



Professor Lea Ypi delivers the Opening Plenary at the RSC Conference 2019 on Democratizing Displacement.

## A note from the Director



I am happy to share with you news of what has been another great year at the RSC. As my second year as Director comes to an end, I continue to be amazed by the insights, commitment and achievements of our researchers, students, visitors, associates and supporters.

It is clear from this newsletter that a diverse range of excellent research has been undertaken this year, pushing the boundaries of our understanding of forced migration. Academics at the Centre have produced publications on subjects as varied as the Global Compact on refugees, denationalisation, civil solidarity and responses to asylum seekers, and immigration law and precarious workers. Our new Early Career Fellows (ECFs) have contributed greatly to our research output, bringing new topics and areas into consideration. It is evident from the use of our research by academics, students, policy-makers and journalists that every year our scholarship reaches a broader audience. The task of dissemination has again been ably assisted by our highly lauded *Forced Migration Review* (FMR). But I am also excited to report that our new bite-size research website, Rethinking Refuge, is now online, increasing the accessibility of our research even further.

It has been a busy year for new positions. As well as being joined by three new ECFs funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, our new Pedro Arrupe Fellow, made possible by Campion Hall and the Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe, Cory Rogers, has begun work at the RSC. Catherine Briddick, our new Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration generously funded by the Martin James Foundation, and a new British Academy Fellow, Marie Godin, have joined the Centre. We have also recruited, with Lady Margaret Hall, a new Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow, to begin in September.

As ever, the RSC has hosted events that attract people from the UK and across the world to Oxford. Our annual Summer School has been a great success, brilliantly directed by Tom Scott-Smith; and the Elizabeth Colson and Barbara Harrell-Bond lectures were given by esteemed visitors. Of particular note was our biennial conference the theme of which was 'Democratizing Displacement'.

At this time last year we heard that Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, our founder, had passed away. Her life has been memorialised by the Centre in a number of ways in the course of the year. A special edition of FMR was dedicated to her and we held an event at Queen Elizabeth House in July with her family, friends and colleagues. One of our aims as a Centre is to imitate her amazing energy and dedication. I hope this newsletter shows our continued progress in this direction.

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

## Democratizing Displacement, the RSC Conference 2019

On 18-19 March, the RSC Conference 2019 took place at New College, Oxford, with a focus on 'democratizing' refugee protection from a variety of disciplinary angles, including ethics, politics, anthropology, history, and law. The conference examined the role of refugees as political agents able to inform the decisions that affect them at local, state, regional and global levels. It explored the ethics and politics of accountability, participation, and humanitarian governance; the character of practical, institutional and legal mechanisms to ensure that refugees have a say in their protection; and ways in which those who make decisions in relation to the displaced are (or could be) held accountable for their actions.

Keynote speakers were Lea Ypi (Professor in Political Theory, LSE) and Karma Nabulsi (Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford). RSC staff presenting included Alexander Betts, Ali Ali and Robin Vandevordt, plus DPhil candidates Claire Walkey and Blair Peruniak. Sessions focused on topics such as political participation and citizenship, contesting deportation and exclusion, refugee voices in modern history, international organisations and accountability, displacement and peacebuilding, resistance and political action.

In his opening address, the RSC Director, Matthew Gibney, addressed the subject of the conference: "While the displaced are sometimes casually considered as a single group, they are almost never treated as a demos. Instead, they become subjects of power, denied the standing to participate in determining how the often extraordinary power exercised over them will be used. It's right then to ask, 'what would more representative, more democratic institutions for forced migrants look like, and at what level of society might they come to exist?'" He added, "the reality is that the displaced have always found informal ways to influence politics and governance... Refugees have always protested, rebutted, refused to comply, organised and even theorised their own predicament... Thus if we are going to engage with the political agency of the displaced, we need to consider types of political action beyond the formal, beyond voting parties and traditional representation. We need to look, for instance, at protest, rebellion and resistance."

Thirty-seven presentations from the conference are available to listen to on the RSC website:

<https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/podcasts-rsc-conference-2019>

## New Rethinking Refuge platform now online



With global displacement receiving increased attention, robust relevant research and new perspectives on refugees and forced migration are needed. Launched on World Refugee Day, the RSC's new 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 seeks to bridge the gap between scholarly research, policy-making, and public understanding, and in so doing to engage meaningfully with the challenge of forced displacement in the 21st century. Articles fall under six core themes, each hugely relevant to the international refugee regime today: refugee protection, emergency and crisis, mobility, refugee agency, humanitarianism, and refugees' economic lives.

