



REFUGEE
STUDIES
CENTRE

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a barbed wire fence, with a person in a red jacket visible in the background through the wire.

International
Summer School in
**FORCED
MIGRATION**

4 - 22 July 2016
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 in some regions 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 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. 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.

Testimonials from 2015 participants:

"Thank you very much for providing a life-changing opportunity. At the summer school, I've met so many wonderful people (inside and outside the programme!). I would never have thought that this programme would turn out to be such a wonderful experience... I will never forget this summer – thank you again!"

"The atmosphere in our group/working dynamic was excellent – we couldn't have asked for a better tutor. The exercises that we do are a really effective way to learn, rather than simply debate readings."

"The summer school contributed profoundly to my understanding of the global legal framework of refugee issues, refugee-related institutions and the academic debates."

WHY PARTICIPATE?

The Summer School offers an intensive, interdisciplinary and participative approach to the study of forced migration. 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. Now in its 27th year, the three-week course combines the very best of Oxford University's academic excellence with a stimulating and participatory method of critical learning and reflection.

HOW IS IT STRUCTURED?

The curriculum

Over three weeks, the course looks at the complex phenomenon of forced migration from a number of different angles. Beginning with reflection on the diverse ways of conceptualising forced migration, the course considers the political, legal and ethical issues associated with contemporary displacement. Individual course modules (which vary from year to year) also tackle a range of other topics, such as Palestine refugees, human smuggling, and humanitarian principles. The bespoke curriculum comprises set lectures, carefully selected readings (with reading time), 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, days often 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.

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, Palestinian refugees, human trafficking and smuggling, livelihoods, and post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction.

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 durable solutions for refugees are negotiated in a post-conflict setting.

Evening and weekend sessions

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

Time off

During the second week, participants have one weekday off during the course to relax, work on their own research, or sightsee (many participants travel to London).



Wadham College

RECENT LECTURERS INCLUDE:

Professor Susan Akram, Boston University School of Law
Professor Bridget Anderson, University of Oxford
Professor Alexander Betts, University of Oxford
Professor Chaloka Beyani, London School of Economics
Dr David Cantor, University of London
Professor Dawn Chatty, University of Oxford
Professor B. S. Chimni, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Roberta Cohen, Brookings Institute
Professor Cathryn Costello, University of Oxford
Dr Jeff Crisp, University of Oxford
Jean-François Durieux, University of Oxford
Dr Alice Edwards, University of Oxford
Madeline Garlick, Radboud University
Professor Matthew J Gibney, University of Oxford
Professor Geoff Gilbert, University of Essex
Professor Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, University of Oxford
Filippo Grandi, Former Commissioner-General, UNRWA
Professor Elspeth Guild, University of London and Radboud University
Dr Anne Hammerstad, University of Kent and the South African Institute of International Affairs
Dr Jason Hart, University of Bath
Professor Walter Kälin, University of Bern
Dr Khalid Koser, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
Professor Hélène Lambert, University of Westminster
Dr Maryanne Loughry, Jesuit Refugee Service
Professor Philip Marfleet, University of East London
Professor Jane McAdam, University of New South Wales
Professor Alessandro Monsutti, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Liesbeth Schockaert, Training, Research and Consultancies in Humanitarian Action
Professor Tom Scott-Smith, University of Oxford
Dr Dallal Stevens, University of Warwick
Eva Svoboda, Overseas Development Institute
Professor John Taylor, London South Bank University
Professor Roger Zetter, University of Oxford
Dr Reuven (Ruvi) Ziegler, University of Reading

FUNDERS

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

- The Asfari Foundation
- The Saïd Foundation
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Institute of International Education (IEE) with the Open Society Arab Regional Office



VENUE



Tutor group session

Elspeth Guild

Filippo Grandi

Farewell dinner at Wadham College

THE DETAIL

When

Annually. In 2016 the dates are 4 – 22 July.

Where

At the University of Oxford. In 2016 the Summer School will be held at Wadham College and the Oxford Department of International Development.

How much

The fee for 2016 is £3,380. Early-bird fee (apply and register by 31 March 2016): £3,205.

What is included

This covers 19 nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation; all tuition; all course materials, including reading materials; and a range of social activities. Lunches, 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

Accommodation is of general student standard. 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.

Use of the Refugee Studies Centre library collection

The programme provides a course pack of reading materials. Many more documents are available in the University of Oxford's Social Science Library, which houses the Refugee Studies Centre collection.

Funding

Saïd Foundation bursaries are available for Summer School candidates who work on refugee-related issues from Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan (or Palestinians and Syrians resident in the Arab world). Candidates wishing to be considered for bursary support must apply directly via the International Summer School office and not contact the donors directly. Please note the deadline for a bursary application to the International Summer School is 1 February 2016.

Should additional funding become available details will be provided 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 team

Director: Professor Cathryn Costello
Co-ordinator: Tara-Sienna Hartman

How to apply

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

Deadlines

Closing date for bursary applications: 1 February 2016.

Closing date for all other applications: 1 May 2016.*

* Apply and register payment by 31 March to qualify for the early-bird discount.

As the summer school is typically oversubscribed, we recommend that you apply early.

Please send all applications and enquiries to:

Tara-Sienna Hartman, Summer School Co-ordinator

Refugee Studies Centre

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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
Director, Refugee Studies Centre