

Comments from Brid Brennan on *Rethinking Migration*

Book Launch, Wills Memorial Building, March 2025

Good evening dear colleagues!

Congratulations to all – our editor Bridget Anderson, my co-authors and Bristol University Press for bringing this exciting publication into the public arena. I am Brid Brennan, from the Transnational Institute and the author of the last chapter ‘Communities of Resistance’, which brings the perspectives of migrant and refugee people and their perspectives on core topics of the book.

I would just like to share some reflection on the process and methodology.

The concept from the beginning was collaborative – authors from across several university disciplines came together to address the agenda and challenge of rethinking migration – which kicked off with the invitation to engage and dialogue with each other on the issues of Borders, Citizenship and Race. This was facilitated in a live-in experience a year ago that generated a treasure trove of ideas – and by the end we knew a landmark book was in the making! We left Bristol knowing with which co-authors we would write our chapter. And we also undertook to write a joint introduction to each of the sections.

So, besides all the new insights and perspectives that root the book’s content on Borders, Citizenship and Race there was also this collaborative process among and across scholars and engagement with the experience and articulation from the migrant and refugee lived experience. This space also revealed that several authors have a migrant origin and that migrant activists are also scholars.

My big hope for the book is that the spirit of this process will contaminate the launches that follow – and that *Rethinking Migration: Challenging Borders, Citizenship and Race* will not only be a highly recommended text for students in different disciplines (particularly for their tutorials!) but that it also finds its way to the workshops and learning spaces of migrant and refugee organizations and communities.

The timing of the publication is also magical – an antidote to the incredible polarization on these core questions. What better time to insert such rethinking and discourse into the racist and militarized babble of the mid 2020s and bring not only another lens to these ‘core’ issues of our times but open a new horizon for the invitation from migrant and refugee communities to ‘Look With us – not At us’! We have a great opportunity to be co-creators of the knowledge that is needed to break this deadly spiral of polarization in our fractured world.

So, wishing all of us, and particularly Migration Mobilities Bristol, continuity in this process going forward, forging ideas into movement.