Refugee Research Network

Research Digest

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> The RRN Research Digest provides a synopsis of recent research on refugee and forced migration issues from entities associated with the RRN and others.

Recent Publications and New Research

FMR 55 Shelter in displacement

Forced Migration Review (FMR) presents concise, accessible articles in a magazine format. The theme for this June's edition is focused on the notion of shelter. It comprises more than 30 articles, found at this link, that look at the complexity of approaches to shelter both as a physical object in a physical location and as a response to essential human needs. We highlight two of those articles here:

Shelter in flux. By Charles Parrack, Brigitte Piquard and Cathrine Brun.

This article revisits the Humanitarian guidelines and standards for how to work with shelter in displacement and argues that they haven't been sufficient. Providing shelter in conflict, it argues, requires an understanding of the temporal and spatial dimensions of a particular conflict setting. It introduces the 'shelter in flux' approach which allows for analyzing the situation on the ground in a way that can be used to formulate more locally grounded approaches to shelter, complementing general global guidelines. **Available at:** http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/parrack-piquard-brun.html

Shelter provision and state sovereignty in Calais. By Michael Boyle.

This article demonstrates that the shelter provision is political as much as it is humanitarian. In 2016, the dismantling of the Jungle and the forced relocation of its inhabitants were a response to the challenge to state authority posed by the rapidly growing informal settlement. It argues that, whereas the Jungle was formed incrementally in response to its residents' needs, the container facility was planned and managed by an organisation acting on behalf of the French state according to the principles of cost efficiency and security. Moreover, it argues that those who moved into the shipping containers became passive recipients of assistance, literally 'contained' in the facility. **Available at**: http://www.fmreview.org/shelter/boyle.html

The Refugee Crisis and Religion: Secularism, Security and Hospitality in Question (Dec. 2016). Edited by Luca Mavelli and Erin Wilson

The central question of this book asks: what can we learn about the interaction between religion and migration? Do faith-based organisations play a role within the refugee regime? How do religious traditions and perspectives challenge and inform current practices and policies towards

refugees? It also explores and deconstructs the dominant discourse of the Muslim refugee as a threat to the secular/Christian West. This volume gathers together expertise from academics and practitioners, as well as migrant voices, in order to investigate these interconnections. **More information about the book can be found at:** https://www.rowmaninternational.com/book/the_refugee_crisis_and_religion/3-156-48c9ac48-37ef-422c-81a2-bdba8befe523

Reports, Working Papers and Briefs

A Global Broadband Plan for Refugees. By Blair Levin, Paul De Sa, and T. Alexander Aleinikoff

The UNHCR has documented how mobile and Internet connectivity, specifically, enable refugees to remain safe, access health and educational services, build livelihoods, and keep in touch with families and communities. This policy brief proposes a framework for the creation of a global broadband plan for refugees. It puts into consideration localized challenges and seeks to align refugee connectivity efforts with host-country broadband strategies and market forces. **Available at:** http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/global-broadband-plan-refugees

How Are Refugees Faring? Integration at U.S. and State Levels. By Michael Fix, Kate Hooper, and Jie Zong

The United States has long operated the world's largest refugee resettlement program, admitting nearly 85,000 refugees in fiscal year 2016. While research has detailed how different refugee populations fare nationwide, less is known about how these newcomers fare across states. This report analyzes census and administrative data to compare the state-level integration outcomes of five large refugee groups (Burmese, Cubans, Iraqis, Russians, and Vietnamese), including in terms of employment, income, education levels, English language proficiency, and public benefits usage. **Available at:** http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/how-are-refugees-faring-integration-us-and-state-levels

G20 policy makers should support wider religious roles in refugee resettlement. By Katherine Marshall and others.

This brief focuses on the European and US resettlement challenge. It recommends that the G20 in their approach to the forced migration crisis and specifically to resettlement and reintegration should engage more directly with religious actors as central partners. These actors should be part of policy discussions on issues like criteria for resettlement, engagement with host communities to assure welcome. Recognition of and support for religious engagement could help to counter the fears and negative responses that affect political responses to refugee resettlement. Thus, it argues that closer cooperation with key religious actors could substantively strengthen integration processes. **Available at:** http://www.g20-insights.org/policy_briefs/g20-policy-makers-support-wider-religious-roles-refugee-resettlement/

News Articles and Blogs

Inside Israel's Secret Program to Get Rid of African Refugees. By Andrew Green.

This news report sheds some light on a year-long investigation by Foreign Policy, that included interviews with multiple Eritrean and Sudanese asylum-seekers as well as people involved at

various stages of a relocation process. It reveals an opaque system of shuffling asylum-seekers from Israel, via Rwanda or Uganda, into third countries, where they are no longer anyone's responsibility. **Available at:** https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/27/inside-israels-secret-program-to-get-rid-of-african_refugees_uganda_rwanda/

Designating 'Vulnerability': The asylum claims of women and sexual minorities. By Moira Dustin.

This blogpost advocates for adopting the language of "vulnerability" in refugee claims in an attempt to find a way to recognise that sexual minorities and women experience specific forms of persecution that are not envisaged by the framers of the The UN Refugee Convention. **Available at:** https://rli.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2017/06/19/designating-vulnerability-the-asylum-claims-of-women-and-sexual-minorities-2/

Digital and Social Media

Conference Podcast: Beyond Crisis: Rethinking Refugee Studies, RSC Conference 2017.

The Refugee Studies Centre hosted this conference in March 2017. Its purpose was to reflect on the role that Refugee Studies can play in the world. The conference assessed what kinds of knowledge, evidence, and concepts are needed to understand and respond to contemporary challenges. You can listen to audio podcasts of most of the conference sessions at this link: https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/events/beyond-crisis-rethinking-refugee-studies/conference-podcasts

International Migration Statistics

Use these interactive tools, data charts, and maps to learn the origins and destinations of international migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; the current-day and historical size of the immigrant population by country of settlement; top 25 destinations for migrants; and annual asylum applications by country of destination. Available at: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/international-migration-statistics

Alarmphone:

The "Watch The Med Alarm Phone" was started in October 2014 by activist networks and civil society actors in Europe and Northern Africa. The project set up a self-organized hotline for refugees in distress in the Mediterranean Sea. It offers the affected boat-people a second option to make their SOS noticeable. The alarm phone documents and mobilises in real-time. In this way, pressure to rescue is built-up, wherever possible and push- backs and other forms of human rights violations of refugees and migrants at sea can be opposed. It is not a rescue number, but an alarm number to support rescue operations. The following link offers two short video clips about the transnational project of WatchTheMed-Alarmphone in different languages: https://alarmphone.org/en/intros/how-does-the-alarmphone-work-3/