

FEATURE

Bedouin in Lebanon: statelessness & marginality

NEWS

New photo collection on Forced Migration Online
MacArthur Foundation awards grant for environmental displacement study

ACTIVITIES AND SEMINARS

Conference report: Refugee Status Determination and refugee rights in Southern and East Africa
Conference report: Dynamics of conflict and forced migration in the DRC
Wednesday Public Seminars

PUBLICATIONS

FMR 36: Democratic Republic of Congo: Past. Present. Future?
Policy Brief: Responding to protracted refugee situations – lessons from a decade of discussion
Book: Refugees in International Relations
Working Papers Series

ALUMNI AND TEACHING

New student publication: Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration
Application deadlines: Summer School and MSc course



REFUGEE
STUDIES
CENTRE

Refugee Studies Centre
Oxford Department of
International Development
University of Oxford

3 Mansfield Road
Oxford OX1 3TB, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1865 281720
Fax: +44 (0)1865 281730
Email: rsc@qeh.ox.ac.uk
www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

Design by www.advocate.uk.com
Printed on 50% recycled paper



Two Sahrawi women look across the 27 February National Women's School and Refugee Camp (2007)

New photo collection on Forced Migration Online

Forced Migration Online has recently made available a new collection of photographs on life in the '27 February' refugee camp in south-western Algeria. Approximately 155,000 Sahrawi refugees currently live in this and four other major refugee camps named after the main cities in the Western Sahara. The photographs in this collection were provided by Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration at the Refugee Studies Centre. Elena carried out fieldwork in the 27 February Camp between 2001 and 2009. View all photo collections at bit.ly/fmo-photos.

MacArthur Foundation awards grant for environmental displacement study

The MacArthur Foundation has funded Professor Zetter to undertake a new two-year study commencing in April 2011. The rising incidence of environmentally induced migration and the ways in which the rights of these migrants might be protected by national and international legal and normative frameworks are matters of increasing significance to policymakers and academics. With case-studies focusing on Ghana, Kenya, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia, the study aims primarily to investigate the ways in which the policy, legal and normative frameworks of governments and international agencies shape and use the label 'environmental migrant'. The new project builds on previous research on environmentally displaced people; the executive summary is available online at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk.



Refugees from DRC in Uganda

Conference report: Refugee Status Determination and refugee rights in Southern and East Africa

In November, the RSC and the International Refugee Rights Initiative in Uganda hosted a two-day workshop on Refugee Status Determination (RSD) and refugee rights in sub-Saharan Africa, in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop was generously funded by the Commonwealth Foundation and the UK Department for International Development.

The workshop focused on a number of concepts and gaps in research on refugee protection in sub-Saharan Africa, including the fact that 30 per cent of African refugees are living in urban areas and are thus more likely to be subjected to RSD as a means of limiting or improving their access to humanitarian assistance. The practitioners discussed the possibility of jointly seeking funding for a refugee protection training initiative for regional governments. The researchers discussed how the workshop might generate two discrete research outputs: an edited collection on the intersection between asylum and migration in Southern and East Africa, and a major collaborative research project. The conference report is available at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk.



Adham Arbid

Conference report: Dynamics of conflict and forced migration in the DRC

At the end of November, the RSC hosted a two-day experts' workshop on conflict and forced migration in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The event was generously funded by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (DRC office), and DFID.

Fifty practitioners, academics and policymakers from the DRC and beyond explored the relation between conflict, displacement, the return of populations and the interaction between armed actors and civilians.

Policy suggestions to end the vicious cycle of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and displacement, derived from Forced Migration Review 36 and the workshop will be presented and discussed in the DRC in February 2010.

An accompanying photo exhibition, 'No Peace of Mind-stories of displacement in the DRC', was displayed in Oxford in December 2010 and is now available online at www.forcedmigration.org/photos/no-peace-of-mind.

Wednesday Public Seminars

The RSC hosts a series of public seminars every Wednesday of the university term. The programme for Hilary term (January–March) is entitled 'Conceptual Problems of Forced Migration' and is run jointly with the University of East London and includes presentations on forced migrants in the late Ottoman Empire and the question 'Is deportation a form of forced migration?' Full details can be found at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/conf_wedsem.html.

Nada Abu Salih, a young Bedouin mother in Lebanon, has dreams that her six-month-old twin boys, Mohammed and Saad, will become doctors or lawyers. In reality, Saad and Mohammed might not even make it through school as they have no identity papers. The Abu Salih belong to the Bedouin Huruq tribe. They are part of the group of more than 100,000 Bedouin who live in Lebanon. Many of these have been struggling for decades to be recognised by the state as citizens.

