



**SUSAN KNEEBONE – COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

This is the 5th edition of the IASFM Newsletter, which brings you news about IASFM and related matters. IASFM aims to create a discourse around the causes of forced migration and the issues that stem from it. Our organization brings together academics, practitioners and decision makers from across the globe to discuss the trends of forced migration through conferences such as the upcoming IASFM 14th Conference in January 2013 in Kolkata, India. We aim to create a space where global trends can be discussed and concerns can be raised. The organization also encourages the creation of Working Parties, details of which are on the website (see <http://iasfm.org/working-groups>).

The issues that stem from forced migration will be amplified in years to come with instances of forced migration predicted to be on the increase. According to comments made by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in May 2012, factors causing mass population flight are growing and over the coming decade more people on the move will become refugees or displaced within their own country. UN High Commissioner Antonio Guterres indicates that "the world is creating displacement faster than it is producing solutions." Thus the role of IASFM has enormous relevance.

This year has seen changes in the IASFM Executive Committee with a new President, Chris Dolan, Director of the Refugee Law Project at University of Makerere, Uganda. Hearty thanks are due to the Past President Susan McGrath, who held the position of President of IASFM from 2008 – 2011. Susan as Past President has provided us with a report below. At the 14th IASFM Conference in Uganda the following new Executive Committee members were also elected; Communications - Susan Kneebone, Monash University, Australia; Conference Host Representative - Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group, India; Fundraising and Development - Danesh Jayatilka, University of Sussex, UK and Tara Polzer Ngwato African Centre for Migration and Society, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; Program Affairs and Innovation - Cindy Horst, Peace Institute Oslo, Norway and Moses Chrispus Okello, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Uganda; Program Committee Chair - Priyanca Velath, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Treasurer - Nasreen Chowdroy, Delhi University, India. A list of the complete Executive Committee appears on page 5 of this Newsletter.

The 14th IASFM Conference will be hosted next year for the first time in South Asia by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, India from January 6th-9th, 2013. The Program Committee is headed by Priyanca Mathur Velath whose abridged report on the 13th IASFM Conference in Uganda appears in this newsletter. A longer version of the report is available on our website.

We thank you for your continuing support of the organization and look forward to another successful IASFM conference in India in 2013.\*

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## **MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT SUSAN MCGRATH**

It was an honour to serve as President of IASFM from our AGM/biennial conference in Cairo in 2008, through to that in Cyprus in 2010 to Kampala in 2011. Each conference built upon the previous one with increasing membership, attendance and engagement beyond academic circles. In Kampala, Barbara Harrell Bond commented on how different the conference was from the first conference that she organized in Oxford in the early 80s. This represents the kind of diversity and representation that the organization is seeking to be – including academics, practitioners, policy makers, refugees and people who have been displaced.

While our conferences are successful, a persistent question has been whether we can do more than biennial conferences. As an association of forced migration researchers, what leadership is IASFM able or willing to provide to the field?

Our members have been forming working groups. Danesh Jayatilaka organized a strong IDP working group which mounted several panels at the Kampala conference. Recently, James Simeon and members of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies have been working with IASFM members Georgia Dona and Effie Voutira in a working group on Theorizing Forced Migration which is developing online research and teaching tools. Cindy Horst is working with a group to explore the ethics of forced migration research. Susan Kneebone is organising a group to examine Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking. These working groups promise to contribute to the field of forced migration by improving our research practices and supporting our teaching and practice. The conference in Kolkata will provide a venue for the presentation and discussion of these interesting works.

I believe there are opportunities for our institutionally based research centres to work together more strategically with UNHCR, to provide leadership to the field. As you may know, the Refugee Research Network ([www.refugeersearch.net](http://www.refugeersearch.net)) is a multi-year funded project based at the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, which seeks to promote the mobilization of refugee research knowledge, recognizing that it is generated in many places and in many forms, and to build relationships and strengthen communications among and between academics, practitioners, policy makers, refugees and displaced populations. Our institutional membership includes research centres in Kolkata, Bogota, Johannesburg, Tehran, Washington, Chicago, Sydney, London and Oxford. We are discussing how we can be more closely aligned with IASFM and will present at the Kolkata conference. An issue that the group is addressing is the mobilization of knowledge across what is often portrayed as the Global South & North. In a recent paper, Loren Landau questions if these networks are communities of knowledge or do they represent the tyranny of partnerships. There is much to explore!

IASFM faces organizational challenges. While ISIM at Georgetown University and CRS at York University are continuing to provide secretariat and administrative support, the lack of organisational funding limits the development of new IASFM initiatives and the potential leadership of institutions in the South which have fewer resources. Questions to be explored include whether we can raise more funds from membership fees or possibly secure external funding.

