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**Making Refugees (Dis)Appear: Identifying Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Thailand and Malaysia**

Thailand and Malaysia together host hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, even though neither of the two countries has signed international refugee conventions and little or no formal national asylum frameworks exist for distinguishing refugees and asylum seekers from other undocumented migrants. Scholars have explored this situation and the precarious condition of refugees and asylum seekers but have yet to question how they are identified in light of this legal ambiguity. This paper presents the case of registration exercises along the Thai-Myanmar border and mobile registration in Kuala Lumpur in order to explore the mechanisms and technologies employed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations for registering and identifying refugees from Myanmar. It argues that both the registration and non-registration of refugees and asylum seekers can be understood in terms of the competing rationalities of the various actors involved, their incongruent programs, and uneven technologies that serve to make refugees both appear and disappear. In other words, they actively construct and assert knowledge and information concerning the existence of refugees or conceal, deny, if not altogether dispense of the presence of refugees.