

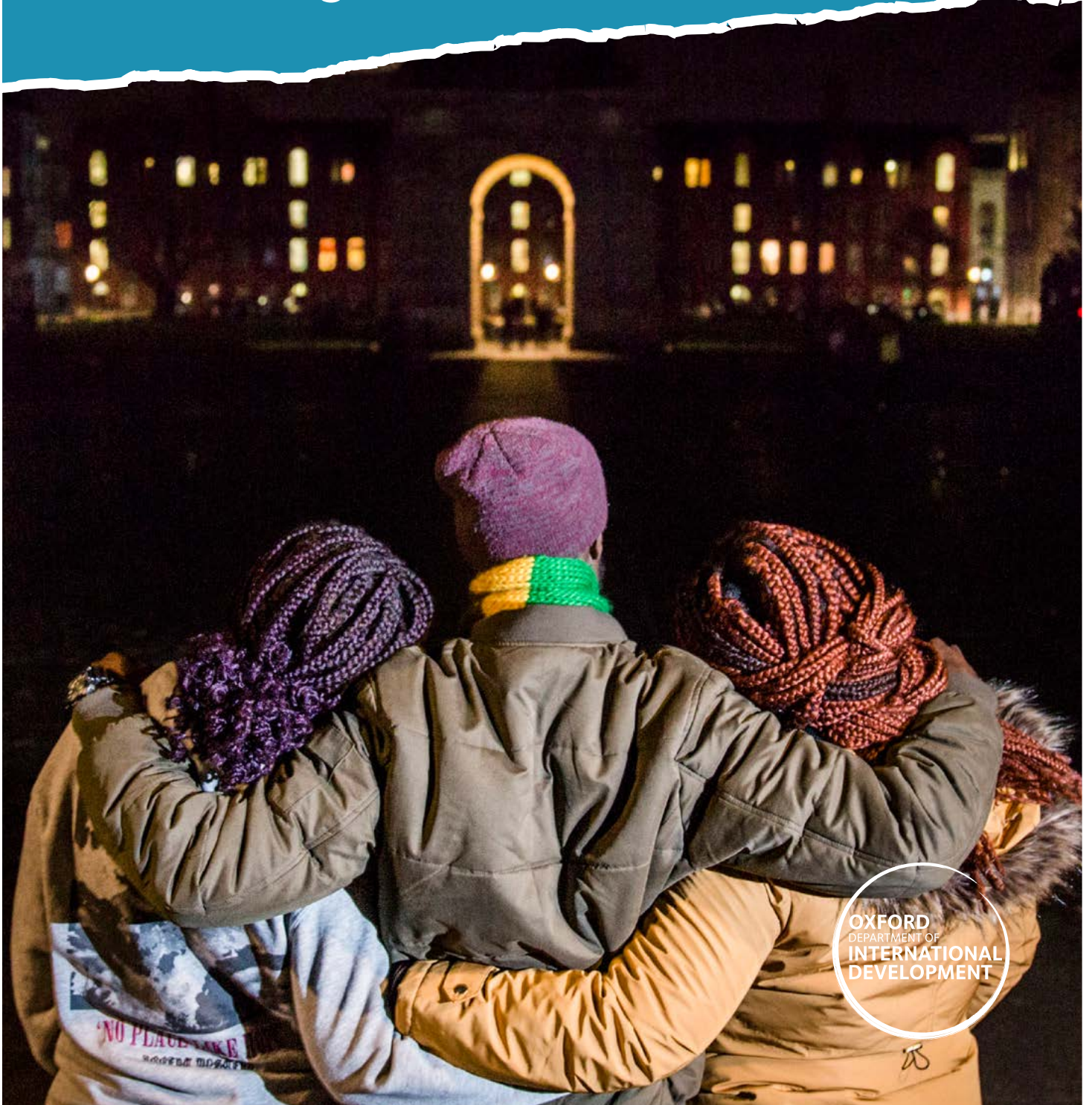


UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

REFUGEE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE

# Annual Report

2018–2019



OXFORD  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

NO PLACE LIKE  
HOME

A woman looks over  
Kutupalong settlement  
in Bangladesh



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STUDIES  
CENTRE

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**Front cover photo:** A family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo reunited in Ireland under the Travel Assistance Programme  
Cover photo credits © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

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Design and production by Oxford University Design Studio



E Tendayi Achiume (Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law and UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance) gives the closing lecture at the Summer School



The RSC hosted a celebratory event at Queen Elizabeth House in July to honour and remember Barbara Harrell-Bond, the RSC's founder, with her family, friends, colleagues, and many of those she assisted

# Director's foreword

Looking back over the last year, it is hard to see many positive developments for forced migrants worldwide. The plight of the Rohingya in Bangladesh remains unresolved; huge numbers of people have been forced from Venezuela; the US Administration has signalled its willingness to prevent asylum seekers entering the US from Mexico; and the conditions in Libya for African migrants and refugees remain appalling. In this context, the kind of research undertaken by the RSC – historically and theoretically informed, evidence-based, and willing to interrogate the assumptions behind policies and practices towards refugees – remains as challenging and as important as ever.

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. This report illustrates the diverse range of excellent research that has been undertaken at the RSC this year. Academics at the Centre have produced publications on subjects as diverse as the Global Compact on Refugees, denationalization, 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 novel topics and areas into consideration, and connecting the Centre to new disciplines.

It is evident also from the use of our research by academics, students, policymakers, and journalists that our scholarship is reaching an expanding audience. The task of spreading the RSC's research has once again been ably assisted by our highly lauded *Forced Migration Review* (FMR), which has produced editions dedicated, taking but two examples, to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the needs, rights and access of the displaced to education. And I am also excited that our new bite-size research website, *Rethinking Refuge*, is now online and is already proving a popular resource.

This goal of scholarship that ripples outwards is also evident in other ways. From Alexander Betts' presidentially sponsored visit to Colombia and briefings to high-level officials about the refugee situation there; to Roger Zetter's recent workshop on 'Refugee Return' at the UK Department for International Development; the RSC Director's talk on denationalization at the Jericho Tavern in Oxford; and to the numerous interventions RSC academics have made in the media and in public debates, RSC academics find themselves interacting with and influencing numerous decision-makers and members of the public.

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 (FDFA), our new Pedro Arrupe Fellow, made possible by Campion Hall and the Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe, Cory Rodgers, has begun work. Catherine Briddick, our new five-year Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration, generously funded by the Martin James Foundation, and a new British Academy Fellow, Marie

Godin, have also joined the Centre. In the course of the year we have also recruited, with Lady Margaret Hall, a new Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow, who begins in September. Notably, Cathryn Costello, the RSC's Associate Professor in International Refugee and Human Rights Law, was awarded the title of full Professor in the University's recent 'Recognition of Distinction' exercise. This title is a great honour and Cathryn's success illustrates something of the quality and importance of the research done by scholars of the Centre.

As ever, the RSC has also been a source of events and courses that attract people from the UK and across the world to Oxford. Obviously, our MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and our doctoral programme are central to the Centre's influence and identity. Over the last year, we have been inspired by the work and passion of our highly diverse cohorts of students. In addition, our annual Summer School in Forced Migration has been a great success, brilliantly directed by Tom Scott-Smith and, once again, garnering acclaim from its practitioner participants; the Elizabeth Colson and Barbara Harrell-Bond lectures were given by esteemed visitors, the latter by Pierre Krähenbühl, the head of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees; and an array of smaller, workshops were hosted both in and outside Oxford. Of particular note was our biennial conference on the theme of 'Democratizing Displacement'. This conference both acknowledged the history of political agency by forced migrants and highlighted the barriers to and possibilities of future political action.

In a Centre as vibrant as the RSC, people will inevitably be on the move themselves, often to new institutions. The positions of our three ECFs ended in July; Ali Ali, who has most recently served as Departmental Lecturer (DL) in Forced Migration, has now joined the LSE; and Lilian Tsourdi, our DL in International Law, has secured a permanent position at Maastricht University. We also have recently bid farewell to our Events and Summer School Officer, Susanna Power, who has done so much to make the School an outstanding event. As ever, we have also benefitted from the Visiting Fellows who have come to the RSC for a term, and from our impressive and highly accomplished MSc and graduating DPhil students.

In July 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 contribution 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. When I look back over the year 2018–2019, I am very happy with the progress we have made in this direction.

**Professor Matthew J Gibney**  
*Director, Refugee Studies Centre*  
*Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics*  
*and Forced Migration*



# Our research

The Refugee Studies Centre undertakes independent, multidisciplinary, academic research on the causes, consequences, and responses to forced migration. Its academic staff have expertise across various disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, law, politics, and international relations.

Through their research, members of the Centre challenge common assumptions and understandings related to forced migration, with important implications for public debate, policy, and practice. The Centre's influence relies on an extensive network of relationships with other universities, research institutions, governments, international organisations, NGOs, and businesses.



People collect water from the pond in Rwamwanja settlement, Uganda

# Research projects

## Refugees are Migrants: Refugee Mobility, Recognition and Rights (REF-MIG)

European Research Council, 2018–2023  
 Professor Cathryn Costello, Dr Caroline Nalule,  
 and Dr Derya Özkul

This project has two principal aims, the first being to re-examine refugee protection through a lens of mobility and migration, and the second, to bring scholarship on refugee law into conversation with the practices of the refugee regime, in particular to subject the latter to legal scrutiny. It will re-examine three key aspects of the refugee regime – access to protection, refugee recognition, and refugee rights – and bring them into conversation with the refugee regime's norms and practices on responsibility-sharing and solutions.

Crucially, the project takes a long and broad view of the refugee regime, in order to open up new possibilities and trajectories. It also brings critical new insights into the regime, by undertaking a legal assessment of the role of states that have not ratified the Refugee Convention, as well as a strong focus on non-state actors, including UNHCR's role in refugee recognition, protection and containment. The Recognising Refugees strand will focus on the diverse modes of recognition in Kenya, Lebanon, South Africa and Turkey. The project also examines the role of international organisations in the global refugee and migration regimes, with a particular focus on the role of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## The Duties of Refugees

2017–ongoing  
 Professor Matthew J Gibney

This project examines the contentious but highly important issue of the duties of refugees. Refugees and asylum seekers are often criticised in public debates for failing in their moral responsibilities. They have recently been admonished for failing to integrate; for not claiming asylum in the first state they come to; for 'queue jumping' or failing to 'wait their turn' to be resettled; and for not returning home once they no longer need asylum. However dubious these criticisms may be, there is little doubt that such criticism has played an important part in legitimising recent erosions of the rights of refugees. A key question thus emerges: just what are the duties of refugees as refugees? In this project, the role of refugees as duty holders in relation to a number of different groups will be considered.

The project will draw upon the resources of ethical theory, political science, history and law. First, it will interrogate critically the duties ascribed to refugees in current political debates. Second, it will trace the different ways in which the duties of refugees have

Rescued refugees and migrants disembark in Sicily after a marathon ordeal aboard the Sea Watch 3 vessel



© UNHCR/Alessio Mammi

been understood historically and the way they relate to changing conceptualisations of the refugee. Third, through interviews, the question of how refugees themselves understand their responsibilities will be explored. Finally, the project will draw upon the results of the above, as well as the resources of contemporary moral and political thinking, to provide a considered and practically relevant account of the moral and political duties of refugees.

## Architectures of Displacement

Economic & Social Research Council and the Arts & Humanities Research Council, 2016–2019  
 Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Dr Mark Breeze,  
 with Professor Dan Hicks (School of Archaeology  
 & Pitt Rivers Museum) and Dr Rachael Kiddey  
 (School of Archaeology)

This research explores the lived experience of temporary accommodation for refugees in the Middle East and Europe. Led by Tom Scott-Smith, it has brought together experts in forced displacement, archaeology, anthropology, and architecture to study refugee shelter across six countries. A partnership with the Pitt Rivers Museum, the project has drawn to a close in the middle of 2019 and has featured a range of outputs. These have included an exhibition at the Pitt Rivers Museum (entitled *Lande* – details available at [www.prm.ox.ac.uk/event/lande](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/event/lande)), a feature length documentary film (entitled *Shelter without Shelter* – details available at [www.shelterwithoutshelter.com](http://www.shelterwithoutshelter.com)), and an inventory that records and categorises the diverse range of emergency accommodation in situations of forced migration ([www.shelterinventory.org](http://www.shelterinventory.org)). A book, policy briefing and further publications will be available over the coming 12 months.

## The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law

2017–2022

Professor Cathryn Costello, with Professor Jane McAdam (UNSW) and Professor Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne)

Oxford University Press has commissioned the Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law, which is due to be published in 2021. The Handbook will explore this dynamic and ever-challenging area of international law, drawing 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, the Handbook 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. It will also examine intersections between refugee law and other domains of international law, including the rights of the child; the law on trafficking and people smuggling; and human rights and other norms pertaining to migration and migrants.

The collaboration on the Handbook is supported by the research partnership between Professors Foster and Costello funded by the MLS-Oxford Myers fund, and by the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney.

## Hard Refugee Protection through Soft Enforcement

2018–ongoing

Professor Cathryn Costello, with Professor Başak Çali (Hertie School, Berlin & Koç University, Istanbul)

This research examines the workings of the UN human rights treaty bodies on refugee rights, in particular as 'soft enforcers' of the norm of *non-refoulement*. The research blends empirical and doctrinal analysis; examines against which states are non-removal complaints brought to UN treaty bodies; how states respond, in particular to UN treaty bodies' requests for interim measures regarding non-removal; and the contribution of UN treaty bodies to the law on *non-refoulement*. It aims to reflect on the role of the international rule of law and 'soft enforcement' in refugee protection.

## The Liberal State and the Expulsion of Members: Banishment, Denationalisation and Deportation

2008–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

The lawful power to expel people considered criminal, dangerous or otherwise undesirable has been a feature of virtually all human communities. This project explores the various incarnations that expulsion power takes in modern liberal states and the issues it raises for communities ostensibly committed to principles of freedom, equality and human rights. The main foci of analysis in the project are: the history of banishment as a precursor of modern deportation power; denationalisation and the evolution of powers to strip citizenship in liberal states; and the evolution and legitimacy of deportation. In addition to illustrating the ongoing tension between the power to expel and liberal principles, this project attempts to show how new developments in membership and concerns over crime and terrorism in modern states fuel contemporary controversy over expulsion.

## Humanitarian Nutrition

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This project examines humanitarian nutrition and its history from the 19th century to the present day. Through archival research, fieldwork, oral history and the analysis of humanitarian handbooks, it examines how Victorian technologies such as the soup kitchen were transformed into contemporary mechanisms for emergency feeding. In many refugee crises around the world, emergency feeding is a central part of humanitarian action, and this project traces how changing understandings of the human body and its needs have affected the treatment of forcibly displaced populations. It explores the transformation from communal to individual designs, from vernacular to technical foods, and from personal to impersonal measurements, examining what shaped these changes, and how they reflect the wider socio-political concerns of the age. The results of this project will be published in a book entitled *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*, published by Cornell University Press in spring 2020.



The waterfront area of Ipswich hosted UNHCR's Great British Welcome exhibition on hosting refugees in 2018

© UNHCR/Kim Nilsson



## Migrants and Refugees at Work

2012–ongoing

Professor Cathryn Costello

This growing strand of research sits at the intersection of migration and labour law. This commenced as a joint project with Professor Mark Freedland (Faculty of Law and St John's College), funded by the John Fell Fund, Society of Legal Scholars (SLS), St John's College Research Centre and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), Oxford. The inaugural seminar took place in June 2012, and led to an edited collection, *Migrants at Work: Immigration and Vulnerability in Labour Law* (OUP 2014). Reviews note the importance of this in 'making a very convincing case for the importance of migration and immigration law to scholarly investigations of labour law' (Ruth Dukes, *Modern Law Review*). Cathryn's other publications on this theme include 'Migrants and Forced Labour: A Labour Law Response' (2014) and 'Seasonal Workers and Intra-Corporate Transferees in EU Law: Capital's Handmaidens?' (with Mark Freedland, 2016).

Her current work on this theme includes a book chapter on criminalisation of migrants in a novel collection examining the role of criminal law in the workplace: 'Victim or Perpetrator? The Criminalised Migrant and the Idea of 'Harm' in a Labour Market Context' in Bogg, Collins, Freedland, Herring (eds) *Criminality at Work* (OUP, 2020, forthcoming). She is also writing the chapter for the Oxford Handbook on International Refugee Law on refugees' right to work, with Professor Colm O'Connell, an expert in international and European social rights protections.

## Bargains of Inclusion: The Politics of Refugee Self-Reliance

The British Academy, 2018–2019

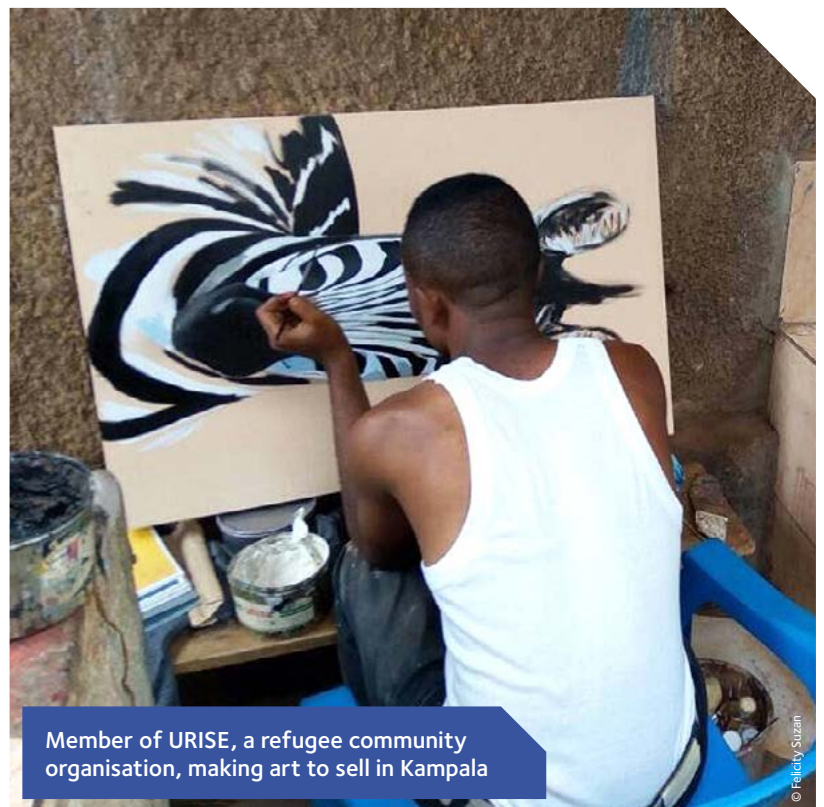
Professor Alexander Betts

During the last academic year, Alexander Betts received a British Academy mid-career fellowship to explore the political economy of refugee self-reliance. Focusing on Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, the research has used a combination of archival research and fieldwork to explore the question 'why do some states give refugees the right to work, and other related socio-economic rights, while others do not?'. The research explores three case studies in depth. First, a political history of Uganda's self-reliance model. Second, the politics beyond the development of Ethiopia's 2019 Refugee Proclamation, which ostensibly gives refugees the right to work and freedom of movement. Third, the politics behind Turkana County in Kenya's development of the Kalobeyei Integrated Social and Economic Development Plan (KISED). Out of the research emerges an understanding of the 'bargains' that are needed between the international, national, and local levels to enable refugees to have access to socio-economic rights.

