



Annual Report

2022-2023





Refugee-Led Research Hub affiliates gather for the second annual week-long refugee-led research conference at the Nairobi office. Credit: RLRH.



The opening panel at the Oxford Sanctuary Fair, held at Oxford Town Hall, featuring Juliet Van Gyseghem (Oxford STAR Group), Yaroslava Bukhta (Ukraine Graduate Scholar, President of Oxford University Ukrainian Society), Jan Royall (Principal, Somerville College, a College of Sanctuary, and Chair of the Conference of Colleges), Mark Goldring (Director, Asylum Welcome), Cllr Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini (City Council Migrant Champion), and moderated by Professor Alexander Betts (Refugee Studies Centre). Credit: RSC.

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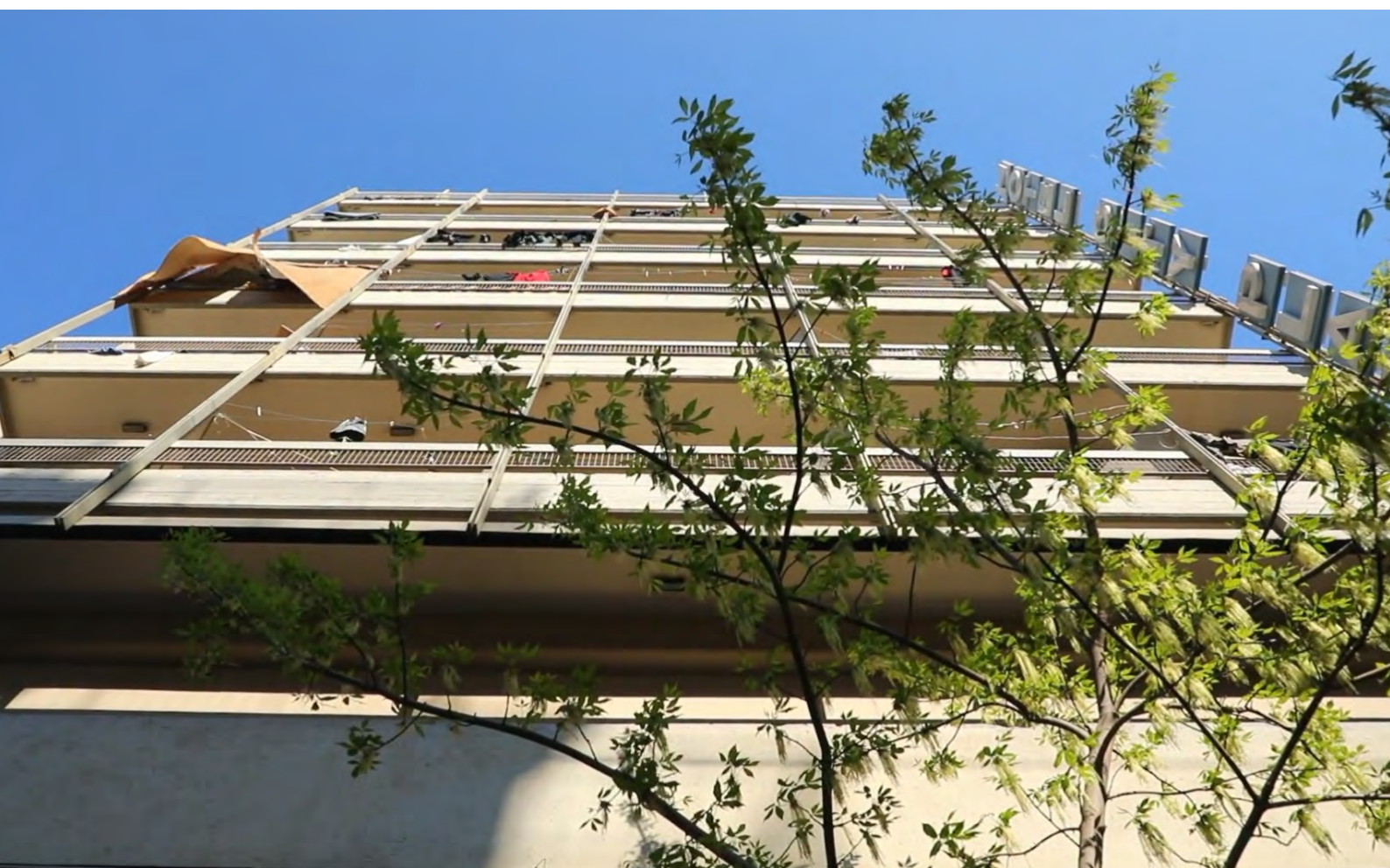
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Front cover photo: Lam, a research assistant and translator working with the Refugee Economies Programme, at Pagirinya refugee settlement, Adjumani, Uganda.
Credit: Y Gidron.

Compiled and designed by Tamsin Kelk and One Ltd.



The market in Mahama refugee camp, Rwanda. Credit: Y Gidron.



Hotel City Plaza, a disused hotel occupied by refugees and activists in central Athens, from Shelter Without Shelter, a documentary film by Dr Mark E Breeze and Professor Tom Scott-Smith (see article on page 26).

Director's foreword

As I take over directorship of the Refugee Studies Centre it is a great pleasure to report on our many activities from the past year. On the research front, the last twelve months have seen particular emphasis on the cutting edge themes of technology, climate and sustainable energy. We have been involved in a project on Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (p. 17) and we ran a successful public seminar series on Digital Technologies (p. 39), which we will build on this next year with issue no. 73 of *Forced Migration Review*. These build on themes of innovation and humanitarian design that have been central to the Refugee Studies Centre for many years. We were also lucky this year to be joined by Professor Ramah McKay from the University of Pennsylvania, who started a new project on climate migration and scientific forecasting, and by Dr Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen, who joined us as ISRF Fellow to produce a new monograph on sustainable energy in displacement. It is particularly important to have such voices when climate is emerging as one of the defining features of 21st Century politics.

In terms of events, the year was marked by a very successful first Oxford Sanctuary Fair, held at Oxford Town Hall in May 2023 (p. 18): a collaborative event co-hosted with local charities and Oxford City Council. The fair coincided with the announcement that Oxford received University of Sanctuary status, an achievement that represented a great deal of work from across the collegiate university with the close involvement of the Refugee Studies Centre led by Professor Alexander Betts. I would like to pay tribute to Alex for this, and as outgoing director as he takes up new responsibilities at the central University in the important post of Local and Global Engagements Officer. Our other main events included excellent public lectures from Alex de Waal, renowned expert on famine and humanitarian response (p. 38), and Lamis Abdelaaty, author of the acclaimed book *Discrimination and Delegation: Explaining State Responses to Refugees* (p. 38).

In relation to other events, this year has seen a change in our model for the long-running and extremely successful RSC Summer School: a feature of the Centre's calendar for over thirty years. This has seen thousands of participants benefit from a vibrant model of teaching and professional reflection. Since moving online in 2021 we have managed to provide a model of teaching that is lower cost and far more accessible, reaching participants across 74 countries and providing bursaries for scores of participants including those with experience of displacement. We are now committed to offering three Online Schools per year at the end of our academic terms in March, June and December. The Online Schools will continue to be superbly directed by

Professors Catherine Briddick and Matthew Gibney with the tireless administrative support of Annelies Lawson.

In terms of personnel we will soon be saying goodbye to Professor Cathryn Costello who completed two years of leave to Co-Direct the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School and is now leaving for a post at University College Dublin as Professor of Global Refugee and Migration Law. I would like to pay tribute to all her work at the Centre, particularly for her many years of teaching and doctoral supervision and for her significant ERC research project. We are delighted to welcome Catherine Briddick as incoming Andrew W. Mellon Associate Professor of International Human Rights and Refugee Law, who is taking up her post at the start of September 2023. More details of her research on discrimination and refugee protection can be found on pages 28-29.

As a vibrant research centre we see many people move through the RSC, bringing energy and new ideas that enrich our teaching and research. This year we welcomed two new members of staff from the University of Cambridge: Dr Ashwiny Kistnareddy, who joined as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow to work on Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, and Dr Hiba Salem, our new Pedro Arrupe Fellow working on education and forced displacement with a particular focus on the Middle East. Others, sadly, are leaving us at the end of this year: Dr Kathrin Bachleitner, Dr Dilar Dirik, and Dr Nicole Stybnarova are all departing for pastures new. After making such important contributions to the intellectual life of the Centre, we thank them enormously for their work and look forward to keeping close contact.

Finally, observant readers will note that the RSC has a new logo. Our previous branding was based around the motif of torn paper, which had been in use for over fifteen years. It was a simple and bold image that represented how rupture is central to the refugee experience, but in our new logo we have been guided more by our vision of scholarly research and our positive and inclusive approach to education. The logo will be followed by a revised website, which will make it easier to access the Centre's rich array of publications. By recognising and celebrating the value of academic scholarship, I look forward to guiding this excellent research centre as it moves from strength to strength in the coming years.

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Director, Refugee Studies Centre

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration

Research

The Refugee Studies Centre undertakes independent, multidisciplinary, academic research on the causes, consequences, and responses to forced migration. Its academic staff have expertise across a range of disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, law, politics, and international relations. Through their research, members of the Centre challenge common assumptions and understandings related to forced migration, with important implications for public debate, policy, and practice. The Centre's influence relies on an extensive network of relationships with other universities, research institutions, governments, international organisations, NGOs, and businesses.

Humanitarian Shelter

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This research explores the strategies taken by aid agencies to provide emergency housing for refugees. The research began with a project called Architectures of Displacement, which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council between 2016 and 2019. This project brought together experts in forced displacement, archaeology, anthropology, and architecture to study refugee shelter across six countries, and resulted in an edited book published by Berghahn and a feature length documentary film, which won the AHRC 'Research in Film' award in 2020. The project has yielded several peer-reviewed publications in *American Ethnologist*, the *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*, and *Humanity*. The film has been shown at festivals in Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States. The project has also been involved in two exhibitions, at the Oxford Pitt Rivers Museum and the Imperial War Museum in London, as well as being featured on BBC radio.

The outputs from this project have engaged with humanitarians and policymakers through the UK Shelter Forum, a bi-annual event for shelter specialists and architects, and at events hosted by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Festival Hall. As part of this engagement work, the project created an inventory of emergency refugee shelters with architectural drawings and detailed plans. The final output is a monograph expanding on the fieldwork conducted across Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Germany and France in 2016–18. This book, *Fragments of Home: Refugee Housing and the Politics of Shelter*, will be published by Stanford University Press in 2024.

Humanitarian Nutrition

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This project examines humanitarian nutrition and its history from the 19th century to the present day. Through archival research, fieldwork, oral history, and the analysis of humanitarian handbooks, it examines how Victorian technologies such as the soup kitchen were transformed into contemporary mechanisms for emergency feeding. In many refugee crises around the world, emergency feeding is a central part of humanitarian action, and this project traces how changing understandings of the human body and its needs have affected the treatment of forcibly displaced populations. It explores the transformation from communal to individual designs, from vernacular to technical foods, and from personal to impersonal measurements, examining what shaped these changes, and how they reflect the wider socio-political concerns of the age.

A book capturing the key lessons from this project was published by Cornell University Press in 2020, entitled *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*. This won the Association for the Study of Food and Society best book award in 2021. A journal article on a prominent humanitarian food product was published in 2018 by *Social Studies of Science*, entitled 'Sticky technologies: Plumpy'nut®, emergency feeding and the viscosity of humanitarian design'. An extension to this project was launched in 2021, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, which concerns the work of Lord John Boyd Orr, first director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



Refugee shelter at Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan, from the documentary *Shelter Without Shelter* by Mark E Breeze and Tom Scott-Smith

The Duties of Refugees

2017–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

This project examines the contentious but highly important issue of the duties of refugees. Refugees and asylum seekers are often criticised in public debates for failing in their moral responsibilities. They have recently been admonished for failing to integrate; for not claiming asylum in the first state they come to; for ‘queue jumping’ or failing to ‘wait their turn’ to be resettled; and for not returning home once they no longer need asylum. However dubious these criticisms may be, there is little doubt that such criticism has played an important part in legitimising recent erosions of the rights of refugees. A key question thus emerges: just what are the duties of refugees as refugees? In this project, the role of refugees as duty holders in relation to a number of different groups will be considered.

The research will draw upon the resources of ethical theory, political science, history, and law. First, it will interrogate critically the duties ascribed to refugees in current political debates. Second, it will trace the different ways in which the duties of refugees have been understood historically and the way they relate to changing conceptualisations of the refugee. Third, through interviews, the question of how refugees themselves understand their responsibilities will be explored. Finally, the project will draw upon the results

of the above, as well as the resources of contemporary moral and political thinking, to provide a considered and practically relevant account of the moral and political duties of refugees.

The Liberal State and the Expulsion of Members: Banishment, Denationalisation and Deportation

2008–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

The lawful power to expel people considered criminal, dangerous or otherwise undesirable has been a feature of virtually all human communities. This project explores the various incarnations that expulsion power takes in modern liberal states and the issues it raises for communities ostensibly committed to principles of freedom, equality and human rights. The main foci of analysis in the project are: the history of banishment as a precursor of modern deportation power; denationalisation and the evolution of powers to strip citizenship in liberal states; and the evolution and legitimacy of deportation. In addition to illustrating the ongoing tension between the power to expel and liberal principles, this project attempts to show how new developments in membership and concerns over crime and terrorism in modern states fuel contemporary controversy over expulsion.

Global Asylum Governance and the European Union's Role (ASILE)

European Union, 2019–2023

Professor Cathryn Costello (RSC and Hertie School, Berlin), with Professor Maja Janmyr (University of Oslo)

With Professor Maja Janmyr, Cathryn Costello leads a work package in the Horizon 2020 project ASILE, a scholarly network on European and global asylum policies. The project studies the interactions between emerging international protection systems and the United Nations Global Compact for Refugees (UN GCR), with particular focus on the European Union's role and contribution. Their work package – 'Refugee Recognition, Self-reliance and Rights' – aims to facilitate a better understanding of how refugee protection is allocated and the rights enjoyed by refugees, as well as to clarify the link between 'refugeehood' and the quality of refugee protection, taking work rights as an important litmus test for this protection. As well as in-depth comparative case study on the refugee recognition regimes in Jordan and Bangladesh (by postdoctoral scholars Dr Lewis Turner and Dr M Sanjeeb Hossain), in 2022 the team published a Working Paper exploring the links between refugee recognition processes and resettlement practices, drawing on a global literature review and first findings from fieldwork in Jordan and Bangladesh.

Refugees are Migrants: Refugee Mobility, Recognition and Rights (RefMig)

European Research Council, 2018–2023

Professor Cathryn Costello (RSC and Hertie School, Berlin), with Dr Natalie Welfens, Dr Jessica Breaugh, and Mitali Agrawal (Hertie School, Berlin)

The RefMig project aims to re-examine the global refugee regime through the lens of mobility and migration, examining the division between refugees and (other) migrants in several contexts.

The Organisations of Protection research strand came to an end this year, with the publication of the edited collection *IOM Unbound: Obligations and Accountability of the International Organization for Migration in an Era of Expansion* (co-editors Megan Bradley, Cathryn Costello and Angela Sherwood, Cambridge University Press 2022). The volume brings together contributions from legal scholars and political scientists to clarify and assess the obligations (political and legal) of an understudied international organisation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), now self-styled as 'the UN Migration

agency', in fact a UN-related entity. The volume makes significant contributions to the study of IO accountability generally, and to scholarship on the global governance of migration. We discuss the book with Professor Katerina Linos as part of the 'Borderlines' series of Berkeley Law podcasts.

In cooperation with the Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung Berlin (WZB), RefMig convened a two-day hybrid meeting in October 2022 with nearly 40 leading migration and refugee protection experts to revise the Model International Mobility Convention (MIMC). We also co-hosted a one-day workshop in February 2023 on 'The Global (Mal) Distribution of Mobility Opportunities' in partnership with the Max-Planck-Institute for Social Anthropology.

