



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

REFUGEE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE

# Annual Report

2020–2021



OXFORD  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

Mehdi, an asylum seeker from Afghanistan, works on a wooden door at a carpentry shop near Heraklion city in Crete



© UNHCR / Socrates Baltagiannis

Rita, a Ugandan refugee and yoga instructor, strikes a yoga pose outside her compound in Kakuma camp, Kenya. Rita was recently a research trainee with the RSC's new Refugee-Led Research Hub in Nairobi.



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**Front cover photo:** Reforestation and re-planting improve quality of life in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh  
Cover photo credits: © UNHCR / Kamrul Hasan

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Somali refugee students take part in a tree-planting activity organised by the environment club at Wabera secondary school in Hagadera camp, Dadaab, Kenya



© UNHCR / Sebastian Rich



Syrian refugee children play Teqball in Zaatari Camp, Jordan

© UNHCR / Yousef Alhariri

# Director's foreword

Over the last year, we at the RSC – like the rest of the world – have continued to live and work under the shadow of COVID. This has meant a continuation of our transition to online life. We have all become used to online seminars, meetings, lectures, all interspersed, when circumstances have allowed, with occasional in-person gatherings. It has been a tremendous challenge, but thanks to the adaptability of our academic, administrative and journal staff – and the tolerance of our students and diverse audiences – one that the RSC has managed very successfully. Over the year, the Masters course continued to produce enlightening and engaging teaching, as well as brilliant work from our students; our annual lectures and seminar series have reached larger and broader audiences than ever before; *Forced Migration Review* has continued to produce regular editions that are topical, incisive, and relevant; and academic research has flourished, even in the midst of limitations on travel.

More than this, many new and important initiatives got off the ground over the year. Most notably, a pioneering new engagement linking the RSC to researchers with displacement backgrounds in the Global South has started through the new RSC-BIEA Fellowship in Refugee Studies. During the year we also created a new Online School in Forced Migration, which was offered in July and September. Both these Schools, which gave scholarships to refugees, were a resounding success, and it is expected that the Online School will now be offered annually in addition to our in-person Oxford Summer School. In June, the pioneering (and mammoth) *Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law*, edited by Cathryn Costello (Professor of International Refugee and Migration Law), and two of our research associates, Michelle Foster and Jane McAdam, was published.

In the midst of these developments, RSC staff garnered awards for their work, and produced a number of important new books. Tom Scott-Smith's film *Shelter Without Shelter* won the prize for Best Research Film at the AHRC Awards; an article by Anne Irfan won *Contemporary Levant's* Best Paper Award. Alexander Betts' *The Wealth of Refugees* and Kathrin Bachleitner's *Collective Memory in International Relations* were published by Oxford University Press (OUP). Gil Loescher's final work, *Refugees: A Very Short Introduction*, also came out with OUP and fittingly is pitched at a wide audience. All of the profits from this book will go to the Gil Loescher Memorial Fund to support research by students on topics concerning refugees and displacement. RSC scholars also took their research to broad audiences. They advised or wrote reports for the Home Office, UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council, UN Special Representatives and many other bodies.

As ever, the RSC has also been a source of events and courses that attract people from the UK and across the world to Oxford – sometimes in person, often online. The MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and our doctoral programme are central to the Centre's identity. Over the last year, we have continued to be inspired by the work and passion of our highly diverse cohorts of students and their resilience, humour, and insight in the midst of the challenges of online learning. Our Barbara Harrell-Bond lecturer this year was the renowned scholar of politics, Jan-Werner Müller, of Princeton University. He gave a lecture to a large online audience on 'Democracy Versus Right-Wing Populism' in November. In May, our Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture took place, again online. Professor Heath Cabot of Pittsburg University spoke eloquently on 'The Afterlives of Return and the Limits of Refugee Protection'.

As in any year, new staff arrived and others left. Jenny Peebles, our much valued co-editor of *Forced Migration Review*, headed back to Scotland; Dr Caroline Nalule, who has been such an important part of the RefMig project, is heading to Uganda; and Dr Anne Irfan, who has done so much to bring historical sensitivity and awareness of colonialism to our teaching and scholarship, announced that she will take up a permanent academic position at University College London. We welcomed to the Centre Dr Hanno Brankamp as a new Departmental Lecturer. As a geographer interested in areas of im/mobility and carcerality, Hanno will bring some valuable new perspective to teaching and research at the Centre. Alice Philip also joined the RSC in the important position of co-editor of *Forced Migration Review*.

Of course, the challenges and transformations we at the RSC have experienced this year amount to little compared to the situation faced by many of the world's displaced. The short, medium and long-term health, security, and protection consequences of the pandemic continue to cut deep. The continuing crisis of climate change and the rise of right-wing populism and religious extremism represent other daunting problems that shape the lives of refugees. In this bleak environment, the RSC's research and teaching, which at its best remains a source of knowledge, ideas and inspiration, will continue to be as relevant and important as ever.

**Professor Matthew J Gibney**  
Director, Refugee Studies Centre  
Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics  
and Forced Migration



# Our 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.



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Refugee-led organisation, Kalifoo Ground Music System, perform at the PartecipAzione networking event in Naples, Italy

# Research projects

## 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.

## 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 has been published by Cornell University Press, entitled *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*. A journal article on a prominent

## Refugees working in French vineyards during the COVID-19 pandemic



© UNHCR/Kate Thompson-Gorry

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’. Further articles on programmes of food relief from the 1940s are in preparation.

## Humanitarian Shelter

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This research explores the strategies taken by aid agencies to provide emergency housing for refugees, especially since the European crisis of 2015. The research includes a project called Architectures of Displacement, which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and 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 Press entitled *Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter* ([www.berghahnbooks.com/title/Scott-SmithStructures](http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/Scott-SmithStructures)), an exhibition at the Pitt Rivers Museum (entitled *Lande* – details available at [www.prm.ox.ac.uk/event/lande](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/event/lande)), and a feature length documentary film (entitled *Shelter Without Shelter* – details available at [www.shelterwithoutshelter.com](http://www.shelterwithoutshelter.com)). Tom Scott-Smith is currently writing a monograph expanding on the fieldwork conducted across Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Germany and France in 2016–18, provisionally entitled *Fragments of Shelter*. An article indicating some of the themes from this book was published in *American Ethnologist* in 2019, entitled ‘Beyond the Boxes: Refugee Shelter and the Humanitarian Politics of Life’.

## 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.

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

European Research Council, 2018–2023

Professor Cathryn Costello, Dr Caroline Nalule, Dr Derya Ozkul, and Dr Angela Sherwood

The RefMig project aims to re-examine the global refugee regime through the lens of mobility and migration. In order to achieve a deeper understanding of the laws, norms, institutions and practices that govern refugeehood and the migration and mobility of refugees, the project examines the division between refugees and (other) migrants in several contexts. The project's premise, that 'refugees are migrants', examines how refugees come to be recognised (or not), and opens up for scrutiny those practices that limit refugee flight and onward mobility, examining how migration control concerns have come to permeate the refugee regime.

RefMig has two main strands. *Recognising Refugees* is a comparative empirical study of diverse processes for recognising refugees, examining in particular group recognition practices and the role of UNHCR in Refugee Status Determination (RSD). The *Organisations of Protection* strand examines the role

of international organisations in the global migration regime, and how that affects the scope of international protection. This strand currently focuses on the role of the IOM in particular, its obligations, ethos and accountability. Accountability is an overarching theme of RefMig. One of the first project outputs was the 2020 special issue of the *German Law Journal* entitled 'Border Justice: Migration and Accountability for Human Rights Violations'.

The RefMig project is a collaborative project based at the RSC and the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School in Berlin.

## The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law

2017–2021

Editors: Professor Cathryn Costello, Professor Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne) and Professor Jane McAdam (UNSW Sydney)

*The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law* was published in spring 2021. It aims not just to recount the status quo, but also to critique it and set the agenda for future research on international refugee law. It is a 65-chapter reference work with 78 authors, of whom 48 are women. The gender (im)balance of the authors and editors reflects a notable feminization of this field of study, one which has decisively influenced its development. The *Handbook* differs significantly from existing reference works on international refugee law, in terms of both its breadth and depth. In their choices about authors, topics, and overall structure, the editors aspired for it to be global in scope. In terms of law, they sought to ensure consideration of a wide range of international legal instruments relevant to refugee protection. While the Refugee Convention is a central instrument and reference point, it is not the only one. Refugee protection involves many sources of law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international migration law, the law of the sea, and international and transnational criminal law. Geographically, the editors aimed to reflect on the practice of States globally, not just those in the Global North and/or parties to the Refugee Convention.

This collaboration was supported by the research partnership between Professors Foster and Costello funded by the MLS-Oxford Myers fund; the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney; and the Refugee Studies Centre.



Art provides comfort for an Eritrean refugee in Libya

© UNHCR/Mohamed Alalem





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

European Union, 2019–2023

Professor Cathryn Costello, 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 clarify the link between 'refugeehood' and the quality of refugee protection, taking work rights as an important litmus test for this protection. It will provide an in-depth comparative case study on the refugee recognition regimes in Jordan and Bangladesh. Postdoctoral scholars working on this work package include Dr Lewis Turner and Dr M Sanjeeb Hossain.

## Migrants and Refugees at Work

2012–ongoing

Professor Cathryn Costello

This strand of legal research sits at the intersection of migration and labour law. The project has its origins in a joint project with Professor Mark Freedland (Faculty of Law and St John's College), funded by the John Fell Fund, Society of Legal Scholars (SLS), St John's College Research Centre, and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), Oxford, which culminated in Costello & Freedland's *Migrants at Work: Immigration and Vulnerability in Labour Law* (OUP, 2014).

The most recent work on this topic focuses on the right to work of asylum seekers and refugees, with Cathryn

Costello co-authoring with Professor Colm O'Cinnéide (University College London) the chapter on that topic in the *Oxford Handbook on International Refugee Law*. In the chapter they explore not only the international law on the right to work (clarifying some widespread misperceptions about its scope and content) but also examine various ways in which attempts have been made to render right to work effective. In November 2021, we will host a webinar on this topic.

## Hard Refugee Protection through Soft Enforcement

2018–ongoing

Professor Cathryn Costello, with Professor Başak Çali (Hertie School, Berlin and Koç University, Istanbul)

This research examines the workings of the UN human rights treaty bodies on refugee rights, in particular as 'soft enforcers' of the norm of *non-refoulement*. The research blends empirical and doctrinal analysis; examines against which states are non-removal complaints brought to UN treaty bodies; how states respond, in particular to UN treaty bodies' requests for interim measures regarding non-removal; and the contribution of UN treaty bodies to the law on *non-refoulement*. It aims to reflect on the role of the international rule of law and 'soft enforcement' in refugee protection.

The first publication from this project was published in 2020 in the *German Law Journal*: 'Hard protection through soft courts? *Non-refoulement* before the United Nations Treaty Bodies.' Professors Costello and Çali are currently working on a second piece (with Dr Aristi Volou), which examines compliance with the UNTB 'views' on *non-refoulement* in two carefully chosen case study countries, to explore patterns of state compliance, and what they tell us about when and why states comply with international rulings, making an important contribution to the understanding of the authority of international adjudicatory bodies.

## Undoing Discriminatory Borders

John Fell Fund, 2019–ongoing

*Dr Catherine Briddick, with Professor Cathryn Costello, Professor E Tendayi Achiume (UCLA), Professor Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne) and Professor Elspeth Guild (Queen Mary University of London)*

Immigration laws and migration controls distribute migration opportunities unequally, to the exclusion and disadvantage of many. While migration controls intrinsically distinguish between nationals and non-nationals, they also distribute the opportunity to move legally, often in ways that are directly or indirectly discriminatory against women, racial and religious groups, and those whose sexual orientation, gender-identity or family status departs from the nuclear hetero-norm. Such discrimination may be identified within apparently neutral legal rules or migration statuses, or within algorithmic or other decision-making processes. There is, however, surprisingly little analysis of whether such rules and practices are unlawfully discriminatory. This project aims to fill that gap, by bringing together a network of legal scholars with expertise in both migration and non-discrimination. The aim of the first phase of our research is to map the application of non-discrimination norms to immigration/nationality laws and migration controls, considering in so doing, relevant national, regional (including EU) and international laws. Outputs from this project will include publications developed from two workshops (hosted jointly by the Refugee Studies Centre and the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School).

## The Governance of AI-based Technologies in the Management of Migration

John Fell Fund, 2020–ongoing

*Dr Derya Ozkul*

The use of biometrics and automated decision-making technologies is on the rise in many sectors, including the ‘management of migration’. The existing research shows that the deployment of these technologies has been opaque, with little knowledge about who has access to the data, with whom it is shared, and who is accountable for possible wrongdoings. The aim of this project is to understand the role of the public sector, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and private tech companies in the use of new technologies, during various processes of migration management, including registration of migrants and asylum seekers and distribution of humanitarian aid. Specifically, the project explores how the use of new technologies challenges the principles of data protection and non-discrimination based on gender, nationality and ethnic backgrounds. The project makes use of desk-based research of existing legislation and online interviews with stakeholders that make use of personal information (including biometric information) and automated decision-making systems across the humanitarian field. The project focuses on Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan where some of these technologies were introduced at a large scale with the arrival of Syrian refugees.

The Floreecer Project, which supports young women and Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia, commemorates International Women’s Day



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## Refugee-led Initiatives at the Time of COVID-19: Exploring New Forms of Digital Information, Assistance and Livelihood

British Academy Special Research Grant on COVID-19, 2020–2021

*Dr Evan Easton-Calabria and Dr Marie Godin*

ICTs are reshaping our lives not only under normal circumstances, but increasingly so in crises. The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate by race, gender or status but not everyone has been impacted in the same way by the crisis; migrant and refugee communities living in cities have been disproportionately affected. Within refugee studies, little research explores refugees’ livelihoods, well-being, and support in relation to digitalisation. This leaves a gap in multiple agendas for refugees that risks leaving them further behind at the time of COVID-19. In this small research project we explore the existence of, potential for, and barriers to digital information, assistance and livelihood through a further under-researched phenomenon: the support provided to refugees through initiatives and organisations led by refugees. This research project aims to better understand the impact of the pandemic on new digitally mediated support in three cities: London, Berlin, and Nairobi.

## 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.

## Responses to Crisis Migration in Uganda and Ethiopia: Researching the Role of Local Actors in Secondary Cities

Cities Alliance/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), 2019–2022  
*Dr Evan Easton-Calabria*

This project aims to provide evidence to improve how secondary cities respond to and manage so-called 'crisis migration', particularly that affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. Secondary cities are the fastest growing urban areas, and despite being under-researched and overlooked by governments, they often host significant numbers of displaced people without the necessary resources or support. This project addresses this gap by investigating the secondary cities of Adama in Ethiopia and Arua in Uganda, examining how municipal authorities manage these cities and those living within them, and – crucially – involving civil

society actors such as migrant and refugee organisations in order to better understand how to improve the lives of forced migrants and those living alongside them. The project focuses not just on improving direct assistance provided to refugees and migrants, but also on good practices and ways to enhance the positive effects of these influxes on secondary cities, such as on urban planning; infrastructure; and co-existence between migrants, citizens, and other society members. We intend for our research to result in improved decision-making, coordination, and collaboration between local urban actors responsible for managing crisis migration in their respective cities, as well as partnerships between urban actors, federal governments, and international donor agencies. Academically, we aim to contribute qualitative fieldwork conducted with national researchers that captures original case studies of secondary cities' responses to forced migrants, and build theory that allows these responses to be explored critically within the context of wider agendas of assistance to displaced people.

## Digital Livelihoods for Refugees? Exploring Pathways to the New World of Work in Nairobi and Tel Aviv

John Fell Fund, 2020–2021  
*Dr Evan Easton-Calabria and Dr Marie Godin*

This exploratory project focuses on the emergent topic of digital livelihoods and refugees. It offers an original perspective on how refugees are involved in the so-called 'future of work' through an inter-regional comparative study of initiatives and pathways for refugees to access digital work in Tel Aviv, Israel, and Nairobi, Kenya, two cities hosting significant African refugee populations and themselves emerging 'tech hubs'. The study focuses on refugees who successfully engage with the emerging digital economy as well as those who are unable to do so, in order to identify specific individual characteristics of success as well as larger structural barriers. We are currently mapping existing initiatives led for, by, and with refugees in each field site, reflecting on power relationships and the (re)productions of opportunities and inequalities for refugee populations in the digital economy.



Refugees recharge their phones in a Salzburg camp in 2015

© UNHCR/Mark Henley

## 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, 2018–2019  
Emeritus Professor Dawn Chatty

In the context of the ongoing crisis, 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 scholarly 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*.

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 has been published in 2021 in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*. A follow-on workshop bringing together senior aid practitioners, policymakers, and academics is scheduled for November 2022. New York University Abu Dhabi’s The Institute will host the workshop, ‘Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees from Syria: the Impetus behind the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees’.