## The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance

Economic & Social Research Council and the Arts & Humanities Research Council, 2016–2019  
Professor Alexander Betts, Dr Kate Pincock, and Dr Evan Easton-Calabria

The global governance of forced migration is generally used to refer to the response of governments and international organisations to displaced populations; rarely do we think of refugees as the providers of protection and assistance. Yet understanding the ways in which refugees themselves engage in forms of refugee-led social protection offers an opportunity to fundamentally reconceive support for the displaced in more sustainable and empowering ways. This project involves interdisciplinary, mixed methods, comparative research in Kenya and Uganda (across urban and rural areas) on the diverse and neglected ways in which refugees engage in the provision of protection and assistance to their own communities. Through ethnographic, historical, and quantitative research, it seeks to identify the diverse forms, scope, and functions of refugee-led social protection; to understand and explain the emergence and evolution of particular forms of refugee-led social protection; and to test the degree to which refugees' sources of security are derived from external assistance or from their own community-led initiatives. The project has culminated in a book, *The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance*, which will be published by Cambridge University Press in early 2020, a series of forthcoming articles, and a 'Research in Brief' entitled 'Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance' (RSC Research in Brief No. 10).



Member of URISE, a refugee community organisation, making art to sell in Kampala

## The Syrian Humanitarian Disaster: Understanding Perceptions, Aspirations and Behaviour in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

2012–ongoing; British Academy funding, Oct 2014–Sept 2015; New York University funding, 2018–19  
Emeritus Professor Dawn Chatty

In the context of the ongoing crisis, this study sets out to understand the perceptions of Syria's refugees, as well as those of policymakers, practitioners and host communities, in respect of the minimum 'right to life' standards for survival in dignity that should be made available to those displaced by the Syrian conflict. It seeks to understand discrepancies between the perceptions and aspirations of each group in adequately addressing the protection needs of Syria's refugees given the non-binding nature of state obligations as set out in the 1951 Convention. The study expects to draw policy conclusions as well as preliminary scholarly findings for further study based on an understanding of the socio-historical context, and on data from focus group discussions and semi-formal interviews. Workshops have been held to advocate for better communications and empathy between aid workers, refugees and host community members. In 2017, two articles were published in *Global Policy* and in the *Middle East Journal of Refugee Studies*.

Funding has been granted by New York University to extend the study to displaced Syrians in the Gulf States of Arabia. A workshop was held in March 2019 in Abu Dhabi which brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working with displaced Syrians, in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Gulf. A special issue on Displaced Syrians has been submitted to the *Journal of Refugee Studies* for consideration.

## Refugee-led Social Protection, Digital Technologies and the 'Refugee Crisis'

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2019–2022  
Dr Marie Godin

The so-called 'European refugee crisis' that has unfolded over the last few years has generated a dynamic response from a novel and diverse constellation of social actors in the European context: from humanitarian organisations, local authorities, international and local NGOs, private actors and grassroots actors, including citizens and refugees themselves. However, refugees are still studied, overwhelmingly, as recipients of aid in the design of state welfare policies. In this regard the development of digital technologies has played a significant role in providing new opportunities for refugees while on the move but also on arrival in Western societies, especially in regard to fulfilling their social protection needs. This project aims to explore how the development of tech-social protection initiatives led by, with or for refugees is contributing to a reshaping of the politics of welfare at the local, national and transnational levels.



Syrian refugee Zakeyeh (17) prepares tea in her family kitchen in Irbid, Jordan

© UNHCR/Hannah Maule-Finch

## How Historical Memory Shapes European States' Policies Towards Syrian Refugees

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2020  
Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

As thousands of refugees and migrants came into Europe in 2015, one of the most common ways for them to arrive in the EU was through the Balkan route from Turkey. This research project is concerned with the reactions of countries at the end of the Balkan route (Hungary, Austria and Germany) to the mass arrival of Syrian refugees during the summer of 2015. In particular, it is investigating how state identity mattered for the political decision-making process. Fieldwork is currently being undertaken, including interviews with relevant politicians at the Forum Alpbach.

## The Effects of Conflict and Flight on National Identity for Syrian Refugees

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2020  
Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

This new project theorises on the effects of conflict and flight on national identity. To advance the explanatory power of International Relations (IR) approaches, it develops an interdisciplinary framework and tests it on the empirical case study of Syria. The project analyses data collected in large N online surveys. The results aim to explore transformations in the meaning of national identity among Syrians and Syrian refugees, with specific attention given to the voices of women. How Syrians themselves draw the boundaries around a national in-group will be crucial for any peace settlement as well as for the legitimacy of a future Syrian state, in addition to having broader implications for how IR theory understands national identity change amid conflict.

## An Ethnography of Involuntary Returns to Senegal

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018–19  
Dr Anne-Line Rodriguez

Over the last few years, involuntary returns of asylum seekers and migrants to West Africa have multiplied. European states and the US have continued to forcibly deport unwanted migrants and, increasingly, have repatriated them as part of Assisted Voluntary Return programmes. Additionally, migration policies in North Africa, together with the instability in the region, have forced many migrants en route to also turn to Assisted Voluntary Return or to come back by their own means. This context raises questions on the social dynamics emerging in countries of origin with growing unplanned homecomings. Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Dakar, the present research explores local perceptions, experiences of and communication on involuntary returns to Senegal. This study seeks to contribute theoretically to recent anthropological debates on the subjectivities and practices produced in constrained immobility, as well as to inform policymaking. Outputs include presentations at seminars as well as a forthcoming RSC research brief and journal article.

## Civil Humanitarianism and the Politics of Refugee Solidarity

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018–19  
Dr Robin Vandevoordt

This project entails conducting ethnographic fieldwork with several civil initiatives in Belgium, focusing on their subversive relations with governmental policies, professional NGOs and everyday social life. Drawing on the researcher's own case studies and similar initiatives across Europe, he situates their recent rise in the context of wider changes in humanitarian aid and the contentious politics of European migration regimes. In what ways do these initiatives challenge dominant ideas on the politics of humanitarian action? Which possibilities do they harbour for innovative political action? And how do they respond to migration regimes that are increasingly designed to deter both migrant mobility and civil support?

## Aural Borders, Audible Migrations: Sound and Citizenship in Athens

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018–19  
Dr Tom Western

From refugee voices to asylum hearings, sound populates the language of displacement. This project puts sound and listening at the centre of forced migration, and follows their potentials to disrupt the dominant tropes of 'refugee crisis'. Through collaborative fieldwork in Athens, the project considers how listening can amplify migrant activism, creativities, and citizenship practices. People use the city as a sounding board of solidarity and a resonance chamber for protest. Sound is enrolled in practices of emplacement as much as experiences of displacement. The research has involved working with a refugee-led collective, running workshops on the city and citizenship, recording and storytelling, using sound as a heuristic and a catalyst for narration. We are now producing a radio programme and museum installations in Oxford and Athens. Together we reflect on how listening can open creative engagements with representing displacement, finding spaces of narrativity that have not yet been claimed and foreclosed. Sound is an access point to the agency of people who have crossed borders: a means of tuning in to everyday life. The project thus attempts to populate stories of displacement and retell them as gatherings of experiences and of street-level citizenship practices.

Find out about research at the RSC on our website at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research). You can keep up to date with all RSC activities by signing up to our monthly newsletter at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/connect](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/connect)



Venezuelan people cross the Tachira River which forms the border between Venezuela and Colombia

© UNHCR/Vincent Tremblay

# Refugee Economies Programme

IKEA Foundation, World Food Programme, World Economic Forum, 2012–ongoing

*Professor Alexander Betts, Raphael Bradenbrink, Antonia Delius, Jonas Kaufmann, Andonis Marden, Professor Naohiko Omata, Jade Siu, Dr Olivier Sterck, Maria Stierna, Isabelle Aires*

The Refugee Economies Programme undertakes research to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. Through primary data collection, we explore the conditions under which refugees can become self-sufficient and make positive economic contributions to their host states and societies. Our research is interdisciplinary, combining economics, anthropology, and political science. We collect original qualitative and quantitative data, and often draw upon a range of participatory methods, including working with refugee researchers. We aim to be policy relevant but not policy driven, and we collaborate with governments, international organisations, NGOs, refugee-led organisations, universities, and businesses. Our work has three complementary pillars: 1) *Economic Lives*: what explains variation in economic outcomes for refugees and their impact on host communities? 2) *Innovative Practices*: what innovative approaches have been tried and with what consequences? 3) *Political Economy*: what shapes national and local policies on economic inclusion?

The centrepiece of our research is the collection of an original panel data set, based on multi-country and time-series data collection. With an initial focus on Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, and covering 2017–2020, the data set covers urban and rural areas, refugees and hosts, and includes multiple data collection periods. In total, the data set will involve

around 15,000 respondents in the initial baseline study, with at least one additional round of follow-up data collection with the same respondents. This research is generously funded by the IKEA Foundation and is working in collaboration with UNHCR. During the last academic year, we have collected primary data in Addis Ababa and Dollo Ado in Ethiopia, and begun our second wave of data collection in Nairobi and Kakuma.

In addition to our ongoing longitudinal study, the Programme also works on two other areas of research. First, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, we are examining the impact of the new Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County in Kenya, created in 2016 as an integrated settlement for refugees and the host community to support greater self-reliance for refugees. In our research, we have created baseline indicators of refugee self-reliance, and we are comparatively assessing how they change over time for recently arrived South Sudanese refugees in Kalobeyei, compared to South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma. Second, in collaboration with the IKEA Foundation and UNHCR, we are undertaking an impact evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's seven-year investment in the Dollo Ado refugee camps, as an example of the role of the private sector in improving socio-economic opportunities for refugees and the host community. Third, in collaboration with



Turkana selling firewood in the Kakuma 1 camp



Bole Michael,  
Addis Ababa



Owino market in  
Kampala where refugees  
have shops

the World Economic Forum, we are undertaking an intervention-based study examining the role of high-level entrepreneurship and leadership training and mentorship training on the business performance of refugee entrepreneurs.

During the last year, the programme has produced several new reports. *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 model has been widely praised as one of the most progressive refugee policies in the world. There is also an accompanying research brief relating to the study: 'Uganda's Self-Reliance Model: Does it Work?'

Two new reports on our Ethiopia research are forthcoming. *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 Greenland, N Omata & O Sterck) examines the economic

strategies of Somali refugees in the cross-border economy of Ethiopia's Somali region.

From our research with WFP, we have produced two further reports. *The Kalobeyi Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?* (A Betts, N Omata, C Rodgers, O Sterck & M Stierna) outlines a conceptual model and indicators for measuring refugee self-reliance, and applies it to the Kalobeyi settlement and Kakuma refugee camps context. *Doing Business in Kakuma: Refugees, Entrepreneurship, and the Food Market* (A Betts, A Delius, C Rodgers, O Sterck & M Stierna) 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 Kalobeyi settlement have been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and are forthcoming.

The impact of the Refugee Economies Programme has been recognised in a number of ways. In 2018, the core project team received a 'Highly Commended' O2RB Impact Award and Professor Betts received a 'Highly Commended' award for Inspiring Leadership in the Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Awards.

Publications are available on our project website: [www.refugee-economies.org](http://www.refugee-economies.org)

# Projects funded by Swiss FDFA partnership

Funding received through our partnership with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has been used to fund an array of research activities this year including the following:

## Unrecognised IDPs in Contexts of 'Scattered' Displacement: A Turkana Case Study

*Dr Cory Rodgers*

This project was an initial qualitative investigation of 'scattered displacement' among pastoralists affected by drought, conflict, and diminished herds in Turkana County (Kenya), with the aim of asking: 1) Do pastoralist dropouts consider themselves to be internally displaced? 2) What do pastoralist dropouts think about the prospects for return? 3) How do former pastoralists develop relationships in their new place of residence or maintain relationships in their former homes? Fieldwork was conducted in three sites and over 50 interviews were conducted with former pastoralists. Three patterns of migration were identified: 1) movement to the nearest Turkana town; 2) migration to several Turkana enclave communities in neighbouring counties; and 3) relocation into agricultural development schemes. Narratives highlighted the importance of individual social circumstances in decision-making and indicated a diversity of experiences. Unexpected findings include emerging support relationships between two diasporas outside Turkana: pastoralist dropouts seeking subsistence-level income opportunities and elites purchasing property in agricultural areas. Qualitative evidence suggests a rise in returns to Turkana following government devolution and the emergence of new income opportunities in urban Turkana. Expected near future outputs include an article to be submitted to the *Journal of Eastern Africa Studies*, as well as ongoing fieldwork under future grants.

## Integration of Syrian Refugee Families in Oxfordshire

*Professor Naohiko Omata*

This research aims to understand how Syrian refugee families who came to Oxfordshire via the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) have been adapting to life in the UK. Oxfordshire has welcomed around 30 Syrian refugee families since the UK government launched the SVPRS in 2015. The research explored the integration of these Syrian families in order to inform and support the work of civil society and governmental bodies. Following the completion of the preliminary study in July 2018, the second phase of research was conducted between September 2018 and April 2019, involving individual and group interviews. With new funding from the John Fell Fund, this study will enter a third phase from September 2019, with the scope expanded to include: 1) SVPRS families who were settled in other districts of Oxfordshire, and 2) Syrian refugees who did not use SVPRS but spontaneously chose to settle in Oxford on their own. In addition, it will investigate

'best practices' of other refugee integration support schemes for (Syrian) refugees in and outside the UK, and their potential applicability within the context of Oxfordshire. A research brief was published in 2018 and a working paper is forthcoming in 2019.

## Caravans, Asylum Seekers, and Walls

*Professor Alexander Betts and Alejandro Olayo-Mendez (DPhil candidate)*

This project examined the politics and challenges of humanitarian assistance at the border between Mexico and the United States. Migrants, asylum seekers, humanitarian workers, and government officials in the border cities of Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana and the cities of Leon and San Luis Potosi in central Mexico were interviewed. Findings included: 1) migrants seeking asylum in the US often have to wait in Mexico for several months for their hearing with migration authorities, and many lack information on how to present their case to migration authorities in the US; 2) Mexican authorities lack a defined model to receive and support migrants through the MPP or 'Remain in Mexico' policy; 3) migrant shelters are overcrowded, have few staff, and have limited resources to tend to the needs of migrants; 4) safety and mental health are some of the main concerns for the migrant and asylum seeker population; 5) shelters in central Mexico still house hundreds of irregular migrants on their way to the US. There is a visible increase in the number of women and families at the shelters.

## Rethinking the Controversies of Deportation and Discrimination

*Diletta Lauro (DPhil candidate)*

Deportation poses some crucial ethical and political challenges to the liberal state. This research contributes to rethinking the controversies of deportation in a way that highlights the relationship between deportation, discrimination, and the legacy of historical injustice. Rather than looking at abstract theorisations of deportation, the analysis is grounded on the arguments of those who have contested deportation in practice. Drawing on doctoral research on the evolution of anti-deportation activism in the UK, historical examples of civil society contestations of deportation from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s are discussed. How can these historical contestations help us rethink the controversies of deportation in the UK today? It is argued: 1) that theorists should look further into how deportation reproduces a discriminatory logic of who has access to mobility; 2) that deportation creates particular forms of discrimination at the level of enforcement; and 3) that deportation has the potential to reproduce historical injustice towards particular groups of contemporary migrants.

# Involving host communities in refugee programming: an ethnographic perspective

**Cory Rodgers**

Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration

This year, the RSC introduced a new research fellowship established in partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service and Campion Hall – the Pedro Arrupe Research Fellowship in Forced Migration. Here the new Fellow, Cory Rodgers, introduces himself and his research.

Over the past year I have had the privilege of serving as the Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow, which has allowed me to undertake research on the involvement of host communities in refugee programming and the notion of ‘inclusivity’ in humanitarian responses to displacement. The inclusion of hosts in refugee programmes was elevated in priority following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and is now most clearly enshrined in the Global Compact on Refugees. Host inclusivity is distinct from – and in some ways the inverse of – refugee inclusion, the latter of which has been a long-standing principle in refugee protection programmes and advocacy. UNHCR has long promoted the inclusion of refugees in the national education, health, and other social service systems of their countries of asylum, as well as inclusion in the economic and social life of the local communities where they settle. But the inclusion of hosts in refugee programming is a more recent priority, and rather than an aim in itself, it is generally implemented as a means to other ends, such as preventing conflict, easing political tensions, and fostering peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

One striking manifestation of this policy priority is the proliferation of programmes intending to promote ‘social cohesion’ in displacement-affected communities, often by including hosts as beneficiaries in refugee services and interventions. This shift has generally been embraced as a self-evident good that can reduce conflicts between refugees and hosts, oppose xenophobia, and create synergy between humanitarian and development agendas. However, the evidence base underlying these programmes is largely economic, focused on the material burdens and benefits of hosting refugees. There has been little critical study of the *cultural, historical, political* and *relational aspects* of ‘social cohesion’, the premises upon which social cohesion interventions are devised, or their actual outcomes.

My work adopts an ethnographic approach to this question, elucidating the various dimensions of heterogeneity and stratification that complicate the notion of a cohesive ‘host community’. This anthropological perspective builds upon previous research conducted by current and former RSC scholars, including studies of the economics of hosting refugees

by Alexander Betts, Naohiko Omata and Olivier Sterck, as well as work by Dawn Chatty and Elena Fiddian-Qasmieh on the practice of hospitality in contexts of displacement.

## About Cory

Cory is a social anthropologist trained at Oxford. Since 2015, he has conducted research in Turkana County in northwestern Kenya, the site of the three-decades-old Kakuma refugee camps as well as the more recently established Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. For his DPhil, he undertook an ethnography of the development encounter in Turkana, with attention to the marginalisation of pastoralists amidst education-based stratification and the rise of an urban political class. Attending to the impact of the refugee camp in this area, his current work investigates how programmes intended to foster inclusivity and integration among refugees and hosts can instigate political conflicts over representation, as various stakeholders attempt to define a ‘host community’ out of an otherwise diverse population. Cory’s research highlights the heterogeneity and stratification that characterise the Turkana population. Aside from his research, Cory teaches an options course titled ‘Responses to Displacement in Africa’ on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and he has also served as a tutor for the Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Course at the University of London.



Cory Rodgers



Turkana host community members buying from a refugee-owned shop

# Policy and impact

A key aim of the Refugee Studies Centre is to ensure that our work has a meaningful impact beyond the academic community. We achieve this by combining our independent, objective and critical scholarship with an active role in engaging policymakers in governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organisations, shaping public understanding through the media, and working directly with refugees.

## Policy engagement

This year has seen RSC Director Matthew Gibney in demand for his expertise on the subject of **citizenship-stripping**. At the World Statelessness Conference at the Hague in June, he spoke on Deprivation of Citizenship as part of a panel examining the phenomenon of deprivation of nationality as a national security and counter-terrorism measure. In May he spoke to a sold out public audience on 'How to Lose British Citizenship' as part of the Pint of Science series at the Jericho Tavern in Oxford. In February, he wrote a piece for the *Metro* about the decision by Home Secretary Sajid Javid to strip Shamima Begum of her British citizenship. He was widely quoted in newspapers across the world discussing this case.

