Welcome from the RSC Director

We are delighted to welcome you to Oxford. Our conference, ‘Democratizing Displacement’, offers an opportunity to stand back and reflect upon different ways that refugees might become more effective political actors in shaping the institutions and forces that govern their own lives. This is a question of great significance at the current time. The displacement associated with the war in Syria and the revival of populist nationalism, as well as the huge numbers of displaced people in the world today, have exposed the need to think anew about forced migration. Our world needs new institutions, new practices and new ways of responding to the displaced that ensure protection, guarantee rights, and acknowledge the dignity of those on the move. However, these practices and institutions will only be legitimate if refugees and forced migrants participate in their elaboration and working.

This conference is an unabashedly academic one. It is one that asks scholars to reflect upon what we can learn from history, from social and political theory, and from the workings of institutions at local, domestic and global level. Our aim is not to devise blueprints for new systems of governance. But instead to bring together reflections on and examples of refugee political agency in order to highlight its moral and practical importance and potentialities as an area of academic investigation.

Given the RSC’s history as the ‘home’ of Refugee Studies and the importance it has always attached to seeing refugees as agents, we are privileged to host a conference that can catalyse this process of reflection. The subject of this biennial conference is somewhat narrower than our previous ones. This is deliberate. We aim this year for a tightly focused discussion on a theme significant to the protection of refugees and forced migrants.

We were overwhelmed by the response to our theme. Over 200 applications were received for the roughly 50 places available on the programme. We have thus had to make difficult choices on which papers to accept. Our decisions were based on judgements of academic excellence, focus on the conference theme, and coverage of a broad range of subjects, disciplines, and geographical areas.

We are sure that you will agree that the result is a superb and exciting programme of speakers. On behalf of the RSC, I wish you an enjoyable and productive conference.

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

**CONFERENCE TIMETABLE**  
**Monday 18 March**

- **Registration** (with tea/coffee available)  
  North Undercroft (adjacent to Dining Hall)  
  9:00–9:30

- **DIRECTOR’S WELCOME**  
  Professor Matthew J Gibney  
  Lecture Room 6  
  9:30–9:45

- **OPENING PLENARY**  
  Professor Lea Ypi  
  Lecture Room 6  
  9:45–10:45

- **PARALLEL SESSIONS 1**  
  Reckoning with Refugeedom: Refugee Voices in Modern History, 1919–1975  
  Lecture Room 4  
  11:15–13:00

  Pathway to Durable Solutions  
  Lecture Room 6  
  11:15–13:00

- **Lunch** (Dining Hall)  
  13:00–14:00

- **PARALLEL SESSIONS 2**  
  Displacement and Peacebuilding: Everyday Practices of Negotiation, Participation and Citizenship  
  Lecture Room 4  
  14:00–15:45

  Beyond Empowerment  
  Lecture Room 6  
  14:00–15:45

- **Coffee break** (North Undercroft)  
  15:45–16:15

- **PARALLEL SESSIONS 3**  
  International Organisations, Accountability and Humanitarian Settings  
  Lecture Room 4  
  16:15–18:00

  Political Participation and Citizenship  
  Lecture Room 6  
  16:15–18:00

- **Drinks Reception** (Cloisters – please dress warmly or bring an extra layer)  
  18:00–19:00

- **Conference Dinner** (Dining Hall)  
  19:15

- **After Dinner Speech: Farhat Khan** (Dining Hall)

**CONFERENCE TIMETABLE**  
**Tuesday 19 March**

- **PARALLEL SESSIONS 4**  
  Internal Displacement and Political Action  
  Lecture Room 4  
  9:00–10:45

  Contesting Deportation and Exclusion  
  Lecture Room 6  
  9:00–10:45

- **Coffee break** (North Undercroft)  
  10:45–11:15

- **PARALLEL SESSIONS 5**  
  Resistance, Political Action and Participation I  
  Lecture Room 4  
  11:15–13:00

  Political Participation of Refugees in their Countries of Asylum: Between Theory and Practice  
  Lecture Room 6  
  11:15–13:00

