



Dame Marina Warner gives the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019 at St. Anne's College, Oxford.

## A note from the Director



There is no getting around it, this has been the year of COVID-19 at the RSC, as elsewhere. The spread of the virus led to the university closing its buildings in March, with teaching, administration, seminars and workshops moving online. Amazingly, this challenging transition was achieved with great success. Students were still supervised and examined (and produced work of extremely high quality); the weekly seminar series continued (with bigger audiences than ever); FMR remained in production; and a stream of high quality publications emerged from our academics. The International Summer School was, unfortunately, a casualty of COVID, but we expect to have it up and running again in July 2021.

Of course, the resilience of those at our Centre was nothing compared to the challenges faced by forced migrants worldwide. COVID-19, despite its ability to strike anyone low, posed the greatest risk to the poor and already vulnerable, to ethnic minorities, and to those without access to quality health care and information. Displaced people, typically members of these groups, often faced the added difficulty of finding protection in a world where national borders became even harder to cross. At the Centre we considered these challenges in a notable Trinity Term weekly seminar series, hosted by Alex Betts and Andonis Marden, on refugee-led assistance and protection in the context of COVID-19. We also added a new section on our website listing and linking to key recent work on the relationship between the virus and forced migration. This year's (online) Elizabeth Colson Lecture in June, by Professor Laura Hammond, picked up the theme by offering an impressive and wide-ranging discussion of mobility and immobility in the shadow of the virus.

In the midst of this challenging time, the Centre was struck a deep blow. Our long running colleague, Professor Gil Loescher, passed away at the age of 75. Born at the final months of World War II, only a handful of scholars come close to matching Gil's influence in shaping the direction of scholarship and understanding of refugees in the post-War world. We mourn his passing while celebrating his remarkable scholarly and personal contribution.

*Matthew J Gibney*  
*Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration*

## COVID-19 and forced migration resources at the RSC

In a short space of time, COVID-19 has dramatically upended our world. In some respects the virus is a great equaliser. The bodies of many wealthy and privileged people are as vulnerable to infection as those of the poor and insecure. Yet there is no doubt that people in precarious situations at the margins of society face distinctive challenges. How do you self-isolate in a crowded refugee camp or, even more so, in an immigration detention centre? What happens to refugees seeking protection when borders close? How can asylum survive when foreigners are characterised as the carriers of disease? The coronavirus throws up a host of political, ethical, and practical questions for governments, humanitarian officials, scholars, and, most of all for refugees themselves, often forced to provide for their own health and security.

The RSC's website has a new section that aims to shine a light on how the coronavirus has affected the lives of forced migrants. This section includes a new blog by RSC researchers, plus links to articles about the impact of the global pandemic on forced migrants by both RSC researchers and others. As this section grows over time, we hope it will prove a useful resource for those wishing to understand the world of forced migration in this new and testing environment.

Also online, the Trinity term webinar series focused on the impact of the pandemic on refugees, and in particular on refugee-led assistance and protection in the context of COVID-19 (see page 3). In this context, in which traditional humanitarian capacity has been stretched and forced to adapt, refugee-led organisations are on the frontline of the response, in both refugee camps and cities. A new research project is also looking at refugee-led assistance in the context of the pandemic, with a focus on digitally mediated support (see page 2).

The latest issue of *Forced Migration Review*, published in June, includes some early reflections on COVID-19 in the context of displacement. Finally, the Rethinking Refuge platform has a number of new articles relating to the virus, focusing for example on IDP-led women's assistance, child repatriation, and refugee-led responses in Uganda (see page 5).

Find out more at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/covid-19-resources](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/covid-19-resources)

## Remembering Gil Loescher

This year, the Refugee Studies Centre lost a brilliant, kind, and inspiring colleague. **Professor Gil Loescher** dedicated his life to studying and teaching at the intersection of Refugee Studies and International Relations. He used his research to shape refugee policy and practice around the world, informing the work of organisations such as UNHCR, as well as working directly with refugees and displaced people in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Gil's intellectual contribution to Refugee Studies is immense. He is without doubt, the single most important academic to work on the international relations of forced migration.