Bedouin in Lebanon: statelessness and marginality

In 2006, the European Commission funded the RSC's four-year research project in Lebanon which focused on the issue of the quality of provisions and barriers to utilisation of accessible health care to marginal peoples – the mobile and recently settled Bedouin. The project seeks to understand whether, with the settlement of Bedouin in the country over the past three decades, the discrimination against these peoples is being transformed as they enter into more regular contact with local and regional Lebanese authorities.

There are accounts of Bedouin presence in the Bekaa Valley of modern-day Lebanon as early as the 13th century. During the closing years of the Ottoman Empire, many Bedouin supported the Arab Revolt of WWI and the establishment of an independent Arab state under the Emir Faysal over the territory of Syria including the Bekaa Valley. Despite defeat, these Bedouin continued to oppose French mandate authority through general strikes and armed struggle. In 1925, the French established Lebanon's first (and only) nationality law that stipulated that citizenship be granted to all descendents of men who in 1914 were living in what is now Lebanon. Many Bedouin were not registered in the 1932 Census (which remains the most recent Lebanese population count) either because they happened to be seasonally out of the Bekaa Valley or because they refused to be registered in opposition to the French 'colonial' presence. Without a nationality, many of the Bedouin tribes residing in the Bekaa Valley were able neither to purchase land in their own name nor to have access to education and public health care. Statelessness also had severe implications for employment opportunities in the country. As the French sold off pasture land in the Bekaa Valley for agriculture, the Bedouin were increasingly put under pressure to reduce their migrations, to lower their herd size, and to build houses for themselves and their families.

The settlement of Bedouin in the Bekaa Valley was less a specific government policy than the result of the restrictions imposed on movement by the rapid privatisation of land ownership as well as of the Bedouin's own quest for economic and educational opportunities. Many informants told stories of harassment by police and government officials and non-Bedouin locals. Different tribal groups built informal settlements on former grazing land and, when possible, bought land on the outskirts of rural villages. However, government services such as schools, health care, piped water, roads and electricity were not provided for these informal Bedouin settlements.

There are two 'less than full' citizen statuses in Lebanon: 'under study' and 'without records'. In 1958, a Lebanese law was passed giving Bedouin who had not registered in the

1932 census a special 'under-study' nationality status (*jinsiyaa qayd al-dars*). The difference between the 'under-study' status and 'no nationality / without records' (*maktoumeen al qayd*) papers issued by local *mukhtars* (government representatives) in Lebanon is that the former states the location and place of birth to be Lebanon while the latter does not. However, an 'under-study' status still imposes major restrictions on acquiring basic government services – especially health services. In 1994 the Lebanese government granted those with an 'under-study' status from 1958 the right to full Lebanese nationality. This was extended to approximately 10,000 Bedouin unmarried men and women out of a total population estimated at between 100,000 and 150,000. This latest nationalisation process, however, has been subject to some controversy. In 2000, the Lebanese Maronite League (*al-Rabita al-Marouniyya*) submitted an appeal against the nationalisation law of 1994 claiming that it disrupted the sectarian balance in the country. There remains, by some estimate, another 10,000–15,000 Bedouin with no nationality (*maktoumeen al qayd*) papers. Thus in contemporary Lebanon, many Bedouin are 'stateless' without papers and live beyond the 'boundaries' of government services – despite being an ethnic group indigenous to Lebanese territory even before the existence of the Lebanese state.

The findings of the Bedouin Health Project show that the Bedouin desire for nationality papers reflects a wish to end their marginalisation and to be able to access government services. In Lebanon, scarcity of funds and resources has resulted in very limited public health services specifically designed for people who do not reside in state-recognised settlements. Thus marginal, sometimes mobile, and often remote populations have largely been excluded from government health-care efforts with governmental coverage of hospital fees and insurance inaccessible to them. In addition, we have found that policymakers' attitudes towards mobile peoples are largely negative, considering them to be 'uncivilized', 'backward' and/or 'ignorant'.

The final phase of the project is piloting model interventions addressing Bedouin discrimination as well as raising awareness of and access to public health initiatives in the country with the aim of implementing such interventions as agreed by the various stakeholders. These interventions – a community health volunteer programme and practitioner cultural awareness workshops – were developed with the various stakeholders after a year of participatory dissemination of findings. Visit The Bedouin Health Project (www.bedouinhealth.org) for more information.

Dr Dawn Chatty and Nisrine Mansour



Democratic Republic of Congo: Past. Present. Future?

Locked not only into its own internal troubles but also into those of the Great Lakes region, the Democratic Republic of Congo has provided more than enough material on forced migration, violence and political quagmires for the latest issue of FMR, now available in print and at www.fmreview.org.

While the articles in this issue make grim reading, they also offer some glimmers of hope for better outcomes, at least potentially. Authors come from Congolese civil society, UN agencies, NGOs, Congolese and donor governments, and international research. To request a copy, please email fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

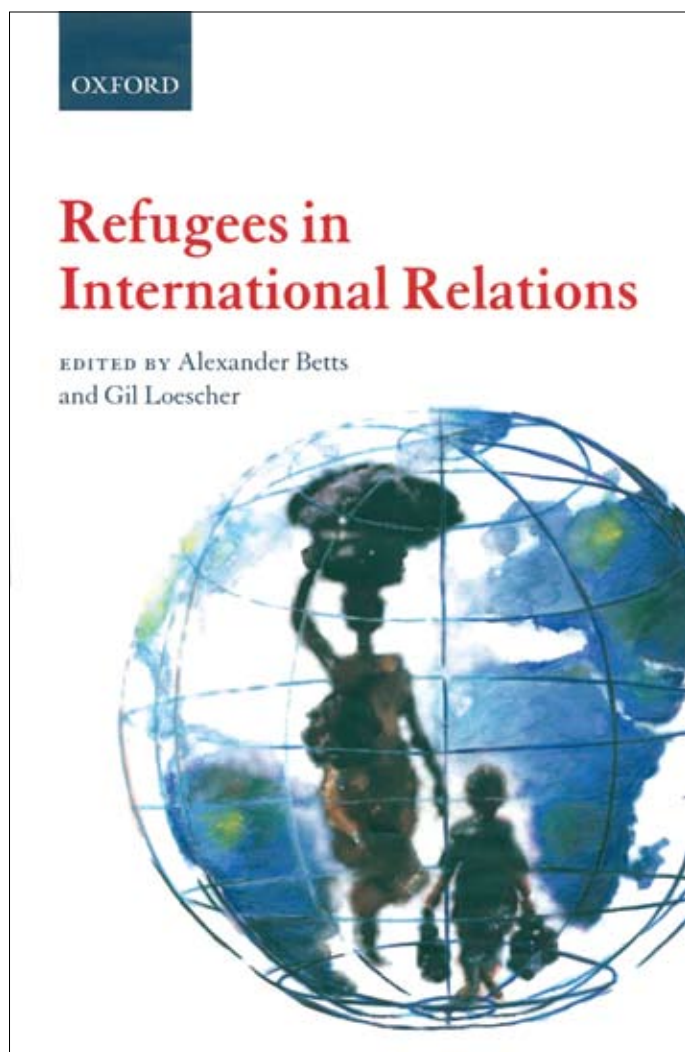
The next issue of FMR, due out in March, will include a feature on 'Non-state armed groups'. The September 2011 issue – for which we are still inviting submissions – will focus on 'Technology and communications'. To be notified as soon as the Editors post a new issue or a call for articles online, please email fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk and request 'FMR alerts'.

Policy Brief: Responding to protracted refugee situations – lessons from a decade of discussion

In a new Policy Brief, Dr James Milner, Assistant Professor at Carleton University in Canada, and Prof Gil Loescher, Visiting Professor at the RSC, analyse the nature and scope of protracted displacement. In tracing the history of international responses to protracted refugee situations (PRS), they examine the complexity of the negotiations process that led to the adoption of the recent UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion on protracted refugee situations while suggesting steps required from a broad range of actors to adequately respond to PRS in the future.

This Policy Brief is part of an innovative research and policy project involving the RSC, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) / Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), on 'Unlocking crises of protracted displacement for refugees and internally displaced persons'. Drawing on historical (Central America) and contemporary case studies (Somalia and Iraq), the project seeks to assist policymakers in unlocking these conditions of protracted displacement, the scale and dimensions of which demand an urgent global response.

Policy Briefs are available at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk.



Book: *Refugees in International Relations*

Refugees lie at the heart of world politics. In their new publication, Alexander Betts and Prof Gil Loescher (eds.) explore the causes and consequences of, and responses to, human displacement, which are intertwined with many of the core concerns of International Relations. Yet, scholars of International Relations have generally bypassed the study of refugees, and forced migration studies have generally bypassed insights from International Relations. This volume therefore represents an attempt to bridge the divide between these disciplines, and to place refugees within the mainstream of International Relations. Drawing together the work and ideas of a combination of the world's leading and emerging International Relations scholars, the volume considers what ideas from International Relations can offer our understanding of the international politics of forced migration.

Gil Loescher and Alexander Betts (eds.) Refugees in International Relations. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2010). ISBN: 978-0-19-959562-4.

Working Papers Series

The RSC Working Papers Series aims to stimulate discussion among the worldwide community of scholars, policymakers and practitioners. They are distributed free of charge in PDF on the RSC website. The RSC recently added six new titles to its Working Paper Series:

Working Paper 71: International cooperation and the anti-trafficking regime by Megan C. Brand.

Working Paper 70: The struggle for belonging: Forming and reforming identities among 1.5-generation asylum seekers and refugees by Sewite Solomon Kebede.

