



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal giving the 2014 Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture. Photo: John Cairns.

## A note from the Director



During my first few months as Director, I have become increasingly convinced that what makes the RSC unique is our opportunity to produce world class research in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. This emphasis on research has to be at the heart of everything we do - it underpins what we teach as well as all of our outreach and dissemination activities. Through our privileged position within a university, we are able to provide a credible voice in a field that is increasingly politicised. However, recognising that our comparative advantage is in independent research does not and should not mean that we retreat into an ivory tower. On the contrary, it gives us an obligation to ensure that we communicate that research effectively to the outside world and ensure that it has impact. I'm proud that over recent months, RSC staff have played an active role in the World Humanitarian Summit, the Solutions Alliance on development and displacement, and the Nansen Initiative on displacement in the context of natural disasters. In addition to informing these global processes, I also feel strongly that we should take our research findings to the communities in which we work. Reflecting this, we have organised events in both Johannesburg and Kampala, both of which have included refugee communities. Nearer to home, we have much on the horizon: we will take our MSc students to Geneva in March; we are looking forward to our annual Summer School in July, for which Cathryn Costello has agreed to serve as Director; and we are preparing for our Humanitarian Innovation Conference in July. I hope you will enjoy reading about some of the highlights of our work.

*Alexander Betts*

*Leopold Muller Associate Professor in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*

## HRH Princess Basma bint Talal delivers the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2014

On November 5th, we were delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal of Jordan to Oxford to give the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture. Titled "Forced Migration to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Burden or Boon", in this lecture Princess Basma highlighted the benefits of forced migration for receiving countries such as Jordan. This she illustrated by looking back at experiences of previous refugees in Jordan in the last century. Focusing on the Circassians, Chechens and Armenians, she cited refugees' innovation and creativity as promoting development.

The Princess argued that "nations that adjust well [to hosting refugees]... benefit more rapidly from the introduction of all types of new skills, labour and capital... as well as the heightened demand for economic activity."

This viewpoint is supported by recent

research by the RSC on Refugee Economies which found that refugees are often entrepreneurial and, if given the opportunity, can help themselves and their communities, and contribute to the host economy.

The communities comprising the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have a long history as refugee hosts. This continues today, with Jordan now hosting over 600,000 refugees from Syria and over 20,000 from Iraq.

Following the lecture, Princess Basma mingled with audience members and distinguished guests, including Oxford University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Hamilton and RSC students.

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



Photo: John Cairns

## Alexander Betts sees innovation in action with UNHCR iCircle

Alexander Betts made a stimulating field visit to Jordan in November as part of the recently formed UNHCR Innovation Circle or 'iCircle'. There he met refugee families in Amman and in Za'atari and Azraq camps, and saw some of the support services available to them. The iCircle is a council of key UNHCR partners from the private sector, foundations and academia tasked with providing UNHCR Innovation with strategic guidance, technical expertise, advice on public-private partnerships, and identifying funds. Members include the Ikea Foundation, Hewlett Packard, and Stephanie & Hunter Hunt, amongst others.



Photo: Olivier Delarue

In Jordan the group was shown a range of innovative and entrepreneurial approaches by and for refugees, including 3D-printed prosthetic hands, grey-water recycling urban gardens, and iris-recognition cash-point machines at the Cairo Amman Bank where refugees can obtain card-free access to funds.

UNHCR Innovation's vision focuses on supporting the potential of refugees, and creating an enabling environment for innovation. RSC research on Refugee Economies undertaken in Uganda demonstrated the great potential of refugees. Professor Betts is now exploring the possibility of taking this work and applying it to the Jordanian context.

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

## Engaging with Zimbabwean diaspora in Johannesburg



Photo: Kate Stegeman

On January 14th, Alexander Betts and Will Jones organised a joint RSC-Oxford Diaspora Programme (ODP) event at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg. The event, "The Zimbabwean Diaspora in 2015: What Next?", convened academics, civil society, and representatives of the Zimbabwean community in South Africa, many of them refugees. It took place against the backdrop of the expulsion of the remaining Zimbabwean refugees from the Central Methodist Church in downtown Johannesburg, and gave an opportunity for Betts and Jones to present their research on the political mobilisation of the Zimbabwean diaspora back to the community for feedback. The panel main session was chaired by Levi Kabwato of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, and included Bishop Paul Verryn from the Central Methodist Church and Godfrey Phiri of the Global Zimbabwe Forum. The research presented by Betts and Jones forms the basis of their forthcoming book, which looks at refugee politics and seeks to explain how diasporas form to contest authoritarian states, looking at both Zimbabwe and Rwanda. The RSC is grateful to ODP for providing funding to support the occasion.

