



Refugee Research Network

Research Digest

August 30, 2017

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

The End of Refugee Law? David James Cantor

This paper addresses questions such as: Can it be that refugee law has outlived its utility? Has it failed to articulate a shared set of values in international relations? Are we looking at the ‘end days’ of refugee law? It offers a view from within the refugee law discipline and explores its contribution to the development of a new global vision of refugee protection. The article argues that we must first overcome three constraints in our conceptual and methodological approach. The latter may help articulate a new and coherent ‘global’ vision of refugee law relevant not only to reshaping the practice of the law but also to broader debates on the future of refugee protection. Available at: <https://t.co/8QID2ZfRbX>

Give Me Shelter from the Storm: Framing the Climate Refugee Crisis in the Context of Neoliberal Capitalism, by Daniel Faber & Christina Schlegel

This article outlines the various mechanisms by which neoliberal capitalism is creating the climate refugee crisis. It examines the manner in which institutions of global political and economic governance are shifting their focus away from a discourse of “climate refugees” as a potential national security threat to a neoliberal variation that presents “climate migration” as an individual adaptive strategy and entrepreneurial opportunity to achieve human security and economic advancement. This turn toward climate migration management occurs within the governing institutional framework of neoliberal capitalism and is designed to control the insecurities and potential instabilities associated with climate change. The Left must unmask the mechanisms by which neoliberal capitalism is creating the climate refugee crisis and provide an eco-socialist vision of a truly democratic, egalitarian, and sustainable society capable of addressing the climate crisis. Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10455752.2017.1356494>

The European Union charter of fundamental rights vs. the council of Europe convention on Human Rights and fundamental freedoms – A comparison, by Frank Emmert & Chandler Carney

While some regions of the world still do not have supranational structures for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Europe has two systems that are competing on some levels and complementary on others. The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and The Court of Justice of the European Union, in Luxembourg, this article will compare some of the strengths and weaknesses of each of the two systems and attempt some proposals for the future development of both of them. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319255596_EmmertCarney_ECHR_v_EU_Convention_FILJ_2017_final

Reports, Working Papers and Briefs

Environmental impact of refugee camps: Resource usage and management

With more than ten million people trapped in protracted refugee situations in more than thirty countries, the environmental impact of refugee camps on both refugee residents and host communities and ecologies has become a direct and operational area of concern. This is particularly the case where camp populations are as large, and often larger, than the local communities hosting them. Increased refugee camp populations are often hypothesized to trigger soil erosion, loss of habitat and wildlife, air pollution, water depletion and contamination, as well as energy and transportation problems. This report presents a comparative evidence-based assessment of this hypothesis based on fieldwork in Ali Addeh refugee camp in Djibouti and Aysaita camp in Ethiopia. Available at: <https://georgetown.box.com/s/lh8poindaangbo49q73ekmxkaj4ne7cb>

The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Short Orientation, by Vappu Tyyskä and others

While the international and Canadian communities are struggling to address the Syrian humanitarian crisis, background knowledge about the unfolding situation is needed. This report will provide: (1) a summary of the recent history of the Syrian crisis, starting in the 1970s; (2) an orientation to the Syrian refugee flows; and (3) an outline of the Canadian and international refugee resettlement efforts. Available at:

http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/rcis/documents/RCIS%20Working%20Paper%202017_2%20Tyyska%20et%20al_Final.pdf

Refugee Resettlement in Small Cities, Pablo Bose and Lucas Grigri

This is the first report in a series of reports reflecting on a 3-year study on refugee resettlement in small and mid-size cities across the US. It seeks to answer three questions: (1) Why are refugees being placed increasingly in small to mid-size cities (rather than the traditional gateway cities) in the US? What are their patterns of settlement? (2) What are the impacts on refugees of being placed in these locations?

What are their outcomes when it comes to jobs, education, housing, transportation, healthcare, and civic engagement? (3) What are the impacts of refugees on these new host communities? The project's website is: <http://spatializingmigration.net/>. The reports can be found at:

<http://spatializingmigration.net/additional-information-and-documents/project-reports/>

And the project updates at: <http://spatializingmigration.net/additional-information-and-documents/project-updates/>

News Articles and Blogs

Refugee Voices: Refugees tell their own stories

Refugee Voices is a section of Refugees Deeply where refugee writers tell their stories in their own words. It has featured several extraordinary essays by refugees and migrants around the world in recent months. This link compiles powerful stories about refugees confronting disease, the struggle of single mothers, refugees hiding from authorities after Calais and explanations of some 31 thousand Syrian refugees who chose to return to Syria this year. Available at: <https://www.newsdeeply.com/refugees/refugee-voices>

A war without end: Neighbours carry the burden of South Sudan's fleeing millions

This article highlights an escalating crisis where an average of 1,800 South Sudanese have been arriving every day in northern Uganda for the past 12 months. South Sudan has effectively been at war since December 2013, when political tensions within the newly independent government triggered fighting between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his former vice president, Riek Machar, who heads the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO). Available at:

<https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/08/17/war-without-end-neighbours-carry-burden-south-sudan-s-fleeing-millions>

Centre for Refugee and Migration Studies to be set up in UoP

An opportunity to widen our academic network: The Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar (UoP), is planning to set up a Centre for Refugees and Migration Studies with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/amp/226566-Centre-for-Refugees-Migration-Studies-to-be-set-up-in-UoP>

Governments completely out of touch with citizens on refugee issues, new survey reveals

A new survey released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on young peoples' attitudes towards refugees showed that the vast majority (72.6%) of people aged 18-35 would welcome refugees into their countries. When asked what governments should be doing about refugees, more than half of respondents (55%) say they believe that governments should "try to include refugees in the national workforce". Only 3.5% believe that governments should "expel/deport" refugees. Significantly, in the US a huge 85% of young people say they would welcome refugees to their country, an increase of more than 10% on last year's survey. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/08/governments-completely-out-of-touch-with-citizens-on-refugee-issues/>

Digital and Social Media

Roberto Mignone (@RobertoMignone_)

Follow up on the situation in Libya and the Libyan civil war by following the newly appointed UNHCR Representative to Libya at <https://twitter.com/RobertoMignone?s=03>

Climate change and the conflict in Syria

This video from the climate and migration coalition shares some analysis regarding the role of climate change in the conflict in Syrian: <http://climatemigration.org.uk/climate-conflict-syria/>