

Annual Harrell-Bond lecture by António Guterres

The RSC is delighted to announce that António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees, will be giving the eleventh Harrell-Bond lecture on 13 October 2010. The lecture will examine current trends in relation to forced displacement and humanitarian action, with a specific focus on the challenges and opportunities confronting UNHCR. António Guterres became the 10th UN High Commissioner for Refugees on 15 June 2005. In April 2010, the General Assembly re-elected Guterres to a second five-year term.

Before joining UNHCR, Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service. He served as Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, during which time he was heavily involved in the international effort to resolve the crisis in East Timor. As president of the European Council in early 2000, he led the adoption of the so-called Lisbon Agenda and co-chaired the first European Union-Africa summit. He also founded the Portuguese Refugee Council in 1991 and was part of the Council of State of Portugal from 1991 to 2002.

From 1981 to 1983, Guterres was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as chairman of the Committee on Demography, Migration and Refugees. In addition, he has been active in Socialist International, a worldwide organisation of social democratic political parties. He was the group's vice-president from 1992 to 1999 and president from 1999 until mid-2005.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday 13 October 2010, 5pm, at the University Museum, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception.

For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Amelia Richards at amelia.richards@qeh.ox.ac.uk +44 1865 281727

Lecture podcasts

On Wednesday 26 May 2010 Professor Saskia Sassen gave the annual Elizabeth Colson lecture. Her lecture title was *The complexity of powerlessness: What makes human rights law perform?* Saskia Sassen is the Robert S Lynd Professor of Sociology and Member of the Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University.

The **Endnote Lecture** at the 2010 International Summer School in Forced Migration was given by Dennis McNamara, Humanitarian Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva (former Special Adviser to the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator).

Both lectures were recorded and are posted as podcasts on **Forced Migration Online** (FMO) where they can be downloaded for free. FMO offers a collection of audio podcasts. These include lectures from forced migration events and discussions between experts on forced migration issues from academia, practitioner organisations and international agencies. The series also features interviews with refugees and other displaced people.



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Seminar in Copenhagen

On 4 June 2010 the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a seminar on ‘Burning issues in protection – the way forward?’. The seminar focused on the concepts of humanitarian space and protection and brought together a small working group with people from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DanChurchAid, the Danish Refugee Council, Danida, Humanitarian Policy Group / ODI, and the Refugee Studies Centre.

The purpose of the seminar was to follow up on the key conclusions of the RSC’s September 2009 international conference on ‘Protecting people in conflict and crisis: Responding to the challenges of a changing world’ (which was funded by the Ministry in conjunction with the launch of its new humanitarian strategy 2010–2015).

The programme and, the presentations and abstracts of the speakers of the Copenhagen event are available (in English) on the [website](#) (menu on the right hand) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

For more information, please contact Héloïse Ruaudel: heloise.ruaudel@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Health needs assessment for asylum seekers

RSC researchers Dr Dawn Chatty and Dr Susan Zimmermann and Marie Louise Nørredam (Research Associate), in collaboration with the Department of Primary Health Care at Oxford University, are undertaking a pilot study on ‘A health needs assessment for asylum seekers and other detainees in immigration removal centres in the UK’.

The researchers are asking people who have recently been released from immigration removal centres (IRCs) to share their experiences of health needs and care in detention. This study, funded by the OUP John Fell Fund and DfID, is testing methods for investigating the effects of detention on ex-detainees’ health. It is intended to lead on to a larger, nationwide study of formerly-detained asylum seekers and other detainees, focusing on assessing their health needs within and following detention.

The pilot study aims to: develop a standard questionnaire for assessing the health needs of detainees; develop an interview guide for semi-formal and focus group interviewing about health-care delivery in IRCs; assess the scope of translation services which may be required; identify ethical concerns regarding informed consent; determine likely response rates to requests for interviews and focus group discussions; and ascertain the range of responses related to existing or perceived medical conditions or concerns which are likely to emerge in the national study.

The target population consists of male and female formerly detained asylum seekers or other detainees from a variety of countries. They are being recruited with the assistance of a network of community NGOs, larger charities and religious organisations that have regular contact with detainees and asylum seekers. The findings will be compiled in a short report and used in the development of the national study. A co-authored working paper on the findings will also be prepared.

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MSc 2009–2010

I arrived at the RSC in October 2009 to start the MSc in Forced Migration. Coming from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and having some experience of working within the field of immigration, I was eager to learn more about the global dimensions of refugee issues. Three weeks after the exams, I am beginning to reflect upon the course as both an academic and personal experience. Fascinating. Challenging. Inspiring.

Finishing a Master's course in eight and a half months is never going to be easy – but include in that a group research project, fortnightly essays, a thesis and two exams and you've got yourself a challenge. Yet through these different aspects of the course I have learned a considerable amount (about international refugee law, the politics of repatriation and the political philosophy of migration, to name a few favourites) and have the added satisfaction of having achieved a huge personal goal.

As the only Brit in the group, it was stimulating to study in the context of such diversity. The breadth of dissertation topics, ranging from the deportation of Afghan minors to resettlement in the USA and journalism in refugee camps, was a reflection of the insight, passion and intellectual appetite of the class. I focussed on Tony Blair's asylum politics, conducting a discourse analysis of his parliamentary debates in order to understand the narratives and conceptualisations used to justify his increasing restrictionism.

