

# 30



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

REFUGEE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE

## Celebrating our 30th anniversary

This year the Refugee Studies Centre celebrates its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1982, in Queen Elizabeth House at the University of Oxford, its purpose is to build knowledge and understanding of the causes and effects of forced migration in order to help improve the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

The Centre was first established as the Refugee Studies Programme by Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond who pioneered the study of refugees and forced migration and continued as the director for the next 15 years. During its early existence, a key priority was to collate all the available literature on refugees and forced migration in order to provide an academic basis for better understanding of the global refugee situation.

Thirty years on and the situation has changed dramatically. The study of forced migration has become a recognised academic discipline, embraced by numerous educational institutions across the world. The need for independent, objective and critical scholarship on factors determining and resulting from the displacement of populations has never been greater.

With this in mind I am pleased to announce the Refugee Studies Centre's 30th Anniversary Conference on 'Understanding Global Refugee Policy'. The conference will bring together academics, policymakers, practitioners, advocates and displaced people to examine the policy-making processes relating to forced migration at the global level.

The conference will question our theoretical understanding of global refugee policy; the variation both in the motivations for policies and in outcomes; and the extent to which the diverse interests and priorities of key stakeholders shape global refugee policy.

Our 30th Anniversary Conference will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our past work and to promote critical reflection on global refugee policy as we continue to confront the challenges presented by forced migration.

Professor Dawn Chatty  
Director of the Refugee Studies Centre

*The RSC 30th Anniversary Conference will take place 6–7 December 2012, see [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events)*

## Hilary Term Public Seminars: Critical Approaches to Environmental Displacement

**Environmental displacement is rapidly becoming the most talked about area of research and policy debate in forced migration. The overwhelming proportion of this research has been policy-led and has focused on exploring the causal relationship between environmental change and human displacement – often at a very macro-level of analysis.**

**Far less common, though, has been an attempt to adopt a critical perspective to the debate on environmental displacement, which stands back and assesses the validity and politics of different representations of the relationship between climate change, the environment, migration, and displacement.**

**Drawing upon speakers from a range of disciplines – politics, anthropology, geography and philosophy – the series, convened by Dr Alexander Betts, explored themes such as the politics of environmental displacement, the instrumentalisation of causal knowledge by different actors, and the basis on which social science can and cannot make meaningful claims about the relationship between the environment and displacement.**

*If you missed the Hilary term public seminar series, you can listen to the podcasts now at [www.forcedmigration.org/podcasts](http://www.forcedmigration.org/podcasts)*

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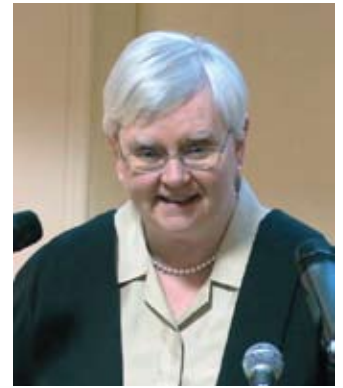
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## RSC Seminar by Anja Klug, Head of the Migration and Asylum Unit, UNHCR

On Monday 23 January the RSC hosted a seminar by Anja Klug, Head of the Migration and Asylum Unit, UNHCR, entitled *Is UNHCR becoming a migration agency? An analysis of UNHCR's engagement in 'mixed movements'*.

Over recent years, UNHCR has been increasingly engaged in the broader debate on international migration. The presentation analysed UNHCR's policies and activities in the interface between refugee protection and international migration, with an emphasis on UNHCR's *10-Point Plan on Refugee Protection and International Migration*, which provides practical suggestions to assist states in developing comprehensive asylum and migration strategies.

Anja Klug is widely recognised as an expert on the nexus between maritime law and refugee law and has been the global focal point for the past five years of UNHCR's 10-Point Plan.



Dr Frances Lannon, Principal of  
Lady Margaret Hall

## New Junior Research Fellowship funded by Ockenden International

**On Tuesday 7 February Lady Margaret Hall hosted an evening marking the establishment of a Junior Research Fellowship in Refugee Studies and Forced Migration at Lady Margaret Hall (LMH) and the Refugee Studies Centre, funded by Ockenden International and to be named in honour of Ockenden International's founder, the late Joyce Pearce, OBE (LMH Alumna, 1934–37).**

**Speakers included the Principal of LMH, Dr Frances Lannon, the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, the Rt Hon the Lord Patten of Barnes, CH, and BBC journalist and news presenter, Michael Buerk, who announced the creation by Ockenden of an annual award of £50,000, open to NGOs and their partners to recognise and reward innovative work with displaced people around the world.**

**The Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Kirsten McConnachie who will join the RSC in September 2012.**



In the first 10 days of the crisis, some 70,000 people in Libya fled to Tunisia to escape violence

## The Arab Spring and Beyond: Human Mobility, Forced Migration and Institutional Responses

Migration in its various forms has been a key part of the popular uprisings that spread across North Africa and the Levant in 2011. The columns of vehicles escaping from cities and villages under siege in Libya, the boats crammed with Tunisians crossing the Mediterranean Sea and landing on the island of Lampedusa, and the numerous Egyptian émigrés and university students returning to Cairo to join the protests in Tahrir Square are a few examples of the ways in which human mobility can intersect current affairs.

