



RSC Director, Professor Alexander Betts, on Amanpour, CNN International's flagship global affairs interview programme.

A note from the Director



The recent crisis in the Mediterranean has put refugees at the top of the political and media agenda. The frequent misinformation within public debate has highlighted the important role of the RSC in shaping debate. From the BBC to CNN to the New York Times, many colleagues have been on television, radio and in newspapers providing commentary.

Our position as an independent, academic research centre gives the RSC a unique vantage point from which to contribute to public debate. This term our public seminar series has focused on Global Refugee Policy, offering an opportunity to consider the levers that can change policy and practice.

Colleagues have undertaken research and given high-level policy presentations in Kenya, Jordan, and South Africa, and we have made significant contributions to ongoing policy processes including the Nansen Initiative and the Solutions Alliance. Our recent workshop on Ethics and Principles for Humanitarian Innovation and a forthcoming publication on Refugee Innovation will contribute directly to the World Humanitarian Summit.

In order to continue to make our research accessible and impactful, a key innovation over the next few months will be the RSC's new "Research in Brief" series. Our impact needs to be local as well as global, which is why we are participating in Oxford's Refugee Week in June with a public event on the Mediterranean crisis.

Behind all of this, though, remains our commitment to independent, academic research, which continues to flourish, and will be further enhanced by a number of new academic appointments to begin in September.

Alexander Betts

Leopold Muller Associate Professor in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

RSC in the News: the Mediterranean crisis

At the time of writing, the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis in the Mediterranean has seen more than 30 times as many people die as in the same period last year – so far, at least 1,826 people have died. The crisis, and the EU's responses to it, have received unprecedented media attention. However, this humanitarian tragedy has been frequently hijacked by politicians who have profoundly misrepresented the underlying causes of the problem and suggested 'solutions' that are focused on suppressing mobility, reinforcing border control and destroying smugglers' boats. The staff of the Refugee Studies Centre have been working to correct much of the misrepresentation and misinformation within the current public debate, and to suggest more appropriate solutions.

Alexander Betts has written two well-received pieces for The Guardian and The Conversation, and appeared on BBC World News and BBC Radio, on Amanpour on CNN International, and on NPR's Here & Now. He has called for solutions based in 'a reaffirmation of the need to uphold asylum and refugee protection, and to see these as a shared global responsibility', and for courageous political leadership to both reframe how refugees are perceived by the public and devise creative solutions for refugees and vulnerable migrants, particularly through greater international cooperation.

Dawn Chatty has appeared on Al Jazeera America, CBC Radio's The Sunday Show, and the BBC's The Big Questions, while Cathryn Costello has interviewed for BBC News and BBC Radio Scotland, and has written a blog for openDemocracy (with RSC Visiting Research Fellow, Dr Mariagiulia Giuffrè). Both called on governments to stop evading their responsibilities to provide asylum to refugees from countries such as Syria, Somalia, and Eritrea, and to enhance legal routes for refugees to the EU, and hence reduce demand for smugglers – such as processing humanitarian visa applications in national embassies, extending other visa categories to those fleeing, and offering temporary protection where appropriate, as occurred in response to the Balkan Wars.

We will continue to engage in and inform the public and media debate on this crisis, and the wider global displacement crisis, providing an independent and authoritative voice on these important issues.

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news

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2015 Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture

This year's Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture will be given by Professor Miriam Ticktin of The New School for Social Research in New York. Professor Ticktin will speak on the topic of 'Innocence: understanding a political concept'.



With the grounding assumption that innocence plays a central role in the politics of forced

migration and asylum, this lecture will delve into the idea of innocence, trying to understand it and render its workings more legible, and arguing that it is a political – not simply a religious or moral – concept. By examining the figure of the child, the trafficked victim, the migrant, asylum seeker, the enemy combatant and the animal, Professor Ticktin will suggest that innocence sets up hierarchies of humanity, all the while feeding an expanding politics of humanitarianism. Ultimately, she will ask if innocence is a concept we want to protect.

Miriam Ticktin is Associate Professor of Anthropology at The New School for Social Research and co-director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility. She is the author of *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France* (University of California Press, 2011; co-winner of the 2012 William A. Douglass Prize in Europeanist Anthropology).

The lecture will be held on Wednesday 10th June at 5pm at Queen Elizabeth House. Registration required.

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events

Findings due from pilot study on the Syrian humanitarian disaster



Photo: UNHCR / J.Kohler

Professor Dawn Chatty is currently working on a pilot study funded by the British Academy, on 'The Syrian Humanitarian Disaster: understanding perceptions, aspirations and behaviour in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey'. This is due to be completed in September, with a dissemination workshop of findings and recommendations for ways forward.

Syria's rapid disintegration into extreme violence and conflict shocked the world and left the humanitarian system in turmoil as agencies struggled to respond. It also left the neighbouring states of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan in a quandary as to how to effectively provide protection for people seeking refuge. None have granted the displaced refugee status; each has established temporary measures to deal with this crisis. In many cases displaced and host communities have not been consulted and tensions have quickly emerged.

The pilot study is exploring the different perceptions and aspirations of Syria's refugees, humanitarian assistance practitioners, and the host community; and is probing what social factors within the host community, particularly among youth, may positively contribute to interim accommodation and, when conditions permit, the reshaping and re-integration of Syrian society post-conflict.

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research

Ethics and Principles for Humanitarian Innovation

On 27 April, the RSC hosted a workshop in conjunction with the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to consider ethics and principles for humanitarian innovation.



Based on the recognition that as new products and processes shape assistance, and as new actors, including from business and the military, are entering the humanitarian system, the workshop set out to debate likely dilemmas. It brought together representatives from UNHCR, ICRC, UNICEF, OCHA, DFID, Save the Children, for example, as well as academics with expertise in medical ethics, business ethics, innovation managements, and humanitarian policy.

The event was part of the work of the WHS's thematic working group on 'Transformation Through Innovation', on which Alexander Betts serves. It will culminate in a set of 'Principles for Ethical Humanitarian Innovation', which will be more widely debated in the weeks to come, and form part of the output of the World Humanitarian Summit.

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news

RSC visitors during Trinity term

The RSC has some notable visitors this term. We are joined for the term by Dr James Milner, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Carleton University, Canada, and RSC Research Associate. Also visiting in May is Professor Jane McAdam, Scientia Professor of Law and the Director of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales.

Joining us as RSC Visiting Fellows are Bruno Codispoti (Visiting Study Fellow) who has worked in collaboration with the Italian Council for Refugees since 2012; Dr Mariagiulia Giuffrè (Visiting Research Fellow), Lecturer in Law at Edge Hill University, UK; Dr Kathryn Marsh (Visiting Research Fellow), Associate Professor of Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney; and Dr Philip Orchard (Visiting Research Fellow), Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. Dr Olaf Kleist continues as German Research Foundation Research Fellow.

We offer them all a very warm welcome!

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/people

HIP meet resettled refugees in Dallas

The HIP team recently spent a week in Dallas, Texas meeting resettled refugees. Their visit focused on Vickery Meadow, an area densely populated by people from around the world.

From speaking to service providers and refugees, the team learned that there is a high demand for research here to better understand the way that refugees live, how they use their skills and experience employment, and their trajectories after the initial 6-9 months of resettlement support.

Related to HIP's work on 'Refugee Economies' in Uganda, they observed some of the challenges experienced by resettled refugees in Dallas when trying to gain employment or start businesses – language, tensions with other migrants, transport, etc.



Despite these challenges, successful refugees have made the most of the opportunities available, such as Bukri and Daniel, owners of an Ethiopian restaurant who are now trying to build a business around bottling an Ethiopian sauce.

With so much activity and a clear demand to better understand how refugees can be supported, it was clear that research in Dallas could contribute to the way refugees are perceived and assisted in the US.

In June, RSC and HIP Director Alexander Betts will speak about resettlement practices at the 5th national EMN Conference "Resettlement; regional solutions and humanitarian assistance" in Oslo, Norway.

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news

Palestine Refugees & International Law short course

In March, the RSC held two short courses on Palestine Refugees & International Law, one in Amman and one in Beirut. We were pleased to welcome 48 participants overall, from organisations such as UNRWA, UNHCR, UNOCHA, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Amnesty International, and International Medical Corps.

Through a mix of lectures, working group exercises and interactive sessions, participants engaged actively and critically with the contemporary debates in international law and analysed the specific context of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel).

We would like to thank participants for their engagement and feedback. As one participant put it: "Thanks so much, was a wonderful experience!"



Register for #HIP2015!

Registration for the 2015 Humanitarian Innovation Conference is now open. Taking place on 17-18 July at Keble College, the conference will focus on 'facilitating innovation'. As interest and dialogue around humanitarian innovation increases, conference participants are invited to explore the challenges of creating an enabling environment for humanitarian innovation, in particular how we enable innovation by and for affected communities, 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. In addition to a packed programme of presentations, the conference will include Innovation Workshops and an Innovation 'LAB'.