I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their support and contributions during my tenure – special thanks to Mike Collyer who managed the finances in often difficult times, to Paula Popovici who did a great job in Communications (website, newsletter); Alex Betts who served as Fundraising and Development Officer; Roberto Vidal who served as Secretary; Paula Banerjee who served as Vice-President; and, Chris Dolan who organised the highly successful Kampala conference. In the absence of any core funding, we are indebted to Beth Mercurio of Georgetown University who has provided Secretariat and financial management support and to Michele Millard of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University who manages the websites and supports the organization of the conference. Special thanks to Loes van Willigen, a founding member of IASFM, who continues to ensure that we meet the requirements of our registration as a NGO in the Netherlands and that we adhere to our by-laws.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Kolkata!

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## IASFM Executive Committee 2012

### **PRESIDENT**



**Dr. Chris Dolan** is best known for his work on gender dynamics, sexual violence and masculinities in conflict and post-conflict settings. He first worked with Mozambican refugees in South Africa as it was transitioning out of Apartheid in the early 1990s. This led to work with former RENAMO and FRELIMO combatants in Mozambique in the mid-1990s and conflict analysis with Internally Displaced Persons in northern Uganda in the late 1990s. The latter research resulted in the publication of 'Social Torture: The Case of Northern Uganda', 1986-2006 (Berghahn, 2009). After completing his doctorate at the London School of Economics in 2005, he spent a year with UNHCR in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a Reintegration Officer, before taking up his current position in 2006 as Director of the Refugee Law Project, a community outreach project of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University in Kampala.

### **PAST PRESIDENT**



**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 Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture and the journal *Refuge*. Her research and writing focus on community work with vulnerable populations, including refugees. 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.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**



**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. Dr. 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.

## COMMUNICATIONS



**Dr. Susan Kneebone** is a Professor in the Faculty of Law, Monash University where she teaches Forced Migration and Human Rights, International Refugee Law and Practice, and Human Trafficking in Law. She has organized many conferences and workshops on these issues, made submission to many public enquiries and frequently handles media enquiries. She is the author of many articles on these issues and author \ editor of the following books:

*Transnational Crime and Human Rights: Responses to Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion* (Routledge 2012) (co-authored with Julie Debeljak)

*Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and the Rule of Law: Comparative Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

*New Regionalism and Asylum Seekers: Challenges Ahead* (Berghahn, 2007 – with F Rawlings-Sanaei).

## CONFERENCE HOST REPRESENTATIVE



**Dr. Ranabir Samaddar** belongs to the critical school of thinking. His much-acclaimed *The Politics of Dialogue* was the culmination of his long work on justice, rights, and peace. His research has been on migration and refugee studies, the theory and practices of dialogue, nationalism and postcolonial statehood in South Asia, and new regimes of technological restructuring and labor control.

His recent political writings published in the form of a two-volume account, *The Materiality of Politics* (2007), and *The Emergence of the Political Subject* (2009) have challenged some of the prevailing accounts of the birth of nationalism and the nation-state, and have signaled a new turn in critical postcolonial thinking. Earlier a professor in South Asian Studies, he is currently the Director of the Calcutta Research Group.

## FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT



**Danesh Jayatilaka** started his PhD focusing on post-conflict resettlement of IDPs at the University of Colombo in 2010. He is based at the University of Sussex due to winning a Commonwealth scholarship for a split-site doctorate. He was previously with UNDP and UNOCHA, involved with monitoring developmental projects and coordinating humanitarian activities in Sri Lanka. Besides his full time UN experience Danesh has worked at various capacities with the Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies, Brookings project on IDPs, IOM, GTZ, CARE, ILO, and USAID covering

topics such as vulnerability analysis and protection, human smuggling, conflict transformation, peace building, and human trafficking. 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.



**Dr. Tara Polzer Ngwato** is a Senior Researcher with the African Centre for Migration & Society at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She has been conducting research and advocating on migrant and refugee rights in South Africa since 2002 and has a long-standing interest in social development and conflict transformation. Most recently, she has been focusing on evaluating social cohesion interventions in peri-urban settings, and studying policy responses to migration from Zimbabwe. Polzer Ngwato holds a PhD and an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a BA from Cambridge University in Social and Political Sciences.

#### **PROGRAM AFFAIRS AND INNOVATION**



**Dr. Cindy Horst**, Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), is an anthropologist with a specialization in Forced Migration Studies. Her work focuses on refugee livelihoods in protracted refugee situations, in particular exploring transnational aspects such as remittance sending patterns and migration dreams. She has also worked on migration-development links more generally for many years, including diaspora engagement with regions of origin. Dr Horst is the author of 'Transnational Nomads' (Berghahn, 2006), a monograph on how Somalis cope with refugee life in the Dadaab camps of Kenya, and her work has been published in the Journal of Refugee Studies; Conflict, Security and Development; the Refugee Survey Quarterly; Afrika Spectrum; Refuge and International Migration Review. She has led large research projects on protracted refugee situations, transnational engagements, and international humanitarian aid. Cindy is particularly interested in the methodological and ethical challenges of doing fieldwork among forced migrants.