Panelists at the 'North Africa in Transition: Mobility, Forced Migration and Humanitarian Crises' workshop, organised by the Refugee Studies Centre and the International Migration Institute (IMI) in May 2011, observed that the regional crises had prompted certain shifts but that, apart from large-scale displacement within and from Libya, migration patterns from most other countries, such as Tunisia and Egypt, seemed to have remained remarkably unaffected by the political turmoil.

To build on this event and take stock of further political and economic developments in the region, the RSC and IMI are organising a second international symposium on migration and forced migration in North Africa and the Levant on 20 March 2012. This second workshop will examine the extent to which the Arab Spring has shifted migration dynamics and migration and refugee governance.

*The Arab Spring and Beyond: Human Mobility, Forced Migration and Institutional Responses workshop is taking place 20 March 2012 at Queen Elizabeth House, 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford, OX1 3TB. For more information visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events)*

## 2012 Elizabeth Colson Lecture

**This year's Elizabeth Colson Lecture will be given by Professor Alessandro Monsutti, Research Director, Transnational Studies/ Development Studies, Graduate Institute, University of Geneva. The lecture, entitled *States, sovereignties and refugees: a view from the margins?*, will take place on Wednesday 6 June, at 5pm at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW.**

**For all enquiries please contact Heidi El-Megrissi [rsc-outreach@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rsc-outreach@qeh.ox.ac.uk)**

## International Summer School in Forced Migration, 2–20 July 2012

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

Applications are now welcomed for the 2012 Summer School from mid-career/senior practitioners or researchers specialising in forced migration. The closing date is 1 May 2012.

*The International Summer School is taking place 2–20 July 2012 at Wadham College and the Oxford Department of International Development. For full details visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/teaching-summer.html](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/teaching-summer.html)*



## UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection

This new edition of 'UNHCR' provides a concise and comprehensive introduction to refugees and the UN agency that protects and assists them. Written by the RSC's Alexander Betts and Gil Loescher, and RSC Associate James Milner, the book examines the relationship between global politics and the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

It explores how the organisation has adapted to changes in world politics and the nature of forced displacement since its creation over 60 years ago, and offers insights into how the organisation will be able to navigate present and future challenges.

This second edition is fully updated to consider recent challenges faced by UNHCR, including new chapters on the changing dynamics of forced migration, new analytical sections to explore the challenges of protection, solutions and cooperation, and a forward-looking conclusion to propose a framework for UNHCR's future direction.

Available to buy at [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com) priced £17.99

## Forced Migration Review

**Forced Migration Review (FMR) has ambitious plans for a series of publications in 2012–13.**

**We are currently preparing an issue on 'Young and out of place' and considering the following themes for subsequent issues: North Africa; Sexual orientation and gender identity and the protection of forced migrants; Preventing displacement; Fragile states and displacement; Transitional justice and displaced people; Alternatives to detention, and deportation; and Humanitarian access. More details and calls for articles can be found at [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm)**

**We are looking for partnerships with organisations and governments to work on these themes – in terms of content and/or financial support. The timings and the order of publication will depend on the interest shown in these topics both by potential authors and by potential partners. FMR will also continue to publish 'general articles' on forced migration-related topics.**

**The latest issue of FMR – 'the technology issue' – is online in English, French, Spanish and Arabic at [www.fmreview.org/technology](http://www.fmreview.org/technology)**

**You can contact the Editors at [fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk)**

## Anti-Gypsyism and the politics of exclusion in Italy

The RSC's Dr Nando Sigona has co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* on contemporary anti-Gypsyism in Italy with Dr Isabella Clough Marinaro. The collection provides an overview of the current situation of immigrant, refugee and national Roma in Italy.

View the contents at [Taylor & Francis Online, www.tandfonline.com](http://Taylor & Francis Online, www.tandfonline.com)

## Berghahn Books' Forced Migration series special offer

Berghahn Books' *Forced Migration* series is edited by Dawn Chatty and published in association with the Refugee Studies Centre. The series reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the field and includes within its scope international law, anthropology, medicine, geopolitics, social psychology and economics. More information is available at [www.berghahnbooks.com](http://www.berghahnbooks.com)

For a limited time hardback copies of all books in this series are available at a 50% discount, and paperbacks at a 25% discount. To take advantage of this offer please contact Ben Parker, [ben.parker@gmail.com](mailto:ben.parker@gmail.com), and quote the code: RSN. Offer ends 31 March 2012.



## New Migration Studies Journal

*Migration Studies* is a new multi-disciplinary refereed journal from Oxford University Press. It will publish work that significantly advances our understanding of the determinants, processes and outcomes of human migration in all its manifestations. The first issue will be published in Spring 2013. The Editorial Board includes Dr Alexander Betts and Dr Nando Sigona from the Refugee Studies Centre. Professor Chatty will serve on its Editorial Advisory Board.

## Emeritus Professor Roger Zetter to edit 2012 World Disasters Report

Emeritus Professor Roger Zetter, former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, has recently been commissioned by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to edit the 2012 World Disasters Report. The theme for the 2012 report is Forced Migration and it is due to be published in late September.