In January Alexander Betts attended the **Annual Summit of the World Economic Forum** in Davos, Switzerland. In addition to presenting the Young Global Leaders' work in Kakuma, he moderated a panel session on 'Investing in Refugee Inclusion: The examples of Dollo Ado and Kakuma', with Filippo Grandi (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), Per Heggnes (CEO, IKEA Foundation), Karin Finkelston (Vice-President, IFC), and Hassan Mohamud (elected representative from Kakuma). The meeting was attended by CEOs from several major international corporations, and was an opportunity to highlight the contribution of the Refugee Economies Programme's research to identifying opportunities for refugee inclusion.

Then, in early February, Betts travelled to **Colombia** at the invitation of the **Presidency** and with the support of **USAID**. The purpose of his visit mission was two-fold: 1) to learn about Colombia's response to the **Venezuelan influx**; 2) to share experiences and best practices based upon the Refugee Economies Programme's research relating to the socio-economic integration of refugees and migrants, notably in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. During the mission, Alex visited La Guajira and Norte de Santander along the border, spent time in Bogotá, and spoke to a wide variety of people, including national and local government, NGOs and international organisations, business and the private sector, and Venezuelan migrants and their representative organisations. At the end of his visit, he presented preliminary thoughts to a multi stakeholder audience at the Presidency, the **US Embassy**, and undertook interviews with a number of national newspapers. He briefed the **European Commission** following his return, wrote a piece for *New Humanitarian* (formerly *IRIN News*), and a related RSC Policy Brief. The *New Humanitarian* piece published

on 27 February argued that most Venezuelans needed to be regarded as refugees.

Roger Zetter has had a busy year in policy engagement. In June, he ran a workshop at the **UK Department for International Development (DFID)** on 'Refugee Return – Evidence, Issues and Practice'. In May he was in Oslo working on various 'humanitarian-development nexus' related projects at **Fafo** (Norway's leading social policy research centre), and in March, he completed an Evaluation on Forced Displacement and Finnish Development Policy for the **Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

Tom Western has been working on the production of a radio programme for the **BBC World Service**, on everyday activism and struggles for citizenship in Athens. He is also preparing a sound installation at the **Pitt Rivers Museum**, featuring sound stories made by friends and colleagues in Athens. Both of these public engagement works will be launched in 2020.



Alexander Betts and Felipe Munoz, the Colombian President's Advisor for the Venezuelan Border, visit a UNHCR orientation point at the Paraguachon border crossing in La Guajira, Colombia



## Refugee Shelter Inventory now online

The Architectures of Displacement research project has created the Refugee Shelter Inventory, which attempts to document the full range of shelters used, built, modified, and/or designed by and/or for refugees. This inventory is a not-for-profit, community-sourced, work-in-progress. Individuals can submit suggestions for new entries and also corrections.

When most people think of refugee shelter, they usually imagine a tent, mobile home, or camp. These are structures that have been notionally designed and planned. However, forced migrants draw on a much wider range of accommodation, from the formal to the entirely improvised: tents, temporary

structures, prefabricated homes, permanent buildings, detention facilities, squats, self-built shelters, rented accommodation, ruined architecture, and the natural environment, for example. Shelter is as much a process as a place, involving an ever-evolving procedure of building, adapting and residing.

The Inventory aims to raise awareness of the conditions and facilities being offered to refugees; expand our idea of what constitutes a refugee shelter; provide images, diagrams, dimensions, and other data about refugee shelters, as is available; and create a non-judgemental, comprehensive, factual, non-selective inventory. Find it online at [www.shelterinventory.org](http://www.shelterinventory.org)

## Executive Leadership Programme, Kakuma Refugee Camp

Between 25 July and 4 August 2019, the Refugee Studies Centre co-organised the world's first ever Executive Leadership Programme in a refugee camp, with the World Economic Forum, UNHCR, and the Aliko Dangote Foundation, in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The course built upon Alexander Betts' role in coordinating a visit by a group of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) of the World Economic Forum in the summer of 2018.

The course was provided to 30 refugee and host community entrepreneurs, nearly all with existing businesses, living in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. It was hosted by Danish Church Aid and the course

was delivered by a group of 12 YGLs, with content covering how to start and build a business, principles of leadership, management, the Kakuma economy, investment and finance, the role of China in Africa, mindset change, and business in Africa. Course tutors included Marième Jamme (CEO of iamtheCode), Mamadou Toure (CEO of Africa 2.0), Kanini Mutooni (Managing Director, Toniic Network), Kelly Buchanan (Vice President, Mastercard), Neema Kaseje (MSF), and Henrik Scheel (CEO of StartUp Experience). The course will be followed by a structured 12-week mentorship programme, and is being evaluated through an intervention-based study conducted by the Refugee Studies Centre.



Participants and tutors in the Executive Leadership Programme at Kakuma Refugee Camp



## Media coverage

RSC staff have written articles and provided expert opinion for media outlets on a range of issues over the past year. Here are just a few examples.

### **‘Refuge, Reformed’**

*Foreign Policy, 22 November 2018*

Professor Alexander Betts describes how Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya has found a way to create sustainable settlements that can both empower and employ refugees and benefit their host countries. He discusses the benefits for refugees and the host community of the new Kalobeyi settlement within Kakuma, drawing on his research within the Refugee Economies Programme. Opened in 2016, he says Kalobeyi was planned as a market-based settlement in which refugees and the host community would live side-by-side, using the same stores, schools and hospitals, with the ultimate vision being that the settlement will eventually be more like a city, with residents able to pay for and provide services for themselves.

### **UK Home Office asylum decision-making and conflict of interest**

*The Intercept, 17 November 2018*

Professor Matthew Gibney was interviewed for an article on the UK government's use of deportation charter flights and the criminalizing of nonviolent protest, relating to the trial of the 'Stansted 15' (15 anti-deportation activists who tried to prevent what they believed was the unlawful deportation of a group of people at Stansted airport in March 2017). Gibney commented on the lack of the right to appeal for certain groups of asylum seekers. He also noted a potential conflict of interest for the Home Office, in that it "is in charge of fulfilling the government's demand that the number of people immigrating to the country is reduced, and it's also in charge of granting asylum."

### **Why Sajid Javid's decision on Shamima Begum cheapened British citizenship**

*Metro UK, 21 February 2019*

Professor Matthew Gibney reflects on the decision by Home Secretary Sajid Javid to strip Shamima Begum of her British citizenship. He highlights that laws enabling the deprivation of citizenship have "had a remarkable renaissance across Western countries" in recent years, due to increased fears of terrorism and the rise of Isis. Further he comments, "No Western country...has made its citizenship as easy to lose as the UK or used its laws with greater frequency." In 2017, more than 100 UK nationals were stripped of their citizenship on the grounds that doing so was 'conducive to the public good'.

### **Why Venezuelan migrants need to be regarded as refugees**

*New Humanitarian (formerly IRIN News), 27 February 2019*

Alexander Betts writes that "How we treat Venezuelans in exile will shape the future trajectory of their country and the wider region." He describes Colombia's response to the influx of over 1 million Venezuelans, and comments that because Venezuelans are being labelled as 'migrants' rather than 'refugees', this is shaping the international governance response and the degree of engagement by UNHCR and others. One consequence "is that host countries are not receiving the support and guidance that befits the world's biggest current displacement crisis."

### **‘It simply isn't safe for refugees to return yet’**

*Syria Direct, 17 September 2018*

In an article on the return of refugees to Syria, Dr Ali Ali describes the "myriad of obstacles" faced by Syrian returnees. He highlights the "serious security vetting or collective punishment" that many will be subject to on return, and the decimated infrastructure in areas that are not government-controlled. He argues that since the Syrian government does not have the resources for reconstruction, it would like the people to return so it can "re-legitimize" itself in the eyes of the international community. He also discusses what effects Law 10 may have on returning refugees.

### **How Europe can reform its migration policy: the importance of being sustainable**

*Foreign Affairs, 5 October 2018*

Here Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Paul Collier (Blavatnik School of Government) argue for the adoption of a sustainable migration policy. In Oslo in June, they launched the 'Sustainable Migration Framework'. In this article, they outline this framework and its implications for Europe.

### **How Rwanda can do a better job of supporting refugees**

*The Conversation, 3 March 2019*

The Conversation Africa interviewed Evan Easton-Calabria (RSC Early Career Fellow) about Rwanda's refugee operations and the challenges host countries face.

[For a full listing of our media coverage, including links to online content, please visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news)

# Refugee-led social protection, digital technologies and the ‘Refugee Crisis’

**Marie Godin**

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

This year we have been joined by Marie Godin who won a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship for three years to conduct research at ODID. Here she introduces her research project.

The so-called ‘European refugee crisis’ that has unfolded over the last few years has generated a dynamic response from a novel and diverse constellation of social actors in the European context: from humanitarian organisations, local and national authorities, international and local NGOs, private actors and grassroots actors, to citizens and refugees themselves. New types of social welfare actors networking with each other through digital technologies are playing more prominent roles in providing informal social protection and/or facilitating access and use of formal social protection services. However, refugees are still studied, overwhelmingly, as recipients of aid.

While there is currently a growing interest in the field of migration and transnational social protection, refugees and forced migrants form a group still under-studied in the current scholarly debate. In recent years, we have seen an expanding literature on the ways in which relatively settled forced migrants and diasporas rely on ICTs for transnational and diasporic engagement, putting the stress on ‘mobile technologies for belonging’ (Donà and Godin, 2018). Similarly, forced migrants have found relatively novel ways to use new technologies to navigate increasingly complex journeys with a focus on survival strategies. Less studied are social networks mobilised through technologies, which also provide access to different types of resources (welfare, economic, cultural and political) during these journeys. My research project aims to look at the nexus between social networks and new technologies from the perspective of refugees, not just during their journeys, aiming to provide a better understanding of their mobile livelihoods through digitalization. The use of digital technologies indicates a number of ways in which refugees can negotiate their positions and strive for agency outside conventional forms of social protection, assistance and citizenship. My proposed research offers an alternative socio-anthropological contribution to this highly politicised debate.

The research will also consider mobile and digital based work opportunities within which refugees – in particular the youth – might be involved in exploring, in detail, remote forms of economic and educational activity. The use of mobile phones can also open access to resources online allowing refugees to develop a range of skills. In addition, there is still too little data about the precise impact of these digital tools on the welfare of refugees, their families and

communities, both locally and transnationally, and on the host community. This project will therefore aim to explore how the development of tech-social protection initiatives is contributing to a reshaping of the politics of welfare at the local, national and transnational levels. It will look at the development of phone-based applications (apps) and services for, with and by refugees emerging in particular in several European cities (such as Berlin, London, Athens and Paris) as well as in African cities (such as Nairobi and Kampala). Lastly, with mobile technologies becoming more widely distributed among migrants and refugees, they also create new kinds of inequalities and challenges. More broadly, a gendered and intersectional analysis, looking at how refugee social-tech protection initiatives are affecting refugee women and men differently, will also be applied.



Marie Godin

## About Marie

Marie Godin holds an MSc in Forced Migration from the Refugee Studies Centre and a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of East London. Before receiving the British Academy fellowship Marie was a research officer on the mobile welfare project at the Oxford International Migration Institute (IMI) investigating the links between social protection initiatives, welfare systems and migration within, towards and beyond Europe. Her work has appeared in a range of journals, including the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *African Diaspora. A Journal of Transnational Africa in a Global World*, and *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*.

Marie can be followed on twitter (@MarieGodin001) or on Oxford's academia network: <http://oxford.academia.edu/MarieGodin>.



# Rethinking Refuge: a new research-based platform for discussion and debate

**Evan Easton-Calabria and Matthew J Gibney**

Early Career Fellow and Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration

Academic research on forced migration can improve public understanding and contribute to informed decision-making, yet important scholarly work often remains hidden in academic journals or obscured in specialist language difficult for many to decipher. However, as more and more attention turns towards global displacement, accessible research as well as new ways of thinking about refugee and forced migration issues are needed.

The Refugee Studies Centre's new 'Rethinking Refuge' platform offers short, research-based articles aimed at rethinking refugee issues from various angles, including politics, international relations, normative political theory, law, history, and anthropology. The platform offers articles centred around different core themes of great relevance to the international refugee regime today: refugee protection, emergency and crisis, mobility, refugee agency, humanitarianism, and refugees' economic lives.

The platform was originally conceived after the prodigious growth of refugees into Europe in 2015-2016 during the war in Syria. At the time, scholars at the Refugee Studies Centre received many requests, from the media and the general public, to share their reflections upon the state of the international refugee regime and how it might be reformed in the face of contemporary challenges. The need for a vehicle to make research of the highest quality accessible to a broad audience beyond academia became increasingly apparent. The Rethinking Refuge platform responds to this need. It provides a space for discussion of refugee-related issues, informed by cutting-edge research, in bite-size and non-technical form. The platform reflects the Centre's commitment to ensuring that the research of its scholars informs public and policy discussions at national and global level. While contributions on the platform are diverse, several of the themes and articles by RSC staff, students, and researchers are highlighted below.

## Rethinking refugees as actors

Refugees are commonly portrayed in the media as helpless victims, and rarely given a direct voice in humanitarian practice and academic scholarship. Yet refugees make decisions and enact agency every day in a wide array of situations. Some of the questions addressed by platform authors include: What existing and potential roles can refugees play in their own protection and assistance? How do refugees enact power and agency in everyday situations of displacement? How can refugees become involved in assistance and recognised as actors rather than simply beneficiaries of humanitarian aid?

Among other articles on this theme, RSC Director Matthew Gibney rethinks the duties of refugees while

former RSC Early Career Fellow Dr Tom Western uses the concept of refugee feedback to examine how music and other sound produces common spaces in Athens. Former RSC Visiting Fellow Dr Ulrike Krause questions the logic of women's vulnerability behind public and humanitarian discourses on refugees in the Global South.

## Rethinking protection

The international refugee regime holds the protection of refugees at its core. This is also reflected in the legal mandate of the UN Refugee Agency. Yet policies meant to protect refugees commonly fall short, states often avoid taking in and thus protecting refugees, and the concept of protection itself is not always easily defined. Responsibility-sharing is a core theme as states navigate sovereignty, political backlash, and human rights obligations regionally and globally. Some of the questions addressed here include: How can so-called humanitarian programmes better protect refugees? Are EU asylum policies in reality policies of containment? What risks exist in ongoing protective policies towards refugees, and how can they be addressed? Where does the notion of protection stem from, and why does this matter for refugee assistance? RSC DPhil candidate Claire Walkey uses the case of refugee registration in Kenya to demonstrate how, far from being a mundane and



**Evan Easton-Calabria**



**Matthew J Gibney**



**Baglama graffiti, Athens**



straightforward exercise, registration has important implications for state power. Also focusing on East Africa, Professor Alexander Betts, Dr Kate Pincock, and Dr Evan Easton-Calabria examine refugees as agents of collective action working to improve their own and other refugees' lives in Uganda and Kenya.

### Rethinking emergency and crisis

When we examine refugees in the world today, we might ask, which crisis? One can point towards the Venezuelan exodus, Rohingya refugees, and of course Syrian refugees. Yet labelling a situation an emergency or crisis both reveals and obscures information – it does not tell us who did what or who holds responsibility, and it is fraught with issues of power and interests. Some of the questions addressed in this platform include: Is there really a European refugee crisis? Is crisis built into the international refugee regime? What are the consequences of declaring a refugee emergency (and for whom)? What different narratives exist for the same crisis, and what can we learn about the power of crafting crisis narratives through examining them? On this theme, former RSC Early Career Fellow Natascha Zaun corrects misperceptions of the so-called European refugee crisis, demonstrating that it was in fact a crisis of leadership because EU cooperation in this area could not manage to overcome challenges in responsibility-shifting.

### Rethinking mobility

Today many displaced people fall outside the category of refugee, asylum seeker, or IDP. Irregular migrants, and so-called 'economic' and 'climate' refugees are just a few of the categories of people on the move today. While borders certainly matter in our world, different mobility schemes (both formal and informal) challenge the straightforwardness of 'crossing borders', creating new and even extralegal categories of the bounds of territory. Some of the questions addressed here include: How does – and should – the international refugee regime protect irregular and other migrants falling outside the 1951 Convention? Where does mobility fall on the human rights agenda, and vice versa? What innovative temporary protection measures exist, and how might these both help and hurt migrants, and even the category of refugee? On this theme, RSC DPhil candidate Diletta Lauro examines deportation's overlooked relationship to discrimination and histories of injustice. In so doing

she offers evidence on ways historical contestations to deportation can help us rethink responses to deportation today.

### Rethinking humanitarianism

Many perceive humanitarianism as straightforward: 'helping'. Others regard humanitarian principles as unattainable, see neutrality as impossible, and argue that humanitarianism always risks doing more harm than good. Still others are embroiled in legal battles over 'humanitarian smuggling' as volunteers helping forced migrants become inadvertent criminals in some eyes – and saviours in many others. The notion of humanitarian actors today has expanded to include citizens, refugees themselves, and even the private sector. Yet these actors bring legal, social, and political tensions that challenge the definition of humanitarianism itself. Even in more 'straightforward' refugee assistance, the line between humanitarian and development assistance continues to be blurred. Some of the questions addressed here include: What is the impact of anti-smuggling measures on civil society? How can the international refugee regime better undertake development assistance? Professor Cathryn Costello and Dr Jennifer Allsopp discuss the criminalisation of human smuggling, which has become central to contemporary measures to combat 'irregular migration', and whether so-called 'humanitarian smuggling' is in fact a duty of humanity. RSC DPhil candidate Rebecca Buxton employs moral philosophy to examine whether reparations are owed to people displaced by climate change.

### Conclusion

While many articles on this platform contribute to debates on necessary reforms of the international refugee regime, others shed light on understudied theories and topics, and offer a rethinking of how Refugee Studies can contribute to issues of contemporary displacement. In the years ahead, the Centre hopes to boost significantly the number of articles available on the site. In so doing, the platform will play a key role in bridging the gap between scholarly research, policy-making, and public understanding.

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

# Studying and learning

The Refugee Studies Centre offers teaching programmes that are academically rigorous and multidisciplinary, attracting outstanding students and practitioners from around the world. Our degree and non-degree courses have two distinct aims: to further academic understanding of forced migration by training future researchers and teachers; and to cultivate the 'reflective practitioner' by enabling professionals who work in the field of forced migration to engage with key debates and to situate displacement in a broad historical and international context.

## Master of Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

This interdisciplinary nine-month master's degree offers an intellectually demanding route to understanding forced migration in contexts of conflict, repression, natural disasters, environmental change and development. It places forced migration in an historical, global and human perspective, and encourages informed reflection on international and national responses to both cross-border and internal displacement.

Taught by leading experts in the field of forced migration, drawn from a range of disciplines including anthropology, geography, international law, politics, international relations, and sociology, students on the degree benefit from Oxford's exceptional academic environment and teaching tradition, featuring individual supervision by world-class scholars as well as small-group teaching. They explore forced migration through a thesis, a research methods project, and written exams.

Teaching takes place in small classes, usually between 7 to 25 students, to encourage active participation and to enable students to learn from each other. Teaching styles vary and include lectures, workshops, seminars and student presentations.