Read more:

www.oxhip.org/2014/11/hip2015-cfp/

National Refugee Week 2015

As part of National Refugee Week (15-21 June), the RSC will be joining forces with Oxford Refugee Week. In the light of recent events, we are holding a panel discussion on how Europe should respond to the Mediterranean refugee crisis. This will take place at 5pm on June 17th at Queen Elizabeth House.



For details of other Refugee Week events at the RSC visit: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events

For other events in Oxford visit: www.oxfordrefugeeweek.weebly.com

For events in the UK visit: www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Events

Ockenden International Prize 2015

Alexander Betts and Dawn Chatty were honoured to be among the judges for the third annual Ockenden International Prize, awarded at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, on 24 February. Presented by the Most Reverend & Right Honorable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, the prize was awarded to The Community



2015 winners Clotilde Nyandwi & Mathieu Sake (ACPDH) and Kamala Achu (DDP), with Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York. Photo: Richard Budd.

Association for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ACPDH) and Disability and Development Partners (DDP) UK for the DDP-nominated project: "Twunganire Abahungutse (TA) - Everyone Supports Returnees" operating in two provinces of Burundi.

The 2016 call for entries can be found at: www.ockendenprizes.org/2016-prize

MSc trip to Geneva

Our MSc students travelled to Geneva in March to visit various organisations. They were treated to talks at UNHCR on the Syrian crisis, UNHCR's work on innovation, and the main challenges it faces, given by the Deputy High Commissioner Alexander Aleinikoff. They attended special seminars by representatives from the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Nansen Initiative and the Solutions Alliance. At the International Organisation for Migration and the International Committee of the Red Cross discussions included how to respond to complex mixed migration flows in the Horn of Africa, and how protection for forced migrants can be supported by International Humanitarian Law. All found the trip invaluable. We would like to offer our thanks to all involved.



Global refugee policy

The Trinity Term Public Seminar Series examines particular aspects of the global refugee policy process to further our understanding of how global refugee policy is made, implemented and evaluated, and the extent to which a more critical understanding of this process contributes to our ability to influence outcomes. The seminars, listed below, are free of charge and open to all. No registration required. Podcasts will be available for most seminars.

Read more: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events

Trinity term 2015 events

29 April 2015 | *Public Seminar Series*
Understanding global refugee policy: the case of naturalisation in Tanzania
Dr James Milner (Carleton University)

6 May 2015 | *Public Seminar Series*
Better late than never? The evolution and implementation of UNHCR's urban refugee policy
Dr Jeff Crisp (independent consultant) and MaryBeth Morand (UNHCR)

13 May 2015 | *Public Seminar Series*
Ethnographic understandings of global refugee policy: looking at policy in practice
Dr Marion Fresia (Institut d'ethnologie, Université de Neuchâtel)

20 May 2015 | *Public Seminar Series*
UNHCR's protection guidelines: what role for external voices?
Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill (All Souls College, University of Oxford)

27 May 2015 | *Public Seminar Series*
Global policy for IDPs: a parallel process?
Dr Phil Orchard (University of Queensland)

28 May 2015 | *Special Seminars & Lectures*
Historical cross-border relocations in the Pacific
Professor Jane McAdam (University of NSW)

10 June 2015 | *Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture*
Innocence: understanding a political concept
Professor Miriam Ticktin (The New School for Social Research)

17 June 2015 | *Special Seminars & Lectures*
How should Europe respond to the Mediterranean refugee crisis?
National Refugee Week Panel Discussion, in association with Oxford Refugee Week

6-24 July 2015 | *Short Course*
International Summer School in Forced Migration
Oxford Department of International Development and Wadham College, Oxford

17-18 July 2015 | *Conference*
Humanitarian Innovation Conference 2015: Facilitating Innovation
Keble College, Oxford

Further information: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events

Forced Migration Review

Disasters and displacement in a changing climate

The latest issue of Forced Migration Review presents a major feature on 'Disasters and displacement in a changing climate', with 36 articles written by researchers, policymakers and practitioners from around the world.

In light of the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters associated with climate change, the number of people displaced in the context of disasters will inevitably rise. The authors in this issue discuss how existing national, regional and international legal regimes currently respond to only some of the protection concerns arising from such displacement, and how crafting an appropriate response will demand a cross-sectoral approach that addresses different forms of human mobility and which also recognises the local knowledge, values and beliefs of affected communities.