**Moses Chrispus Okello** first joined 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.

#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR**



**Priyanca Mathur Velath** has recently submitted her doctoral thesis on the 'Rights of Development-Induced Displaced Persons in India' at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Having also completed a Masters degree at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, U.K., she has been researching and writing on the policies and politics of forced migration for many years now. She has assisted in preparing the Asia Syllabus of the Refugee Law Reader([www.refugeelawreader.org](http://www.refugeelawreader.org)), co-authored a study of the 'Impact of Indian Nationality Laws on Statelessness' for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, New Delhi and also been founder-member and office-bearer of the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). Having previously served on the Program Committee of the IASFM12 and IASFM11, she is currently Chair of the Program Committee for IASFM14 which is scheduled to take place in Kolkata, India in January 2013.

#### **TREASURER**

**Nasreen Chowdhory** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Delhi University.

Her areas of specialization and interest include Comparative Politics, Politics of India, Ethno – Politics, Forced Migration and Citizenship.

Prior to Delhi University Nasreen was with Concordia University, Canada. She received a UNHCR Fellowship in 1998 and the JRD Tata award in the same year.

Nasreen has had several publications published in the Journal for the Centre for South Asian Strategic Studies.

#### **SECRETARY**



**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 Bogota. Dr. 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.



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## Rapporteur's Report – IASFM 13, Kampala, Uganda, July 3-6, 2011.

**Priyanca Mathur Velath**

### IASFM 13: Governing Migration

As we were drawing away from the Entebbe Airport towards the venue for the 13<sup>th</sup> IASFM, I found myself toying with many questions. Ironically many of them also emerged during the course of this conference – What is just? What is humane? Why do some people make all the decisions for others? Are the views of the forced migrants themselves taken into account? Who *is* indeed 'governing' forced migration? At the end of 3 days packed with 89 panels, that included 3 plenaries, 4 roundtables on 6 themes, 11 films/documentaries and 13 exhibitions/multimedia exhibitions, I was definitely reassured that we are thinking anew.

The roundtables of this conference deliberated on the Kampala Convention and the Refugee Convention; the situation of refugees and human rights defenders; on New Sudan and the return of refugees and IDPs; and fundamental issues such as the debate between the academics and policymakers – and whose research counts in policymaking?

The overarching theme of 'Governing Migration' marked out for this conference was addressed through various sub-themes, that linked it to 'Patterns of Forced Migration', 'Protection of Forced Migrants', 'Global Governance', 'Sexuality and Gender', 'Conflict', 'Transitional Justice' and 'Research Methods'.

**Sexuality and Gender** was not just a theme that ran through academic panels but it also was stunningly debated in the movies/documentaries shown. To cite some examples, the Refugee Law Project's (RLP) documentary, 'Gender Against Men' powerfully challenged many existing assumptions concerning victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) relating to ongoing conflicts in the Great Lakes region of Africa. It challenged the belief that only women and children can be victims of SGBV and its socio-cultural impacts. Panels on Gender and Sexuality further challenged these stereotypes by asking 'Are Men Any Good?' There was debate on the limits of local justice for sexual violence as survivors, particularly male witnesses, often live in isolation, highlighting the need for psycho-social work and networking. The challenge of protecting women during and after conflict was also addressed and research presented showed the disconnect that existed between formal programmes and local contexts or understandings of rape. It showed that the lack of results is linked to poor understanding of the victim's social context and of the interactions between social contexts and programmes.

It was reiterated that the banishment of women from their communities as a result of being victims of gender-based violence should be viewed as forced displacement. It brought into focus the fact that the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) refugee community is generally 'invisible'. Further the criminalisation of sex work has compounded human rights violations and xenophobic beliefs have led to increased violence against sex-workers, as many of them are foreigners.

The theme of **'Patterns of Forced Migration'** re-investigated older issues such as problems of governability and the impact of the state on forced migration. The despair at the ad hoc and discriminatory functioning of state governments was highlighted, particularly in South Asia. The changing scales of controlled mobility were interrogated to bring out the dilemmas confounding **'The Governance of Migration and the Migration of Governance'**. New research showed, for example, in Somalia patterns of displacement have evolved throughout the conflict, worsening the situation as former coping strategies get stretched by elongated conflict. A new and alarming aspect of present day displacement is involuntary immobility which seeks to hold populations captive by persecuting those who seek to leave. It highlighted the significant role played by diasporas, for example the role played by the Somali Diaspora, despite its inability to vote in these affairs. The nature of the relationship described between agencies assisting refugees in the U.K and U.S, for example, was that while most agencies describe themselves as cooperating with their government, they were also striving for policy reform.

An essential questions, **'When is a Durable Solution Durable?'** was examined through the viability of location integrations (for example through 3 specific contexts, namely that of Liberians residing in a refugee camp in Ghana, Rwandans in Uganda and Sudanese in Uganda.) Interconnections between the broader issues of forced migration, good governance and citizenship showed how nationality and citizenship are manipulated to fuel ethnic strife.