In the first term, students follow three core courses, which introduce the subject of forced migration from anthropological, political, and legal perspectives. In the second term they follow a fourth core course on moral philosophy, and across both terms all students take a course dedicated to research methods in the study of forced migration. In the second term, students also choose two option courses from a list, which changes from year to year. In 2018–2019, our option courses included Refugee Economies, Advanced Human Rights and Refugee Law, UNHCR and World Politics, Dispossession and Displacement in the Modern Middle East, Coercive Landscapes, Gender and Forced Migration, and Responses to Displacement in Africa.

In the third and final term, students write a 10,000 to 15,000-word thesis based on research conducted over the year.

This year, MSc thesis topics included: 'Perverse incentives: an analysis of the border-management industry in the United States' and 'Frozen frontier: *uti possidetis* and the decolonization of South Asia'. Vanshaj Jain and Emma Montoya were jointly awarded the best thesis prize. The Examiners' Prize was jointly awarded to Imogen Dobie and Meadhbha Monaghan.

## The students

Since 1998 the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has drawn top-quality students from all over the world, including Rhodes, Marshall, Commonwealth and Fulbright scholars. Our most recent cohort came from 14 countries, many in receipt of bursary or other financial support. The degree is competitive, with over 220 applicants for the 25 places available on the course each year. To date over 400 students have graduated and gone on to doctoral degrees, law school and/or work relevant to human rights, refugees, and migration. Graduates are now employed in organisations such as UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, UNDP, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Brookings and MacArthur foundations, as well as national governments and universities around the world.

For further information on the master's degree, please see the RSC website at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/msc](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/msc)

## Funding and studentships

Information about support available for study is provided on the Oxford Department of International Development's website. Various awards are available for students. For example, the Department offers a number of full scholarships (covering University and college fees, plus an amount towards maintenance), which are available to students on any ODID courses. There is also a range of scholarships for international students, such as Clarendon and Weidenfeld.

Find further information at: [www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/fees-funding](http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/fees-funding)

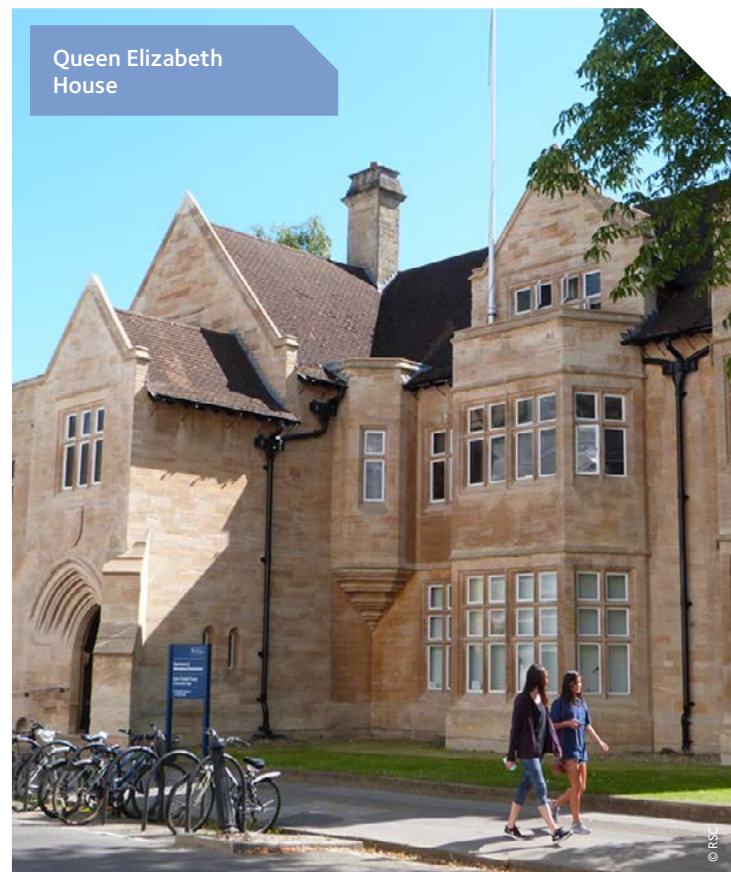
## Doctoral studies

The RSC is a vibrant training ground for young doctoral researchers. The Centre's staff supervise candidates undertaking research degrees at the Oxford Department of International Development and other centres within the University, and provide external supervision to candidates based elsewhere. Students come from various academic disciplines including development studies, politics and international relations, social and cultural anthropology, geography, and psychology.

Current topics under investigation include: 'Global Migration Governance: The Management of 'Rights'?'; 'Renewable Energy and Refugees: Actors, Networks and Agency in the Humanitarian Energy Sector'; 'Navigating the Deputisation of Immigration Enforcement Functions in the UK' (see the Academic Record for a complete listing of DPhil theses).

The RSC aims to secure further doctoral research scholarship funds, targeted where possible at students from the global South. It is also committed to the development of additional post-doctoral opportunities at the Centre.

For further information about DPhil opportunities, visit the RSC website at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/dphil](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/dphil)



Queen Elizabeth House

### Francesco Bosso DPhil candidate

*An ethnography of policy stability, change and subversion in the distribution of asylum responsibilities within Europe*

The 'Schengen/Dublin system' – that is, the set of EU laws that regulate, in a highly restrictive way, the mobility of asylum seekers and refugees within the internal area of free movement – has been persistently criticised for its lack of fairness toward both 'external border countries' and asylum seekers and refugees.

In my research, I seek to shed light on the processes that underpin the stability of this system, in spite of these manifest shortcomings. In order to do so, I investigate ethnographically the way in which various actors involved in the institutionalization and implementation of this system – from national political and administrative elites, to supranational institutions, street-level bureaucrats, civil society actors, and migrants/asylum seekers/refugees themselves – conceive of and practically 'manage' intra-European 'secondary movements'.

### Faith Cowling DPhil candidate

*Gender in humanitarian policy and practice*



My research project focuses on the humanitarian response to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Based on 12 months ethnographic research with international NGOs in Lebanon, my thesis explores a number of everyday practices employed by humanitarian organisations. The practices covered in the study include classification

and categorisation in needs assessments, processes of data collection, determining eligibility for inclusion in humanitarian programmes, and gender-related capacity building and empowerment programmes. Drawing on theoretical contributions from science and technology studies, as well as feminist and postcolonial theory, I examine the networks of power, both international and local, within which these practices have evolved. I question whether the expertise and scientific processes underpinning the practices can ever be truly neutral and explore some of their unintended consequences of treating social, political and economic issues as technical humanitarian problems.

## International Summer School in Forced Migration

Central to the RSC's annual calendar is the International Summer School in Forced Migration, which provides an exciting forum for the discussion of contemporary issues in the field and an opportunity for practitioners from around the world to reflect on their work and learn from each other. In July 2019, 69 participants, from more than 35 countries, joined together with 6 tutors and 13 speakers at the Refugee Studies Centre to talk through new developments. The Summer School prides itself in fostering interaction and dialogue between academics, practitioners and policymakers working in areas related to refugees and forced migration. Practitioners learn from the best academics working in forced migration as well as from their fellow practitioners.

The Summer School began with participants examining the conceptualisation of forced migration, considering displacement from political, legal and anthropological perspectives. Building on these foundations, participants then contemplated different ethical perspectives on the issue of free movement and the ethics of border control, concluding with a lively debate between tutor groups. The focus for the remainder of the week was on asylum policy and international refugee law, with workshops on African Union protection and European Union protection enabling participants to further their understanding of these areas. At the start of the second week, a day-long simulation exercise saw participants assuming roles negotiating and brokering for the successful return of a group of refugees to their village of origin. Later in the Summer School participants had the opportunity to specialise in several different areas including gender; human smuggling; humanitarian principles; IDPs; Palestinian refugees and international law; and trauma, mental health and psychosocial support. Before the Summer School concluded participants, tutors and speakers came together to discuss the future challenges in the refugee regime.

World-leading academics and accomplished professionals in the field of forced migration were invited to open each module. These speakers included Chaloka Beyani (former UN Special Rapporteur for IDPs), Madeline Garlick (from UNHCR) and Alessandro Monsutti (Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute Geneva). E. Tendayi Achiume (UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance) provided an informative and thought-provoking endnote lecture on Migration as Decolonization. Included in the evening programme was a screening of *The Wait* followed by a moving discussion with the director, Dr Maher Abdulaziz.

Work in small, diverse tutor groups is an essential feature of the Summer School. Once again, these groups were fundamental in encouraging critical reflection and debate on assumptions and professional practices. The 2019 tutor groups were led by Catherine Briddick, Jeff Crisp, Matthew Gibney, Maryanne Loughry, Tom Scott-Smith and Liesbeth Schockaert, and the Summer School director was Tom Scott-Smith.

A crucial resource of the Summer School has always been the diversity of its participants. The School offers a unique opportunity for professionals from all over the world to learn from each other and to form long-term networks that benefit both their personal and professional development. Whilst major international organisations such as UNHCR, IOM, and JRS were well represented as in previous years, there were also officials from various governments, staff of international and local NGOs (Refugee Consortium of Kenya, The Icelandic Directorate of Immigration, INHURED International, Inter-American Court of Human Rights) as well as full-time researchers and academics. Participants were able to share their personal experiences and fields of interest with fellow participants, tutors and members of the Refugee Studies Centre during our Saturday *Festival of Ideas*. Thanks to the varied background of participants, their presentations were wide-ranging, engaging and included talks on *Education under siege: the experience at Gaza's universities*; *Improving responses to refugees through problem identification while working with U.S. military actors*; *#BetterTogether – Response to refugees in Indonesia*; and *Complex identity and language development through migration, frustration, integration*.

The RSC remains committed to providing bursary support to deserving participants, particularly those from the Global South, who would otherwise be unable to attend this course. In 2019 ten participants received bursary funding thanks to generous support from the IKEA Foundation and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. We at the RSC continue to search for new avenues of funding in order to keep the Summer School one that reflects varied experiences of forced migration from across the globe, and this event continues to be a fantastic success and a central plank of our outreach and dissemination work.



Professor Chaloka Beyani (Associate Professor of Law at LSE and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons) gives a lecture at this year's Summer School



## Visiting Fellowships

Visiting Fellowships provide an excellent opportunity for senior practitioners and policymakers as well as doctoral students, post-doctoral scholars and professional academics to study in a renowned intellectual environment. Visiting Fellows undertake a specific programme of self-directed study or research under the guidance of an assigned academic advisor. They have full access to the University's academic facilities and are able to attend the RSC's weekly Public Seminar Series and the core seminar series of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. They can also present their work in the RSC Work-in-Progress Seminar Series.

During the past year the RSC has welcomed Visiting Research Fellows and Student Visitors from a variety of countries with a diverse range of experiences and expertise. Through mutual exchange and learning, their presence has greatly enhanced the academic work of the RSC.

Details of this year's Visiting Fellows can be found in the Academic Record. For further information about the programme, visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships)

## Short courses

The RSC convenes occasional short courses that offer participants the opportunity to engage actively and critically with contemporary debates under the tutelage of distinguished experts in the field of forced migration. The courses, usually held over a weekend, focus on a particular issue related to forced migration, enabling participants to develop their expertise through a mix of lectures, working group exercises and interactive sessions. RSC short courses are suitable for experienced practitioners, graduate researchers, parliamentarians and staff, members of the legal profession, government officials, and personnel of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

In March 2019 Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC) and Professor Susan M Akram (Boston University School of Law) convened the course 'Palestine Refugees and International Law', which was held at the British Institute in Amman, Jordan. This two-day course places the Palestinian refugee case study within the broader context of the international human rights regime. It examines how the policies and practices of Middle Eastern states impinge upon Palestinian refugees.

Further information: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/short-courses](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/short-courses)

## Nasir Uddin

### Visiting Research Fellow



I came to the RSC as a Visiting Research Fellow in order to continue my research on the recurrent situation of the Rohingya refugees in the borderland of Bangladesh and Myanmar. More specifically, I was working on a research project about the identity and ethnicity of the Rohingya people which demanded deeper understanding

in order to apprehend the present Rohingya crisis. Above all, I was intensively working on framing my theoretical project 'subhuman life' to contribute to the body of scholarship on refugee studies, stateless people, forced migration, camp people, asylum seekers, and forcibly displaced people. My research was generously supported by the P4P Grant of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at SOAS, London University. The stay helped me to gain a comprehensive overview of the human geography of refugees and the current state of the global refugee situation. The RSC is a fantastic space of scholars working on refugees in different geographical sites. The stay gave me the opportunity to share my research and experience with faculties, fellows and researchers at Oxford University apart from those of the RSC, which helped me immensely to reshape my views and thoughts on refugees. My academic contact, Professor Matthew Gibney, Director of the RSC, was very helpful and inspiring during my stay at the Centre. I must say that meeting and interaction with four PhD students and their association made my life at the RSC lively and pleasant. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to spend some very meaningful and fruitful time at the RSC and looking forward to further exchange.

## Emilie Lund Mortensen

### Student Visitor



Prior to my first long-term fieldwork among displaced Syrian men in Amman, Jordan, I came to the RSC as a visiting fellow in early 2016 in order to develop and strengthen the framework of my dissertation work in conversation with colleagues at and around the RSC. In the aftermath of two additional field stays in 2017 and

finally in 2018, I returned to the RSC in February 2019 as a Student Visitor with new data on young Syrian men's daily attempts to rebuild life in the everyday of exile in Amman. I presented this as well as emerging perspectives and themes in my work in a Work-in-Progress Seminar and received valuable and thought-provoking comments and questions from the audience. These have, among other things, helped me to develop a chapter on friendship and care in exile that I was particularly engaged in during my visit. During both of my visits at the RSC I have benefited greatly from engaging in dialogue with my co-supervisor Professor Dawn Chatty as well as with other staff at the Centre, including Dr Ali Ali. The brilliant students at the RSC have likewise been a great source of help and inspiration during my stays. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit the RSC and hope to return soon again.

## RSC Library

The Refugee Studies collections have now been housed in the Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL) since 2009. Readers continue to benefit from the wider social science context within which the specialist forced migration materials sit. These benefits include access to over 250,000 open shelf monographs and c.1,200 print-runs of social science related journals, as well as the stack request routes between the Bodleian Libraries.

Access to the unique grey literature collections is still much appreciated by readers. It is encouraging to report that although unpublished materials are often now freely available online, the SSL has added 94 new print documents and serial issues in 2018–19. Access to over 5,700 full-text scanned images from the RSC's Forced Migration Online Digital Library, searchable via the Search Oxford Libraries Online (SOLO) catalogue, continue to prove popular with readers.

The archive collections, in particular those of Dr Paul Weis and Professor Guy S Goodwin-Gill, have enjoyed a continued surge in interest with international visitors accessing them over the past year. In addition to the grey literature and archive collections, the specialist book collection also continues to expand with the purchase of 94 new monographs this year. Of these, 35 were for research and 59 for teaching purposes. Book acquisitions were supplemented by generous donations acquired via the RSC as well as weekly UK-published legal deposit books selected by Sarah Rhodes, the Subject Consultant for Forced Migration. All new books and documents are listed on the SSL website, under the SSL New Books link. Readers also benefited increasingly from electronic book and e-journal acquisitions. There are presently over 5,000 e-books on refugee-

related topics accessible via SOLO with 50 new titles purchased for the forced migration and international development field this year.

Library staff have provided in-depth subject-specific inductions and tours for departmental and external readers including MSc students, Visiting Fellows and new staff. In addition the Subject Consultant has offered tailored one-to-one research sessions, taught search-skills sessions for the MSc students and answered a wide range of email enquiries. Topics have included the environmental history of refugee camps on the Tanzania/Uganda border; apparatus of refugee response after the first and second world wars; and refugee advocacy and media portrayal. The Libguide for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies continues to be a well-used tool for locating online and print resources (<http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/refugee-studies>).

Contact Sarah Rhodes ([sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)) to make an appointment for subject-specific research queries or search SOLO for refugee-related material at <http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. You can also visit the Bodleian Social Science Library website at [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl).



Professor Tom Scott-Smith holds a session on humanitarianism at this year's Summer School

# Suspending surveillance: understanding the Government of Kenya's resistance to registering refugees

Claire Walkey

DPhil candidate

It is widely assumed that states will readily engage in refugee registration as it is central to states' bureaucratic engagement and monitoring of refugees on their territory. Claire Walkey's research in Kenya shows that this is not always the case.

One of the core features of states is a desire to know about individuals who cross their borders. States, particularly in the Global North, are increasingly using biometric technology, for example, to more accurately identify individuals. This desire is reflected in the international refugee regime by registration and refugee status determination (RSD), which are ways states can gain information about asylum seekers and bureaucratically monitor their presence in the country.

My doctoral research in Kenya provides an intriguing empirical challenge to the assumption that states always have an interest in the individuals on their territory. The Kenyan state has systematically suspended registration which stops would-be asylum seekers from accessing assistance and refugee status. Suspension occurred at times of increased insecurity, such as terrorist attacks by Al Shabaab, and was accompanied by a narrative by political leaders that refugees posed a collective threat to the nation and should return to their country of origin. Insecurity therefore did not prompt increased surveillance of refugees but instead rendered them more invisible to the state. Denying registration was used to delegitimise refugees' presence in the country and enforce their exclusion from the nation.

Furthermore, the Government of Kenya disbanded the Department of Refugee Affairs in May 2016, the department responsible for registration and RSD. The disbandment alone suggests the limited importance the state places on these functions. When it re-opened a few months later, under the new name, Refugee Affairs

Secretariat, the change of name was not reflected in documents needed to accept and reject cases. Delays in doing so mean that, for over a year at least, many cases could not be formally accepted and refugee documents issued.

UNHCR discusses the Kenyan state's behaviour as due to a lack of capacity. I argue in my research that it is better understood through looking at the historical development of administrative infrastructures in Kenya, and Africa more generally. This literature shows that bureaucratically obtained knowledge about individuals played a contested and often weak role in the development of the Kenyan state under colonialism. This continues to play out today and other marginalised groups in Kenya face similar challenges to accessing registration as citizens.

It has been widely commented that Refugee Studies is insufficiently historical, but I would add that the historical analysis needed should not only be of refugee-related issues but also factors that could seem, on first appearance, unrelated to refugees. Situating the Kenyan state's actions within its political and historical landscape reveals a form of statehood that does not rely on bureaucratic surveillance. This, in turn, can mean states are resistant to registration and RSD because it grants rights and inclusion to refugees but offers few benefits for the state. Academics and practitioners should therefore reassess what registration and RSD mean to states and recognise the contingencies of the so-called 'international' refugee regime.



Claire Walkey



A young girl sits on the ground near a registration centre in Dadaab refugee camp, eastern Kenya, 2017

© UNHCR/Robin Jones

# Focusing the lens on refugee shelter

**Tom Scott-Smith**

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration

The skills that make a good academic writer don't necessarily transfer to film. Complex stories that unfold very effectively on the page can become meandering narratives on the screen. Nuanced arguments can seem fussy when transferred to a visual medium. Readers might be willing to invest time in a long book with carefully cited evidence, but they expect films to be punchy and entertaining.

For all these reasons, I had some concerns when, three years ago, I set out to make a documentary film with my close collaborator, Mark Breeze at the University of Cambridge.

The aim of this film was to communicate the findings of our Architectures of Displacement project at the Refugee Studies Centre. Our 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 had a very different strategy, and the shelters took a range of physical forms, from IKEA's award-winning flat-pack shelters to makeshift tents and shacks, from formalised refugee camps to informal squats and settlements. Film seemed 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. There were, however, numerous challenges involved.

In preparation for making the film we watched a very large number of documentaries, especially on the topic of refugees. This showed us what we did not want to make. We wanted to avoid the whole visual grammar that we quickly came to despise: slow-motion photography, unnecessary graphics, soaring music, and presenters talking into the camera and walking off into the sunset. Our film was the output of an academic project, so our approach had to be sober but accessible.

This meant that we made some overall editorial decisions that shaped the film from the earliest days. First, our film had to be driven by big ideas rather than personal stories: exploring the (deeply flawed) idea that a cheap and universal basic shelter could be rolled out anywhere in the world. Second, the film had to contain some core characters and human experiences, but should not gratuitously manipulate the viewers' emotions, allowing people to draw their own conclusions about the successes and failures of humanitarianism instead. Third, we decided to avoid dubbing sound effects in post-production, creating, as far as possible, a naturalistic sense of place. Fourth, we rejected a unifying explanatory voiceover in favour of a structure led by interviewees, giving them time in a slow-paced edit to let ideas unfold. Finally, we decided to have no background music, avoiding the trap of

relying on a score to patch up narrative or tell the audience how to feel. These decisions created a simple but, we hope, powerful film, led by carefully framed shots and explanatory sit-down interviews.

The most significant challenge in making the film was not, in fact, a technical one. Equipment today is comparatively cheap, portable, and remarkably high quality, making film a far more democratic and universally available medium. Led by Mark, an experienced filmmaker, we purchased a good-quality digital SLR camera and a portable sound recorder, which could be packed into a small rucksack. This meant our filming process was mobile, discreet and compact – making it easy to travel around refugee camps, squats and sensitive sites.

The core challenge, instead, related to the representation of refugees. The film was primarily about humanitarians and designers – their visions for better shelter and how these so often fell short – but in order to examine the successes and failures of these visions we also needed to communicate the perspectives of the inhabitants. It was important to represent refugee stories in a sensitive way, without gratuitous displays of suffering or narratives of simple victimhood. We were particularly challenged because many refugees, understandably, did not want their faces to appear on film, but this limited our scope for empathetic connection. Filming their hands and heads risked making them seem like criminals, unhelpfully playing into narratives of illegality.



Tom Scott-Smith



Azraq camp in Jordan, about 90kms away from the Syrian border

© UNHCR/ Wesley Valsirra



Makeshift tents at Moria camp on Lesvos, Greece

© UNHCR/Daphne Toles

We ended up treating refugee stories quite differently from expert interviews. Even if they had agreed, it seemed unnecessarily aggressive and interrogative to place the inhabitants of emergency shelters in front of lights and a camera, so we recorded them in audio, juxtaposing their voices with footage of their accommodation, which bore the imprint of everyday life. This offered a humanistic understanding of their experiences, evoking empathy and connection through the arrangement of mundane, everyday objects, like a still life. We sought to create a balance in our representation, illuminating what it was like to live as a refugee without placing them on display, violating their privacy, or manipulating their stories.

In contrast, we used a more classical sit-down format to film humanitarian workers, politicians, and designers, with close framing and detailed questioning. The idea was to ask people in power to account for their decisions and explain the lessons of different forms of shelter. This process turned out to be particularly fascinating from a research perspective, because for most of my academic career I had relied upon very private, off-the-record interviews and assurances of anonymity when interviewing experts. I rarely even recorded my conversations, aiming for a natural and ethnographic form of engagement, and believing that obvious recording equipment would create caution and hesitation from my interlocutors. I assumed anonymity was the best way to get reliable and honest responses from humanitarian workers concerned about neutrality, or policymakers wary of their careers.

For this film, however, we sat people down in front of a camera, affixed microphones to their bodies, placed lights on their faces and asked direct questions as the camera rolled. I had assumed that the result would be negative, but often people opened up in new and interesting ways. They became more aware of their words, performing for the camera, and coming better prepared. It did not generate an inferior kind of interaction, just a very different one.

The final challenge was writing a script. With over 60 interviews and hundreds of hours of footage it was an enormous job identifying the best sections and stitching them together into a coherent story. I had concerns that the editing process would take people's words out of context. After all, editors and writers have huge power to use material in a way that serves their purposes rather than those of their interviewees. This power seems intensified in film. For one thing, the viewer links the words directly with a person and a face, sometimes erroneously associating the filmmakers' decisions with the speaker themselves. In addition, editors can make use of a special alchemy in juxtaposing pictures and words. At times I found this power terrifying: the meaning of people's voices could be changed through small edits, linking together of different points, and using images to disguise the joins.

In the end, we created a story of high hopes and eventual failure: a tragedy of ideals with important lessons about refugee shelter. At times it has become a more simplified story than I would have liked – it is remarkable how few words can be used, even in a 90-minute film – but I have learned that films can have a different kind of power and impact through the combination of sights and sounds. This will not be the only output of our project, and more research will appear in traditional written formats, such as articles and monographs. We hope, however, the film communicates our messages in a more accessible way. The key findings for the project, after all, are about the importance of listening to refugees when creating accommodation and the need to think beyond purely physical needs when exploring the possibilities of design. If this message reaches more people as a result of the film, then so much the better.

**Shelter without Shelter will be released in 2020 – see [www.shelterwithoutshelter.com](http://www.shelterwithoutshelter.com) for details. An inventory that records and categorises the diverse range of emergency accommodation in situations of forced migration is available at [www.shelterinventory.org](http://www.shelterinventory.org).**

# Events

The RSC convenes a diverse range of events each year, including public seminars, workshops, and conferences. These include major conferences on Refugee and Forced Migration studies, weekly public and work-in-progress seminars, and the Annual Harrell-Bond and Elizabeth Colson public lectures. We believe it is important to engage both at a 'local' level, whether with the local Oxford community or UK civil society, and beyond with the international community.

## Democratizing Displacement

Pushed from their homes, refugees and displaced people typically find themselves subject to a range of policies, practices and powers over which they have no say. The lives of refugees are intimately and dramatically shaped by actors – states, international organisations, humanitarian NGOs, and local host communities amongst others – who make decisions that affect their well-being but are rarely accountable to their interests and goals. How might refugees become more effective political actors in shaping the forces and institutions that govern their own lives?

On 18–19 March, the RSC Conference 2019 took place at New College, Oxford, with a focus on 'democratizing' refugee protection from various 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.

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?'”

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.”

In the opening plenary, Lea Ypi (Professor in Political Theory, LSE) spoke on 'Illegal migration, adverse



Professor Matthew Gibney introduces the opening speaker, Professor Lea Ypi



Professor Karma Nabulsi gives the closing plenary



Dr Anne Irfan (Departmental Lecturer at the RSC from September 2019) presents in the session on International Organisations, Accountability and Humanitarian Settings

possession and the obligation to obey the law'. Adverse possession is often discussed in the context of debates around irregular migration to talk about whether such irregular migrants are, after a period of time, entitled to the right to stay and to naturalization in a country in which they have initially entered by some form of alleged wrong-doing. Ypi examined irregular migration in the context of adverse possession, and she examined adverse possession in the context of debates around the right of states to exclude in the light of their own colonial history.

Karma Nabulsi (Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford) gave the closing plenary on 'The democratic mobilisation of Palestinian refugees: restoring popular sovereignty'. Nabulsi spoke firstly on 'how people see the Palestinian issue', and secondly on 'how Palestinians see it', before discussing what can be done in terms of engagement in the public space that combines both approaches.

Across the two days, parallel sessions focused on topics such as:

- refugee voices in modern history,
- political participation and citizenship,

- contesting deportation and exclusion,
- international organisations and accountability,
- displacement and peacebuilding,
- resistance and political action,
- pathways to durable solutions, and
- rethinking refugeehood.

Speakers represented establishments from around the globe, from the University of Sydney to the Instituto Socioambiental in Brazil; from St. Andrew's Refugee Services, Cairo to the Kakuma News Reflector. RSC staff presenting included Professor Alexander Betts, who spoke on refugees as providers of protection and assistance; Dr Ali Ali, on resistance to the displacement process in occupied Iraq; and Dr Robin Vandevordt, on subversive humanitarianism. DPhil candidates Claire Walkey and Blair Peruniak also presented, on, respectively, the exclusion of refugees in the management of refugee affairs in Kenya, and rethinking refugee markets.

Thirty-seven presentations from the conference are available to listen to on the RSC website: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/podcasts-rsc-conference-2019](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/podcasts-rsc-conference-2019)

## Annual Lectures

### Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2018



Pierre Krähenbühl delivers the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2018 at Magdalen College

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 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 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 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... the growth in the development of settlements.” He also discussed UNRWA’s unique design encompassing varied areas of focus and activities (both humanitarian emergency response and quasi state-like activities), plus the financial challenges it faces following the withdrawal of US funding.

The Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture takes place in Michaelmas term each year. It is named in honour of Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, the founding Director of the Refugee Studies Centre.

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

### 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, and is currently working on collaborative projects related to humanitarian design.

The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture is held in Trinity term. It is named after Professor Elizabeth Colson, a renowned anthropologist.

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



Professor Peter Redfield gives the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2019



## Public Seminar Series

Each term the RSC holds a series of public seminars, held on Wednesday evenings at Queen Elizabeth House. This year the series 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 variety of timely issues relating to different aspects of forced migration.

### Refugees in the UK, and urban refugees

Public Seminar Series, Hilary term 2019

*Convened by Professor Naohiko Omata*

This term's public seminar series consisted of two separate themes: 1) Refugees in the United Kingdom, and 2) Urban refugees. Under the first theme, the series offered insights into the ways in which refugees in the UK have adapted to their new lives, with a focus on understanding the lived experiences of their economic and socio-cultural integration – or lack thereof. The second theme sought to enable audiences to cultivate a better understanding of the day-to-day lives of 'self-settled' refugees around the world, particularly in the Global South. Topics covered included refugees and the UK labour market (Dr Carlos Vargas-Silva and Dr Isabel Ruiz, University of Oxford); and Syrian refugee men and humanitarianism in urban Jordan (Dr Lewis Turner, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute).

### Everyday resistance to the European governance of migration

Public Seminar Series, Trinity term 2019

*Convened by Dr Cory Rodgers*

As national immigration and asylum regimes become increasingly restrictive in countries around the world, 'Fortress Europe' stands out for its efforts to regulate human movement both within and beyond its borders. Following the 2015 'crisis', spikes in detention and deportation have been common features of European migration management. But there are also examples of resistance by migrants and citizens, who defy, endure, and creatively navigate these systems and practices of exclusion, often in ways that are overlooked in legal and institutional accounts of migration governance. In this seminar series, speakers described situations in which such efforts become visible (and audible), through diverse case studies from sites on both sides of the Mediterranean. While focused on dramatically different situations and activities, they share an interest in alternative understandings of migration governance, as well as the practices by which people contend with state strategies, xenophobic narratives, and exclusionary practices.

Podcasts of most RSC public seminars are available on the RSC website: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news) or on SoundCloud: [www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre](http://www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre)



## Workshops

### Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law

In late July, the RSC 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 outstanding group of scholars from across the globe including Professor E Tendayi Achiume (UCLA), Professor Vincent Chetail (University of Geneva), Professor Vitiit Muntarbhorn (Chulalongkorn University), 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 to undertake a critical analysis, seeking to define the field and set the agenda for the next phase of research.

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 2021.

### Humanitarianism Past and Present

This two-day workshop was convened by Professor Tom Scott-Smith and held at Queen Elizabeth House in June. Within sessions focused on 'Civic Humanitarianism and Volunteerism', 'Professional Humanitarianism and Technocracy', and 'Humanitarianism, Decolonization and Race', speakers presented on a wide variety of issues, including: volunteering among aid professionals in Cambodia, the contested role of 'civil society' in the German welcome culture, the history of universal anthropometric standards, charity shops and the postwar moral economy, and rehabilitation and planning for decolonisation.

# The Kalobeyei model: towards self-reliance for refugees?

**Alexander Betts**

Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs

Kenya is not known for its progressive refugee policies. Although Kenya tolerated the self-settlement of refugees until the late 1980s, the large-scale influx of Somali refugees led to the adoption of an 'encampment' policy, requiring that refugees reside in the Dadaab or Kakuma camps from 1992 onwards. In one remote region of Kenya, however, a new approach is emerging.

Turkana County, home to the Kakuma refugee camps, has chosen to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. Despite being one of the poorest regions of Kenya, its approach contrasts markedly with policy in either Garissa County, home to the Dadaab camps, or Nairobi. The Governor of Turkana County, Josphat Nanok, recognised that refugees represent a potential benefit rather than a burden for the County.

That alternative vision has become known as the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED P), a 15-year strategy for the sub-county of Turkana West, where the Kakuma camps are based. It has funding from the European Union and a range of bilateral donors. It is based upon two core elements. First, the new Kalobeyei settlement, built just 3.5km from the Kakuma refugee camps. Unlike the Kakuma camps, it was created as an integrated settlement, intended to be for both refugees and members of the host community. Its goal is to create opportunities for refugees' self-reliance, while also improving socio-economic outcomes for the host community through a range of market-based opportunities. Once particular ideas are piloted in Kalobeyei, the intention is that they could be scaled across Kakuma. Second, an integrated development plan for the whole of Turkana West. Rather than just

focusing on the camps, the KISED P aims to improve socio-economic outcomes for the entire population of the sub-county. It is an area-based development plan. UNHCR has described Kalobeyei as "our new approach that is going global".

Kalobeyei was designed from scratch as a 'hybrid' settlement for refugees and the surrounding Turkana community. And it has introduced a range of innovative market-based mechanisms to promote refugee self-reliance, which diverge from the types of assistance used in Kakuma. These include cash-based programmes to meet housing, nutritional, and other material needs, specific training to support refugees and host community entrepreneurship, and programmes to support dryland agriculture and household 'kitchen gardens.'

Since the new Kalobeyei settlement opened in 2016, we have been doing research, funded by the World Food Programme, to understand what difference the model makes, compared to the traditional aid model applied in the Kakuma camps. To do that, we have been comparing socio-economic outcomes for recently arrived South Sudanese refugees integrated into either the new Kalobeyei settlement or the old Kakuma camps. Methodologically, it has been a



Alexander Betts



Kitchen garden



Bamba Chakula shop in Kalobeyei



viable comparison given that newly arrived refugees were allocated between the two contexts based on their date of arrival. Conceptually, we have developed a self-reliance framework in order to operationalise the concept of self-reliance and baseline indicators to measure self-reliance over time. So far, we have collected quantitative and qualitative data during two waves of data collection in 2017 and 2018.

It is very early in Kalobeyei's development and so it would be unrealistic to expect significant changes or difference compared to Kakuma. Nevertheless, some of the insights are interesting. We have found that, generally, indicators for self-reliance outcomes for newly arrived refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei are similarly poor: most refugees are dissatisfied with their lives, food insecurity is highly prevalent, dietary variety is low, access to healthcare remains limited, and most refugees report being completely or mostly dependent on food aid.

Interestingly, however, Kalobeyei residents have achieved higher levels of food security, dietary diversity, food consumption, and calorie intake. These outcomes correlate with possessing a (harvested) kitchen garden. Kalobeyei also offers higher levels of interaction between the refugee and host communities, suggesting that even though relatively few members of the host community have moved to Kalobeyei settlement, the attempt to create an 'integrated' model is at least leading to more business transactions, conversations, and shared meals, for instance, between the communities. However, refugees in Kakuma have higher levels of sports participation and involvement in community associations, for example, perhaps reflecting that it is a longer-standing community, in which even new arrivals can benefit from pre-existing social structures.

Encouragingly, our analysis also shows gradual improvement. Between 2017 and 2018, refugees in Kalobeyei witnessed gradual improvements in public goods, financial inclusion, and health outcomes, for example, all of which can be connected to Kalobeyei-specific interventions. However, our data suggests that the overall picture in both Kalobeyei and Kakuma in relation to self-reliance is bleak. Following UNHCR's definition, self-reliance can be thought of as the ability of individuals, households, and communities to meet basic needs, independently of aid. And our self-reliance indicators for Kalobeyei are low. In terms of what we call 'self-reliance outcomes', for example, 17% of South

Sudanese in Kalobeyei are food secure and 2% perceive themselves to be independent of aid. In terms of what we call 'self-reliance enabling factors', we found that 6% have an income-generating activity. For the few who are employed, most are 'incentive workers' with NGOs, which are generally low pay positions that are exempt from the protections provided by national labour regulations. The number of entrepreneurs is growing but slowly.

Overall, however, it is clear that refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei remain a long way from achieving self-reliance. Despite some progress, most refugees are unable to meet their basic socio-economic needs. Furthermore, even for refugees who do meet some of those needs, they are unable to do so independently of aid. This is because, despite a range of progressive market-based interventions, the economies of both Kakuma and Kalobeyei remain based almost entirely on international assistance. At a community level, if when a minority of refugees are able to meet their basic needs at an individual or household level, it is largely linked to the circulation of aid money.

Our findings are sobering for the concept of self-reliance. They highlight some of the potential limitations of promoting self-reliance in a remote, arid region, with limited infrastructure and public goods. Indeed, if refugees in Kalobeyei and Kakuma are to achieve self-reliance, then it will need the entire sub-county of Turkana West to begin 'exporting' to other parts of Kenya, the region, and the world. Economic growth and the possibility for self-reliance will ultimately have to come from growth in other sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, or digital technology. Self-reliance should absolutely be a worthy aspiration for the international community. Two big conclusions follow from our analysis: first, it is far too early for donors to see self-reliance as an opportunity to reduce overall assistance; second, a long-term development strategy will be needed to build infrastructure, public goods, and the capacity of a refugee and host-community-led private sector. In that regard, KISEDIP is probably on the right track, but it will need time, patience, and significant upfront investment to achieve its aims.

The report, 'The Kalobeyei Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?' (RSC, Oxford) will be available from October 2019.

# Introducing the RefMig project – Refugees are Migrants: Refugee Mobility, Recognition and Rights

Cathryn Costello,<sup>1</sup> Caroline Nalule,<sup>2</sup> Derya Özkul,<sup>2</sup> and Bryony Varnam<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Andrew W Mellon Professor of Refugee and Migration Law, <sup>2</sup>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, and <sup>3</sup>Project Administrator

We introduce here a major new project at the RSC, reflecting on its activities over the past year. RefMig is a 5-year project funded by the European Research Council and led by Professor Cathryn Costello, with Dr Caroline Nalule, Dr Derya Özkul, and Bryony Varnam.

The 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees (‘the Refugee Convention’) provides a vision of refugee agency: refugees are understood to have a right to flee (including illegally – states undertake not to penalise refugees for illegal entry), and to enjoy self-employment and work rights in their countries of asylum. However, in practice, refugee rights are increasingly suppressed, both in refugees’ regions of origin and further afield. For decades, the global regime has been critiqued for ‘containing’ refugees in the Global South, and suppressing their rights and mobility. The RefMig project aims to examine those containment practices. Its title ‘Refugees are Migrants’ aims to question whether the bifurcation of refugees from other migrants is a tool of effective protection, or rather of exclusion and containment. The project commenced in 2019, launching two complementary strands, one entitled Recognising Refugees and the other on Organisations of Protection.