Authors and articles include Professor Matthew Gibney (RSC Director) writing on 'The duties of refugees', Professor Cathryn Costello (RSC) and Dr Jennifer Allsopp (SOAS) on 'Smuggling prohibitions vs. duties of humanity', Dr Natascha Zaun (LSE) on 'Rethinking the "European refugee crisis"', Dr Evan Easton-Calabria (RSC), Dr Kate Pincock (ODI), and Professor Alexander Betts (RSC) on 'Refugee-led organisations', and Dr Anne-Line Rodriguez (Queen Mary University of London) on 'Rethinking voluntary returns from North Africa'.

In the words of the RSC's Director, Matthew Gibney, "By offering the work of the Refugee Studies Centre's researchers and affiliates in this format, we aim to encourage and generate new thinking on forced migration and to make the RSC's work even more accessible to a wide variety of audiences across the globe."

The platform's editor is Evan Easton-Calabria. It has been made possible through generous grants from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and DELMI (Migration Studies Delegation).

Visit the platform at:  
[www.rethinkingrefuge.org](http://www.rethinkingrefuge.org)

## Remembering Barbara Harrell-Bond

A memorial event to commemorate the life of Barbara Harrell-Bond, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre, who died on 11 July 2018, was held on 24 November at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where Barbara began her studies in anthropology, later becoming an Honorary Fellow. During the course of her life, Barbara's indefatigable commitment to seeking justice for refugees brought her into close contact with an enormous diversity of individuals: those who could work alongside her in that cause, and those who themselves needed support in securing their rights.

It was a striking reflection of the scope of Barbara's life and work, therefore, that those who attended the event (organised by her family) included asylum seekers, refugee activists, academics, family, friends, former colleagues, journalists and royalty. Speakers addressing the gathering spoke of her acumen, persistence, scholarship and influence, and included Alan Rusbridger (Principal, LMH), His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Professor Matthew Gibney (Director, RSC), Professor Eftihia Voutira and Dr Giorgia Doná (both formerly of the RSC), and William Wallis (Financial Times).



Barbara's family, friends, colleagues and those she assisted gather to remember her at Queen Elizabeth House in July.

The Refugee Studies Centre hosted a further celebratory event in July to honour and remember Barbara, marking the one year anniversary of her passing. This more informal event had a distinctly West African flavour, with beautiful Kora music accompanying heartfelt tributes from Barbara's family, friends, colleagues, and those she had assisted.

A special issue of *Forced Migration Review*, the publication she founded in 1987, was published in tribute to her in June 2019 (details at [www.fmreview.org/harrell-bond](http://www.fmreview.org/harrell-bond)). There is also now a Barbara Harrell-Bond Foundation, with Board members including Eftihia Voutira and Giorgia Doná.

Find out more about Barbara here:  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/barbara-harrell-bond](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/barbara-harrell-bond)

## Honorary appointments



The RSC is delighted to announce that **Cathryn Costello**, Andrew W Mellon Professor of Refugee and Migration Law, has been appointed as a part-time **visiting Professor at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the Faculty of Law, University of Oslo**. The appointment is to enable Cathryn to collaborate with Maja Janmyr, Professor in International Migration Law. Professor Janmyr's current research focuses on refugee rights in the Middle East, with a particular emphasis on the situation of Syrian and Sudanese refugees and migrants in Lebanon. She is on the Advisory Board of Professor Costello's project Refugees are Migrants (REF-MIG), and they plan further collaboration on refugee protection in states that have not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention.

**Matthew J Gibney**, Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration, has been appointed as a **Distinguished Fellow of the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto**. This appointment will facilitate stronger connections between the work of Professor Gibney and the Refugee Studies Centre, and that of the Munk School.

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

## New RSC staff



We are very pleased to introduce some new members of RSC staff. **Cory Rodgers** is the Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration Studies, a joint position with Campion Hall. Cory is an anthropologist researching inclusive development policies and refugee-host dynamics in Eastern Africa. Since 2015, he has worked primarily in Turkana County in northwestern Kenya.

**Marie Godin** has joined us as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow. She will be working on a project titled 'Refugees, social protection and digital technologies in times of the "refugee crisis"'.