The Recognising Refugees research strand continued to gather new data and generate new findings on the key question of who counts as a refugee in the global refugee regime, with country profiles published on the RefMig website by Dr Caroline Nalule and Dr Derya Ozkul, as well as external researchers. The final book, entitled *Recognising Refugees*, is under contract with Cambridge University Press, and will offer a global and comparative take on recognition practices. Also under contract is a short Critical Introduction to International Refugee Law, an exciting final output after a busy five years.

Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (AFAR)

Volkswagen Foundation's 'Challenges for Europe' programme, 2021–2025

Professor Cathryn Costello (RSC and Hertie School, Berlin) and Dr Derya Ozkul, with Professor Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen (University of Copenhagen), Professor Iris Goldner-Lang (University of Zagreb), and Professor Martin Ruhs (European University Institute)

AFAR is a collaborative research project between five institutions across Europe, led by Professor Cathryn Costello. The project investigates the usages of new technologies in migration and asylum governance, in particular, the automation or part-automation of decisions normally taken by humans, as well as more complex machine learning and artificial intelligence systems. At its heart, AFAR explores the concept of 'fairness' as a legal, normative, and political concept. The project will explore fairness as a multidimensional concept and consider whether existing legal standards appropriately institutionalise fairness, particularly when decision-making in these



Syrian refugee children in school in Beirut.

Credit: Adam Patterson/Panos/DFID (CC BY 2.0)

fields is increasingly automated. The project includes work packages to map the use of new technologies in migration and asylum in Europe, explore the evolving overlapping legal standards in this domain, consider how fairness perceptions impact practices, and develop proposals to reform practices for fairness. A key output was a report by Derya Ozkul on *Automating Immigration and Asylum: The Uses of New Technologies in Migration and Asylum Governance in Europe*, published in January 2023. This report maps out the existing uses of new technologies across European immigration and asylum systems both at the national and the EU level.

Protecting Hope in Displacement: Refugee Youth's Aspirations and Ideas of the Future

Pedro Arrupe Research Fellowship, 2022–2025

[Dr Hiba Salem](#)

Hope offers an important theoretical lens for understanding the ways individuals deal with protracted displacement and uncertainty. This project examines factors which support or constrain refugee youth from continuing their education, seeking to learn how aspirations are constructed across time in protracted displacement. The research will take

place in Lebanon, where Syrian refugees have been displaced since 2011, and where there are significant barriers which impact refugee youth's abilities to complete their education. Paying attention to productive shifts over the past decade, the research uncovers possibilities that can be learned from developments in policies, practices, and individuals. In doing so, the project aims to draw lessons that engage policymakers, practitioners, and academics to better understand factors that support refugee aspirations and agency in protracted displacement.

Refugee Children as a Site of Critical Intervention

The Leverhulme Trust, 2022–2025

[Dr Ashwiny O Kistnareddy](#)

This project focuses on the experiences of refugee children from a range of geographical spaces: North Korea, Vietnam, Latin America, Rwanda, Iran, Iraq and Syria. The focus is on those who have sought asylum in either neighbouring countries or the UK, Europe, and the USA. Through an analysis of a range of media, including memoirs, autobiographical narratives, documentaries, YouTube videos, and blogs written by refugee children or focusing on refugee children, the project engages with the particularities of the child

as a refugee, an understudied dimension of refugee studies. It also includes the stories of children in Calais to understand their experiences of transitory spaces and how human rights organisations come to their aid. By doing this, the project underlines the importance of attending to the specific circumstances of being a child refugee, the provisions that are in place (or the lack thereof), and how this might affect individuals in the longer term. Ultimately, this project offers a critical analysis of what refugee children's experiences enable us to understand about the impact of forced migration, mobility, and integration (or the absence thereof) on children.

Resettled Refugee Children: EAL and other Provisions and Policy Making

OPEN Seed Fund, 2023

Dr Ashwiny O Kistnareddy

There has been a marked increase in the number of refugee, immigrant, and asylum-seeking children arriving in regions in the UK which have not had previous experience of dealing with the issues presented by these arrivals, particularly in terms of English as an Additional Language (EAL) and well-being provisions. The children are coming through different routes and the support level they are offered depends on the route (e.g. those coming through the Homes for Ukraine or Hong Kong BNO or Afghan resettlement schemes are supported in a range of ways compared to those arriving from Eritrea or Sudan). Whether children are accompanied or unaccompanied also creates different categories and responsibilities for stakeholders. Often there is a lack of EAL provision so outside stakeholders are brought in to provide these lessons. Currently, Jacari provides one-to-one tutoring, in school and outside, to EAL pupils in Bristol and Oxford, and Positive Youth Foundation does the same in Coventry. In all three cities different strategies and tools are deployed depending on the level of funding available to the charities.

This project seeks to identify, examine, develop and disseminate strategies and best practice through observations, interviews and analyses of current provisions in EAL and wellbeing for refugee, immigrant and asylum-seeking children in Coventry, Bristol and Oxford. Workshops aim at developing and exchanging knowledge and best practice to improve children's integration. This project will form the basis of a longer-term project at national level providing consistency and working towards better inclusive practices.

Borders, Global Governance and the Refugee, 1947–1951

The British Academy, 2020–2023

Dr Uttara Shahani, with Dr Anne Irfan (UCL)

In the context of contemporary debates over reforming refugee policy in the Global North, this project excavates the origins of the global refugee regime. In particular, it examines the regime's positioning as the product of a particular historical moment after the Second World War, which established a system of global governance for managing forced migration and set the stage for internationalist tensions with the nation-state. The UK was central to this process, as two of the era's biggest refugee crises occurred following its withdrawal from India in 1947 and Palestine in 1948. By tracing the colonial legacies embedded in both these cases of mass displacements across new borders, our work challenges paradigms about post-war migration and raises new questions around the continuing impact of colonial-era structures. In this way, we seek to narrate a new international history that centres the role and experiences of forced migrants in this era. A website with resources on the parallel partitions of India and Palestine and emerging refugee regimes is close to completion and other outputs will be forthcoming over the next year.

The Syrian Humanitarian Disaster: Understanding Perceptions, Aspirations and Behaviour in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

2012–ongoing; British Academy funding, 2014–2015; New York University funding, 2018–2022

Emerita Professor Dawn Chatty

This study set out to understand the perceptions of Syria's refugees, and those of policymakers, practitioners and host communities, in respect of the minimum 'right to life' standards for survival in dignity that should be available to those displaced by the Syrian conflict. It seeks to understand discrepancies between the perceptions and aspirations of each group in adequately addressing the protection needs of Syria's refugees given the non-binding nature of state obligations as set out in the 1951 Convention. The study expects to draw policy conclusions as well as preliminary findings for further study based on an understanding of the socio-historical context, and on data from focus group discussions and semi-formal interviews. Articles have been published in *Global Policy* and the *Middle East Journal of Refugee Studies*.



Across the Beqaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, tens of thousands of Syrians have taken up residence in tented settlements, just kilometres from the border with Syria.

Credit: Watfa Najdi

Funding was granted by New York University to extend the study to displaced Syrians in the Gulf States of Arabia. A workshop held in Abu Dhabi in 2019 brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working with displaced Syrians in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf. A special issue on Displaced Syrians based on the papers presented was published in 2021 in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*. A follow-on workshop bringing together senior aid practitioners, policymakers, and academics was held in December 2022 at New York University Abu Dhabi's The Institute. The workshop, 'Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees from Syria: the Impetus behind the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees' issued a policy statement in February 2023.

Social Cohesion as a Humanitarian Objective? (SoCHO)

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), 2020–2022

Dr Cory Rodgers and Emerita Professor Dawn Chatty, with Dr Michael Owiso (Maseno University, Kenya) and Professor Nasser Yassin (Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut)

The vast majority of the world's refugees live in the Global South, where local communities often experience economic hardship and socio-political exclusion even before the arrival of displaced populations. As recognised in the 2016 New York

Declaration as well as the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees, refugees may face hostility if they are perceived as a burden to the communities that host them. In response to this, a variety of programmes have been implemented to promote 'social cohesion' between refugees and their host communities. However, there is little policy coherence across this broad 'social cohesion' agenda. Some programmes incorporate vulnerable members of the host community as aid beneficiaries, others contribute humanitarian resources to local development, and yet others facilitate community dialogue and dispute resolution mechanisms. Moreover, the evidence base upon which many programmes are designed is largely economic, with fewer anthropological and sociological studies. This project applies ethnographic methods among both humanitarian organisations and affected communities in two countries that host large refugee populations: Lebanon and Kenya.

The project aimed to document the variety of programme objectives encompassed by the 'social cohesion' banner, the metrics used to monitor and assess these programmes, and the political consequences of bringing local communities under the remit of refugee aid providers. A series of field visits in October 2022 was followed by the screening of a film on social cohesion in May 2023. *Forced Migration Review* issue 70 included a special feature on social cohesion in contexts of protracted displacement, co-edited by Dr Cory Rodgers.

Refugee-Led Social Protection, Digital Technologies and the 'Refugee Crisis'

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2019–2023
Dr Marie Godin

The so-called 'European refugee crisis' that has unfolded over the last few years has generated a dynamic response from a novel and diverse constellation of social actors in the European context: from humanitarian organisations, local authorities, international and local NGOs, private actors and grassroots actors, including citizens and refugees themselves. However, refugees are still studied, overwhelmingly, as recipients of aid in the design of state welfare policies. In this regard the development of digital technologies has played a significant role in providing new opportunities for refugees while on the move but also on arrival in Western societies, especially in regard to fulfilling their social protection needs. This project aims to explore how the development of tech-social protection initiatives led by, with or for refugees is contributing to a reshaping of the politics of welfare at the local, national and transnational levels.

Refugees' Socio-Digital Futures in Protracted Displacement Settings in Kenya

British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, 2022–2024
Dr Marie Godin, in partnership with the Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH)

This research project examines the nexus between refugee livelihoods, new technologies, and refugees' aspirations in two contexts of protracted displacement in Kenya, examining the Kakuma refugee camp and the city of Nairobi. It seeks to better understand the existence, potential, and pitfalls of so-called 'digital livelihoods' for refugees. Through a multi-sited ethnographic approach, it will highlight who gets excluded or included in the 'gig economy', looking at the composition of refugee networks, their gender, class, age, nationality, and location. It will explore how refugees' socio-digital futures are being imagined from above ('big futures'), as well as how refugees themselves harness technological innovation to imagine and create new solidarities, socialities, and new forms of refugee governance ('little futures').

Justice and Autonomy Quests at the Margins of the Nation-State

Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellowship, 2019–2022
Dr Dilar Dirik

This project maps layers of statelessness and self-determination by focusing on the history and current practice of self-organising communities in the Middle East in the context of war and forced displacement. What can we learn about democracy and freedom concepts by looking at practices of self-determination, including those led within refugee contexts, that seek to transcend the nation-state? To what extent is autonomy possible without the state? A second aspect of the project examines women's quests for justice in the aftermath of episodes of large-scale political violence. Drawing on feminist ideas around transformative justice, it reviews the ways in which women in the region define their means of political action between legal frameworks and system change. Finally, the project makes a theoretical contribution to the study of statelessness and non-state resistance.

Integration of Syrian Refugee Families in Oxfordshire

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018–2019; John Fell Fund 2019–2023
Professor Naohiko Omata

This research aims to understand how Syrian refugee families who came to Oxfordshire via the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) have been adapting to life in the UK. Due to COVID restrictions, the research has been suspended since early 2020. Between 2018 and 2019, the research largely completed data collection with SVPRS families who were settled in central Oxford and other districts of Oxfordshire, and with Syrian refugees who did not use SVPRS but spontaneously chose to settle in Oxford of their own accord. As the COVID situation has settled, we aimed to resume the research towards late 2022 and will investigate 'best practices' of other refugee integration support schemes for (Syrian) refugees in and outside the UK, and their potential applicability within the context of Oxfordshire.

Legacies of War: The Social Impact of Conflict and Displacement

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2023
Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

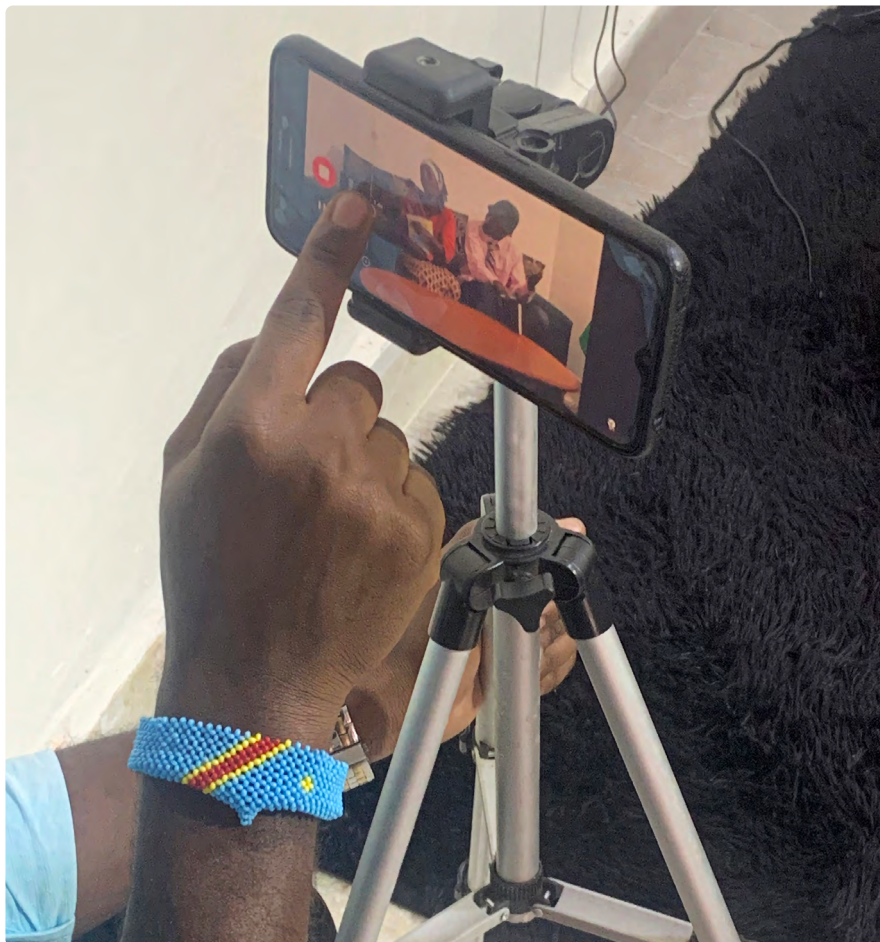
This project theorises on the effects of conflict and displacement on national identity. For that purpose, it develops an interdisciplinary framework and tests it on the empirical case study of Syrian, Palestinian, and Ukrainian refugees. The project analyses data collected in large N online surveys. The results aim to explore transformations in the meaning of national identity as a result of diverse experiences of war and displacement. How Syrians, Palestinians and Ukrainians themselves draw the boundaries around their national in-group will be crucial for any peace settlement and the legitimacy of their future states, in addition to having broader implications for how International Relations theory understands national identity change in diverse contexts of war and forced displacement. Articles have been published in journals such as *Cooperation and Conflict* and *Nations and Nationalism*.

How Historical Memory Shapes European Policies Towards Syrian Refugees

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2023
Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

As thousands of refugees and migrants came into Europe in 2015, one of the most common ways for them to arrive in the EU was through the Balkan route from Turkey and Greece. This research project is concerned with the political responses of countries at the end of the Balkan route (Hungary, Austria and Germany) to the mass arrival of Syrian refugees during the summer of 2015. In particular, it is investigating how state identity and collective memory mattered for how refugees were perceived by their host countries.

Find out more about research at the Refugee Studies Centre at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research



A Congolese refugee YouTuber at work in Nairobi.
Credit: Marie Godin

Refugee Economies Programme

IKEA Foundation, John Fell Fund

Professor Alexander Betts, Professor Naohiko Omata, Professor Olivier Sterck, Dr Yotam Gidron,
Dr Julia Schweers, Madison Bakewell, Vittorio Bruni

The Refugee Economies Programme undertakes research on the economic lives and positive contributions of refugees. Our research is mainly focused on East Africa, and since 2016 we have published and disseminated research that has had a significant impact on policy and practice. We aim to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees by highlighting the conditions under which refugees can become self-sufficient and achieve better welfare outcomes. Having undertaken large-scale data collection, following refugees and host community members' economic lives over time, the Programme has evolved to currently focus on three main sub-projects. The three themes cover: 1) cross-border economies; 2) the impact of shocks on refugees' economic lives; 3) the political economy of refugees' access to socio-economic rights. All three strands of research have a focus on East Africa, and aim to collect original data as a means to influence policy and practice.