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A scholarship helps a young Syrian refugee pursue dentistry studies at T.C. Istanbul University

## Justice and Autonomy Quests in Kurdistan and beyond

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

This project maps layers of statelessness and self-determination by focusing on self-organising refugee communities and camps. It analyses the history and current practice of sites that organise themselves along the Kurdish freedom movement’s notion of ‘democratic autonomy’. What can we learn about democracy concepts by looking at practices of refugee self-determination 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 ‘NGO-ization’ and system change. Among other things, this entails mapping protests and analysing publications of various women’s organisations. Finally, the project makes a theoretical contribution to the study of statelessness and non-state resistance.

## Borders, Global Governance and the Refugee, 1947–1951

The British Academy, 2020–2022  
Dr Anne Irfan and Dr Uttara Shahani

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.

## Palestinian Refugees, the Art of Resistance and International Community: Untold Stories from Refugee Cinemas

The British Academy, 2020–2022

*Dr Anne Irfan (in collaboration with Dr Muhammad Hamdan, An-Najah University, Palestine)*

There is a long history of Palestinian refugees' creative resistance to political oppression, yet scholarship on the subject is often fragmented. This project takes a new and original approach in exploring the art of resistance through Palestinian refugee cinema across time and space. Comparatively examining practices of filmmaking across refugee camps in the West Bank and Lebanon, this research explores how Palestinians have employed cinema to create a narrative of resistance that engenders international solidarity. In so doing, it speaks to the increasing emphasis in Refugee Studies on centralising refugees' agency in narrating their own stories; it also engages with scholarly debates around defining resistance. The ultimate aim is to develop a new framework to reshape scholarly understandings of the Palestinian sphere, resistance, protracted displacement, internationalism, and the role of art in refugee politics.

## How Historical Memory Shapes European Policies Towards Syrian Refugees

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2021

*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.

## Legacies of War: The Effects of Conflict and Displacement on National Belonging

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2021

*Dr Kathrin Bachleitner*

This project theorises on the effects of conflict and displacement on national identity. To advance the explanatory power of International Relations (IR) approaches, it develops an interdisciplinary framework and tests it on the empirical case study of Syrian and Palestinian refugees. The project analyses data collected in large N online surveys. The results aim to explore transformations in the meaning of national identity among Syrian and Palestinian refugees with specific attention given to the voices of women. How Syrians and Palestinians themselves draw the boundaries around their national in-group will be crucial for any peace settlement and the legitimacy of any future state, in addition to having broader implications for how IR theory understands national identity change amid conflict.

## 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 Syrian refugees who did not use SVPRS but spontaneously chose to settle in Oxford of their own accord. Once COVID restrictions are removed, this study 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.

Find out about research at the RSC on our website at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research)

Keep up to date with all RSC activities by signing up to our monthly newsletter at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/connect](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/connect)



Cables in Burj el Barajneh  
Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon

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## 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 Emeritus 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 low- and middle-income countries of 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. Our goals are 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.

## Re-imagining Development for Mobile and Marginalised Peoples (ReDeMP)

John Fell Fund, 2021

*Dr Cory Rodgers, Emeritus Professor Dawn Chatty, and Dr Matthew Porges (with Dr Ariell Ahearn Ligham, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford; Dr Greta Semplici, European University Institute; Dr Marco Solimene, University of Iceland; and Dr Stefania Pontrandolfo, Università degli Studi di Verona)*

The term 'mobile peoples' encompasses diverse groups, including mobile pastoralists, itinerant service-providers, Travellers, and some Romani communities. These groups differ from refugees and migrant workers in that their mobility is not a strategic response to displacement or poverty; rather, mobility is central to cultural, economic and political organisation, and a unifying value for group identity. The problem that we address is the invisibility and marginality of mobile peoples in mainstream development, which often privileges sedentary populations by promoting static infrastructure, fixed residence, urban service provision, and private ownership of land and resources. The aim of this project is to build a cross-regional evidence base about the effects of 'sedentist' development policies on mobile peoples, and to propose models that better accommodate their livelihoods and lifestyles.

## The 'Migration Market' in the Global South: The Impact of Marketisation on Refugee Camps and Settlements

GCRF Pump-Priming Grant, 2020–2021; ongoing  
*Dr Hanno Brankamp (with Dr Sophie Mackinder (PI), Dr Kelly Devenney, and Dr Sara de Jong, University of York)*

The World Bank and UNHCR have recently called for increased 'private sector engagement' within refugee camps and settlements in the Global South. These organisations argue that profit-making opportunities for private actors exist not only through markets but also within sectors like education, energy, communication and sanitation. This shift towards a marketised approach calls for research to understand its impact on refugee communities and non-profit organisations currently in the field. In particular, there are concerns about potentially 'dehumanising' effects when institutional motivation shifts from social need to profit-maximisation. Specifically, this project aims to understand the ways in which these discourses and practices of 'markets' and 'marketisation' have become increasingly embedded in contemporary landscapes of humanitarian intervention and are 'piloted' in countries of the 'South'. The research focuses initially on Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement (Kenya) because they are at the forefront of these developments and have been identified by the World Bank as an opportunity for private investment. This project is interdisciplinary and builds on the research team's diverse methodological, regional and disciplinary expertise in Social Policy, Politics and Human Geography.

In Turkana (north-western Kenya) many pastoralists practice mobile lifestyles, migrating with their families and herds as the seasons change



© Greta Semplici

# Refugee Economies Programme

IKEA Foundation, World Food Programme, World Economic Forum, 2012–ongoing

*Professor Alexander Betts, Professor Naohiko Omata, Dr Olivier Sterck, Jade Siu, Maria Flinder Stierna, Andonis Marden, Madison Bakewell*

The Refugee Economies Programme undertakes research on the economic lives of refugees. Our research is interdisciplinary, combining economics, anthropology, and political science. We collect original qualitative and quantitative data, and often draw upon a range of participatory methods, including working with refugee researchers. Our research aims to explain variation in the economic behaviour and outcomes for refugees. We cover themes such as welfare outcomes, social cohesion between refugees and hosts, migration and mobility, and we also undertake impact evaluations to assess the impact of market-based interventions such as cash-based assistance, entrepreneurship training, and employment-creation schemes.

Methodologically, the centrepiece of our research is the collection of an original panel data set, based on multi-country and time-series data collection: the Refugee Economies Dataset. With an initial focus on Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, the dataset covers urban and rural areas, refugees and hosts, and includes multiple data collection periods. The dataset includes over 16,000 refugees and host community members from across six research sites. We have collected one wave of data for Uganda and Ethiopia, and two waves of data for Kenya. The survey questionnaire is wide-ranging and includes modules on income, expenditure, assets, subjective well-being, physical and mental health, education, aspirations, migration and mobility, refugee-host community interactions, attitudes, and demography, for example. The breadth of the questionnaire enables us to explore correlations between variables, both cross-sectionally and over time. All of this work is complemented by in-depth qualitative research.

In addition to our panel data collection, the Programme has worked on a series of impact evaluations. First, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, we examined the impact of the new Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County in Kenya, created in 2016 as an integrated settlement for refugees and the host community to support greater self-reliance for refugees. In our research, we have compared the impact of living in Kalobeyei on socio-economic outcomes with the impact of living in the nearby Kakuma camps. We have also explored the impact of some of Kalobeyei's market-based innovations, such as particular models of cash assistance, on both households and businesses. Second, in collaboration with the IKEA Foundation and UNHCR, we undertook an impact evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's seven-year \$100m investment in the Dollo Ado refugee camps, as an example of the role of the private sector in improving socio-economic opportunities for refugees and the host community, even within remote refugee-hosting regions. The impact evaluation has been published, along with policy briefs, academic outputs, and a short documentary film about the evaluation.

The Programme is about to launch a series of new research projects in October 2021, which will explore emerging themes that build on our previous research. These will include areas such as cross-border economic strategies (led by Naohiko Omata); shocks, vulnerability, and coping strategies (led by Olivier Sterck); the political economy of socio-economic rights (led by Alexander Betts); and the gendered economic lives of refugees (led by Maria Flinder Stierna).

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



© WFP/Martin Karimi

Gardens in Kalobeyei settlement, Kenya

# 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.

## Policy engagement

Work by **Cathryn Costello** continues to influence international refugee law makers. The chapter ‘Non-Penalization and Non-Criminalization’ (co-author Yulia Ioffe) in *The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law* (Costello, Foster & McAdam (eds), OUP 2021) was cited by the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in *Implementation of the non-punishment principle* (Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally to the UN Human Rights Council, 17 May 2021). Professor Mullally drew heavily on the argument presented for a general principle of non-penalisation for refugees and other vulnerable migrants. ‘*Non-refoulement* as Custom and *Jus Cogens*? Putting the Prohibition to the Test’ (co-author Michelle Foster) in the *Netherlands Yearbook of International Law 2015: Jus Cogens: Quo Vadis?* (Maarten den Heijer and Harmen van der Wilt (eds), TMC Asser Press 2016) was cited positively by the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission on *jus cogens*/peremptory norms, Dire Tladi, in both his Second and Fourth Reports to the ILC. He states that ‘Costello and Foster make an excellent in-depth argument, looking at both arguments for and against, and come to the conclusion that the principle of *non-refoulement* is a norm of *jus cogens*’ (para 133, Fourth Report).

**Dawn Chatty** and **Dilar Dirik** were on the judging panel for the Ockenden International Prize for refugee self-reliance projects. Dilar is now a member of the academic advisory board for the Social Sciences Institute at the Rojava University in Syria. She was also interviewed a number of times by the media including by *Haaretz* on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Turkish army’s invasion of the Kurdish regions of Syria, and by the *New York Times* for an article on autonomous zones.

**Roger Zetter** was an expert evaluator for the European Union Horizon 2020 Programme sector on Migration – Addressing the Challenge of Forced Displacement. He is team leader for the Evaluation of UNHCR Asylum Capacity Development (Project Agency ITDG). Roger was also appointed as a Commissioner for the Environmental Commission, one of Six Specialized Commissions tasked with developing resolutions and protocols for the Congress of Nations and States in late 2022.

**Evan Easton-Calabria** researched and wrote the report ‘A Restriction of Responsibility-Sharing: Examining the impact of COVID-19 on the Global Compact on Refugees’ for the Danish Refugee Council. Evan is currently an Advisor for the Fund for Refugee Initiatives, an American non-profit organisation based in Los Angeles.

**Anne Irfan** served as an expert witness on several asylum cases in the UK, providing expertise about the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. **Cory Rodgers** was invited to speak on ‘Conflict Sensitivity’ at the Jesuit Refugee Service Advisory Group Meeting on ‘Rolling Out the Reconciliation Strategy Throughout JRS’ in June.

### Reimagining British Refugee Policy

In February 2021, **Alexander Betts** was invited to give a presentation to staff at the UK Home Office on the topic of a ‘British Refugee Policy’. He outlined a brief history of refugee policy, and made the case for the UK to develop a national refugee policy that is broader than ‘asylum and immigration policy’ and goes beyond the work of the Home Office. This was followed up by a roundtable discussion with senior Home Office, FCDO, and other government colleagues to explore the idea. An outline of the ‘why’, ‘what’ and ‘how’ of a British Refugee Policy was presented at a meeting with government ministers convened by the think tank Bright Blue on 24 May. As the UK Borders Bill became the government’s priority, the idea was taken forwards by Alexander Betts in collaboration with the British Refugee Council and the Legatum Institute, with funding from Philanthropy Unbound to support conceptual development and dissemination.

### Recognition and Funding for Refugee-Led Organisations

In 2016, **Alexander Betts** received a £242,000 Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) grant from the ESRC and AHRC to undertake research on refugee-led organisations in refugee camps and cities in Kenya and Uganda. The research was undertaken by an interdisciplinary team, with **Alexander Betts**, **Evan Easton-Calabria**, **Kate Pincock**, and collaborative input from refugees who worked as key informants and research assistants, and co-authored some of the outputs. The main research question was: what explains variation in the scale and scope of refugee-led social protection?

The research was published as a book, *The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance* (Cambridge University Press 2020), and a series of other academic articles and a policy brief. The research team undertook various knowledge exchange and impact events, including a launch event at YARID in Kampala, the online RSC seminar series ‘#ByRefugees: Refugee-Led Humanitarian Response During COVID-19’, and dialogues with relevant governments, foundations, international organisations, and NGOs.



Although the research was mainly undertaken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has had its greatest impact during the pandemic. It has helped to increase recognition and funding for refugee-led assistance activities during COVID-19. At a time when UN agencies and international NGOs were withdrawing from camps and cities – leaving a gap – the research offered policy-relevant insights into how to recognise, capacitate, and finance effective refugee-led organisations (RLOs). Alongside the work on non-academic organisations, the research contributed to rapid change in global public policy, including the first ever dedicated government fund for RLOs created by the Government of Canada, and the UN Refugee Agency’s decision to create a new partnership status for refugee-led organisations, both in 2021.

The case study has been submitted to the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize for 2021. The RSC is continuing to work on refugee-led organisations, in collaboration with the Local Engagement with Refugee Research Network (LERRN), with funding from the Open Society Foundations, the Bosch Foundation, and the Global Whole Being Fund (GHBF), focusing on a refugee-led study in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

### Refugee Livelihoods in Dollo Ado

The **Refugee Economies Programme** continues to influence policy and practice. The team’s impact evaluation of the IKEA Foundation’s \$100m investment



Scene from ‘Dollo Ado: Building Refugee Economies’, a documentary film by Raphael Bradenbrink and Alexander Betts

in the Dollo Ado camps has been especially influential. In addition to the final report, two policy briefs have been published, and a documentary film directed by Raphael Bradenbrink, which has been downloaded more than 3000 times. Presentations have been made by Alexander Betts to UNHCR staff, the IKEA Foundation Board, the East Africa ‘Economic Inclusion Exchange’ convened by UNHCR and NGOs across the region, and at a public event jointly convened by the IKEA Foundation, UNHCR, and the RSC. The evaluation has played an influential role in shaping UNHCR and the IKEA Foundation’s programming in the five Dollo Ado camps in Ethiopia, and led to wider reflection on the role of the private sector in promoting refugee livelihoods around the world.

## Shelter Without Shelter wins at AHRC Research in Film Awards 2020

We are delighted to announce that the film *Shelter Without Shelter*, by Tom Scott-Smith and Mark E Breeze, won the top award of Best Research Film at the AHRC Research in Film Awards 2020. This award is for the very best film made as an output or by-product of arts and humanities research. It must be interesting, technically impressive, bring new research to wider attention, and highlight the value and importance of arts and humanities research.

*Shelter Without Shelter* investigates how forced migrants from Syria were sheltered across Europe and the Middle East after 2015, living in mega-camps, city squats, occupied airports, illegal settlements, requisitioned buildings, flat-pack structures, and enormous architect-designed reception centres. Containing perspectives from the humanitarians who created these shelters as well as the critics who campaigned against them, the documentary reveals the complex dilemmas involved in attempts to house refugees in emergency situations.

On accepting the award, Tom said “We would like to pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of refugees around the world, many of whom continue to wait for asylum while living in very difficult and sometimes completely unsuitable conditions. It’s hard to conduct research on such a painful topic, and it seems inappropriate in some ways to celebrate a film that in many respects

tells a story of our collective failure, but if it can at least stimulate some conversation about refugee shelter and our obligations towards others then I think it’s achieved something, and I hope that refugees, who this film is really about, can agree.”

In June the Architecture Film Festival London 2021 featured the world premiere of *Shelter Without Shelter* as its closing film.

View the trailer at: [www.shelterwithoutshelter.com](http://www.shelterwithoutshelter.com)



## Media coverage

RSC staff have written articles and provided expert opinion for media outlets on a range of issues over the past year. Here are just a few examples.

### Refugee-run organizations deserve more money

*Foreign Policy*  
12 May 2021

This article highlights the lack of funding refugee-run organisations receive from donors despite the important role they play locally. Those interviewed for the article include Alexander Betts, Robert Hakiza (of YARID and long-time associate of the Refugee Economics Programme), and Mustafa Alio, who contributed to the RSC's Trinity term 2020 Public Seminar Series as part of the Global Refugee-Led Network. As the article states, "as COVID-19 closed borders and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international organizations limited their services, refugee-led initiatives became even more important."



### The imagined immorality of refuge

*Africa is a Country*  
17 March 2021

Hanno Brankamp contributes to ongoing debates on institutional racism in the humanitarian system. Popular narratives about refugees as 'terrorists' or 'troublesome' aliens have loomed large in aid operations and legitimised acts of spectacular state violence in past years – not least Kenya's threats to close its Kakuma and Dadaab camps. Brankamp finds that moral appeals for saving 'vulnerable victims' are often built on the same racialised colonial imaginaries of difference and immorality that others use to vilify and reject refugees and asylum seekers.



### A social history of soup

*BBC Radio 3*  
21 April 2021

In an episode of The Essay, Tom Scott-Smith explored a social history of soup and its significance to humanitarian relief. From the father of the modern soup kitchen in 1790s Bavaria to the recipes of an MIT professor 100 years later, he highlighted the lessons we can take from different recipes and the implications for refugees and human nutrition. Earlier in 2020, Scott-Smith also contributed to a BBC Radio 3 discussion on an Imperial War Museum exhibition about refugee experiences.



### Alexander Betts discusses the European Commission's 'New Pact on Migration and Asylum'

*Amanpour, CNN*  
24 September 2020

Alexander Betts was invited to discuss the European Commission's 'New Pact on Migration and Asylum' with Christiane Amanpour. The focus of the Pact, he said, is very much on managing irregular migration into the EU, with a strong emphasis on rapid assessment of asylum claims, rapid and effective return of 'failed' asylum seekers, and agreements with third countries. Betts also wrote a commentary about the Pact for the RSC website.