## Recognising Refugees

The ‘Recognising Refugees’ strand aims to understand the workings of refugee recognition, looking at practices in diverse contexts, in order to increase our understanding of how refugees come to be officially regarded as such, or, as is often the case, denied such recognition. The project includes a deep

examination of UNHCR’s mandate RSD (refugee status determination) practices, and also the handover of these functions to states, a recent phenomenon in both Kenya and Turkey. It also highlights group recognition prevalent in the global refugee regime, from the use of informal presumptions of refugeehood, to formal prima facie and group protections.

The ‘Recognising Refugees’ strand will be informed by comparative fieldwork in Kenya, Lebanon, South Africa, and Turkey. Dr Nalule has been leading the research in Kenya, while Dr Özkul was based in Lebanon this year. They will be conducting research in South Africa and Turkey, respectively, in the academic year 2019–2020. The fieldwork has produced important new insights into the dynamics of refugee recognition in diverse institutional contexts, and the difficulties refugees face almost invariably in seeking recognition, in particular when states host refugees on an informal or conditional basis.

The Recognising Refugees strand includes a workshop on this topic being convened by Professor Costello at WZB (the WZB Berlin Social Science Center) in December. We aim to bring together scholars from diverse backgrounds to showcase research on the empirical dimensions of refugee recognition. The

A street in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya





call for papers is available on the RefMig website. We are also supporting a related issue of *Forced Migration Review* (FMR) in October 2020 in order to solicit insights into the range of diverse practices and challenges in this domain. The call for articles will be available at [www.fmreview.org/recognising-refugees](http://www.fmreview.org/recognising-refugees) shortly.

### Organisations of Protection

The 'Organisations of Protection' strand considers the role of non-state actors in the global refugee and migration regimes, in particular that of international and humanitarian organisations. It includes a particular spotlight on the role of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), but also considers generally questions about the mandates, accountability and functions of international organisations in the regimes.

The project held its first workshop in November 2018. This dealt with one of RefMig's cross-cutting themes, examining Accountability for Human Rights Violations in Migration Control: New Frontiers of Individual and Organisational Responsibility. The workshop brought together leading legal scholars to examine accountability gaps, and the mechanisms – legal and political – to enhance accountability for human rights violations in this context, and ensure that human rights are respected and protected in the migration context. In particular, it provided the opportunity to reflect on the growing operational role of EU agencies, IOM, and other non-state actors in this context. The workshop proceedings will appear later, in 2020, as a special issue of the *German Law Journal*, to be co-edited by Cathryn Costello and Professor Itamar Mann. Contributors

will examine topics such as 'Human rights due diligence policies in the area of migration control' (Dr Carla Ferstman), 'Crimes against migrants under international criminal law' (Dr Ioannis Kalpouzos), as well as how states and individuals (such as private corporations and international organisations who undertake migration control functions) may face liability in tort for violations they perpetrate.

A second workshop, in February 2019 on IOM: The 'UN Migration Agency?', brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to focus on the scholarship and evidence base on the IOM. The aim was to bring together a group of experts with established expertise and/or a demonstrated research interest in the operation and accountability of international organisations in the migration and refugee regimes, with a particular focus on the role of the IOM. Discussions on the day addressed what the main unexplored scholarly questions pertaining to IOM are; which current challenges (institutional, legal, and/or political) are facing the IOM; and lastly what an 'ideal IOM' would do and how? This event laid the groundwork for a forthcoming edited collection focusing on the mandate and accountability reforms that are due, particularly in light of the organisation's renewed role under the New York Declaration and The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and its new 'UN-related' status. A new researcher will be joining the RefMig team in Autumn 2019 to focus on this strand of research.

To find out more about RefMig research and the latest news and events visit [www.refmig.org](http://www.refmig.org)

# Outreach

At the Refugee Studies Centre, outreach activities have always played a key role in advancing refugee issues and developing a global community of academics, policymakers, and practitioners working in the field of forced migration. Dedicated outlets for a variety of academic and non-academic materials have promoted the work of researchers and practitioners, and given a voice to refugees themselves.

The RSC's varied portfolio of outputs includes publications such as the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, information resources, public events, and networking initiatives that promote influential engagement with a range of academics, policymakers, and practitioners. *Forced Migration Review*, the RSC's flagship publication, is the most widely read publication on forced migration. It is available free of charge, in print and online, in four languages – English, Arabic, French, and Spanish (where funding permits). Our Working Paper series numbers nearly 130, all available to download from the RSC website. In 2015, we launched a 'Research in Brief' series to make our academic research more accessible to policymakers, practitioners, and the public.

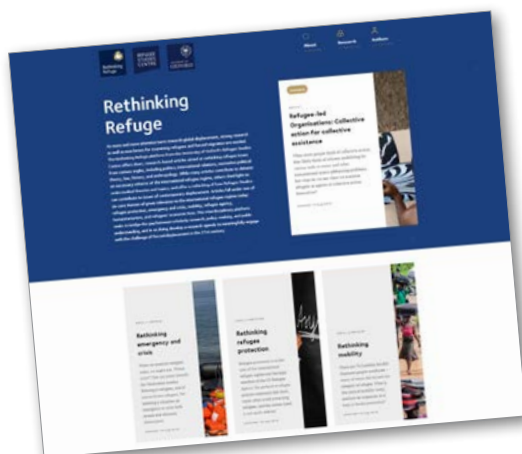
We keep in regular touch with supporters through our Monthly News Update, emailed to subscribers. We also produce, in print and online, an annual newsletter. To subscribe to our newsletters or to receive alerts about events, courses and *Forced Migration Review*, fill in the form on our website at: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect)

## Digital communications

### RSC website

The RSC website is central to communicating our research and providing information about our courses, events and public engagement. It provides a wealth of information about the RSC's research, as well as profiles of staff members and a searchable database featuring both RSC publications and external publications by RSC academics. Prospective students can learn about our postgraduate and professional teaching programmes, and read about the experiences of our alumni. In 2018–19, the website received 184,000 visits from over 200 countries.

For more information visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk)



### New Rethinking Refuge website

Launched on World Refugee Day this year, the 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. The platform has been made possible through generous grants from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Delmi (Migration Studies Delegation). Its editor is Evan Easton-Calabria.

Read the feature article on the platform on page 18 of this Annual Report and visit the website at [www.rethinkingrefuge.org](http://www.rethinkingrefuge.org)

### Social networking and multimedia

We engage with supporters, students, academics, practitioners, policymakers and others through a wide range of media. In 2018–19 our social media audience continued to increase:

- On **Twitter**, we now have over 34,000 followers, an increase of 4,000: [@refugeestudies](https://twitter.com/refugeestudies)
- On **Facebook**, we have over 3,000 new followers, taking us to a total of 22,200: [www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre](http://www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre)
- Our podcast series continues to grow, with more than 6,800 plays registered over the past 12 months on our **SoundCloud** channel. This provides podcasts of the RSC Public Seminar Series, our two Annual Lectures, plus special seminars and events such as the RSC conference: [www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre](http://www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre)
- Our **YouTube** channel has received nearly 7,000 views in the past year. Video playlists includes News, with staff media interviews; Events, such as the 2017 RSC Conference 'Beyond Crisis: Rethinking Refugee Studies'; and Studying in Oxford: [www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre](http://www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre)

The homepage of the Rethinking Refuge website

## New in the Research in Brief series



### Refugee Energy

With global trends in displacement increasing and many protracted crises lasting well beyond 5 years, UN and response agencies are increasingly recognising the importance of long-term and sustainable planning for displaced people. Energy, including sustainable and renewable energy, forms a critical part of such responses. Recent analytical research has been undertaken on access to energy in displacement settings to understand the role of renewables in emergency and protracted response. This brief by Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen (DPhil candidate) presents an overview of the issues and suggests recommendations for consideration based on the findings of this research.



### Resettled Syrian Refugees in Oxford

Written by Naohiko Omata with Dunya Habash and Nuha Abdo, this research brief presents preliminary findings on how Syrian refugees who came to Oxfordshire via the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) have been adapting to their new life in the United Kingdom. At the time of the study, a total of 28 families had been received in Oxford via SVPRS. The research aims to understand the integration processes that these Syrian families have followed, while highlighting policy implications for local authorities and refugee-supporting agencies.



### 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. Across low- and middle-income countries, whether in refugee camps or in urban areas, the dominant humanitarian model is premised upon a provider/beneficiary relationship: international organisations are the protectors and refugees are the protected. This brief, however, describes a largely neglected story running in parallel, wherein refugees themselves mobilise to create community-based organisations or informal networks as alternative 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? In order to answer these questions, they compare outcomes for refugees and host community members in Uganda and Kenya, neighbouring countries with contrasting refugee policy frameworks.



### 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. During the mission, Betts visited La Guajira and Norte de Santander, spent time in Bogotá, and spoke to a wide variety of people, including national and local government, NGOs and international organisations, business and the private sector, and Venezuelan migrants and their representative organisations.

## New reports

**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 Greenland, 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, N Omata, C Rodgers, O Sterck & M Stierna) 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, O Sterck & M Stierna) draws upon a business survey with food retailers to assess the impact of the 'Bamba Chakula' model of electronic food transfers and business contracts.



# Forced Migration Review

*Forced Migration Review* (FMR) is the in-house publication of the Refugee Studies Centre, published in four languages and disseminated globally in print and online. FMR is free of charge, supported financially by a range of donors.

Over the past 12 months, the FMR team has published three issues of FMR:

## FMR 59

### Twenty Years of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

(October 2018)

In the 20 years since they were launched, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 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. This issue includes 19 articles on the main feature theme, plus seven 'general' articles on other topics relating to forced migration.

## FMR 60

### Education: needs, rights and access in displacement

(March 2019)

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, and this is damaging to them and their families, as well as to their societies, both in the short and the long term. This issue of FMR includes 29 articles on Education, and two 'general' articles.

## FMR 61

### the ETHICS issue

(June 2019)

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.

These and all previous issues are available at [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org) in HTML and PDF formats and also (English edition only) as podcasts. Arabic, French and Spanish editions are accessible through the same website, using the relevant language tabs.

Feature themes of forthcoming issues, plus deadlines for submissions, are available at [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming).

*Thank you for curating such a uniquely important and stimulating journal.*

*I continue to be so impressed...what a powerful publication.*

## Also this year...

In our June issue we published a special collection of articles in tribute to Barbara Harrell-Bond, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre and *Forced Migration Review*, who died in July 2018. In these articles, authors discuss Barbara's legacy: the impact she had and its relevance for our work today. The collection was also published separately and made available at a memorial gathering held by the Refugee Studies Centre in July, on the anniversary of Barbara's passing, where attendees who had known Barbara in different contexts and at different stages of her life added their own personal tributes, paying moving testimony to her lifelong commitment to upholding the rights of refugees.

We are proud to carry on one part of Barbara's legacy – FMR – as the publication she founded continues to provide a global forum for researchers, practitioners and displaced people, as Barbara intended.

Through FMR, authors analyse the causes and impacts of displacement; debate policies and programmes; share research findings; reflect the lived experience of displacement; and present examples of good practice and recommendations for policy and action.

*There is such a need for an accessible and reliable outlet for those of us working in this field and FMR has been such a quality forum for so long.*

*You provide a wonderful magnifying effect for interesting field-based practitioners' work and a valuable source of cross-fertilisation among agencies and practitioners.*





## Journal of Refugee Studies

The *Journal of Refugee Studies* (JRS) is published by Oxford University Press in association with the Refugee Studies Centre. The journal is edited by Dr Khalid Koser of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland. Dr Georgia Cole (Newnham College, Cambridge) is the Book Review Editor. The multidisciplinary journal provides a forum for exploring the dynamics and challenges of forced migration, and critically analysing national, regional and international responses, covering all categories of displaced people. Contributions

that develop theoretical understandings of forced migration, or advance knowledge of concepts, policies and practice, are welcomed from academics, policymakers and practitioners.

For further details, article abstracts, and information about how to subscribe to the journal, visit [www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org](http://www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org). Members of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration may subscribe at a reduced rate.



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

In this new book (written in Japanese and published by Kobuna Books), Professor 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 from Kobuna Books.

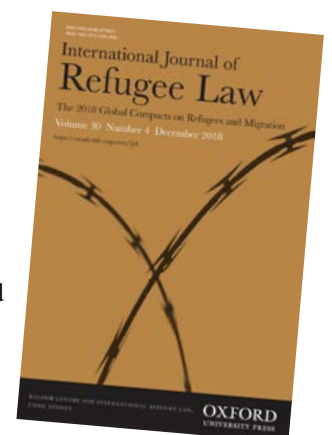


## The European Refugee Controversy: Civil Solidarity, Cultural Imaginaries and Political Change

Dr Robin Vandevoordt has co-edited with Dr Gert Verschraegen (University of Antwerp) a special issue of *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, Vandevoordt contributes the article 'Eroding rights, crafting solidarity? Shifting dynamics in the state-civil society nexus in Flanders and Brussels.'

## The 2018 Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration

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 Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Alexander Betts, plus RSC Associates Professor Jane McAdam, Professor Guy S Goodwin-Gill and Dr 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 separate Compacts, and in particular, what that split connotes for refugees' mobility. Having problematized the bifurcation in the Compacts, she 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?"



# Fundraising and development

Our network of supporters has, over the last year, once again been of critical importance to the continued development of the RSC and the success of our research, teaching and outreach programmes. We would like to extend our recognition and gratitude not only to donors but also to our alumni, our cutting-edge new researchers, renowned emeritus colleagues, and engaged policymakers and practitioners. We continue to work with the Oxford University Development Office to identify new prospects and supporters for our work.

Over the last year we have continued to draw upon our strategic partnership with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) to advance the study of forced migration. This partnership supported the appointment of three new Early Career Fellows: Anne-Line Rodriguez, Robin Vandevordt, and Tom Western. These Fellows undertook exciting independent research projects at the RSC (the work is described elsewhere in this report), and brought new ideas and connections to the Centre. This partnership, which is now coming to an end, also supported other RSC research and events, and allowed us to run a research and dissemination fund that provides small amounts of funding to allow researchers to embark on new areas of work.

The support of the FDFA and Delmi also funded the establishment of our new Rethinking Refuge online platform. More details about this platform are again provided elsewhere in this report.

We continue to benefit from our three-year grant from the IKEA Foundation that supports the Refugee Economies research in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. This funding has also made possible a Junior Research Fellowship in International Relations in collaboration with Lady Margaret Hall that has deepened research on forced migration at Oxford. We are grateful to the World Food Programme for funding Refugee Economies research in Kenya, including on socio-economic outcomes for refugees in North-West Kenya.

One key change at the RSC over the last year has been the appointment and presence of our new Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration, Catherine Briddick. This five-year post, made possible by generous funding by the Martin James Foundation, facilitates research into gender and the family in relation to forced migration. Over the last year, Catherine has begun the important task of encouraging more students and scholars to focus their research on gender and forced migration issues.

An ongoing priority is to raise funds to support bursaries for participants from the global South, including refugees themselves, to be able to attend our annual Summer School, as well as to take the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The Summer School represents one of the most tangible ways in which we can have a direct impact on policy

and practice. Both the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the IKEA Foundation have supported bursaries for the Summer School this year.

We continue to be extremely thankful to the range of supporters who fund the work of *Forced Migration Review*. The co-editors fundraise for each specific issue, and the ongoing relationships they enjoy with governments, NGOs, and foundations are a central part of our ability to continue to publish relevant issues aimed to shape thinking among policymakers and practitioners.

Most of our work, including many of the research projects outlined in this Annual Report, depends upon external financial support. In many cases we are privileged to benefit from research council grants, including from the European Research Council, the British Academy, and the Economic and Social Research Council, but in other areas, philanthropic, governmental or private funding is essential. If you are interested in any aspect of our work, please do get in touch.

## Donors

We are deeply appreciative to all of the donors listed below both for their financial support and their enthusiastic collaboration over recent years.

ADRA International	Jesuit Refugee Service
Arts & Humanities Research Council	John Fell OUP Fund
Asfari Foundation	Leverhulme Trust
British Academy	Martin James Foundation
Catholic Relief Services–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	New York University
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ockenden Foundation
Danish Refugee Council	Ockenden International Trust
Delmi	Open Society Foundations
Dubai Cares	Oxfam
Economic & Social Research Council	Oxfam IBIS
Elizabeth Colson	Oxford-MLS Research Partnership
European Research Council	RET International
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Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein	Southern New Hampshire University
IKEA Foundation	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
International Committee of the Red Cross	UK Research and Innovation/ Global Challenges Research Fund
International Organization for Migration	UNHCR
International Rescue Committee	UNOCHA
	Women's Refugee Commission
	World Economic Forum
	World Food Programme

# Academic record

## Books and edited volumes

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) *On the Inside: 401 Days of Fieldwork in Buduburam Camp in Ghana* (English translation), Kobuna Books, Japan (in Japanese).

**Vandevordt, Robin** (with G. Verschraegen) (ed) (2019) Special issue: The European Refugee Controversy: Civil Solidarity, Cultural Imaginaries and Political Change, *Social Inclusion*, 7(2).

## Chapters

**Ali, Ali** (2019) 'Baghdad: War and Insecurity in the City', in S. Sassen and M. Kaldor (eds) *Cities at War: Global Insecurity and Urban Resistance*, Columbia University Press.

**Ali, Ali** (2019) 'State Transformation and the Displacement of Minorities: The Coercion and Systemic Discarding of Iraq's Mandaeans and Palestinians', in K. Sakai, P. Marfleet and R. Hinnebusch (eds) *Iraq – Conflicts, Migrations, Futures*, Routledge.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2018) 'The Syrian Humanitarian Disaster: Perceptions on Sustainability of Containment in the Region of Conflict', in J. Carvill Schellenbacher, J. Dahlvik, H. Fassmann, and C. Reinprecht (eds) *Migration und Integration – Wissenschaftliche Perspektiven aus Österreich*, Vienna: Vienna University Press.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2018) 'Syria', in S. Joseph (ed.) *Arab Family Studies: Critical Reviews*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'Vignettes of Life in Sha'laan between 1930-1970s', in T. Boissière and J.-C. David (eds) *Chalaan 1920-2010*, Beirut: French Institute Press.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2018) 'Beware States Piercing Holes into Citizenship', in R. Baubock (ed) *Debating Transformations of National Citizenship*, Springer.

**Godin, Marie** (2018) 'Intersectionalising diaspora studies', in R. Cohen and C. Fisher (eds) *Handbook of Diaspora Studies*, Routledge.

**Godin, Marie** (with G. Doná) (2018) 'Mobile technologies and forced migration', in A. Bloch and G. Doná (eds) *Forced Migration: Current Issues and Debates*, Routledge.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2018) 'Economic Lives of Refugees in Kenya: Findings from Nairobi and Kakuma Camp', in M. Dundar (ed) *Exchange of Experiences for the Future: Japanese and Turkish Humanitarian Aid and Support Activities in Conflict Zones*, Ankara: Ankara University.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'South-South Cooperation in International Organizations: Its Conceptualization and Implementation within UNDP and UNHCR', in F. Fiddian-Qasmieh and P. Daily (eds) *Routledge Handbook of South-South Relations*, Routledge.