In the years since our 2008 issue on 'Climate change and displacement', the relocation of people at risk, the need for adaptation to the effects of climate change and the legal challenges around people displaced by climate-related threats have all been widely debated and researched. The articles in this issue attempt



to reflect the research, the debates and the voices.

In addition to the feature on disasters and climate change, this issue of FMR also includes a mini-feature of five articles addressing some of the issues relating to the practice of **female genital mutilation (FGM)** in respect of asylum. The focus is on asylum in Europe in particular; however, it is obvious – and right – that the implications are applicable beyond the borders of Europe.

General articles: In addition, we have also included five 'general' articles on a range of topics related to forced migration: Cartagena +30, organ trafficking, distrust on the Thai-Burma border, sweet tea in Jordan, and animals and forced migration.

This FMR issue is online at www.fmreview.org/climatechange-disasters. The mini-feature is also available separately at www.fmreview.org/climatechange-disasters/FGM.pdf

Details of our **forthcoming issues** – on 'The Balkans 20 years on from the Dayton Agreement' and 'Thinking ahead: displacement, transition and solutions' – can be found at www.fmreview.org/forthcoming

For more on Forced Migration Review please visit: www.fmreview.org

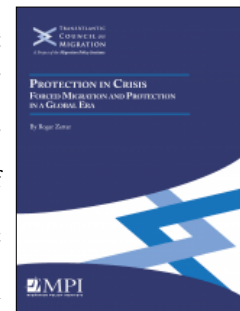
New publications

Protection in Crisis: Forced Migration and Protection in a Global Era

Roger Zetter, MPI report, March 2015

Contemporary drivers of displacement are complex and multilayered, making protection based on a strict, traditional definition of persecution increasingly problematic and challenging to implement. Much displacement today is driven by a combination of intrastate conflict, poor governance and political instability, environmental change, and resource scarcity.

This report details the increasing mismatch between the legal and normative frameworks that define the existing protection regime and the contemporary patterns of forced displacement. It analyses contemporary drivers and emerging trends of population displacement, noting that the majority of forcibly displaced people remain within their own countries. It also assesses key areas where the international protection system is under the most pressure, and examines the key implications of these trends for policymakers and the international community.



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

Update from the Humanitarian Innovation Project

The HIP team have been spending considerable time in the field recently. Louise Bloom and Nina Weaver have been visiting Jordan, Kenya and South Africa for a short study supported by the World Humanitarian Summit, the findings of which will be reported in July. This study will feed into discussions on the theme 'Transformation Through Innovation' at the Summit next May, and is based on the understanding that communities affected by humanitarian crisis around the world are using their skills and creativity to improve the lives of their families and communities every day. This kind of bottom-up innovation is itself a form of humanitarian action, although it is often poorly understood by the international humanitarian community.

Louise and Nina spent time at Jordan's Al Za'atari refugee camp (pictured), currently host to nearly 83,000 Syrians. Despite not having easy access to work permits, informal economic and social innovation in the camp is thriving. Syrian innovators have adapted the camp themselves in many ways, using



the limited resources available. For example, removal men have created wheels to move the 'caravan' homes, provided by the international community, around the camp – a market demand created by families and former neighbours who want to live close together again.

HIP has spent over 2 years researching the capacities of refugees to help themselves, having already looked at refugee innovation and economies in Uganda. In late April, Naohiko Omata visited Kenya, where HIP is hoping to conduct research on refugee economies to build on that already undertaken in Uganda. This trip aimed to explain this existing refugee economies research to the stakeholders and to initiate a constructive partnership between UNHCR Kenya and HIP. Naohiko organised a vibrant 90-minute briefing of *Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions* for UNHCR and the donor community. He also spent two days visiting Kakuma Refugee Camp in Northern Kenya.

For more on HIP please visit: www.oxhip.org

Journal articles

Book Review Symposium on 'Survival Migration: Failed Governance and the Crisis of Displacement'

Alexander Betts (2015) *European Political Science*, 14, 59-73

Working Papers

The rise and fall of the ERPUM pilot: tracing the European policy drive to deport unaccompanied minors

Martin Lemberg-Pedersen, RSC Working Paper 108, March 2015

Innovation spaces: transforming humanitarian practice in the United Nations

Louise Bloom and Romy Faulkner, RSC Working Paper 107, March 2015

Beware states piercing holes into citizenship

Matthew Gibney (Audrey Macklin & Rainer Baubock, eds) (2015), *The return of banishment: do the new denationalisation policies weaken citizenship?*, EUI/RSCAS Working Paper

Further details: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications