



REFUGEE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE

Participants engage in group discussion during the UNHCR Innovation Workshop at the Humanitarian Innovation Conference. HIP / L Bloom

## A note from the Director

I am delighted to be the new Director of the RSC. I take over from Dawn Chatty with immense admiration and respect for the work she has done during her three years as Director. She has created an excellent and well-functioning team, laying the foundations for future success, all while continuing to make a meaningful and tangible impact through her own work on the Syria crisis, and continuing to inspire students through her teaching.



As I begin my time as Director, my starting point is a recognition that the RSC is more relevant than ever. We live at a time when there is a global crisis of displacement. More people are displaced than at any time since the Second World War and the drivers of displacement are becoming ever more complex. Against this backdrop, creative thinking is urgently needed. As the world's leading research institution in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, we have a responsibility to provide transformative research and teaching, and to ensure that it has an impact on policy and practice.

The three-year rotating directorship model in part makes my role one of stewardship, and I'm privileged that there is already so much exciting work within the Centre. We have an array of active research projects on Syria, expulsion and deportation, the new dynamics of international refugee law, humanitarian innovation, the economic lives of refugees, governance in refugee camps and the political mobilisation of refugee diasporas, to name just a few. Our teaching continues to go from strength to strength, and a new cohort of 26 MSc students have just begun their time with us at the RSC.

Our latest Annual Report documents the successes of the last 12 months, and highlights how much excellent work takes place within the Centre. Nevertheless, there are exciting changes afoot. We have

recently renewed our advisory board to include a range of brilliant people from across NGOs, the media, business, government and international organisations. The new board will meet for the first time at our advisory board meeting on the day of this year's Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture, to be delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal. Tamsin Kelk has just started as the new Communications and Information Coordinator at the Centre. She brings a wealth of writing, editing and communications experience to the role. We have

also recently advertised for a new Associate Professor in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, whom we expect to welcome to the Centre in October 2015.

My colleagues and I are looking forward to building a clear and exciting vision that can take the RSC into the future.

Alexander Betts  
Leopold Muller Associate Professor in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies  
Director, Refugee Studies Centre

*To find out more about our current research projects, please visit:*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research)

*Read more about the policy impact of our research at*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/policy](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/policy)

*To download our latest Annual Report, please visit:*  
[www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/annual-reports](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/annual-reports)

### Refugee Studies Centre

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## HIP host inaugural Humanitarian Innovation Conference



On July 19-20, the Humanitarian Innovation Project hosted the inaugural Humanitarian Innovation Conference at Keble College, Oxford. The conference brought together over 200 people from across the humanitarian world, with organisations from 21 countries represented. In addition to over 40 panels, the conference featured inspiring keynote addresses by UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Alexander Aleinikoff, and Ntakamaze Nziyovira, one of our Congolese colleagues involved in HIP's research in Uganda. A significant theme of the conference was the potential role of affected communities – including refugees – to help drive humanitarian innovation.

One of the outcomes of the conference was a special supplement produced by Forced Migration Review on 'Refugees and Innovation', which was published in September and featured contributions by a number of the conference speakers. Next year's Humanitarian Innovation Conference will convene in July 2015.

A full conference report is available to download from the HIP website: [www.oxhip.org](http://www.oxhip.org)

Podcasts from the conference are available on the RSC website:

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

## RSC in the news

The past few months have seen plenty of press coverage of RSC research. Our academics and authors have written articles and provided comment for news outlets on a range of issues, including various aspects of the crisis in Syria, the emerging field of humanitarian innovation, the economic lives of refugees in Uganda and the current situation in the Mediterranean, where thousands of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have lost their lives attempting to reach Europe. openDemocracy has recently featured articles by Naohiko Omata and Cynthia Orchard (co-author of our recent policy briefing on Syria) on HIP's research in Uganda and the protection Europe can offer to refugees from Syria, respectively. Outlets such as The New Yorker, Al Jazeera, SciDev. Net, Syria Deeply and The Independent have all featured comments from or interviews with our researchers, including Alexander Betts, Louise Bloom and Dawn Chatty.

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

## Refugee Economies report launched on World Refugee Day

On World Refugee Day in June this year, the Humanitarian Innovation Project launched a major new report entitled *Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions*. The report outlines some of the preliminary findings of HIP's extensive research in Uganda, drawing upon a range of qualitative research methods and a survey of over 1600 refugees in Uganda. The report's findings are organised around five popular myths:

- that refugees are economically isolated;
- that they are a burden on host states;
- that they are economically homogenous;
- that they are technologically illiterate;
- that they are dependent on humanitarian assistance.

In each case, the report shows that HIP's data challenges or fundamentally nuances each of those ideas. The report shows a refugee community that is nationally and transnationally integrated, contributes in positive ways to the national economy, is economically diverse, uses and creates technology, and is far from uniformly dependent on international assistance.

The report received significant media coverage from *The Guardian*, BBC World News, Central China Television and *The New York Times*, among others, as well as being the subject of an NPR documentary.

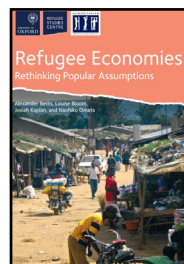
By attempting to understand the economic systems of displaced populations, we hope to generate new ideas which can turn current humanitarian challenges into sustainable opportunities.

To download the report, please visit: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugeeeconomies](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugeeeconomies)

## Matthew Gibney now professor

We are very pleased to announce that Matthew Gibney was recently awarded the title of professor at the University's 2014 Recognition of Distinction Exercise. He is now Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration. He is Deputy Director of the RSC and specialises in the political and ethical issues raised by refugees, citizenship and migration control. Congratulations, Professor Gibney!

Read more about Matthew Gibney's work here: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/matthewgibney](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/matthewgibney)



## Naohiko Omata presents HIP findings at UNHCR's ExCom in Geneva

Earlier this month, Dr Omata presented the findings of the recent report *Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions* at a special side event at UNHCR's Executive Committee, also known as ExCom. ExCom is a high level gathering where the Executive Committee meet to review and approve UNHCR's budget and programmes, and discuss important issues with partnering organisations.

At the side event, entitled 'Refugees and Markets: Implementing UNHCR's Global Strategy for Livelihoods', he explained how research by the Humanitarian Innovation Project shows that refugees in Uganda are active contributors to the host economy.

During ExCom he also attended a side event on the Solutions Alliance, a new network set up to tackle protracted displacement. Alexander Betts has played an important role in the formation of the SA, and through him the Refugee Studies Centre chairs its working group on Research, Data, and Performance Management.

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

## RSC hosts 'An afternoon on Syrian displacement, and protection Europe'

On Wednesday 10 September, the RSC hosted a special event to mark the launch of a new Policy Briefing, 'Protection in Europe for refugees from Syria'. Report authors Cynthia Orchard and Andrew Miller provided an overview of the European reaction to the Syrian refugee crisis, as well as brief summaries of selected countries' responses. They argued that the current approach is unsustainable, and that European countries should expand safe and legal routes of entry to refugees from the region.

Also launched at this event was issue 47 of Forced Migration Review on 'The Syria crisis, displacement and protection'. Professor Roger Zetter, co-author (with Héloïse Ruaudel) of a major article in the issue entitled 'Development and protection challenges of the Syrian refugee crisis', examined early recovery and social cohesion interventions and the transition from assistance to development-led interventions in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan.

To read FMR 47 and the policy briefing, visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications). Listen to podcasts of the event at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news)

## RSC holds 25th International Summer School in Forced Migration

This year's Summer School took place 7–25 July 2014. We were delighted to have a large and varied cohort, with 73 participants from 35 countries. Thanks to generous support from the Asfari Foundation, the Saïd Foundation, the Open Society Foundations' Arab Regional Office with the Institute of International Education, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the RSC was able to offer 13 full bursaries in 2014.

Professor Matthew Gibney, this year's course Director, was pleased with the high level of engagement among the cohort: 'The success of the Summer School has always depended on the willingness of its participants to contribute their own diverse experiences to discussions, and this year's group was one of the most enthusiastic in recent memory in this regard.'

