



DOI: [10.3998/mpub.11473711](https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.11473711)

6 x 9 | 210 pages

Hardcover | 2024 | \$70.00 U.S.
ISBN 9780472076451

Paper | 2024 | \$29.95 U.S.
ISBN 9780472056453

Open Access
ISBN 9780472904624

OPEN  ACCESS



For anyone interested in the frightful rise of xenophobia in America—especially the fear of Arabs and Muslims after 9/11—*Destination Detroit* is a must-read. Luthra demonstrates how right-wing voices legitimize anti-Muslim policies while refugee-support groups paint a picture of the helpless refugee needing rescue. But Luthra also shows there are spaces and places in the realms of allyship and art for contesting this Orientalist gaze.”

—Hemant Shah, University of Wisconsin–Madison

DESTINATION DETROIT

DISCOURSES ON THE REFUGEE IN A
POST-INDUSTRIAL CITY

Rashmi Luthra

Deindustrializing and revitalizing cities in the United States are at a particular crossroads when it comes to the contest over refugees. Do refugees represent opportunity or danger? These cities are in desperate need to stem population and resource loss. However, they are also dealing with local communities that are feeling internally displaced by economic and technological flux. Few U.S. locations provide a more vivid case study of this fight than Metro Detroit, where competing interest groups are waging war over the meaning of the figure of the refugee. This book dives deeply into the discourse on refugees that various institutions in Metro Detroit are producing. The way in which local institutions talk about refugees gives us vital clues as to how they are negotiating competing pressures and how the city overall is negotiating competing imperatives. Indeed, the way various groups talk about refugees in Metro Detroit gives us a crucial glimpse into how U.S. cities are defining and redefining themselves today. The figure of the refugee becomes a slate on which groups with varied interests write their stories, aspirations, and fears. Consequently, we can figure out from local refugee discourses the ongoing question of what it means to be a Metro Detroiter now—and by extension, what it means to be a revitalizing U.S. city at this time.

Rashmi Luthra is Professor Emerita of Public Communication and Culture Studies at the University of Michigan–Dearborn.

**ORDER ONLINE AND SAVE 30%
WITH DISCOUNT CODE UMS24!**