A discussion of patterns also brought to the fore the neglected group of **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**, through two excellent sessions that highlighted committed research to those displaced within the borders of their countries and dependent on their state for their rights. Specific case studies from Georgia, Sri Lanka and India highlighted their plight, as did discussion on the UN Guiding Principles, urban IDPs and the concept of national responsibility. Within this group the lost category of the **'Development Induced Displaced'** (DIDs) was also remembered.

The sub theme on **'Protection of forced migrants'** saw some excellent discussion on refugees and education, rethinking the premise that providing higher education to refugees opens up a gateway of opportunities – urging us to think beyond welfare, efficiency, poverty, our approach to emergencies , and to move into considering issues of power and social injustice. It was stressed that geography matters, cautioned about the geopolitics of refugee education and questioned what content is used for refugee education and to what end.

The **politics of protection, asylum-seeking and non-refoulement** in Africa and Asia was also much deliberated on. Sessions on **domesticating international refugee law** and the challenge of **treaty interpretation** looked at such issues as the new refugee regime in Kenya, and at reinterpreting old assumptions such as **'Who is a refugee?'** (how international norms adapt at implementation) and the effect of **'The OAU Refugee Convention'** (what it is not). What emerged from these sessions is the need to understand the abstract legal framework as a baseline for protection standards, to best judge the practices in a given country; the need to look at different levels of engagement with these legal norms and understand that they interact with each other; and to recognise that in practice, many other sociological or economic factors can affect the way international protection standards actually play out on the ground.

When discussing if **local integration** was an impossible durable solution, it emerged that it is important to recognise that the specific needs of refugees and IDP populations shift over time, and differ from the needs of assistance in the immediate post-conflict displacement phase and

in protraction over time. One of the challenges of moving to local integration from encampment is the reality that in some circumstances it involves further displacement to engage in active integration.

While addressing the broader theme of '**Global and forced migration**' it has been sought to re-explore how inclusive is the discourse on reparations. The issue that emerged is that reparations must be seen in the context of protection and that compliance with legislation is a significant problem. Many African states have well drafted legislation but lack the political will for enforcing compliance. Global governance also looked at multiple identities in multiple spaces, by seeing the relationship between identity formation and home and spaces of citizenship in forced migration (for example, in particular with reference to Burundian refugees in Tanzania who have been repatriated to Burundi). New questions were deliberated on such as what happens when forced migrants are first settled. When and how they are repatriated is an issue for local governance for the states (as for the entire Great Lakes Region). We need to rethink the scope of citizenship rights framework; how rights are accumulated and how freedoms to make a 'good life' should be distributed.

Another important question asked was whether the **return of IDPs** and refugees undermines peace building efforts. In answering this question it emerged that one qualitative case study demonstrating that the claim that the return of DPs is necessary for the establishment of peace in armed conflict does not hold true across all cases. There is need to consider whether refugees are an independent or casual variable in peace building efforts.

Finally, the theme of '**Transitional Justice and Conflict and Forced Migration**' was examined through many sessions and panels. Papers and research presented recognised that displacement and human rights issues are increasingly inter-connected and that transitional justice is applied in conflict settings where displacement is also an issue. It was acknowledged that UNHCR needs to do more to address the linkages between truth-telling and durable solutions. Also that one should not forget the highly politicised nature of the TRCs (Truth and Reconciliation Committees) rather than treat them as purely technocratic processes. It was asserted that a gendered perspective on forced displacement and transitional justice is essential; that women are marginalised in the peace process and are vulnerable on return as well. Thus it is imperative to find links between transitional justice and forced displacement to create durable solutions. The social element of re-integration is important, reconciliation requires public trust, and transitional justice needs not only to look forward but also to address past wrong doings.

In the final session there were 300 representatives from various geographical regions and innumerable countries represented amidst us. How could we claim to speak on behalf of forced migrants all over the world? Well if IASFM is an 'ethnic group'; we definitely are one that is spread across the seven seas.

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## Thanks to organizers

### **IASFM 13 Program Committee**

Chair: Moses Chrispus Okello, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Rapporteur: Priyanca Mathur Velath, PhD Candidate, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Jessica Anderson, African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Paula Banerjee, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Calcutta, India

Alexander Betts, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Michael Collyer, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

Chris Dolan, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Lucy Hovil, International Refugee Rights Initiative, Cape Town, South Africa

Nishanie Jayamaha, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Danesh Jayatilaka, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

Zhou Jian, , National Research Center for Resettlement, Hohai University, Nanjing, China.

Briony Jones, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Martin David Jones, University of York, York, United Kingdom

Beth Mercurio, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University, Washington, USA

Michele Millard, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada

John Nassari, University of East London, London, United Kingdom

Phil Orchard, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Tara Polzer, African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Vasu Reddy, Human and Social Development Research Programme, Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa

Pilar Riaño-Alcalá, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Fernando Serrano, Consultant, Bogotá, Colombia

Nomusa Taylor-Dube, Centre for Refugee Studies, Toronto, Canada

Irene Tumwebaze, Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Effie Voutira, University of Macedonia, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, Thessaloniki, Greece

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## Lisa Gilad Prize

The Lisa Gilad Prize was established in memory of Lisa Gilad, social anthropologist, refugee status decision-maker, author of ethnographies of migration, and devoted member of the scholarly network that established the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. Lisa Gilad died in a tragic accident in 1996, aged 38.



The 2011 Lisa Gilad prize was awarded to Jenni Millbank and Laurie Berg for their article "Constructing the Personal Narratives of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Asylum Claimants" This article draws upon psychological and sociological literature to explore the issues that arise in eliciting and presenting a refugee narrative when the claim is based upon sexual orientation.

The article was published in the Journal of Refugee Studies in (2009) 22 Journal of Refugee Studies 195 and reprinted in Volume III in *The Library of Essays on Sexuality and Law: Sexual Freedom*, Ashgate publishing, in May of 2011. The authors have also been asked for permission to reprint the article in *The Library of Essays on Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law*, Ashgate Publishing, edited by Prof Suzanne Goldberg at the Columbia University due April, 2013.



**Jenni Millbank** is Professor of Law at University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Her major research focus is gender, law and sexuality across two main sites of inquiry: refugee law and family and relationship law.

Jenni is currently engaged in an ARC funded project on the global development of jurisprudence on gender related persecution with Catherine Dauvergne.



**Laurie Berg** joined the Faculty of Law at UTS in 2009 and is currently undertaking her PhD. Her doctoral thesis explores the rights violations experienced by low-waged migrant workers in Australia, working with or without legal authorisation . Laurie's broader research interests span political theories of inclusion, international human rights jurisprudence and Australian public law.

Laurie has previously worked in the New-York based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First), in the International Humanitarian Law Program of the Australian Red Cross and as Co-Convenor of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (NSW).

Laurie Berg and Jenni Millbank are contributing to a forthcoming book on sexual orientation, gender identity and refugee law: Thomas Spijkerboer (ed), *Fleeing Homophobia* (Routledge, 2013).

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## THE IASFM 14<sup>th</sup> Conference: Contested Spaces and Cartographic Challenges,

IASFM14 seeks to explore three themes of Border and Displacement; Geography and Economies of Displacement and Rights, Ethics and Institutions.

It will do so particularly within the context of today's world of migration where on the one hand there are mixed and massive flows, provoking desperate governmental methods and on the other hand there are innovations at a furious pace in humanitarian methods, functions, development of institutions, and principles.

IASFM 14 will also take advantage of the location of the conference - South Asia to bring out the uniqueness of the experiences of forced migration and migrants in the region.

Under each of the main themes the following subthemes will be explored:

### **Border and Displacement**

- a) *Negotiating borders*- Against the backdrop of pronounced population flows in the post-colonial regions of the world today, what are the consequences of mixed and massive flows in terms of their nature? What are the ways in which both internal and external borders are negotiated in the socio-political context for the internally displaced/the stateless persons? The theme intends to explore the eco-political processes that underlie such negotiation, also looking into the consequences of the imposition of 'a border on both sides' and understanding the erstwhile policies for the protection of the victims of forced migration.
- b) *Gendered experience of borders*- The double marginalization that takes place for vulnerable groups such as women, children and the third gender at the first instance, for their already disadvantaged class position further intensifies owing to the process of displacement they undergo. Understanding gendered experiences and the nature of exploitation, not merely a saga of victimhood but as strategies of coping and mobilization.
- (c) *Lives in Transit*- Displacement as an ever continuing circular process does not exhaust itself of its first instance of settling; exploring displacements as a continuous process of settling and unsettling. Owing to the newer state of occupancy and movement from camps to ghettos in cities entail incidents of extreme dehumanization and rights forging. The discussion on camps and enclaves becomes pertinent with these circles of insecurity as a perpetual space of transit

### **Geography and Economies of Displacement**

- a) *Modes & Patterns of Displacement*- The modes and patterns of displacement are multifarious and imply movements due to a number of factors such as conflict, development, environmental disasters and climate change.
- b) *Margin of Space of Development, Places for contest*- Understanding the space and place as a site for multi-corner contestation, the way in which 'scrambling for resources' takes place in exaggerating the resource politics played therein. The agents who are contesting range from

the state, capitalist firms to the ones who are displaced. It is by understanding the nature of resource dynamics played out by such actors that their eco-political motives come to the fore. Also the way in which the displaced strategize ways of negotiating with this environment by forming syndicates and cooperatives becomes interesting. This subtheme explores camp and non-camp experiences, life in transit in contested spaces together with rights in a protracted context.