### Whether or not Kenya closes its camps, much damage has been done

*African Arguments*  
9 April 2021

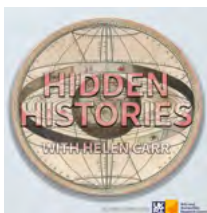
Cory Rodgers and Mohamed Talil (a researcher based in Kakuma) write on the consequences for refugees of Kenya's 14-day ultimatum issued to UNHCR for a plan for the closure of two refugee camps, Kakuma and Dadaab. These camps have more than 400,000 registered refugees, the majority of whom are Somali. Rodgers and Talil write, "For refugees in Kenya, the looming prospect of forced repatriation has created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. Media outlets have contributed to the confusion, at times conflating the government's call for a 'roadmap' with a directive for immediate camp closure."

/ AFRICAN  
/ ARGUMENTS

### The civil war is threatening an ancient way of life in Syria

*Al Jazeera*  
30 August 2020

Dawn Chatty wrote with Haian Dukhan (Central European University) about the impact of the Syrian civil war on the Bedouin community. Many in this community have become displaced either within Syria or further afield. The herders have also faced targeted attacks by both the Syrian government forces and ISIL (ISIS), as the different factions became increasingly suspicious of the herders who have refrained from openly aligning themselves with any group. As Chatty and Dukhan write, the impact of the conflict on the Bedouin is rarely mentioned.



Tom Scott-Smith took part in the **Hidden Histories** podcasts series with AHRC New Generation Thinkers, speaking with Helen Carr about the history of hunger relief. Tom and Helen discussed the history of famine relief and humanitarian aid, and how it has changed over time – the subject of

Tom's book *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief* (Cornell University Press, 2020). Humanitarian aid is intensely political, and the form that humanitarian aid takes today is heavily influenced by its past.

Alexander Betts took part in the **Imperial War Museum Institute's virtual festival 'Refugee Nights'** in December. The festival explored refugees' stories throughout history in talks, eyewitness accounts, music and food, and celebrated refugees' rich and important cultural contributions to UK public life. Questions discussed included: How have refugees throughout history built new lives in new countries? What does claiming asylum actually involve? How can the world best help refugees?



# Camps and humanitarian violence: the global geographies of aid and migration control

**Hanno Brankamp**

Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

This year we have been joined by Hanno Brankamp, a political geographer of forced migration. He is teaching on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies as well as continuing his research, which he introduces below.

Recent years have seen an escalation of militarised border regimes and migration enforcement on a global scale. Particularly noteworthy is the political drive towards expanding walls, policing infrastructures, encampment, detention, interceptions at sea, deportations, surveillance, and raids while also restricting asylum and mobility, especially in – but not limited to – the so-called ‘Global North’. Simultaneously, wealthy countries in Europe and its settler colonial extensions in North America and the Pacific often pay lip-service to supporting humanitarian assistance for destitute and displaced populations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East – as long as it happens at a distance. Alleging a contradiction between the ‘hard’ geopolitics of borders at home and the ‘soft’ moral responsibility for providing humanitarian aid abroad is therefore misleading. While mobilised to alleviate harm during or after conflict, humanitarian logics and institutions have played an intrinsic role in perpetuating, and even legitimising, conditions of violence towards populations in formerly colonised societies.

Refugee camps are perhaps among the most recognisable humanitarian spatial technologies today. While one in three displaced people in the world are encamped, almost 80% of African refugees or asylum seekers are housed in institutional camps, located in agriculturally unproductive, infrastructurally underserved or otherwise devalued areas of host countries. In 2015 alone, UNHCR built twelve new and expanded seven existing camps in Africa. Importantly, camps are sites in which the global politics of humanitarianism touch down ‘in space’. Their governance is a negotiated order between UNHCR, host governments, non-profits, and displaced communities themselves. My research looks at the making of that very ‘order’ – a process that hinges as much on police forces physically patrolling camps as on upholding racialised imaginaries that justify this violence work. Focusing on humanitarian violence, coloniality, policing and camp geography, I thus explore how humanitarian operations are underwritten by intersecting regimes of violence – both spectacular and mundane – that enforce narrow visions of political, social and moral life, and threaten the freedom and well-being of refugees, in contravention of official protection mandates.

Understanding the ‘production’ of humanitarian and asylum spaces is especially relevant as many states continue to re-define, alter, stretch, shrink and weaponise geography today – through externalisation, off-shoring, camp closures, expulsions, or the creation of extra-

territorial zones of waiting. African governments are hereby more than just Europe’s ‘border guards’, but their treatment of people on the move is also influenced by their own distinct (post)colonial histories of marginalisation, belonging, injustice and violence. My research suggests that indefinite refugee encampment at the global margins – rather than representing a mere failure of global asylum politics – is itself a deliberate feature of policies to facilitate the global (im)mobility of racialised groups. Through making these interventions, my research speaks to camp studies, carceral geographies, critical migration and border studies, and radical abolitionist writings. With this in mind, I hope that my research can contribute to critical debates within the academy, public discourse, and also deliver useful analyses for activist work.

## About Hanno

Hanno Brankamp is a political geographer whose research interests include forced migration and im/mobility, carceral geographies, humanitarianism, and the politics of abolition, with a regional specialism in East Africa. He has a DPhil in Geography and the Environment from the University of Oxford, where he wrote his doctoral thesis on policing and geographies of enforcement in the Kenyan refugee camps. The study was based on extensive ethnographic fieldwork and interviews to understand forms of governance and violent order-making that underwrite humanitarian operations. Beside his ongoing research, Hanno teaches Anthropology of Forced Migration, Research Methods and a course on Carceral Spaces as part of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

Twitter: @HannoBrankamp



**Hanno Brankamp**



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Shops and signage at Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya

# The Refugee-Led Research Hub

**Alexander Betts, Bahati Ernestine, Andonis Marden, Mohamed Hassan Muhamed, Ruth Nyabuto, Ghazal Sarah Salehi, Pauline Vidal, and Foni Joyce Vuni**  
The Refugee-Led Research Hub

The Refugee Studies Centre has created a new Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH), based at the British Institute of Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Nairobi. With initial funding from the IKEA Foundation, it aims to support refugee-led research, by (1) supporting refugee and displaced scholars to participate meaningfully in research; (2) enabling refugees to develop research and research-related careers; and (3) developing a participatory and co-designed approach to the social sciences and humanities.

The RLRH's activities are based on a hybrid model of both in-person and remote activities. It is physically located in new office buildings in the gardens of the BIEA and will be a fully integrated part of the BIEA, able to draw upon their library, seminar rooms, training activities, and workshops. It is also an integrated part of the RSC, allowing RLRH's researchers, scholars, and fellows to participate in activities organised by the RSC and to access a range of academic resources in Oxford.

During 2020–21, the RLRH engaged in a series of pilot activities, as well as planning and conceptual development in advance of its October 2021 launch. It will have a series of core activities: the year-long RSC-BIEA Fellowship in Refugee Studies for 12 scholars with displacement backgrounds; an 'RSC Online Course' in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies aimed at students with displacement backgrounds which will launch to 1000 learners next year; a series of refugee-led research projects; and complementary programmes such as mentorship and graduate attachment schemes for displaced scholars. By Summer 2021, the RLRH has 39 colleagues and fellows, 36 of whom have lived experience of displacement.

## Rationale and relevance

Refugee-authored scholarship is underdeveloped, verging on non-existent, despite a sizable and growing number of academic and research centres that focus on forced displacement. Eighty-five per cent of the world's refugees live in low- and middle-income countries, and yet very little Refugee and Forced Migration Studies research is published by authors based in these displacement-affected regions, let alone by refugee or displaced people themselves.<sup>1</sup> Refugees and other displaced people also remain under-represented in tertiary education, especially at the graduate level. The RLRH presents an effort to expand the pathway to graduate-level opportunities for displaced scholars, supporting refugee-led scholarship in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, as well as in the social sciences and humanities more broadly.

The ultimate aim of the RLRH is to create a model that can redistribute power and opportunity towards individuals with lived experience of displacement,

recognising that their insights and expertise will advance scholarship in the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

## Activities

The RLRH will be a space where displaced scholars lead the activities of a cohort of researchers. It aims to provide access to the academic resources needed to carry out high-quality and impactful research. At the outset, activities in the RLRH will fall into three primary categories: (1) teaching and training, (2) mentorship, and (3) research projects.



Ruth Nyabuto (left), the Academic Facilitator for the Fellowship, and Foni Joyce (right), a researcher and project manager at the RLRH, outside the new RSC offices in Nairobi



RLRH colleagues convene a working group to discuss displacement-related projects in eastern Africa, July 2021. Top row (from left to right): Mary Gitahi, Bahati Ernestine, Gabriel Ndayishimiye, Pauline Vidal, Uwezo Ramazani. Second row: Ghazal Sarah Salehi, Lalise Yunus, Ruth Nyabuto, Nhial Deng, Mohamed Hassan. Third row: Abis Getachew, Salama Mariam, Buhendwa Iragi, Ingrid Viban, Wanjage Wairimu. Bottom row: Andhira Kara, Liliane Ingabire, Andonis Marden, Foni Joyce Vuni.

In October 2021, we will launch the RSC-BIEA Fellowship in Refugee Studies. This 1-year programme will provide teaching, mentorship, and professional development opportunities. The Fellowship targets scholars with a displacement background who have a demonstrated interest in the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The 12 inaugural Fellows were selected from a large number of applications, and are based in a range of countries across Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and Europe. They identify as stateless, internally displaced, asylum seekers, and as current or former refugees. Scholars have completed undergraduate degrees (or have equivalent experience), and several have been awarded a first graduate degree. All have academic aspirations to go on to graduate study in Oxford or at other leading universities.

Fellows will spend 25–30 hours a week on the programme, developing thematic expertise, and academic and research skills. They will have the opportunity to engage with RSC students, staff, and alumni, BIEA researchers, and other scholars in the RSC’s network. They will be able to attend RSC and BIEA events, and will participate in seminars and workshops, engage in an independent research study, and undertake a professional placement.

We are also undertaking refugee-led research projects. The first of these focuses on the nature and impact of refugee-led organisations, in partnership with the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) at Carleton University, with funding from

the Open Society Foundations, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Bosch Foundation, and the Global Whole Being Fund. It focuses on camps and cities in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, and is led by a team of four research leads – Abis Getachew, Andhira Kara, Mary Gitahi, and Uwezo Ramazani – all of whom have experience as refugees and are based in each of the main focus countries. The RLRH aims to add more refugee-led research projects over time, including collaborative studies, and it has begun supporting one such project relating to the measurement of refugee self-reliance in collaboration with the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI).

Beyond these activities, the RLRH aims to reach a broader number of aspiring researchers with displacement backgrounds through mentorship, opening the BIEA’s Graduate Attachment Scheme (GAS) to refugees, and professional development opportunities within the leadership of the organisation. Over time – and with additional support – we would like to increase the scholarships that we can offer to people with displacement backgrounds to undertake graduate degrees within Oxford.

**Footnote**

<sup>1</sup> McNally, R. and Rahim, N. (2020) ‘How global is the Journal of Refugee Studies’, LERRN, Carleton University, online at <https://carleton.ca/lerrn/2020/how-global-is-the-journal-of-refugee-studies/>

To find out more about how to support the work of the Refugee-Led Research Hub, please contact [andonis.marden@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andonis.marden@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

# 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. This year, seminars and supervisions were delivered in-person in the Department, where it was possible and safe to do so. Seminar teaching was complemented by pre-recorded lectures and live online '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 2020–21, our option courses included Refugee Economics, Dispossession and Displacement in the Modern Middle East, Postcolonial Borders and Forced Migration, Statelessness: Politics, Knowledge, Resistance, and an advanced law option that explored current issues in International Human Rights and Refugee Law.

In the third and 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 in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has drawn outstanding students from all over the world, including Rhodes, Marshall, Commonwealth, and Fulbright scholars. Our most recent cohort came from 11 countries, 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.

To date 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 now 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](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/msc)

This year, MSc thesis topics included: 'Island Detention and its Implications for the Rights of Refugees', "'In Their Own Words": The Poetry of Young Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh', and 'Beyond Permanent Temporariness: A Human Right to Recognition'. The Examiners' Prize was awarded to Jake Millman. The Gil Loescher Prize for Best Overall Performance was jointly awarded to Olivia Wicki and Henry Wilson-Smith.

## 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/content/fees-funding](http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/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, geography, and psychology.

Current topics under investigation include 'Maritime Humanitarianism: The Provision of Humanitarian Aid at Sea 1978-2019', 'Navigating Narrative Frameworks in Search and Rescue Operations: Between Morality and Narrative Wars', and 'The Borders of the Rechtsstaat – Migrant Exclusion and the Constitutional State in Post-Crisis Germany' (see the Academic Record for a complete listing of 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](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/dphil)



Queen Elizabeth House

### Samuel Ritholtz DPhil candidate

*Civil War and the Politics of Difference: Paramilitary Violence Against LGBT People during the Colombian Civil War*

My dissertation focuses on the violent targeting of LGBTIQ+ people by paramilitaries during the Colombian Civil War. Through this project, I explore why resource-limited armed actors become focused on annihilating social difference in contested landscapes as wartime strategy. While ethnic, political, and gender violence have been well analysed in the literatures of civil war and political violence, there has been little focus on this form of social violence. My thesis seeks to redress this gap by developing an intersectional approach to prejudicial violence during war that connects concepts of marginality to those of identity with a starting focus on sexual orientation and gender identity. My argument is that armed actors pursue violence against sexual and gender minorities when they attempt to transform the social environments of a contested territory for strategic and ideological reasons. I purport that the variation seen in homophobic violence during war occurs based on the perceived legitimacy of the armed actors' efforts by local populations.

### Rebecca Buxton DPhil candidate

*Politics in Exile: Refugees, Membership, and Political Rights*

My doctoral thesis argues for a new normative understanding of refugeehood built around the concept of membership. Previous accounts in the political theory of refuge and migration depend on a theory of 'membership', though none tell us exactly what this membership is. I argue that membership should be thought of as a form of effective citizenship that allows individuals to claim their rights in a particular political community. I also argue that, as a matter of legitimacy, all individuals require membership in some political community that can protect their basic rights. In our current way of organising the world, this means citizenship status in the territorially bounded state. Refugees, I contend, are those who lack such membership and thus are deprived of the effective guarantee of protection and security. Therefore, as a matter of legitimacy, refugees require new membership elsewhere. My theory of membership, coupled with the commitment that everyone requires membership somewhere, therefore shows that refugees ought to be offered citizenship in a new state.

## International Online School in Forced Migration

This year, for the first time in its 30-year history, the RSC's renowned International Summer School in Forced Migration went online. And not just once, but twice! In order to meet growing international demand and to remain available in the midst of the current pandemic, it was held online in both July and September 2021. It was such a success we are planning to hold it again in 2022, in both March and July.

The Refugee Studies Centre has always set the highest academic and pedagogic standards in all its research and teaching. The new 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, whether held online or in person. This year, 50 participants from around the globe joined the School in July, with a further 50 in September. Across both Schools, 10 bursary places were available for those with personal experience of displacement. The course directors were Dr Catherine Briddick and Professor Matthew Gibney, who,

along with Professor Tom Scott-Smith, also acted as tutors. Guest lecturers included Professor Chaloka Beyani (LSE), Dr Madeline Garlick (UNHCR), Professor Gaim Kibreab (London South Bank 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. The Online School covers subjects including: Conceptualising Forced Migration, The Moral Foundations of Refugeehood, International Law and Refugee Protection, and Future Directions in International Displacement, as well as a choice of optional modules. All the sessions are run and organised by experts in the field of forced migration studies.

We very much look forward to holding the Online School again in 2022!

Find details of the Online School at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summerschool](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summerschool)

## International Summer School in Forced Migration

Looking ahead, in 2023 we hope to be in a position to offer both a two-week Summer School in person in Oxford, and a separate one-week Online School. The two-week in-person course offers participants an intensive, interdisciplinary and global approach to the study of forced migration, where practitioners learn from the best academics working in forced migration as well as from their fellow practitioners, and vice versa. In the last course in 2019, we welcomed 69 participants from over 35 countries to join 6 tutors in Oxford and 13 guest speakers.

Participants examine and assess different conceptualisations of forced migration, including legal, anthropological and political approaches. They analyse links between forced migration and processes and patterns of globalisation. The law module considers the 1951 refugee definition and sources of complementary protection. Optional modules and evening sessions focus on issues such as internally displaced peoples, Palestinian refugees, human trafficking and smuggling, psychosocial support and refugee health. Key issues raised by responses to forced migration are also examined.



Teaching sessions at the Summer School in 2018 and 2019, featuring Professor Tom Scott-Smith, Dr Catherine Briddick, and Professor Cathryn Costello



## 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 July 2021, Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC) and Professor Susan M Akram (Boston University School of Law) convened the course 'Palestine Refugees and International Law', held online for the first time. 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. We hope to be able to hold the course in person in Spring 2022.

