

REFUGEES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Great Debates in Higher Education is a series of short, accessible books addressing key challenges to and issues in Higher Education, on a national and international level. These books are research-informed but debate-driven. They are intended to be relevant to a broad spectrum of researchers, students and administrators in higher education, and are designed to help us unpick and assess the state of higher education systems, policies and social and economic impacts.

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REFUGEES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Debate, Discourse and
Practice (2nd edition)

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Dr William Mude is a public health professional, academic and advocate for refugee education. Born in South Sudan (then part of Sudan), William's childhood was marked by hardship and displacement due to the civil war, and he spent much of his early life in refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya. William is now a Senior Lecturer in Public Health at the University of Canberra, where he teaches epidemiology and communicable diseases to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

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We dedicate this book to the many refugee students who we have worked with over the years, and who have invariably influenced our practice, research and advocacy. We have seen what meaningful access to higher education (with support and care) can do to elevate a person's sense of what is possible, and how they can rebuild some of the resources and opportunities lost through forced displacement. We have often heard our students express enormous gratitude for the opportunity to study, despite the impediments that universities inadvertently impose through inflexible, unresponsive and punitive structures, systems and practices. We recognise that these students seldom get to speak about their educational experiences into powerful spaces like this book, and when rare opportunities to share the higher education experiences of refugee students are opened, these often trumpet the resilient *individual*, thus ignoring the *many* refugee students engaged in higher education. This book is a testament to all those students.

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