- c) *Geographies and Costs of Displacement*- Who pays the price of displacement? What are the costs and impacts of displacement vis-à-vis development/ conflict/ resource crises? The segment intends to discuss ways in which labour politics is played out in terms of labour migrations and trafficking.

### **Rights, Ethics, and Institutions**

- a) *Protection, Ethics and Justice* – Exploring the strategies of protection: what are the protection strategies that are adopted today? What are the best practices in this regard? The segment aims to analyse the national, regional and international protection strategies against the backdrop of ethics and justice.
- b) *Governmentality, Laws & Institutions* – Conversing on the existing legal regimes; national and regional and international frameworks for refugee rights protection.
- c) *Social Movements and Rights of the Displaced*- Does greater civil society participation ensure protection of the victims of displacement? The segment would explore the way in which social movements impact the notion of protection of the displaced and their rights.

### **STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE**

Presentations of academic research will continue to provide the intellectual backbone of the conference, these will go hand in hand with round-tables engaging policy makers and governmental stakeholders, as well as presentations and discussions around practical approaches to dealing with forced migration from a range of practitioners. Furthermore, the conference will draw on non-academic analyses, interpretations and representations of forced migration(e.g., portrayals of displacement using movies, pictures, art & crafts, music and dance, fictional literature) in order to diversify the entry points into discussion of the major themes identified.

Proposed panel discussions include:

‘Home-making in Limbo: Domestic practices and the meaning of home for refugees in protracted situations.’

‘Bringing ‘forced’ back into forced migration studies. Ethics, responsibilities and analytical consequences’

‘Accountability and Access to Justice for Persons Affected by Human Trafficking’

‘Return Migration to Conflict or Post-Conflict Countries ‘

“Methodologies and the production of knowledge in forced migration contexts”

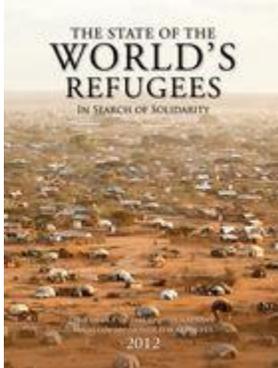
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## Recent Publications

### **The State of the World's Refugees, Oxford University Press, 2012**

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Judith Kumin, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199654758.do>



Sixty years after the establishment of the UNHCR, refugees - people who flee across an international border to escape war or persecution - remain at the core of the agency's work. But UNHCR is also called upon to aid people who are displaced within the borders of their own countries, and to address the plight of stateless persons - those not considered as citizens by any country. The book looks at UNHCR's work with these three groups, bringing readers up-to-date on developments since 2006, when the last edition in this series was published.

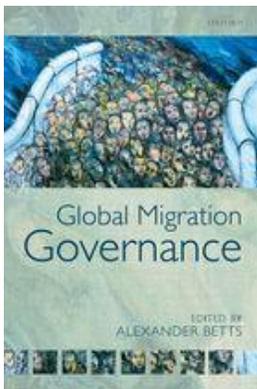
Drawing on UNHCR's direct experience, eight chapters address key challenges, starting with the diminishing space for humanitarian action in places like Somalia and Afghanistan. Protracted conflicts mean that fewer refugees are able to return home, yet restrictive state policies limit possibilities for local integration and resettlement, and threaten the institution of asylum. Rising numbers are displaced within their own countries, driven from their homes by climate change and natural disasters, as well as by conflict and human rights abuses. Refugees and displaced people increasingly live in cities rather than in camps, and are harder to reach. Statelessness, an anachronism in the 21st century, is prevalent on all continents, leaving millions of lives in limbo. The closing chapter addresses the book's central theme: how to develop international solidarity to help states shoulder their responsibilities for the forcibly displaced. Case studies drawn from UNHCR's work in the field illustrate the issues.

Now in its sixth edition, *The State of the World's Refugees* is an invaluable resource for academics, practitioners, policy makers, students and anyone interested in international politics and in the work of the UN refugee agency

### **Global Migration Governance, Oxford University Press, 2011**

EDITOR: Alexander Betts

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199600458.do>



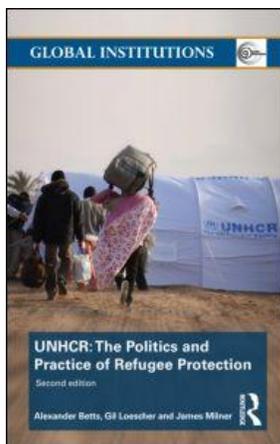
Unlike many other trans-boundary policy areas, international migration lacks coherent global governance. There is no UN migration organization and states have signed relatively few multilateral treaties on migration. Instead sovereign states generally decide their own immigration policies. However, given the growing politicisation of migration and the recognition that states cannot always address migration in isolation from one another, a debate has emerged about what type of international institutions and cooperation are required to meet the challenges of international migration. Until now, though, that emerging debate on global migration governance has lacked a clear analytical understanding of what global migration governance actually is, the politics underlying it, and the basis on which we can make claims about what 'better' migration governance might look like.