As my classmates spread out around the world once more, I hope to continue my work in the British context, applying what I have learned to campaign for an immigration system that is able to respond effectively to the complexities of modern migration.

Bethany Maughan

For more information on the course, please contact Hannah Stacey: hannah.stacey@qeh.ox.ac.uk

New Working Papers

The RSC added six new titles to its Working Paper Series.

Working Papers 60 and 61 are based on MSc dissertations which were awarded a distinction, while Papers 62, 63 and 64 were presented at the international conference 'Protecting people in conflict and crisis: Responding to the challenges of a changing world'. Working Paper 65 was made possible by the OUP John Fell Fund, which funded the project 'Deportation and the development of citizenship'.

60: *Refugee advocacy and the biopolitics of asylum in Britain: The precarious position of young male asylum seekers and refugees*, Ruth Judge

61: *Making states, displacing peoples: A comparative perspective of Xinjiang and Tibet in the People's Republic of China*, Valentine Guerif

62: *Livelihoods under protracted conflict: A case study of Sri Lanka*, Sasini T K Kulatunga and Rajith W D Lakshman

63: *The African Union, the United Nations and civilian protection challenges in Darfur*, Linnea Bergholm

64: *No refuge: Palestinians in Lebanon*, Jaber Suleiman, Nisrine Mansour and Nasser Yassin

65: *Deportation, non-deportability and ideas of membership*, Emanuela Paoletti

The Working Papers are distributed free of charge via the RSC website. Hard copies can be purchased. Please contact Paul Ryder: paul.ryder@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Workshop: Romani mobilities in Europe

The Roma are a minority in practically every country in Europe and are now, given recent accessions of new member states, the largest minority in the EU. They are disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and social exclusion. Since the early 1990s the EU, as well as domestic governments across Europe, has been active in regulating Roma's mobility. Arguably, some of the strongest efforts to control immigration have been driven by efforts to prevent Roma movement.

Following the conference on 'Romani mobilities in Europe' held in January 2010, the RSC hosted (1–2 July) a workshop on the interplay between public discourse, policy making and the lived experience of Romani people in contemporary Europe. The papers will be collected in a themed issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* edited by Dr Nando Sigona (RSC) and Professor Peter Vermeersch (University of Leuven, Belgium). The journal issue will frame current Romani mobilities in the context of contemporary European politics and policies on migration and ethnic minority protection.

For more information, please contact Nando Sigona: nando.sigona@qeh.ox.ac.uk

Forced Migration Online user survey

Forced Migration Online (FMO) provides a diverse range of resources concerning the situation of forced migrants worldwide. In order to ensure that FMO is providing appropriate resources in accessible formats, FMO launched a user survey on 1 June 2010. The survey has 24 questions and should take only 5–10 minutes of your time. We have had an excellent response so far but are keen to hear from as wide a range of people as possible.

The survey will run until 31 August. Please take a few moments to contribute your views: www.surveymonkey.com/s/forcedmigration.

FMO provides online access to resources including:

- Digital library
- Forced Migration Discussion List
- Resource summaries and research guides
- Podcasts, videos and photographs
- Searchable organisations directory

As the site continues to grow, FMO will be undergoing some changes. We hope to update the look of the site and to develop a new layout to make it easier to navigate FMO's growing range of resources. The feedback from this survey will inform any decisions taken about the new format of the site.

Prize draw

As a small incentive, contributors will be entered into a prize draw, with the chance to win a bundle of books on forced migration issues worth over US\$300. In addition, two runners-up will receive a copy of the recently published *Deterritorialized youth: Sahrawi and Afghan refugees at the margins of the Middle East* (Chatty, D. 2010).

To have a chance of winning, please make sure you complete the (optional) name and email address fields at the beginning of the survey.

Newsletter

Forced Migration Online also published its first newsletter this term. If you would like to subscribe to future newsletters, or to download a copy of the current issue, please visit: <http://bit.ly/fmonews>.



Refugees from Burma/Myanmar at Umpium Refugee Camp, Thailand

Disability and displacement

The English edition of Forced Migration Review 35 is now online at www.fmreview.org/disability/

This latest issue includes 27 articles focusing on disability and displacement, including an introduction by Shuaib Chalklen, UN Special Rapporteur for Disability. The articles illustrate why displaced people with disabilities need particular consideration, and highlight some of the initiatives taken (locally and globally) to change thinking and practices so that their vulnerability is recognised, their voices heard – and responses made inclusive.

This issue also contains a mini-feature (of four articles) on Brazil and five general articles on accountability, mobility, reproductive health in Darfur, repatriation decision-making and protection in natural disasters.

For copies, please contact the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk with your full postal address and details of how many copies (in which language/s) you require. FMR is available in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

Listen to FMR

To help make FMR more accessible to those with visual disabilities, all articles in FMR 35 are available online as audio files as well as in PDF and Word format. Please see www.fmreview.org/disability/access.htm. We would very much welcome your feedback on these new features.

Keep informed

If you would like to be informed as soon as we put online a new issue of FMR or a call for articles for a forthcoming feature theme, you can do so by requesting our email 'alerts'. (You will only receive about 8–10 emails a year.) Please email us at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk. You can also keep up with FMR news via Facebook and Twitter. Links to these are on our homepage at www.fmreview.org.

Forthcoming

November 2010: feature on DRC/Great Lakes
February 2011: feature on Non-State Armed Groups
See www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm