How do people deal with extreme indeterminacy in their everyday lives? This ethnographic study explores this question for male and female youth on the urban periphery of Bujumbura, Burundi. Their generation came of age during a devastating civil war and the threat of new waves of violence is ever-present. In these circumstances, analysing, planning and acting are highly uncertain undertakings. The chapters explore the ‘elusive tactics’ that emerge in this context and their effects on the apparently cyclical recurrence of violence in Burundi.

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