In order to address this gap, the book brings together a group of the world's leading experts on migration to consider the global governance of different aspects of migration. The chapters offer an accessible introduction to the global governance of low-skilled labour migration, high-skilled labour migration, irregular migration, lifestyle migration, international travel, refugees, internally displaced persons, human trafficking and smuggling, diaspora, remittances, and root causes. Each of the chapters explores the three same broad questions: What, *institutionally*, is the global governance of migration in that area? Why, *politically*, does that type of governance exist? How, *normatively*, can we ground claims about the type of global governance that should exist in that area? Collectively, the chapters enhance our understanding of the international politics of migration and set out a vision for international cooperation on migration.

### **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2011**

AUTHORS: Alexander Betts, Gil Loescher and James Milner

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415782838/>



This revised and expanded second edition of *The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)* continues to offer a concise and comprehensive introduction to both the world of refugees and the organizations that protect and assist them. This updated edition also includes:

Up to date coverage of the UNHCR's most recent history and policy developments

Evaluation of new thinking on issues such as working in UN integrated operations and within the UN peacebuilding commission

Assessment of the UNHCR's record of working for IDP's (internally displaced persons)

Discussion of the politics of protection and its implications for the work of the UNHCR

Outline of the new challenges for the agency including environmental refugees, victims of -natural disasters and survival migrants.

Written by experts in the field, this is one of the very few books to trace the relationship between state interests, global politics, and the work of the UNHCR. This book will appeal to students, scholars, practitioners, and readers with an interest in international relations.

### **Humanitarian space: a review of trends and issues HPG Reports 32, April 2012**

AUTHORS: Sarah Collinson and Samir Elhawary

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=6425&title=humanitarian-space-principles-aid>

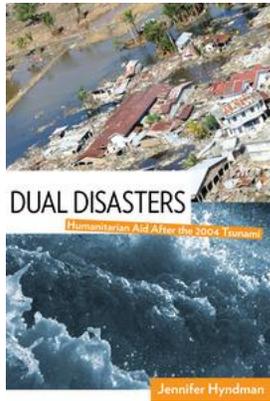


This HPG Report reviews key trends and issues affecting humanitarian space over the last decade. It argues that the discourse of 'shrinking' humanitarian space, to which the solution is simply greater adherence to principles, is not borne out by the evidence.

**Dual Disasters: Humanitarian Aid After the 2004 Tsunami, Kumarian Press, 2011**

AUTHOR: Jennifer Hyndman

<http://www.kpbooks.com/Books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=234742>



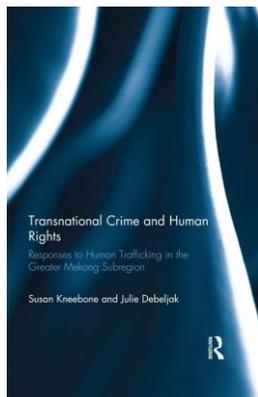
The 2004 tsunami was massive in every respect: the earthquake that preceded it was one of the largest ever recorded, the number of people killed or displaced is estimated at well over a million, and the international community donated billions of dollars to the relief effort. In some cases the tsunami struck regions already embroiled in other kinds of catastrophes – violent conflict and poverty. The tsunami’s presence not only wreaked havoc as a natural disaster, but it left an enduring mark on the political dynamics and power struggles of these places.

*Dual Disasters* describes what happens when “man-made” and “natural” disasters meet. Focusing specifically on Indonesia and Sri Lanka, countries that had complex emergencies long before the tsunami arrived, Hyndman shows how the storm’s arrival shifted the goals of international aid, altered relations between and within states and accelerated or slowed peacebuilding efforts. With updated comments on the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the book guides readers deftly through the multifaceted forces at work in modern humanitarian disasters.

**Transnational Crime and Human Rights: Responses to Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion , Routledge, 2012**

AUTHORS: Susan Kneebone and Julie Debeljak

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415594257/>



Transnational Crime and Human Rights offers an evaluation of the responses to the transnational crime of human trafficking and governance of the issue through a case study of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), which comprises Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

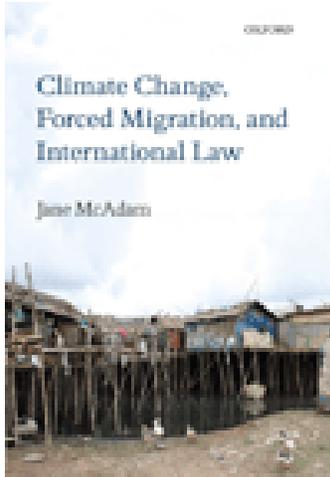
The book analyses the international and national legal policy frameworks and the role of governments, international and national non-governmental institutions, and regional processes in responding to trafficking issues in the GMS.