He had a longstanding relationship with the RSC following its establishment in the early 1980s, consistently pushing for Refugee Studies to engage more effectively with politics and history. For most of the last two decades, we have been privileged to have Gil as a permanent presence at the RSC, most notably holding the title of Visiting Professor – one that massively understated his contribution to the Centre. An inspiring teacher, he delivered his course on 'UNHCR in World Politics' to more than a dozen cohorts of MSc students.

Gil suffered life-changing injuries in the August 2003 bombing of the UN compound in Baghdad, while advising on the humanitarian response for displaced Iraqis. Following his injuries, he inspired many with his rapid return to work, and his research engaged even more directly with the refugee communities he served.



As a colleague, Gil was unflinchingly kind and generous. He would always make time for students and faculty who sought his advice, graciously volunteer his time for meetings and to assess the work of Masters and Doctoral students, and try to contribute wherever he could make a difference. His legacy to the RSC is not only a seminal contribution to Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, but as a shining beacon of inspiration for how to be an academic who can make a real difference to people's lives, whether refugees, students, or colleagues. We will miss him greatly, but we will not forget his legacy, as a scholar or as a human being.

*Read the full obituary by Alexander Betts at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/a-tribute-to-gil-loescher](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/a-tribute-to-gil-loescher)*

## Staff awards and recognition



We are pleased to announce that from September 2020, **Cathryn Costello** will take up the newly created post of **Professor of Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin**.

She will also co-direct Hertie's new Centre for Fundamental Rights with Professor Başak Çalı. She has been granted a period of special leave from the RSC to enable her to take up this post and to forge links between the two institutions. The project [Refugees are Migrants](#), which Cathryn leads, will continue to be based at the RSC.



**Tom Scott-Smith** has been selected as one of this year's ten [New Generation Thinkers](#). This is a scheme run by the **BBC and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)**. Throughout the year, he and the other New

Generation Thinkers will be working with BBC producers to develop ideas and showcase

a vibrant mix of research from across the arts and humanities. The New Generation Thinkers scheme is one of the major ways the AHRC engages the public with the inspiring research taking place across the UK. You can hear Tom discuss his research project [Architectures of Displacement](#) on BBC Radio 2's [Free Thinking](#) programme, in a special feature on Refugees ahead of World Refugee Day in June.



**Alexander Betts** has been conferred the award of **Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS)**. Fellows of the Academy are elected on the basis of their outstanding contributions to research and to the application of social science to policy, education, society and the economy. He has also been named a **Public Engagement with Research (PER) Leader** for 2019-2020. The PER Leadership scheme at the University of Oxford is for academics to take on a leadership role in a culture change project for their departments and faculties to enhance support for PER.

*Find more at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news)*

## New RSC staff

We have welcomed a number of new staff over the past 12 months.

In September, **Dr Anne Irfan** joined us as Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration, teaching on the MSc in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies. Anne's research interests include global refugee history, UNRWA and Palestinian refugees, forced migration in the Middle East, the spatiality of refugee camps, and archival suppression. **Dr Dilar Dirik** has taken up her post as the new Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow. Dilar's research focuses on displacement in the Middle East, and in particular 1) layers of statelessness and self-determination, focusing on autonomously-run refugee camps in the majority Kurdish regions of Iraq and Syria, and 2) women's quests for justice in the aftermath of the violence inflicted by the so-called Islamic State group.

Joining the Refugee Economies Programme are **Raphael Bradenbrink** as a Research Assistant and **Madison (Maddy) Bakewell** as the new Programme Officer.

**Annelies Lawson** joined us in November as the RSC's new Events and International Summer School Officer. **Philip Dines** is Project Officer on the new project 'Responses to Crisis Migration in Uganda and Ethiopia: Researching the Role of Local Actors in Secondary Cities', led by Evan Easton-Calabria and funded through the Cities Alliance/UNOPS.

Finally, in December, we welcomed **Angela Sherwood** to the RSC, joining the '[Refugees are Migrants](#)' project team as a postdoctoral researcher. She is focusing primarily on the legal and ethical obligations of international organisations in the global refugee and migration regimes.

*Find more at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/people](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/people)*

## New research projects

**Marie Godin** and **Evan Easton-Calabria** have new funding from the British Academy for a project on **Refugee-Led Initiatives at the Time of COVID-19: Exploring New Forms of Digital Information, Assistance and Livelihood**. They will explore the existence of, potential for and barriers to digital information, assistance and livelihood through support provided to refugees via initiatives and organisations led by refugees. The project aims to better understand the impact of the pandemic on newly digitally mediated support in London, Berlin and Nairobi.

**Catherine Briddick** is leading a project on **Undoing Discriminatory Borders**, with funding from the John Fell Fund, which aims to uncover and challenge discrimination in immigration law and migration control. It will hold two workshops in October hosted jointly by the RSC and the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School, Berlin.

Also funded by the John Fell Fund, **Derya Özkul** has a new project on **The Governance of AI-based Technologies in the Management of Migration**.

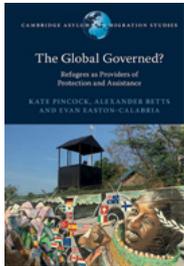
## New books

**On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief**, by **Tom Scott-Smith**, examines the history of humanitarian nutritional technologies, high protein foods, and emergency rations for refugees since the early 19th Century. It argues that humanitarianism is not a simple story of progress and improvement, but rather is profoundly shaped by sociopolitical conditions, by culture,



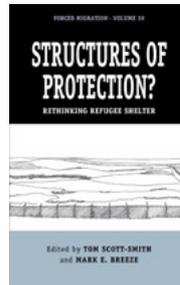
politics and society. (Cornell University Press, April 2020)

From the project of the same name, **The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance**, by **Kate Pincock, Alexander Betts and Evan Easton-Calabria**, examines how refugee-led organisations emerge, the forms they take, and their interactions with international institutions, based on fieldwork in Uganda and Kenya. With the dominant humanitarian model being premised upon a provider-beneficiary relationship, the book offers an alternative vision for more



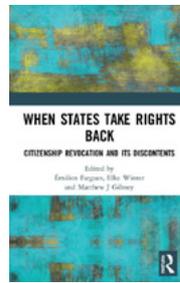
participatory global governance, of relevance to other policy fields including development, health, peacekeeping, and child protection. (Cambridge University Press, March 2020)

**Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter**, edited by **Tom Scott-Smith and Mark E Breeze** (University of Cambridge), questions what shelter is and how we can define it. The volume comprises essays from a range of authors on different forms of refugee shelter, with a view to widening public understanding about the lives of forced migrants and developing theoretical understanding of this often-neglected facet of the refugee experience. The book is a product of a conference at St. Cross College in 2018. (Berghahn Books, May 2020)



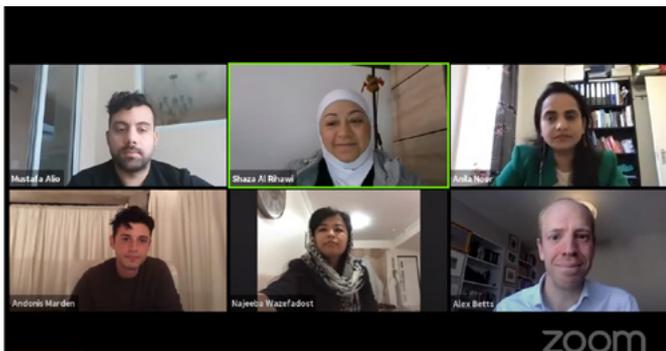
**Matthew J Gibney** has co-edited a new volume focusing on citizenship revocation.

**When States Take Rights Back** (E. Fargues, E. Winter, M.J. Gibney, eds) draws on contributions by international experts in history, law, political science, and sociology, offering a rare interdisciplinary and comparative examination of citizenship revocation in five countries, revealing hidden government rationales and unintended consequences. (Routledge, March 2020)



Find details on all RSC publications at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications)

## Strengthening refugee-led humanitarian response during the COVID-19 pandemic



Our **Trinity term webinar series** this year focused on **refugee-led assistance and protection** in the context of COVID-19. It featured panels of individuals whose work is shaping how we understand and support refugee-led responses during crisis. Their accomplishments – whether as practitioners, policy influencers, funders, or community responders – challenge conventional top-down approaches to humanitarian assistance. These approaches are increasingly important in the current context, in which traditional humanitarian capacity has been stretched and

forced to adapt. Refugee-led organisations are on the frontline of the response, in both refugee camps and cities.

Series conveners were **Alexander Betts** and **Andonis Marden** (Refugee Studies Centre), **Shaza Al Rihawi**, **Anila Noor**, **Najeeba Wazefadost**, and **Mustafa Alio** (Global Refugee-Led

Network). Many panelists were refugees.

Topics included responses in urban contexts; how international organisations can support refugee-led organisations; philanthropic support for refugee-led initiatives; refugee-led responses in camp settings; and refugees in international humanitarian organisations.

Full details including links to all webinars are available at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/rsc-public-seminar-series-trinity-term-2020](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news/rsc-public-seminar-series-trinity-term-2020)

## Architectures of Displacement



The **Architectures of Displacement** project led by **Tom Scott-Smith** features in an exhibition at the **Imperial War Museums** titled **'Refugees'**, running from 24 September 2020 to 24 May 2021 with support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

In this project, Tom and co-researcher **Mark E Breeze** (University of Cambridge) looked at how humanitarian agencies in six different countries provided basic shelter to refugees from Syria following the 'summer of migration' in 2015. They have made a **documentary film** to communicate their findings. The film *Shelter without Shelter* relates a story of high hopes and eventual failure: a tragedy of ideals with important lessons about refugee shelter. It will be released later in 2020, but you can **watch the trailer online now** at [www.shelterwithoutshelter.com](http://www.shelterwithoutshelter.com). They have also written a book relating their findings titled **Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter**.

Information on RSC research projects can be found at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research)

## DPhil and MSc news

We are pleased to announce that this year's Examiners' Prize on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has been awarded to **Elisa Sisto**. Elisa also received the thesis prize, jointly with **Emma Walker-Silverman**. Congratulations to both Elisa and Emma!

Our recent and new DPhil students have been busy writing and publishing. For example, in October, **Matthew Willner-Reid**, who was awarded a DPhil in 2017, had a paper published in *Development Policy Review* on 'The law of diminishing returns: UNHCR's evolving discourse on returning refugee vulnerability in Afghanistan', based on his DPhil research.

More recently, **Samuel Ritholtz**, a DPhil candidate researching LGBTIQ+ experiences of conflict and displacement, had an article published in June in *The New Humanitarian* on 'LGBTQ+ people left out by exclusionary COVID-19 aid practices'.

For information on studying at the RSC visit: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study)

## Dame Marina Warner gives the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019



This year's Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture took place on 30 October 2019 at St. Anne's College. **Dame Marina Warner** delivered a lecture titled **The Map is Not the Territory: Story-making, Place and Performance**, in which she explored the potential of imaginative tale-spinning in establishing a sense of place and belonging, drawing upon her current project 'Stories in Transit'. This project

organises storytelling workshops in the UK and in Palermo, bringing young migrant students together with artists, writers and musicians. It aims to establish the right of displaced individuals to cultural expression, to encourage story making and to inspire participants to draw on their own traditions and imagination.

Professor Dame Marina Warner is a writer of fiction, criticism and history. Her

works include novels and short stories as well as studies of art, myths, symbols and fairy tales. She is a Distinguished Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, and Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, University of London.