*Next year's course dates are 6–24 July 2015. To find out more and apply, please visit [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summerschool](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/summerschool), where you can also watch interviews with several of the participants on the 2014 course.*

## Refugee and Forced Migration Studies: The state of the art

The Michaelmas term 2014 Public Seminar Series is now underway. Over the coming weeks, the series will range across disciplines and subjects in refugee studies. The series commenced with the launch of *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies* (OUP, 2014), a multi-contributor volume providing an overview of the discipline, its evolution and challenges. 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 and scholars worldwide. This series will critically assess the development of the field, providing an opportunity for scholars to present their most recent research, and discuss their contribution to the discipline, its place in the academy and refugee studies' relationships with policy and practice.

The seminars are free of charge and open to all. With the exception of the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture, no registration is required. More information is available in the 'Michaelmas term 2014 events' section.

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

## Michaelmas term 2014 events

15 October 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies \[Book launch\]](#)**

22 October 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[The Ideal Refugees: Gender, Islam, and the Sahrawi Politics of Survival](#)**  
Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasbiyeh (University College London and Refugee Studies Centre)

29 October 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[Governing Refugees: Justice, Order and Legal Pluralism on the Thai–Burma border \[Book event\]](#)**  
Dr Kirsten McConnachie (Refugee Studies Centre)

5 November 2014 | *Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture*  
**[Displacement and integration in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: a century later](#)**  
Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal  
\*\*Register online now\*\*

12 November 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[Love of women and a place in the world: romantic love and political commitment in the life of a forced migrant](#)**  
Professor Jonny Steinberg (African Studies Centre and the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford)

19 November 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[Sans Papiers: The Social and Economic Lives of Young Undocumented Migrants \[Book event\]](#)**  
Professor Roger Zetter (Refugee Studies Centre) and Dr Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham)

26 November 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[Inequality, immigration and refugee protection](#)**  
Dr Katy Long (Stanford University and University of Edinburgh)

3 December 2014 | *Public Seminar Series*  
**[Citizenship revocation and the privilege to have rights](#)**  
Professor Audrey Macklin (University of Toronto)

6–7 December 2014 | *Short Course*  
**[Health and Humanitarian Response in Complex Emergencies](#)**  
\*\*Apply online\*\*

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

## Updates from the Humanitarian Innovation Project

HIP's work now divides into a number of strands. Naohiko Omata coordinates our pioneering work on refugee economies, which is currently looking at how to expand beyond our initial pilot study on the economic lives of refugees in Uganda. Through comparative qualitative and quantitative analysis, the research aims to advance understanding of "refugee economies", while also directly informing humanitarian practice to better support sustainable livelihoods for refugees.

Louise Bloom leads a strand of work on the concept of humanitarian innovation, with particular focus on the role of affected communities and on how to facilitate innovation. Her research also explores the role of knowledge and skills transfer within refugee communities.

Josiah Kaplan is pioneering work on the role of military innovation within humanitarian response. This new project seeks to identify and explore synergies in the management of innovation between the civilian humanitarian sector and military actors that are increasingly involved in humanitarian assistance and natural disaster relief operations.



In recent months the project has published its reports *Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions* and *Humanitarian Innovation: the State of the Art*. In each case we are writing up related book projects based on the extensive fieldwork completed by the team.

HIP's impact on policy has been recognised through its involvement in both the Transformation Through Innovation strand of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, and in the Solutions Alliance, a new global initiative on the relationship between forced displacement and development announced by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon at UNHCR's recent Executive Committee Meeting in Geneva.

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

Forced Migration Review has put out three publications since the Trinity Term newsletter. FMR 46 in May was on 'Afghanistan's displaced people: 2014 and beyond'. This year is widely seen as marking a watershed for Afghanistan with its legacy of thirty-five years of conflict and one of the world's largest populations in protracted displacement. This issue was also published in Dari and Pashto for access in Afghanistan itself. We are grateful to the Norwegian Refugee Council, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)/Swiss Cooperation Office - Afghanistan, UN-Habitat, UNHCR Office in Afghanistan and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for funding this issue.

FMR 46 also included a mini-feature on 'Statelessness', marking the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. This mini-feature was funded by the Open Society Justice Initiative and UNHCR's Department of International Protection.

