RSC NEWSLETTER TRINITY TERM 2014



Dr Jeff Crisp (Refugees International) delivers the opening plenary lecture of the Refugee Voices conference at St Anne's College, Oxford.

A note from the Director

In 2011, it was agreed that the RSC Directorship would rotate in three-yearly cycles among the permanent academic staff of the Centre. I was delighted to be asked to take on the inaugural role. As we approach the final term of the 2013– 14 academic year, it is my duty to announce my successor in the 'rotating' Directorship of the RSC: Alexander Betts, Associate Professor of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and Director of the Humanitarian Innovation Project, will succeed

to the Directorship at the start of the next academic year, 12 October 2014.

Reflecting back on the previous term, I am happy to report that our Refugee Voices conference, which took place 24–25 March 2014 at St Anne's College, was a great success. A number of fascinating panels explored a diverse range of issues, including detention and deportation; music and cultural expression; history and memory; and the current conflicts and upheavals in Syria and Myanmar. We had over 120 participants and a variety of exhibits, and it is anticipated that a number of the academic papers will be grouped into two special journal issues for publication later in this year or early 2015.

In other news, the weekend short course on statelessness and international law, coordinated by Cathryn Costello, is scheduled for 17–18 May and promises to be a very popular event; and our International Summer School in Forced Migration will be taking place in July, offering academics, practitioners and policymakers an opportunity to reflect on the forces and institutions that dominate the world of the displaced. In addition, the longawaited RSC-led project, *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies* – edited by Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Gil



Loescher, Katy Long and Nando Sigona, and published by Oxford University Press – is now available for preorder. This significant volume evaluates the birth and development of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and analyses the key contemporary and future challenges for the discipline.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce our 2014 major lectures: on 11 June, Professor Liisa Malkki will deliver the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture, entitled 'Impossible

situations: affective impasses and their afterlives in humanitarian and ethnographic fieldwork', at the Oxford Department of International Development; and on 5 November, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal of Jordan will deliver the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture at the Examination Schools, Oxford. We look forward to welcoming them both.

Dawn Chatty

Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration Director, Refugee Studies Centre

A number of podcasts and other outputs from the Refugee Voices conference are available on the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugee-voices

A 30% discount is currently available on pre-orders of the Oxford Handbook. For further information, please see the article overleaf.

To RSVP for the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture on 11 June 2014, please contact Heidi El-Megrisi (rsc-outreach@qeh.ox.ac.uk) or register online at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/colson2014

Refugee Studies Centre

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30% off pre-orders of The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies!



Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has grown from being a concern of a relatively small number of scholars and policy researchers in the 1980s to a global field of interest with thousands of students worldwide studying displacement either from traditional disciplinary perspectives or as a core component of newer programmes across the Humanities and Social and Political Sciences.

The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, written by leading academics, practitioners and policymakers, provides a comprehensive and cutting-edge overview of the key intellectual, political, social and institutional challenges arising from mass displacement in the world today.

Edited by Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (University of Oxford), Professor Gil Loescher (University of Oxford), Dr Katy Long (University of Edinburgh), and Dr Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham), the authoritative Oxford Handbook is an essential reference for students and scholars in this field.

To claim your 30% discount, order online from the Oxford University Press website, adding promotion code AAFLY6 to your shopping basket. The discount is valid until 31 May 2014. Visit: http://ukcatalogue.oup.com

Dawn Chatty and Kirsten McConnachie on judges panel for Ockenden Prize 2014

The second annual \$75,000 Ockenden International Prize for refugee projects has been won by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Zimbabwe for improving the self-reliance of internally displaced people in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces.

HRH The Princess Royal presented the prestigious prize at a special ceremony at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University on 18 February 2014.

Three finalists competing for the annual cash prize had previously presented their projects to a panel of expert judges, including Professor Dawn Chatty and Dr Kirsten McConnachie.

Entries for the 2015 Prize will open on 1 May 2014. Visit: www.ockendenprizes.org

Alexander Betts and Roger Zetter participate in 'Copenhagen Roundtable on Solutions'

On 2–3 April, The Copenhagen Roundtable brought together a number of humanitarian actors, development organisations, affected states, donor nations and academics to discuss the 'Global Initiative on Solutions' (or 'The Initiative') – a commitment to finding solutions to protracted displacement and rethinking how displacement is managed.

The meeting – co-chaired by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN-HCR, IRC and UNDP – sought to clarify details on how 'The Initiative' will be organised and define more precisely how it will function.

In preparation for the event, Professor Roger Zetter wrote a policy brief on 'Reframing displacement crises as development opportunities', which highlights evidence-based arguments in favour of developmental approaches to assisting displaced populations and their hosts.

To read the brief and learn more about the project, please visit: www.endingdisplacement.org

Media spotlight: Matthew Gibney on deprivation of citizenship

Late last year, the UK government inserted an amendment into its Immigration Bill which would allow the Home Secretary to strip citizenship from British terror suspects, even if doing so would render them stateless. Writing for The Guardian, Dr Matthew Gibney decried the move as invidious and against international human rights norms. In a later piece for The Conversation, he considered the implications. 'The key question,' he wrote, is not simply whether 'it can in principle be right to strip citizenship...but whether it is wise to entrust denaturalisation to a government that has not hesitated to broaden the scope of its use?

On 7 April 2014, the proposals suffered a major setback: citing serious concerns, the House of Lords voted for a measure requiring the government to submit its proposals to months of scrutiny by a cross-party group of MPs and Lords. Two days later, in a New York Times article examining the issue, Dr Gibney said that Cameron's government 'has stripped more people of their citizenship than all the other British governments since World War II combined'. In a Q&A panel hosted by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism on 11 April, he called the government's proposals 'unprecedented', when taken together with the already broad powers of denaturalisation it acquired in a 2006 Act. According to a freedom of information request submitted by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, 20 UK nationals were deprived of citizenship last year alone.

To read the related articles, please visit: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news

New website launched

The RSC's website was relaunched in January 2014. The new design is optimised for use on mobile devices and includes a number of other improvements that will help us to better communicate our research and provide more information about our courses, events and other activities.

For all the latest updates from the RSC, please visit: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

Trinity term seminars: The law and politics of forced migration

Although refugee protection is heavily regulated by international, regional and domestic law, this is not uniformly or exhaustively so. In many regions of the world, refugee protection remains principally a matter of the state's political prerogatives. Moreover, even where states are parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugee protection does not escape politics. Politics permeates legal protection, and legal protections structure political contestation.

This series, co-convened by Dr Cathryn Costello and Dr Alexander Betts, will examine the politics and law of refugee protection, looking at the hosting of refugees in the Middle East; the politics of refugee crises; the political and legal construction of detention; and how refugee law responds to those fleeing extreme poverty. It will also examine the politics of the gaps in the refugee regime.

Seminars take place at 5pm, every Wednesday during term time, at the Oxford Department of International Development. See forthcoming events for the full listing, or visit: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events

Myanmar in transition? Roundtable considers implications for the displaced

On 26 March, a roundtable at the RSC brought together leading refugee community activists from Southeast Asia with UK-based researchers and NGOs. Organised by Dr Kirsten McConnachie and funded by Ockenden International, this event discussed the current political environment in Myanmar and implications for displaced populations inside and outside of the country.

Participants acknowledged important recent reforms in Myanmar but also highlighted many continuing challenges, including ongoing displacement in Kachin State and Rakhine State, the insecurity and exploitation of refugee populations in India and Malaysia, and concerns regarding durable solutions (such as ensuring that refugee return is wholly voluntary and including refugees in all decisions affecting their future).

These concerns were also raised in a series of articles for openDemocracy, available at www.opendemocracy.net/kirstenmcconnachie/introducing-myanmar-intransition-displacement-perspective

Data has been collected from visits to over

40 'innovation spaces' across East Africa,

the US and India to help reflect on the

sector.

models that may help to

facilitate refugees own

innovation and lessons

for the humanitarian

A new research stream on

military-humanitarian

innovation, funded by

Forthcoming events

30 April 2014 | Public Seminar Series Refugee identity and protection in the Middle East: legal lacuna or political pragmatism?

Dr Dallal Stevens (Warwick Law School)

7 May 2014 | Public Seminar Series Weapons of mass migration: forced displacement, coercion and foreign policy Professor Kelly M. Greenhill (Tufts University)

14 May 2014 | Public Seminar Series Solidarity and responsibility-sharing for refugee protection in the EU's Common European Asylum System Madeline Garlick (Radboud University)

16 May 2014 | Workshop The Arab Uprisings: Displacement and Migration

In partnership with the Oxford Migration Studies Society, COMPAS and IMI **Register online now**

17-18 May 2014 | Short Course Statelessness and International Law

21 May 2014 | Public Seminar Series Refuge from deprivation: socio-economic harm and non-refoulement in international law

Dr Michelle Foster (Melbourne Law School)

28 May 2014 | Public Seminar Series Arbitrary detention of asylum-seekers: a comparison of some recent practice from Italy and the UK

Dr Daniel Wilsher (City University London) and Francesca Cancellaro (University of Bologna)

4 June 2014 | Public Seminar Series The law and politics of non-entrée Dr Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)

11 June 2014 | Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture

Impossible situations: affective impasses and their afterlives in humanitarian and ethnographic fieldwork Professor Liisa Malkki (Stanford University)

Register online now

7–25 July 2014 | Short Course International Summer School in Forced Migration

19–20 July 2014 | Conference Humanitarian Innovation Conference **Register online now**

For more information, including venues, abstracts and speaker biographies, please visit: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events RSC NEWSLETTER TRINITY TERM 2014 **3**

Updates from the Humanitarian Innovation Project

The Humanitarian Innovation Conference (HIP2014), taking place 19–20 July 2014, will take stock of emerging debates

and practice around humanitarian innovation, with confirmed speakers including Olivier Delarue (UNHCR Innovation), Pamela Hartigan (Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship) and Joanna Macrae (DFID).

Fieldwork in Uganda was completed in December 2013, with substantial volumes of both qualitative and quantitative data collected. The initial findings will be published in a new report, entitled *Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions* (June 2014).



a grant from the John Fell Fund, seeks to identify and explore synergies in the management of innovation between the civilian humanitarian sector and military actors increasingly involved in humanitarian assistance operations.

For all the latest news, events and publications from the HIP team, please visit: www.oxhip.org

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PUBLICATIONS

Forced Migration Review: Crisis

Forced Migration Review published an issue called 'Crisis' in February this year (FMR 45).

Many people who are displaced or become 'trapped' in the context of diverse humanitarian crises – environmental crises, gang violence, nuclear disasters, food crises and so on – do not fit well within existing legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of refugees and internally

displaced people. This raises questions about whether there needs to be, or can be, more systematic or normative ways of dealing with assistance and protection for people displaced, or trapped, by such crises.

This issue of FMR presents a number of articles based on work done for the Crisis Migration Project in Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), alongside a number of other articles submitted in response to an FMR call for articles. It contains 33 articles on this theme and a further nine articles on other aspects of forced migration. The full issue and the



individual articles are available online at www. fmreview.org/crisis in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

We are grateful to the Crisis Migration Project and to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for funding this issue.

The next issue of FMR – to be published in May 2014 – will be on 'Afghanistan's displaced people: 2014 and beyond' and will also be

published in Dari and Pashto for access in Afghanistan itself (www.fmreview. org/afghanistan). This issue will also contain a mini-feature on 'Statelessness', following on from FMR 32 published in 2009 (www.fmreview.org/statelessness), in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and looking towards the Global Forum on Statelessness in September this year.

For details of all forthcoming issues, and to request print copies, please visit: www.fmreview.org

Special issue

Refugee and Diaspora Memories

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh and Thomas Lacroix (eds) (2013) *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 34 (6)

Journal articles

Victims and transitional justice: voice, agency and blame

Kirsten McConnachie and Kieran McEvoy (2013) *Social & Legal Studies*, 22 (4), 489–513

Syria's Bedouin enter the fray: how tribes could keep Syria together Dawn Chatty (2013) *Foreign Affairs*

They aren't all first cousins: Bedouin marriage and health policies in Lebanon

Dawn Chatty (2013) *Ethnicity & Health*, advance online publication

'A very transcendental power': denaturalisation and the liberalisation of citizenship in the United Kingdom Matthew J. Gibney (2013) *Political Studies*, 61 (3), 637–655

Working papers

United Glasgow Football Club: a pilot study in sport's facilitation of integration

Olivia Booth, Evan Elise Easton-Calabria, Salvator Cusimano, Elisabeth Kühn, Working Paper 99, April 2014

Revisiting therapeutic governance: the politics of mental health and psychosocial programmes in humanitarian settings Katherine Rehberg, Working Paper 98, March 2014

'Future citizens of the world'? The contested futures of independent young migrants in Europe Jennifer Allsopp and Elaine Chase, Working Paper 97, December 2013

Civitas, polis, and urbs: reimagining the refugee camp as the city Peter Grbac, Working Paper 96, December 2013

Download at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications

New issue of Refugee Survey Quarterly brings together papers from RSC's 30th anniversary conference

Edited by Dr Alexander Betts and Professor Gil Loescher, this special issue of *Refugee Survey Quarterly* brings together papers from the RSC's 30th anniversary conference on 'Understanding Global Refugee Policy', held in 2012.

One of the many notable themes to emerge from the conference was the extent to which that period has

engendered continuity or change in global refugee policy. How has the agenda changed? Has finding solutions to refugee



situations become more difficult? To what extent are main actors different?

The papers in this collection offer a window onto that question of continuity and change. In doing so, they address a range of important emerging themes and cover a wide set of geographical regions.

Refugee Survey Quarterly, Volume 33, Issue 1, was published by Oxford University Press in March 2014. Access the issue at http://rsq.oxfordjournals.org (paywall)