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

## RSC at the World Humanitarian Summit



The "Europe and the Others" regional consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) took place in Budapest on February 3rd and 4th. Alexander Betts served as the lead facilitator for one of the four themes for the summit: "Transformation Through Innovation". The meeting represents one of the most important of the six regional consultations leading up to the global summit in May 2016, and it included senior staff from international organisations, NGOs, and governments. Professor Betts said: "It was a privilege to be part of shaping the outcomes from such an important event. I enjoyed playing a small part in facilitating some of the break-out sessions and presenting findings back to the plenary." The RSC is playing an important and growing role in the summit: for example, the Humanitarian Innovation Conference (#HIP2015) in July will be an official WHS event and we will host a small workshop on Ethics and Principles for Humanitarian Innovation in April.

## Good news for ODID in 2014 REF



Photo: Rob Judges

We are pleased to announce that the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), of which the Refugee Studies Centre is part, has been judged to be the leading international development department in the country in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). ODID ranked top in its field in terms of both quality of research activity and volume of world-leading work. It was one of 12 Oxford units to be ranked first by the latter measure.

ODID improved on its performance in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), when it also came top. Nearly 80% of ODID's research activity was judged to be either world leading or internationally excellent in the REF 2014.

The REF is the official UK-wide assessment of all university research.

Read more: [www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/research/ref](http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/research/ref)



## HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION CONFERENCE

Following the success of the inaugural Humanitarian Innovation Conference, we are delighted to announce that #HIP2015 will take place in Oxford in July 2015. The 2015 conference theme is 'facilitating innovation'. As interest and dialogue around humanitarian innovation continues to expand, conference participants are invited to explore the challenges of creating an enabling environment for humanitarian innovation.

In the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, a key focus of the conference will explore how we enable innovation by and for affected communities. What does it mean to take a human-centred approach seriously, and to engage in co-creation with affected populations? It will also seek to examine what facilitation means across the wider humanitarian ecosystem, and how we can

better convene the collective talents of people within and across traditional and non-traditional humanitarian actors.

**Call for papers:** Authors are invited to submit an abstract for individual paper proposals or a brief outline for panel proposals or alternative sessions. These should include the paper title and an abstract of up to 250 words. Panel proposals should include the title of the panel, an abstract for the panel theme, and details of all authors and papers to be included. We welcome presentations from academics, policymakers and practitioners.

Please submit paper, panel and other proposals to: [hiproject@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hiproject@qeh.ox.ac.uk) (deadline: 31 March 2015).

Read more: [www.oxhip.org/2014/11/hip2015-cfp/](http://www.oxhip.org/2014/11/hip2015-cfp/)

## 2015 International Summer School in Forced Migration

This year's International Summer School in Forced Migration will be held from 6-24 July 2015 at Queen Elizabeth House and Wadham College.

The Summer School fosters dialogue between academics, practitioners and policymakers working to improve the situation of refugees and forced migrants. Offering an intensive, interdisciplinary approach, combining the best of Oxford University's academic excellence with a stimulating and participatory method of learning, it aims to enable people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the world of the displaced.

Deadline for all bursary applications: 1 March 2015. Closing date for all other applications: 1 May 2015.

Read more: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school)



## Health and Humanitarian Response short course

In December, the RSC held its first short course on Health and Humanitarian Response in Complex Emergencies. We were pleased to welcome 22 participants representing 21 different organisations including the British Red Cross, UNOCHA, Nigeria Immigration Service, academic institutions and NGOs.

The two-day course critically examined the normative frameworks for humanitarian responses in addressing the health and well-being of populations in complex emergencies, and assessed alternative approaches. Topics included: appropriate assessments of population health and well-being; community mobilisation; health services; food security and nutritional maintenance; water and sanitation; and the relationship between health and human rights.

We would like to thank the participants for their engagement during the course and their feedback. We were delighted that they found the course to be "very eye opening and informative", with a "great balance between practice and theory", with one summing it up as a "Great programme, well facilitated and practical. Highly recommend."

We hope to hold the course again next academic year.

## The History of Refuge

The Hilary term Public Seminar Series is now underway, and focuses on the history of refugee protection, with hospitality, sanctuary and asylum for forced migrants throughout history. Speakers will present pre-modern forms of protection as well as various historical refugee policies in modern contexts. The seminars will illustrate continuities and transformations of refuge over time, revealing the historicity of past and current challenges in refugee protection and illuminating opportunities for lessons from the past.