FMR 47 in September focused on 'The Syria crisis, displacement and protection'. The numbers of displaced people in Syria make this the largest IDP crisis in the world, with possibly also the largest number of people who are 'trapped'. The number of refugees from Syria continues to increase – Syrian refugees them-



selves, Iraqi and Palestine refugees, and others. This issue focuses largely on observations that could be of value in increasing the level of protection for the displaced and in shaping assistance to both the displaced and the countries and communities that are 'hosting' them, with an eye specifically on issues of costs and impacts.

We are grateful to the Regional Development and Protection Programme, which is led by Denmark with contributions also from the EU, Ireland, the Netherlands, the UK and the Czech

Republic, for funding this issue.

Finally, also in September, we produced a special supplement on 'Innovation and refugees' in cooperation with the RSC's Humanitarian Innovation Project, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs..

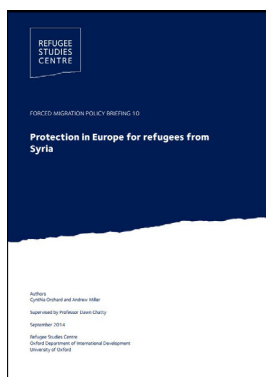
These issues are all available in print and online at:

[www.fmreview.org/afghanistan](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan)  
[www.fmreview.org/statelessness](http://www.fmreview.org/statelessness)  
[www.fmreview.org/syria](http://www.fmreview.org/syria)  
[www.fmreview.org/innovation](http://www.fmreview.org/innovation)

*The next issue of FMR will focus on 'Faith-based organisations and responses to displacement', and is due out in November. For details of all forthcoming issues, and to request print copies, please visit [www.fmreview.org](http://www.fmreview.org)*

## Spotlight on Syria: New policy briefing and mapping report focus on protection and education provision

Over the summer months the RSC engaged in two mapping exercises about the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis. The first was a mapping of educational opportunities for refugee youth from Syria (12-25) in Turkey, Northern Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. Research teams in each country were made up of local scholars and refugee researchers. The findings regarding opportunities and gaps in education provisions as well as examples of good practice were presented at a workshop in Amman, Jordan in September 2014. A policy note as well as a full report was launched at this event. An



Arabic translation of the full study will be available shortly. A second mapping exercise was undertaken during this same time frame identifying access to asylum for refugees from Syria in Europe and in the UK. This report was launched as a policy brief in early September. Copies of the report were presented at the Executive Committee of the UNHCR as a companion to the study of access to legal protection of refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries of the Middle East undertaken by Boston University Faculty of Law.

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

## The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

We're pleased to announce that *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies* is now available. Published by Oxford University Press, the Handbook was edited by current and former RSC academics and features 52 chapters by researchers, policy makers and humanitarian practitioners.

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

## Journal articles

### Rwanda: the way forward

Will Jones (2014) *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, 103 (3), 347–349

### Football Shirts, terror and affiliation policy (Swedish)

Barzoo Eliassi, Dan-Erik Andersson, Leif Stenberg (2014) *Nordic Sport Science Forum*

### The making of a cosmopolitan quarter: Sha'laan in the 20th century

Dawn Chatty (2014) *Syria Studies*, 6 (2), 29–54

### The end of refugee life?

Naohiko Omata (2014), *Peace Review: a Journal of Social Justice*, 26 (3), 394–401

### Development and protection challenges of the Syrian refugee crisis

Roger Zetter, Héloïse Ruauzel (2014) *Forced Migration Review* (47)

## Working papers

### An exploration and critique of the use of mental health information within refugee status determination proceedings in the United Kingdom

Jennifer Barrett, Ilim Baturalp, Nath Gbikpi, Katherine Rehberg

### Displacement and dispossession through land grabbing in Mozambique: the limits of international and national legal instruments

Hannah Twomey

### The culture of disbelief: an ethnographic approach to understanding an under-theorised concept in the UK asylum system

Jessica Anderson, Jeannine Hollaus, Annelisa Lindsay, Colin Williamson

### Reluctant to return? The primacy of social networks in the repatriation of Rwandan refugees in Uganda

Cleophas Karooma

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