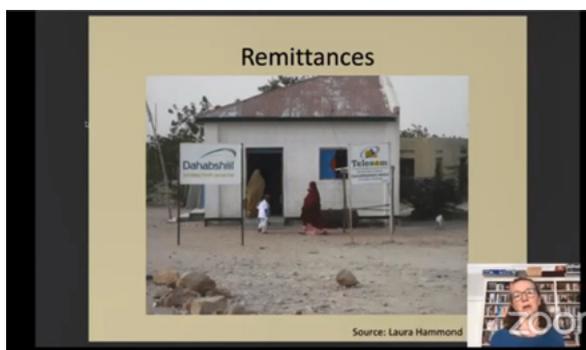
*The lecture is available to listen to at:*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2019-podcast](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2019-podcast)

## Laura Hammond focuses on COVID-19 in the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2020

**Professor Laura Hammond** (SOAS University of London) gave this year's **Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture** on 24 June, held online for the first time. As the COVID-19 virus spreads across the world, many citizens are living under some form of restricted movement. For migrants, refugees, and others for whom mobility is an essential, even a life-saving act, these restrictions pose particular risks.

In this lecture, titled **Mobility and immobility in the time of coronavirus: reflections from long-term study of migration and displacement**, Professor Hammond explored how forced migration studies can help us to better understand the monumental implications of the coronavirus pandemic on communities involved or affected by migration and displacement.

The lecture focused on the impact of the pandemic on the Horn of Africa region, where there is a large refugee population. There are short-term impacts relating to health and measures to prevent the spread of the virus, however the wider impact is on the economic sector. For example, the labour market in Kenya is impacted by COVID-19 restrictions elsewhere (e.g. in Europe) that have led to reductions in demand for goods from Kenya. Such impacts demonstrate the interconnected



nature of labour markets globally.

Hammond also highlighted how the pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on the flow of remittances from diaspora in countries such as the UK to dependant family members in the Horn of Africa, as employment in the UK is impacted.

There are also political consequences such as the postponing of elections in Ethiopia, and questions about what will happen to the Somali elections as well.

Laura Hammond is Professor of Development Studies at SOAS University of London. She is an anthropologist with research interests including food security, conflict, forced migration, and diasporas. She has worked in the Horn of Africa since 1993.

*The lecture is available to watch online at:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKvO1o9uM9E>

## Visiting Fellows, 2019-2020

We were pleased to welcome some exceptional Visiting Fellows and Student Visitors to join us at Queen Elizabeth House this year, visiting for a term to focus on a specific programme of study or research.

For example, in Michaelmas term, Morgan Etzel (a doctoral student at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig Maximilian's University Munich) conducted research into the experience of refugees from Syria as they navigate the German bureaucratic 'integration' programs. Diego Caballero Velez (a doctoral student at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa) focused his research on Member States contribution to refugee protection provision in the EU.

In Hilary term, Saija Niemi (a migration researcher at the University of Helsinki) joined us to further her research into urban sustainability among diasporas, boundaries and local knowledge in various geographical areas.

All our visitors became an integral part of the Centre during their stay, contributing greatly to the life and activities of the RSC.

*Further information on Visiting Fellowships:*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships)

## Seminar podcasts

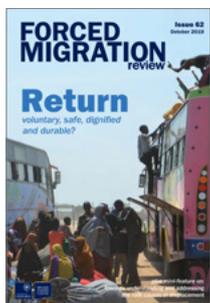
New seminar podcasts are available on the RSC website and SoundCloud. This year the Michaelmas term seminar series was convened by Professor Matthew Gibney, Professor Cathryn Costello, and Professor Tom Scott-Smith, and covered a variety of topics. Podcasts are available of the seminars: '**Continuums of exploitation - the legal framework on trafficking in persons**' by Professor Siobhán Mullally; '**Humanitarian wearables and digital bodies: problems of gifts and labour**' by Professor Kristin Sandvik; '**A human right to international freedom of movement**' by Dr Sarah Fine; '**Postcolonial boundaries, self-determination and the Rohingya refugee crisis**' by Dr Mohammad Shahabuddin; and '**The political economy of refugee self-reliance**' by Professor Alexander Betts.

The Hilary term seminar series was convened by Dr Catherine Briddick and focused on Feminism, Categorisation, and Forced Migration. Podcasts are available of the seminars '**Colonial mobilities and global inequality: why European settlers ought not to be regarded as migrants**' by Professor Gurminder K Bhambra; '**Degradation by design: corrosive control in the lives of women seeking asylum in bordered Britain**' by Dr Victoria Canning; and '**Kurdish women's knowledge of the state: from the guerrilla to the refugee camp**' by Dr Dilar Dirik.

*Seminar podcasts are available online at:*  
<https://soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre/>

## Forced Migration Review

In the past year, three new issues of FMR have been published. **FMR 62**, published in October 2019, reflects on the issue of **Return: voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?**

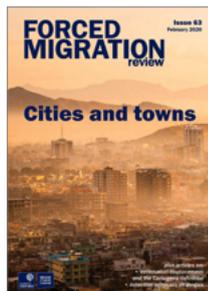


Voluntary return in safety and with dignity has long been a core tenet of the international refugee regime. In this issue, authors explore various obstacles to achieving sustainable return, discuss the need to guard against premature or forced return, and debate the assumptions and perceptions that influence policy and practice. The issue also includes a mini-feature on ‘Towards understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement’.

Online at:

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

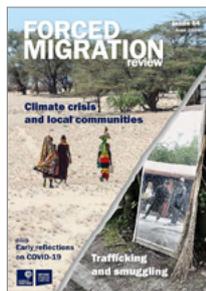
**FMR 63** focuses on **Cities and towns**. Cities and towns are on the frontline of receiving and welcoming displaced people. In this issue, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, representatives of cities and international city-focused alliances, and displaced people themselves debate the challenges facing both the urban authorities and their partners, and the people who come to live there.



Online at:

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

Published in June, **FMR 64** includes two main feature themes, one on **Climate crisis and local communities** and one on **Trafficking and smuggling**. Local communities around the world have been coping with the effects of a changing climate for decades. Articles focus on the impact on local communities, their coping strategies, lessons arising, and broader questions of access, rights and justice.



Since we published an issue on human trafficking in 2006, increased reporting of both trafficking and smuggling has triggered renewed attention around the growing impact of, and the links between, these related but distinct phenomena. Articles explore some of the current challenges, misconceptions, insights and innovations in these fields.

**FMR64** also includes a ‘mini-feature’ on **early reflections on COVID-19** in the context of displacement.

Online at: [www.fmreview.org/issue64](http://www.fmreview.org/issue64)

Forthcoming issues:

- FMR 65: Recognising refugees (November 2020)
- FMR 66: Mental health and psychosocial support (February 2021)
- FMR 67: Public health and WASH (June 2021)

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

Marion Couldrey & Jenny Peebles,  
FMR Co-Editors, [fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

## New Research in Brief

### Exploring assumptions behind ‘voluntary’ returns from North Africa

Anne-Line Rodriguez

This brief presents ethnographic research conducted with returnees in Senegal that challenges the assumptions behind Assisted Voluntary Return programmes for migrants stranded in North Africa, i.e. that the risk of further mistreatment, together with ‘reintegration’ projects, will convince returnees to remain in their country of origin, or that, if not persuaded to stay, returnees will at least decide to obtain a visa to travel – which will ultimately lead to safer migration.



### Avoiding refugee status and alternatives to asylum

Georgia Cole



Here the author outlines why, in the context of a specific displaced population in Uganda (Eritreans in Kampala), individuals choose to avoid the asylum system, and what alternatives they both pursue and would prefer to it.

Their responses point towards a practical set of changes that could significantly enhance protection within the asylum system in this context. They also point towards a preference for legal pathways to regularising individuals’ statuses that are discrete from the refugee regime and its labels.

Forthcoming briefs include:

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

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

Research on the relative effects of unrestricted and restricted cash transfers to refugees is presented in this brief, with a particular focus on the issue of indebtedness.

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

Evan Easton-Calabria, Delina Abadi and Gezahegn Gebremedhin

Ethiopia experienced a huge increase in its IDP population in 2018. This brief presents some of the major successful humanitarian and development responses, as well as the long-term development challenges that IDPs face, based on research in Adama, Ethiopia.

RSC research briefs are available at:  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications)

## New articles on Rethinking Refuge



The Rethinking Refuge platform continues to grow, with several articles added to the website this year. Two articles present new ways of **Rethinking the economic lives of refugees**, one of six themes that offer innovative solutions to the problems facing refugees. **How new tools are meeting the challenge of measuring refugee self-reliance** has been contributed by Dale Buscher (Women’s Refugee Commission) and Kellie Leeson (Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative), and **Car-sharing in Lebanon: overlooked practices of collective self-reliance** by Estella Carpi (University College London).

Three recent articles relate to COVID-19: **IDP-led women’s assistance: new roles for traditional groups** by Delina Abadi (Responses to Crisis Migration in Uganda and Ethiopia Programme); **Child repatriation in the time of COVID-19**, by Jacqueline Bhabha and Vasileia Digidiki (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health); and **Refugee-led responses to COVID-19: a case study from Uganda**, by Patrick Chandiga Justine (Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation).

Finally, the latest article, by Sabrinah Ardalan (Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program) considers **Refugee eligibility: challenging stereotypes and reviving the ‘benefit of the doubt’**.

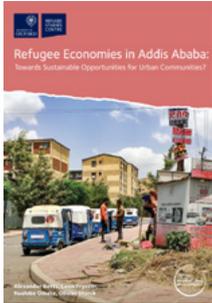
The Rethinking Refuge platform provides short, research-based articles aimed at rethinking refugee issues from a variety of angles, such as politics, international relations, ethics, law, history and anthropology. The platform’s lead editor is Evan Easton-Calabria.

Find it online at [www.rethinkingrefuge.org](http://www.rethinkingrefuge.org)

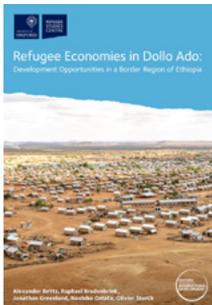
## New reports from the Refugee Economies Programme

The **Refugee Economies Programme**, led by Alexander Betts, has published five reports this year based on research in Ethiopia and Kenya.

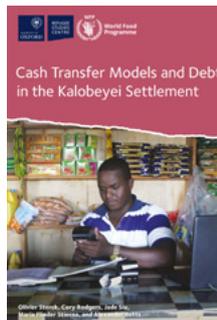
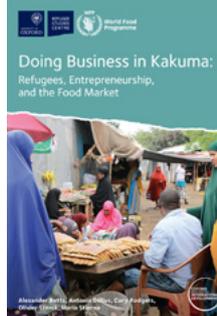
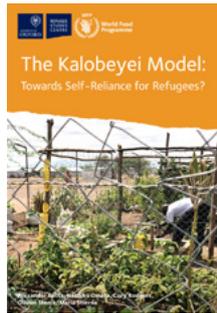
**Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities** examines the precarious economic lives of refugee communities in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, and their interactions with the host community.



**Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado: Development Opportunities in a Border Region of Ethiopia** examines the economic strategies of Somali refugees in the cross-border economy of Ethiopia's Somali region. A Somali-language version of this report is also available.



**The Kalobeyei Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?** outlines a conceptual model and indicators for measuring refugee self-reliance and applies it to the Kalobeyei settlement and Kakuma refugee camps context.



