



REFUGEE
STUDIES
CENTRE



International
Summer School in

FORCED MIGRATION

6 - 24 July 2015
Refugee Studies Centre
University of Oxford



WHY STUDY FORCED MIGRATION?

The term 'refugee' means many things to different people. Even its formal distinction, as defined by the 1951 Geneva Convention, is regularly challenged and under perennial review by academics, governments and humanitarian agencies. According to the Convention a refugee is someone who, 'owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'.

At the beginning of the 21st century, nearly 60 years after this definition was enshrined in international law, there are many other forcibly displaced people around the world who do not easily fit within the formal category. They and their rights are in urgent need of protection. We live in a rapidly changing world in which human migration has a significant impact on the economic, political and social agendas of sovereign states, intergovernmental agencies and civil society groups. It is vital that forced migrants – be they refugees, internally displaced people or those who have to move for other reasons such as global warming or development projects – have their rights defined and their freedom preserved.

Understanding the causes and consequences of forced migration and possessing the practical skills to deal effectively with its challenges are essential, both for the development of effective programmes to assist refugees, and in addressing the root causes of human displacement.

The Refugee Studies Centre'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?

Mid-career and senior policymakers and practitioners involved with humanitarian assistance and policy making for forced migrants. Participants typically include host government officials, intergovernmental and non-governmental agency personnel engaged in planning, administering and co-ordinating assistance.

Researchers specialising in the study of forced migration.

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 26th 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 wellbeing issues associated with contemporary displacement. Individual course modules also tackle a range of other topics, including globalisation and forced migration, and negotiating strategies in humanitarian situations.

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 to the transfer of knowledge. Participants engage in reflection–analysis–synthesis–teamwork, via critical engagement with lectures, readings, case studies, interactive exercises and the sharing of 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 seminars by experts on current topics related to forced migration.

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 refugee definition, first asylum and emergency protection for people fleeing from conflict, and complementary protection and other contemporary issues. 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.

Individual presentations

Time is set aside for participants to produce and present an independent piece of work. The aim is for participants to reflect on their professional practice in the context of the course, and also to consider the course in the light of personal experience. To help with this task participants have access to the Refugee Studies Centre's unique library collection of nearly 40,000 books and documents that are vital to the study and understanding of current refugee issues.

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 individual presentation, or sight-see (many participants travel to London).

RECENT LECTURERS

Karen Koning Abu-Zayd, Former Chief-Commissioner, UNRWA

Susan M Akram, Clinical Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law

Alexander Betts, Associate Professor of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

Bridget Anderson, Professor of Migration and Citizenship, COMPAS, University of Oxford

Chaloka Beyani, Associate Professor of International Law, Law Department, London School of Economics

David James Cantor, Director of the Refugee Law Initiative, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London

Dawn Chatty, Professor of Anthropology and Forced Migration, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

B S Chimni, Professor, Centre for International Legal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Roberta Cohen, Non-resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy, Brookings Institute

Jeff Crisp, Senior Director, Refugees International

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Lecturer in Human Geography, University College London

Madeline Garlick, Guest Researcher, Radboud University

Guy S Goodwin-Gill, Professor of International Refugee Law, All Souls College, University Of Oxford

Elsbeth Guild, Jean Monnet Professor ad personam, Queen Mary University

Jason Hart, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath

Khalid Koser, Deputy Director and Academic Dean, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Walter Kälin, Professor of Law, University of Bern

Hélène Lambert, Professor of International Law, Department of Advanced Legal Studies, University of Westminster

Dennis McNamara, Senior Humanitarian Adviser, Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva

Alessandro Monsutti, Associate Professor, Anthropology and Sociology of Development, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

John Taylor, Professor of International Development, London South Bank University

John David Vine, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration

Reuven Ziegler, Lecturer in Law, 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 Dept of Foreign Affairs
- Insitute of International Education (IEE) with the Open Society Arab Regional Office



THE ASFARI FOUNDATION

VENUE



Wadham College dining room

Participants

Tutor group session

Wadham College

THE DETAIL

When

Annually. In 2015 the dates are 6 - 24 July.

Where

At the University of Oxford. In 2015 the summer school will be held at Wadham College and the Oxford Department of International Development.

How much

The fee for 2015 is £3,300.

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 a 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.

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.

Funding

Asfari Foundation and Saïd Foundation bursaries are available for Summer School candidates who work on refugee-related issues from Palestine, Lebanon and Syria (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 March 2015.

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

International Summer School team

Manager: Heidi El-Megrisi

Assistant: Tara-Sienna Hartman

Apply online

www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/international-summer-school

Deadline for bursary applications: 1 March 2015

Closing date for all other applications: 1 May 2015

Closing date for receipt of all course fees: 15 May 2015

A non-refundable deposit of £150 is required to confirm acceptance of a self-/employer-funded offer of place. Places cannot be guaranteed after 15 May without full payment of course fees.

In the event of cancellation by the participant, the following terms apply:

Cancellations received after the closing date but before 1 June – 10% of the course fee is non-refundable.

Cancellations received 1–14 June – 50% of the course fee is non-refundable. Cancellations received after 14 June – 100% of the course fee is non-refundable.

Data will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1984 and used for internal purposes only.

Enquiries to: Heidi El -Megrisi

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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

Front cover image:
A Burmese family registers their child for a Thai birth certificate at Mae Tao clinic in Mae Sot, Thailand.
IRIN/David Longstreath