Finally, **María Stierna** and **Jade Siu** are two new Research Assistants on the Refugee Economics programme funded by the IKEA Foundation.

## UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl gives the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2018



On 18 October, we were honoured to welcome UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl to give the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2018. In a thought-provoking and inspiring lecture, he spoke about the challenges faced by Palestine refugees and UNRWA in a troubled and polarized Middle-East.

Mr Krähenbühl opened by sharing and expounding on three thoughts from his many years spent in conflict zones: that we must strongly reject the notion that wars are inevitable; that we must also reject very strongly the idea that death and suffering is something anonymous – behind every single statistic are lives lost and torn apart; and that

we live in a very troubling time in which we need to take a very strong stand for international law and in defence of the multilateral system.

He highlighted the long length of time that Palestine refugees have remained refugees and the conditions they face: “To be a Palestine refugee in the West Bank today means to have your entire life defined by the occupation, lack of freedom of movement, the very regular incursions into camp environments, arrest, detention by Israeli security forces, the destruction of property, and... particularly of course the growth in the development of settlements, that spread and become an ever-more present reality, pressure point, threat in some cases.”

He also discussed UNRWA’s unique design encompassing varied areas of focus and activities (both humanitarian emergency response and quasi state like activities, such as delivery of health care, social services, microfinance, and in particular education), and the financial challenges it faces following the withdrawal of US funding.

To listen to a podcast of the lecture visit: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2018-podcast](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2018-podcast)

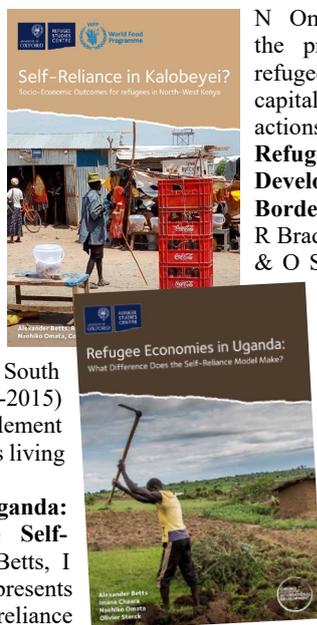
## New publications from the Refugee Economies Programme

The Refugee Economies Programme has published two new reports on research in Kenya and Uganda this academic year, with more forthcoming including new research in Ethiopia.

**Self-Reliance in Kalobeyei? Socio-Economic Outcomes for Refugees in North-West Kenya** (A Betts, R Geervliet, C MacPherson, N Omata, C Rodgers & O Sterck) compares the socio-economic situation of South Sudanese recent arrivals (post-2015) living in the new Kalobeyei settlement to the situation of recent arrivals living in the old Kakuma camp.

**Refugee Economies in Uganda: What Difference Does the Self-Reliance Model Make?** (A Betts, I Chaara, N Omata & O Sterck) presents research into Uganda’s self-reliance strategy for refugees. Uganda gives refugees the right to work and freedom of movement through its self-reliance model. The report explores what difference the Ugandan model makes by comparing outcomes for Somali and Congolese refugees in Uganda and Kenya. There is also an accompanying research brief: **Uganda’s Self-Reliance Model: Does it Work?**

Four further reports are forthcoming in September. **Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities** (A Betts, L Fryszer,



N Omata & O Sterck) 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** (A Betts, R Bradenbrink, J Goodland, N Omata & O Sterck) examines the economic strategies of Somali refugees in the cross-border economy of Ethiopia’s Somali region.

**The Kalobeyei Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?** (A Betts, M Stierna, N Omata, C Rodgers & O Sterck) 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** (A Betts, A Delius, C Rodgers, M Stierna & O Sterck) draws upon a business survey with food retailers to assess the impact of the ‘Bamba Chakula’ model of electronic food transfers and business contracts.

Meanwhile, two new academic articles on the Kalobeyei settlement have been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and are forthcoming.

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

## Visiting Fellows 2018-2019

Each year we are joined by some exceptional Visiting Fellows and Student Visitors from numerous countries, visiting for a term to focus on a specific programme of study or research under the guidance of an assigned academic advisor.

