



REFUGEE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE



International  
Summer School in

# FORCED MIGRATION

1st- 13th July 2018  
Refugee Studies Centre  
University of Oxford



## WHY STUDY FORCED MIGRATION?

The term 'refugee' bears many different meanings, even in law. While the definition in the 1951 Refugee Convention often dominates, that definition has evolved, and been supplemented by protections for those fleeing not only persecution, but also conflict and other unrest. Studying 'forced migration' opens up debate about the purposes and scope of international protection, and allows us to gain critical distance from entrenched legal and political concepts. It allows us to question the centrality of the state and to consider those internally displaced, as well as other vulnerable migrants on the move due to a complex set of drivers – political, economic and environmental. The term 'forced migration' is deliberately open, and allows us also to question the false binary between 'refugee' and 'economic migrant.'

The RSC's International Summer School fosters dialogue between academics, practitioners and policymakers working to improve the situation of refugees and other forced migrants. It provides the time and space for them to reflect on their experiences and to think critically about some of the aims and assumptions underlying their work.

## WHO IS THE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR?

The Summer School is principally designed for policymakers and practitioners working on refugee protection and related issues, normally with several (usually at least five) years of work experience. Participants typically include staff of the main refugee, migration and humanitarian international organisations; staff from refugee, human rights and humanitarian NGOs; and government officials working on refugee protection and related issues. We are particularly keen to include those from a refugee background who work for refugee advocacy and community groups.

Participants also include scholars and researchers working directly on refugee and forced migration issues; practicing lawyers and advocates working on refugee and human rights law pertaining to forced migrants; journalists, commentators and activists working on refugee protection and the human rights of forced migrants.

## WHY PARTICIPATE?

The Summer School offers an intensive, interdisciplinary and global approach to the study of forced migration. It enables people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the world of the displaced.

Now in its 29th year, the two-week intensive course combines the very best of Oxford University's academic excellence with a stimulating and participatory method of critical learning and reflection.

### Testimonials from former participants:

*The Refugee Studies Centre's Summer School provides a great opportunity for practitioners to take time out to reflect on some of the theoretical and operational challenges involved in responding to forced displacement. As an alumna almost 20 years ago, I've experienced first-hand the benefits of learning from the RSC's world-class expertise on these issues. I have returned to the RSC Summer School to lecture several times, and have always been met by a fantastic atmosphere and engaging participants. Whether as an introduction to displacement or simply a refresher to seasoned professionals, this comes highly recommended!*

Sara Pantuliano, Managing Director, Overseas Development Institute 2000

*The summer school exceeded my expectations in every respect. Excellent speakers and academic input combined with opportunity to network with participants from across the globe made for both an enjoyable learning environment and a deeper understanding of the law and challenges around forced migration.*

John Vine CBE QPM (Former Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration UK) 2015

*I strongly believe that my participation in the Summer School will have a direct impact on my work and improve the quality of my interventions through my current functions within UNHCR. This course has deepened my understanding of law, best practices, and the development and history of the conceptualization and response to forced migration across the world. This will allow me to improve my advocacy and contribute to improving the design of protection strategies, policy and guidance in light of the ongoing crisis in Syria and the refugees' dim local integration prospects in Lebanon.*

Stephanie El Rayess, UNHCR 2017

## HOW IS IT STRUCTURED?

### The curriculum

Laying the ground work, participants begin the course by engaging in a reflection on the conceptualisation and globalisation of forced migration, considering the political, legal and anthropological framings of displacement, as well as debating the ethics of border controls. Building on this knowledge, attention then focuses on international and regional refugee law before undertaking a simulation in negotiating institutional responses, concentrating on negotiating strategies in the context of refugee repatriation, and the challenges of internal displacement. Participants are then given two opportunities to specialise in topics of interest such as human smuggling; Palestine refugees and international law; psychosocial support in forced migration settings; and the ethics and politics of humanitarianism (topics may vary from year to year). As the course concludes, participants draw upon their new understandings of forced migration to discuss future challenges. The bespoke curriculum comprises set lectures, carefully selected readings, debates, specially designed case-studies, structured discussions, and simulated negotiations.

## The methodology

The Summer School aims to foster a culture of the reflective practitioner while also practising and developing skills useful in the workplace. The course takes an active learning approach, requiring lots of participation in group discussion and activities. Participants engage in various group and individual learning activities, providing many opportunities to share insights and experiences. Each participant is allocated to a tutor group, sometimes working in these small groups, at other times in larger groups.

## The teaching

Lecturers, tutors and seminar leaders are drawn both from the Refugee Studies Centre and from outside institutions. They include research staff, academics and professionals from a number of disciplines and practices, including anthropology, politics, law, psychology, international relations, and social development.

## The participants

Around 70–80 participants from all over the world study together, take part in group activities and produce independent presentations. Participants have the time and space to reflect on their own work and to benefit from the international mix and varied professional experience of other participants.

## Language of instruction

All teaching and instructional materials are in English.

## A typical day

While there is variation across the course, modules usually begin with a plenary lecture by a leading international expert, followed by work in tutor groups. This work involves individual reading of handbook material and tutor-led group discussion that culminates in an exercise (e.g. a simulation, debate, or presentation). Evening sessions usually involve less formal sessions and film evenings.



Semi-plenary teaching session with Professor Cathryn Costello, 2016

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME?

### The conceptualisation of forced migration

The course begins by examining and assessing different conceptualisations of forced migration, including legal, anthropological and political approaches.

### Causes, patterns and consequences

The course analyses links between forced migration and processes and patterns of globalisation. It considers ways of addressing the tension between a globalised world of free circulation of capital, investment and resources, and the barriers to movement facing refugees and other migrants. Optional modules and evening sessions focus on issues such as internally displaced peoples, Palestine refugees, human trafficking and smuggling, and psychosocial support.

### Responses

Key issues raised by responses to forced migration are examined – responses that involve numerous different organisations and agencies with different and often competing interests and values. The law module considers the 1951 refugee definition and sources of complementary protection, including under EU law and under the African refugee protection system. Emphasis on the institutional dimension of forced migration is continued in the negotiation module, which enables reflection on how to navigate the tensions, through the simulation of a humanitarian crisis.

### Festival of Ideas

Participants are given the opportunity to present on their own experience or on key issues, questions or dilemmas they wish to highlight during the optional Saturday Festival of Ideas. As participants bring such a wealth of particular wisdom and experience to the Summer School, we are keen to showcase this knowledge for the mutual benefit of all participants, tutors and members of the Refugee Studies Centre.

### Evening and weekend sessions

An optional programme of films and seminars on topics related to forced migration are offered as well as various social events.

### Time off

This is an intensive course, but participants do have time to relax, work on presentations for the Festival of Ideas and sight see during the evenings and for part of the weekend.



Group work at the Summer School 2016

## RECENT TUTORS AND LECTURERS INCLUDE:

**Professor Susan M. Akram,**  
Boston University School of Law

**Professor Alexander Betts,**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Dawn Chatty,**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Cathryn Costello,**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Heaven Crawley,**  
Coventry University

**Dr Jeff Crisp,**  
Former Senior Director for Policy and Advocacy, Refugees International

**Professor Michelle Foster,**  
University of Melbourne

**Madeline Garlick,**  
UNHCR

**Professor Peter Gatrell,**  
University of Manchester

**Professor Matthew J Gibney,**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Guy S. Goodwin-Gill,**  
University of Oxford

**Filippo Grandi,**  
UNHCR

**Arafat Jamal,**  
UNHCR

**Dr Unni Karunakara,**  
Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs

**Dr Maryanne Loughry,**  
Jesuit Refugee Service

**Professor Alessandro Monsutti,**  
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

**Dr Jason Pobjoy,**  
Blackstone Chambers

**Liesbeth Schockaert,**  
Training, Research and Consultancies in Humanitarian Action

**Professor Tom Scott-Smith,**  
University of Oxford

**Professor Lea Ypi,**  
London School of Economics

**Professor Roger Zetter,**  
University of Oxford



A lively session with Professor Tom Scott-Smith  
at the Summer School 2017

## FUNDERS

The Refugee Studies Centre thanks the following for providing bursary funding to recent summer schools:

- The Asfari Foundation
- Oxford Thinking Campaign
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



## VENUE



Professor Heaven Crawley

Group discussion at 2017  
Summer School

2017 session with Professor  
Matthew Gibney and  
Professor Michelle Foster

Professor Alessandro Monsutti

## THE DETAIL

### When

Annually. In 2018 the dates are 1–13 July.

### Where

At the University of Oxford. In 2018 the Summer School will be held at Wadham College, Harris Manchester College and the Oxford Department of International Development.

### How much

The fee for 2018 is £3,250. Early-bird fee (for fees received by 28 March 2018): £3,100.

### What is included

This covers 13 nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation; all tuition; all course materials, including reading materials; 3 lunches each week; and a range of social activities including welcome and farewell dinners. Evening and weekend meals are not included in the course fee.

### Requirements

Applicants should have:

- experience in working with, or on issues related to, refugees or other forced migrants
- a first degree as a minimum
- proficiency in the English language. As a guide, foreign-language English speakers should be able to obtain a score of 7.00 in ELTS/IELTS or 570 in TOEFL.

### Accommodation

Participants stay in student halls. Accommodation is of general student standard with shared bathrooms. Wifi is provided at Wadham College and there are computer facilities at the Refugee Studies Centre. There are no facilities provided for partners or other family members. Participants arriving before or staying on after the Summer School should make their own accommodation arrangements.

## Subsistence

As well as fees and travel costs, participants should budget for subsistence and incidental expenses during the course. We suggest a minimum of £20–£25 per day. In addition, you might want to add a books/photocopying allowance.

## Funding

Asfari Foundation bursaries are available for Summer School candidates who:

- work on refugee-related issues,
- are from Palestine, Lebanon and Syria,
- **and** reside in the Arab world or Turkey.

Refugee Studies Centre bursaries are available for Summer School candidates who:

- are nationals of a developing country,
- are resident in a developing country,
- **and** whose work concerns refugees and/or forced migration.

Developing countries are defined as those with low or medium levels of human development as classified by the UNDP – see <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>.

Candidates wishing to be considered for bursary support must apply directly via the International Summer School office and not contact the donors.

All eligible bursary applicants are required to submit a 500 word bursary statement. Further details can be found on the application form.

Please note the deadline for a bursary application to the International Summer School is 16 February 2018.

Should additional funding become available details will be made available on the Refugee Studies Centre website.

## Insurance

Participants are responsible for their own insurance. Participants from outside the European Union should consider medical insurance if their country does not have a reciprocal agreement with the UK for free medical treatment.

## International Summer School Contact

Co-ordinator: Susanna Power

## How to apply

Please apply online at [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school), together with a personal statement and your curriculum vitae.

## Deadlines

Closing date for bursary applications: 16 February 2018.

Closing date for all other applications: 30 April 2018.\*

\* Apply and pay Summer School fees by 28 March to qualify for the early-bird discount.

As there are a limited number of places available and the Summer School is typically oversubscribed, we cannot guarantee that there will still be places available by or on the fees deadline date. For this reason we recommend that you apply early and if successful confirm your place as soon as possible.

## Please send all applications and enquiries to:

Susanna Power

Summer School Co-ordinator

Refugee Studies Centre

Oxford Department of International Development

University of Oxford, 3 Mansfield Road,

Oxford, OX1 3TB, UK

**Tel:** +44 (0)1865 281728/9

**Email:** [summer.school@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:summer.school@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

**Website:**

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



## Refugee Studies Centre

“Today, there is a global crisis of displacement. Over 50 million people are displaced, more than at any time since the Second World War. The drivers of forced migration are growing in complexity, with persecution, conflict, natural disasters, fragile states, and food insecurity leading people to become refugees or be internally displaced. In this context, there is a great need for independent and critical scholarship on the causes, consequences, and responses to forced migration. The Refugee Studies Centre is the world’s leading research and teaching institution dedicated to the study of forced migration. Through our work, we aim to shape the agenda for policy and practice.”

## Professor Alexander Betts

Leopold Muller Professor of  
Forced Migration and  
International Affairs,  
Refugee Studies Centre

Front cover image:  
© UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari  
The night before Eid in Zaatari camp.

