

**AT THE FRONTIERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
RIGHTS-BUILDING AT THE INTERSECTION OF MIGRANT REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE AS GRASSROOTS, SELF-ORGANIZED STRUGGLE & RESISTANCE**

An Abstract of the Thesis by
Ngoc Bui and Lili Steffen

Theory and practice show that the mainstream human rights system is governed by violent mechanisms of colonialism and exclusionary concepts of humanity, thereby failing to facilitate migrant reproductive justice and revealing an urgent need for reevaluating the system. One of the most recent rights bodies, the European Commissions' "Action Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence" (Istanbul Convention), provides some hope for migrant reproductive rights. However, post-colonial feminist critiques show how the Convention reproduces colonial power dynamics and allows for the continued denial of reproductive and migrant rights, as demonstrated with the case example of Germany. This thesis puts into question how viable a state-centered system can be and we present three case studies of local and transnational reproductive rights initiatives and self-organized migrant groups to illustrate how rights 'holders' are expanding the frontiers of human rights as 'builders' (re)negotiating their position at the margins of the system.