

“Refugee Studies and Politics: Human Dimensions and Research Perspectives”

During the international conference *Refugee Studies and Politics: Human Dimensions and Research Perspectives* which took place at Vienna University from 11th to 13th January 2001 fourteen scientists and NGO-activists from Croatia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Germany and Austria presented their work on refugees, asylum-seekers and refugee-studies.

The phenomenon of flight became established in applied areas, especially in humanitarian aid organisations but was considered less by scientific disciplines. The image of the “helpless passive refugee” characteristic for many non-governmental refugee-aid-projects was often also transferred to scientific discourse.

Only recently has cultural and social anthropology increasingly started to deal with the phenomenon of flight. Due to their scope, anthropological approaches however offer an ideal basis for an interdisciplinary discussion on the subject. This volume presents an overall view to current discussions in Refugee Studies and Refugee Policies. It is addressed to researchers in relevant fields of social and political sciences, NGO-activists and members of international and state organisations, and finally to students of social sciences. We also want to address and dedicate this book to people who have experienced flight and/or displacement.

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