**Vandevordt, Robin** (with G. Verschraegen) (2019) 'Subversive Humanitarianism and Its Challenges: Notes on the Political Ambiguities of Civil Refugee Support', in M. Feischmidt, L. Pries, and C. Cantat (eds) *Refugee Protection and Civil Society in Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan.

**Zetter, Roger** (2018) 'Conceptualising Forced Migration: Praxis, Scholarship and Empirics', in A. Bloch and G. Doná (eds) *Forced Migration: Current Issues and Debates*, Routledge.

**Zetter, Roger** (lead author) (2019) 'Refugee Returns Through a Global Lens', in *The Mobility of Displaced Syrians: An economic and social analysis*, Washington DC: World Bank Report.

## Articles

**Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2018) 'Diplomacy with memory: how the past is employed for future foreign policy', *Foreign Policy Analysis*, doi: 10.1093/fpa/ory013.

**Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2018) 'Golda Meir and Bruno Kreisky – A political and personal duel', *Israel Studies*, 23(1), 26–49.

**Betts, Alexander** (2018) 'The Global Compact on Refugees: towards a theory of change?', *International Journal of Refugee Law* 30(4), 623–626.

**Bridgick, Catherine** (2018) 'The EU's commitment to combatting violence against women: rhetoric or reality?', *EU Law Analysis blog*, September.

**Bridgick, Catherine** (2019) 'Precarious workers and probationary wives: how immigration law discriminates against women', *Social & Legal Studies*, doi: 10.1177/0964663919839187.

**Bridgick, Catherine** (2019) Book review: Gender, Violence, Refugees. Susanne Buckley-Zistel and Ulrike Krause (eds), *Journal of Refugee Studies*, doi: 10.1093/jrs/fez006.

**Costello, Cathryn** (2019) 'Refugees and (other) migrants: will the Global Compacts ensure safe flight and onward mobility for refugees?', *International Journal of Refugee Law* 30(4), 643–649.

**Costello, Cathryn** (with E. Guild) (2018) 'Fixing the refugee crisis: holding the Commission accountable', *Verfassungsblog*, 16 September, doi: 10.17176/20180920-110612-0.

**Easton-Calabria, Evan** (with M. Herson) (2019) 'In praise of dependencies: dispersed dependencies and displacement', *Disasters*, doi: 10.1111/disa.12366.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2018) 'The ethics of refugees', *Philosophy Compass*, doi: 10.1111/phc3.12521.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2019) 'Denationalisation and discrimination', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, doi: 10.1080/1369183X.2018.1561065.

**Godin, Marie** (2018) 'Breaking the silences, breaking the frames: a gendered diasporic analysis of sexual violence in the DRC', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44(8), 1390–1407.

**Omata, Naohiko** (with N. Takahashi) (2018) 'Promoting the economic reintegration of returnees through vocational training: lessons from Liberia', *Development in Practice* 28(8), 1022–1033.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'Contributors or competitors? Complexity and variability of refugees' economic 'impacts' within a Kenyan host community', *Migration Letters*, 16(2), 135–144.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'Over-researched and under-researched refugees', *Forced Migration Review*, 61, 15–18.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'Resettled Syrian refugees in Oxford: the current state of their integration and challenges', *Refugee Studies Journal* (in Japanese).

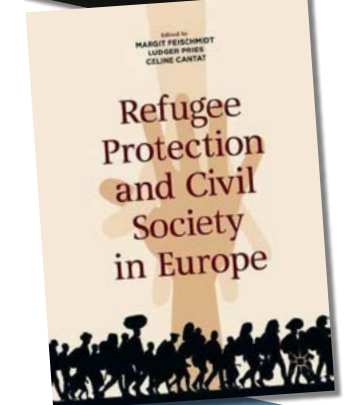
**Özkul, Derya** (2019) 'The making of a transnational religion: Alevi movement in Germany and the World Alevi union', *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 46(2), 259–273.

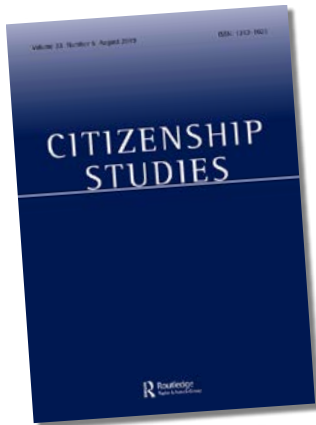
**Rhodes, Sarah** (2019) 'Middle East North Africa (MENA) refugee crisis: digital resources in review', *Review of Middle East Studies*, 52(2), 344–347.

**Rodgers, Cory** (with J. Hodbod, E.G.J. Stevenson, et al.) (2019) 'Social-ecological change in the Omo-Turkana basin: A synthesis of current developments', *Ambio*, doi: 10.1007/s13280-018-1139-3.

**Sterck, Olivier** (2018) 'What goes wrong with the allocation of domestic and international resources for HIV?', *Health Economics*, 27(2), 320–332.

**Sterck, Olivier** (with P. Collier) (2018) 'The moral and fiscal implications of antiretroviral therapies for HIV in Africa', *Oxford Economic Papers*, 70(2), 353–374.





**Sterck, Olivier** (with O. D'Aoust and P. Verwimp) (2018) 'Who benefited from Burundi's demobilization program?', *The World Bank Economic Review*, 32(2), 357–382.

**Sterck, Olivier** (with M. Le Polain and M. Nyssens) (2018) 'Interest rate in savings groups: thrift or threat?', *World Development*, 101, 162–172.

**Sterck, Olivier** (with R. Manning) (2018) 'Rethinking international and domestic financing for HIV in low and middle income countries', *Development Policy Review*, 36(4), 433–444.

**Sterck, Olivier** (2019) 'Fighting for votes: theory and evidence from Burundi', *Economica*, doi: 10.1111/ecca.12321.

**Sterck, Olivier** (2019) 'Beyond the stars', *Journal of Economic Surveys*, doi: 10.1111/joes.12330.

**Sterck, Olivier** (with A. Colombo and O. D'Aoust) (2019) 'From rebellion to electoral violence: evidence from Burundi', *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 67(2), 333–368.

**Tsourd, Evangelia** (Lilian) (with B. De Witte) (2018) 'The Court of Justice endorses the emergency scheme for compulsory relocation of asylum seekers within the European Union: Slovak Republic and Hungary v. Council', *Common Market Law Review*, 55(5), 1457–1494.

**Vandevordt, Robin** (2019) 'Eroding rights, crafting solidarity? Shifting dynamics in the state-civil society nexus in Flanders and Brussels', *Social Inclusion*, 7(2), 106–117.

**Vandevordt, Robin** (with G. Verschraegen) (2019) 'The European refugee controversy: civil solidarity, cultural imaginaries and political change', *Social Inclusion*, 7(2), 48–52.

**Vandevordt, Robin** (with G. Verschraegen) (2019) 'Citizenship as a gift: how Syrian refugees in Belgium make sense of their social rights', *Citizenship Studies*, 23(1), 43–60.

**Vandevordt, Robin** (with G. Verschraegen) (2019) 'Demonstrating deservingness and dignity. Symbolic boundary work among Syrian refugees', *Poetics*, doi: 10.1016/j.poetic.2018.12.004.

**Western, Tom** (2018) 'Introduction: ethnomusicologies of radio', *Ethnomusicology Forum*, 27(3), 255–264.

**Western, Tom** (2018) 'Aural borders, aural bordering', *Twentieth-Century Music*, 15(3), 481–487.

**Zetter, Roger** (2018) 'Faut-il parler de refugies environnementaux?', *Revue Project*, special issue Climat: jusque'ou repoussera-t –on les limits?, No. 365.

## Papers and reports

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, Rodgers, Cory, Sterck, Olivier** (with R. Geervliet and C. MacPherson) (2018) *Self-Reliance in Kalobeyei? Socio-Economic Outcomes for Refugees in North-West Kenya*, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford.

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier** (with I. Chaara) (2019) *Refugee Economies in Uganda: What Difference Does the Self-Reliance Model Make?*, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford.

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier** (with R. Bradenbrink and J. Greenland) (2019) *Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado: Development Opportunities in a Border Region of Ethiopia*, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford.

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier** (with L. Fryszer) (2019) *Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities?*, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford.

**Godin, Marie** (with M. Czaika) (2019) *Qualitative comparative analysis for migration and development research*, MIGNEX Background Paper, Peace Research Institute. Oslo.

**Godin, Marie** (with C. Yeo and N. Sigona) (2019) *Parallels and differences between ending Commonwealth and EU citizen free movement*, Eurochildren Research Brief Series, no.4, University of Birmingham.

**Godin, Marie** (with N. Sigona) (2019) *Naturalisation and (dis)integration*, Eurochildren Research Brief Series, no. 6, University of Birmingham.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) *Evaluation on Forced Displacement and Finnish Development Policy*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, March.

## RSC Research in Brief Series

**Rosenberg-Jansen, Sarah** (2018) *Refugee Energy*, RSC Research in Brief 8.

**Omata, Naohiko** (with D. Habash and N. Abdo) (2018) *Resettled Syrian Refugees in Oxford*, RSC Research in Brief 9.

**Betts, Alexander, Pincock, Kate, and Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2018) *Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance*, RSC Research in Brief 10.

**Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier** (with I. Chaara) (2019) *Uganda's Self-Reliance Model: Does it Work?*, RSC Research in Brief 11.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) *Venezuelan Survival Migration as a Development Opportunity*, RSC Research in Brief 12.

## RSC Working Paper Series

**Scott-Smith, Tom** (with S. Jaspars and E. Hull) (2018) *Contested evolution of nutrition for humanitarian and development ends*. No. 125, October 2018.

**Muller, Julia** (2018) *Negotiating place, culture and new Dutch identities: inclusion, exclusion and belonging in a grassroots refugee integration organisation in Utrecht, the Netherlands*. No. 126, October 2018.

**Remus, Angela** (2019) *Seeking informal asylum: the case of Central Americans in the United States*. No. 127, January 2019.

**Beaume, Victor** (2019) *Politics resettled: the case of the Palestinian diaspora in Chile*. No. 128, May 2019.



## Selected presentations

**Ali, Ali** (2019) 'Discarded populations and their resistance to the displacement process in occupied Iraq', Refugee Studies Centre Conference on 'Democratizing Displacement', Oxford University, March.

**Ali, Ali** (2019) 'Understanding Jordan's response to the Syrian influx', Workshop on Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees from Syria, New York University, Abu Dhabi, March.

**Ali, Ali** (2019) 'Deciding to leave: displacement in occupied Iraq', Sussex Centre for Migration Research Seminar Series, University of Sussex, April.

**Ali, Ali** (2019) 'Moral philosophy and understanding forced migration in occupied Iraq', British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference, Leeds University, June.

**Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2018) 'Official responses to Syrian refugees in comparison. Did the historical identity of countries at the end of the Balkan route matter?', Forum Alpbach on 'Diversity and Resilience', Alpbach, Austria, August.

**Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2018) 'State identity and normative decision-making: the case of the European refugee crisis in 2015' (paper presented together with Alexander Betts), Conference on Cognition and Migration (co-organizer), Nuffield College, Oxford, November.

**Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2019) 'Collective trauma, refugees and national identity', British International Studies Association (BISA) conference, Royal Society, London, June.

**Bachleitner, Kathrin** (2019) 'How to measure 'identity' and 'identity change' within IR?', Centenary IR Conference, University of Aberystwyth, June.

**Betts, Alexander** (2018) 'Refugee: Transforming a Broken Refugee System', Public lecture at The Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, November.

**Betts, Alexander** (2018) 'Sustainable Sanctuaries: The Political Economy of Refugee Assistance', Keynote Lecture for Fung Global Fellows Program, Princeton University, November.

**Betts, Alexander** (2018) 'Refugee Economies: The Role of Business', Keynote lecture at the Ignite Annual Conference, Amsterdam, November.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'Investing in Refugee Inclusion: The Examples of Dollo Ado and Kakuma', Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, Davos, January.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'Venezuelan Migration as a Development Opportunity', Lecture at the Presidential Palace, Bogota, Colombia, February.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'Sustainable Sanctuaries: The Socio-Economic Inclusion of Refugees', Christian Michelsen Annual Lecture, Bergen, Norway, March.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'The global governed? Refugees as providers of protection and assistance', Refugee Studies Centre Conference on 'Democratizing Displacement', Oxford University, March.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'Refugee Economies: What Have We Learned?', Panel presentation at the GCRF Conference, Addis Ababa, March.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'The Venezuelan Migration Crisis', Latin American Studies Centre Public Seminar Series, University of Oxford, May.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'Doing Business in Kakuma', Seminar at Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, July.

**Betts, Alexander** (2019) 'The Kalobeyei Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?', Lecture at the Rift Valley Institute, Nairobi, August.

**Bridgick, Catherine** (2018) 'Regime of Exception or Regime of Return? The Istanbul Convention, Migration Status and Violence Against Women', Society of Legal Scholars Conference, Queen Mary University, September.

**Bridgick, Catherine** (2019) 'Violence against women, migration control and 'due diligence': establishing accountability for violations of women's human rights', Refugee Law Initiative's Fourth Annual Conference, University of London, June.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2018) 'Syria: Its past, present, and future', Lecture, British Academy, London, October.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2018) 'Making places in new spaces in the Late Ottoman Empire', Lecture at the Agha Khan Programme, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'Displacement, dispossession and aesthetic expression', Roundtable presentation, Woolf Institute, Cambridge University, February.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'From refuge to refugee state', Keynote Address, British Academy Conference on Middle Eastern Migration, University of Birmingham, March.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'Contestation and co-optation in the desert landscapes of Oman', The Life Worlds of Middle East Oil Conference, New York University in Abu Dhabi, April.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'Reflections on the development legacy of statelessness among mobile pastoral community in Lebanon', Presentation on Grand Challenges Panel, World Conference on Statelessness, The Hague, June.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'Displaced Syrians in Lebanon', Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion of Displaced Syrians in Lebanon Workshop, Christ Church College, Oxford, June.

**Chatty, Dawn** (2019) 'Reflections on contemporary challenges and adaptations to land use rights', Lecture to the PLASTRES programme, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, June.

**Costello, Cathryn** (2018) Gramnet Annual Lecture – Reflections on the Framing of and Responses to the Refugee 'Crisis' in Europe, University of Glasgow, November.

**Costello, Cathryn** (2018) 'Crisis, Continuity, and Change in European Asylum Law and Policy', Invited Opening Keynote Lecture, Annual Conference of the German Association of Refugee Studies (Konferenz des Netzwerks Flüchtlingsforschung) Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, October.

**Costello, Cathryn** (2019) 'Crisis and refugee law', Invited opening talk, International Law Association (British Branch), Spring Conference, All Souls College, Oxford, April.

**Costello, Cathryn** (2019) 'Human rights for refugees and migrants', Invited presentation at the International Conference 'Human Rights in Times of Contestation', Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, June.

**Costello, Cathryn** (2019) 'The limits of the Common European Asylum System', Invited presentation at the International Conference 'Constitutional Foundations of EU Migration Law', University of Konstanz, June.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2019) 'Why deprivation of citizenship matters', Grand Challenge 1 session, International Conference on Statelessness, June.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2019) 'Banishment and the pre-history of legitimate immigration control', 'Power to Expel' Workshop, EUI, Florence, February.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2019) 'The Duties of Refugees', The Omar Azfar Memorial Lecture, Balliol College, Oxford, March.

**Gibney, Matthew J.** (2019) 'Australia as an immigration country', Controlling Immigration conference, Collège de France, Paris, June.

**Godin, Marie** (2019) 'Forced migrants in transit: mobile technologies and techno-borderscapes' (co-authored with G. Donà), The Migration Conference, Bari, Italy, June.

**Nalule, Caroline** (2019) 'The refugee and the right to an effective remedy in international law: African perspective', Human Rights Conference 2019, Lawyers without Borders, Student Division at Aberdeen University, March.

**Nalule, Caroline** (2019) 'Migration in Africa: Laws, challenges and prospects', Lecture for Migration Law Course, Masters Programme in International Human Rights Law, Faculty of Law, Lund University, May.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'The state of the humanitarian system report', Work in Progress Meetings, Centre for Development and Emergency Practice, Oxford Brookes University, February.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'Refugee lives inside a camp: ethnographic work with Liberian refugees in Ghana', Public Lecture, Institute of Comparative Culture, Sophia University, Tokyo, June.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'South Sudanese refugee situations in Uganda', Seminar, University of Tokyo, June.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) Book launch 'On the Inside: 401 Days of Fieldwork in Buduburam Camp in Ghana' (English translation of the title), Public Lecture/book launch, University of Oxford Japan Office, June.

**Omata, Naohiko** (2019) 'Revisiting accountability of humanitarian actors and researchers: lessons from field-research with refugee populations in East Africa', Refugee Law Initiative Seminar Series, University of London, June.

**Rodgers, Cory** (2019) 'Good Camp, Bad Camp: Opposing Representations of UNHCR Operations in Kenya's Kakuma and Dadaab Camps', 4th Annual Conference of the Refugee Law Initiative, University of London, June.

**Rodgers, Cory** (2018) 'Beneficiaries, Victims, and 'Affected Communities': Local Narratives of International Interventions in Turkana, Kenya', African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUk), University of Birmingham, September.

**Rodriguez, Anne-Line** (2019) 'Voluntary returns from North Africa to Senegal with or without the IOM', IOM: The 'UN Migration Agency'? Expert Workshop on the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, February.

**Rodriguez, Anne-Line** (2019) 'Local experiences of involuntary returns to Senegal', Presentation, Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern, September.

**Scott-Smith, Tom** (2019) 'The End of Alpha and Omega: the History of Universal Anthropometric Standards', Humanitarianism Past and Present workshop, Refugee Studies Centre, June.

**Scott-Smith, Tom** (2019) 'Reflections on academic film-making', Mobility and Migration Research Day, Oxford Migration and Mobility Network, COMPAS, June.

**Vandevooordt, Robin** (2019) 'Subversive humanitarianism: rethinking the politics of refugee solidarity', Refugee Studies Centre Conference on 'Democratizing Displacement', Oxford University, March.

**Vandevooordt, Robin** (2019) 'Civil solidarity and the politics of exhaustion', Conference on Contentious Politics of Solidarity, Scuola Normale Superiore di Firenze, May.

**Western, Tom** (2018) 'Aural borders, audible migrations: sound and citizenship in Athens', Departmental research seminar, Department of History and Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly, Greece, November.

**Western, Tom** (2018) 'Sonopolis: Listening to emergent sonic citizenships in Athens', Conference on Entanglements of Race, Sound and the Archive, University of Amsterdam, December.

**Western, Tom** (2019) 'Aural borders, audible migrations: sound and citizenship in Athens', Departmental research seminar, Department of Music, SOAS, University of London, January.

**Western, Tom** (2019) 'Aural borders, audible migrations: emergent sonic citizenships in Athens', Departmental research seminar, Department of Music, University of Bristol, February.