- **Lunch** (Dining Hall)  
  13:00–14:00

- **PARALLEL SESSIONS 6**  
  Rethinking Refugeehood  
  Lecture Room 4  
  14:00–15:45

  Resistance, Protest and Participation II  
  Lecture Room 6  
  14:00–15:45

- **Coffee break** (North Undercroft)  
  15:45–16:15

- **CLOSING PLENARY**  
  Professor Karma Nabulsi  
  Lecture Room 6  
  16:15–17:15

Follow and contribute to live discussions at the conference via Twitter following @refugeestudies and using the hashtags #RSC2019 and #DemocratizingDisplacement.
NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Founded in 1379 and situated in the very heart of the city, New College is one of the largest and most architecturally striking colleges in Oxford, combining outstanding facilities with spectacular buildings and gardens set against the medieval city wall.

Among the College’s most celebrated features are the Great Quad, the Cloisters, the Chapel and Ante-Chapel, the Dining Hall (with medieval kitchen beneath), and the 13th century City Walls which enclose the garden.

For more information about New College, please visit the website at: www.new.ox.ac.uk

Getting Around New College

The main New College buildings for the conference are indicated in red on the map of the College on the adjacent page.

Conference keynotes and panel sessions will be conducted in Lecture Room 4 and Lecture Room 6.

Arrival coffee for Monday and refreshment breaks will be held in the North Undercroft area next to the Dining Hall. Lunch on Monday and Tuesday, and dinner on Monday evening, will be held in the Dining Hall. The Drinks Reception on Monday evening will be held in the Cloisters.

Visitors staying in New College accommodation are to check in at the Porters’ Lodge, next to the main entrance on Holywell Street.

Visiting Oxford

Oxford is a beautiful city of stunning architecture, history and culture. You will find ancient and modern colleges, fascinating museums and galleries, and plenty of parks, gardens and green spaces in which to relax. Plus, the city centre is small enough to cover on foot, and only a few minutes walk from the main rail and coach stations. For more information on exploring Oxford and to download a copy of the university-provided leaflet which contains a map and information on opening times of colleges, museums and other places of interest, visit the University website at: www.ox.ac.uk/visitors/visiting-oxford
MONDAY 18 MARCH

9:00 - 9:30  Conference Registration (with tea/coffee available)
North Undercroft (next to Dining Hall)

9:30 - 9:45  Director’s Welcome
Lecture Room 6
Matthew J Gibney
Director, Refugee Studies Centre

9:45 - 10:45  Opening Plenary
Lecture Room 6

Lea Ypi
Professor in Political Theory, Department of Government, London School of Economics

Illegal Migration, Adverse Possession and the Obligation to Obey the Law
Chair: Matthew J Gibney, Refugee Studies Centre

10:45 - 11:15  Coffee Break (North Undercroft)

Session 1
11:15 - 13:00

Reckoning with Refugeedom: Refugee Voices in Modern History, 1919-1975
Lecture Room 4

JULIA DEVLIN, Center for Flight and Migration, Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt: "They have chosen their own national leaders" - self-governing in camps for displaced persons (1945–1949)
ALEX DOWDALL, University of Manchester: "The greatest parliament of men": refugees’ petitions to the League of Nations, 1919–1938
PETER GATRELL, University of Manchester: Individual case files as a historical source
KASIA NOWAK, University of Manchester: "To reach the lands of freedom": resettlement petitions of Polish displaced persons to the American Poles, 1948–1951
Chair: TOM SCOTT-SMITH, Refugee Studies Centre

Pathway to Durable Solutions
Lecture Room 6

INGI IUSMEN, University of Southampton: Unaccompanied migrant children, child participation and durable solutions
SABINE LEHR, Royal Roads University: Sponsorship is not charity: refugee empowerment in complementary pathways to protection
PATRICIA MARTUSCELLI, Universidade de São Paulo: Fighting for family reunification: the Congolese experience in São Paulo, Brazil
JANINA STÜRNER, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (PETRA BENDEL, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg; HANNES SCHAMMANN, University of Hildesheim; CHRISTIANE HEIMANN, University of Hildesheim): Tailored to whom? Rethinking resettlement as participatory strategy to empower refugees and host communities
NICHOLAS VAN HEAR, COMPAS, University of Oxford: Furthering Refugia: responding to critics
Chair: ALEXANDER BETTS, Refugee Studies Centre

