

A group of children are shown using tin can telescopes. One child in the foreground is looking through a blue and white tin can telescope. Another child in the background is also using a similar telescope. The children appear to be outdoors, possibly on a beach or a sandy area. The overall mood is one of curiosity and engagement.

REFUGEE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE

INTERNATIONAL  
SUMMER SCHOOL IN

# FORCED MIGRATION

2–20 July 2012

Refugee Studies Centre

University of Oxford

## Why study forced migration?

The term 'refugee' means many things to different people. Even its formal distinction, as defined by the 1951 Geneva Convention, is regularly challenged and under perennial review by academics, governments and humanitarian agencies. According to the Convention a refugee is someone who, 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'.

At the beginning of the 21st century, nearly 60 years after this definition was enshrined in international law, there are many other forcibly displaced people around the world who do not easily fit within the formal category. They and their rights are in urgent need of protection. We live in a rapidly changing world in which human migration has a significant impact on the economic, political and social agendas of sovereign states, intergovernmental agencies and civil society groups. It is vital that forced migrants – be they refugees, internally displaced people or those who have to move for other reasons such as global warming or development projects – have their rights defined and their freedom preserved.

Understanding the causes and consequences of forced migration and possessing the practical skills to deal effectively with its challenges are essential, both for the development of effective programmes to assist refugees, and in addressing the root causes of human displacement.

The Refugee Studies Centre's International Summer School fosters dialogue between academics, practitioners and policymakers working to improve the situation of refugees and other forced migrants. It provides the time and space for them to reflect on their experiences and to think critically about some of the aims and assumptions underlying their work.

## Who is the summer school for?

*Policy makers and practitioners* involved with humanitarian assistance and policy making for forced migrants. Participants typically include host government officials, intergovernmental and non-governmental agency personnel engaged in planning, administering and co-ordinating assistance.

*Researchers* specialising in the study of forced migration.

## Why participate?

The summer school offers an intensive, interdisciplinary and participative approach to the study of forced migration. It aims to enable people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the world of the displaced.

Now in its 23rd year, the three-week course combines the very best of Oxford University's academic excellence with a stimulating and participatory method of critical learning and reflection.

## How is it structured?

### **The curriculum**

Over three weeks, the course looks at the complex phenomenon of forced migration from a number of different angles. Beginning with reflection on the diverse ways of conceptualising forced migration, the course considers the political, legal and wellbeing issues associated with contemporary displacement. Individual course modules also tackle a range of other topics, including globalisation and forced migration, and negotiating strategies in humanitarian situations.

### **The methodology**

The summer school aims to foster a culture of the reflective practitioner while also practising and developing skills useful in the workplace. The course takes an active learning approach to the transfer of knowledge. Participants engage in reflection–analysis–synthesis–teamwork, via critical engagement with lectures, readings, case studies, interactive exercises and the sharing of insights and experiences. Each participant is allocated to a tutor group, sometimes working in these small groups, at other times in larger groups.

### **The teaching**

Lecturers, tutors and seminar leaders are drawn both from the Refugee Studies Centre and from outside institutions. They include research staff, academics and professionals from a number of disciplines and practices, including anthropology, politics, law, psychology, international relations, and social development.

### **The participants**

Around 70–80 participants from all over the world study together, take part in group activities and produce independent presentations. Participants have the time and space to reflect on their own work and to benefit from the international mix and varied professional experience of other participants.

### **Language of instruction**

All teaching and instructional materials are in English.

# What is the programme?

## **The conceptualisation of forced migration**

The course begins by examining and assessing different conceptualisations of forced migration, including legal, anthropological and political approaches.

## **Causes, patterns and consequences**

The course analyses links between forced migration and processes and patterns of globalisation. It considers ways of addressing the tension between a globalised world of free circulation of capital, investment and resources, and the barriers to movement facing refugees and other migrants. Optional modules and evening sessions focus on issues such as Internally displaced peoples, Palestinian refugees, human trafficking and smuggling, livelihoods and post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction.

## **Responses**

Key issues raised by responses to forced migration are examined – responses that involve numerous different organisations and agencies with different and often competing interests and values. The law module considers the refugee definition, first asylum and emergency protection for people fleeing from conflict, and complementary protection and other contemporary issues. Emphasis on the institutional dimension of forced migration is continued in the negotiation module, which enables reflection on how to navigate the tensions, through the simulation of a humanitarian crisis.

## **Individual presentations**

Time is set aside for participants to produce and present an independent piece of work. The aim is for participants to reflect on their professional practice in the context of the course, and also to consider the course in the light of personal experience. To help with this task participants have access to the Refugee Studies Centre's unique library collection of nearly 40,000 books and documents that are vital to the study and understanding of current refugee issues.

## **Evening and weekend sessions**

An optional programme of films and seminars on topics related to forced migration is offered, as well as various social events.

## Recent lecturers

### **Karen Konig Abu Zayd**

Formerly of UNRWA

### **Professor Susan Akram**

Boston University of School of Law

### **Jon Bennett**

Independent Consultant

### **Dr Alexander Betts**

University of Oxford

### **Professor Dawn Chatty**

University of Oxford

### **Professor B S Chimni**

Jawaharlal Nehru University

### **Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh**

University of Oxford

### **Dr Matthew Gibney**

University of Oxford

### **Dr María-Teresa Gil-Bazo**

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

### **Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill**

University of Oxford

### **Walter Kälin**

University of Bern

### **Dr H el ene Lambert**

University of Westminster

### **Professor Peter Loizos**

University of London

### **Alice Nah**

University of York

## Funders

The Refugee Studies Centre thanks the following for providing bursary funding to recent summer schools:

A W Mellon Foundation

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Department for International Development, UK

E S Hogg Charitable Trust

Genevieve Muinzer in memory of Sara Muinzer

## Venue



Photos Corinne Owen and Wissam Al Saliby

Wadham College dining room  
Participants

Tutor group session  
Wadham College

# The detail

## When

Annually. In 2012 the dates are 2–20 July.

## Where

At the University of Oxford. In 2012 the summer school will be held at Wadham College and the Oxford Department of International Development.

## How much

The fee for 2012 is £3,220. Pay by 31 March to qualify for a reduced fee of £3,050.

## What is included

This covers 19 nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation and all weekday lunches; all tuition; all course materials, including reading materials; and a range of social activities. Evening and weekend meals are not included in the course fees.

## Requirements

Applicants should have:

- experience in working with, or on issues related to, refugees or other forced migrants
- a first degree
- proficiency in the English language. As a guide, foreign-language English speakers should be able to obtain a score of 7.00 in IELTS/IELTS or 570 in TOEFL.

## Accommodation

Accommodation is of general student standard. There are no facilities provided for partners or other family members. Participants arriving before or staying on after the summer school should make their own accommodation arrangements.

## Subsistence

As well as fees and travel costs, participants should budget for subsistence and incidental expenses during the course. We suggest a minimum of £20–£25 per day. In addition, you might want to add a books/photocopying allowance.

## Use of the Refugee Studies Centre library collection

The programme provides a course pack of reading materials. Many more documents are available in the University of Oxford's Social Science Library, which houses the Refugee Studies Centre collection.

## Funding

A number of bursaries are offered on a competitive basis. Conditions for their allocation are dependent on the bursary providers' criteria, and are usually linked to certain poorer countries or regions. Some past participants have been successful in obtaining sponsorship by dealing directly with funding sources that they have researched themselves. We strongly advise potential applicants to look for funding as widely as possible, as we always receive many more bursary applications than we are able to offer.

## Insurance

Participants are responsible for their own insurance. Participants from outside the European Union should consider medical insurance if their country does not have a reciprocal agreement with the UK for free medical treatment.

## International Summer School team

Director: Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh

Deputy Director: Richard Haavisto

Manager: Heidi El-Megrisi

Assistant: Erol Canpunar

## How to apply

You can apply online, or by fax/post. Please use the application form (available online or from the address below), together with a personal statement and your curriculum vitae. All applications are reviewed by a selection committee. The closing date for applications is 1 March 2012 for applicants requesting bursary support through the Refugee Studies Centre, 1 May 2012 for all other applicants. As the summer school is typically oversubscribed, we advise you to apply in good time.

## Please send all applications and enquiries to

International Summer School Manager

Refugee Studies Centre

Oxford Department of International Development

University of Oxford, 3 Mansfield Road

Oxford, OX1 3TB, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1865 281728

Fax: +44 (0)1865 281730

Email: [summer.school@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:summer.school@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

Website: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/teaching\\_summer.html](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/teaching_summer.html)



## Refugee Studies Centre

“The study of forced migration has become a recognised academic discipline, embraced by numerous educational institutions across the world. Millions of people are refugees or internally displaced in their own countries, forcibly exiled from a familiar social world through a combination of war, violence, political crises, rapid social transformations, failed development and social or ethnic exclusion. The need for independent, objective and critical scholarship on factors determining and resulting from the displacement of people has never been greater, and the Refugee Studies Centre remains in the forefront of shaping the agenda in today’s most critical debates.”

Professor Dawn Chatty  
Director, Refugee Studies Centre