**Western, Tom** (2019) 'Ethics and aesthetics of collaborative field recording in Athens', British Forum for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference, University of Aberdeen, April.

**Western, Tom** (2019) 'Refugee voices and the right to make sound: soundscapes of citizenship in Athens', co-presented with Sofia Zafeiriou at Conference on Soundscapes of Trauma: Music, Violence, Therapy, Panteion University, Athens, May.

**Western, Tom** (2019) 'Sonopolis: Sound, citizenship, and migrant activism in Athens', Modern Greek Department Seminar, University of Oxford, May.

**Zetter, Roger** (2018) Three lectures to PhD Summer School in Advanced Migration Studies, Danube University, Krems-Vienna, September.

**Zetter, Roger** (2018) Four lectures in Fall Semester, The Hugo Observatory Department of Geography – EDGE Chair on Environmental Diplomacy, University of Liege, November.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) 'From humanitarianism to development: the political economy of the humanitarian-development nexus', Economics University of Bratislava, February.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) 'Climate change and population displacement: why they are not 'climate refugees'', University of Cambridge, Development Studies Society, March.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) 'A world on the move: population mobility in the 21st century', Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Helsinki, March.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) 'From humanitarianism to development, the political economy of the humanitarian-development nexus', University College London, School of Advanced Study, March.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) 'Forced displacement, humanitarianism and development: the challenge for European and African policy makers', College of Europe, Bruges, April.

**Zetter, Roger** (2019) 'Refugee return, evidence issues and practice', DFID, London, June.

## Conferences and workshops

**The global governance of migration – spotlight on the International Organization for Migration**  
Workshop convened by Professor Cathryn Costello, 2 February 2019

**Democratizing Displacement**  
RSC Conference 2019, convened by the Refugee Studies Centre, 18–19 March 2019

**Humanitarianism Past and Present**  
Workshop convened by Professor Tom Scott-Smith, 5–6 June 2019

**Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law**  
Workshop convened by Professor Cathryn Costello, with Professor Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne) and Professor Jane McAdam (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW), 24–25 July 2019

## Public Seminar Series

### Michaelmas term 2018

**Convenors: Professor Matthew Gibney, Professor Cathryn Costello, and Professor Tom Scott-Smith**

To be or not to be: questioning the value of refugee status

**Dr Georgia Cole** (Newnham College, University of Cambridge)  
10 October

Asylum after empire: postcolonial legacies in the politics of asylum seeking

**Dr Lucy Mayblin** (University of Warwick)  
24 October

The business of modern slavery: forced migration and forced labour in a failed state

**Professor Brad K Blitz** (Middlesex University London)  
31 October

International society and the risk of statelessness

**Dr Kelly Staples** (University of Leicester)  
7 November

Solidarity, vulnerability, and the labour of refugee activism

**Dr Jonathan Darling** (Durham University)  
14 November

The Kindertransport: contesting memory

**Dr Jennifer Craig-Norton** (University of Southampton)  
21 November

Border rescue

**Dr Kieran Oberman** (University of Edinburgh)  
28 November

### Hilary term 2019

**Refugees in the United Kingdom, and Urban Refugees**

**Convenor: Professor Naohiko Omata**

Transnationalism, return visits, home and belonging: second generation from refugee backgrounds

**Professor Alice Bloch** (University of Manchester)  
16 January

Refugees and the UK labour market

**Dr Carlos Vargas-Silva and Dr Isabel Ruiz** (University of Oxford)  
23 January

Building inclusive cities: emerging learning from a knowledge exchange with UK cities

**Jacqueline Broadhead** (University of Oxford)  
30 January

From pledges to implementation: exploring local government responses for urban refugees in Ethiopia

**Dr Annabel Mwangi** (UNHCR Ethiopia)  
6 February

Urban refugee economies in Ethiopia

**Professor Alison Brown and Dr Peter Mackie** (Cardiff University)  
13 February

The accidental city of Kakuma, Kenya: humanitarian urbanism and the development of the refugee camp environment

**Dr Bram J Jansen** (Wageningen University)  
20 February

Sudanese constellations of home: refugee NGOs, social networks and urban homemaking in Cairo

**Dr Anita Fábos** (Clark University)  
27 February

Exploring gendered 'vulnerability': Syrian refugee men and humanitarianism in urban Jordan

**Dr Lewis Turner** (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute)  
6 March

### Trinity term 2019

**Everyday resistance to the European governance of migration**

**Convenor: Dr Cory Rodgers**

Civil solidarity and the hunt for undocumented migrants. Two Belgian case studies

**Dr Robin Vandevoordt** (Refugee Studies Centre)  
8 May

Mobility economies: immobility, accumulation and migration in Libya

**Dr Marthe Achnich** (Magdalen College, University of Oxford)  
15 May

Endurance and involuntary return to Senegal

**Dr Anne-Line Rodriguez** (Queen Mary University of London)  
22 May

Sonopolis: sound, citizenship, and migrant activism in Athens

**Dr Tom Western** (Refugee Studies Centre)  
29 May

## Public lectures

### Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2018

In a troubled and polarized Middle-East: challenges for Palestine refugees and UNRWA

**Pierre Krähenbühl** (UNRWA Commissioner-General), 18 October 2018

### Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2019

A mobile milieu: humanitarian equipment and the politics of need

**Professor Peter Redfield** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), 5 June 2019

## Visiting Fellows

### Student Visitors

#### Ayham Dalal, Syria

Technical University Berlin

*From emergency shelters to dwellings: on the role of refugees as architects and the construction of dwellings in Zaatari Camp, Jordan*

Academic contact: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

#### Adam Dalglish, New Zealand

University of Auckland

*What would an ethical, but feasible, response to the refugee crisis look like? An exploration*

Academic contact: Professor Matthew J Gibney

#### Lukasz Dziedzic, Netherlands

Tilburg University

*What is owed to refugees when attributing responsibilities to states in institutionalized responsibility sharing regimes?*

Academic contact: Professor Matthew J Gibney

#### Jon Echevarria Coco, Spain

University of the Basque Country

*A spatial model of internal displacement and forced migration*

Academic contact: Dr Olivier Sterck

#### Jules Gazeaud, France

CERDI

*Who illegally migrates and why? Descriptive evidence from the Comoros archipelago*

Academic contact: Dr Olivier Sterck

#### Emilie Lund Mortensen, Denmark

University of Aarhus

*Why Muslim men also care: ethnographic perspectives on ways of loving and caring among young Syrian men in exile in Amman*

Academic contact: Professor Dawn Chatty

#### Léa Macias, France

EHESS (Paris)

*What digitalization of humanitarian operations looks like: data, maps and new technologies in Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan*

Academic contact: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

**Eleonora Milazzo, Italy**

European University Institute  
*Solidarity as co-responsibility: EU member states and the pursuit of justice in the field of refugee protection*  
 Academic contact: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Virginia Passalacqua, Italy**

European University Institute  
*When does harmonization backfire? Understanding the conditions that transformed the Family Reunification Directive into a tool that protects migrants and refugees' rights in the Netherlands*  
 Academic contact: Dr Lilian Tsourdi

**Laura Santi Amantini, Italy**

University of Genoa  
*Conceptualizing forced migration: beyond the open borders debate*  
 Academic contact: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Tamara Tubakovic, Australia**

University of Melbourne  
*The Dublin IV recast: a new institutionalist approach to explaining policy continuity*  
 Academic contact: Dr Lilian Tsourdi

**Soazic Elise Wang Sonne, Cameroon**

United Nations University, Maastricht  
*Intergenerational impacts of IDPs on children's early childhood development in host communities: evidence from Burundi*  
 Academic contact: Dr Olivier Sterck

**Visiting Research Fellows****Amanda Alencar, Netherlands**

Erasmus University Rotterdam  
*Integrating through the digital: analysing the role of ICTs and social media in refugee settlement processes*  
 Academic contact: Dr Ali Ali

**Alex Tasker, UK**

University of Sussex  
*Network analysis techniques for refugee and forced migration research*  
 Academic contacts: Professor Alexander Betts / Dr Cory Rodgers

**Nasir Uddin, Bangladesh**

Chittagong University  
*The Rohingyas in Myanmar and Bangladesh: A case of 'subhuman'*  
 Academic contact: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Doctoral research students****Jennifer Barrett, St Catherine's College**

Navigating the Deputisation of Immigration Enforcement Functions in the UK  
 Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Bridget Anderson (COMPAS)

**Francesco Bosso, St Antony's College**

An Ethnography of Policy Stability, Change and Subversion in the Distribution of Asylum Responsibilities within Europe  
 Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Ruben Andersson (Oxford Department of International Development)

**Catherine Briddick, St Peter's College**

Migrant Status and Violence Against Women  
 Supervisor: Professor Cathryn Costello

**Rebecca Buxton, St John's College**

Refugees, Exile and Political Membership  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Faith Cowling, Brasenose College**

An Exploration of Gender in Humanitarian Practice in Lebanon  
 Supervisors: Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Dr Georgia Cole

**Richard Dolan, St Antony's College**

Ethnicity, Education and Ethno-nationalism: Constructing and Contesting Identity within Union Karen  
 Supervisor: Professor Dawn Chatty

**Yulia Ioffe, St Cross College**

Children and Asylum: A New Take on Fragmentation of International Law  
 Supervisor: Professor Cathryn Costello

**Evan Easton-Calabria, Wolfson College**

The Secret Livelihoods of Refugees: A Genealogy of Refugees and Development from 1919–2015  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

**Myfanwy James, St John's College**

Humanitarian Negotiation Cultures: An Exploration of the Processes, Practices and Cultures of Gaining and Maintaining Access to Areas Controlled by Armed Groups in North Kivu  
 Supervisors: Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Professor John Gledhill (ODID)

**Diletta Lauro, Lincoln College**

Resolving the Tension Between Human Rights and National Belonging? Anti-Deportation Campaigns in the United Kingdom and Emerging Conceptions of Membership  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Chloe Marshall-Denton, Harris Manchester College**

Politics of Invisibility: UNHCR and the (In)visibility of Displaced Libyans on the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Ruben Andersson (Oxford Department of International Development)

**Emilie McDonnell, University College**

The Human Right to Leave Any Country and Migration Control  
 Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Miles Jackson (Oxford Law Faculty)

**Muireann Meehan Speed, St Antony's College**

Global Migration Governance: The Management of 'Rights'?  
 Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Lauren Nishimura, St Edmund Hall**

Climate Refugees  
 Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Catherine Redgwell (Oxford Law Faculty)

**Alejandro Olayo-Mendez, Campion Hall**

Migration and Humanitarian Aid along the Migration Corridor in Mexico  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

**Janak Padhir, Jesus College**

Advancing Life Course Geographies of Young Afghan Refugees in Contemporary India  
 Supervisors: Professor Naohiko Omata and Dr Fiona McConnell (School of Geography and Environment)

**Blair Peruniak, St Edmund Hall**

A Republican Theory of Asylum  
 Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

**Angela Pilath, St Antony's College**

The Politics of Environmental Displacement: Epistemic Actors and their Mechanisms of Influence  
 Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Roger Zetter

**Samuel Ritholtz, Exeter College**

Paramilitary Violence Against Vulnerable Communities During the Colombian Civil War  
 Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

**Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen, Linacre College**

Renewable Energy and Refugees: Actors, Networks and Agency in the Humanitarian Energy Sector  
 Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

**Greta Semplici, Lady Margaret Hall**

Moving Deserts, The Resilience Challenge: Stories of Mobilities from a Kenyan Desertscape in Turkana County  
 Supervisors: Professor Naohiko Omata and Dr Oliver Bakewell (University of Manchester)

**Claire Walkey, St Anne's College**

Building a Bureaucracy: The transfer of responsibility for refugee affairs from the United Nations Refugee Agency to the Government of Kenya  
 Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith



# Income and expenditure

## Statement 1. Refugee Studies Centre income and expenditure, 2018–19 (1 August–31 July)

Reserve balances	Actuals 2017–18 (£)	Actuals 2018–19 (£)
Opening reserves brought forward	83,392	118,313

Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Actuals 2017–18 (£)	Actuals 2018–19 (£)
<b>Restricted project income</b>		
Research grant revenue <sup>2</sup>	517,463	724,414
Partner contributions (Swiss FDFA & Danish MFA) <sup>3</sup>	60,822	194,746
Forced Migration Review <sup>4</sup>	260,946	235,801
<b>Other revenue</b>		
Overheads from research projects and awards	124,060	164,706
Other income (e.g. donations, publication royalties, institutional consultancies) <sup>5</sup>	24,225	34,423
Workshops, conferences, short courses, and Visiting Fellowships (total revenue)	31,900	98,044
International Summer School in Forced Migration	238,020	261,525
Transfer from Department Reserves to support Centre administrative staff costs	47,000	47,000
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,304,436</b>	<b>1,764,571</b>

Expenditure	Actuals 2017–18 (£)	Actuals 2018–19 (£)
Research grant expenditure (including research staff salaries) <sup>6</sup>	606,921	939,454
Core administrative staff salary costs	103,475	94,383
Other core administrative expenses	6,593	10,434
Workshops, conferences, short courses, public lectures, and Visiting Fellowships	16,750	84,097
International Summer School in Forced Migration	211,539	228,975
<b>Outreach and dissemination</b>		
Forced Migration Review (including FMR staff salaries)	260,946	235,801
Other publications, communications, and outreach activities	63,293	73,717
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,269,516</b>	<b>1,670,772</b>

Closing balances	Actuals 2017–18 (£)	Actuals 2018–19 (£)
Surplus/deficit after consolidation	34,920	93,799
Closing reserves carried forward	118,313	212,112

## Statement 2. Performance of endowments

Endowments <sup>7</sup>	Actuals 2017–18 (£)	Actuals 2018–19 (£)
Opening revenue account balance	466,812	510,630
Endowment income (dividends from shares and deposit pool interest)	222,254	235,694
Endowment expenditure (academic salary costs and management fees)	-178,436	-226,572
<b>Closing revenue account balance</b>	<b>510,630</b>	<b>519,752</b>
<b>Capital account balance</b>	<b>3,098,825</b>	<b>3,098,923</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total revenue – encompassing the Centre's activities – amounts to £2.49m. This figure is inclusive of endowment income (£235,694) and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration course fees (£492,090).

<sup>2</sup> Research grant revenue and partner contributions are reported as earned only when project expenditure is incurred.

<sup>3</sup> Partnership contributions of £198,658 excludes transfers of £60,000 to the RSC's Summer School, Biennial and Refugee Law Conferences. These transfers are reported in the Summer School and Conferences budgets.

<sup>4</sup> Forced Migration Review's total receipts during 2018–19 were £227,319. At the end of the year the project held £60,010 earmarked for activities in the 2019–20 financial year.

<sup>5</sup> Deferred donation balances were £176,388 as at 31 July 2019. These donations include funding restricted for MSc student scholarship bursaries and hardship funds.

<sup>6</sup> The salaries of the Centre's four permanent academic staff members are paid for through Oxford Department of International Development accounts, drawing upon both endowment revenue and MSc teaching income.

<sup>7</sup> The Refugee Studies Centre is the beneficiary of several endowment funds, which are managed by the Oxford Department of International Development. As at 31 July 2019, revenue balances stood at £519,752. The related Capital Balances were £3.099m.

# Staff and associates

## ACADEMIC STAFF

### Dr Ali Ali

Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

### Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

IKEA Research Fellow in International Relations

### Professor Alexander Betts

Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2014-2017; Associate Head of the Social Sciences Division

### Dr Mark E Breeze\*

Research Officer, Architectures of Displacement

### Catherine Briddick

Martin James Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration

### Dr Georgia Cole\*

Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow

### Professor Cathryn Costello

Andrew W Mellon Professor of Refugee and Migration Law

### Dr Evan Easton-Calabria

Early Career Fellow, Rethinking Refuge

### Professor Matthew J Gibney

Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration  
Director, Refugee Studies Centre

### Dr Marie Godin

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

### Jonas Kaufmann

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

### Professor Gil Loescher

Visiting Professor

### Dr Caroline Nalule

Research Officer, Refugees are Migrants

### Professor Naohiko Omata

Associate Professor

### Dr Derya Özkul

Research Officer, Refugees are Migrants

### Dr Kate Pincock\*

Research Officer, The Global Governed?

### Dr Cory Rodgers

Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration Studies

### Dr Anne-Line Rodriguez\*

Early Career Fellow in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

### Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration

### Jade Siu

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

### Dr Olivier Sterck

Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer

### Marie Stierna

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

### Dr Lilian Tsourdi\*

Departmental Lecturer in International Human Rights and Refugee Law

### Dr Robin Vandevordt\*

Early Career Fellow in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

### Dr Tom Western\*

Early Career Fellow in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

## EMERITUS

### Professor Dawn Chatty

Emerita Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2011–2014

### Dr David Turton

Emeritus Reader and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 1997–2001

### Professor Roger Zetter

Emeritus Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2006–2010

## PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH STAFF

### Marion Couldrey

Forced Migration Review, Co-editor

### Sharon Ellis

Forced Migration Review, Assistant

### Tamsin Kelk

Communications and Information Coordinator

### Jenny Peebles

Forced Migration Review, Co-editor

### Susanna Power

Events and International Summer School Officer

### Sarah Rhodes

Forced Migration, African and Commonwealth Subject Consultant

### Maureen Schoenfeld

Promotion and Finance Assistant, Forced Migration Review

### Joanna Soedring

Senior Library Assistant, Reader Services/Refugee Studies

\* Left in 2018–2019

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

### Isabelle Aires

Project Coordinator, Refugee Economies

### Eliya Beachy

Administrative and Events Assistant

### Felicity Leary

Centre Manager

### Laurence Medley

Accounts Officer

### Andrea Smith

Postgraduate Courses Coordinator

### Bryony Varnam

ERC Project Administrator

## RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

### Dr Jeff Crisp

Associate Fellow at Chatham House

### Professor Michelle Foster

Associate Dean (Research), Melbourne Law School

### Dr Josiah Kaplan

Senior Research Advisor, Migration and Displacement Initiative, Save the Children International

### Dr Ulrike Krause

Junior Professor for Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, University of Osnabrück

### Dr Maryanne Loughry

Associate Director, Jesuit Refugee Service Australia

### Professor Jane McAdam

Scientia Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales

### Dr Kirsten McConnachie

Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Warwick

### Dr James Milner

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Carleton University

### Professor Alessandro Monsutti

Professor, Anthropology and Sociology of Development, The Graduate Institute Geneva

### Dr Kate Pincock

Researcher, Overseas Development Institute

### Dr Jason Pobjoy

Barrister, Blackstone Chambers

### Abbas Shiblak

Director, Palestinian Diaspora and Refugee Center (SHAML)

### Professor Nando Sigona

Professor of International Migration and Forced Displacement, Institute for Research into Superdiversity, University of Birmingham

### Professor Eftihia Voutira

Professor of Anthropology of Forced Migration, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia

### Dr Reuven Ziegler

Associate Professor in International Refugee Law, University of Reading, School of Law

## OXFORD ASSOCIATES

### Professor Renée Hirschon

Senior Research Fellow, St Peter's College

### Dr Nick Van Hear

Senior Researcher and Deputy Director, COMPAS

## HONORARY ASSOCIATES

### Professor Jan Egeland

Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council

### Professor Guy S Goodwin-Gill

Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford

### Filippo Grandi

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



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