



**Mobile Commons, Migrant Digitalities and the
Right to the City**

Mobility & Politics

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Human mobility, whatever its scale, is often controversial. Hence it carries with it the potential for politics. A core feature of mobility politics is the tension between the desire to maximize the social and economic benefits of migration, and pressures to restrict movement. Transnational communities, global instability, advances in transportation and communication, and concepts of 'smart borders' and 'migration management' are just a few of the phenomena transforming the landscape of migration today. The tension between openness and restriction raises important questions about how different types of policies and politics come to life and influence mobility.

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Nicos Trimikliniotis, Dimitris Parsanoglou, and Vassilis S. Tsianos

MOBILE COMMONS, MIGRANT DIGITALITIES AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

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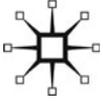
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To Berkin Elvan and Alexis Grigoropoulos; two 15 year olds deprived of their lives by the Police in two rebel cities in turmoil and crisis; also to Abdulraheem, who is once again on the road (for Europe).

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Series Editors' Foreword

For several decades now a lively debate has unfolded about the place of the commons in liberal as well as radical political economy. In certain versions it is about the possibility of new forms of collective relationship to natural as well as human worlds, and a political vision reaching beyond both the private property of capitalism and the public property of state socialism. Yet interest in the commons among migration scholars, and what this idea might bring to debates about mobility, borders, citizenship and politics has been decidedly minor. While there is no shortage of discussion of communitarian themes within migration politics, the commons, as such, is something of a gap.

It is into this gap, this space of the missing migrant commons, that *Mobile Commons, Migrant Digitalities and the Right to the City* moves forcefully and provocatively. *Mobile Commons* is born out of the cultural ferment and political energies that have gathered strength recently, catalyzed not least by the concatenation of financial, political and cultural crises that came to a head in 2008, and which remain ongoing. It grasps these events through the prism of the urban triangle Istanbul-Athens-Nicosia, three “arrival cities” that offer privileged insights about new forms and patterns of mobility, and new struggles for migrant rights. These struggles traverse a space that is at once digital and material. We are excited to feature *Mobile Commons* as the second publication in our series *Mobility & Politics*. We are convinced that like the precarious but also energetic collectivities it makes visible, it will stimulate new lines of thought for mobilities research. We

are living amidst political experiments that confound the old binaries of public/private, insider/outsider and domestic/foreign. But too often we lack the equipment to see them. *Mobile Commons* offers vital equipment for seeing, thinking and acting.

Martin Geiger, Carleton University
Parvati Raghuram, Open University
William Walters, Carleton University

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The responsibility for what we claim in this book is entirely ours.

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Dimitris Parsanoglou: I would like to thank my little boy Thanos for his screaming; this was a real incentive to work harder for the completion of this work and have the opportunity to spend more time with him and his mother, Evgenia; to the latter I owe a debt of gratitude for her patience, support and unconditional love during the past ten years. I finally want to thank my parents, both children of refugees from Bursa and Istanbul, for the privilege they endowed me with to know that any home can be temporary.

Vassilis S. Tsianos: I would like to thank Brigitta Kuster for our common work on digital borders and the concept of “embodied identity of migration”. I would also like to thank Dimitris Papadopoulos for our common work on autonomy of migration and mobile commons; it was this work that served as the basis for further developing the ideas in the first chapter of this book (see Papadopoulos and Tsianos, 2013). Finally, I would like to thank Mariane Pieper and Brigitta Kuster for the common work on net(h)nographic border regime analysis, which we further develop in the first chapter of this book (see Pieper et al., 2011).

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