**Doing Business in Kakuma: Refugees, Entrepreneurship, and the Food Market** draws upon a business survey with food retailers to assess the impact of the 'Bamba Chakula' model of electronic food transfers and business contracts.

**Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement** looks at the relative effects of restricted versus unrestricted cash transfers to refugees.

The Programme has also published its evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's multi-year investment (totalling nearly US\$ 100 million) in UNHCR operations in the five refugee camps of Dollo Ado in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. This is the largest private philanthropic donation that the

UN Refugee Agency has ever received. The evaluation aimed to understand how the funding has impacted refugee and host communities in this borderland area. The report, **Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's programmes in Dollo Ado**, is available online.

Find out more at: [www.refugee-economies.org](http://www.refugee-economies.org)

## RSC working papers

### Integration of resettled Syrian refugees in Oxford: preliminary study in 2018

Naohiko Omata and Dunya Habash (with Nuha Abdo)

This paper presents findings from the first phase of a research project on Understanding the Integration of Syrian Refugee Families in Oxfordshire.

### Frozen frontier: uti possidetis and the decolonization of South Asia

Vanshaj Ravi Jain

The study of *uti possidetis* in international law thus far has proceeded without any detailed examination of its application to South Asian borders. Through a detailed study of the Radcliffe Line in Punjab, this paper attempts to commence filling this gap by re-centring South Asia in the debate on *uti possidetis*.

### The Rohingya refugee crisis: rethinking solutions and accountability

Brian Gorlick

Currently, approximately 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar reside in a mega-camp outside Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, while many more are internally displaced in Myanmar. This paper reviews the situation in Myanmar and the regional, political and operational limitations to assert that voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya will remain evasive, and that other solutions and mitigation measures need to be explored.

### Perverse incentives: an analysis of the border-management industry in the United States

Emma Montoya

This paper advances and develops the concept of the "border-management industry", which it defines as the vast network of actors who profit economically and politically from the securitization of migration and deployment of restrictive policies, technology, and infrastructure both on the US-Mexico border and throughout the US.

RSC Working Papers are available at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications)

## Journal special issues and articles

**Cathryn Costello** has co-edited (with Itamar Mann) a new special issue of the *German Law Journal* on 'Accountability for Human Rights Violations in the Context of Migration Control'. She also co-authored the following two articles within the issue: 'Border justice: migration and accountability for human rights violations' (with Itamar Mann), and 'Hard protection through soft courts? Non-refoulement before the United Nations Treaty Bodies' (with Başak Çalı and Stewart Cunningham).

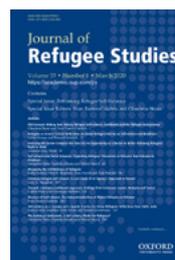


**Evan Easton-Calabria** has co-edited (with Claudia Skran) the latest issue of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* which focuses on 'Rethinking refugee self-reliance'. Papers include 'Self-reliance and social networks: explaining refugees' reluctance to relocate from Kakuma to Kalobeyei' and 'The Kalobeyei settlement: a self-reliance model for

refugees?', by **Alexander Betts, Naohiko Omata** and **Olivier Sterck**; and 'Warriors of self-reliance: the instrumentalization of Afghan refugees in Pakistan', by Evan herself.

Other journal articles published this year include:

- Gibney, M.G. (2020) Banishment and the pre-history of legitimate expulsion power, *Citizenship Studies*, 24(3), 277-300.
- Rodgers, C. (2020) The 'host' label: forming and transforming a community identity at the Kakuma refugee camp, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, doi: 10.1093/jrs/fez109.
- Ozkul, D. (2020) Participatory research: still a one-sided research agenda, *Migration Letters*, 17(2), 229-237.
- Scott-Smith, T. (2019) Beyond the boxes: refugee shelter and the humanitarian politics of human life, *American Ethnologist*, 46(4), 509-521.



Follow us on social media...



To subscribe to our email lists, please visit: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect)