

Unlocking crises of protracted displacement for refugees and internally displaced persons: case studies from across the globe

The majority of the world's refugees and IDPs come from countries where state fragility, conflict and persecution have persisted for years. Since October 2010, the RSC has led a research and policy project intended to engage directly with policy and practice at the global and regional levels in unlocking these conditions of protracted displacement, the scale and dimensions of which demand more nuanced and targeted responses. Supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project combines the knowledge of the RSC, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

The project focuses on the Central American conflicts during the 1980s and early 1990s and on the Iraqi and Somali displacements, which constitute two of the largest contemporary displacement crises. Based on desk research and field interviews, the findings offer an analysis of displacement dynamics and their policy environments. The research aimed to link the top-down perspectives of the state with an exploration of 'people-based' perspectives of the displaced populations.

The Central America case study provides a fresh analysis of what is often heralded as a success story. Although thousands of displaced Central Americans engaged in voluntary return, this process did not protect scores of individuals from being subsequently exposed to violence and discrimination, while promised land redistribution and development programmes often failed to materialise.

The Iraqi displacement crisis placed a heavy burden on neighbouring states – none of which are signatories to the Refugee Convention. Thus, political good-will and the informal economy are vital to Iraqi exiles' survival. To tackle the refugee



Somali refugees wait to get water in Hagadera camp

crisis, the research findings suggest exploring a three-pronged approach that would include tapping into existing local accommodation as well as legal and operational opportunities.

While the Somali case study highlights how informal strategies of displaced people can be effective in securing better protection and livelihoods, it emphasizes that much more needs to be done to address the current displacement crisis and secure durable solutions for the many displaced people in the Somali territories and the wider region.

Presented to researchers, practitioners and policymakers in Geneva in June 2011, the case studies will become available shortly in the RSC Working Paper series and in a special issue of the Refugee Survey Quarterly. A policy overview will elaborate on the emergent key themes and draw on existing and new research on protracted displacement and solutions. View project updates at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research/international-institutions/unlocking-crises

For details contact RSC Programme Manager, Héloïse Ruaudel at rscpolicy@qeh.ox.ac.uk



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Message from RSC Director

This is my last Newsletter as Director of the RSC. After five exhilarating, demanding and rewarding years, I am retiring, handing over to Professor Dawn Chatty under a new management structure for the RSC of three-year rotating directorship. I have been immensely privileged to lead a remarkably dedicated team at the RSC whose support, creativity and commitment have sustained the Centre's high international profile and reputation and made my task less burdensome. Teaching so many talented students has been both stimulating and a constant source of new ideas. Fortunately, I will continue to supervise doctoral and masters students.

Academics never really retire, of course. I shall remain in the RSC but now I will be able to devote myself full time to research and writing. I am continuing my research on environmental displacement with a large research grant from the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation as well as continuing to work on our World Bank project on the 'Costs and Impacts of Forced Displacement'. And I am excited by the prospect of starting a long-deferred research project on 'Refugee Journeys'. Filling in the gaps, my publisher will be pleased to know there is now time to complete the half-written book, and three papers at various stages of production may now see the light of day!

*With best wishes,
Professor Roger Zetter*

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Design by www.advocatedesign.co.uk
Printed on 50% recycled paper



Palestinians outside Rafah border crossing attempt to get to Egypt

Professor Dawn Chatty presents in Parliament for World Refugee Day

The open event held on 20 June marked the visit of a UK Parliamentary group – including Baroness Jenny Tonge and Jeremy Corbyn MP – to Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The session opened with a report from the delegation on their visit, followed by Professor Chatty's presentation on the unique status of Palestinian refugees as the longest existing refugee group in modern history and in light of their continued expulsion, dispossession and displacement in various forms across the region. The talk was illustrated with slides highlighting the role that Middle Eastern states play in terms of refugee production and hosting.

RSC launches Policy Briefing on 'protracted displacement' in Geneva

Professor Gil Loescher (Visiting Professor, RSC) and Dr James Milner (RSC Associate and Assistant Professor, Carleton University) presented findings from their Policy Briefing, 'Responding to protracted refugee situations: Lessons from a decade of discussion', at the Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva on 23 June. The briefing analyses the impact of protracted displacement on the human rights and access to livelihoods of millions of people and examines how protracted displacement situations accentuate the risk of chronic regional insecurity, fragility and conflict spill-over. It explores the 2009 UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion on PRS while suggesting steps that will be required from a broad range of actors if there is to be an adequate response to PRS in the future.

The RSC thanks the Permanent Mission and Ambassador Marius Grinius for hosting the event and welcoming participants.

The presentations and a podcast of the event can be downloaded at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events/launch-policy-briefing-6



New Resource DVD – available now

The RSC has released a new Resource DVD that includes all available RSC publications (produced since the RSC's establishment) on one easily searchable DVD, available free of charge. The RSC thanks the UK Department for International Development for supporting the project.

It contains over 1,700 items on 100 countries, most published within the last five years. All publications are available either as web pages or PDF files. They are subdivided by geographical area and by theme, including recent additions on statelessness, environmental change and migration, urban displacement, protection, research and methodology, and many more.

Sign up to receive the DVD at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/resource-dvd-request

Forced Migration Review issues 38, 39 & 40

The October 2011 issue of Forced Migration Review (FMR) will include a major feature on 'technology and communications', raising awareness of the existence and potential contribution of new technologies and how to make them work in the best interest of vulnerable displaced and conflict-affected populations.

Articles will focus on aspects as diverse as: applications of new social media, online communities, satellite mapping and tracking of populations, uses of new technologies in project tracking and networking, involvement of and accountability to displaced people, internet-based education in camps, family tracing through the internet and WAP-enabled phones, ethics and security, and the interface between online technical communities and humanitarian responders. It will have a preface – in UNHCR's 60th Anniversary year – by Alexander Aleinikoff, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.

The following two issues of FMR will include feature themes on 'being young and out of place' and 'fragile states'. More details plus calls for articles are online at www.fmreview.org/forthcoming.htm

Sign up for 'Alerts' at www.fmreview.org or contact fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk

IASFM 13th Annual conference

A number of RSC staff and research associates attended the 13th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), hosted by the Refugee Law Project (RLP) at Makerere University, in Kampala, Uganda, from 3 to 6 July 2011.

Many of the interventions investigated the interconnections between global governance, conflict, sexuality and gender, patterns of forced migration, the protection of forced migrants and transitional justice. Interested in critically 'rethinking solutions', Dr Katy Long, RSC Post-doctoral Fellow, gave a presentation focusing on the possibility of mobile citizenship.

The conference was agenda-setting, and will produce academic outcomes, including a conference report and potentially a book and a short documentary based on the proceedings.

Podcasts of the plenary sessions will soon be available at www.forcedmigration.org/podcasts

2011 Harrell-Bond Lecture: Filippo Grandi (UNRWA)

The next Harrell-Bond lecture will be given by Filippo Grandi, the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), on 16 November at 5.00 p.m. The lecture will take place at the Taylor Institution, St Giles, Oxford.

For more information, contact rsc-outreach@qeh.ox.ac.uk



RSC/Hannah Stacey

The 2011 MSc class celebrate the end of exams

Distinctions for MSc students

With the close of the academic year, the examination results for the Masters in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies (MScFMRS) students were excellent:

three distinctions overall and three further distinctions for dissertations (in a class of 23 students).

The RSC would like to thank Dr Matthew Gibney for his excellent and good-humoured directorship of the course; Professor Dawn Chatty for chairing the examination board; and Hannah Stacey, who has been exceptional in coordinating the whole exam process so reliably. Hannah will shortly be taking up a position as Service Development Administrator with Macmillan Cancer Support in Hampshire. The RSC thanks her for her dedication and wishes her well in her new post.

Learn more about the MSc programme at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/msc-course

2012 International Summer School in Forced Migration

The 2012 International Summer School in Forced Migration will take place on 2–20 July 2012.

For more information, visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school

Alumni reflections: Hanna Baumann, MSc 2010–2011

I came to the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies with two years' work experience in the humanitarian and human rights sectors in the Middle East, where both historic forced migration and ongoing displacement are constantly present issues. The interdisciplinary nature of the course at the RSC was one of the programme's major draws for me.

As one of the student representatives for the course, I received a significant amount of feedback from other students on the programme, both positive and negative. Many of the students felt that the collaborate approach of the group research paper and other joint projects taught them skills useful in the work environment. Like several of my course mates, I found that there should be an increased effort to ensure that the programme is truly interdisciplinary and not merely *multidisciplinary*.

It was in my dissertation that I found that the interdisciplinary nature of the course really worked to my advantage. I examined Israeli cultural heritage policies in Jerusalem that serve to exclude and displace Palestinians from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods. The guidance provided by my supervisor ensured that, despite the broad array of background material I was drawing on, I did not lose focus.

I plan to explore the topic of my dissertation at Oxford within the frame of a year-long grant project for the Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs beginning in September 2011. The project will allow me to explore how the cross-cutting issues that interest me have been addressed in cities in India and the eastern Mediterranean and allow me to expand the scope of my dissertation in preparation for potential future doctoral research. The RSC's unique positioning between academia and policy practice has certainly influenced the approach I am taking, and strengthened my interest in pursuing a career that involves both research and policy-oriented work, pertaining to displacement in the widest sense.

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