This year, to name just a few, in Michaelmas term, Léa Macias (PhD student in contemporary anthropology at EHESS, Paris) conducted research into the digitalization of humanitarian operations, focusing on data, maps and new technologies in Zaatari refugee camp. In Hilary term, Alex Tasker (who recently completed a PhD at the University of Sussex) studied network analysis techniques for refugee and forced migration research. In Trinity term, Amanda Alencar (Assistant Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam) conducted research on the role of ICTs and social media in refugee settlement processes. Also in Trinity, Adam Dagleish (doctoral candidate, University of Auckland) focused on what an ethical, but feasible, response to the refugee crisis would look like.

All contributed greatly to the life and activities of the Centre, giving work-in-progress seminars on their research, attending our public seminar series and many other events around Oxford.

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

## DPhil and MSc news

We are pleased to announce the following prizes awarded to two of our 2017-2018 MSc alumni. **Emilia Truluck** won the Fifth Annual International Refugee Law Student Writing Competition, organised by the American Society of International Law’s International Refugee Law Interest Group (IRLIG) and co-sponsored by the Global Migration Centre, the International Law Students Association (ILSA), the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, and the American Society of International Law (ASIL). **Rebecca Buxton** was awarded the Royal Institute of Philosophy 2018 Essay Prize for her essay titled ‘Reparative Justice for Climate Refugees’, which has now been published as a paper in the journal *Philosophy*.

We also congratulate **Yulia Ioffe** (DPhil candidate in the Oxford Law Faculty supervised by the RSC’s Professor Cathryn Costello) on her selection by the International Court of Justice to participate in its 2018-2019 Judicial Fellows Programme. This programme provides an opportunity for one Oxford student or recent graduate to work for nearly a year at the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

And finally, **Nora Bardelli**, who completed her DPhil this year, had her article ‘When the refugee status becomes an economic asset: how Malians in a Burkina Faso City negotiate the ‘refugee’ category’ published in the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

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

## Professor Peter Redfield focuses on 'milieu' in the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2019



In June, we were pleased to welcome Professor Peter Redfield to give the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2019, titled 'A Mobile Milieu: Humanitarian Equipment and the Politics of Need'.

Approaching human mobility from the perspective of milieu – the intimate, inclusive envelope of immediate environment – the lecture focused on humanitarian equipment, from refugee camps to innovative devices that seek to provide for basic needs such as water and sanitation. Such objects offer little prospect of producing a satisfying response to human suffering. Nonetheless, their very inadequacies

can expose conflicting assumptions about human needs and aspirations. Tensions between understandings of what constitutes a satisfactory life emerge at a mundane level, positioning these devices as scalar connection points between individual experience and social imagination. Milieu, Redfield suggests, can serve as a revealing conceptual site to investigate the political terrain exposed by human mobility, including rival strains of humanitarian concern, rights advocacy, national identification, and ecological anxiety.

Peter Redfield is Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Trained as a cultural anthropologist sympathetic to history, he concentrates on circulations of science, technology and medicine in colonial and postcolonial contexts. He is currently working on collaborative projects related to humanitarian design.

*Listen to the lecture at:*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/colson2019-podcast](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/colson2019-podcast)

## RSC engagements

RSC staff are always in demand for speaking and advisory engagements. Here are just a few. With the Venezuela crisis high on the international agenda, Alexander Betts travelled to Colombia in February, at the invitation of the Presidency and with the support of USAID, to learn about Colombia's response to the Venezuelan influx, and to share experiences based upon research relating to the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants in other parts of the world. Earlier, in October, Betts gave evidence to the House of Commons International Development Committee as part of their inquiry into forced displacement in Africa.

In November, Roger Zetter was hosted by the University of Liège as rotating Chair in Environmental Diplomacy. Dawn Chatty spent Michaelmas term at the NYU Abu Dhabi as a Visiting Professor, and in March she gave the keynote address at the British Academy Conference on Middle East Migration at the University of Birmingham, speaking on 'Syria: From Refuge to Refugee State'.

In June, Matthew Gibney spoke on 'Precarious Citizenship' at the opening plenary session of the World Conference on Statelessness at The Hague. Cathryn Costello and Lilian Tsourdi attended the conference on Constitutional Foundations of EU Migration Law at the University of Konstanz in Nuremberg. Cathryn took part in panels on Autonomy of EU Law and International Refugee Law, and The Role of Academia, while Lilian spoke on 'The Evolving Role of EU Agencies in the Administrative Governance of the EU Asylum Policy'.

## International Summer School in Forced Migration 2019



Matthew Gibney introduces guest speaker Dr Sarah Fine (Kings College London).