The book is based on the findings of a three year study conducted in the region, involving interviews with more than 60 individuals from relevant organizations and agencies, and examines the social, political and historical factors, including gender and age, labour exploitation and migration which form the background to human trafficking in the GMS. The authors consider issues of competing mandates, and gaps in strategies for protection and conclude with a discussion of broader lessons to be learned from the GMS situation and suggestions for future governance strategies in the fight against trafficking

**Climate Change, Forced Migration, and International Law, Oxford University Press, 2012**

AUTHOR: Jane McAdam

[http://www.oup.com.au/titles/academic/law/public\\_international\\_law/9780199587087](http://www.oup.com.au/titles/academic/law/public_international_law/9780199587087)



Displacement caused by climate change is an area of growing concern. With current rises in sea levels and changes to the global climate, it is an issue of fundamental importance to the future of many parts of the world.

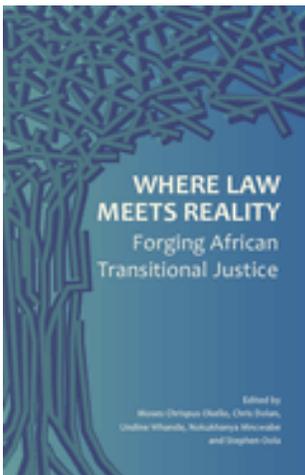
This book critically examines whether States have obligations to protect people displaced by climate change under international refugee law, international human rights law, and the international law on statelessness. Drawing on field work undertaken in Bangladesh, India, and the Pacific island States of Kiribati and Tuvalu, it evaluates whether the phenomenon of 'climate change-induced displacement' is an empirically sound category for academic inquiry. It does so by examining the reasons why people move (or choose not to move); the extent to which climate change, as opposed to underlying socio-economic factors, provides a trigger for such movement; and whether traditional international responses, such as the conclusion of new treaties and the creation of new institutions, are appropriate solutions in this context. In this way, the book

queries whether flight from habitat destruction should be viewed as another facet of traditional international protection or as a new challenge requiring more creative legal and policy response.

**Where Law Meets Reality - Forging African Transitional Justice, Pambazuka Press, 2012**

EDITORS: Moses Chrispus Okello, Chris Dolan, Undine Whande, Nokukhanya Mncwabe, Levis Onegi, Stephen Oola

<http://fahamubooks.org/book/?GCOI=90638100649880&fa=description>



This book is unique in exploring from an African perspective the dilemmas and complexities involved in addressing past human rights violations to enable a society to move to a more peaceful future.

While challenging current transitional justice narratives, which have inadequately addressed the concerns of post-conflict societies in Africa, it also emphasises the need to avoid representing African issues as 'exotic' and 'exceptional'.

The authors consider the core debates about how to develop a transitional justice agenda and assess the potential of localised justice models to contribute to justice systems. They show the importance of pursuing locally forged processes that take account of the dynamic and complex challenges of post-conflict societies in Africa and of involving stakeholders in developing policies and practices that affect them.

This important new publication also addresses frankly the tension between justice, peace and reconciliation and deepens comprehension of the ever-changing boundaries of transitional justice.

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## FORCED MIGRATION CURRENT AWARENESS BLOG

This is a service highlighting web research and information relating to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other forced migrants; provided by Elisa Mason.

Elisa Mason has 15 years of experience facilitating access to information in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. She has worked with UNHCR's Centre for Documentation and Research and the Forced Migration Online project at both the Refugee Studies Centre and Tufts University. She has a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog is a free information service which assists users with the following tasks:

- keeping up with new publications, new journal and newsletter issues, new events and opportunities for professional development and learning, new web sites, and other relevant online resources;
- tracking who is doing what where in terms of research and publication; and
- learning about online tools that can facilitate the search and retrieval of relevant information resources.

The service proactively seeks out new information sources as well as regularly monitors standard ones. As a result, it saves users' much time and effort in the information-gathering process. It also expands the knowledge base for those researchers who may not have ready access to library collections or who may not be familiar with the full range of information resources available to them. The service aims to circulate at least one information alert on a daily weekday basis.

Interested readers can monitor blog postings two ways:

- by RSS feed: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/ForcedMigrationCurrentAwareness>
- by email alert: [http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=ForcedMigrationCurrentAwareness&loc=en\\_US](http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=ForcedMigrationCurrentAwareness&loc=en_US)

To start exploring, please visit <http://fm-cab.blogspot.com/>.

See also a recent collection of papers by Jeff Crisp, Head, Policy Development and Evaluation Service, UNHCR: <http://fm-cab.blogspot.com.au/2012/05/new-resource-collection-of-papers.html>

\* Thanks to Natasha Burns for assistance in preparation of this Newsletter, and to Michele Millard for facilitating its distribution.