13:00 - 14:00  Lunch (Dining Hall)
**Session 2**
14:00 – 15:45

**Displacement and Peacebuilding: Everyday Practices of Negotiation, Participation and Citizenship**

Lecture Room 4

- **DAVID CANTOR**, Refugee Law Initiative, University of London: IDP returns in Colombia: negotiating insecurity and building political identity
- **KIRSTEN McCONNACHIE**, University of East Anglia: Displacement and peacebuilding: an agenda for inclusion
- **ELISABETH OLIVIUS**, University of Umeå: Claiming rights in exile: women’s insurgent citizenship practices in Myanmar’s borderlands
- **ANDREA PURDEKOVÁ**, University of Bath: Resping peace? Mobility strategies and resistance to post-war integration in Burundi
- **SIMON TURNER**, University of Copenhagen: Visible and invisible repatriation to Rwanda after genocide: the effects of political and moral categories

*Chair:* **KIRSTEN McCONNACHIE**, University of East Anglia

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**Beyond Empowerment**

Lecture Room 6

- **SUSAN BANKI**, University of Sydney: Political precarity among Myanmar’s refugees: resistance and reality in Thailand and Bangladesh
- **HANNAH LEWIS**, University of Sheffield: Community-based research with people who are refugees. Which community?
- **GIORGIA DONÀ**, University of East London (George Shire, Independent Cultural Theorist; Isabel Meier, University of East London): Disrupting the normativity of the political subject in displacement

*Chair:* **SUSAN BANKI**, University of Sydney

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**15:45 – 16:15** Coffee Break (North Undercroft)

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**Session 3**
16:15 – 18:00

**International Organisations, Accountability and Humanitarian Settings**

Lecture Room 4

- **FELIX BENDER**, Central European University: Should refugees govern refugee camps? A normative evaluation
- **ANNE IRFAN**, London School of Economics / University of Sussex: Agency and resistance: Palestinian refugee activism against UNRWA since 1950
- **CLAIRE WALKEY**, Refugee Studies Centre: Where are the refugees? Understanding the exclusion of refugees in the management of refugee affairs in Kenya

*Chair:* **CATHRYN COSTELLO**, Refugee Studies Centre

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**Political Participation and Citizenship**

Lecture Room 6

- **JEAN-THOMAS ARRIEGHI DE CASANOVA**, Université de Neuchâtel (Robin Stunzi, Swiss Migration Forum, Université de Neuchâtel): Humans, or citizens? Opportunities and constraints on refugees’ political participation in asylum granting liberal democracies
- **PUNSARA AMARASINGHE**, Institute of Law, Politics and Development, Scuola Superiore Sant Anna, Pisa: A critical analysis of the political participation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugee community in Canada
- **KAREN SCHOUW IVERSEN**, SOAS, University of London: Desplazado protests and struggles over citizenship in Bogotá
- **ANGELA SHERWOOD**, Queen Mary University of London School of Law: “Insurgent citizenship” and resistance to property exclusion in post-disaster Haiti
- **SARAH VANCLUYSEN**, Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp: Resolving conflicts: how South–Sudanese refugee leaders mediate disputes within and around the settlements in Northern Uganda

*Chair:* **ROBIN VANDERVOORDT**, Refugee Studies Centre

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**18:00 – 19:00** Drinks Reception (Cloisters - Please dress warmly or bring an extra layer)

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**19:15** After Dinner Speech

**Farhat Khan**

Founder of Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) Manchester, who was granted asylum in the UK in 2007
TUESDAY 19 MARCH

Session 4
9:00 - 10:45

Internal Displacement and Political Action
Lecture Room 4

DALEL BENBABAALI, University of Oxford: Indigenous resistance to development-induced displacement: the case of the Polavaram dam in South India

ANA DE FRANCESCO, Instituto Socioambiental: Self organization and territorial rights as a response for forced displacement in Xingu river, Amazon, Brazil

ILEANA DANA NICOLAU, European University Institute: Comparative perspective on the political participation of the IDPs: experiences in Colombia and Peru [by Skype]

MRUTUYANJAYA SAHU, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, Dubai Campus: Contesting development induced displacement and contemporary social movements in India

Chair: DERIYA ÖZKUL, Refugee Studies Centre

Contesting Deportation and Exclusion
Lecture Room 6

EVELIINA LYYTINEN, Migration Institute of Finland: Multiscalar activism on asylum seekers’ deportability in Finland

OTIENO ONG’AYO (ANTONY), International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University (HELEN HINTJENS, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University): Rejected and destitute asylum seekers as actors: reflections on ongoing experiences and negotiating agency in the UK and the Netherlands

RUTH ELIZABETH PRADO PEREZ, ITESO, Jesuit University of Guadalajara: Does empowerment really help refugees? The Central American migrant caravans in 2018 and the US and Mexico response

ROBIN VANDEVOORDT, Refugee Studies Centre: Subversive humanitarianism. Rethinking the politics of refugee solidarity

Chair: MATTHEW J GIBNEY, Refugee Studies Centre

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee Break (North Undercroft)

Session 5
11:15 - 13:00

Resistance, Political Action and Participation I
Lecture Room 4

KHADIJA ABBASI, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies: Hazaristan online: mobilisation and community construction of the transnational Hazaras and the role of digital media

DANIEL DAVIES, St. Andrew’s Refugee Services (JULIA PACITTO, Refugee Studies Centre): Moving beyond perfunctory participation: two models of refugee participation in Cairo, Egypt

ANNA DI GIUSTO, University of Florence: Refugee empowerment. A case of study in Calabria

CHRISTA KUNTZELMAN, Northwestern University: Examining variation in tactics and targets of refugee political behavior in Uganda

SURAINA PASHA, University of Sydney: Sustaining the ‘revolution’: the symbolic and social dimensions of Syrian civic volunteerism in Jordan

Chair: ALI ALI, Refugee Studies Centre

Political Participation of Refugees in their Countries of Asylum: Between Theory and Practice
Lecture Room 6

NAOKO HASHIMOTO, University of Sussex: How has refugees’ agency challenged Japan’s refugee protection structure?

NORA RAGAB, Maastricht University: The case of Afghan and Syrian refugees in Germany

RUVI ZIEGLER, University of Reading: Refugees as political beings in their country of asylum

Chair: CATHERINE BRIDDICK, Refugee Studies Centre

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch (Dining Hall)
15:45 - 16:15 Coffee Break (North Undercroft)

16:15 - 17:15 Closing Plenary

Lecture Room 6

Karma Nabulsi
Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

Bearing Civic Gifts: Refugees’ Essential Contributions to the Democratic Polity

Chair: Cathryn Costello, Refugee Studies Centre

RSC Conference 2019: Democratizing Displacement

Tuesday 19 March
Lea Ypi

Professor in Political Theory, Department of Government, London School of Economics

Lea Ypi is Professor in Political Theory in the Government Department, London School of Economics, and Adjunct Associate Professor in Philosophy at the Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Before joining the LSE, she was a Post-doctoral Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College (Oxford) and a researcher at the European University Institute where she obtained her PhD. A native of Albania, Lea has degrees in Philosophy and Literature from the University of Rome, La Sapienza, and has held visiting and research positions at Sciences Po, the University of Frankfurt, the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, the Australian National University and the Italian Institute for Historical Studies.

She is the author of Global Justice and Avant–Garde Political Agency, and (with Jonathan White) The Meaning of Partisanship, both published by Oxford University Press. She has co-edited Migration in Political Theory (Oxford University Press 2016, with Sarah Fine) and Kant and Colonialism (Oxford University Press 2015, with Katrin Flikschuh). She was the recipient of the British Academy Brian Barry Prize for Excellence in Political Science and her article ‘What’s wrong with colonialism’ was selected by The Philosopher’s Annual as one of the ten best published in philosophy worldwide.

Lea’s research interests are in normative political theory (including democratic theory, theories of justice, and issues of migration and territorial rights), Enlightenment political thought (especially Kant), Marxism and critical theory, as well as nationalism in the intellectual history of the Balkans (especially Albania). She is a co-editor of The Journal of Political Philosophy.

Karma Nabulsi

Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

Professor Karma Nabulsi is Fellow in Politics at St Edmund Hall, and lectures at the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford. Her research covers 18th and 19th century political thought, and the international collective rights of the Palestinian people, particularly of Palestinian refugees. While research fellow at Nuffield College, she directed a civic needs assessment that was co-designed and run by Palestinian refugees themselves, in over 24 countries, and edited its register: Palestinians Register: Laying Foundations and Setting Directions (2006). From 2011 - 2015 she directed the civic voter registration for elections to the Palestine National Council, the parliament-in-exile of the Palestinian people, working with UNRWA, UNHCR, the Central Elections Commission, and other national and international institutions and bodies, as well as with world renowned scholars at Oxford who designed a safe and robust electronic voting machine that can be used by refugees living scattered across regions and continents. She is currently co-editing a volume on ‘Radical Republicanism’ for Oxford University Press, and contributing to the Oxford Handbook on Rousseau, with the chapter ‘Rousseau and Emancipation’.

She recently directed and co-curated ‘The Palestinian Revolution’, a bilingual Arabic–English digital teaching resource exploring Palestinian revolutionary thought and practice in the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s. Sponsored by the British Academy, the endeavour was a collaboration with universities, institutes and museums across the global south specialising in anti-colonial history (http://learnpalestine.politics.ox.ac.uk/). Hosted at Oxford’s DPIR, the resource is freely available to universities, students, and the general public. It is comprised of a 12–week course, an online gallery with original contemporary sources, including more than 80 filmed interviews with cadres, and over 300 primary sources of the period: revolutionary publications, memoirs, photographs, songs, posters, and film.

Karma is a UCU Equalities Officer at the University, and member of its BME Staff Network. Recent awards include OUSU’s Special Recognition Award in 2016, the Guardian’s Higher Education Network’s ‘Inspiring Leader Award’ for 2017, and Arab Woman of the Year 2018. She is Chair of Trustees and co–founder of the HOPING Foundation, which raises awareness for Palestinian refugees and sponsors art, music, scholarships, and education for young Palestinians in refugee camps across the Middle East.

Farhat Khan

Founder of Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) Manchester

Farhat Khan founded Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST) Manchester in 2005 and is currently trustee/chairperson. WAST is a self-help and self led group of asylum seeking women from different nationalities based in Greater Manchester who: are a source of support for each other, other women asylum seekers, and their families; raise awareness and lobby on issues of concern to women asylum seekers and their families – both in their countries of origin and in the UK; build and promote the skills, experience and self-esteem of individual women asylum seekers by involving them in organisational and community development activities; promote a positive image of asylum seekers; provide basic advice and sign-post to other organisations for help in setting up individual anti-deportation campaigns; and link with other community groups, organisations and individuals that provide support to women and asylum seekers. Farhat has been invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of services as a volunteer, and to Downing Street in recognition of her voluntary work. She came to the UK from Pakistan in November 2000 and was granted refugee status in 2007.
International Summer School in Forced Migration

7-19 July 2019, Oxford

The RSC’s Summer School fosters dialogue between academics, practitioners and policymakers working to improve the situation of refugees and forced migrants. Taking an 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. The closing date for applications is 30 April 2019.

Further information: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summer-school

Forced Migration Review

*Forced Migration Review* (FMR) is the most widely read publication on forced migration – available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, and free of charge in print and online. Through FMR, authors from around the world 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.


Online at: www.fmreview.org