First, the **Borders, Mobility, and Livelihoods** project involves research undertaken by Naohiko Omata and Yotam Gidron. The project focuses on three border regions: Uganda-South Sudan, Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Rwanda-DRC. Following preliminary research in Uganda in 2022, we collected qualitative data in Uganda (Kyangwali settlement and Pagirinya settlement), South Sudan (Juba), DRC (Goma), Rwanda (Kigali, Mahama refugee camp and Kigeme refugee camp), and Burundi (Bujumbura). The aim of the research is to identify the patterns and drivers of mobilities, and how these movements shape refugees' livelihood strategies, opportunities for self-reliance, and socio-economic outcomes. In addition to these activities, we ran a small-scale survey in Kyangwali and Pagirinya to capture the mobility practices of refugees currently living in these settlements to help quantify some of the practices we identified in our qualitative research, as well as highlight the differences between nationalities and gender. This year, Prof. Omata and Dr Gidron have undertaken considerable primary fieldwork, identifying a range of findings about the centrality of transnational mobility for refugees' survival strategies. In many cases, refugee households have members

who return to countries of origin, despite the risks, to participate in income-generating activities.

Second, the **Shocks, Vulnerability, and Livelihoods** project involves research led by Olivier Sterck, and has focused on exploring the role that unanticipated 'shocks' such as changes in food assistance levels, theft, and unemployment have on economic outcomes and behaviour. The research focuses on Kakuma and Kalobeyi in Kenya, and involves undertaking surveys with the same 622 refugee households at monthly intervals. This year, we completed 70 qualitative interviews at the beginning of the project and we trained 14 enumerators for qualitative research and over 30 enumerators for wave 1 of the quantitative research. Since then, we have continued to engage 17 enumerators throughout the 10 waves of data collection. All enumerators are refugees who live in either Kalobeyi or Kakuma, allowing for us to administer interviews and surveys in local languages within the camp.

Third, the project involves research undertaken by Alexander Betts and Julia Schweers. It draws upon a combination of archival research and semi-structured interviews to explore the **political history of refugee rights** – and particularly socio-economic rights – in five main East African states – Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Sudan. Over the last year, considerable primary research has been undertaken at United Nations archives (UNHCR and ILO) and at national archives across East Africa, complemented by elite interviews. One of the methodologically original features of the research has been collaboration with historical research assistants with displacement backgrounds within the focus countries. The research has also featured archival research in relevant refugee camps and settlements. The main research outputs seek to offer a historical account of changes in socio-economic rights across the five countries, and to explain the politics underlying such policies. The work will culminate in a book, provisionally entitled *Authoritarian Sanctuaries: Refugee Politics in Africa*, reflecting on the mechanisms through which authoritarian states sometimes adopt inclusive refugee policies.

In addition, the Programme has developed a new public engagement project called ‘[Refugee Stories](#)’, with additional funding from the OUP John Fell Fund, and partly in collaboration with the Gapminder Foundation. Refugee Stories aims to develop an innovative approach to ‘representative story-telling’. It does so through a novel approach to integrating qualitative and quantitative data. Normally when we hear stories about refugees they are de-contextualised, and you have no idea whether they are representative or not. We collected representative survey data from across the Kakuma population. We then ordered the surveyed households by income, enabling us to approach households at particular percentiles – 10th, 20th, 90th etc. to get a representative window into life in the camps. Using a refugee film crew, we have then interviewed key household members to get an understanding of their lives, and enable viewers to understand how those stories relate to the wider context and population. The

project will result in both a short documentary film and a book.

During 2022-23, the Programme continued to publish outputs relating to the Refugee Economies Dataset. This dataset combines household survey data from Kenya (Kakuma refugee camp and Nairobi), Uganda (Nakivale refugee settlement and Kampala), and Ethiopia (the Dollo Ado refugee camps and Addis Ababa), and will be published online in 2024 following publication of one of our Programme’s main outputs, a forthcoming article entitled ‘The Economic Lives of Refugees’. A book is also planned entitled *The Refugee Trap*, exploring the mechanism through which becoming a refugee changes people’s economic outcomes, and the policies needed to overcome that impact.

Publications are available on the [RSC website](#) and on the [project website: \[www.refugee-economies.org\]\(http://www.refugee-economies.org\)](#)



A market in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. Credit: R Bradenbrink

Policy and impact

A key aim of the Refugee Studies Centre is to ensure that our work has a meaningful impact beyond the academic community. We achieve this by combining our independent, objective and critical scholarship with an active role in engaging policymakers in governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organisations, shaping public understanding through the media, and working directly with refugees.

In a year that has seen considerable government focus on the UK's asylum system and refugee policy, in March 2023 **Professor Cathryn Costello** gave evidence on the Illegal Migration Bill before the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights. Costello offered insights from the empirical scholarship demonstrating the limited impact of harsh legislation on irregular arrivals, and questioned the legality of the bill, including under Article 31 of the Refugee Convention, which protects most refugees from penalisation for their irregular entry and residence if they have had good cause for this conduct. She also highlighted the sweeping nature of the legislative powers conferred to the UK Executive by the Bill, concluding that "anybody concerned about British democracy and the rule of law should be also seriously concerned about the Bill." [Available online at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12974/html/>]

In July 2023, **Professor Alexander Betts** attended a 'Return and Rebuild' workshop on Ukraine held at Windsor Castle and hosted by the Sanctuary Foundation. The workshop was attended by representatives from businesses such as Amazon and Pret A Manger, from the UK government, the opposition and the civil service, and from universities such as Oxford and Cranfield, plus refugees themselves.

Emerita Professor Dawn Chatty and **Dr Cory Rodgers** represented the Refugee Studies Centre at an event to mark the 20th anniversary of the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation in Wadi Dana, Jordan, in September 2022: Dana+20: Mobile Indigenous Peoples, Conservation, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Two Decades after the Dana Declaration. Working with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN, Jordan), representatives of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP), concerned practitioners and academics, and representatives of Mobile Peoples from around the world came together to discuss shared concerns. The event produced the Dana+20

Manifesto of Mobile Peoples, a call to action for governments, conservationists, environmentalists, corporations and international stakeholders to recognise and respect the rights of Mobile Peoples and to deepen mutual understanding about the place of mobile ways of life in the future of our world. The Refugees Studies Centre, together with the School of Geography and the Environment at Oxford University, co-organised the event in collaboration with Mobile Peoples delegates representing numerous organisations.

Emeritus Professor Roger Zetter was Team Leader and co-author of the report UNHCR Asylum Capacity Development (ACD) Evaluation: An Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Support for Strengthening National Asylum Systems (Project Agency ITAD; ES/2022/01). The overall purpose of this evaluation was to review how UNHCR has fulfilled its objective to support and strengthen the capacity of national asylum systems in the period 2015–2020 and thereby improve the quality of protection for persons of concern and the sustainability of the systems that support this. It reviewed UNHCR's experience globally and the lessons learned, and provided recommendations for UNHCR's role in national asylum capacity development with specific reference to Refugee Status Determination (RSD) policy and processes.

As part of her OPEN seed fund project, **Dr Ashwiny Kistnareddy** worked with the Department for Education and a range of stakeholders in Oxford, Coventry and Bristol to analyse the current provisions for resettled, asylum-seeking and migrant children. She organised a workshop in June 2023, and facilitated discussions between young people, the Department for Education, organisations working with children, and researchers. She also produced a report of her observations of the work accomplished by the organisations, interviews with young people, and further recommendations for both the organisations and the Department for Education.



Group photo of Mobile Peoples delegates and participants with HRH Princess Basma bint Talal at the Dana +20 workshop in Wadi Dana, September 2022. Credit: Dana +20.

Dr Derya Ozkul actively contributed as a partner within the #ProtectNotSurveil coalition, a group of civil society organisations and researchers working to ensure the EU AI Act safeguards people on the move from harms emanating from AI systems. Additionally, Dr Ozkul has been one of the members of the International Advisory Board for the School in Migration and Integration founded by Linköping University and the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She was also elected as a Communication Officer of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM).

In January 2023, **Dr Dilar Dirik** was invited to brief the Commission on Human Rights and Equal Opportunities of the City Council of Florence, Italy, to speak at an expert roundtable discussion titled 'Gender-based Violence Perpetrated by States and Institutions'. This hybrid event was part of the City Council's year-long public education programme on gender-based violence. Dr Dirik was also interviewed numerous times by international media. She was

interviewed for a multi-episode German language podcast about the women's liberation movement in Northern Syria: 'Ihr Wille als Waffe'; gave an expert interview to the German national radio station Deutschlandfunk Kultur about women's resistance struggles in Northern Syria (in German): 'Frauenrevolution in Nordsyrien - Mit Willen und Waffen' (deutschlandfunkkultur.de); was interviewed on the women's struggle in Northern Syria for a report by Italian newspaper *Il Manifesto*: 'In Siria c'è una rivoluzione contagiosa'; and spoke to an Austrian radio program at ORANGE 94.0 about the Kurdish diaspora, self-organization, and earthquake solidarity: 'Kurdische Selbstorganisation und Erbebenhilfe'.

And finally, **Dr Marie Godin** has been appointed an Associate Editor for *Migration Studies*, an international refereed, online only journal dedicated to advancing scholarly understanding of the determinants, processes and outcomes of human migration in all its manifestations.

A National Refugee Policy

Professor Alexander Betts co-authored a new report calling for the UK to develop a principled and effective 'British National Refugee Policy'. Writing with Enver Solomon (CEO of the Refugee Council), Baroness Philippa Stroud (CEO of the Legatum Institute), and Will Somerville (UK Director of Unbound Philanthropy), the proposal outlines the basis of what a national refugee policy could look like. It identifies the principles that should

underlie a national refugee policy, and how they can be implemented globally, nationally, and locally. The report was shared with key members of Government and launched at a roundtable at the Houses of Parliament on 1 November. As part of an event on 'Next steps for the asylum system in the UK' at the Westminster Legal Policy Forum, Professor Betts outlined the policy. Two of the co-authors also wrote about the report in *The Times*.



Media coverage

Leaders 'burying their heads in the sand' on new drivers of displacement

In light of the Greece boat tragedy in June 2023, **Professor Alexander Betts** was interviewed on CNN's Amanpour programme about the ongoing failure of governments to address the root causes of migration and to manage the mixed migration movements we are experiencing today.

Cathryn Costello argues against the High Court ruling on the UK government's Rwanda plan

In December, **Professor Cathryn Costello** appeared on the BBC News Channel to discuss the ruling by the UK High Court that the government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda is legal.

Instead of Resettlement Schemes, Make Migration Easier

With the Illegal Migration Bill, the UK is the latest country in the Global North to prioritise resettlement

schemes over accepting asylum-seekers who arrive at the border. But as **Professor Matthew Gibney** writes in *World Politics Review*, there are more humane and considered ways to treat migration.

Russians fleeing the draft may have the right to asylum

Writing in *The Guardian*, **Dr Nicole Stybnarova** addressed the issue of asylum for Russian men fleeing the draft, stating that the 1951 Refugee Convention should be upheld by Russia's neighbours for those refusing to fight in Russia's war against Ukraine and seeking safety outside Russia.

The UK is abandoning the right to seek asylum with the Illegal Migration Bill

Professor Alexander Betts spoke with Christiane Amanpour on CNN regarding the UK's Illegal Migration Bill. He commented on the historical significance of the Bill, stating "it's effectively a liberal democratic state abandoning the principle of the right to asylum."

Podcasts

The Aftermath of Forced Return

This episode of the **Migration Oxford Podcast** discusses forced return migration with a specific focus on returns from the US to Mexico or Latin America. The panel discuss the different power dynamics at play and the difference between the wealth and influence of certain states. Panellists are: **Professor Matthew Gibney** (RSC), **Guadalupe Chavez** (Oxford), and **Maggie Loredó** (a returnee from the US to Mexico / Executive Director, Otros Dreams en Acción).

At: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/aftermath-forced-return>

What do we know about humanitarian energy?

In this episode of the **Talking Humanitarianism** series from the Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies, **Dr Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen** (ISRF Independent Scholar Research Fellow) discusses what humanitarian energy is and how it operates in the contexts of displacement. She highlights how humanitarian organisations are not the main providers of energy

access in displacement contexts; these are refugees themselves through local markets and the private sector.

At: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/what-do-we-know-about-humanitarian-energy

IOM Unbound? The International Organization for Migration in an Era of Expansion

In this **Borderlines** episode, host Katerina Linos interviews **Professor Megan Bradley** (McGill), **Professor Cathryn Costello** (Hertie School and RSC), and **Dr Angela Sherwood** (Queen Mary), editors of *IOM Unbound? Obligations and Accountability of the International Organization for Migration in an Era of Expansion*. They discuss the IOM's activities and influence, unearthing key insights from this ground-breaking title.

At: www.law.berkeley.edu/podcast-episode/iom-unbound-the-international-organization-for-migration-in-an-era-of-expansion/

Algorithmic fairness for asylum seekers and refugees

Derya Ozkul

Senior Research Fellow

New technologies, also known as digital technologies or those based on artificial intelligence (AI), have permeated various facets of our lives. Against a background of securitisation of migration and heightened efficiency demands, state authorities are increasingly exploring their integration into administrative and surveillance systems. Within the realm of immigration and asylum, these technologies include a spectrum of decision-making or evidence-gathering tools and border surveillance mechanisms. The primary focus of the [Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers and Refugees \(AFAR\) Project](#) is to scrutinise the role of such technologies, especially automated decision-making systems, in the process of immigration and asylum decision-making.

The AFAR Project is a consortium involving the University of Oxford under the leadership of the Hertie School, Berlin. Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation within its Challenges for Europe programme, the project investigates the concept of ‘fairness’ from various angles – legal, normative, political, and sociological. We view fairness as a multidimensional notion. Legal scholars within the project are questioning whether the current legal standards effectively institutionalise fairness, in a landscape where decision-making is becoming increasingly automated. Concurrently, political scientists and sociologists are exploring the perceptions of the broader public and migrants themselves regarding the use of these technologies in relation to their understanding of fairness.

We started the project with an extensive mapping exercise, which I led. The primary objective was to grasp the array of new technologies being considered or employed by immigration and asylum authorities across Europe. This research included a desk review, a survey of practitioners, interviews with state officials, informal dialogues with private companies whose products were in use, and FOI requests to immigration authorities. This work culminated in a research report titled ‘[Automating Immigration and Asylum: The Uses of New Technologies in Migration and Asylum Governance in Europe](#)’.

The mapping report reveals the extensive applications of new technologies. These include predicting (forced) migration into European territories, profiling, risk assessments, identification, country-of-origin determination, expediting the asylum interview, decision-making processes, and support systems. The report demonstrates that migrants are subjected to new technologies and profiling even before they reach European territories, and throughout their migration journey, including the process of seeking asylum

if applicable. The report concludes that the use of each technology necessitates individual exploration, considering the context in which it was developed, as well as the specific needs and (dis)advantages for the stakeholders involved in its development and use.

My current research specifically focuses on the integration of new technologies into asylum decision-making, particularly in the area of identification and country of origin determination. One notable technology is [dialect recognition](#), which has been introduced by the immigration authority in Germany, namely the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF). This technology enables BAMF to analyse the dialects of Arabic-speaking asylum seekers through software rather than working with linguists. Although this method significantly accelerates the analysis, it also alters the methodologies for analysing languages and their dialects.

Another technology is [mobile phone data extraction](#). BAMF, like several other immigration and asylum authorities across Europe, has the capability to seize asylum seekers’ mobile phones and extract data from them. This practice has faced criticism from civil society organisations primarily due to privacy violations, lack of necessity, and proportionality concerns. My ongoing research explores how asylum seekers perceive these tools, how they influence the asylum process, and the evolving power dynamics between them and state authorities. Most notably, these technologies are transforming asylum decision-making by introducing an additional layer of constructed objectivity into the process, fundamentally altering power relations between the authorities and the applicants (Ozkul, forthcoming 2024).

