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By Nigel Hoffmann

The aim of this study is to explain the political space of exclusion that the Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) produces, and the ways that asylum seekers negotiate their social conditions after being released from immigration detention. It is an ethnographic exploration of the marginalisation caused by the TPV policy, and the surprising methods through which social exclusion is imposed and reinforced.

Hoffmann’s study is framed within a perspective which sees border protection as a symbolic political assertion of national sovereignty, in the face of economic globalisation. A characteristic of globalisation is an asymmetry between pressures for enhanced trade and capital mobility on the one hand, and pressures for restricted labour mobility on the other. An alternative to ever-increasing border protection, however, is a pursuit of the global enhancement of labour rights. This study documents the effects of creating a class of workers with reduced rights.

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