

Message from the President

Susan McGrath, Canada



The role and potential of the **International Association for the Study of Forced Migration** (IASFM) in the field of forced migration is becoming increasingly significant. The UN has identified over 34 million people around the world as being “of concern”. **IASFM** creates spaces for the engagement of researchers, practitioners and policy makers along with people who have experienced displacement to more effectively address the issues of forced movement. There is much that we can do to strengthen our capacity to provide a forum for the development and exchange of knowledge across the sectors.

Our biannual conferences continue to be a priority. Over 200 members gathered for **IASFM12** in Cyprus with the University of Nicosia (UNIC) as our host. John Nassari and his Program Planning Committee did an excellent job of presenting the local issues and the global context. Turkish and Greek Cypriots who have experienced displacement participated. Some of the sessions were held in organizations in the northern part of Nicosia and tours of local agencies and services were popular. Emiliou Solomou and his team at UNIC ensured the efficient flow of the conference and provided us with great food and entertainment. As the Rapporteur, Alex Betts provided a thoughtful summary report.

At the AGM in Cyprus, the sites for the next two conferences were agreed upon. **IASFM13** will be held in Uganda on June 26-30, 2011 with the Refugee Law Project (RLP) in Kampala as our host. This conference will highlight some of the issues that people in the Great Lakes area are facing and engage other actors particularly in South America and South East Asia where similar experiences of displacement are occurring. Chris Dolan is representing RLP on the IASFM EC and Moses Okello of RLP is chairing the Program Planning Committee. **IASFM14** will be hosted by the Calcutta Research Group in 2013. Ranabir Sanabar and Paula Bannerjee will be organizing the conference.

The AGM also saw changes in the executive committee. We expressed our appreciation to Laura Hammond, Georgia Dona and Ronald Kalyango for their contributions to **IASFM** as EC members. We elected Alex Betts as our new Fundraising Officer, Martin Jones and Danesh Jayatilaka as Program Affairs and Innovation Officers and Paula Popovici as our new Communications Officer. Paula Bannerjee continues as Vice-President, Roberto Vidal as Secretary and Mike Collyer as Treasurer. I will continue as President until the next conference in 2011. Beth Mercurio at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), Georgetown

University and Michele Millard at the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS), York University are providing ongoing administrative support. John Nassari is staying on in the new position of Artistic Director.

Paula Popovici is updating our website (www.iasfm.org) and working to improve our communications with the membership. We are using the Refugee Research Network (RRN) website to host the interactive working group sites, please check in at www.refugeeresearch.net. Danesh and Martin are establishing working groups on IDPs and international refugee law there. IASFM is an institutional member of the RRN and we encourage all of you to become individual members; directions on how to become a member are available by accessing the RRN website. RRN is a multi-year initiative based at the CRS at York University and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to support the development of strategic knowledge clusters. Its goal is to mobilize knowledge to benefit people who have been displaced. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the RRN or suggestions on how to strengthen the role of IASFM.

Please mark June 26-30, 2011 in your calendar for IASFM13 in Uganda!

Table of Contents

IASFM Executive Committee 2009–2011	page 3
The IASFM 12 th Conference Report – Excerpts	page 7
The IASFM 13 th Conference's Host	page 9
The IASFM 13 th Conference: Governing Migration	page 10
The IASFM 14 th Conference – Plans	page 12
IASFM – Working Groups	page 13

IASFM Executive Committee 2009 - 2011

President: Susan McGrath



Dr. Susan McGrath is Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies and Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at York University. She serves as a member of the boards of the Ontario Metropolis Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement, the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture and the journal *Refuge*. Her research and writing focus on community work with vulnerable populations, including refugees. Current funded projects explore the impact of collective trauma on community practice with refugees, GLBTT and Aboriginal populations and examine social sustainability among newcomers in three Canadian cities. Recently, she and colleagues in Canada and Sudan studied enterprise development needs in camps for the internally displaced in Southern Sudan and Darfur. Dr. McGrath is the principal investigator of a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Strategic Knowledge Cluster grant to support the development of Refugee Research Networks across Canada and globally.

