

[Home](#) » [Islandora Repository](#) » [Western Sydney University Research Collection](#)

## Human Rights Overboard: Seeking Asylum in Australia

[Search for this publication on Google Scholar](#)

Briskman, L., Latham, S., & Goddard, C. (2008). *Human Rights Overboard: Seeking Asylum in Australia* Carlton North, Vic.: Scribe Publications.

### Abstract

In 2005, in the wake of the Cornelia Rau scandal, a citizen's inquiry was established to bear witness to events in Australia's immigration-detention facilities. Until then, the federal government had refused to conduct a broad-ranging investigation into immigration detention, and the operations within detention centres had been largely shrouded in official secrecy. The People's Inquiry into Detention (as it came to be called) heard heartbreaking evidence about asylum-seekers' journeys to Australia, their refugee determination process, and their life in and after detention. In total, around 200 people testified to the inquiry, and a similar number of written submissions were received. Human Rights Overboard draws together, for the first time, the oral testimony and written submissions from the inquiry in a powerful and vital book that stands as an indictment of Australia's refugee policy. Clearly and comprehensively presented, the book is a haunting journey guided by voices from every side of the fence: former and current immigration detainees, refugee advocates, lawyers, doctors, psychiatrists, and former detention and immigration staff. Taken together, their stories record a humanitarian disaster that sounds a warning to current and future policy makers, both here and overseas. With a foreword by prominent humanitarian lawyer Julian Burnside, Human Rights Overboard is an essential book that will resonate for years to come.

 577 Views

 0 Downloads

### ▼ Details

<b>Title</b>	Human Rights Overboard: Seeking Asylum in Australia
<b>Language</b>	eng
<b>Date</b>	2008
<b>Author</b>	Briskman, Linda Latham, Susie Goddard, Chris
<b>Extent</b>	448
<b>ISBN</b>	9781921372407
<b>Handle</b>	<a href="http://handle.westernsydney.edu.au:8081/1959.7/uws:40804">http://handle.westernsydney.edu.au:8081/1959.7/uws:40804</a>
<b>Subjects</b>	asylum seekers Australia human rights personal narratives detention of persons refugees
<b>Publication Type</b>	book
<b>Publisher</b>	Scribe Publications
<b>Place Published</b>	Carlton North, Vic.

[Privacy Policy](#) ■ [Emergency Contact](#) ■ [Library Contacts](#)

Copyright © University of Western Sydney ABN 53 014 069 881 CRICOS Provider No: 00917K

Human Rights Overboard: Seeking Asylum in Australia. Book. Jan 2008. For almost two decades, negative portrayals of asylum seekers arriving in Australia by boat have been dominant within political and media discourses. In particular, asylum seekers have been portrayed as a “dangerous other”—as an illegal group that the public ought to fear and from which they require protection—rather than as a vulnerable group who require protection themselves. This article [Show full abstract] examines some of the ways in which these discourses make possible public support for punitive policies relating to the treatment of asylum seekers (particularly boat arrivals)—polic