

Offshore Extractions and the Everyday Life of a Refugee Economy in the Republic of Nauru



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The Republic of Nauru occupies a prominent place in the international news. In August 2016, the small nation state found itself at the center of another global media frenzy with the Guardian Australia’s “exclusive Nauru Files leaks.” With a catalogue of over 2000 filed incident reports, Nauru’s offshore refugee operations were characterized worldwide as an exceptionality, “a dark, wretched Truman Show without the cameras.” Drawing on fifteenth months of ethnographic fieldwork conducted between Geneva, Australia, Fiji, and Nauru, this paper details the everyday life of Nauru’s offshore refugee manufacturing operations.

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