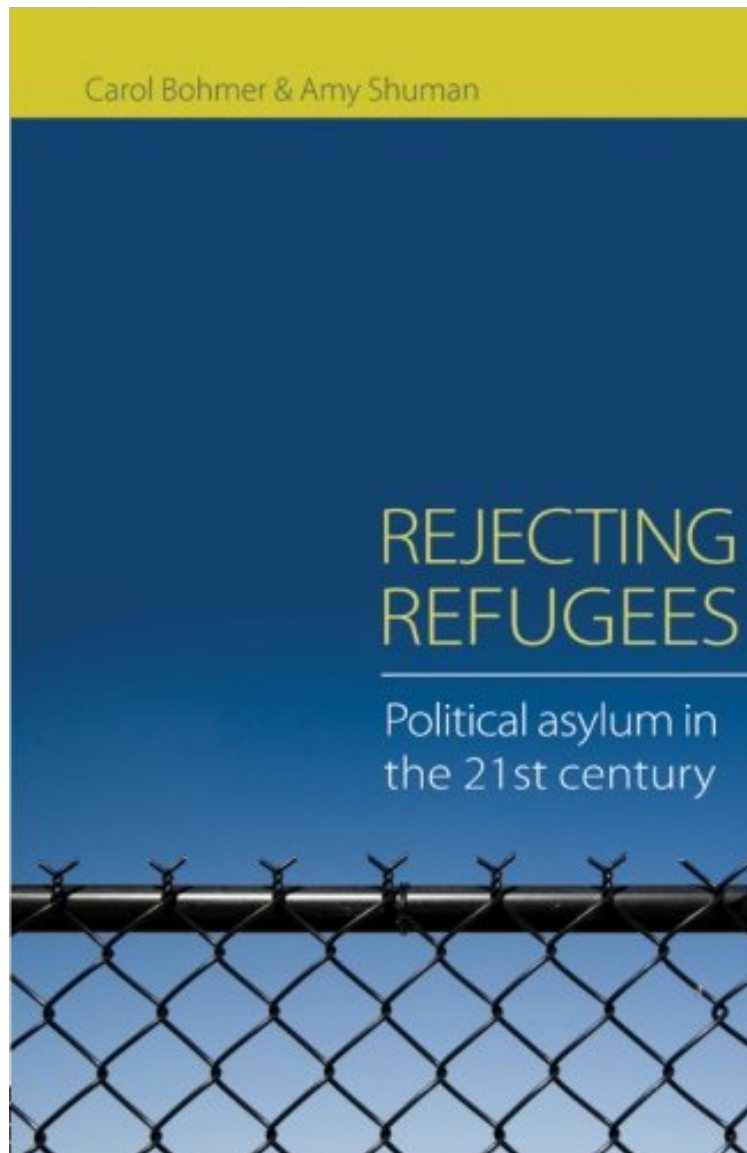


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Rejecting Refugees: Political Asylum in the 21st Century

Carol Bohmer, Amy Shuman

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Carol Bohmer, Amy Shuman : Rejecting Refugees: Political Asylum in the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rejecting Refugees: Political Asylum in the 21st Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How do applicants translate their stories of suffering and trauma into a narrative acceptable to the immigration officials ?By OrangeI liked this book because it has a unique account of the

personal and political issues facing refugees. The authors share their own family histories of immigration into the United States in the 1900's from Eastern Europe. The interviews are especially interesting. There is an excellent account of the laws that effect refugees as well.

Many nations recognize the moral and legal obligation to accept people fleeing from persecution, but political asylum applicants in the twenty-first century face restrictive policies and cumbersome procedures. So, what counts as persecution? How do applicants translate their stories of suffering and trauma into a narrative acceptable to the immigration officials? How can asylum officials weed out the fake from the genuine without resorting to inappropriate cultural definitions of behaviour? Using both in depth accounts by asylum applicants and interviews with lawyers and others involved, this book takes the reader on a journey through the process of applying for asylum in both the United States and Great Britain. It describes how the systems address the conflicting needs of the state to protect their citizens from terrorists and the influx of hordes of unwelcome economic migrants, while at the same time adhering to their legal, moral and treaty obligations to provide safe haven for those fleeing persecution. *Rejecting Refugees* is an insightful and fresh evaluation of the obstacles asylum applicants face and the cultural, procedural, and political discrepancies in the political asylum process. This makes it ideal reading to students and scholars of political science, international relations, sociology, law and anthropology.

'*Rejecting Refugees* intelligently weaves together the experiences of asylum seekers with a detailed examination of refugee status determination in the US and UK to reveal the current state of political asylum. This is both a well-written introduction to the problems faced by refugees seeking protection and a valuable account of how asylum must be reformed if it is to conform to the values Western states claim to represent.' - Matthew J. Gibney, Elizabeth Colson Lecturer Reader in Politics and Forced Migration, University of Oxford, UK 'Bohmer and Shuman's declared hope is 'to provide greater self-consciousness of how the system responds to contemporary politics' and to explore 'the disconnect between the ideas of a nation welcoming asylum seekers and our actual practices'...in this aspect they have succeeded. This book is intended to have a broad appeal. It appears to be aimed at those interested in a general sweep of how the issue of asylum is handled in the UK and the US. It is not written in a particularly academic style and is an easy read. Whilst lacking detail in places, it provides helpful vignettes of actual cases, showing how some of the more contentious aspects of a claim - such as credibility findings - are handled by all parties from advisor to judge. The adoption of an inter-disciplinary approach has provided a novel approach on the subject.' - Dallah Stevens, University of Warwick, *Journal of Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law*, Issue 23.2, 2009

About the Author
Carol Bohmer is a lawyer and a sociologist by training. She teaches at Dartmouth College, USA and works pro bono for asylum applicants. Amy Shuman is Professor of English, Womens Studies, and Anthropology at the Ohio State University, USA.