For this year's International Summer School in Forced Migration, 69 participants from across the world came together in Oxford from 7-19 July for two weeks of activities.

The Summer 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 world of the displaced. Principally designed for policy-makers and practitioners working on refugee protection and related issues, the course combines the very best of Oxford University's academic excellence with a stimulating and participatory method of critical learning and reflection.

This year guest speakers included Professor Chaloka Beyani (LSE Law School) and E. Tendayi Achiume (UCLA School of Law).

*For further information visit:*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summer-school](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summer-school)

## Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law



In late July, we hosted a workshop at All Souls College preparing for the Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law. Convened by the Handbook's editors, Professor Cathryn Costello (RSC) and RSC Research Associates, Professors Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne) and Jane McAdam (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW), the workshop brought together an amazing list of international migration and refugee law scholars, including Dr Madeline Garlick (UNHCR), Professor Elspeth Guild (Queen Mary University of London), and Dr Rebecca Hamlin (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

The Handbook aims to take a global view of international refugee law, bringing together leading scholars from across the globe to undertake a critical analysis, seeking to define the field and set the agenda for the next phase of research. In particular, it will balance coverage of traditional core topics in refugee law, such as who is a refugee and the protection refugees are entitled to, with contemporary concerns around states' increasing tendency to turn refugees away, siphon refugees into weak or informal forms of protection, and shift responsibility for refugees elsewhere.

The event was supported by RSC funding from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, an Oxford Law Faculty – Melbourne Law School grant, and the Kaldor Centre. The Handbook is due to be published by Oxford University Press in 2022.

## RSC Public Seminar podcasts

Each term, the RSC holds a series of public seminars on Wednesday evenings. This year seminars have focused on, in Hilary term, refugees in the UK and urban refugees; in Trinity term, 'everyday resistance to the European governance of migration'; and in Michaelmas term, a smorgasbord of timely issues relating to various aspects of forced migration. Speakers included Dr Lucy Mayblin (Warwick University) on asylum after empire; Professor Brad K Blitz (Middlesex University London), on the business of modern slavery; Dr Anita Fábos (Clark University), on Sudanese refugees in Cairo; Dr Bram J Jansen (Wageningen University), on the accidental city of Kakuma; and Dr Tom Western (RSC), on sound, citizenship, and migrant activism in Athens.

*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 59**, published in October 2018, reflects on **Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**. In the 20 years since they were launched, the Guiding Principles have been of assistance to many States responding to internal displacement, and have been incorporated into many national and regional policies and laws. However, the scale of internal displacement today remains vast, and the impact on those who are displaced is immense.

Online at:

[www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20](http://www.fmreview.org/GuidingPrinciples20)

**FMR 60** focuses on **Education: needs, rights and access in displacement**. Education is one of the most important aspects of our lives – vital to our development, our understanding and our personal and professional fulfilment throughout life. In times of crisis, however, millions of displaced young people miss out on months or years of education. This is damaging to them and their families, as well as to their societies, both in the short and the long term.

Online at:

[www.fmreview.org/education-displacement](http://www.fmreview.org/education-displacement)

## New RSC Working Papers

### Contested evolution of nutrition for humanitarian and development ends

Written by Susanne Jaspars, Tom Scott-Smith and Elizabeth Hull, this working paper is the report of an international workshop convened by the RSC and the Food Studies Centre at SOAS, University of London. The workshop aimed to explore and debate how and why humanitarian and development nutrition came to be dominated by medical science.

### Politics resettled: the case of the Palestinian diaspora in Chile

In this paper, Victor Beaume (MSc 2017-2018) argues that resettlement needs to be better understood as a political event and process. He uses the resettlement of Palestinian refugees to Chile from Iraq in 2008 as a case study. In parallel to the 'formal' implementation of the resettlement project by the Chilean Government, UNHCR and their NGO partner the Vicaría, the long-settled Palestinian community supported their 'compatriots' by providing material and cultural resources. Applying diaspora theory as a framework, Beaume elucidates the politics of resettlement, moving beyond mere policy and state-centric considerations.

Published in June, **FMR 61** reflects on the issue of **Ethics**. We each live according to our own personal code of ethics but what moral principles guide our work? The 19 feature theme articles in this issue debate many of the ethical questions that confront us in programming, research, safeguarding and volunteering, and in our use of data, new technologies, messaging and images. Prepare to be enlightened, unsettled and challenged.