The seminars, listed below, are free of charge and open to all. No registration required.

Read more: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events)

## Hilary term 2015 events

21 January 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**Refugees and the Roman Empire**  
Professor Peter Heather (King's College London)

28 January 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**Refuge and protection in the late Ottoman Empire**  
Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC)

11 February 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**The arrival of refugees and the making of India and Pakistan in 1947**  
Professor Yasmin Khan (Kellogg College, University of Oxford)

18 February 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**Exile, refuge and the Greek polis: between justice and humanity**  
Dr Benjamin Gray (University of Edinburgh)

25 February 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**Hospitality, protection and refuge in early English law**  
Dr Tom Lambert (Exeter College, University of Oxford)

4 March 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**Refugees – what's wrong with history?**  
Professor Peter Gatrell (University of Manchester)

6-7 March 2015 | Short Course  
**Palestine Refugees and International Law**  
British Institute, Amman, Jordan

11 March 2015 | Public Seminar Series  
**Out with the 'international problem children'! US migration plans, settlement fantasies and the pacification of Europe**  
Dr Gerhard Wolf (University of Sussex)

13-14 March 2015 | Short Course  
**Palestine Refugees and International Law**  
Asfari Institute, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

For more information, including venues, please visit: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events)

## Updates from the Humanitarian Innovation Project

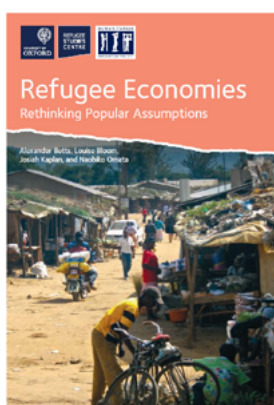
The Humanitarian Innovation Project's work now focuses on three broad areas: first, the economic lives of refugees; second, bottom-up innovation by displacement populations; third, the role of non-traditional actors in humanitarian innovation. All of these areas of work are making significant progress, with a number of publications on the horizon.

Naohiko Omata and Josiah Kaplan recently undertook a 2-week field mission to Uganda, in which they carried out additional research as part of our research into "refugee economies". While there, they held an event relating to our research at UNHCR's office in Kampala, as well as disseminating our previously published report "Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions" to refugee communities within the settlements in which we conducted our work. The "refugee economies" work from Uganda is currently being consolidated into a book manuscript, and we are beginning to plan subsequent data collection in other countries with exploratory research in Jordan being planned.

Louise Bloom is leading on the research

for a WHS-supported report on bottom-up innovation, looking at case studies of refugee innovation from Uganda, Jordan, Thailand, Kenya, and Ecuador, to be launched at our conference in July. Meanwhile, Josiah Kaplan has led research looking at the role of military research and innovation in shaping the response to the Ebola crisis as a case study for thinking about interoperability across sectors.

The Humanitarian Innovation Conference (#HIP2015) will again take place at Keble College on 17 and 18 July. The theme this year will be "Facilitating Humanitarian Innovation". It will be an official World Humanitarian Summit event, and we look forward to seeing you there!



To find out more about HIP's research streams, please visit: [www.oxhip.org/research/](http://www.oxhip.org/research/)

Download HIP's recent reports at [www.oxhip.org](http://www.oxhip.org)

Read more about HIP's involvement in the Solutions Alliance and the World Humanitarian Summit at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news)

## Forced Migration Review

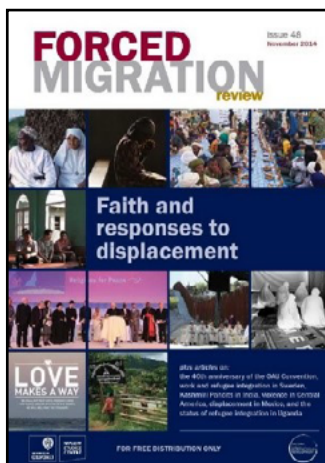
### What's faith got to do with it?

This article title – from one of the articles published in FMR issue 48 in December 2014 – reflects both the difficulty of measuring the role of faith in the humanitarian sector and the tensions that surround the role of faith-based organisations.

In 2008, FMR published an article about the collaboration between a Christian NGO and a Muslim NGO in Sri Lanka, and how by bringing faith communities together they were better able to assist and protect people fleeing conflict. Subsequent years saw the Refugee Studies Centre developing the 'faith-based humanitarianism' theme as a research project, while the international humanitarian community established initiatives such as the Affirmations for Faith Leaders.