Working Paper 69: Tony Blair's asylum policies: The narratives and conceptualisations at the heart of New Labour's restrictionism by Bethany Maughan.

Working Paper 68: Flowing into the state: Returning refugee youth and citizenship in Angola by Jess Auerbach.

Working Paper 67: Negotiating childhood: Age assessment in the UK asylum system by Anna Verley Kvittingen.

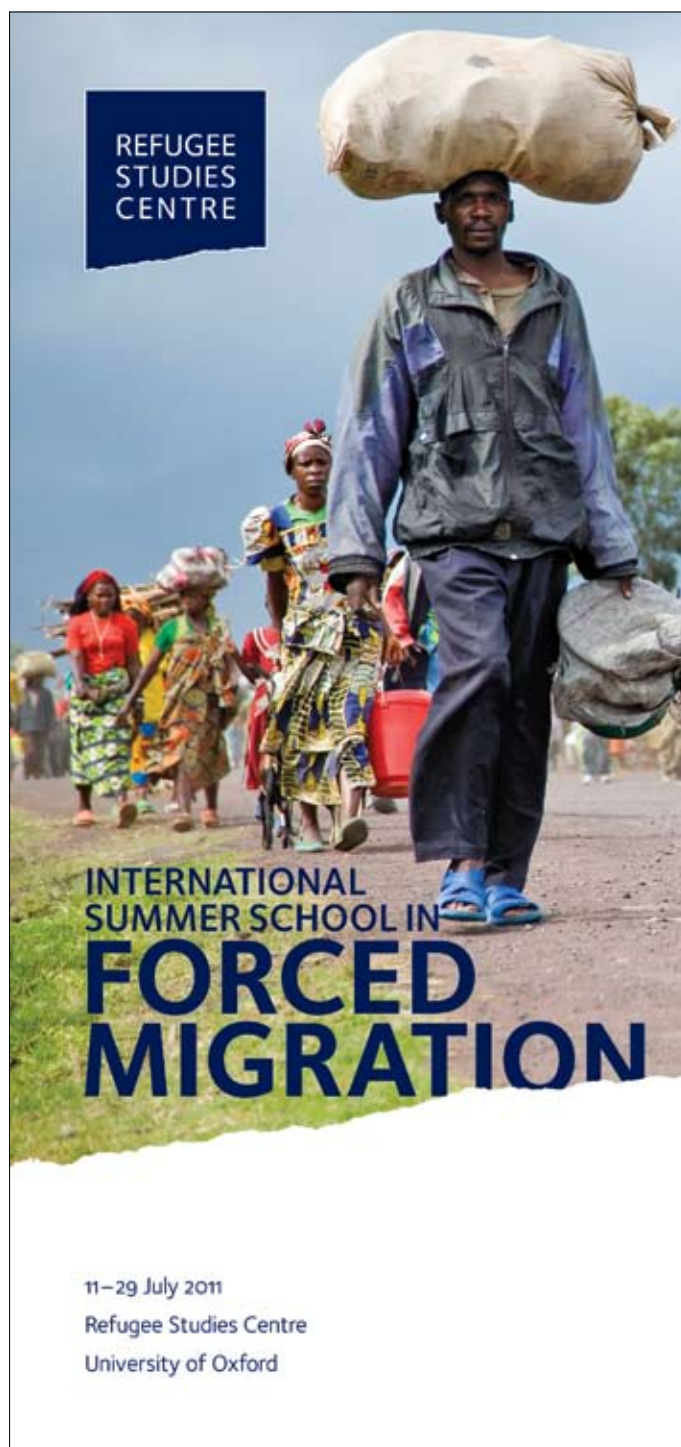
Working Paper 66: Ending internal displacement: The long-term IDPs in Sri Lanka by Fathima Azmiya Badurdeen.



New student publication: *Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration*

Believing the student community to be a valuable yet under-tapped intellectual resource in the field of forced migration, a group of the 2010 graduates of the RSC's MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has established a forum whereby students may contribute to the academic and policy knowledge base. The Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration is a free electronic journal written, edited and run by students dedicated to engaging with developments within the context of displacement, asylum and return. After completing a competitive selection process, they are excited to announce that by early February 2011, they will launch the inaugural issue.

This issue will include articles on Sudanese displacement in Egypt, the UK asylum system and displacement within Southeast Asia, to name a few. Please visit OxMO online at www.oxmofm.com and subscribe to access the first issue, find the latest information about the publication, and keep up to date on their next call for papers.



Application deadlines: Summer School and MSc course

Upcoming application deadlines:

2011 International Summer School in Forced Migration: apply by 1 March 2011 for bursary applicants; and 1 May for self-/ employer-funded applicants. Go to www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/teaching_summer.html

2011-2012 MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies: apply by 11 March 2011. Go to www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/teaching_master.html