For further information, visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/short-courses](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/short-courses)

## Visiting Fellowships

Visiting Fellowships provide an excellent opportunity for senior practitioners and policymakers as well as doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars and professional academics 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. They have full access to the University's academic facilities and are able to attend the RSC's weekly Public Seminar Series and the core seminar series of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. They can also present their work in the RSC Work-in-Progress Seminar Series.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we have been unable to host any Visiting Fellows during the past year. We will begin to open up the programme again in the 2021–2022 academic year. Through mutual exchange and learning, the presence of Visiting Fellows greatly enhances the academic work of the RSC, and we look forward to welcoming new Fellows soon.

For further information about the Visiting Fellowship programme, visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships)



Holywell Street, near to Queen Elizabeth House in Oxford

## RSC Library

The Refugee Studies collections are housed in the Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL) where readers benefit 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. We were pleased to be able to re-open the physical site, as a key hub library, during the past academic year with seat booking and anti-COVID measures in place.

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 also continues to expand with the purchase of 39 new monographs this year for both research and teaching purposes. 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 benefited increasingly from electronic book and e-journal acquisitions. This has been particularly crucial during the COVID-19 period. There are presently over 24,000 e-books on refugee-related topics and 255,000 electronic articles accessible via SOLO, with 180 new e-book titles bought for the forced migration and international development field this year. The Bodleian Libraries also provided access to a new database, Border and Migration Studies Online.

The Centre's MSc students continued to benefit 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 virtual 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 digital technologies in migration and refugee management; climate-related displacement throughout the Pacific; and France's response to Indochinese refugees in the 1970s. The Libguide for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies also continued to be a well-used tool for locating online and print resources and is available at <http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/refugee-studies>.

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



The Social Science Library

# Mixed migration, fragmented protection: the politics of visibility and protection in the Southern Mediterranean

Chloe Marshall-Denton  
DPhil candidate

Here Chloe Marshall-Denton discusses a key element of her DPhil research on humanitarian engagement with displacement in the Mediterranean – the concept of mixed migration and the institutional interests at play in using the mixed migration framing.

Mixed migration, mixed movements, and mixed flows have become ubiquitous terms in migration parlance, characterised by a proliferation of NGO, international organisation, and state publications on the subject. Common to the various iterations of the concept of mixed migration is the understanding of refugees and migrants moving along the same migratory routes, requiring varying forms of protection. Yet, more than describing a migratory phenomenon, along the ‘Central Mediterranean Route’ the main institutional actors of protection, UNHCR and IOM, are incentivised to deploy a ‘mixed migration narrative’ to frame their operational contexts. The concept has moved beyond the discursive and become an operational framework through which these central actors enter the landscape of migration management, establish boundaries between refugees and migrants, and act upon their designated target groups via so-called protection programming. The mixed migration framework thus allows for the performance of a ‘division of labour’ between UNHCR and IOM, carried out within the broader context of managing migration.

Looking at UNHCR and IOM’s practices of protection in Tunisia and Libya, two key countries along the ‘Central Mediterranean Route’, my doctoral research explores the institutional interests at play in deploying the mixed migration framing. It explores how the framing, with its close association to irregular migration and onward movement to Europe, and the forms of visibility it generates, shape the structures and boundaries from which protection is exercised, who gets seen as worthy of visibility and protection, and the ways in which that protection is carried out. More specifically, in this context, the discursive and material hyper-visibility of ‘people on the move’ has become a currency around which converge disparate interests of protection and control in the Mediterranean context, with material consequences on the distribution of visibility and a stratification in the forms of protection afforded. The so-called ‘people on the move’ take position as the hyper-visible embodiment of the mixed migration context, while other groups, including individuals not

considered ‘at risk’ of onward movement, are placed at varying positions of UNHCR’s vision and care.

Extending existing research on the partial and selective nature of institutional visibility, I thus consider the worth ascribed to making some individuals visible and knowable as subjects of protection. From this emerges a contingency of visibility and protection in which UNHCR and IOM have a stake in protecting ‘their’ people on the move, while allowing for the peripheral forms of visibility of others. Through this, UNHCR and IOM have positioned themselves as attractive partners in ‘managing mixed migration’, or the perceived risk of onward movement to Europe, hinging on each agency claiming responsibility over their respective people on the move. Of this context is thus born a specific division of labour between UNHCR and IOM, which is fundamentally predicated on the unmixing of ‘refugees’ and ‘migrants’ and the boundary-drawing of individuals making up the ‘people on the move’. The praxis of that unmixing, and the categorical manipulation involved, however, shed light on the malleability of the refugee and migrant categories and their increasing unmooring from their conceptual underpinnings, with consequences on how protection is understood and practiced.



Chloe Marshall-Denton



Staff from UNHCR and IOM help refugees and migrants disembark an Italian Coast Guard ship in Catania, Italy, 2018

© UNHCR/Alessio Manno

# The RefMig project: focusing on refugee mobility, recognition and rights

Cathryn Costello,<sup>1</sup> Caroline Nalule,<sup>2</sup> Derya Ozkul,<sup>2</sup> Angela Sherwood,<sup>2</sup> Jessica Breauh,<sup>3</sup> Natalie Welfens,<sup>3</sup> and Tamara Wood<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, RSC, <sup>3</sup>Postdoctoral Researcher, Hertie School, Berlin, and

<sup>4</sup>Doctoral candidate, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW

The RefMig project examines the global refugee and migration regime, in particular the practices that seek to sort refugees from migrants. At its heart lie two strands of research, *Recognising Refugees* and *Organisations of Protection*.

*Recognising Refugees* examines the practices that seek to identify refugees, from forms of mass recognition to individualised refugee status determination (RSD). In particular, it seeks to inform a global overview on these practices, including the significant role of UNHCR in determining refugee status in over 50 states. The *Organisations of Protection* strand explores the role of international organisations in the global regimes, with a particular focus on the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and interactions between IOM and UNHCR. In the past year, we have had to develop new research approaches in light of the pandemic's impact on mobility, mindful of the increased burden it has placed on all those involved in the practices we study, above all asylum seekers and refugees themselves.

Recognition practices are remarkably understudied globally, so the *Recognising Refugees* strand sought to broaden the evidence-base on these practices, conducting or commissioning RefMig Country Profiles of Brazil, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Niger, South Africa, and Uganda. The profiles explore the norms, institutions and practices that govern refugee recognition. We also supported an issue of *Forced*

*Migration Review* (November 2020, Issue No. 65) with 21 short articles describing challenges around studying recognition practices, limitations to accessing legal representation, age assessments for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, challenges in recognising stateless refugees, reasons for not seeking recognition, and diverse recognition practices in Canada, China, Cameroon, Egypt, India, Brazil, Peru, the EU, Italy, Portugal, Greece, and group recognition of Venezuelans in Brazil. The issue also highlights the various institutions involved in RSD globally, including multi-member panels, the UNHCR, the handover of RSD from UNHCR to state authorities, and adaptability of RSD institutions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

To give a flavour of the findings, Dr Caroline Nalule's Report on South Africa, for example, highlights the discord between the country's normative framework and the asylum system that is notorious for high rejection rates of over 90% and very long waiting periods that in some cases run to a decade. Her study of Kenya highlights the importance of UNHCR handover practices, when it seeks to build state capacity in political contexts which may be hostile to refugees.



Syrian refugees in Lebanon face dire conditions, made worse by the economic crisis in the country and COVID-19

© UNHCR/Diego Ibarra Sanchez



Refugees wait to be processed at a refugee registration centre at Kakuma camp, Kenya

Dr Derya Ozkul's report on Lebanon casts light on an important case, a state that receives large numbers of asylum seekers, yet is not a party to the Refugee Convention, and where UNHCR takes on a lead role. In this context, refugee recognition provides only limited protection, with some access to humanitarian aid and the very slight prospect of resettlement. Overall, in their fieldwork with asylum seekers and refugees, Derya and Rita Jarrous have found that applicants often found these processes obscure, leaving them susceptible to rumours.<sup>1</sup>

UNHCR mandate RSD practices are relatively opaque, when compared with many national systems where at least appeal processes and decisions are public. In seeking to get a better understanding of UNHCR's practices, RefMig is currently running three surveys, of current and former UNHCR decision-makers, as well as legal aid providers. The surveys, designed with Dr Jessica Breaugh at the Hertie School, explore UNHCR's use of presumptions of inclusion, its adherence to its own Procedural Standards, and perceptions of fairness of the processes. For the final stages of the project, Dr Tamara Wood (UNSW) is undertaking a study of *prima facie* recognition across African Union states, while Dr Natalie Welfens has joined the team at Hertie. Her previous work has focused on resettlement and gendered dimensions of inclusion and exclusion.<sup>2</sup> Her planned RefMig research builds on these insights, and will explore the EU's approach to resettlement, and discretionary resettlement practices across different national contexts.

RefMig's second strand, *Organisations of Protection*, examines the role of international organisations in the global migration regime, and how these roles impact the scope of international protection. One particular focus is on IOM. This strand, led by Dr Angela Sherwood, culminated in several publications, notably a collection edited by Angela, Professor Megan Bradley (McGill University) and Professor Cathryn Costello entitled *IOM Unbound: Obligations and Accountability in an Era of Expansion* (Cambridge University Press 2022). The collection brings together legal and political insights into the IOM, making a significant contribution not only to the literature on IOM, but

to the scholarship on international organisation accountability generally. Contributors include leading legal scholars on international organisations (Professor Helmut Philipp Aust, Freie Universität Berlin; Professor Jan Klabbers, University of Helsinki; Dr Stian Øby Johansen, University of Oslo) and political scientists with expertise on international organisations (Professor Christian Kreuder-Sonnen, Friedrich Schiller University Jena; Professor Nina Hall, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies).

Chapters also assess IOM's legal and political obligations in underexplored aspects of its activities, including fair recruitment (Professor Janie Chuang, American University Washington College of Law); internal displacement (Dr Brid Ní Ghráinne, Maynooth University), and its engagement with international humanitarian law in conflict scenarios (Professor Geoff Gilbert, University of Essex). Cathryn and Angela's chapter reconsiders IOM's practices and obligations around immigration detention, while Angela and Megan write on the underdeveloped role of INGOs, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, in holding IOM to account for human rights violations. The volume aims to clarify IOM's legal and political obligations, and suggest appropriate mechanisms to ensure accountability, both political and legal.

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<sup>2</sup> Natalie Welfens and Saskia Bonjour (2021) 'Families first? The mobilization of family norms in refugee resettlement', *International Political Sociology*, 15 (2), 212-231, doi: 10.1093/ips/olaa022; Natalie Welfens and Yasemin Bekyol (2021) 'The politics of vulnerability in refugee admissions under the EU Turkey statement', *Frontiers*, doi: 10.3389/fpos.2021.622921.

RefMig is a collaborative project based at the RSC and the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School in Berlin. For more information, see the project website: [www.refmig.org](http://www.refmig.org)

# Legacies of war: why it matters how refugees remember conflict and displacement

**Kathrin Bachleitner**

IKEA Foundation Research Fellow in International Relations

We present here the work of Dr Kathrin Bachleitner, the IKEA Foundation Research Fellow, based at the RSC and Lady Margaret Hall. Her research at the RSC builds on her past work on collective memory and how countries and their societies deal with traumatic pasts, with a focus on Europe and the Middle East.

## Legacies of war and their link to societal meaning-making

Undoubtedly, wars and conflict leave their impact on people, societies, countries and the global community. The scars of war are first and foremost visible in the individuals affected by it through personal loss, death, displacement, injury or poverty. Similarly, collectives, that is, countries and their societies, experience physical and economic devastation and mass migration movements through violent conflict, in addition to a loss of communal ties. The International Relations (IR) literature broadly subsumes these individual and collective war experiences under the term ‘legacies of war’. However, what precisely is such a legacy of war, and how does it impact people and societies?

## Looking back is looking forward

My work explores the meaning and construction of legacies of war. I argue that collective and individual experiences of past conflict and displacement are transported into the present through what the interdisciplinary literature calls ‘memory’ (e.g. Gillis 1994). By looking back, affected people and their political leaders try to make sense of what happened to them as a group. This process unfolds through forming a consistent story or ‘narrative’ about the experience of war and displacement. Be it individual or collective, these processes of narration are intrinsically linked with the construction of social identities (Cruz 2000). We are the stories that we tell about ourselves; equally, a state’s identity is based on its national narrative (Ringmar 1996). Therefore, when narratives describe what happened to the group or individual in the past or, more precisely, when conflicts are narrated, these narratives also form who the individual or group is in the present and wants to be in the future.

## To remember is to ‘re-member’ a group

Based on the interdisciplinary literature on memory, in my work ‘remembering’ becomes framed as a social process that literally re-members (as in, ‘constitutes’) a group. Such a link between memory and group membership has so far been established across the social sciences and humanities only when it comes to countries. Nearly all works on nationalism are underwritten by Anderson’s (1983) famous assumption that narratives of the past shape a sense of group belonging to an ‘imagined community’ such

as the nation. In the ideal case, this past references victories and glories, but it may equally include tragic and traumatic experiences (Assmann 2016). From a nationalistic perspective, the latter does not only have negative consequences for a collective: ‘Suffering unites’, stated Ernest Renan (1882) in his famous Sorbonne lecture in response to his question of ‘What is a nation?’. It follows that for national purposes and to foster social cohesion, political actors everywhere, especially in times of conflict and afterwards, put forward an official narrative of the past to forge unity among the members of society while broadening the loyalty base and legitimacy of their political claims.

## Individual narratives of conflict and displacement

Nevertheless, on the societal level, individuals, too, remember the conflict that they experienced. Ordinary people also narrate what happened to them individually and as a group, thus moulding the legacy of war for their community. This part of the formation of war legacies is often overlooked within the political sciences, particularly in IR’s state-level analyses. However, individuals also do memory work through their narratives, and the outcome is likely to look different from the memory work done by political elites. My research is particularly interested in people’s narratives

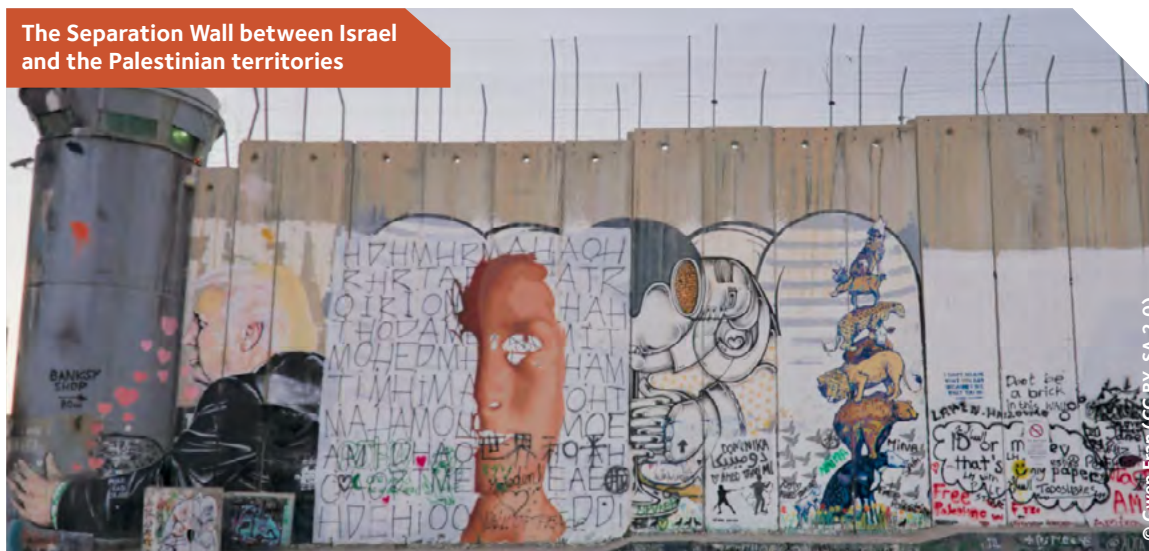


**Kathrin Bachleitner**



**Refugees line up at Asfinag transit centre in Austria waiting to board the bus to the German border in 2015**

## The Separation Wall between Israel and the Palestinian territories



of conflict and their changing sense of group belonging connected to it. I analyse how individuals, mainly those who have become refugees or IDPs, through their narratives, interweave themselves with a collective which they have either left behind or seek to reconstruct.

### Social trauma as a time of societal ‘meaning-making’

With its focus on individual and social recollection efforts in the wake of wars, my work builds on the emerging literature on ‘collective trauma’ (e.g. Edkins 2003; Alexander 2012). Trauma is the moment that T.S. Eliot described so epically in his *Four Quartets* as ‘the still point of the turning world’. For individuals, when war and displacement suddenly rupture their reality, the traumatic event throws ‘into question all the accommodations that people have made in order to carry on with their everyday lives’ (Edkins 2002). However, borrowed from the insights offered in the psychological literature (e.g. Caruth 1995), trauma ‘traumatizes’ people not in the often assumed sense of ‘shocking’, i.e. ‘muting’ its victims. It instead opens people’s eyes towards their vulnerability, and in the case of collectives, towards their community. Traumatic events, therefore, touch on nothing less than existence: who a person is (individual identity) and the meaning of the community (group belonging) undergo serious scrutiny in the event of conflict and displacement.