With this burgeoning momentum, we decided to publish a full issue of FMR on the subject, looking at actual experiences and how communities and organisations deal with the interfaces between faiths and rights, protection, needs and assistance.

We were extremely pleased that the two authors of the 2008 FMR article on inter-faith collaboration in Sri Lanka came together again to write a follow-up article assessing



the state of that collaborative partnership seven years on and drawing out lessons and implications for good/better practice. This 'lessons to be learned' approach – including the candid admission of what did not work – is exactly what FMR tries to facilitate. In total there were 36 articles on the feature theme.

**General articles:** In addition, we also included seven 'general' articles on a range of topics related to forced migration: the 40th anniversary of the OAU Convention, refugee integration in Sweden, Kashmiri Pandits in India, violence in Central America, displacement in Mexico, strategic litigation in protecting refugee rights in Kenya, and refugee integration in Uganda.

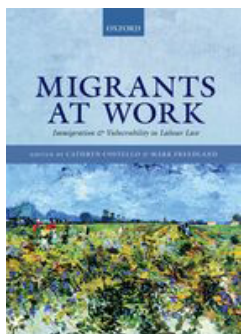
**The full issue** is in print and online in English, French, Spanish and Arabic at [www.fmreview.org/faith](http://www.fmreview.org/faith). Please contact the editors on [fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk) if you would like a print copy.

Issues of FMR in 2015 will focus on:

- Climate change, disasters and displacement
- The Balkans twenty years on from the Dayton Agreement
- Thinking ahead: displacement, transition and solutions.

See [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming) for details.

## 30% off 'Migrants at Work: Immigration and Vulnerability in Labour Law'



Oxford University Press recently published this edited collection, the culmination of a collaborative project led by Cathryn Costello (RSC) and Mark Freedland (St John's College), funded by the John Fell Fund, the Society of Legal Scholars, and the Research Centre at St John's College, Oxford. It brings together eminent legal and migration scholars to examine the impact of migration law on labour rights and how the regulation of migration increasingly impacts upon employment and labour relations.

To claim a 30% discount, order online from the Oxford University Press website, adding promotion code ALAUTH16 to your shopping basket. The discount is valid until 31 March 2016. Limit 10 copies per transaction, non-trade customers only. This discount does not apply to the eBook. Visit: [www.oup.com/uk/law](http://www.oup.com/uk/law)

## New report urges reform for simpler, less coercive EU asylum processes

Following a study conducted for the European Parliament's LIBE Committee (Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs), Cathryn Costello has co-authored a report on "New approaches, alternative avenues and means of access to asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection". The study examined the workings of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), in order to assess the need and potential for new approaches to ensure access to protection for people seeking it in the EU, including joint processing and distribution of asylum seekers. The study proposes a focus on front-line reception and streamlined refugee status determination, in order to mitigate the asylum challenges facing Member States, and guarantee the rights of asylum seekers and refugees according to the EU *acquis* and international legal standards.

Cathryn and co-author Violeta Moreno-Lax of Queen Mary, University of London, presented the report to the LIBE Committee at the European Parliament in Brussels, amid lively debate.

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

## New publications

### Humanitarian Innovation: The State of the Art

Alexander Betts & Louise Bloom, OCHA Occasional Paper, November 2014

Faced with growing, and changing, demands, the idea of 'humanitarian innovation' is increasingly being explored within the humanitarian system. For example, "Transformation through Innovation" will be one of four themes of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

As with many emerging ideas, use of the term in the humanitarian system has lacked conceptual clarity, leading to misuse, overuse, and the risk that it may become hollow rhetoric. This paper sets out to develop a common language and framework as a basis for dialogue, debate, and collaboration.



Download at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications)

## Journal articles

### Reflections on reading Tarakhel

Cathryn Costello and Minos Mouzourakis (2014) *Asiel&Migrantenrecht*, 10, 404-411

### The deprivation of citizenship in the United Kingdom: a brief history

Matthew J Gibney (2014) *Journal of Immigration Asylum and Nationality Law*, 28.4

## Working Papers

### Smuggled migrant or migrant smuggler: Erosion of sea-borne asylum seekers' access to refugee protection in Canada

Chelsea Bin Han, Working Paper 106, January 2015

### 'We Need to Talk about Dublin': responsibility under the Dublin System as a blockage to asylum burden-sharing in the European Union

Minos Mouzourakis, Working Paper 105, December 2014

### Repatriation through a trust-based lens: refugee-state trust relations on the Thai-Burma border and beyond

Karen Hargrave, Working Paper 104, November 2014

Download at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications)