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Living and dying with the state: The Netherlands according to Egyptians in Amsterdam

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Citation

Ruijtenberg, W. D. (2024, May 28). *Living and dying with the state: The Netherlands according to Egyptians in Amsterdam*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3754811>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Propositions relating to the dissertation

LIVING AND DYING WITH THE STATE:

THE NETHERLANDS ACCORDING TO EGYPTIANS IN AMSTERDAM

By Wiebe Ruijtenberg

1. International institutions create an appearance of horizontal relations between states, while actually facilitating the ongoing extraction of resources from former colonies, and making it dangerous for impoverished citizens of those former colonies to follow the resources to where wealth is concentrating.
2. Borders kill, and there is no way to justify that.
3. Nationality sorts humanity into groups of people with different rights similar to the way that race used to, but it has not replaced race.
4. The Dutch way of grouping people together on the basis of nationality, while discouraging 'immigrants' from creating nationality-based communities, is cruel.
5. Social services do not institute social rights, but hierarchical social citizenship
6. Knowledge production on migrants produces knowledge about nation-states.
7. The demand to produce knowledge that is policy relevant undermines not only scientific freedom, but also the positive impact social scientific knowledge may have.
8. To question the world as it is, social scientists must develop an alternative discourse, and always be one step ahead of authorities that are trying to appropriate that discourse without adopting the underlying ideas.
9. Ethnographic podcasting is a suitable strategy to reclaim the radical potential of anthropology, and the social sciences more generally.
10. The status quo cannot be changed without polarization, so to denounce polarization is to accept the status quo.
11. Care is usually entangled with control, but care can also be revolutionary, and revolution is always rooted in an ethic of care
12. Border abolition – or the project of building a world in which borders become obsolete – is a revolution worth struggling for.