

## Ecologies of Affective Im(mobility) in Australian Refugee Writing

In this paper, I explore affective and relational ecologies of refugee im(mobility) at Australia's oceanic borderlands in recent refugee literature. Public policy and media in sovereign Australia tend to stereotype refugees as angry and miserable people, and seldom as emotionally sophisticated subjects. In his memoir *No Friend But the Mountains* (2018), Kurdish-Iranian writer and asylum seeker Behrouz Boochani collapses the boundary between body and place, whereby an array of affects, like anxiety, fear, joy, and wonder, produce and are produced by the contingent assemblages of refugee bodies, sovereign biopower, and more-than-human environments. By locating the refugee body at an affective nexus intersecting body, race, and nature, I suggest reimagining this body through entangled and indeterminate materiality to expand the scope of refugee political mobility and affective capacity beyond bio-and-necropolitical certainty. Affective (im)mobility suggests a framework for illuminating the ambivalent mixture of desire and fear and alienation and interrelatedness that uniquely characterizes refugee ecologies.

**Bio:** Emily Zong is an assistant professor at the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University. Her work intersects migrant and refugee writing and the environmental humanities and has appeared in *Critique*, *ARIEL*, *ISLE*, *LIT*, *JASAL*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *The Cambridge History of the Australian Novel*, among other venues. She is chief investigator of the Hong Kong University Grants Committee ECS Project "Towards Anti-Racist Nature: Asian Australian Environmental Literature and Art" (2022-24).