For more information on the AFAR project, see www.hertie-school.org/en/research/research-directory/afar

Collaboration and connections at the first Oxford Sanctuary Fair

Tamsin Kelk

Communications and Information Coordinator

In May 2023, the first Oxford Sanctuary Fair was held at Oxford Town Hall, a collaborative event co-hosted by the Refugee Studies Centre, local charity Asylum Welcome, and Oxford City Council. It aimed to connect refugees, students and the local community, and provide an opportunity to learn more about refugee issues and how we can all make a difference. Fortuitously, it also coincided with the announcement that Oxford University has received University of Sanctuary status.

The Fair featured panel discussions and interactive workshops involving students, academics, activists, politicians, community leaders, and influencers, many of whom have experienced displacement first-hand. Panels discussed topics such as 'Arriving, surviving, and thriving in Oxford', 'The political landscape of migrant rights in the UK', 'Access to education for refugees and asylum seekers', 'Hosting refugees in Oxfordshire', 'Supporting refugees through faith communities', and 'Keep Campsfield closed'. Workshops were held on 'Advocating for migrants' rights today', 'Career pathways in the refugee sector', 'Building a city of sanctuary', and 'How the arts can amplify voices of the displaced'.

Presenters included representatives from organisations such as the Oxford University Ukrainian Society, Refugee Education UK, Sanctuary Hosting, Oxford Islamic Information Centre, Oxford Jewish

Congregation, Christian Concern for One World, Women for Refugee Women, and Oxford Student Union.

Stalls from numerous community organisations spread the word about how people are making a difference on the front line, providing information on the volunteering opportunities and practical actions available to support refugees and asylum seekers in Oxford and beyond.

At the start of the Fair, Oxford University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, Professor Martin Williams, announced the timely news that the University of Oxford has been awarded [University of Sanctuary](#) status, the first collegiate university to be awarded this status. The award recognises Oxford's sustained commitment to being a place of welcome for people who have been forcibly displaced around the world.



The panel on 'The political landscape of migrant rights in the UK', with Dr Hari Reed (Asylum Welcome / TVIA), Shaista Aziz (Oxford City Council), Sharmarke Dubow (Blavatnik School of Government), and moderated by Professor Alexander Betts (Refugee Studies Centre).

Credit: RSC

On hearing of the award of University of Sanctuary status, Alexander Betts (Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs, Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, and Associate Head (graduate and research training) of the Social Sciences Division) said:

"We want the University to be a place of welcome for people with displacement backgrounds. Being recognised as a University of Sanctuary is an important step on that journey. It reflects our shared commitment to increase scholarships for refugees, build awareness across the University, and collaborate with local community organisations that support asylum seekers and refugees. Refugees enrich our community through their skills and talents. The hope is that we can build upon this opportunity and do even more in future."

Universities of Sanctuary make up a national network which collectively strives to make higher education institutions places of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary. Across the UK, 25 universities currently hold this status. Sanctuary institutions must provide evidence of their commitment to developing initiatives that align with three core principles: learn, embed, and share.

Oxford University and its colleges have a long-standing history of being a place of safety. Support for individuals with lived experience of displacement includes the welcome for refugee academics during the Second World War and the recent assistance

provided to students and academics affected by the war in Ukraine.

The University has offered scholarships to refugees and other forced migrants for a number of years. Oxford will now deliver an integrated programme of scholarships and support for students from displacement backgrounds under its new **Oxford Sanctuary Community**. This will provide pre-arrival and on-course support, a regular programme of social and cultural events, and a dedicated Programme Coordinator as a point of contact for all self-identifying members of the community. We are pleased to say that **Natasha Treunen** has been appointed to this role.

Some important groundwork for this position, and for the University of Sanctuary status, was laid by the introduction of the **Refugee Academic Futures** scholarship programme in 2022, to address under-representation of those with a lived experience of displacement in the graduate body. **Myroslava Hartmond** held the post of Programme Coordinator for Refugee Academic Futures in 2022-2023. In recognition of her work, Myroslava was honoured to be a part of the team presented with the 'Collaborating Across Oxford Award' for 'Supporting Students in Response to Global Emergencies' at the Vice Chancellor's Professional Services Awards 2023.

Find out more about Oxford Sanctuary Community at www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/oxford-community-sanctuary



Community organisation stalls at Oxford Town Hall. Credit: A Betts.

Studying and learning

The Refugee Studies Centre offers teaching programmes that are academically rigorous and multidisciplinary, attracting outstanding students and practitioners from around the world. Our degree and non-degree courses have two distinct aims: to further academic understanding of forced migration by training future researchers and teachers; and to cultivate the ‘reflective practitioner’ by enabling professionals who work in the field of forced migration to engage with key debates and to situate displacement in a broad historical and international context.

Master of Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

This interdisciplinary nine-month master’s degree offers an intellectually demanding route to understanding forced migration in contexts of conflict, repression, natural disasters, environmental change, and development. It places forced migration in an historical, global and human perspective, and encourages informed reflection on international and national responses to both cross-border and internal displacement.

Taught by leading experts in the field of forced migration, drawn from a range of disciplines including anthropology, geography, international law, politics, international relations, and sociology, students on the degree benefit from Oxford’s exceptional academic environment and teaching tradition, featuring individual supervision by world-class scholars as well as small-group teaching. They explore forced migration through a thesis, a research methods essay, and written exams.

MSc teaching usually takes place in small classes to encourage active participation and to enable students to learn from each other. Teaching styles vary, and involve lectures, workshops, seminars, and student presentations. Seminar teaching is complemented by pre-recorded lectures plus live ‘Question and Answer’ sessions to maximise student and staff interaction and engagement.

In the first term, students follow three core courses, which introduce the subject of forced migration from anthropological, political, and legal perspectives. In the second term they follow a fourth core course on moral philosophy, and across both terms all students take a course dedicated to research methods in the study of forced migration.

In the second term, students also choose two option courses from a list, which changes from year to year. In 2022–23, our option courses included Refugee Economies, The History and Politics of Humanitarian Aid, Postcolonial Borders and Forced Migration, Legacies of War and Displacement, and an advanced law option that explored current issues in International Human Rights and Refugee Law.

In the final term, students write a 10,000 to 15,000-word thesis based on research conducted over the year.

The students

Since 1998 the MSc has drawn outstanding students from all over the world, including Rhodes, Marshall, Commonwealth, and Fulbright scholars. Students come from a range of countries, with many in receipt of bursary or other financial support. The degree is competitive, with over 250 applicants for the 25 places available on the course each year.

Over 400 students have graduated and gone on to doctoral degrees, law school and/or work relevant to human rights, refugees, and migration. Graduates are employed in organisations such as UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, UNDP, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Brookings and MacArthur foundations, as well as national governments and universities around the world.

For further information on the master’s degree, please see the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/msc

Funding and studentships

Information about support available for study is provided on the website of the Oxford Department of International Development. Various awards are available for students. For example, the Department offers a number of full scholarships (covering University and college fees, plus an amount towards maintenance), which are available to students on any ODID courses. There is also a range of scholarships for international students, such as Clarendon and Weidenfeld. Find further information at: www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/fees-funding

Doctoral studies

The RSC is a vibrant training ground for young doctoral researchers. The Centre's staff supervise candidates undertaking research degrees at the Oxford Department of International Development and other centres within the University, and provide external supervision to candidates based elsewhere. Students come from various academic disciplines including development studies, politics and international relations, social and cultural anthropology, and geography.

Current topics under investigation include 'Public-Private Collaboration in Global and Local Refugee Governance', 'Exploring Europeaness in Sicily: Re-Assessing Hospitality Towards Immigrants and Newcomers', and 'Advancing Life Course Geographies of Young Afghan Refugees in Contemporary India' (see the Academic Record for a complete listing of current DPhil theses).

The RSC aims to secure further doctoral research scholarship funds, targeted where possible at students from the Global South. It is also committed to the development of additional postdoctoral opportunities at the Centre.

For further information about DPhil opportunities, visit the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/dphil



Holywell Street, Oxford. Credit: RSC

For Worse and For Better? How Social Media Shapes Attitudes Towards Refugees in Turkey

Emma Walker-Silverman
DPhil candidate

Since 2014 Turkey has been home to the world's largest refugee population. The local population has displayed remarkable hospitality but also mounting resentment toward their increasingly permanent 'guests'. This has resulted in severely deteriorating outcomes for the country's four million refugees at both the interpersonal and policy levels. Social media, which plays a major role in reflecting as well as shaping the national conversation, has been the forum on which many of these controversies have played out. My dissertation employs a mixed method approach to examine: 1) what shapes local attitudes towards refugees, specifically among the 'ambivalent middle' segment of the population, and 2) could social media itself be used as an intervention to reduce prejudice towards refugees among this population? Using Twitter content analysis, focus groups, and an Instagram-based randomised control trial, I seek to understand how the social media conversation on refugees shapes the views of moderate locals, and whether small tweaks in the kinds of content users are exposed to might be able to reduce rather than inflame intergroup tensions.

Legitimising Migration Control: Italy-Libya Maritime Cooperation

Diana Volpe
DPhil candidate

My thesis is concerned with Italy-Libya cooperation on migration control in the Mediterranean, a topic approached through the angle of legitimacy, which is treated in turn through a moral/legal, state, and public (citizen) lens. It aims to unpack this relationship between Italy and Libya by focusing in on Italy's actions and its alliance with, and support of, Libya in the interception of migrant boats at sea. The research aims to focus on: 1) the initiation and development of the cooperative relationship at sea between Italy and Libya; 2) the moral and legal issues raised by this cooperation; 3) the state justifications for this cooperation; and 4) the process of legitimisation of this relationship through the Italian public's views of legitimate forms of migration control. These four questions are put in discussion with each other, as they influence, reinforce, and challenge each other at each level of decision making.

These are just two examples of current DPhil theses. See page 46 of the Academic Record for a complete list.

International Online School in Forced Migration

Central to the RSC's calendar is the International Online School in Forced Migration, which this year was held twice, in March and July 2023. The School provides an exciting forum for the discussion of contemporary issues in the field and an opportunity for practitioners from around the world to reflect on their work and learn from each other.

The Refugee Studies Centre has always set the highest academic and pedagogic standards in all its research and teaching. The Online School offers a programme of study that is theoretically rigorous, empirically informed, and participatory. Participants have early access to pre-recorded lectures and readings, which are then followed by live online seminars and discussions. The School's engaging academic content is complemented by a range of social and networking opportunities for participants.

The diversity of participants is always crucial in the success of the School. This year, 32 participants from 19 countries joined us for the School in March, with a further 50 from 26 countries joining us in July. Across both Schools, 7 bursary places were available for those with personal experience of displacement, courtesy of the RSC. The course directors were Professor Matthew Gibney and Dr Catherine Briddick (Warwick University), who, along with Professor Tom Scott-Smith, also acted as tutors. Guest lecturers included Dr Madeline Garlick (UNHCR),

Victor Nyamori (Amnesty International / refugee rights lawyer, Kenya), Professor James Milner (Carleton University), and Dr Maryanne Loughry (Boston College).

The Online School offers an intensive, interdisciplinary and participative approach to the study of forced migration. It enables people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the worlds of displaced people. The course combines Oxford's tradition of academic excellence with a stimulating discussion-based method of teaching, learning and reflection. Subjects covered include: Conceptualising Forced Migration, The Moral Foundations of Refugee Protection, International Refugee Law, and The Politics of Humanitarianism, as well as a choice of optional modules.

A survey of participants on the 2021 Online Schools found that 100% believed the Schools had "deepened their knowledge" of forced migration. Participants describe the Schools as "life-changing" and "a huge inspiration" that featured lectures of the "highest quality" and were "exceptionally well-organized and efficiently run".

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the Online School will take place three times - in December, March and July.

Full details are available at
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/online-school

Short courses

The RSC convenes occasional short courses that offer participants the opportunity to engage actively and critically with contemporary debates under the tutelage of distinguished experts in the field of forced migration. The courses, usually held over a weekend, focus on a particular issue related to forced migration, enabling participants to develop their expertise through a mix of lectures, working group exercises, and interactive sessions. RSC short courses are suitable for experienced practitioners, graduate researchers, parliamentarians and staff, members of the legal profession, government officials, and personnel of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

In March 2023, Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC) and Professor Susan M Akram (Boston University School of Law) convened the course Palestine Refugees and International Law, held for the first time at the University of Macedonia in Greece. This two-day course places the Palestinian refugee case study within the broader context of the international human rights regime. It examines how the policies and practices of Middle Eastern states impinge upon Palestinian refugees.

In 2024, this course will take place in person at the Council for British Research in the Levant in Amman, Jordan, on 15-16 March.

For further information see
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/short-courses

Visiting Fellowships

Visiting Fellowships provide an excellent opportunity for professional academics, postdoctoral scholars, independent non-academic researchers, and doctoral students to study in a renowned intellectual environment. Visiting Fellows undertake a specific programme of self-directed study or research under the guidance of an assigned academic advisor. Fellows are able to attend the core seminar series of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and the RSC's Public Seminar Series. They have full access to the University's academic facilities, including libraries and seminars. The RSC's Library holds the world's largest collection of unpublished literature in refugee and forced migration studies.

During the past year the RSC has welcomed Visiting Research Fellows and Student Visitors from a variety of countries with a diverse range of experiences and expertise. Through mutual exchange and learning, their presence has greatly enhanced the academic work of the Centre.

Details of this year's Visiting Fellows can be found in the Academic Record.

For further information about the Visiting Fellowship programme, visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/visiting-fellowships



Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. Credit: RSC

Mohammad Salehin Visiting Research Fellow

I came to the Refugee Studies Centre as a Visiting Research Fellow in Trinity term 2023 during my sabbatical. My time at the Centre was incredibly enlightening and enriching. I would like to extend my appreciation to the admin staff, researchers, and fellow scholars at the Centre for their warm welcome and support throughout my stay. The intellectual environment and dedication to the field of refugee studies at the Centre are truly exceptional, and I felt privileged to be a part of this vibrant community. The RSC seminar series, discussions (both formal and informal), and interactions with scholars in the field were both insightful and inspiring. The resources at the RSC, the Social Sciences library, and the research facilities provided were instrumental in significantly contributing to the finalization of my forthcoming book manuscript on 'Gendered Vulnerabilities in Forced Migration' as well as another journal manuscript on 'Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) in the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh'. I would like to specifically thank those colleagues, including my sponsor Tom Scott-Smith, my friend and colleague Derya Ozkul, and Jeff Crisp, whom I formally and informally consulted and received feedback from on my ongoing research. Their expertise and willingness to engage in meaningful formal and informal discussions were invaluable.

Kehla Lippi Visiting Research Fellow

I was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre in Trinity term 2023. With my PhD recently conferred, I was able to use the time to work on generating articles from my research 'Changing Australian domestic policy: Impact upon asylum seeker health', with 'Living in Limbo' recommended for publication. My sponsor, Dr Derya Ozkul, was generous with her time and provided invaluable insight into the academic life. I was grateful to receive advice on my research projects from RSC academics, students, and other visiting fellows, some of whom I am privileged to call friends. The RSC was a gateway to resources in Oxford, enabling access to associated libraries, seminars across the university, and associated researchers. As an early-stage researcher, the opportunity to be a part of the RSC environment was instrumental in the development of my research and provided a unique opportunity to build international networks. I am looking forward to returning to Queen Elizabeth House and its academic community in the near future.

These are just two of this year's Visiting Fellows. See pages 45-46 of the Academic Record for a complete list.

RSC Library

The Refugee Studies collections are housed in the Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL) where readers gain from the wider social science context within which the specialist forced migration materials sit. These benefits include access to over 250,000 open shelf monographs and c.1,200 print-runs of social science related journals, as well as the stack request routes between the Bodleian Libraries.

Access to the unique grey literature collection of unpublished and semi-published material is still much appreciated by readers, and although unpublished materials are often now freely available online, the SSL still adds new print documents and serial issues to this collection. Access to over 5,700 full-text scanned images from the RSC's Forced Migration Online Digital Library remains searchable via the Search Oxford Libraries Online (SOLO) catalogue.

In addition to the grey literature and archive collections, the specialist book collection continues to expand with the purchase of 33 new monographs this year. Book acquisitions were further supplemented by generous donations acquired via the RSC as well as weekly UK-published legal deposit books selected by the Subject Consultant for Forced Migration.

Readers also benefitted increasingly from electronic book and e-journal acquisitions. There are presently over 400,000 refugee-related electronic articles and books accessible via SOLO of which 82,000 are Open Access which allows non-University members full-text access via

the catalogue. We also purchased 101 new e-book titles for the forced migration and international development field this year.

The Centre's MSc students continued to profit from Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) this academic year. These are embedded in the Centre's Canvas VLE site, making collections of resources more accessible and relevant to students. Real time book availability and direct links to electronic books, chapters and articles is a great improvement to their learning environment.

Library staff provided in-person subject-specific inductions to MSc students and new staff. In addition, the Subject Consultant also offered tailored one-to-one research sessions, taught a search-skills session for the MSc students, and answered a wide range of email enquiries. Topics included aid for climate-related disasters; humanitarian search and rescue projects at sea; and the gendered experience of Rwandan refugees in camps in Tanzania and Congo. The online subject guide for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies also continued to be a well-used tool for locating electronic and print resources and is available at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/refugee-studies>.

Contact Sarah Rhodes (sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) to make an appointment for subject-specific research queries or search SOLO for refugee-related material at <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. You can also visit the Bodleian Social Science Library website at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/ssl.



The Old Schools Quad at the Bodleian Library.

Credit: University of Oxford Images / John Cairns Photography

RSC Pathways

RSC Pathways is a three-month online course in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies that is available free of charge to individuals who have been affected by forced displacement. The course teaches the interdisciplinary foundations of Refugee Studies, preparing learners for onward academic and professional opportunities. It is inspired by the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

In 2022-2023, the Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH) enrolled 140 students from across the world in the third cohort of RSC Pathways, their flagship academic programme. This introductory course, which ran May to August 2022, provided both an online and in-person platform for learners who have been affected by displacement to study the main disciplines and themes in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The modules included History, International Relations, Politics, Anthropology, and Law, among others. The course is inspired by the RSC's MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and is taught by RSC faculty. RLRH staff facilitate delivery of the content and RSC Pathways alumni serve as teaching assistants.

Since 2021, RLRH have received 2,300 applications to join this programme and we have enrolled 378 learners total. Our most recent application cycle yielded more than 900 applications. We had students joining from over 40 countries of origin, based in over 50 countries on five

continents. Seventy-five percent of those who were made offers identify as female or non-binary.

In spite of having students based in over 50 countries across the globe, we have developed a pedagogical style and management structure that ensures each student receives dedicated 1:1 support from RLRH staff, tutors, and the Pathways teaching team. The most recent cohort had students who participated in live sessions at our offices in Nairobi and Oxford, which enabled regular in-person sessions during the course..

Upon completion, RSC Pathways alumni have progressed to pursue fully funded graduate degrees at Oxford and other institutions worldwide, research fellowships such as the RLRH-BIEA Graduate Attachment Scheme, and professional placements with a wide range of partner organisations that are committed to advancing refugee leadership. Sixty of the 2023 RSC Pathways graduates will be participating in our master's degree and PhD application support programme, Graduate Horizons, from October 2023 to January 2024.

In the next year, RLRH plans to launch RSC Foundations, an asynchronous self-paced version of RSC Pathways that would be available to a larger pool of students.

Find details about RSC Pathways at:
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/rsc-pathways-applications-for-2023-cohort-are-now-open



Red pins indicate where participants were based for the Pathways course; green pins indicate where they are from..

Filming Refugee Shelter

Tom Scott-Smith

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration

Professor Tom Scott-Smith specialises in the ethnographic and historical study of humanitarian relief. One particular research focus is humanitarian shelter, exploring the strategies used by aid agencies to provide emergency housing for refugees. This research began with a project called Architectures of Displacement.

I first saw Azraq refugee camp on a hot dusty day in late spring, 2016. Rows of boxy steel shelters stretched out into the heat haze, each marked with a door, a single window, and a simple pitched roof. The camp had been placed in a military zone, surrounded by desert and a razor-wire fence, and the shelters were all identical, fixed in concrete with electricity wires spreading like spider legs from tall poles into every home. It was the kind of place with a bleak uniformity that was hard to describe in words. The basics of life were all provided – food, water, sanitation – but the world appeared in a few washed out colours. It had to be seen to be truly understood and that day it became clear to me that any research project considering the dynamics of refugee shelter had to record something of these visuals.

The Architectures of Displacement research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, was hosted at the Refugee Studies Centre between 2016 and 2020. It had a strong visual element from

the beginning, embracing film, photography, and illustrations. Among the many outputs was an inventory of architectural drawings, a monograph with multiple images (*Fragments of Home: Refugee Housing and the Politics of Shelter*, forthcoming with Stanford University Press 2024), and a documentary that examined six central case studies. The trip to Azraq refugee camp was part of a multi-sited study that embraced a wide range of refugee shelters across Europe and the Middle East. In Berlin this included the vast, abandoned hangars of Tempelhof airport, where refugees lived in bunk beds, hundreds in each hall. In Athens it included a vibrant squatting movement, hosting refugees in old apartment blocks. In Paris it included a new centre described as ‘inflatable architecture,’ which resembled a large plastic bubble that could be blown up to house people in brownfield sites. Each place was captured in a documentary, *Shelter without Shelter*, which I made with the architect and filmmaker Mark E. Breeze. This won the AHRC Research in Film Award in 2020.

Film festival screenings

Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam. Cinema Lantarenvenster, Rotterdam, Netherlands. 7 October 2022.

British Film Institute, London. American Institute of Architects UK Film Screenings. 19 October 2021.

Ciné Façade Festival 2021. Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), Montréal, Canada. 30 September 2021.

Fremantle Design Week Film Festival. Luna Palace Cinema, Fremantle, Australia. 18-21 October 2022.

London Architecture Film Festival. Royal Institute of British Architects, London, UK. 27 June 2021.

Norwegian International Film Festival. Edda Kino, Haugesund, Norway. 23 August 2022.

Resene Architecture & Design Film Festival, New Zealand. Rialto Cinema, Auckland; Embassy Theatre, Wellington; Cinema Deluxe, Christchurch, New Zealand. June 2022.

Refugee Week Film Screening. Ciné Lumière, London, UK. 20 June 2022, sponsored by the Goethe Institute and Institut Français.

Urban Eye Film Festival. Cinema Elvire Popesco, Bucharest, Romania. 10 November 2021.

After its premiere at the London Architecture Film Festival, our film has since been screened at festivals all over the world, from Wellington to Bucharest (see box), as well as at universities such as McGill, Columbia, and Cambridge. A discussion of the film has also appeared on BBC Radio, featuring in an audio 'postcard' for the Free Thinking programme (broadcast on 18 June 2020) as well as on BBC Radio 4's Four Thought (broadcast 1 February 2021) and as part of a discussion on the Research in Film Awards for the Arts and Ideas Podcast (broadcast on 18 November 2020). Through the process of publicising and discussing the film I have learnt a great deal about the role of film in academic research, and in particular how film can communicate the diversity of shelters, illustrating what they looked like and how it would feel to live in them. This remains the most important value of such visuals.

Shelter is about the everyday. It's where we wake, where we eat, where we try to relax and sleep. Aid agencies and governments too often see shelter in terms of metrics. They think about the number of beds. The minimum floor area per person. The number of taps and toilets, and the cost of building four walls and a roof. When thousands of people are arriving, they have little choice, but this can become a serious problem when refugees end up staying in emergency accommodation for months or even years.

One of the central lessons of the film and monograph is the importance of autonomy for refugees. At its heart the documentary and book show how shelter should be configured as a place people can control, a

place where they can pick up the pieces of their lives and make choices about what comes next. Autonomy is best described as the ability to act on one's own terms and without undue influence from others. To be autonomous is to shape one's own life – even in small matters – rather than have decisions imposed from on high. This matters because it makes shelter more appropriate. Facilitating autonomy can help refugees respond to local conditions and the particularities of their own situation rather than the problems imagined by distant planners.

Yet autonomy also has a deeper and more fundamental value because it is based on respect for all people. Violating autonomy, in turn, alienates us from ourselves, cutting us off from the ability to define value and compromising our standing as a human. When emergencies and crises flash across our TV screens, it's easy to forget that much of the refugee experience is waiting. Waiting for permits, waiting for status, waiting to move on with one's life. And when living in stasis, when the future is so uncertain, it's all the more important to be able to control the circumstances of that waiting, to control the mundane everyday things – the kind of things that are often neglected in refugee shelters.

Note: To coincide with the publication of the final monograph, *Fragments of Home*, the documentary will be made available in sections on the Refugee Studies Centre website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/shelter-without-shelter



Temporary accommodation for refugees in the abandoned hangers of Berlin Tempelhof Airport, from the documentary *Shelter Without Shelter* by Mark E Breeze and Tom Scott-Smith.

Discrimination and refugee protection

Catherine Briddick

Andrew W Mellon Associate Professor of International Human Rights and Refugee Law

Professor Catherine Briddick joins the Refugee Studies Centre in September 2023. She is a scholar of human rights and refugee law who draws on feminist approaches to international law and legal theorising on intersectionality to analyse protection, discrimination, and the relationships between them. Here she introduces one focus of her research.

In September 2023, the UK's Home Secretary, Suella Braverman KC, gave a speech at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC. In that speech, Braverman called for the Refugee Convention's article 1(A)2 definition of a refugee to be revisited. 'As case law has developed', she argued, 'what we have seen in practice is an interpretive shift away from "persecution", in favour of something more akin to a definition of "discrimination"'. Braverman went on to say that 'simply being gay, or a woman, and fearful of discrimination in your country of origin' should not qualify a person for refugee protection.

Braverman's analysis has been challenged and her arguments condemned. UNCHR have, for example, affirmed that:

Where individuals are at risk of persecution on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, it is crucial that they are able to seek safety and protection. The Refugee Convention has been widely recognised as capable of providing protection to these groups, amongst others.

Yet women fleeing gender-based violence struggle to be recognised as refugees. Those at risk of persecution for reasons of their sexual orientation or gender identity also face considerable obstacles, legal and evidential, to securing international protection. The Refugee Convention may be 'capable' of providing protection to women and those who are LGBTQIA+, but contrary to Braverman's assertions, it often fails to do so. Why is this the case?

Women and gender-based violence

Persecution involves serious harm and a failure of state protection. Some forms of serious harm are themselves discriminatory.

To meet the article 1(A)2 definition of a refugee, there must be a connection – a nexus – between 'being persecuted' and what are often referred to as the 'Convention reasons' or 'grounds': a person's race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership of a particular social group. This nexus requirement can be met through either the serious harm or the failure of protection.

So how, for example, do cases involving a risk of gender-based violence fit within this framework?

Is domestic violence, a form of discrimination against women, also serious harm for a Convention reason? Or, is the nexus established not through the violence but the State's discriminatory failure to offer women in particular (or particular women) sufficient protection from it?

Finally, what is the relevant Convention reason in such cases? The majority of 'women's cases' continue to be decided under the 'particular social group' ground, with women's difficulty in defining or establishing the existence of such a group constituting a significant barrier to their recognition as refugees. This remains the case even though the use of different forms of violence and coercion to dominate women, and women's resistance to such conduct, are fundamentally political acts.

These are issues that I explore in '[Resisting Domestic Violence](#)', an article that analyses the case law on domestic violence in international refugee and human rights law.

'Resisting Domestic Violence' argues that influential decisions on women's claims for international protection from domestic violence have generated strands of case law which both contradict each other and the Refugee Convention's object and purpose. It explains that decision-makers have delineated overly restrictive social groups and ignored, identified, or imputed a range of political opinions. Finally, it contends that a disproportionate focus on perpetrators' 'private' motives has obscured the nexus between the serious harm that domestic violence entails and the relevant Convention ground(s).

The article traces these deficiencies to a lack of conceptual and legal clarity as to the nature of domestic violence. A response is offered that understands such violence as both political and discriminatory. It does so by drawing on theorising on domestic violence and the political realm, in conjunction with the work of the UN Committee that monitors the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Conclusions

UNHCR has consistently maintained that article 1(A)2, 'properly interpreted', can protect women, and others, from gender-based violence.

'Resisting Domestic Violence' seeks to explain what a 'proper interpretation' of the refugee definition entails. In doing so, it also answers calls within the literature for a gender-sensitive interpretation of the definition's political opinion ground.

'Resisting Domestic Violence' is forthcoming with the *International Journal of Refugee Law*.

About Professor Briddick

Catherine joined the Refugee Studies Centre as the Andrew W Mellon Associate Professor of International Human Rights and Refugee Law. She is a fellow of St Antony's College and Course Director for the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. Before she joined the RSC Catherine was an Assistant Professor in the School of Law at the University of Warwick.

Further information about Catherine's work and publications can be found on the RSC's website. These include a Symposium of *AJIL Unbound* (co-edited with Professor Cathryn Costello) and a Special Issue of the *International Journal of Discrimination and the Law* (co-edited with Professor Michelle Foster and Associate Professor Shreya Atrey).



Installation in Mexico City highlighting the magnitude of femicidal violence in the country.

Credit: UN Women/Dzilam Mendez (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

A year in the evolution of the Refugee-Led Research Hub

Andonis Marden, Ghazal Sarah Salehi, Ruth Nyabuto, Pauline Vidal, Julia Odoul Nduta, Mohamed Hassan Mohamud, Fardosa Salah, Buhendwa Iragi, Bisimwa Mulemangabo, Salama Mariam, Isimbi Grace, and Professor Alexander Betts

The Refugee-Led Research Hub

The Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH) has now been in existence for more than three years. Our work aims to support people with lived experience of displacement to be research leaders, particularly within Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. Recognising the importance of both lived experience and world-class research training, we are striving to develop a model that supports refugee leadership at all stages of the research process. A significant part of this involves supporting individuals who have been affected by forced displacement to access advanced academic, research, and professional opportunities in fields related to displacement, human rights, and humanitarian policymaking and practice.

The past year has offered an opportunity to expand our existing programming and relationships. We have been able to reflect on our first years' work, and adapt to consider how we can best work with our core team of 15 staff to support our more than 500 affiliates and learners each year, based in more than 50 countries across the world. While RLRH has a physical hub in Nairobi, it offers opportunities worldwide, and is currently exploring ways to develop new hubs in other regions of the world.

RLRH's work is organised into three primary areas of activity, the Academic Pillar which offers education programmes, our Research Pillar which supports both co-designed and refugee-led research including with external partners, and our Professional Placements Pillar that aims to support programme career development.

In 2023 our [Academic Pillar](#), led by Ghazal Salehi (Programme Manager) and Ruth Nyabuto (Academic Manager), continued to offer two hallmark access programmes. RSC Pathways offered 100+ students a chance to acquaint themselves with Refugee and Forced Migration Studies for three months in an online, semi-synchronous learning environment with learners across the world, all of whom identify as having been affected by displacement. The course provides interdisciplinary training in the social sciences to prepare participants for graduate degrees. Pathways is closely linked with Graduate Horizons (previously called OGASS - Oxford Graduate Access Support Scheme), a programme that has provided 130 participants with 1:1 support in preparing applications for Master's degrees

and PhDs. About half of the Horizons participants graduated from Pathways. These programmes serve as a critical launchpad for individuals who already possess an undergraduate degree and are interested in further developing their skills. Some of them have the opportunity for onward study with the RSC on the Online Schools and on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and the DPhils in International Development and in Migration Studies.

RLRH's [Research Pillar](#) enables affiliates to use and apply skills developed through our academic trainings and participate in and lead both team-based and individual research projects. Most of the projects have direct relevance to policy and practice. Over the past year, the Research Pillar developed its own series of training sessions in professional research skills and methods that benefitted a wide range of aspiring social science researchers. Under the leadership of Lead Researchers Foni Vuni and Bisimwa Mulemangabo, RLRH's eight-person research team completed eight publications and currently has eight underway. Completed research projects have focused on: a) refugee-led organisations in East Africa, including one regional report and four national reports on Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, b) refugees' access to citizenship in Kenya, and c) refugees' access to work permits in Kenya. The Research Pillar has also supported research projects led by refugees in collaboration with other organisations, including on: a) refugees' participation in policy making with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), and b) what different types of refugee participation look like with the Local

Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) at Carleton University.

We have also introduced a **Professional Placements Pillar** to support RLRH affiliates to advance their careers by applying skills from our academic and research training in professional placements with influential organisations. We have developed partnerships with allied organisations including: PILnet, Chatham House, UNHCR Education, the Connected Learning in Crisis Consortium (CLCC), DRC's Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDDS), Oxford's Forced Migration Review (FMR), UNITAR's Global Platform for Action, Australian National University's Rewriting Jurisprudence, East African Centre for Forced Migration and Displacement (EACFMD), and Refugee Education UK, among others. RLRH also supported recruitment efforts of partner organisations to encourage employment of refugee candidates for their advertised positions. These partnerships offer unique opportunities for RLRH affiliates to develop their professional profiles and to make valued contributions to the wider research and humanitarian ecosystems. **If you are interested in hosting an RLRH affiliate at your organisation, please get in touch.** We would be grateful to co-develop an opportunity with you.

As part and parcel of the above activities, RLRH colleagues have participated in a range of publicly facing events, including hosting the second annual **Refugee-Led Research Festival** in Nairobi in September 2023, which took place over five days and involved over 250 people in person and online. The Festival celebrated and showcased refugee-led research and refugee leadership in academia, and humanitarian policy and practice. The week involved

participation of representatives from across the East African refugee-response ecosystem, including refugee researchers, RLOs, (I)NGOs, the Government of Kenya, universities, philanthropic organisations, and businesses.

Also of note in 2023, RLRH has taken part in 20+ conferences, panels, and other events, primarily in East Africa and Europe, on a range of topics related to access to higher education, accountability in the humanitarian system, and access to social protection for affected populations. In December 2023, we will have 24 affiliates present at the Global Refugee Forum where we will host and feature on panels. In the year ahead, we look forward to hosting another RLRH Festival, launching our website, and deepening relationships with our existing affiliates and partners as we develop new programmes.

We are currently in the process of exploring the possibilities to expand RLRH's work to other regions, including the possibility of working more locally to support refugee-led research within Oxfordshire.

We extend our appreciation to the many people and organisations that have supported our work and made all of the above possible. In particular, we owe our gratitude to RSC colleagues who regularly deliver exceptional academic content to RLRH learners, the British Institute in Eastern African (BIEA) who host our office in Nairobi, and the IKEA Foundation who have very generously funded our work and supported our connections with a wide network of allies.

Further information and reports published by RLRH can be found at www.refugeeledresearch.org. If you have any questions or would like to be in touch, you are welcome to reach out at info@refugeeledresearch.org.



The Refugee-Led Research Hub team pictured during the 2023 Refugee-Led Research Festival in Nairobi..

Credit: RLRH

Mobility and livelihoods in East Africa's borderlands

Yotam Gidron¹ and Naohiko Omata²

¹Research Officer and ²Associate Professor

As part of the project 'Borders, Mobility, and Livelihoods' of the Refugee Economies Programme, we conducted research in Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Congo, and Burundi between March 2022 and August 2023. This research interrogates the relationship between the livelihoods of refugees and their mobility, both within countries of asylum and across borders.

Mobility is central to the livelihoods of refugees, but the various ways in which mobility and livelihoods relate to each other are often overlooked by practitioners and scholars, and therefore remain misunderstood and poorly conceptualised. Our research aims to remedy this gap.

Our project focuses on three East African case studies: South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, Congolese refugees in Uganda, and Burundian refugees in Rwanda. Across our research sites, refugees have been facing gradual reductions in the amounts of humanitarian aid they receive in recent years, compounded by growing economic precarity due to inflation. In each case study, we look at different types and patterns of mobility that are instrumental to the livelihoods of refugees. Our methodologies are primarily qualitative, comprising field visits and in-depth interviews, but we also conducted a survey in Uganda.

Our work on [South Sudanese refugees in Uganda](#) focuses on refugees in and from a refugee settlement called Pagirinya, in northern Uganda's Adjumani District. In interviews we conducted in Pagirinya, as well as in Juba, South Sudan's capital, we explored the rising socio-economic significance of cross-border mobility for refugee life in Uganda. Given the limited livelihood opportunities refugees have in and around the settlement, many households have split, with some members remaining in Uganda and some travelling to South Sudan. In South Sudan, these 'temporary returnees' engage in casual labour and other forms of precarious, low-paying jobs. Our survey data shows that in almost half of the households in Pagirinya settlement at least one member left to go back to South Sudan, and more than 40 percent of the households receive some form of support from relatives across the border.



A small retail shop in Mahama refugee camp, Rwanda.
Credit: Y Gidron.

Our research with [Congolese refugees](#) focuses on Kyangwali settlement in western Uganda. Kyangwali has hosted refugees for decades and is located in an area with fertile lands. But since 2018, the influx of refugees from Ituri Province – a conflict area in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – led to a massive growth in the settlement's population and therefore to growing pressure on cultivable land and growing resort by refugees to internal movement for casual labour. As part of our research, we interviewed refugees who left the settlement for villages on the shores of Lake Albert, where men fish and women engage in small-scale arbitrage trade of fish, often moving regularly between the settlement and the lake. In a short visit to Goma, we also interviewed individuals who have been refugees in Kyangwali but returned to the DRC.

In [Rwanda](#), our research focused on entrepreneurship programmes and access to finance for refugees. Entrepreneurship plays a central role in Rwanda's approach to refugee self-reliance and economic integration, and our research shows how refugees take advantage of their freedom of movement and their access to credit in order to establish trade networks and engage in arbitrage trade. However, the enterprises operated by encamped refugees are almost exclusively retail businesses that rely on the limited purchasing power of other refugees, who in turn rely on humanitarian aid. This is in contrast to urban refugees, who also engage in skilled trade and services and do not target refugee customers as such. Ironically, this means that while access to credit and entrepreneurship training is helping refugees rebuild

livelihoods and assets, there is also a risk that refugee entrepreneurs remain, indirectly, reliant on aid.

Across all sites, we have developed productive partnerships with local civil society actors and refugee-led organisations, which have been instrumental for the success of our research. In Pagirinya settlement in Uganda, we have been working with the Youth Empowerment Foundation (YEF), a refugee-led organisation which is based in the settlement. In Kyangwali, we partnered with COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa (CIYOTA), a refugee-led organisation. For our research in South Sudan, our work has been supported by the Bridge Research Network, a local research organisation. In Rwanda, we have been working with INKOMOKO, an advisory firm and impact investor that supports refugee entrepreneurs. In Burundi, our work was supported by REMA Burundi, a local civil society organisation working with returnees.

A research brief on our work in Rwanda was published in September 2023, and we are currently working on academic articles that draw upon our data from across our research sites. In the next stage of our project, over the next year, we will return to some of our research sites to collect more data as well as to share our findings with local partners and policymakers.

The Refugee Economies Programme is funded by the IKEA Foundation. Find out more about the Programme at www.refugee-economies.org



Survey preparations in the offices of the Youth Empowerment Foundation (YEF) in Pagirinya refugee settlement, Adjumani, Uganda.

Credit: M Bakewell.

Humanitarian search and rescue interventions

Imogen Dobie

DPhil candidate

With a rise in unsafe maritime migration around the world, and an accompanying rise in the loss of human life, Imogen Dobie's DPhil research examines the humanitarian response to such perilous journeys.

We are currently witnessing a rise in unsafe maritime migration around the world. Seas and oceans have seen a staggering loss of human life in recent years, with thousands of people risking dangerous crossings in the absence of safe and legal migration routes. The number of maritime migrants reaching the Italian island of Lampedusa reached a record high in September 2023, prompting an urgent appeal for action by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Mediterranean Sea is still understood to be the deadliest border in the world and migrant deaths have spiked in the English Channel too, a development only exacerbated by the passing of the United Kingdom's recent 'Illegal Migration Bill'. Elsewhere, Rohingya refugees continue to flee Bangladeshi camps across the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, there is a rise in migration through the Caribbean to the United States, and thousands more people risk their lives on the sea route from the Horn of Africa to Yemen across the Gulf of Aden.

My DPhil research addresses the humanitarian response to such perilous journeys. I ask how aid agencies attempt

to reduce the loss of life at sea, most often sending ships to find and support stranded migrants and refugees before transporting them to safe receiving countries. I focus on three particular rescue initiatives that have been launched by humanitarian organisations from the 1970s to the present day. These are the 'Boat for Vietnam' ventures which assisted refugees in the South China Sea between 1978 and 1982; a rescue project begun in the Florida Straits in 1991 to support escapees from Fidel Castro's Cuba; and the work of 'Sea-Watch', a rescue organisation which was established in 2015 at the onset of Europe's recent migration crisis.

I argue through this project that maritime rescue is a highly rebellious form of emergency relief. Since rescue agencies help vulnerable people to reach an international border, they impact governments' ability to control the entrance and exit of non-citizens. This means that they meet with resistance and restriction, as states scramble to tighten such borders and "stop the boats". In response to such tensions, maritime aid agencies tend to move beyond strict – and strictly humanitarian – approaches to care. They often push against more traditional models of assistance which are centred around negotiation, discretion and apolitical positioning. Instead, they adopt more activist outlooks on aid, embracing political debates over border control and championing the rights of refugees and migrants.

Through my research, I aim to draw attention to maritime aid efforts and their distinctive political dynamics. My goal is to spotlight a unique and increasingly pressing humanitarian setting – the space outside states' borders at sea – and to examine how this space generates alternative models of assistance.



The humanitarian rescue ship Sea-Watch 3 disembarks in Pozzallo, Italy, with 440 migrants on board. Credit: Alessio Tricani / Shutterstock.com

Outreach

At the Refugee Studies Centre, outreach activities play a key role in advancing refugee issues and developing a global community of academics, policymakers, and practitioners working in the field of forced migration. An increasing number of dedicated outlets for a variety of academic and non-academic materials promote the work of researchers and practitioners, and give a voice to refugees themselves.

The RSC's varied portfolio of outputs includes publications such as the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, public events, and networking initiatives that promote influential engagement with a range of academics, policymakers, and practitioners. *Forced Migration Review*, the RSC's flagship publication, is the most widely read publication on forced migration. It is available free of charge, in print and online, in four languages – English, Arabic, French, and Spanish. Our Working Paper series numbers over 130, all available to download from the RSC website. We

also have a 'Research in Brief' series which aims to make our academic research more accessible to policymakers, practitioners, and the public.

We keep in regular touch with supporters through a monthly newsletter, emailed to subscribers. To subscribe to our newsletter or to receive alerts about events, courses and *Forced Migration Review*, fill in the form on our website at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect

Digital communications

RSC website

The RSC website is central to communicating our research and providing information about our courses, events, and public engagement. It provides a wealth of information about the RSC's research, as well as profiles of staff members and a searchable database featuring both RSC publications and external publications by RSC academics. Prospective students can learn about our postgraduate and professional teaching programmes, and read about the experiences of our alumni.

Online at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

Rethinking Refuge website

The Rethinking Refuge website offers short, research-based articles aimed at rethinking refugee issues from various angles, including politics, international relations, normative political theory, law, history, and anthropology. It offers articles centred around different core themes of great relevance to the international refugee regime today: refugee protection, emergency and crisis, mobility, refugee agency, humanitarianism, and refugees' economic lives.

Online at www.rethinkingrefuge.org

Social networking and multimedia

We engage with supporters, students, academics, practitioners, policymakers and others through a wide range of media. Our social media audience has continued to grow throughout 2022-2023:

- On **Twitter**, we have over 45,000 followers: [@refugeestudies](https://twitter.com/refugeestudies)

- On **Facebook**, we have over 26,000 followers: www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre
- On **LinkedIn**, we have over 3,200 followers for our new account: www.linkedin.com/company/refugee-studies-centre-university-of-oxford
- Our **YouTube** channel has received over 16,200 views in the past year. Video playlists include Events, such as RSC online seminars and lectures; selected staff media interviews; and Studying at Oxford: www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre
- Our podcast series on our **SoundCloud** channel registered over 2,500 plays over the past 12 months. This provides podcasts of in-person RSC seminars, Annual Lectures, and events such as RSC conferences: www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre
- We also have a new **Vimeo** account for videos. Find us at vimeo.com/refugeestudiescentre/videos



Forced Migration Review

Forced Migration Review brings together diverse, knowledgeable authors – especially those with lived experience of displacement – to foster practical learning and discussion that can improve outcomes for forcibly displaced people. Our flagship magazine, the in-house publication of the Refugee Studies Centre, is published in English, Arabic, Spanish, and French, in print and online. With the support of our donors, **Forced Migration Review** is always free of charge.

In 2022–2023 FMR produced three issues:

FMR 70: Knowledge, voice and power

People with lived experience of displacement need to be heard. Their perspectives, strategies and solutions should be at the centre of discussions about policy and practice. The authors in this issue of FMR reflect on progress made but also on the road still to travel. They challenge attitudes, highlight injustices and make practical recommendations for change. This issue also includes a mini-feature on ‘Social cohesion in refugee-hosting contexts’, exploring the role of social cohesion in contexts of protracted displacement, with a particular focus on Kenya and Lebanon.

FMR 71: Socio-economic integration: towards solutions for displaced people and communities

The quest for socio-economic integration, for both forcibly displaced people and host communities, raises fundamental questions for all those involved in the refugee and IDP systems about how displaced people can live with autonomy and dignity.

The authors in FMR 71 share new perspectives on socio-economic integration that it is hoped can lead to a concrete and transformative shift in approaches. They reimagine the role of integration in responses to displacement, at a significant time of global change marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, urgent climate-related pressures and ongoing digital transformation. Most importantly, the issue includes displaced people’s voices and strategies in working towards solutions.

FMR 72 mini-feature: Mobilising for rights in the MENA region

Published in partnership with the REF-ARAB project at University of Oslo, this mini-feature looks at how people are working to ensure that the rights of forced migrants are respected and strengthened in the Middle East and North Africa. As the introductory article says, “The authors show the importance of acts of mobilisation in different locations and contexts. However they do not shy away from reflecting on the many obstacles that often confront such efforts.”

In addition to these issues, FMR also has seen significant internal developments. We launched our **Inclusion Programme**, which offers mentoring for authors who may be less familiar with writing for publications like FMR (with a priority for authors with lived experience of forced displacement) in addition to language and editing support to ensure FMR represents and reaches a diverse community around the world. We also debuted launch events for our issues, which can be viewed online at www.fmreview.org.

We’ve also seen some staffing developments: Managing Editor Alice Philip started maternity leave in June, with Emily Arnold-Fernández joining us to cover this role while Alice is away. Catherine Meredith also joined in May as Deputy Editor, replacing Olivia Berthon who left in April. We also continued our relationship with several key donors, and welcomed some new supporters – all of whom play a vital role in ensuring FMR remains a resource for the forced displacement response sector. A complete list can be found at www.fmreview.org/donors.

FMR’s 2023–2024 issues include:

- FMR 72: Ukraine: Insights and implications
- FMR 73: Digital disruption and displacement

Concurrently with FMR 73, we will launch a new website with new logo and branding. FMR’s most updated information is always available at www.fmreview.org.



Journal of Refugee Studies

The *Journal of Refugee Studies* (JRS) is published by Oxford University Press in association with the Refugee Studies Centre. The editors are Professor Simon Turner (Lund University) and Professor Megan Bradley (McGill University). Reviews Editors are Dr Georgia Cole (University of Edinburgh), Franzisca Zanker (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute at the University of Freiburg, Germany), Bidisha Biswas (Western Washington University), and Ruth Nyabuto (Refugee Studies Centre).

The multidisciplinary journal provides a forum for exploring the dynamics and challenges of forced migration, and critically analysing national, regional and international responses, covering all categories of displaced people. Contributions that develop theoretical

understandings of forced migration, or advance knowledge of concepts, policies and practice, are welcomed.

This year, issue 35(3), September 2022, included a special section on 'Chilean Refugees in the UK' (Special Section Editor: Alison Ribeiro de Menezes), and issue 35(4), December 2022, included the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2021 given by Professor E Tendayi Achiume (UCLA) for the Refugee Studies Centre on the subject 'Empire, Asylum, and Responsibility-Sharing'.

Find full information at www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org. Members of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration may subscribe at a reduced rate.

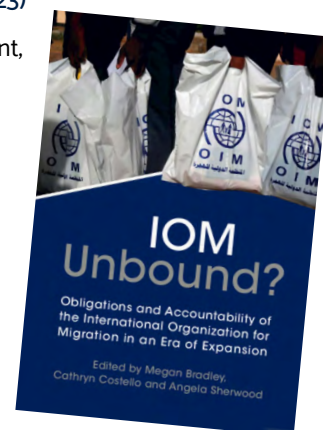
New book

IOM Unbound? Obligations and Accountability of the International Organization for Migration in an Era of Expansion

Megan Bradley, Cathryn Costello, Angela Sherwood (eds) (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

It is an era of expansion for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an increasingly influential actor in the global governance of migration. Bringing together leading experts in international law and international relations, this collection examines the dynamics and implications of IOM's expansion in a new way. Analysing IOM as an international organisation (IO), the book illuminates the practices, obligations and accountability of this powerful but controversial actor, advancing understanding of IOM itself and broader struggles for IO accountability. The contributions explore key, yet often under-researched, IOM activities including its role in humanitarian emergencies, internal displacement, data

collection, ethical labour recruitment, and migrant detention. Offering recommendations for reforms rooted in empirical evidence and careful normative analysis, this is a vital resource for all those interested in the obligations and accountability of international organisations, and in the field of migration. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.



New report

Equipped to Adapt? A Review of Climate Hazards and Pastoralists' Responses in the IGAD Region

Cory Rodgers (IOM & ICPALD, 2022)

Pastoralism offers a productive and profitable – but also sustainable – form of food production in many settings across the region covered by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). While climate change is exacerbating many of the existing environmental challenges facing livestock producers, pastoralism offers an extraordinarily resilient form of primary production that is well-suited to adapt to these changes. Policies and programmes to support pastoral resilience often focus on promoting specific adaptations. While this may be beneficial in the short-term, trends change and old adaptation strategies may become less suitable or even maladaptive. Rather than following pre-selected

adaptation pathways, pastoralists must be equipped to adjust their adaptive strategies in response to ever-shifting climatic and environmental changes. Accordingly, climate resilience policies should focus not only on promoting specific adaptations, but on providing long-term support for adaptive capacity. This report brings together the most recent literature on pastoralism, mobility and climate change in the IGAD region in order to highlight the regional climate hazards facing pastoralists in the years ahead, and to identify evidence-based strategies for promoting their resilience in the face of adverse and often unpredictable environmental changes.

Events

The RSC convenes a diverse range of events each year, including public seminars, workshops, and conferences. These include major conferences on Refugee and Forced Migration studies, public seminars, and the Annual Harrell-Bond and Elizabeth Colson public lectures. We believe it is important to engage both at a 'local' level, whether with the local Oxford community or with civil society, and beyond with the international community.

Annual Lectures

Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2022

In November 2022, we were honoured to welcome **Professor Alex de Waal** (Executive Director, World Peace Foundation, Tufts University) to give the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture, titled **What Justice for Famine Crimes?**, at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Starvation is an ancient, cruel and effective weapon of war. Efforts to prohibit and criminalize starvation as a war crime are recent and limited in scope. The prohibitions in the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court are as yet untested in courts of law and at the United Nations Security Council. The lecture examined ongoing efforts to expose, prevent and punish starvation crimes and the prospects for success. It examined what may constitute a starvation crime, and ranged more widely into the acts of commission and omission that cause the societal distress that is famine. Building upon the transitional justice toolkit, the lecture explored measures that could be canvassed to remedy the injustices and traumas suffered by those who have endured starvation.

The Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture is held each Michaelmas term. It is named in honour of Dr Barbara

Harrell-Bond, the founding Director of the Refugee Studies Centre.

The lecture is available to listen to at:
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2022-podcast



Professor Alex de Waal gives the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2022 at Magdalen College. Credit: RSC

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2023

Dr Lamis E Abdelaaty (Associate Professor of Political Science, Syracuse University) gave this year's Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture, which was held online. Her lecture was titled **Discrimination and Delegation: Explaining State Responses to Refugees**, after her recently published book.

In the lecture, Dr Abdelaaty identifies two puzzling patterns: states open their borders to some refugee groups while blocking others (discrimination), and a number of countries have given the UN control of asylum procedures and refugee camps on their territory (delegation). To explain this selective exercise of sovereignty, she develops a two-part theoretical framework in which policymakers in refugee-receiving countries weigh international and domestic concerns.

Internationally, leaders use refugees in order to reassure allies and exert pressure on rivals. Domestically, policymakers have incentives to favour those refugee groups with whom they share an ethnic identity. When these international and domestic incentives conflict, shifting responsibility to the UN allows policymakers to placate both refugee-sending countries and domestic constituencies.

The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture is named after renowned anthropologist Professor Elizabeth Colson.

The lecture is available to watch at:
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/colson2023-video

Public Seminar Series

Forced Migration and Digital Technologies: (Dis)continuities in Actors and Power Relations | Hilary term 2023

Series convened by Dr Derya Ozkul and Dr Marie Godin

The rapid development and pervasive diffusion of digital technologies have far-reaching implications for the enforcement of migration regimes. On the one hand, immigration authorities are increasingly using or testing automated algorithmic decision-making systems, machine learning, and predictive analytics. There is widespread agreement in the literature that technological innovations are not deployed evenly nor neutrally across societies; rather, their design tends to intensify and accelerate pre-existing inequalities and hierarchies along class, gender, racial/ethnic, legal, and territorial lines. On the other hand, migrants use digital technologies too in order to navigate their lives, migration and settlement journeys, but also to resist and contest these borders leading to new forms of solidarity and intimacy.

The debates around digital technology often focus on the novelty of the processes and practices they provoke. In many ways, this discourse mirrors policy language that biometrics, technology, and data are 'silver bullets' and provide new solutions to the global governance of migration, often termed 'technosolutionism'. While new forms of governance and practice are provoked by technology, there are also many continuities in rationalities for data use. This series of seminars explored the continuities and discontinuities around the uses of technology, new and old power relationships that arise or continue, and actors that benefit or are benefiting from these technologies.

Refugee History | Trinity term 2023

Series convened by Dr Uttara Shahani

This public seminar series focused on Refugee History, offering critical insights into the background of issues concerning refugees today. The speakers covered a range of themes: the global history of India's ideas and practices surrounding the refugee (with Dr Ria Kapoor, Queen Mary University of London), how British church leaderships responded to refugee 'crises' in the early twentieth century (Dr Daniel Renshaw, University of

Reading), the history and politics of UNRWA's interactions with Palestinian communities (Dr Anne Irfan, University College London), and the history of Uyghur displacement through a communication and media lens (Associate Professor Saskia Witteborn, Chinese University of Hong Kong). The seminar series offered critical insights into the background of issues concerning refugees today.

Hope in Hopeless Situations: Agency and Meaning in Conflict, Displacement and Climate Change | Special Seminar Series

Series convened by Dr Hiba Salem (RSC and Campion Hall) and Dr Nick Austin (Campion Hall and the Faculty of Theology and Religion)

Indeterminacy and uncertainty mark the experiences of millions today. Lives and outlooks are navigated daily in contexts affected by conflict, displacement, climate change, economic and health crises. Yet, as we listen to the experiences of those affected by intensely adverse circumstances, it becomes clear that in this uncertainty and waiting for a better future, time carries significant meaning. It is within this in-betweenness, between past and future states of being, that individuals actively construct coping strategies and imagine alternative futures. This, as Gabriel Marcel (1967) notes, signifies the link between hope and waiting: waiting that is active and meaningful even during times of uncertainty.

This series, hosted by Campion Hall, focused on the theme of 'hope', a phenomenon receiving increasing interest from scholars across multiple disciplines. While the value of hope is debated across these perspectives, and critiques of hope can be valuable, this series turned its attention to ways hope may nurture agency and meaning even within the most hopeless situations. The series covered understandings of hope from varying disciplines, including education, theology, anthropology, and ecology. It aimed to inspire hopeful responses within our own work and responses to today's challenges.

The first Oxford Sanctuary Fair was held in May 2023. See the article on page 18 for information.

Fundraising and development

Our network of supporters is always of critical importance to the continued development of the RSC and the success of our research, teaching and outreach programmes. We would like to extend our recognition and gratitude not only to donors but also to our alumni, our cutting-edge researchers, our renowned emeritus colleagues, and the many policymakers and practitioners in our orbit. We continue to work with the Oxford University Development Office to identify new prospects and supporters for our work.

Our current three-year funding agreement with the IKEA Foundation enables us to continue the research of the Refugee Economies Programme at the RSC. This agreement builds upon previous funding from the Foundation that enabled the Programme to undertake pioneering work on the economic lives of refugees. The current funding covers a series of research and related activities for the period 2021-24 that build on the Programme's previous research on the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, based on participatory research methods.

A previous grant from the IKEA Foundation continues to fund a Junior Research Fellowship in International Relations in collaboration with Lady Margaret Hall, held by Dr Kathrin Bachleitner, that has deepened research on forced migration at Oxford.

Our Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration, Dr Hiba Salem is enjoying her second year with us. Her research focuses on education in contexts of forced displacement. We acknowledge the generous support of Campion Hall and Jesuit Refugee Service Europe in making this position possible.

Our Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow, Dr Dilar Dirik, has contributed greatly to our teaching and research this year. We are extremely grateful to Ockenden International for extending her support throughout the year to enable Dilar to undertake research disrupted by the pandemic. We are, as ever, happy to continue working closely with Lady Margaret Hall.

An ongoing priority is to raise funds to support bursaries for participants from the Global South, including refugees themselves, to be able to attend our Online School as well as to take the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The Online School represents one of the most tangible ways in which we can have a direct impact on policy and practice. The IKEA Foundation has been an essential source of bursaries for the Online School in recent years.

We continue to be extremely thankful to the range of supporters who fund the work of *Forced Migration Review*. The co-editors fundraise for each specific issue, and the ongoing relationships they enjoy with governments, NGOs, and foundations are a central part of our ability to continue to publish relevant issues aimed to shape thinking among policymakers and practitioners.

Most of our work depends upon external financial support. In many cases we are privileged to benefit from research council grants, including from the European Research Council, the British Academy, and the Economic and Social Research Council, but in other areas, philanthropic, governmental or private funding is essential. If you are interested in any aspect of our work, please do get in touch.

Donors

We are deeply appreciative to all of the donors listed below both for their financial support and their enthusiastic collaboration over recent years.

ADRA International	Leverhulme Trust
AHRC-FCDO Collaborative Humanitarian Protection Research Programme	Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN), funded by SSHRC
Arts and Humanities Research Council	New York University
British Academy	Ockenden International
Department of Justice Studies at James Madison University	Oxford Policy Engagement Network (OPEN) Seed Fund
European Research Council	REF-ARAB project, University of Oslo, funded by FRIPRO
European Union	Refugees International
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
HelpAge International	UNDP
IDRC	UNHCR
IKEA Foundation	UNICEF
Institute for Global Innovation - Gender Equality group - University of Birmingham	Volkswagen Foundation's 'Challenges for Europe' programme
International Organization for Migration	Women's Refugee Commission
International Rescue Committee	World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
Jesuit Refugee Service	
John Fell Fund	

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group data. MIGNEX Background Paper. Oslo: Peace Research Institute Oslo. Available at www.mignex.org/d063.

Ozkul, Derya (2023) Refugee Recognition Regime Country Profile: Lebanon. RefMig Working Paper No. 3/2023.

Ozkul, Derya (2023) Automating Immigration and Asylum: The Uses of New Technologies in Migration and Asylum Governance in Europe. AFAR Project Report. University of Oxford.

Ozkul, Derya and **Nalule, Caroline** (2023) Recognising Refugees: A Review of the Literature and Approaches (1990-2020). RefMig Working Paper No. 1/2023.

RSC Research in Brief

Omata, Naohiko and **Gidron, Yotam** (2023) 'Refugee entrepreneurship in Rwanda', RSC Research in Brief 20.

RSC Working Papers

Fredriksson, Harald (2023) 'Sister parties no more: explaining the refugee policy divergence of the Swedish and Danish Social Democratic parties', RSC Working Paper Series 137, February.

Albanese, Francesca P and **Takkenberg, Lex** (2023) 'UNRWA and the Palestinian refugees: Protecting refugee rights while structurally addressing the agency's financially unsustainable modus operandi', RSC Working Paper Series 138, February.

Sandhu, Poonam (2023) 'A deconstructive approach to refugee self-reliance: the case of the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement', RSC Working Paper Series 139, April.

Refugee-Led Research Hub publications

Kara, Andhira Yousif, Getachew, Abis, Gitahi, Mary and **Ramazani, Uwezo** (2022) Refugee-Led Organisations in East Africa. Refugee-Led Research Hub, September.

Ramazani, Uwezo (2022) Refugee-Led Organisations, Tanzania Country Report. Refugee-Led Research Hub, November.

Kara, Andhira Yousif (2022) Refugee-Led Organisations, Kenya Country Report. Refugee-Led Research Hub, November.

Getachew, Abis (2022) Refugee-Led Organisations, Ethiopia Country Report. Refugee-Led Research Hub, November.

Gitahi, Mary (2022) Refugee-Led Organisations, Uganda Country Report. Refugee-Led Research Hub, November.

Mulemangabo, Bisimwa and **Mutuma, Kenneth Wyne** (2023) Finding Durable Solutions: Refugees' Access to Citizenship and Permanent Residence in Kenya. Refugee-Led Research Hub, April.

Vuni, Foni Joyce and **Iragi, Buhendwa** (2023) Refugees' Access to Work Permits and Business Licences in Kenya. Refugee-Led Research Hub, July.

Hujale, Mouldid (2023) The Missing Link in Somalia's Peacebuilding Process. Refugee-Led Research Hub, July.

Selected presentations

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2022) Panel discussion on 'Reshaping Truth and Punishment in Transitional Justice' and 'Competitive Memories in IR and their Potential to foster Conflict and Peace', Chair of the Panel 'Identity, Ideology, and Foreign Policy', ECPR Conference at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, August.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2022) 'The Challenges Posed by the War in Ukraine', Forum Alpbach 2022 on 'New Europe', Alpbach, Austria, August.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2022) 'Entitled to Evade Guilt and Shame. The Politics with Victimhood', Workshop on the 'Politics of Emotion', University of Stockholm, September.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2022) 'The Future of (Using) the Past in International Relations', roundtable, 12th Genealogies of Memory International Conference on 'History and Memory in International Relations', Warsaw, October.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2022) 'Wie die Vergangenheit zum Sprechen bringen? Eine Perspektive der Memory Studies', Passauer 10 Minuten zum Thema 'Schweigen (silence)', Passau, Germany, November.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2023) 'Healing the Wounds of History', Peace Processes of the Future Speaker Series, Hertford College, University of Oxford, February.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2023) 'The Political Use of Memories in IR. The example of UNSEC intervention in Libya and Syria', ISA Annual Convention on 'Real Struggles, High Stakes: Cooperation, Contention, and Creativity', Montreal, March.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2023) 'International Memory Dynamics between diverse victim groups', Workshop on Memory and Foreign Policy, Prague, May.

Betts, Alexander (2022) Workshop 'In conversation with Prof. Alexander Betts', IGNITE9 conference by SPARK titled Reimagine Jobs, September.

Betts, Alexander (2022) 'The Changing National Political and Policy Environment', Annual Meeting of Asylum Welcome, Oxford, September.

Betts, Alexander (2022) 'British National Refugee Policy', 'Next Steps for the Asylum System in the UK', Westminster Forum Legal Forum, November.

Betts, Alexander (2022) 'Forced Migration: Evidence and Policy Challenges', Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government, November.

Betts, Alexander (2023) 'Homes for Ukraine and the Global Refugee Crisis', at 'War and Hospitality: the UK's response to the war in Ukraine one year on', Christ Church College, Oxford, organised by the Sanctuary Foundation, February.

Betts, Alexander (2023) Panel moderator, London Design Biennale 2023 on 'Designing for People who are Forced to Flee' held in partnership with the IKEA Foundation, June.

Chatty, Dawn (2022) 'The Significance of the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation in policy and International Soft law', Opening Address for the Dana +20 Conference, Wadi Dana, Jordan, September.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'The Duty to be Generous: Challenging Ideas on Asylum and Refuge in Forced Migration', Keynote Address to the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy International Affairs, American University of Beirut, May.

Chatty, Dawn (2023) 'Nomadic Pastoralists in the Middle East: Challenging Stereotypes', Nomadic Ethics and Intercultural Dialogue, Institute for Nomadic Civilization, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, June.

Costello, Cathryn (2022) Invited Contribution, Book Workshop on 'Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration', Convenor: Professor Vincent Chetail (Graduate Institute, Geneva), November.

Costello, Cathryn (2022) Invited Keynote Lecture, 16th Annual Conference of the Network Migration Law, Germany, November.

Costello, Cathryn (2023) Opening Keynote, Nordic Asylum Law Seminar, 'Entanglements in Refugee and Migration Law: Celebrating 40 years of the Nordic Asylum Law Seminar', May.

Costello, Cathryn (2023) Opening Keynote, Refugee Law Initiative 7th Annual Conference, 'Inequality and Fairness in Refugee Protection', London, June.

Dirik, Dilar (2022) Guest lecture (online) 'Women in Social Movements/Anti-Colonial Struggles', Gender and Social Justice Program at Trent University, Canada, November.

Dirik, Dilar (2022) Book Talk 'The Kurdish Women's Movement: History, Theory, Practice', Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, December.

Dirik, Dilar (2022) Lecture (online) 'Radical Justice - Kurdish Women's Resistance against Patriarchal and State Violence', Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany, December.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Public lecture (online) 'The Kurdish Women's Movement: Self-determination from the Body to World Politics', Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, January.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Book talk 'Justice as Autonomy as Struggle: Experiences from Kurdistan', The Mosaic Rooms artspace, London, January.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Panel talk (online) 'Research in Times of War', Insurgent Ethnography II conference, Binghamton University, New York, May.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Lecture (online) 'The Possibilities and Limits of "Non-State Justice-Seeking": The Case of the Kurdistan Freedom Movement', Politics Lecture Series at the Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany, May.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Conference presentation, 'Political Femicide and the War in Kurdistan', Pasts and Futures of Sovereignty in Kurdistan conference, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, June.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Guest Lecture (online) 'The Struggle Over a Slogan - "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî" Between Reform and Revolution', Summer course at the University of Toronto, Canada, June.

Dirik, Dilar (2023) Various panels and sessions at 'Beyond Equality: Feminisms Reclaiming Life -An Internationalist Gathering', Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin, June-July.

Godin, Marie (2022) Book Launch. Presentation of 'Exploring digital connectivities in forced migration contexts: digital 'making do' practises'. Data Science for Migration and Mobility, ODID, Oxford, November.

Godin, Marie (2022) Presentation on 'YouTube channels, digital entrepreneurship and the case of Congolese refugees in Nairobi', with Ghislain Bahati. International Workshop: Challenging mobility governance: Reconsidering scales, ethics, and epistemics in the regulation of human movement. University of Oxford, December.

Godin, Marie (2023) International workshop entitled 'Digital Technologies and Migration Regimes'. Organised with the support of the Migration and Mobility Network (MMN), the Refugee Studies Centre, and the Centre for the Study of Migration at QMUL. February.

Godin, Marie (2023) IMISCOE Standing Committee on 'Migrant Transnationalism' (MITRA) (Panels); Organiser of several panels on 'Migrants' digital practises and social inequalities: A local and transnational lens', 20th IMISCOE Annual Conference, July.

Godin, Marie (2023) Participation in the workshop 'Re-Thinking Digital Justice in Forced Migration', Trinity College, University of Oxford. Part of the research project ConflictNet funded by the ERC under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, September.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2022) (By invitation) Special panel on Kim Thúy's works, 'Touching Beauty', ACQS, Baltimore, October.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2023) (By invitation) Special panel on Refugee Children's Education, Finding Futures, Positive Youth Foundation, London, February.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2023) 'The Good City', British Academy/Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 4th Knowledge Frontiers Symposium, May.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2023) (By invitation) 'Refugee Children as a Critical site of intervention', Oxford Youth and Childhood Network, May.

Kistnareddy, Ashwiny O. (2023) 'Culinary Nostalgia and Edible Identities in Vietnamese refugee writing', Society for French Studies Annual Conference, Newcastle, June.

Omata, Naohiko (2023) Book talk on 'The Myth of Self-Reliance: Economic Lives inside a Liberian Refugee Camp', Online seminar, Athabasca University, Canada, February.

Ozkul, Derya (2023) 'Using Artificial Intelligence to match migrants with labour market needs', workshop 'Innovation of Labor Migration Data' organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Big Data for Migration Alliance (BD4M), February.

Ozkul, Derya (2023) 'Constructed objectivity in refugee recognition: how AI is reshaping the asylum process', Displacement Bureaucracies/Bureaucracies of Displacement, University College London, June.

Ozkul, Derya (2023) 'AI and Migration Management: Potentialities and Perils', Tuscia University, July.

Ozkul, Derya (2023) Roundtable talk, 'Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence in Migration and Asylum', University of Hamburg, August.

Scott-Smith, Tom (2023) 'Ungrievable Lives by Charlotte Bray, a commentary'. Castalian String Quartet Pre-Concert Talk. New College Chapel, Oxford, March.

Shahani, Uttara (2023) Invited discussant: Stateless Histories Workshop, Penn State University, April.

Shahani, Uttara (2023) Invited talk to University of North Carolina Wilmington students on their Migration and Empire study abroad trip, University of Oxford, May.

Workshops

Public Law as Infrastructure of Imperial Governance

Sir Joseph Hotung Auditorium, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, Mansfield College. Co-convened by Dr Nicole Stybharova. 7 March.

Public Seminar Series

Michaelmas term 2022

Convenor: Professor Alexander Betts

Social cohesion policies in displacement-affected contexts: promoting solidarity or preserving the protection space?

Dr Cory Rodgers (Refugee Studies Centre) and **Wafsa Najdi** (Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, Beirut), 18 October

The secret life of energy in refugee camps: uncovering spaces of power and principles of governance within humanitarian energy

Dr Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen (Refugee Studies Centre and the Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings), 8 November

Right where we belong: how refugee teachers and students are changing the future of education

Professor Sarah Dryden-Peterson (Harvard University), 15 November

Voluntary statelessness

Dr Rebecca Buxton (University of Cambridge), 29 November

Hilary term 2023

Series: 'Forced Migration and Digital Technologies: (Dis)continuities in Actors and Power Relations'

Convenors: Dr Derya Ozkul and Dr Marie Godin

Improving refugee resettlement

Professor Alexander Teytelboym (University of Oxford), 24 January

Digital labour platforms and migration: making of commoditised workers

Dr Jonas Valente (Oxford Internet Institute), 7 February

Virtual borders: human rights and the fluid subject of algorithmic governance

Dr Dimitri Van Den Meerssche (Queen Mary University of London), 3 March

Trinity term 2023

Series: Refugee History

Convenor: Dr Uttara Shahani

The British churches, refugee 'crises' and anti-migrant sentiment 1903-1918

Dr Daniel Renshaw (University of Reading), 16 May

Making refugees in India

Dr Ria Kapoor (Queen Mary University of London), 23 May

Refuge and resistance: Palestinians and the global refugee regime

Dr Anne Irfan (University College London), 30 May

Migration and the politics of transgression: a historical perspective

Associate Professor Saskia Witteborn (Chinese University of Hong Kong), 6 June

Special seminars and lectures

Refugee-Led Organizations in East Africa: Community Perceptions in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia
Refugee-Led Research Hub and LERRN (Carleton University), 29 September, online

Online launch for FMR 71, Socio-economic integration
22 February, online

Institutional Diversity in Refugee Recognition Regimes

Mitali Agrawal (Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School), **Keyvan Dorostkar** and **Dr Daniel Ghezlbash** (University of New South Wales), **Professor Maja Janmyr** (University of Oslo) and **Professor Cathryn Costello** (Hertie School), 31 May, online

Sharing Insights: The Lived Experience of Syrian Refugees in Canada

Keith Neuman and **Jobran Khanji** (Environics Institute for Survey Research), 8 June, online

Sanctuary Community events

Oxford Sanctuary Fair 2023

11 May, Oxford Town Hall

Sanctuary Community Meet-and-greet | Refugee Week

19 June, Oxford Department of International Development

Annual lectures

Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2022

What Justice for Famine Crimes?

Professor Alex de Waal (World Peace Foundation, Tufts University), 10 November

Visiting Fellows

Student Visitors

Juana Canet Rosselló

Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid (UPM)

Allan Mukuki

University of Navarra/Strathmore University Law School

Claire Raissian

Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway

Visiting Research Fellows**Jeff Crisp**

Visiting Research Fellow, RSC

Kehla Lippi

School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University

Ramah McKay

University of Pennsylvania

Barbara Moser-Mercer

University of Geneva/University of Nairobi

Helidah Ogude-Chambert

formerly World Bank

Hannah Pool

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen

ISRF Independent Scholar Research Fellow

Mohammad Musfequs Salehin

UiT-The Arctic University of Norway

Doctoral research students**Maria Al Qassim, Linacre College**

Battleground for Belonging: Transregionalism and Identity

Formation of Qeshmi and Hanjani Emiratis

Supervisors: Professor Dawn Chatty and Professor Walter Armbrust (Middle East Centre, St Antony's College)

Jennifer Barrett, St Catherine's College

Navigating the Deputisation of Immigration Enforcement Functions in the UK

Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Bridget Anderson (University of Bristol)

Raphael Bradenbrink, Jesus College

Public-Private Collaboration in Global and Local Refugee Governance

Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

Frederike Broekhoven, Keble College

Refugee-led Grassroots Organising in Palestinian Refugee Camps

Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Stephen Damianos, Balliol College

"Asylum is Offline": Digital Borders, Big Tech, and the Mirage of Asylum on Mainland Greece

Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

Imogen Dobie, Lincoln College

Rocking the Boat: Maritime Humanitarianism and Responses to Displacement at Sea, 1978-2022

Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Isabelle Lemay, St Edmund Hall

Understanding 'Alan Kurdi' Effects: A Study of the Emergence and Decline of Movements of Openness Towards Refugees in the Global North

Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

Chloe Marshall-Denton, Harris Manchester College

Politics of Invisibility: UNHCR and the (In)visibility of Displaced Libyans on the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean

Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

Sacha Mouzin, St Antony's College

Shepherds in the Shadows: Lebanese Pastoralism in a Context of Eco-systemic Crisis

Supervisors: Professor Dawn Chatty and Professor Morgan Clarke (Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Maggie Neil, Lady Margaret Hall

Exploring Europeaness in Sicily: Re-Assessing Hospitality Towards Immigrants and Newcomers

Supervisors: Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

Janak Padhir, Jesus College

Advancing Life Course Geographies of Young Afghan Refugees in Contemporary India

Supervisors: Professor Naohiko Omata and Dr Fiona McConnell (School of Geography and the Environment)

Angela Pilath, St Antony's College

The Politics of Environmental Displacement: Epistemic Actors and their Mechanisms of Influence

Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Roger Zetter

Abril Rios Rivera, Green Templeton College

Women's Empowerment and Labour Outcomes in the Context of Migration in Kenya

Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Carlos Vargas-Silva (COMPAS)

Samuel Ritholtz, Exeter College

Paramilitary Violence Against LGBT People During the Colombian Civil War

Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

Julia Schweers, Wolfson College

Citizenship Abroad, Capital at Home: How Global Inequalities Affect the Value of Dual Citizenship

Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Diana Volpe, Wolfson College

Legitimising Migration Control: Italy-Libya Maritime Cooperation

Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Emma Walker-Silverman, St Catherine's College

Positively Polarized: Can Social Media Push Ambivalent Locals to be More Supportive of Refugees in Turkey?

Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

Vera Wriedt, Hertie School

The Procedural is Political: A Postcolonial Critique of the Denial of Due Process at the Border

Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello, Professor Marie-Benedicte Dembour (University of Ghent), and Professor E. Tendency Achiume (UCLA School of Law)

Income and expenditure

Statement 1. Refugee Studies Centre income and expenditure, 2022–23 (1 August–31 July)

Reserve balances	Actuals 2021–22 (£)	Actuals 2022–23 (£)
Opening reserves brought forward	200,376	262,903

Revenue ¹	Actuals 2021–22 (£)	Actuals 2022–23 (£)
Restricted project income		
Research grant revenue ²	1,205,227	1,243,065
Partner contributions	-	-
Forced Migration Review ³	239,674	181,567
Other revenue		
Overheads from research projects and awards	53,184	66,382
Other income (e.g. donations, publication royalties, institutional consultancies) ⁴	80,611	48,390
Workshops, conferences, short courses, and Visiting Fellowships (total revenue)	34,358	74,515
International Summer School in Forced Migration fee income	104,541	44,120
Transfer from Trust Fund Reserves to support administrative staff costs	95,038	98,990
Total revenue	1,812,632	1,757,030

Expenditure	Actuals 2021–22 (£)	Actuals 2022–23 (£)
Research grant expenditure (including research staff salaries) ⁵	1,212,879	1,237,083
Core administrative staff salary costs	99,465	131,949
Other core administrative expenses	5,313	2,347
Workshops, conferences, short courses, public lectures, and Visiting Fellowships	13,433	60,732
International Summer School in Forced Migration	117,036	71,862
Outreach and dissemination		
Forced Migration Review (including FMR staff salaries)	239,674	181,567
Other publications, communications, and outreach activities	62,305	53,574
Total expenditure	1,750,104	1,739,115

Closing balances	Actuals 2021–22 (£)	Actuals 2022–23 (£)
Surplus/deficit after consolidation	62,527	17,916
Closing reserves carried forward	262,903	280,819

Statement 2. Performance of endowments

Endowments ⁶	Actuals 2021–22 (£)	Actuals 2022–23 (£)
Opening revenue account balance	485,848	449,484
Endowment income (dividends from shares and deposit pool interest)	277,434	299,833
Endowment expenditure (salary costs and management fees)	-313,798	-313,582
Closing revenue account balance	449,484	429,734
Capital account balance	3,098,923	3,098,923

¹ Total revenue – encompassing the Centre's activities – amounts to £2.888m. This figure is inclusive of endowment income (£299,833) and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies course fees (£831,450).

² Research grant revenue is reported as earned only when project expenditure is incurred.

³ Forced Migration Review's total receipts during 2022–23 were £166,786. At the end of the year the project held £83,485 earmarked for activities in the 2023–24 financial year.

⁴ Other deferred donation balances were £293,977 as at 31 July 2023. These donations include funding restricted for MSc student scholarship bursaries and hardship funds.

⁵ The salaries of the Centre's four permanent academic staff members are paid for through Oxford Department of International Development accounts, drawing upon both endowment revenue and MSc teaching income.

⁶ The Refugee Studies Centre is the beneficiary of several endowment funds, which are managed by the Oxford Department of International Development. As at 31 July 2023, revenue balances stood at £429,734. The related Capital Balances were £3,099m.

Staff and associates

ACADEMIC STAFF

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Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs; Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2014–2017, and 2022–2023; Associate Head of the Social Sciences Division

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Vittorio Bruni

Researcher and Fieldwork Coordinator, Refugee Economics Programme

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Emeritus Reader and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 1997–2001

Professor Roger Zetter

Emeritus Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2006–2010

PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH STAFF

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Cemre Omur*

Project Coordinator, Social Cohesion as a Humanitarian Objective?

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Postgraduate Courses Coordinator

* Left in 2022–2023 * Joining in 2023–2024

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Buhendwa Irgai

Research Officer, Nairobi

Pauline Vidal

Research Facilitator, Tunis

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Dr Nick Van Hear

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