This issue is being published in tribute to **Barbara Harrell-Bond**, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre and FMR, who died in July 2018. In a special collection of articles within this issue, authors discuss Barbara's legacy – the impact she had and its relevance for our work today.

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

### Forthcoming issues:

- FMR 62: 'Return', with mini-feature on 'Towards understanding and addressing root causes of displacement' (due out October 2019)
- FMR 63: 'Cities and towns' (February 2020)
- FMR 64: 'Trafficking and smuggling', plus additional feature on 'Climate crisis and local communities' (June 2020)

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)

### Negotiating place, culture and new Dutch identities

Julia Muller (MSc 2017-2018) examines refugee integration in the Netherlands through the example of De Voorkamer, a grassroots initiative in Lombok, one of the most ethnically diverse neighbourhoods in the city of Utrecht. This initiative aims to enhance the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in ways that counter 'bureaucratic processes of integration'.

### Seeking informal asylum: the case of Central Americans in the United States

Angela Remus (MSc 2017-2018) uses the example of Central Americans from the Northern Triangle living in the USA as an illustration of the decisions of refugees to forego formal asylum in favour of irregular status. The question at the centre of the paper is: how might we understand the decisions of refugees to opt out of formal asylum systems? Remus argues that, for many refugees, 'informal asylum' outside of state recognition may be preferable when the restrictiveness of the asylum system is high.

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

## New in the RSC Research in Brief series

### Refugee Energy



Recent analytical research has been undertaken on access to energy in displacement settings to understand the role of renewables in emergency and protracted response. DPhil candidate **Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen** presents an overview of

the issues and suggests recommendations for consideration.

### Resettled Syrian Refugees in Oxford

Written by **Naohiko Omata**, this brief presents preliminary findings from research looking at how Syrian refugees who came to Oxford via the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme have been adapting to their new life in the UK.

### Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance

Research by the Global Governed project in Kenya and Uganda features in this brief by **Alexander Betts, Kate Pincock and Evan Easton-Calabria**. It describes a largely neglected story wherein refugees themselves mobilise to create community-based organisations or informal networks as providers of social protection.



### Uganda's Self-Reliance Model: Does it Work?

Uganda gives refugees the right to work and freedom of movement through its self-reliance model, widely praised as one of the most progressive refugee policies in the world. New research by **Alexander Betts, Imane Chaara, Naohiko Omata, and Olivier Sterck** explores what difference the self-reliance model makes in practice. Which aspects work, under what conditions, and for whom?

### Venezuelan Survival Migration as a Development Opportunity

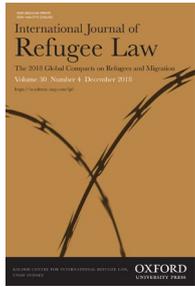
**Alexander Betts** reports on his recent mission to Colombia at the invitation of the Presidency. The mission's purpose was twofold: (1) to learn about Colombia's response to the Venezuelan influx; and (2) to share experiences and best practices based upon Betts' research relating to the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants elsewhere.



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

## Selected journal articles

The December 2018 issue of the *International Journal of Refugee Law* focused on the two Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration, and featured articles by Cathryn Costello and Alexander Betts, plus RSC Associates Jane McAdam, Guy S Goodwin-Gill and Jeff Crisp. In **Refugees and (Other) Migrants: Will the Global Compacts ensure safe flight and onward mobility for refugees?**, Cathryn Costello assesses some of the implications



of the split between the two separate Compacts, and in particular, what that split connotes for refugees' mobility. Further, having problematized the bifurcation in the Compacts, the article suggests a constructive way forward.

In **The Global Compact on Refugees: Towards a theory of change?**, Alexander Betts looks at how the Refugee Compact can go from text to practical change: "the basis on which we should judge the Refugee Compact must be the difference it makes in practice to the lives of refugees and other displaced persons. Will it lead to increased commitments by States and other actors? And against what benchmarks and counterfactual measures should this be judged? What the Refugee Compact needs is an explicit theory of change."