Past-President: Susan F. Martin



Dr. Susan Martin, the Donald G. Herzberg Associate Professor of International Migration, serves as the Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. A long-time expert on immigration and refugee policy, Dr. Martin came to Georgetown after having served as the Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, which made its final report to Congress in September 1997, issuing recommendations to reform immigration policy, institute immigrant policies to help newcomers and communities in which they settle, reinvigorate U.S. leadership in refugee policy, and restructure the federal agencies responsible for implementing immigration policy. Prior to joining the Commission's staff, Professor Martin was the Director of Research and Programs at the Washington-based Refugee Policy Group. Professor Martin has authored *Refugee Women* and *The Uprooted: Improving Humanitarian Responses to Forced Migration*, as well as numerous monographs and articles on immigration and refugee policy.

Vice President: Paula Banerjee



Dr. Paula Banerjee specializes in issues of conflict and peace in South Asia. She has published extensively on issues of gender and forced migration and on autonomy. She is author of the book *When Ambitions Clash* and editor of the book *Women in Peace Politics*. Banerjee has co-edited a book on *Internal Displacement in South Asia* (2005) and *Autonomy Beyond Kant and Hermeneutics* (2007). She has been working on themes related to women, borders and democracy in South Asia and has published extensively in journals such as *International Studies* and *Canadian Women's Studies* on issues such as histories of borders and women in conflict situations. Banerjee is on the editorial board of a number of international journals such as *Prachya* and *Forced Migration Review*.

Currently, she is the Head of the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta.

Treasurer: Michael Collyer



Dr. Michael Collyer completed his PhD at Sussex, exploring recent developments in the Euro-Algerian migration system. He then held a Nuffield Foundation New Career Development Fellowship between Sussex and Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Tétouan, Morocco. He is currently in Sri Lanka, supported by a Marie Curie Outgoing International Fellowship, based at the University of Colombo. He was appointed to a Lectureship in Human Geography in September 2006. Michael is interested in the relationship between migrants and states. This leads to a particular focus on forced, temporary and undocumented migrations, the political organisation of Diaspora communities and the development of extra-territorial citizenship. Recent research projects have concerned undocumented migrants and refugees in Morocco, constructions of transnational space in the Moroccan Diaspora, and the resettlement process as experienced by refugees from Kenya in Brighton. His current research explores internal displacement, readmission and return in Sri Lanka.

Secretary: Roberto Vidal



Dr. Roberto Vidal is Senior Lecturer at the Law School of the Jesuit University Bogotá, Colombia and Director of the Research Group on Legal Theory and Political Philosophy, Law and Migration Project. He has researched the legal issues around internal displacement in Colombia. Recently he has worked on advocacy of asylum seekers and legislation and public policy on human trafficking. At present, he leads a project of legal clinics for international migrants in Bogotá. Vidal's main subjects of interest include: critical theories of migration, law and migration, internal displacement law, refugee law, human rights of migrants, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, immigration law and practices, and legal agency by migrants.

Programme Affairs and Innovation: Martin Jones and Danesh Jayatilaka



Martin Jones is a lecturer in international human rights law at the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York (UK). He has previously lectured and served as a visiting researcher at Osgoode Hall Law School (Canada), Queen's University (Canada), the Centre for Refugee Studies (Canada), the University of East London (UK), Georgetown University (USA), the University of Michigan (USA), the American University in Cairo (Egypt) and, most recently, the University of Melbourne (Australia). Martin is past chair of the IASFM's 11th biennial conference in Cairo. He is managing editor of the journal *Refuge*. Martin is a founding and active member of the Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network, its voluntary director of research and training and a consultant to refugee legal aid organizations in Cyprus, Egypt, Hong Kong, Jordan, Malaysia and Turkey. In 2008, he co-founded the Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights which provides legal aid to refugees and migrants in Egypt. He serves as the chair of the Legal Aid Working Group of the Asia Pacific Network for Refugee Rights, a regional coalition of over 100 NGOs, and sits on its steering committee. He has co-authored a textbook on refugee law in Canada and has published on various topics, including the interpretation of the definition of refugee, refugee status determination and the prohibition on refoulement to torture.