Nevertheless, while existing ties of belonging to the group in question are shattered through war trauma, war trauma also demands people revisit and reinvent communal meanings and boundaries. Through narrating what happened to the group in the past, people formulate claims about meaning-making vis-à-vis a social group in question. Translated into the terms of a bottom-up approach into legacies of war, individuals’ ‘narratives of conflict’ convey the rupture to the group (trauma) and, equally, the pathway of how the social group is going to be remoulded in the future.

### Narratives of conflict across Europe and the Middle East

For my empirical analysis, I selected historical and recent case studies. I have researched how diverse narratives of the Holocaust have formed social identities and political meanings in post-WWII Germany, Austria and Israel. In my most recent project, I examine how the

ongoing conflicts in Syria and the Palestinian Territories affected people’s sense of national belonging, political attitudes, and visions for peace. I am particularly interested in potential differences in narratives of refugees, internally displaced, and those who stayed in war-torn areas. My research is based on stories told by people and political elites, either in official documents or interviews, which I conduct together with student research assistants across Europe and the Middle East.

### Individuals as agents of peace

On a more general level and for the broader discipline of IR, my comparative analyses uncover the links between conflict, its memory, and group identity. I illustrate with social scientific methods how – independent of the specific time and context – any reinterpretation process of social meaning starts among the people and bears the potential to widen or contract the boundaries of collective identities in more inclusive or exclusive terms. With that, my findings also yield policy implications relevant to peace negotiations and the broader efforts of post-conflict reconstruction, refugee resettlement, and transitional justice. Crucially, and going beyond the theoretical insights interesting for IR and Political Science as an academic discipline, my work on war legacies highlights the role of individuals, and particularly refugees, in these processes; this time, however, not as passive and manipulated victims but as active agents of peace.

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Kathrin’s book *Collective Memory in International Relations* is published by Oxford University Press (2021).

# The Refugee Economies Programme: a year in review

Alexander Betts,<sup>1</sup> Naohiko Omata,<sup>2</sup> Olivier Sterck,<sup>3</sup> and Maria Flinder Stierna<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs, <sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, <sup>3</sup>Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer, and <sup>4</sup>Research Assistant

The Refugee Economies Programme, funded mainly by the IKEA Foundation, undertakes research on the economic lives of refugees. It aims to understand and explain variation in the economic behaviour of and outcomes for refugees. It has covered themes such as welfare outcomes, social cohesion between refugees and hosts, and migration and mobility. It also undertakes impact evaluations to assess the impact of market-based interventions such as cash-based assistance, entrepreneurship training, and employment-creation schemes.

Over the past year, we have completed the cleaning of the original Refugee Economies Dataset. With an initial focus on Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, the dataset covers urban and rural areas, refugees and hosts, and includes multiple data collection periods. It includes over 16,000 refugees and host community members from across six research sites, and we plan to make it available for use by other researchers in 2022.

We have been working on a series of publications based on the Dataset, as well as complementary qualitative research and a series of impact evaluations. These include a paper on ‘Social Cohesion and the Role of Refugee-Host Community Interaction’, commissioned by the World Bank, UNHCR, and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The paper explores the relevance

of the ‘contact hypothesis’ (that greater inter-group interaction leads to more positive host community perceptions of refugees) in relation to refugees in East Africa. Another paper is on ‘Refugee Mobility: Evidence from East Africa’, in which we have used the Dataset to examine the under-researched question of refugee mobility patterns in the Global South, both describing and explaining patterns of refugee mobility. Finally, a third paper focuses on ‘The Economic Lives of Refugees’, describing and explaining variation in the economic lives of refugees across contexts and populations.

The Programme has produced a number of new publications. Alexander Betts published *The Wealth of Refugees: How Displaced People Can Build Economies* (Oxford University Press), which explores



Research assistants taking SPD coordinates of IKEA solar lamps in Hilaweyn camp, Dollo Ado, in 2020

© RSC/R.Bradenbrink



the broad question of what sustainable refugee policies can look like for the twenty-first century. It is structured around four parts – ethics (what is right?), economics (what works?), politics (what persuades?), and policy (what next?). It argues that although we live in an age of displacement characterised by rising displacement numbers and declining political commitment to asylum, optimism should come from recognising and building upon the contributions of refugees themselves. Key ideas from the book have been presented, for example, to the Government of Canada, discussed on CNN, and cited in *The Economist*. Across the team, other peer reviewed articles have been published in *African Affairs*, *Review of International Studies*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, and *Disasters*.

The Programme has continued to have policy impact. The team’s impact evaluation of the IKEA Foundation’s \$100m investment in the Dollo Ado camps was published as not only a final report but also two policy briefs and a documentary film, directed by Raphael Bradenbrink. The evaluation has played an influential role in shaping UNHCR and the IKEA Foundation’s programming in the five Dollo Ado camps in Ethiopia, and led to wider reflection on the role of the private sector in promoting refugee livelihoods around the world. We also published a policy report, based on an evaluation commissioned by the World Food Programme, entitled ‘Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement’, which has been influential in shaping policy recognition on the strengths and weaknesses of cash assistance programmes for refugees.

Between 5 July and 13 August 2021, the Programme welcomed five research interns from the University’s ‘UNIQ+’ graduate access summer school. The team engaged in a series of lectures and talks, and, worked on a shared project relating to ‘Gender and the Economic Lives of Refugees’ based on access to our quantitative and qualitative data. They produced a draft working



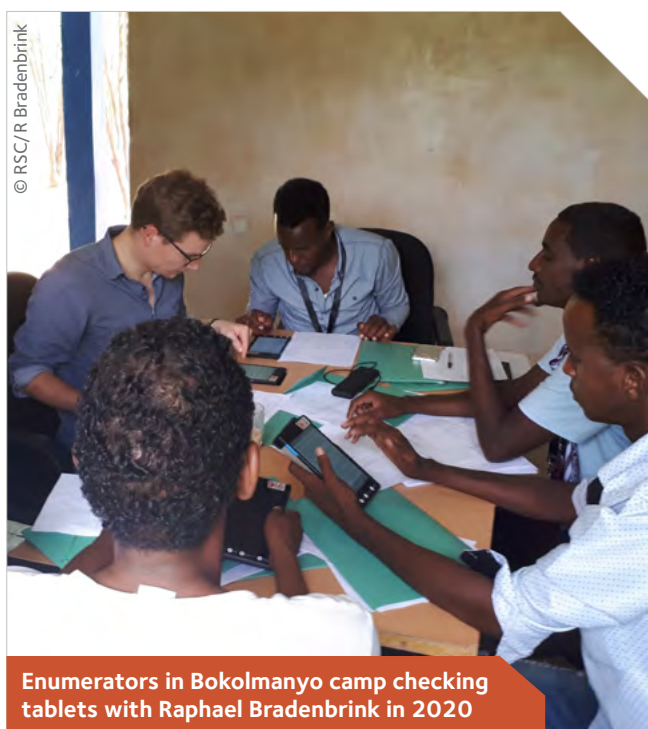
Food distribution in Bokolmanyo camp, Ethiopia

paper exploring female refugee entrepreneurship and the gendered income gap between refugees in East Africa, which will be published as an RSC working paper.

Alexander Betts also recently assumed the role of Chair of the KNOMAD Working Group on ‘Forced Displacement and Development’. KNOMAD is a World Bank-led trust fund for research relating to migration. The Working Group’s co-chairs are the OECD and the World Bank, and the role will allow new research to be funded and commissioned in areas relating to the research agenda of the Refugee Economies Programme, including relating to themes such as ‘Gender and Refugee Economies’ and ‘The Labour Market Integration of Refugees’.

The Programme will launch a series of new research projects in October 2021, which will explore emerging themes that build on our previous research. These will include areas such as cross-border economic strategies (led by Naohiko Omata); shocks, vulnerability, and coping strategies (led by Olivier Sterck); the political economy of socio-economic rights (led by Alexander Betts); and the gendered economic lives of refugees (led by Maria Flinder Stierna). All of these new research projects will continue to focus mainly on East Africa.

To find out more how to support the work of the Refugee Economies Programme, see our website [www.refugee-economies.org](http://www.refugee-economies.org), which includes a library of research, or contact [madison.bakewell@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:madison.bakewell@qeh.ox.ac.uk)



Enumerators in Bokolmanyo camp checking tablets with Raphael Bradenbrink in 2020

A food festival unites refugees and locals on World Refugee Day in Rome, Italy



© UNHCR/Alessandro Penso



Rohingya refugee children play in Camp 21 at Chakmarkul settlement, Teknaf, eastern Bangladesh, after heavy monsoon rains

© UNHCR/Anos Halder

# The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law

Cathryn Costello,<sup>1</sup> Michelle Foster,<sup>2</sup> and Jane McAdam<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Andrew W Mellon Professor of International Refugee and Migration Law, RSC, and Professor of Fundamental Rights and Co-Director, Centre For Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin, <sup>2</sup>Professor and Director, Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, Melbourne Law School, and <sup>3</sup>Scientia Professor of Law and Director of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW Sydney

*The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law* provides a state-of-the-art, comprehensive analysis of the field of international refugee law. It brings together the scholarship of 78 authors from around the world, driven by the hard work and creativity of its three editors, Professors Cathryn Costello, Michelle Foster, and Jane McAdam.

*The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law* is part of Oxford University Press's Handbook series. Each Handbook is an authoritative collection of original research which critically examines the progress and direction of scholarly debates in a given field, as well as setting the foundations for future research. Published in May 2021, this Handbook is a monumental work of 65 chapters. It aims to be global in scope, with 10 chapters devoted to specific regional groupings including Africa, Latin America, Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East. The book covers a wide range of themes, from the ethics and politics of international refugee law; to key 'rights and realities' of refugees; to gaps in both law and implementation.

In setting out to create the Handbook, the editors sought to capture the status quo in international refugee law, and much more. We invited (and frequently cajoled) contributors to break new academic ground in their chapters. We encouraged authors to approach their subjects critically and from different starting points. We chose contributors at various career stages, and from around the globe. Some chapters necessarily lent themselves to a more doctrinal approach, providing a clear elucidation of the state of the law, its effectiveness, and its future trajectory. Others were more iconoclastic, questioning foundational practices and legal assumptions. The result is a 65-chapter reference work involving 78 authors, of whom 48 are women. As we noted in our joint introduction: 'The gender (im)balance of the authors and editors reflects a notable feminization of this field of study, one which has decisively influenced its development.'

The resulting Handbook differs significantly from existing reference works on international refugee law, in terms of both its breadth and its depth. In terms of law, we sought to ensure consideration of a wide range of international legal instruments relevant to refugee protection. While the Refugee Convention and Protocol are central instruments and reference points, they are not the only ones. Instead, refugee protection involves many other sources of law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international migration law, the law of the sea, and international and transnational criminal law.



Cathryn Costello, Jane McAdam and Michelle Foster

It was an honour to have the Handbook launched by the distinguished feminist international legal scholar Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Melbourne Laureate Professor at Melbourne Law School and Distinguished Professor at the Australian National University. A video is available here: [www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/event/join-us-launch-oxford-handbook-international-refugee-law](http://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/event/join-us-launch-oxford-handbook-international-refugee-law)

The Handbook was supported by a research partnership between Professors Foster and Costello funded by the MLS-Oxford Myers fund; the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney; and the Refugee Studies Centre.



# 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, weekly public and work-in-progress 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



Professor Jan-Werner Müller delivers the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture

### Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2020

This year's Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture was held online in November. Given by Professor Jan-Werner Müller (Princeton University), the lecture was titled **Democracy after Right-Wing Populism**.

While it is often said that populism is both a threat and a corrective for democracy, the lecture asked, what is it that might have to be 'corrected'? Often the answer is a crude sociological claim about 'the left-behinds' or 'somewheres', or about the failures of 'liberal elites' (who are regularly accused of being too friendly towards refugees). Professor Müller suggested that we should focus less on persons and more on institutions – especially the intermediary powers which have been deemed crucial for the proper functioning of representative democracy ever since the 19th century: political parties and free media. Both are in crisis. In the lecture, he suggested concrete ways to address this crisis.

The Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture takes place in Michaelmas term each year. It is named in honour of Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, the founding Director of the Refugee Studies Centre.

The lecture is available to watch on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=14sTRwHmoky](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14sTRwHmoky)

### Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2021

The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2021 was given by Professor Heath Cabot (University of Pittsburgh) in May. In a lecture titled **The Afterlives of Return and the Limits of Refugee Protection**, Professor Cabot spoke movingly of the experiences of her friend Hussein, a refugee from Sudan living in Greece. Hussein returned to Sudan after being diagnosed with a serious illness, and died there last year.

Cabot states that “the very idea of return is grounded on a model of origins, of rootedness. And when taken uncritically can reassert...that idea that people are born into and must belong to a nation state, and otherwise they don't belong.”

In talking of the limits of refugee protection, she says: “having achieved the holy grail of refugee status, legal recognition in itself did not grant Hussein a liveable life. He had to do an awful lot of work to cobble one together.” The lecture highlights the importance of social networks and contacts for survival, increasingly so following the diagnosis of serious illness when you have no family members or close friends living nearby.

The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture is held in Trinity term, and is named after Professor Elizabeth Colson, a renowned anthropologist.

Watch the lecture at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoNsyckD7S0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoNsyckD7S0)



Professor Heath Cabot gives the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2021 online



## Public Seminar Series

Each term the RSC holds a series of public seminars, held on Wednesday evenings. This year the series have focused on, in Hilary term, Refugee histories in the Global South; in Trinity term, ‘Localising’ refugee research and practice; and in Michaelmas term, a variety of issues relating to different aspects of forced migration.

### Refugee histories in the Global South

Hilary term 2021

*Convened by Dr Anne Irfan*

How does forced migration look different if we examine it through a historical perspective? How have refugees been historical actors, as well as victims? This seminar series examined a range of topics that illuminate these questions, by examining the historical entanglements between migration, im/mobility, colonialism, race, and borders.

Seminars included: ‘International migration and the politics of naming displacement in the Biafran War’, with Professor Bonny Ibhawoh (McMaster University); ‘The international refugee regime and postcolonial sovereignty’ with a focus on Algeria, with Dr Malika Rahal (Institut d’histoire du temps présent) and Dr Benjamin Thomas White (Glasgow University); and ‘Rethinking forced migration: Legacies of the Greek-Turkish population exchange’, with Dr Aslı Iğsız (New York University).

### ‘Localising’ refugee research and practice

Trinity term 2021

*Convened by Dr Evan Easton-Calabria*

This public seminar series examined research on refugees and forced migration within the broader localisation agenda, as well as methodological attempts to ‘localise’ refugee research through co-creating and co-conducting research with refugees and local hosts. Through a blend of practically, methodologically, and theoretically focused seminars, the series aimed to present current research designs and methodologies involving refugee and local researchers, and the challenges and opportunities that lie therein, as well as theoretical work reflecting on issues of ethics and power. Concomitant with these discussions were ongoing examinations of the relationship between advocacy and scholarship, and the extent to which both can and should be met together.

Speakers included Dr Mayssoun Sukarieh (King’s College London), Dr Kristina Roepstorff (Ruhr University Bochum), Professor Giorgia Donà (Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging, University of East London), and Yahya Alaous (Founder, Zusammenwachsen NGO; Journalist, Die Suddeutsche Zeitung).

## Special seminar

### Current debates in the study and protection of displaced LGBT+ people

In February we held this special online panel discussion as part of LGBT+ History month. The event was organised and chaired by Samuel Ritholtz (DPhil candidate). Panellists included Eirene Chen (SOGIESC/LGBTI Consultant, UNHCR), Dr Mengia Tschalaer (Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Political Science at City University of New York, and Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies, University of Bristol), and Dr Kate Pincock (Research Associate, Refugee Studies Centre, and Researcher, ODI).

Videos of most online seminars are available at [www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre](http://www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre)

Audio podcasts of in-person seminars are available on the RSC website: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news) or on SoundCloud: [www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre](http://www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre)

# 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*, information resources, 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. We also produce an annual newsletter. 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](http://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.

Visit us online at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk)

### Rethinking Refuge

New articles added to the Rethinking Refuge website this year include:

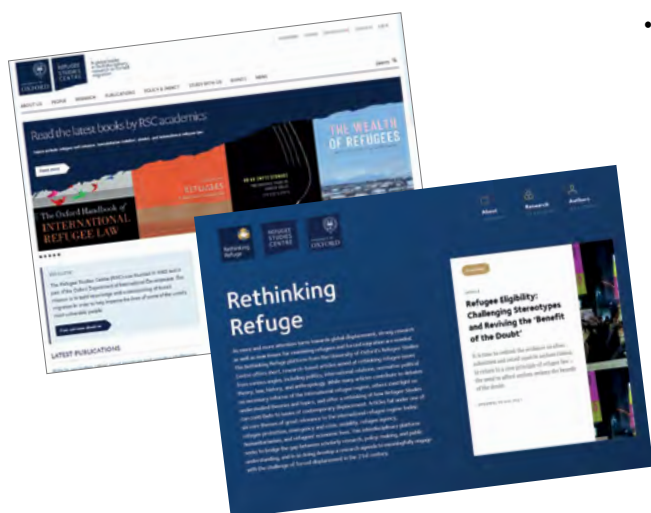
- **Refugee Eligibility: Challenging Stereotypes and Reviving the 'Benefit of the Doubt'**, by Sabrineh Ardalan (Clinical Professor of Law, Harvard University)
- **Making the Maritime Visible: Rethinking Humanitarianism at Sea**, by Imogen Dobie (DPhil candidate, RSC)
- **Unpacking the New EU Approach to Asylum and Migration**, by Dario Mazzola (University of Bergen and Executive Scientific Coordinator, Horizon 2020 PROTECT project)
- **Making responsibility-sharing operational: comparing asylum and climate governance**, by Philipp Lutz (University of Geneva), Anna Stünzi (University of St. Gallen), and Stefan Manser-Egli (University of Neuchâtel).

Online at [www.rethinkingrefuge.org](http://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 2020-2021:

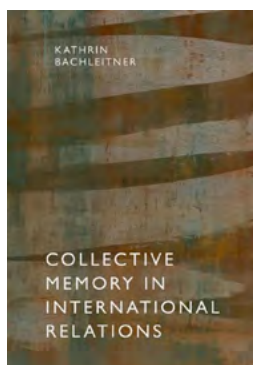
- On **Twitter**, we have over 40,000 followers: [@refugeestudies](https://twitter.com/refugeestudies)
- On **Facebook**, we have 26,000 followers: [www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre](https://www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre)
- Our **YouTube** channel has received over 13,600 views in the past year. Video playlists include Events, such as RSC online seminars and lectures; News, with staff media interviews; and Studying in Oxford: [www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre](https://www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre)
- Our podcast series on our **SoundCloud** channel registered over 2,800 plays over the past 12 months. This provides podcasts of in-person RSC seminars, Annual Lectures, and events such as the RSC conference: [www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre](https://www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre)



## New books

### Refugees: A Very Short Introduction

In his final book, Gil Loescher covers a broad range of issues around the causes and impact of the contemporary refugee crisis for both receiving states and societies, for global order, and for refugees and other forced migrants themselves, drawing on Gil's 40-year legacy as an authority on UNHCR and global refugee issues. Gil investigates the long history of the refugee phenomenon and how refugees became a central concern of the international community during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, as well as considering the responses provided by governments and international aid organisations to refugee needs. (Oxford University Press, May 2021)

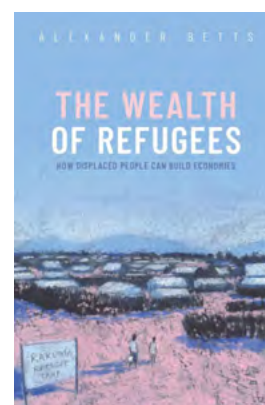


### Collective Memory in International Relations

Kathrin Bachleitner's new book traces the influence of collective memory in international relations (IR). It locates the origins of a country's memory within the international environment and inquires how memory guides states through time in world politics. Collective memory, as such, not only shapes countries and their international interactions, but the international sphere also plays an essential role in how countries approach the past. Through examinations of domestic and international landscapes in empirical cases, the book explores four ways in which collective memory can manifest in IR: as a country's political strategy; as its public identity; as its international state behaviour; and finally, as a source for its national values. (Oxford University Press, April 2021)

### The Wealth of Refugees: How Displaced People Can Build Economies

We live in an age of displacement. Refugee numbers are increasing due to a proliferation of fragile states, and this problem will be exacerbated by climate change and the impact of COVID-19. And yet, rising populist nationalism has undermined the political willingness of rich countries to accept migrants and asylum seekers. Given these contradictory trends, how can we create sustainable refugee policies that enable displaced people to live in safety and dignity, while operating at scale? In *The Wealth of Refugees*, Alexander Betts draws upon a decade of original qualitative and quantitative research to offer practical solutions. Focusing on refugees in camps and cities in Africa, he identifies approaches that can be effective in improving the welfare of refugees, increasing social cohesion between refugees and host communities, and reducing the need for onward migration. He argues that the key lies in unlocking the potential contributions of refugees themselves. Realising this potential relies upon moving beyond a purely humanitarian focus to fully include refugees in host-country economies, build economic opportunities in refugee-hosting regions, and navigate the ambiguous politics of refugee protection. (Oxford University Press, April 2021)



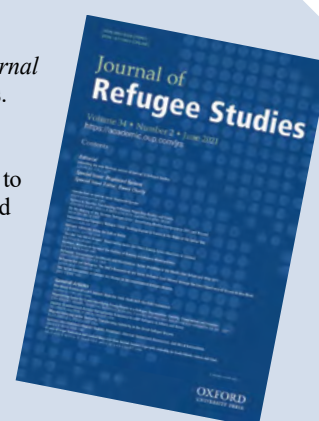
## Article awards

Anne Irfan won two awards this year for articles on Palestinian refugees. She won *Contemporary Levant's* Best Paper Award for 2020 for the article 'Petitioning for Palestine: Refugee appeals to international authorities'. She won the Alixa Naff Article Prize (awarded by the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies at NC State University) for her article 'Educating Palestinian refugees', published in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

## Journal special issue

Dawn Chatty co-edited the March 2021 issue of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* which focuses on **Displaced Syrians**. This special issue brings an inter and cross disciplinary focus on the forced migrations and exile of well over 7 million people from Syria in the 21st century. It sets out to examine how those displaced from Syria have negotiated the local, national, and international refugee regime and their various strategies for claiming refugee status, temporary 'guest hood', or other new identities and belongings.

The articles selected emerged from a workshop held at The Institute of New York University in Abu Dhabi in March 2019. Its aims were to encourage an examination of the perceptions and aspirations of displaced Syrians and practitioners in hosting countries in the Levant, the Gulf, and in Europe, with special attention to the voices of the displaced, their reimagining of home and homeland, and the emerging transnational sense of identity and belonging.



# Forced Migration Review

Forced Migration Review (FMR) is the in-house publication of the Refugee Studies Centre, published in four languages and disseminated globally in print and online. FMR is free of charge, supported financially by a range of donors.

Over the past 12 months, the FMR team has published three issues of FMR:

## FMR 65, November 2020

### Recognising refugees / GP20 Plan of Action

The main feature on recognising refugees (published in collaboration with the RefMig project at the Hertie School/ Refugee Studies Centre) explored a range of challenges and developments in refugee status determination around the world. The second feature offers reflections on lessons and good practice emerging from the 2018–20 GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs.

## FMR 66, March 2021

### Mental health and psychosocial support / Data and displacement / Missing migrants

In the first feature in this issue, 15 articles on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) explored the importance of MHPSS and the challenges inherent in this field, debated MHPSS initiatives, and advocated for strengthened collaboration and commitment. A second feature on data and displacement discussed recent advances in gathering and using data, the challenges that remain, and new approaches. In a third feature on missing migrants, authors explored initiatives to improve data gathering and sharing, identification of remains, and assistance for families left behind.

## FMR 67, July 2021

### Public health and WASH / Non-signatory States

This issue included a major feature on public health and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), in which authors discussed challenges, responses, and innovations across a wide range of settings, and identified learning to inform future public health and WASH work with forced migrants. In a second feature, authors explored the status of protection in Non-signatory States (States that have not ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol), examining in particular the role of UNHCR, civil society, and legal actors in facilitating access to protection for refugees and asylum seekers.

These and all previous issues are available at [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org) in HTML and PDF formats. Arabic, French and Spanish editions are accessible through the same website, using the relevant language tabs. If you would like to receive the publication by email or in print, visit [www.fmreview.org/request](http://www.fmreview.org/request)

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[www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org)

#### Forthcoming themes

- Externalisation
- Climate crisis and displacement
- Knowledge, voice and power

See [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming)



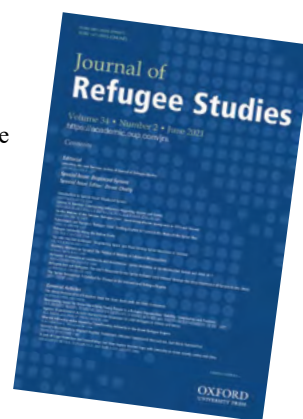


## Journal of Refugee Studies

The *Journal of Refugee Studies* (JRS) is published by Oxford University Press in association with the Refugee Studies Centre. In 2021, the editorship of the journal transferred from Dr Khalid Koser (Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland) to Professor Simon Turner (University of Copenhagen) and Professor Megan Bradley (McGill University). Dr Georgia Cole (University of Edinburgh) is the Reviews Editor. 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 from academics, policymakers and practitioners.

For further details, article abstracts, and information about how to subscribe to the journal, visit [www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org](http://www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org). Members of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration may subscribe at a reduced rate.



## New from the Refugee Economies Programme

### Refugee Economies Programme: Activities and Impact 2016-2021

This report gives an overview of the activities and impact of the Programme during the last five years. Its aim is to offer accessible summaries of Programme publications and other activities. It highlights the ways in which the Programme has collaborated with other organisations in order to ensure its research has impact. And – above all – it thanks all of the many contributors to this research, including the 290 research assistants who worked with the Programme in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, without whom all the work would not have been possible.



### Dollo Ado: Building Refugee Economies | New documentary

Written by Raphael Bradenbrink and Alexander Betts, and directed by Raphael Bradenbrink, this short film, highlights the key findings and lessons learned from a multi-year collaboration of the IKEA Foundation, UNHCR, and the Government in the Dollo Ado refugee camps in Ethiopia. Drawing upon the Programme’s impact evaluation, ‘Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation’s programmes in Dollo Ado’, the film provides a unique insight into the innovative livelihoods programmes that have been implemented in the five Dollo Ado camps.



## Research in Brief

### The IKEA Foundation and livelihoods in Dollo Ado: lessons from the cooperatives model and Building economies in refugee-hosting regions: lessons from Dollo Ado

Alexander Betts and Raphael Bradenbrink

From 2012–2018, the IKEA Foundation invested nearly \$100 million in UNHCR operations in the five refugee camps of Dollo Ado in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. The Refugee Economies Programme conducted an evaluation of this investment to understand how it has impacted refugee and host communities in this area. A full report was published in summer 2020, with two research briefs published in December 2020. The first focuses on one of the most innovative features of the programmes, a series of ‘cooperatives’, typically involving an equal number of refugees and host community members. The second focuses on lessons learned. In addition to leading to measurable improvements in socio-economic outcomes for the population, the programmes were pioneering in their attempt to build the economy of a remote refugee-hosting region. The lessons learned have wider policy implications for building economies in other remote refugee-hosting regions.



### Cash transfer models and debt in the Kalobeyei settlement

Olivier Sterck, Cory Rodgers, Jade Siu, Maria Flinder Stierna, and Alexander Betts

The use of cash transfer programmes in humanitarian contexts is growing. In comparison to in-kind assistance, cash transfers are praised for enhancing autonomy, reducing costs, and boosting local markets. Forms of cash transfer vary, from food vouchers to mobile money, and cash. Yet, evidence on the relative

merits of different models is scarce. Using data from refugee households in Kalobeyei, the authors make use of a ‘natural experiment’ to study the relative effects of restricted versus unrestricted cash transfers to refugees.



### IDPs in secondary cities: good practices and ongoing challenges from Ethiopia

Evan Easton–Calabria, Delina Abadi, and Gezahegn Gebremedhin

This brief presents a case study of Adama, Ethiopia, to demonstrate how local government can successfully respond to urban internally displaced people (IDPs). In 2018 Ethiopia experienced a huge increase in its IDP population. The authors present some of the major successful humanitarian and development responses, as well as the long-term development challenges that IDPs face, based on their research in Adama. They present good practices and recommendations, and highlight key areas for further action.



# 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.

Over the last year we have continued to benefit from the three-year grant from the IKEA Foundation that supports the Refugee Economies research in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. This funding has also made possible 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. We are extremely happy to note that the IKEA Foundation will from autumn 2021 support a range of research and teaching activities at the RSC with a new three-year grant. We are also grateful to the World Food Programme for supporting Refugee Economies research in Kenya.

The Martin James Foundation has generously supported the position of Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration during the last year. This position, held by Dr Catherine Briddick, has enabled important research on subjects such as discrimination in immigration controls and family reunion policies, and has also encouraged new research by our students.

We have also continued to receive the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to advance the study of forced migration. A short-term extension to our funding arrangement has enabled the funding for a number of small projects and bursaries for our online schools.

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

Our Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration, Dr Cory Rodgers, continued to be an essential part of our Centre, in both research and teaching over the last year. We acknowledge the generous support of Campion Hall and Jesuit Refugee Service Europe in making this position possible. We are particularly happy that funding has been made available to hire a new Arrupe Fellow in the coming year.

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, our Oxford Summer School, as well as to take the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The Online School and the Summer School together represent one of the most tangible ways in which we can have a direct impact on policy and

practice. Both the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the IKEA Foundation have been an essential source of bursaries for the Summer School in recent years.

The generosity of former students, colleagues and friends of Gil Loescher has enabled the Gil Loescher Memorial Fund to help students undertaking research at Oxford to get off to a strong start. We would particularly like to thank Katy Long, Mary Kober, Rosemary Foot, Matthew Fletcher, Jason Phillips, Irial Glynn, Daniel Saxon, James Milner, and Elisa Sisto. During the year a long running donor to the RSC, the Hon Mrs Sally Hogg, passed away. We send our condolences to her family and note here her generosity to the Centre.

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, including many of the research projects outlined in this Annual Report, 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.

The RSC's current development priorities are:

- The establishment of a two-year Early Career Research Fellowship in Forced Migration and Climate Change
- Bursaries for participants who have personal experience of displacement for the Online School in Forced Migration and the International Summer School in Forced Migration
- The Gil Loescher Memorial Fund

Please contact the RSC Director if you would like any further information.

## Donors

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

ACT Alliance/Kerk in Actie	Leverhulme Trust
ADRA International	Martin James Foundation
Arts & Humanities Research Council	Médecins Sans Frontières Luxembourg
Bosch Foundation	New York University
British Academy	Ockenden International
Child Resilience Alliance	Open Society Foundations
Cities Alliance/UNOPS	Oxford-MLS Research Partnership
Danish Refugee Council	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
Economic & Social Research Council	Scientia A/Prof Simon Rosenbaum
European Research Council	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
European Union	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	Tufts University School of Medicine
Global Whole Being Fund	UK Research and Innovation/Global Challenges Research Fund
GxJ Lab at Lurie Children's	UNHCR
IFRC Psychosocial Centre	UNICEF
IKEA Foundation	Women's Refugee Commission
International Committee of the Red Cross	World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement
International Development Research Centre	World Economic Forum
International Organization for Migration	World Food Programme
International Organization for Migration's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre	World Vision UK
Jesuit Refugee Service	
John Fell Fund	

# Academic record

## Books and edited volumes

**Bachleitner**, Kathrin (2020) *Collective Memory in International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Betts**, Alexander (2021) *The Wealth of Refugees: How Displaced People Can Build Economies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Chatty**, Dawn (special issue editor) (2021) 'Displaced Syrians', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, special issue, 34(2), 1284–1453.

**Costello**, Cathryn (with M. Foster and J. McAdam) (eds) (2021) *The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Chapters

**Briddick**, Catherine (with V. Stoyanova) (2021) 'Human Trafficking and Refugees', in C. Costello, M. Foster, and J. McAdam (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Chatty**, Dawn (with A. Ahearn) (2021) 'Asian and Middle Eastern Pastoralists', in Thornton, T. and Bhagwat, S. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Indigenous Environmental Knowledge*, London: Routledge Books, pp.111–125.

**Costello**, Cathryn (with Y. Ioffe) (2021) 'Non-penalization and Non-criminalization', in C. Costello, M. Foster and J. McAdam (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Costello**, Cathryn (with C. O'Cinnéide) (2021) 'The Right to Work', in C. Costello, M. Foster and J. McAdam (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Costello**, Cathryn (with L. Tsourdi) (2021) 'The Evolution of EU Law on Refugees and Asylum', in P. Craig and G. de Búrca (eds.) *The Evolution of EU Law* (4th edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Easton-Calabria**, Evan (2021) 'The Global Compact on Refugees and the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum: The Ripples of Responsibility-Sharing', in S. Carrera and A. Gedes (eds.) *The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in light of the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees*, Florence: European University Institute, pp. 125–133.

**Irfan**, Anne (2020) 'Whose agency? UNRWA and Palestinian refugees in history', in P. Stefanini (ed.) *UNRWA at 70: Palestinian Refugees in Context*, London: Palestinian Return Centre / Al Jazeera Center for Studies.

**Nalule**, Caroline (2021) 'Migration and Human Rights in Africa: The Policy and Legal Framework in Broad Strokes', in O. Abegunrin and S.O. Abidde (eds) *African Migrants and the Refugee Crisis*, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, pp. 96–111.

**Omata**, Naohiko (2021) 'The 'mobility turn': economic inequality in refugee livelihoods', in J.H. Cohen and I. Sirkeci (eds.) *Handbook of Culture and Migration*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 287–300.

## Articles

**Bachleitner**, Kathrin (2021) 'Legacies of war: Syrian narratives of conflict and visions of peace', *Cooperation and Conflict*, doi: 10.1177/00108367211032691.

**Betts**, Alexander (2021) 'Refugees and patronage: a political history of Uganda's 'progressive' refugee policies', *African Affairs*, 120(479), 243–276.

**Betts**, Alexander, and **Easton-Calabria**, Evan, (with K. Pincock) (2021) 'Localising public health: refugee-led organisations as first and last responders in COVID-19', *World Development*, 139, 105311.

**Betts**, Alexander, and **Easton-Calabria**, Evan (with K. Pincock) (2021) 'The rhetoric and reality of localisation: refugee-led organisations in humanitarian governance', *Journal of Development Studies*, 57(5), 719–734.

**Betts**, Alexander (with L. Kainz) (2021) 'Power and proliferation: explaining the fragmentation of global migration governance', *Migration Studies*, 9(1), 65–89.

**Betts**, Alexander, **Omata**, Naohiko and **Sterck**, Olivier (2021) 'Transnational blindness: international institutions and refugees' cross-border activities', *Review of International Studies*, doi: 10.1017/S0260210521000164.

**Brankamp**, Hanno (2020) 'Refugees in uniform: community policing as a technology of government in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya', *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 14(2), 270–290.

**Brankamp**, Hanno (with P. Daley) (2020) 'Labourers, migrants, refugees: managing belonging, bodies and mobility in (post)colonial Kenya and Tanzania', *Migration & Society*, 3(1), 113–129.

**Brankamp**, Hanno (2021) 'Camp abolition: ending carceral humanitarianism in Kenya (and beyond)', *Antipode*, doi: 10.1111/anti.12762.

**Brankamp**, Hanno (2021) 'Feeling the refugee camp: affectual research, bodies, and suspicion', *Area*, doi: 10.1111/area.12739.

**Brankamp**, Hanno (2021) 'Madmen, Womanisers, and Thieves': Moral disorder and the cultural text of refugee encampment in Kenya', *AFRICA: Journal of the International African Institute*, 91(1), 153–176.

**Briddick**, Catherine (2020) 'Combating or enabling domestic violence? Evaluating the residence rights of migrant victims of domestic violence in Europe', *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, 69(4), 1013–1034.

**Briddick**, Catherine (2021) 'Some complex legal questions examined from a legal perspective in a partial and passionate manner', *EU Law Analysis blog*, 3 April.

**Chatty**, Dawn (2020) 'Commentary: When hospitality turns into hostility in prolonged forced migration', *International Migration*, 58(3), 258–260.

**Easton-Calabria**, Evan (with C. Gros, M. Bailey, K. Dags, E. Coughlan, M. Sharavnyambuu, A. Kruczkiewicz) (2020) 'The effectiveness of forecast-based humanitarian assistance: Evidence from an intervention for vulnerable herders in Mongolia', *Disasters*, doi: 10.1111/disa.12467.

**Easton-Calabria**, Evan (with J. Wood) (2020) 'Bridging, Bonding, and Linking? Syrian refugee-led organisations and integration in Berlin', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, doi: 10.1080/1369183X.2020.1788928.

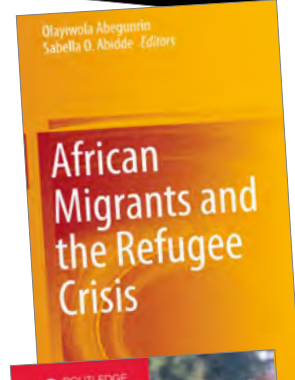
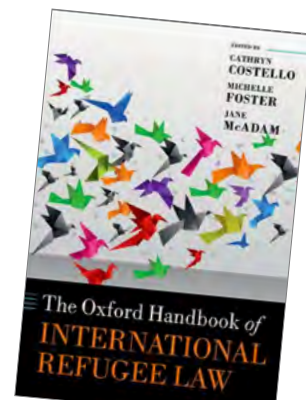
**Easton-Calabria**, Evan (2021) 'Success twinned by challenge: an urban IDP response in Ethiopia', *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 39(4), 525–536.

**Easton-Calabria**, Evan (with A. Tozier de la Poterie, Y. Clatworthy, E. Coughlan de Perez, S. Lutz, and M. van Aalst) (2021) 'Managing multiple hazards: lessons from anticipatory humanitarian action for climate disasters during COVID-19', *Climate and Development*, doi: 10.1080/17565529.2021.1927659.

**Gibney**, Matthew J. (2020) 'Denationalisation and discrimination', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 46(12), 2551–2568.

**Godin**, Marie (with G. Donà) (2021) 'Rethinking transit zones: migrant trajectories and transnational networks in Techno-Borderscapes', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47(14), 3276–3292.

**Godin**, Marie (with M. Czaika) (2021) 'Disentangling the migration-development nexus using QCA', *Migration and Development*, doi: 10.1080/21632324.2020.1866878.





**Irfan, Anne** (2020) 'Petitioning for Palestine: refugee appeals to international authorities', *Contemporary Levant*, 5(2), 79–96.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2020) 'Book review of Derese G. Kassa. Refugee Spaces and Urban Citizenship in Nairobi: Africa's Sanctuary City', *African Studies Review*, 63(4), 49–51.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2020) 'Over-researched' and 'under-researched' refugee groups: exploring the phenomena, causes and consequences, *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, 12(3), 681–695.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2021) 'Refugee livelihoods: a comparative analysis of Nairobi and Kakuma Camp in Kenya', *Disasters*, 45(4), 865–886.

**Ozkul, Derya** (2020) 'Participatory Research: Still a One-Sided Research Agenda?', *Migration Letters*, 17(2), 229–237.

**Ozkul, Derya** (with R. Jarrous) (2021) 'How do refugees navigate the UNHCR's bureaucracy? The role of rumours in accessing humanitarian aid and resettlement', *Third World Quarterly*, doi: 10.1080/01436597.2021.1928487.

**Ozkul, Derya** (with R. Williamson, M. Arias Cubas, C. Maas, C. Kim, E. Koleth, and S. Castles) (2021) 'Migration and social transformation through the lens of locality: a multi-sited study of experiences of neighbourhood transformation', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, doi: 10.1080/1369183X.2021.1929107.

**Rodgers, Cory** (2020) 'Identity as a lens on livelihoods: insights from Turkana, Kenya', *Nomadic Peoples*, 24(2), 241–254.

**Rodgers, Cory** (with M. Talil) (2021) 'Whether or not Kenya closes its camps, much damage has been done,' *African Arguments*, 9 April.

**Scott-Smith, Tom** (2020) 'Building a bed for the night: the Parisian "Yellow Bubble" and the politics of humanitarian architecture', *Humanity*, 11(3), 317–331.

**Sterck, Olivier** (with J. Gazeaud and E. Mvukiyehe) (2020) 'Cash transfers and migration: theory and evidence from a randomized controlled trial', *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, doi: 10.1162/rest\_a\_01041.

**Sterck, Olivier** (with F.H. Ferreira, D.G. Mahler, and B. Decerf) (2021) 'Death and destitution: the global distribution of welfare losses from the COVID-19 Pandemic', *LSE Public Policy Review*, 1(4).

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**Sterck, Olivier** (with C. MacPherson) (2021) 'Empowering refugees through cash and agriculture: a regression discontinuity design', *Journal of Development Economics*, 149, 102614.

**Zetter, Roger** (2021) 'Refugees and their return home: unsettling matters' *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 34(1), 7–22.

## Papers and reports

**Betts, Alexander, Marden, Andonis, Bradenbrink, Raphael, and Kaufmann, Jonas** (2021) 'Building Refugee Economies: A Evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's Programmes in Dollo Ado', Refugee Studies Centre, report.

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, Sterck, Olivier, and Flinder Stierna, Maria** (2021) 'Social Cohesion and Inter-Group Interaction Between Refugees and Hosts in East Africa: An Instrumental Variable Approach', prepared for World Bank, UNHCR, and FCDO.

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, Sterck, Olivier, Siu, Jade, Flinder Stierna, Maria, and Marden, Andonis** (2021) 'Refugee Economies Programme: Activities and Impact 2016–2021', Refugee Studies Centre, report.

**Irfan, Anne** (2020) 'An Unusual Revolution: The Palestinian thawra in Lebanon, c. 1969–82', *Durham Middle East Paper No. 103*, Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Durham University.

**Nalule, Caroline** (with J.D. Handmaker) (2021) 'Border enforcement policies and reforms in South Africa (1994–2020)', ISS Working Paper Series / General Series, No. 686, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

**Ozkul, Derya** (2020) 'Policy Recommendations Towards Immigrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees for during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic', Istanbul: ISTANPOL [in Turkish].

**Sterck, Olivier, Rodgers, Cory, Siu, Jade, Flinder Stierna, Maria, and Betts, Alexander** (2020) 'Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement', Refugee Studies Centre, report.

**Zetter, Roger** (2020) 'Rohingya in South East Asia: Opportunities for engagement', Two volume study commissioned by the Asia Solutions Displacement Platform (ASDP) funded by DANIDA.

## RSC Research in Brief Series

**Sterck, Olivier, Rodgers, Cory, Siu, Jade, Flinder Stierna, Maria, and Betts, Alexander** (2020) 'Cash transfer models and debt in the Kalobeyei settlement', RSC Research in Brief 15, Refugee Studies Centre.

**Easton-Calabria, Evan, Abadi, Delina, and Gebremedhin, Gezahegn** (2021) 'IDPs in secondary cities: good practices and ongoing challenges from Ethiopia', RSC Research in Brief 16, Refugee Studies Centre.

**Betts, Alexander and Bradenbrink, Raphael** (2020) 'The IKEA Foundation and livelihoods in Dollo Ado: lessons from the cooperatives model', RSC Research in Brief 17, Refugee Studies Centre.

**Betts, Alexander and Bradenbrink, Raphael** (2020) 'Building economies in refugee-hosting regions: lessons from Dollo Ado', RSC Research in Brief 18, Refugee Studies Centre.

## RSC Working Paper Series

**Starfield, Gina**. 'Forging strategic partnerships: how civil organisers and lawyers helped unaccompanied children cross the English Channel and reunite with family members.' No. 133, October 2020.

**Kinani, Haneen**. 'Exiled within: between citizenship and the struggle for return for internal Palestinian refugees in Israel.' No. 134, March 2021.

**Albanese, Francesca P. and Takkenberg, Lex**. 'Rethinking solutions for Palestinian refugees: a much-needed paradigm shift and an opportunity towards its realization.' No. 135, May 2021.

**Lilly, Damian**. 'Palestinian refugees and the Global Compact on Refugees.' No. 136, May 2021.

## Documentary films

**Betts, Alexander and Bradenbrink, Raphael** (2021) 'Dollo Ado: Building Refugee Economies', Refugee Studies Centre (available on YouTube).

## Selected presentations

- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2020) 'The sources of values-based behaviour among states. The example of European responses to the refugee crisis', European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) conference, University of Innsbruck (online), August.
- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2021) 'National narratives and the construction of moral obligation towards refugees', 26th IPSA World Congress of Political Science on 'New Nationalisms in an Open World', Lisbon, Portugal (online), July.
- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2021) 'Legacies of war: Syrian narratives of conflict', British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference on 'Knowledge, Power and Middle Eastern Studies', University of Kent (online), July.
- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2021) 'The political construction of international norms and the right to asylum', 18th IMISCOE Annual Conference on 'Crossing Borders, Connecting Cultures', Luxembourg (online), July.
- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2021) 'International and national convergences of memory', Memory Studies Association 5th Annual Conference on 'Convergences', Warsaw (online), July.
- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2021) 'Collective memory in international relations', British International Studies Association (BISA) conference on 'Forget International Studies?' (online), June.
- Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2021) 'Hegemonic narratives as a source of normativity in world politics: German and Hungarian interpretations of the 'right to asylum' in 2015', IMISCOE Spring Conference on 'Messaging Migration and Mobility', University of Oxford, March.
- Betts, Alexander** (2020) 'Migration and mobility after the pandemic', Monash University, panel discussion (online), 24 November.
- Betts, Alexander** (2020) 'Looking forward from 2020', Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Annual Conference, opening panel (online), 28 November.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'The wealth of refugees: how displaced people can build economies', Osnabruck University (online), 25 January.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'Refugees and the pandemic', Cambridge Union, panellist (and chair) (online), 9 February.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'Towards a British refugee policy', UK Home Office, presentation (online), 17 February.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'The wealth of refugees: how displaced people can build economies', Antwerp, lecture (online), 26 April.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'Refugees and COVID-19', Oxford Amnesty International Society, panel (online), 28 April.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'The wealth of refugees', Joint Immigration Seminar, UCLA and UC San Diego (online), 28 May.
- Betts, Alexander** (2021) 'Refugee Week Debate: Book discussion with David Owen', The New School, New York (online), 21 June.
- Brankamp, Hanno** (2021) 'Camp abolition: ending carceral humanitarianism in Kenya (and beyond)', Africa Multiple Cluster Conference: 'Africa\*n Relations: Modalities Reflected', University of Bayreuth (Germany), 14–17 July.
- Brankamp, Hanno** (2021) 'Madmen, womanisers, and thieves': moral disorder and the cultural text of refugee encampment in Kenya', International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference, University of Ghana, 26–30 July.
- Bridgick, Catherine** (2020) 'Unprincipled and unrealised: CEDAW and discrimination in the context of migration control', organiser and co-convenor, workshop co-hosted by the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford and Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School (online), October.
- Bridgick, Catherine** (2021) 'When do migration controls discriminate against women', panel discussion, Oxford Migration Studies Conference (online), May.
- Chatty, Dawn** (2020) 'Anthropological perspectives on fortress Europe', keynote lecture, Music and Minorities Research Centre, Vienna, November.
- Chatty, Dawn** (2021) 'The Syrian humanitarian crisis and fortress Europe', keynote, Cranfield Defence and Security, May.
- Chatty, Dawn** (2021) 'Forced migration: changing concepts of belonging and identity, citizenship, and denationalization', Roundtable, Sciences Po, Paris and Kuwait University, June.
- Chatty, Dawn** (2020) 'A post-Imperial lens on forced migration', keynote Lecture, Istanbul Commerce University (online), July.
- Chatty, Dawn** (2021) 'Dana Declaration +20: Reflections and future directions', Knowledge Exchange: Policy and Development Updates, Oxford Desert Conference, St. Cross College, July.
- Costello, Cathryn** (2020) 'Law at borders: at law's borders', keynote lecture, 14th Annual Conference of the Network Migration Law (German Network of Migration Law Scholars), 6 November.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'Reclaiming our imagination for paths to social change: a conversation with other movements', panel at the Social Innovation Summit, organised by Build Palestine (online), 2 October.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'From Theory to Practice', Conference: 'Gender studies meets Jineoloji' at Mari-Jahoda Center for International Gender Studies – Ruhr University Bochum, sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, 30 October.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'Holding up half the sky: Feminism during the climate emergency', online panel at the global climate justice gathering COP26 Coalition, 12 November.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'Women's Justice-Seeking in the Context of Political Violence', webinar, Lady Margaret Hall (online), 2 December.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'Radical democracy, ecology, and feminism in the Kurdish freedom movement', guest seminar for an MA class on Political Ecology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, 3 December.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'Intimacy and Internationalism - Learning from Feminist Movements', panel organized by Progressive International, 4 December.





**Dirik, Dilar** (2021) 'Feminism autonomy in liberation struggles', 'Anarchism & Degrowth' panel at the 8th International Degrowth Conference 'Caring Communities for Radical Change', 28 August.

**Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2020) 'Integrating IDPs: A case study of Adama, Ethiopia', panellist, Urban Thinkers Campus Webinar Series, Bridging the Gap Between Humanitarian and Development Nexus in Migration and Displacement Contexts, UN-Habitat/Cities Alliance (online).

**Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2020) 'Local integration of refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa', panellist, Workshop on Local Integration of Refugees in Light of the 2030 Agenda: CRRF and beyond, German Development Institute (online).

**Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2020) Panellist, Panel Meeting on the Integration of IDPs in Adama, Ethiopia, UN High Level Panel on Internal Displacement (online).

**Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2021) 'How to Make Urban Refugees Count: Reflections on data gaps and data collection during COVID-19', panellist, 2nd IGAD Scientific Conference on Migration and Displacement in the Context of COVID-19, IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) (online).

**Gibney, Matthew J** (with Sarah Teather) (2020) 'The politics of asylum and refugee protection', The Down to Earth Dialogues, Laudato Si' Research Institute, University of Oxford, December.

**Gibney, Matthew J** (2021) 'Banishment and the Prehistory of Denationalization', Inaugural Lecture of the Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion's Global Seminar Series on Citizenship Stripping, February.

**Godin, Marie** (2020) 'Rethinking transit zones: migrant trajectories and transnational networks in Techno-Borderscapes', webinar on 'Migration Trajectories and Transnational Support within and beyond Europe', The Utrecht University Focus Area on Migration and

Societal Change, the Dutch Association for Migration Research (DAMR) and the IMISCOE Standing Committee on Migrant Transnationalism (MITRA), Launch of the Special Issue in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS), 3 December.

**Godin, Marie** (2021) Co-Chair with Michaela Benson (Goldsmiths University), webinar on 'Brexit, Citizens' Rights and the Hostile Environment', Social Scientists Against the Hostile Environment (SSAHE), 15 March.

**Godin, Marie** (2021) 'Researching Brexit en vivo: voice, authority and representation', paper co-authored with Dr Nando Sigona, IMISCOE Spring conference on 'Messaging Migration and Mobility', Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, 22 March.

**Godin, Marie** (2021) 'Digital everyday forms of solidarity and resistance led by migrants and refugees', panel with Dr Giorgia Dona, International conference on 'Migrant Belongings: Digital Practices and the Everyday', Diaspora, Migration and the Media section of European Communication Research and Education and Utrecht University, 21–23 April.

**Irfan, Anne** (2020) 'Internationalized exile: Palestinian refugees in the UN regime', seminar, Harvard Law School (HLS) (online), October.

**Irfan, Anne** (2020) 'Researching Palestinian refugee history', seminar, Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex (MENACS), University of Sussex (online), November.

**Irfan, Anne** (2020) 'Understanding refugee history', roundtable, 'The Refugee Crisis through the Decades', SolidariTee at the University of Oxford (online), December.

**Irfan, Anne** (2020) 'Palestinian refugees and the UNRWA regime', conference on 'The Palestinian Right of Return', SOAS, University of Houston and Birzeit University (online), December.

**Irfan, Anne** (2021) 'History, migration and Europe: who counts?', roundtable, 'History of Migration', Student Action for Refugees (STAR) at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) (online), March.

**Nalule, Caroline** (2021) Kenya and South Africa country reports on refugee recognition, RefMig virtual workshop for country report authors, 28 January.

**Nalule, Caroline, and Ozkul, Derya** (2021) 'Formalising refugee recognition: divergence of interests and state practices', seminar organised by the Canterbury Institute, 17 February.

**Nalule, Caroline** (2021) Panel discussant, Globalcit Webinar on The Citizenship-Migration-Mobility Nexus, organised by the Global Citizenship Observatory (online), 27 April.

**Nalule, Caroline and Ozkul, Derya** (2021) 'Handover of Refugee Status Determination from UNHCR to States: Motivations and Outcomes', panel on 'Understanding the Role of UNHCR in Refugee Recognition', Refugee Law Initiative's 5th Annual Conference 'Growing Old Gracefully? The 1951 Convention Refugee Convention at 70', 11 June.

**Nalule, Caroline** (2021) 'From Control to Deterrence: Assessing Border Enforcement in South Africa (1994-2019)', online presentation with Jeff Handmaker as part of the Migration Seminar Series at the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, 13 July.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2021) 'Forced displacement and the role of private sector', presentation to executive board of Japanese firm society in the UK (online), 7 June.

**Ozkul, Derya** (2021) 'Turkey: 70 years on from the 1951 Geneva Convention', in conversation with Metin Çorabatır and Dr Neva Övünç Öztürk as part of the seminars organised by the Migration Research Association in Turkey, 8 June.

**Ozkul, Derya** (2021) 'How do refugees navigate the UNHCR's bureaucracy? The role of rumours in accessing humanitarian aid and resettlement', Oxford Brookes University's Migration & Refugees Network seminars, 18 June.

**Rodgers, Cory** (2021) Roundtable: 'Not quite the end of Nomadism?', International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), 12 March.

**Rodgers, Cory** (2021) "'Oppidan bias": Elite mediation in the public dialogue process for a new refugee settlement in Turkana, Kenya', 5th Annual Oxford Desert Conference, 1–2 July, University of Oxford.

**Rodgers, Cory** (2021) 'A collaborative auto-ethnography of refugee-host relations at the Kakuma camp, Kenya', presentation with Ekai Nabenyoo, 8th International Conference of Autoethnography (online), 18–20 July.

**Zetter, Roger** (2020) 'About the Non/Sense of Distinguishing between Migrants and Refugees – a Debate', University of Osnabrück Webinar expert panel discussant, co-ordinated by Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer (FFVT), 1 October.

**Zetter, Roger** (2020) 'In search of solutions: the role of the private sector in forced displacement contexts', @AidExGlobal webinar panellist, November.

**Zetter, Roger** (2020) 'Refugees and Covid - Camps, Borders and Exclusion', panellist for webinar on the 'Crisis within a crisis', World Solidarity Forum, November.

**Zetter, Roger** (2020) 'The Global Compact and refugee responses to ongoing displacement', webinar keynote, EU Horizon 2020 Research projects: 'Zooming in on Migration and Asylum and Migration', December.

## Conferences and workshops

**Authors' Workshop: Spotlight on the International Organization for Migration (IOM): Obligations, Accountability and Ethos**  
Online workshop convened by Professor Cathryn Costello and Dr Angela Sherwood, 2 November 2020

**RefMig Country Reports - Authors' Workshop: Comparing Refugee Recognition Regimes**  
Online workshop convened by Professor Cathryn Costello, 28 January 2021

## Public Seminar Series

### Michaelmas term 2020

**Convenors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Tom Scott-Smith**

Deporting extremists: a qualified defence  
**Rutger Birnie** (European University Institute)  
21 October

Carceral junctions - stuckness and connectedness in camps  
**Professor Simon Turner** (Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen)  
28 October

Unlivable life: ordinary disasters and the atmosphere of crisis in Haiti  
**Professor Greg Beckett** (University of Western Ontario)  
4 November

Reflecting on Refugia  
**Dr Nick van Hear** (COMPAS, University of Oxford)  
11 November

'Belongers' and 'non-belongers': dividing citizens in 1968  
**Deirdre Troy** (Queen Mary University of London)  
25 November

Refugees and racial capitalism: what 'integration' in the labour market means  
**Professor Elizabeth C Dunn** (Indiana University)  
2 December

### Hilary term 2021

**Refugee Histories in the Global South**  
**Convenor: Dr Anne Irfan**

Refugee denial: Settler colonialism and the making of the Global North imaginary  
**Professor Laura Madokoro** (Carleton University)  
20 January

Refugees, escapees and migrants: International migration and the politics of naming displacement in the Biafran War  
**Professor Bonny Ibhawoh** (Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights, McMaster University)  
27 January

The international refugee regime and postcolonial sovereignty: Algeria, refugees and the UNHCR, 1954-63  
**Dr Malika Rahal** (Institut d'histoire du temps présent) and **Dr Benjamin Thomas White** (Glasgow University)  
3 February

Refugees, minority citizens and the law: Sindh's deterritorialised partition  
**Dr Uttara Shahani** (Refugee Studies Centre)  
10 February

The long journey home: African American forced migration and exile from the Civil War to the Vietnam War  
**Professor Saje Mathieu** (University of Minnesota)  
17 February

Crucibles of Exile: Palestinian education and the politics of regeneration, 1948-1967  
**Dr Mezna Qato** (University of Cambridge)  
24 February

Haitian refugees, the US state, and precedents for global border regimes  
**Professor A. Naomi Paik** (University of Illinois)  
3 March

Rethinking forced migration: Legacies of the Greek-Turkish population exchange  
**Professor Asli Igsiz** (New York University)  
10 March



### Trinity term 2021

**'Localising' Refugee Research and Practice**  
**Convenor: Dr Evan Easton-Calabria**

The rise of the refugee research industry: some reflections  
**Dr Mayssoun Sukarieh** (King's College London)  
5 May

With, for, or by refugees? Practical and ethical challenges of participatory research  
**Dr Kate Pincock** (Overseas Development Institute) and **William Bakunzi** (Independent researcher)  
19 May

Critical localism: reflections on the localisation of humanitarian action in theory and (research) practice  
**Dr Kristina Roepstorff** (IFHV, Ruhr University Bochum)  
26 May

Digital methodologies in forced migration and refugee research: rethinking voices, representation and power  
**Professor Giorgia Donà** (Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging, University of East London)  
2 June

Syrian refugees and local assistance in Berlin  
**Yahya Alaous** (Founder, Zusammenwachsen NGO; Journalist, Die Suddeutsche Zeitung)  
9 June

Co-producing research between academics, NGOs, and communities in humanitarian response  
**Dr Michelle Lokot** and **Dr Caitlin Wake** (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), and **Gang Karume** (Rebuild Hope for Africa)  
16 June

## Special seminars and lectures

Refugees as Human Shields: In Conversation with Neve Gordon  
**Professor Neve Gordon** (Queen Mary University of London)  
 23 November

Current debates in the study and protection of displaced LGBT+ people  
**Eirene Chen** (UNHCR), **Professor Mengia Tschalaer** (City University of New York and University of Bristol) and **Dr Kate Pincock** (ODI)  
 22 February

Launch of The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law  
**Professor Hilary Charlesworth**, (Melbourne Law School and Australian National University), **Professor Cathryn Costello** (RSC and Hertie School, Berlin), **Professor Michelle Foster** (Melbourne Law School), **Professor Jane McAdam** (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney), and **Nyadol Nyuon** (community advocate, lawyer, and writer)  
 25 May

## Public lectures

**Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2020**  
 Democracy after Right-Wing Populism  
**Professor Jan-Werner Müller** (Princeton University), 18 November 2020

**Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2021**  
 The Afterlives of Return and the Limits of Refugee Protection  
**Professor Heath Cabot** (University of Pittsburgh), 12 May 2021

## Doctoral research students

**Maria Al Qassim, Linacre College**  
 Battleground for Belonging: Mobility, Transnationalism and Identity Formation of Qeshmi and Hanjani Emiratis  
 Supervisors: Professor Dawn Chatty and Professor Walter Armbrust (Middle East Centre, St Antony's)

**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)

**Francesco Bosso, St Antony's College**  
 The Rechtstaat and Migrant Exclusion in post-2015 Germany  
 Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

**Raphael Bradenbrink, Jesus College**  
 Public-Private Collaboration in Global and Local Refugee Governance  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

**Rebecca Buxton, St John's College**  
 Politics in Exile: Refugees, Membership, and Political Rights  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney  
 Completed 2021

**Stephen Damianos, Balliol College**  
 The Skype State: Limbo, Bureaucracy, and State Violence Among Asylum Seekers in Mainland Greece  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

**Imogen Dobie, Lincoln College**  
 Maritime Humanitarianism: The Provision of Humanitarian Aid at Sea 1978-2019  
 Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

**Richard Dolan, St Antony's College**  
 Ethnicity, Education and Ethno-nationalism: Constructing and Contesting Identity within Union Karen  
 Supervisor: Professor Dawn Chatty  
 Completed 2021

**Diletta Lauro, Lincoln College**  
 Resolving the Tension Between Human Rights and National Belonging? Anti-Deportation Campaigns in the United Kingdom and Emerging Conceptions of Membership  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney  
 Completed 2021

**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)

**Emilie McDonnell, University College**  
 The Human Right to Leave Any Country and Migration Control  
 Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Miles Jackson (Oxford Law Faculty)  
 Completed 2021

**Maggie Neil, Lady Margaret Hall**  
 Exploring Europeanness in Sicily: Re-Assessing Hospitality towards Immigrants and Newcomers  
 Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

**Lauren Nishimura, St Edmund Hall**  
 Climate Change, Human Rights, and Adaptive Mobility  
 Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Catherine Redgwell (Oxford Law Faculty)  
 Completed 2021

**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 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

**Samuel Ritholtz, Exeter College**  
 Paramilitary Violence Against LGBT People During the Colombian Civil War  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

**Abril Rios Rivera, Green Templeton College**  
 Women's Empowerment and Labour Outcomes in the Context of Migration in Kenya  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Carlos Vargas-Silva (COMPAS)

**Diana Volpe, Wolfson College**  
 Navigating Narrative Frameworks in Search and Rescue Operations: Between Morality and Narrative Wars  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**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 and Professor Marie-Benedicte Dembour (University of Ghent)



# Income and expenditure

## Statement 1. Refugee Studies Centre income and expenditure, 2020–21 (1 August–31 July)

Reserve balances	Actuals 2019–20 (£)	Actuals 2020–21 (£)
Opening reserves brought forward	212,112	222,290

Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Actuals 2019–20 (£)	Actuals 2020–21 (£)
<b>Restricted project income</b>		
Research grant revenue <sup>2</sup>	792,277	817,562
Partner contributions	20,588	25,145
Forced Migration Review <sup>3</sup>	201,112	234,431
<b>Other revenue</b>		
Overheads from research projects and awards	75,696	46,648
Other income (e.g. donations, publication royalties, institutional consultancies) <sup>4</sup>	31,064	18,802
Workshops, conferences, short courses, and Visiting Fellowships (total revenue)	41,799	29,462
International Summer School in Forced Migration	3,375	19,800
Transfer from Trust Fund Reserves to support administrative staff costs	104,398	88,282
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,270,308</b>	<b>1,280,131</b>

Expenditure	Actuals 2019–20 (£)	Actuals 2020–21 (£)
<b>Research grant expenditure (including research staff salaries)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>824,024</b>	<b>816,078</b>
<b>Core administrative staff salary costs</b>	<b>93,366</b>	<b>96,204</b>
<b>Other core administrative expenses</b>	<b>6,142</b>	<b>2,483</b>
<b>Workshops, conferences, short courses, public lectures, and Visiting Fellowships</b>	<b>23,299</b>	<b>15,250</b>
<b>International Summer School in Forced Migration</b>	<b>50,153</b>	<b>77,646</b>
<b>Outreach and dissemination</b>		
Forced Migration Review (including FMR staff salaries)	201,112	234,431
Other publications, communications, and outreach activities	62,033	59,954
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,260,129</b>	<b>1,302,046</b>

Closing balances	Actuals 2019–20 (£)	Actuals 2020–21 (£)
Surplus/deficit after consolidation	10,179	(21,914)
Closing reserves carried forward	222,290	200,376

## Statement 2. Performance of endowments

Endowments <sup>6</sup>	Actuals 2019–20 (£)	Actuals 2020–21 (£)
Opening revenue account balance	519,752	516,733
Endowment income (dividends from shares and deposit pool interest)	249,406	258,433
Endowment expenditure (salary costs and management fees)	-252,425	-289,319
<b>Closing revenue account balance</b>	<b>516,733</b>	<b>485,847</b>
<b>Capital account balance</b>	<b>3,098,923</b>	<b>3,098,923</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total revenue – encompassing the Centre's activities – amounts to £2.332m. This figure is inclusive of endowment income (£258,433) and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies course fees (£793,280).

<sup>2</sup> Research grant revenue and partner contributions are reported as earned only when project expenditure is incurred.

<sup>3</sup> Forced Migration Review's total receipts during 2020–21 were £290,713. At the end of the year the project held £125,741 earmarked for activities in the 2020–21 financial year.

<sup>4</sup> Other deferred donation balances were £167,585 as at 31 July 2021. These donations include funding restricted for MSc student scholarship bursaries and hardship funds.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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 2021, revenue balances stood at £485,847. The related Capital Balances were £3.099m.

# Staff and associates

## ACADEMIC STAFF

### Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

IKEA Research Fellow in International Relations

### Professor Alexander Betts

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

### Dr Hanno Brankamp

Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

### Dr Catherine Briddick

Departmental Lecturer in Gender and International Human Rights and Refugee Law

### Professor Cathryn Costello

Andrew W Mellon Professor of Refugee and Migration Law; Professor of Fundamental Rights and Co-Director, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin

### Dr Dilar Dirik

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### Dr Evan Easton-Calabria

Senior Research Officer

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Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration  
Director, Refugee Studies Centre

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British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

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Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

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### Jade Siu\*

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### Dr Olivier Sterck

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### Maria Flinder Stierna

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

## EMERITUS

### Professor Dawn Chatty

Emerita Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2011–2014

### Dr David Turton

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

### Marion Couldrey

Forced Migration Review, Co-editor

### Sharon Ellis

Forced Migration Review, Assistant

### Tamsin Kelk

Communications and Information Coordinator

### Annelies Lawson

Events and International Summer School Officer

### Jenny Peebles\*

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### Alice Philip

Forced Migration Review, Co-editor

### Sarah Rhodes

Forced Migration, African and Commonwealth Subject Consultant

### Maureen Schoenfeld

Promotion and Finance Assistant, Forced Migration Review

### Joanna Soedring

Senior Library Assistant, Reader Services/Refugee Studies

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

### Madison Bakewell

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### Eliya Beachy

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### Felicity Leary

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### Laurence Medley

Accounts Officer

### Cemre Omur

Project Coordinator, Social Cohesion as a Humanitarian Objective?

### Andrea Smith

Postgraduate Courses Coordinator

### Bryony Varnam

ERC Project Administrator

\* Left in 2020–2021

## REFUGEE-LED RESEARCH HUB

### **Bahati Ernestine**

RLRH Research Fellow

### **Mohamed Hassan Muhamed**

RLRH Research Fellow

### **Ruth Nyabuto**

RLRH Academic Programmes  
Facilitator

### **Ghazal Sarah Salehi**

RLRH Academic Programmes  
Manager

### **Pauline Vidal**

RLRH Research Facilitator

### **Foni Joyce Vuni**

RLRH Research Fellow

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### **Professor E Tendayi Achiume**

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and United Nations Special Rapporteur  
on Racism, Racial Discrimination,  
Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

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### **Dr Jason Pobjoy**

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### **Abbas Shiblak**

Director, Palestinian Diaspora and  
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### **Professor Nando Sigona**

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### **Dr Lewis Turner**

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### **Dr Tom Western**

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### **Dr Nick Van Hear**

Emeritus Fellow, COMPAS

## HONORARY ASSOCIATES

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