In the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Matthew Gibney writes about **Denationalisation and discrimination**,

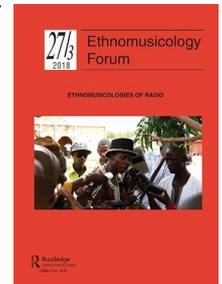
considering the relationship between the two. Denationalisation, the involuntary removal of citizenship or nationality by the state, has a dark history, reflected in the Nazi use of the power. Yet before 1945, many liberal democratic states also practiced citizenship-stripping, in ways informed by considerations of gender, race, national origin, and mode of citizenship acquisition. With denationalisation making a revival across a range of liberal democratic states as a way of responding to 'home grown' terrorists, the question emerges: Do recent denationalisation provisions manage to break free of this discriminatory past?

Robin Vandevoordt and Gert Verschraegen have co-edited a special issue for *Social Inclusion* on **The European Refugee Controversy: Civil Solidarity, Cultural Imaginaries and Political Change**. In the summer of 2015, a wave of solidarity washed across the European continent as 1.3 million refugees arrived. While many recent studies have explored how 'ordinary' men and women, NGOs and governments momentarily reacted to the arrival of refugees, this issue examines whether the arrival of refugees and the subsequent rise of civil support initiatives has also resulted in more structural cultural and political changes. As well as co-authoring the introductory article, Robin contributes the



article **Eroding rights, crafting solidarity? Shifting dynamics in the state-civil society nexus in Flanders and Brussels**.

Tom Western has co-edited a special issue of the journal *Ethnomusicology Forum* on **Ethnomusicologies of Radio** and written the introductory article. The articles consider the role of music on radio in relation to decolonisation and migration processes, and in voicing policies of multiculturalism.



In *Development in Practice*, Naohiko Omata co-writes with Noriko Takahashi on the potential and limitations of vocational training programmes in relation to refugees' economic reintegration post-repatriation, in the article **Promoting the economic reintegration of returnees through vocational training: lessons from Liberia**.

And finally in this selection, Catherine Briddick writes in *Social & Legal Studies* on **Precarious workers and probationary wives: how immigration law discriminates against women**. Here she argues that women are disadvantaged by immigration law's distribution of migration statuses; and that this disadvantage is the result of rules which indirectly discriminate against women, discrimination which may be unlawful under Article 14 ECHR.

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## Forthcoming film: Shelter without Shelter

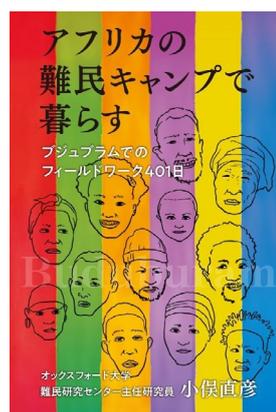
Three years ago, Tom Scott-Smith and Mark Breeze (University of Cambridge) set out to make a documentary film to communicate the findings of their project **Architectures of Displacement**. Their research looked at how humanitarian agencies in six different countries provided basic shelter to refugees from Syria following the 'summer of migration' in 2015. Each country's strategy differed, with shelters taking a range of forms. Film was an obvious way to communicate the diversity of these shelters, illustrating what they looked like and how it would feel to live in them, explaining the aims of their designers and the experiences of their inhabitants.

After facing numerous challenges involved, Tom and Mark have created a story of high hopes and eventual failure: a tragedy of ideals with important lessons about refugee shelter. The film, to be released in 2020, will not be the only output of the project; more research will appear in traditional written formats, such as articles and monographs. Watch this space!

## On the Inside: 401 Days of Fieldwork in Buduburam Camp in Ghana

In this new book (written in Japanese and published by Kobuna Books), Naohiko Omata reports on 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork undertaken when living inside Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana.

Although forced displacement today attracts widespread international attention due to the number of refugees and the widespread dissemination of tragic images in the media, rarely do we have insight into the day-to-day lives of refugees living in camps. Even though refugee camps are established as an 'exceptional' space for emergency refuge, over a prolonged period, these camps gradually take on the form of villages or towns. In these artificial spaces, those who have fled their homeland build new



communities and seek the means of their survival under numerous constraints.

Buduburam Refugee Camp was home to more than 20,000 Liberian refugees for nearly twenty years. The aim of the research was to investigate the economic lives of the people living in the camp. However, this experience also exposed Omata to the political, social, religious and familial aspects of refugees' day-to-day lives. While refugees are typically represented as 'faceless' victims in the global media, the book focuses on personal accounts of everyday life as a refugee, shedding fresh light on the 'normality' inside the camp.

The book is available in Japanese only from Kobuna Books.

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