

# Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>List of Acronyms</i>	<i>xv</i>

## PART I

### Setting the Scene

1

#### 1 Introduction

3

*Inside the Black Box of Asylum Appeals* 5

*An Ethnographic Approach* 10

*Legal Fragility* 13

*Plan of the Book* 15

#### 2 What Are Asylum Appeals?

19

*Locating Appeals in International and European Law* 19

*Asylum Appeals and the Common European Asylum System* 23

*Increasing Complexity* 23

*Divergent Rates of Protection* 34

*Asylum Appeals in ASYFAIR Countries* 35

*Germany* 36

*United Kingdom* 39

*France* 40

*Belgium* 43

*Italy* 45

*Austria* 46

*Greece* 48

*Reckoning with Diverse Appeal Systems* 53

*Conclusion* 56

<b>3</b>	<b>Approaching Asylum Appeals</b>	<b>57</b>
	<i>Methodology</i>	57
	<i>Methods: What We Did</i>	61
	<i>Sampling</i>	63
	<i>Multi-Methodological Research</i>	66
	<i>Interviews</i>	66
	<i>Being Part of a Team</i>	68
	<i>Access</i>	71
	<i>Reception of Project</i>	74
	<i>Consent</i>	77
	<i>Position</i>	82
	<i>Limitations</i>	86
	<i>Conclusion</i>	88
	<b>PART II</b>	
	<b>Accessing Protection in Asylum Appeals</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Before the Hearing: Waiting, Preparation and Anticipation</b>	<b>91</b>
	<i>Enduring Waiting</i>	93
	<i>Legal Changes</i>	96
	<i>The Challenge of Recall</i>	96
	<i>Housing</i>	100
	<i>Legal Advice</i>	103
	<i>Effects of Under-Preparation in Court</i>	106
	<i>Conclusion</i>	107
<b>5</b>	<b>Arriving at Court: First Impressions, Orientation and the Fragility of Trust</b>	<b>109</b>
	<i>Introduction</i>	109
	<i>The Challenge of Establishing Trust</i>	109
	<i>Getting There</i>	112
	<i>Entering</i>	113
	<i>Waiting Areas</i>	117
	<i>Ushers</i>	118
	<i>Before Going into the Hearing</i>	119
	<i>Hearing Rooms</i>	120
	<i>Conclusion</i>	125

<b>6</b>	<b>Assembling Appeals: Material Perspectives on Gathering Evidence and People</b>	<b>126</b>
	<i>Introduction</i> 126	
	<i>Introducing Evidence</i> 126	
	<i>Bringing People Together</i> 135	
	<i>Government Representatives</i> 135	
	<i>Legal Representatives for the Appellant</i> 136	
	<i>Appellants</i> 140	
	<i>The Dilemma of In-Person Hearings</i> 142	
	<i>Conclusion</i> 146	
<b>Part II Policy and Practice Compendium</b>		<b>147</b>
	<i>Waiting for Appeals</i> 147	
	<i>Access to Legal Advice and Representation</i> 148	
	<i>Preparing and Arriving for Appeal Hearings</i> 150	
	<i>Assembling Evidence</i> 152	
	<i>Assembling People</i> 153	
<b>PART III</b>		
	<b>Participating in Asylum Appeals</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>The Politics of Speed: Adjudication and Participation Under Time Pressure</b>	<b>157</b>
	<i>Introduction</i> 158	
	<i>Drivers of Speed</i> 160	
	<i>Impact of the Imperative for Speed on the Hearings</i> 163	
	<i>Experiences and Consequences of Pace</i> 166	
	<i>Abruptness</i> 169	
	<i>Slowing Down</i> 173	
	<i>Patience</i> 176	
	<i>Conclusion</i> 179	
<b>8</b>	<b>Barriers to Communication in Asylum Appeals: Interpretation, Disclosure and Distractions</b>	<b>181</b>
	<i>Interpretation Difficulties</i> 182	
	<i>Concentration</i> 188	
	<i>Emotional and Psychological Barriers to Communication</i> 191	

*Cultural Barriers to Communication* 193  
*Interruptions* 195  
*The Dilemma of Publicness* 197  
*Children* 199  
*Technological Intrusions* 202  
    *Remote Hearings* 203  
*Conclusion* 205

**Part III Policy and Practice Compendium** **207**

*Time Management* 207  
*Communication* 209  
*Interpretation* 212

**PART IV**  
**Procedure** **213**

**9 Mistakes and Incompetence** **215**

*Introducing Mistakes* 217  
*Understanding Incompetence* 220  
*Systematic Underinvestment in Expertise, Competence and Capacity* 223  
    *Linguistic Competence* 224  
    *Typing* 225  
    *Interviewing and File-Keeping* 226  
    *Reasoning and Empathy* 227  
*Consequences of Incompetence* 230  
*Conclusion: Stupid Borders?* 232

**10 Judicial Questioning during Hearings** **235**

*Introducing Questioning* 236  
    *Types of Questions* 242  
*Questioning that Promoted Access and Participation* 245  
*Procedural Bias during Questioning* 247  
    *Nationality and Countries of Origin* 247  
    *Global Northern Worldviews* 249  
    *Mainstream Christian Views* 252  
*Conclusion* 254

<b>11</b>	<b>Judicial Styles</b>	<b>256</b>
	<i>Judicial Emotions</i>	257
	<i>Degree of Orchestration</i>	260
	<i>Observing Styles: The Lens of Demeanour</i>	263
	<i>Style Types</i>	264
	<i>Inside-Out Judging</i>	265
	<i>Judging Like a Schoolmaster or Schoolmistress</i>	270
	<i>Detachment</i>	274
	<i>Simmering</i>	276
	<i>Conclusion</i>	280
	<b>Part IV Policy and Practice Compendium</b>	<b>283</b>
	<i>Mistakes</i>	283
	<i>Judicial Questioning</i>	285
	<i>Guarding Against Bias</i>	287
<b>12</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>289</b>
	<i>Chapter Contributions</i>	290
	<i>Legal Fragility</i>	294
	<i>Policy and Practice Implications</i>	298
	<i>Power</i>	300
	<i>Taking Stock</i>	303
	<i>Uncertain Futures</i>	304
	<i>Zooming Out</i>	306
	<i>Index</i>	309