

# Governance, Precarity and Food Security: Impact of Precarious Status on the Food Security of Urban Refugees In South Africa

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# Overview of presentation

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- Sources of evidence
- Conceptualization
  - Critical citizenship and migration scholarship
- Gaps between policy and practice
- Moving Forward: Shift in the policy direction
- Implications for food security



# SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

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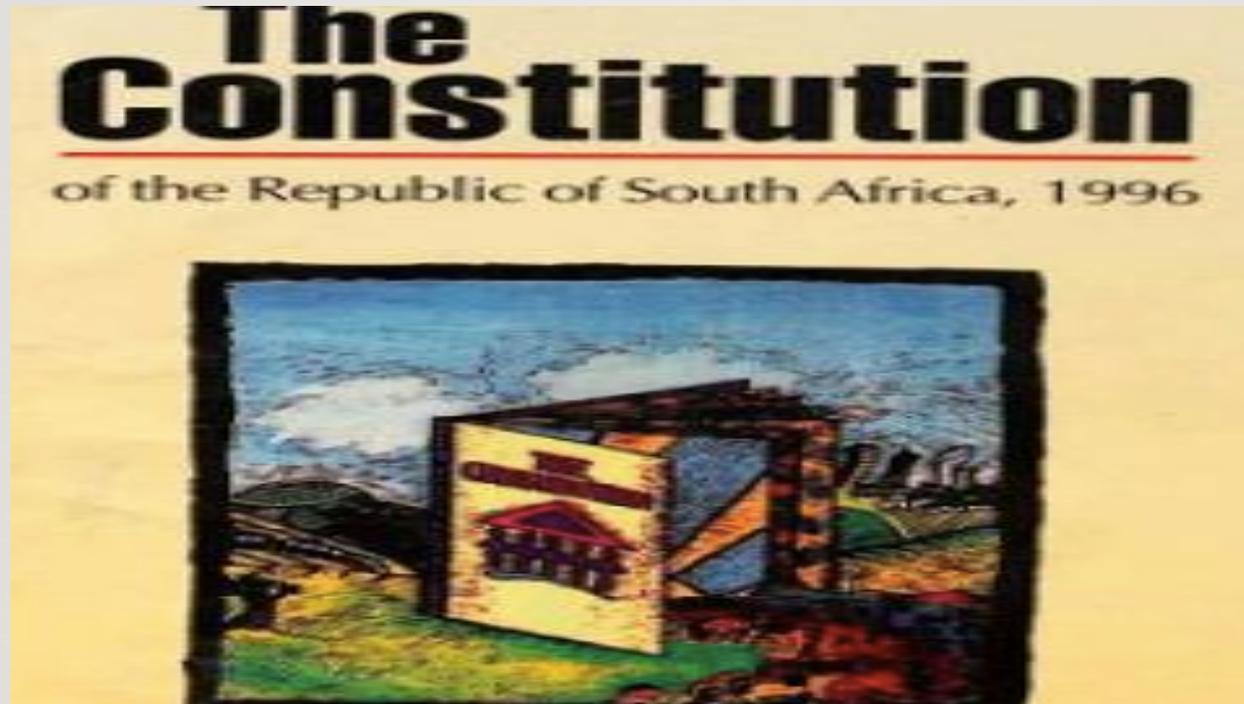
- Precariousness - "Insecurity", "uncertainty", vulnerability"
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- "Precarious Life" ( Butler, 2006)
- "Tightrope-like nature", "not quite, not yet" (Banki, 2013:454)
- "Teetering on the edge" (Standing, 2011:20)
- Precarious Migratory Status / Precarity of Status (Basok and Wiesner 2017; Baban, Ilcan and Rygiel 2016; Goldring and Landolt 2011, 2013; Brabant and Raynault 2012)



# Gap between policy and practice

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*“We can no longer renew our permits here in Cape Town, since the government closed the reception centre. So, we have to travel thousands of kilometers to Musina where we first applied and this needs lots of money and time away from work and school for the children. At times, I don’t have money for us to go, but if we don’t renew we will have problems. We might get arrested and also have other problems at schools or going to the hospital. We sometime use money we would otherwise use for food for these travels. It is very difficult.” (20 November 2017, Cape Town)*

# Visible distinction

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# Impact of status on daily existence

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- Long waiting periods
- Lack of recognition and questioning validity of documents
- Discriminatory use of language
- Access to social services
- Cell phone, driving license and banking



Source: Africacheck

# Access to employment

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- *“Throughout my career, I did apply to RMB, which is an investment bank, and they were impressed with everything. But then, when it came to the fact that I was a refugee and they want a work permit, that sort of disqualified me. Even though it clearly states on the permit that you can enjoy socioeconomic rights, the right to study and to work, like a South African would. I don’t know if it is an issue of a miscommunication or ignorance but the Section 24 (refugee status) is hardly recognized.” (23 March 2018, Pretoria).*

# MOVING FORWARD: SHIFT IN POLICY DIRECTION

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- 2017 Refugees Amendment Act
- 2017 White Paper on International Migration

# IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY

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- Employment
  - Work Permit
  - Access to credit and financial institutions
  - Informal Sector Employment
- Social Protection
  - Lack of grants to asylum seekers
- Gender and Safety
- Xenophobic climate - “Precarity of Place”(Banki, 2013)
- Vulnerability to exploitation and abuse

THANK YOU

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*Ngiyabonga*