Agency, by Gerald A. Hauser a a Megan D. McFarlane, Mariam Betlemidze & Marouf Hasian Jr. a University of Utah Published online: 21 Aug 2015.

Click for updates To cite this article: Megan D. McFarlane, Mariam Betlemidze & Marouf Hasian Jr. Professor Hauser’s Prisoners of Conscience is a book that explores how disempowered individuals use a variety of modes of resistance—parrhesia, indirection, passive aggression, bodily performances, countervisualities, and so on—as they produce a “thick moral vernacular” rhetoric of human rights. The concept of a thick moral vernacular is Hauser’s main theoretical contribution, which he introduces and defines, along with the concept of prisoners of conscience (POCs), in the first three chapters. In his poignant new book, Prisoners of Conscience: Moral Vernaculars of Political Agency, Gerard A. Hauser explains that nongovernmental organizations like Amnesty International understand prisoners of conscience (POCs) to be those who are “imprisoned and/or persecuted for the nonviolent expression of consciously held beliefs” (17). Hauser’s conceptualization of POCs draws a wider net to include violence used by political dissidents, although he makes a firm distinction between political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. The status of political prisoner indicates that one h