasingly seems the only possible response. On the ground, however, the 'facilities' put in place are more reminiscent of the logic of totalitarianism. In a situation of permanent catastrophe and endless emergency, 'undesirables' are kept apart and out of sight, while the care dispensed is designed to control, filter and confine. How should we interpret the disturbing symbiosis between the hand that cares and the hand that strikes?

After seven years of study in the refugee camps, Michel Agier reveals their 'disquieting ambiguity' and stresses the imperative need to take into account forms of improvisation and challenge that are currently transforming the camps, sometimes making them into towns and heralding the emergence of political subjects.

A radical critique of the foundations, contexts, and political effects of humanitarian action.

On the Margins of the World: The Refugee Experience Today (Polity, 2008)



Fifty million people in the world today are victims of forced relocation caused by wars and violence. Whole new countries are being created, occupied by Afghan refugees, displaced Columbians, deported Rwandans, exiled Congolese, fleeing Iraqis, Chechens, Somalians and Sudanese who have witnessed wars, massacres, aggression and terror.

New populations appear, defined by their shared conditions of fear and victimhood and by their need to survive outside of their homelands. Their lives are marked by the daily trudge of dislocation, refugee camps, humanitarian help and the never-ending wait. These populations are the emblems of a new human condition which takes shape on the very margins of the world.

In this remarkable book Michel Agier sheds light on this process of dislocation and quarantine which is affecting an ever-growing proportion of the world's population. He describes the experience of these people, speaking of their pain and their plight but also criticising their victimization by the rest of the world.

Agier analyses the ambiguous and often tainted nature of identities shaped in and by conflicts, but also the process taking place in the refugee camp itself, which allows refugees and the deported to create once again a sense of community and of shared humanity.