

## **To Make Live or Let Die? Emergent Assemblages for the Protection of Surplus Populations**

Large numbers of people in the global south have no access to land or a living wage. They are “surplus” to the needs of capital, and not plausibly described as a labour reserve. What are the social forces that might assemble to keep these people alive, and why would they do so? I examine this question by contrasting a conjuncture in India, where a make-live program has emerged under the rubric of a citizen’s “right to food,” and Indonesia, where persistent myths about community self sufficiency combined with the massacre of the organized left in 1965 leaves surplus populations radically exposed.

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