

„[T]he family is re-configured as the basic unit of a population, and re-emerges not as a model of government but as an instrument of government. Knowledge of the family provides the basis for a statistical accounting of the population as a whole. Thus the population, its pursuits and products, its very life, become appropriate objects of state management“ (Stewart 1997: 192).

In the context of managing displacement the power shift described by Foucault from a defined territory to a certain population and the centrality of technologies related to knowledge becomes very visible. Linking refugee management to colonial power, Hyndman moreover highlights the aspect of control and takes registration and verification practices for ration card allocation and their inherent administrative language and procedures as an example (Hyndman 2000: 130). Malkki (1992: 34) additionally remarks that refugee management directly links control with the notion of care: “The refugee camp is a technology of ‘care and control’ [...], a technology of power entailing the management of space and movement – for ‘peoples out of place’”. Hyndman (2000: 87–116) concludes that staffs and refugees in camps are in various forms and dimensions spatially segregated. This segregation, as the argument suggests, reproduces the construction of differences and hierarchical structures (Hyndman 2000: xviii). “The formal administrative practices employed, however, attest to authoritative structures and a quasi-military mode of operations [...]. Administration of the camps in this region involves a number of surveillance practices through which refugees are continually mapped, marked, and monitored” (ibid. 24). As already mentioned above, administrative grid fails incorporate local contexts in planning. Studies focusing on bureaucracy in (post-) colonial contexts suggest that such a „power without knowledge“ in its worst leads to paperwork and coercion as a substitute for the understanding of the population to be administered (Graeber 2015: 65). With the refugee regime and its vast administration it is easy to identify a supralocal administration (in that case usually located in Geneva) framing policy according to its understanding of local needs (the refugees), which creates a reality gap that the refugees themselves