His research interests include the reform of the governance of the international refugee protection regime, the interaction between international and national refugee law, and refugee law in Asia. He is currently working on a project funded by the US Institute for Peace to develop in partnership with local legal aid NGOs networks of pro bono lawyers to assist refugees in securing protection in eight jurisdictions in Asia.



Danesh Jayatilaka recently started his PhD at the University of Colombo. He was previously with UNDP and UNOCHA, involved with monitoring developmental projects and coordinating humanitarian activities in Sri Lanka. Prior to his UN experience Danesh worked at various capacities with the Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies, Brookings project on IDPs, IOM, GTZ, and CARE covering topics such as vulnerability analysis and protection advocacy, human smuggling, conflict transformation, and peace building. He has consistently presented his research findings at the various IASFM conferences since 2002 with latest areas of interest including new methodologies for IDP protection, the relief-recovery nexus, and streamlining developmental assistance for resettlement. Danesh has Masters and Bachelors degrees in Business Administration from Sri Lanka and the USA and received training on forced migration at the RSC in Oxford

Programme Committee Chair: Moses Chrispus Okello



Moses Chrispus Okello first joined the The Refugee Law Project (RLP), Faculty of Law, Makerere University as a volunteer in 2000-2001. After completing his Master's in International Human Rights Law and post Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo, he returned to the RLP as a Research & Advocacy Officer in January 2005 and is currently the Head of Research and Advocacy Department. He has led numerous field trips in districts throughout north, east and western Uganda and has contributed to a number of RLP publications. In addition, Moses has contributed book chapters as well as published in internationally acclaimed peer reviewed journals. Moses has also recently been asked to join the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Transitional Justice. Moses' research interests include conflict analysis, forced migration, transitional justice and international human rights law more broadly.

Artistic Director: John Nassari



Dr. John Nassari is senior lecturer in Refugee Studies and an international artist at the University of East London. His areas of research and expertise include refugee narrative, the study of refugee representations and memory and identity in protracted refugee situations. He has exhibited his practiced-based research nationally and internationally and is the director of PhotoInsight, an online art and theory website dedicated to issues in forced migration. John works with multidisciplinary approaches in Refugee Studies and has published widely on refugee representation, identity, memory and narrative. John's recent work relates to the representation of Palestinian refugee narrative in digital archives. Dr. Nassari recent publications include, 'The difficulties of archives: representing refugee identity ' in Kate Goodnow, (Ed) *Museums, Refugees, Participation and New Media*, Berghahn books: New York/Oxford (forthcoming), 'Digitising Palestinian identity: Technobiographies and the problems of representation', in *Journal of Media Practice*, Intellect, (2008) and 'Postmemory blues: the predicament of arriving and returning,'

in Stephanos Stephanides, (Ed), *Cultures of Memory, Memories of Culture*, Cyprus: Nicosia Press (2007).

Fundraising and Development: Alexander Betts



Dr. Alexander Betts is the Hedley Bull Research Fellow in International Relations at the University of Oxford, where he is also Director of the MacArthur Foundation-funded Global Migration Governance project and a Fellow of Wadham College. His research focuses on the international politics of migration and refugee protection, with a geographical focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. He is the author of numerous books, including *UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection into the Twenty-First Century* (with Gil Loescher and James Milner, Routledge, 2008), *Forced Migration and Global Politics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), *Protection by Persuasion: International Cooperation in the Refugee Regime* (Cornell, 2009), *Refugees in International Relations* (with Gil Loescher, Oxford, 2010), and *Global Migration Governance* (Oxford, forthcoming). His work has been published in a range of peer reviewed journals including *Global Governance*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, and *Refugee Survey Quarterly*. His current book project, *Survival Migration: Old Regimes, New Challenges*, examines national and international institutional responses to people who flee an existential threat to which they have no access to a domestic remedy but who fall outside the dominant interpretation of the 1951 Convention, looking comparatively at responses to Zimbabwean, Congolese and Somali survival migrants within Sub-Saharan Africa. Outside of academia, he has worked as a consultant to UNHCR, IOM and the Council of Europe, and as an advisor to numerous governments and NGOs. He will spend 2010-11 teaching and researching at Stanford University.

Communications: Paula Popovici



Paula Popovici is currently pursuing a PhD in Philosophy and a Graduate Diploma Program in Refugee and Migration Studies with the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University. She has double majored in Moral and Political Philosophy with the University of Bucharest and in Statistics in Economy with the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest. Her current research is trying to bring together the philosophical understanding of the concept of violence and the reality of violence for women in conflict and post-conflict zones. Paula Popovici is also deeply engaged in the development of the Refugee Research Network (www.refugeeresearch.net), both as a researcher and as the lead of one of its clusters: New Scholars Network. The New Scholars Network is dedicated to graduate students undertaking research in the field of forced migration studies and, also, to practitioners and policy makers in junior positions whose work is related to refugee and forced migration issues.

The IASFM 12th Conference Report - Excerpts¹

Alexander Betts, UK



Our host, University of Nicosia
www.unic.ac.cy

Forced Migration Studies: 'Who Are We and Where are We Going?'²

The theme of the conference – boundaries – reflected the venue for the conference. The call for papers and many of the presentations reflected the overall theme exploring boundaries across three areas: policy, identity and community. In many ways, though, what emerged from the conference was a reflexive turn and an introspection about what Forced Migration Studies is: it generated an analytical reflection on IASFM's own identity, community and policies as the principal focal point for the meeting of academics, policy-makers and practitioners working on forced migration. Previous conferences had questioned and debated whether our field of study should be defined as Refugee Studies or Forced Migration Studies; at IASFM12, the consensus had generally emerged in favour of the latter but this left open the question of what the contours of Forced Migration Studies could and should be. At a time when the dynamics of forced migration and migration in general are in transition – with declining asylum space in the North, diminishing humanitarian space in the South, and with the emergence of new meta-challenges such as the global economic crisis, the implications of climate change, and the transition in power towards China and India – the opportunity to reflect on the scope, focus, and boundaries of our own work, as an association, was particularly welcome.

The conference theme was uniquely appropriate to the location of the event. By simply walking past the barbed wire fences of the border zone or crossing to the North in the old town, one was struck by the significance of boundaries in everyday life, and in defining identity, community, and policy. Indeed, while the location provided significant food for thought, many of the panels did too. Those panels with coherent, common themes stood out as offering particularly interesting insights.

The conference revealed that the boundaries of policy, identity, community are being challenged and reconstructed. Nick Van Hear highlighted in his opening address how forced migration is undergoing significant turbulence, transition and change, and these themes were constantly revisited in ways that highlighted new challenges and

¹ The full report will appear in the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and will also be posted on the IASFM website at www.iasfm.org.

² This conference report – despite its imperfections – is dedicated to John Nassari to say thank you for all of his tireless work as Chair of the Programme Committee for IASFM 12. Never has it been truer to say that something simply couldn't have happened without the role of a particular individual.

research agendas for forced migration studies. The very nature of forced migration is shifting, and the conference highlighted the need for research and policy responses to a range of groups often neglected in forced migration studies. Work on stateless people, urban refugees, survival migrants, and environmental displacement all highlighted groups and situations that fell outside the immediate purview of 'refugee studies' but are of increasing importance within forced migration, requiring the development of new research and innovative work by practitioners.

In his plenary address, Jeff Crisp reminded us that the changing context of forced migration – with the emergence of new drivers of forced migration and a new global political context for UNHCR's work - poses significant challenges to the global refugee regime. This theme was picked up in a number of panels with Charles Keely reflecting on the 'ruin' of the regime, others considering the role of the externalisation of asylum policy, and the growing trend in states 'bypassing without violating' the 1951 Convention. The Cypriot Minister of the Interior, Mr Sylikiotis aptly illustrated this point by highlighting how his government was exploring cooperation with Third Countries and "links with the countries of origin" through "bilateral agreements". Numerous participants raised the issue of the changing role of UNHCR in the context of inter-agency competition.

In the face of new problems and emerging policy responses, there is therefore a need for new understanding: for research within Forced Migration Studies to adapt. What could and should a Forced Migration Studies research agenda look like, and where should IASFM fit within this? IASFM's strength is in enhancing understanding through the interaction of academia, policy and practice based around rigorous academic work, in order to in turn inform policy and practice. It can and should be unashamedly academic in its attempts to develop rigorous and high quality research – but should draw upon the insights of practitioners as a crucial aspect of attempting to understand and explain forced migration, and engage policy-makers as an integral part of making the knowledge generated matter. In other words, IASFM's primary goal should be to 'understand in order to inform'.

The conference also highlighted a range of important and emerging research questions that may begin to shape the contours of the field in coming years, among those five topics stood out as having a major (and relatively new) impact on the conference: Understanding movement and integrating the study of forced migration studies within migration theory in order to develop a more nuanced understanding of decision-making and choice; Exploring the implications of the new drivers of forced migration – including environmental change, state fragility and livelihoods failure; Developing the concept of humanitarian and protection space in the context of the evolving nature of conflict; Taking account of the linkages between forced migration and conflict, post-conflict reconstruction, peace-building, and transitional justice; Reassessing the global governance of forced migration.

The conference demonstrated that forced migration is in transition – at the level of policy, practice and academic research. Meta-level changes are creating new drivers of forced migration, while changes in global politics are changing international institutional responses to protection and displacement. These changes arguably make Forced Migration Studies more relevant than ever, and should create new impetus for academics, practitioners and policy-makers to come together in order to understand, explain and respond to these emerging challenges.

The IASFM 13th Conference's Host

The host of the IASFM13 will be the **Refugee Law Project (RLP)**, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. **RLP** was established in 1999 to provide legal aid to asylum seekers and refugees in Uganda. This was in response to an extensive research project led by Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond and Dr Guglielmo Verdirame. They found that, despite Uganda's strong international reputation for providing asylum to refugees, refugees did not always enjoy their rights in accordance with domestic and international law.

Since then, the provision of legal aid has been supported by adding a psycho-social unit which provides clients with counseling and referrals on a range of non-legal matters, including sexual and gender based violence, access to medical care, housing and education. The provision of direct support is complemented by education and training activities. These are targeted both at duty bearers such as police, immigration officers, judges, magistrates and local government officials, and also at refugees themselves.

In particular, **RLP** has a well-established English language training program which helps refugees to speak on their own behalf in encounters with officials and Ugandan citizens. All these activities are supported by an active research and advocacy department which seeks to provide the necessary empirical support for any debate about policy and legislation, and to advocate on behalf of our client base.

Over the last ten years the focus of **RLP** has broadened. While **RLP** started by looking exclusively at the situation of refugees and asylum seekers, it has become increasingly important also to assist other forced migrants, notably Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and deportees. **RPL** has also found it important to consider the question of transitional justice as it affects forcibly displaced populations. As such, the overall focus of the **RLP** can now be described as Justice & Forced Migration.

You can find more information about the RLP by accessing the website: www.refugeelawproject.org.

The IASFM 13th Conference: Governing Migration

Moses Chrispus Okello, Uganda

This conference aims to explore key dimensions of the relationship between forms and tools of governance, on the one hand, and patterns and experiences of forced migration, on the other.

- To what extent is lack of 'good governance' a factor in generating forced migration?
- Are some rights violations and particular types of 'weak state' more intimately related to forced migration than others?
- How does the governance of migration intersect with other areas of governance, such as identity, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity?
- What can be said about the international refugee rights regime and the more recent IDP Guiding Principles as forms of international and/or global governance which both contribute to and detract from the protection of forced migrants?
- Does the gradual emergence of regional blocs such as the EU, OAS, SADC, ECOWAS and the East African Community create another layer of governance with particular beneficial or negative impacts on forced migration?
- Do discourses and policies of 'Good Governance' help to stabilize situations and thereby contribute towards 'durable solutions' and a reduction in forced migration – or can they be better understood as a direct or indirect cause of it?
- How is the relatively new field of Transitional Justice related to that of Good Governance, and do the fields of Transitional Justice and Forced Migration have anything to offer each other and the broader discussion of Good Governance?

In summary, the conference, under the title 'Governing Migration', will enable a wide-ranging exploration of both the direct and indirect relationships between conflict, governance and forced migration. While relevant to forced migration situations around the globe, the theme has particular resonance in Uganda (the host country for [IASFM13](#)) and the Great Lakes region of which it is part, Latin America and some Asian countries.

The Great Lakes region has seen some of the most extensive forced migration in recent times, including but not limited to the ongoing cycles of violence and forced migration in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the exodus of Rwandans following the 1994 Genocide, the mass internal displacement of people in northern Uganda as a result of interminable 'war' between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, and an influx of Kenyans in the wake of rigged elections in early 2008.

The tabling of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill in late 2009 has also foregrounded the intimate relationship between attempts at governing sexuality and people being forced to move.

While such dynamics are clearly visible in the Great Lakes region, Latin American countries such as Colombia were among the first to experience internal forced migration caused by political conflict, while in Central America lack of labour and post-conflict contexts force people to travel within countries and from country to country.

To enable broad involvement while at the same time seeking to significantly inform key policy discussions, we propose to structure IASFM13 around the following three major themes and one cross-cutting theme, each of which has multiple strands:

1. **Governance and Patterns of Forced Migration:** strands within this should include causes, perpetuation and solutions), meanings and practices of citizenship as part of the experience of forced migration, and the potential of citizenship policies to alter the relationship between forced migrants and the state
2. **Governance and Protection:** sub-themes may include regimes of rights, entitlement, social protection, in addition to other related issues such as property restitution, identities and citizenship (as an indicator or antidote to migration), governance & sexuality?
3. **Conflict, Forced Migration, and Transitional Justice:** key themes within this strand include: To understand how forced migration may be a focus of, and challenge for, post-conflict reconstruction and transitional justice; Transitional Justice as an instrument of good governance; To consider the trauma associated with forced displacement, and the extent to which transitional justice remedies may be used to address this trauma. Should therapy be at the individual, household, or state level? At what point in processes of displacement and return can transitional justice best serve to address the traumas involved? When is justice (or the lack thereof) a cause of forced migration? Could it serve to consolidate durable solutions?
4. **Relating domestic, international and global governance,** whether: in respect to climate change, which, understandably, is not limited to state responsibility but also as a wider global responsibility to protect; as causes of destabilization, factors in (lack of) protection, or help and hindrance to domestic post-conflict recovery

More information about [IASFM13](http://www.iasfm.org) and the Call for Papers will be posted online at www.iasfm.org.

The IASFM 14th Conference - Plans

Our host for the IASMF14 will be the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG).

Born as a facilitating group in support of the peace movement in West Bengal – particularly during the Third Joint Conference of the Pakistan-



India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, an unprecedented public gathering of 400 peace activists of the sub-continent for 4 days in Calcutta in 1996 – the MCRG is now known as the Calcutta Research Group (CRG). The founders were a group of researchers, trade unionists, feminist thinkers and women's rights campaigners, academics, journalists, and lawyers. This

was to be a forum for policy discussion and analysis on issues of democracy, human rights, peace, and justice.

Developing as a forum of mostly young public activists and socially committed researchers, CRG is now well-known for its research, dialogues, and advocacy work. It has carved out a niche for itself in the scholar-activist world for its policy studies on autonomy, human rights, women's dignity, issues of forced displacement and migration, peace and conflict resolution, citizenship, borders and border-conflicts, and other themes relevant to democracy. The emphasis that CRG places on the East and the Northeast in its research and dialogues has now resulted in a strong network of scholars, activists, and institutions in the region.



For more information about the MCRG, please visit the website: www.mcrg.ac.in.

IASFM – Working Groups

Danesh Jayatilaka, Sri Lanka and Martin Jones, UK

Further to expressions of interest made by members at the [IASFM12](#), Nicosia conference to form a series of working groups, 3 disciplines were suggested by way of discussions. These included International Refugee Law (IRL), International Relations (IR), and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The initiative came under the purview of the Programme Affairs and Innovations Officers who, in consultation with others interested, drew up the below TOR with details stipulating the development, functioning, and outcome of the Working Groups (WG).

Working Group - General Terms of Reference

The purpose of the WGs is to allow for collaboration between [IASFM](#) members beyond its biannual conferences. Notwithstanding this purpose, WGs are encouraged (but not required) to organize panels and otherwise support the biannual conferences as part of their activities.

Proposals

Proposals for new WGs or the modification of the terms of reference of the WG should be directed to the Programme Affairs and Innovation Officer(s) on the Executive Committee. Proposals for new WGs should provide clear statement of the purpose and planned activities of the WG. Proposals should also indicate the coordinator(s) of the WG and provide evidence that at least 5 individuals wish to actively participate in such a WG. The Programme Affairs and Innovation Officer(s) will regularly consult with the Executive Committee on proposals received.

Creation and Membership

The creation of new WGs will be announced via the [IASFM](#) listserv. Members of [IASFM](#) may join the WG. Non-members of [IASFM](#) may join the WG but must take out membership in [IASFM](#) no later than the end of the next conference of the Association. For the purposes of determining interest in a WG, non-members of the [IASFM](#) who intend to take out membership no later than the end of the next conference may be counted.

Activities and Reporting

WGs should have a clear and measurable activity (or series of activities). The coordinator(s) of each WG must report on the membership and activities of the WG to the Executive Committee of the IASFM (via the Programme Affairs and Innovation Officer(s)) on a biannual basis (in advance of each biannual conference). Inactive WGs and WG with insufficient active members may be dissolved by the Programme Affairs and Innovation Officer(s).

Support

The [IASFM](#) will initially support the activities of the WGs through its listserv, newsletters, and website and by providing space and time at its biannual conference for WG meetings. The IASFM and each of the WGs will collaborate and work towards securing both general and project funding for WGs and specific WG activities.

The charter was presented to the Executive Committee of the **IASFM** and was approved. Both the IRL and IDP groups presented proposals for their clusters and were formally constituted into such workings groups with activities including organizing dedicated panels for the next conference, sharing information on research findings, sharing details on funding, promoting collaborations and partnerships, encouraging advocacy activities including workshops and publications, and providing feedback to each others concerning working papers and work in progress. The IRL and IDP working groups with their founding members are listed below.

IASFM-WG on International Refugee Law (IRL)

Martin Jones, University of York, UK (Coordinator)
Alice Edwards, University of Oxford, UK (Coordinator)
Angus Francis, Queensland University of Technology, Australia (Coordinator)
Esra Kaytaz, University of Oxford, UK
Matthew Albert, University of Oxford, UK
Sam Cheung, UNHCR, Malaysia
Sivritri Taylor, La Trobe University, Melbourne
Susan Kneebone, Monash University, Melbourne
Phil Orchard, University of Queensland, Brisbane

IASFM-WG on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Danesh Jayatilaka, University of Colombo (Coordinator)
Tamlyn Monson, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Coordinator)
Elizabeth G. Ferris, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Washington DC
Robert Muggah, Small Arms Survey, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
Amrita Lamba, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Rajith W.D. Lakshman, University of Colombo
Kopalapillai Amirthalingam, University of Colombo
Cathrine Brun, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim
Jeff Crisp, UNHCR, Geneva
Shi Guoqing, National Research Center for Resettlement, Hohai University, China
Jian Zhou, National Research Center for Resettlement, China

With procedure needs concluded and the base set presently both the IRL and IDP groups are conducting internal discussions to finalize and move ahead with activities. By way of early external collaborations Forced Migration Online at Oxford has offered to host papers produced by the WGs in its website as well as podcasts of panels. The FMO Discussion List has also been made available for coordinators to disseminate notices and other information.

The **IASFM** encourages others to submit proposals should they wish to form a working group or if they wish to join one that already exists. Note the IR group is yet to be formulated. All communications should be made to Martin Jones (martindavidjones.at@gmail.com) and Danesh Jayatilaka (daneshj.at@hotmail.com).