



Refugee Research Network

Research Digest
Date August 23, 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.

New Books

Mobility between Africa, Asia and Latin America: Economic Networks and Cultural Interactions, Edited by Ute Rösenthaler and Alessandro Jedlowski

This collection brings together a wide array of scholarly perspectives to explore the movement of people, commodities, and ideas between Africa and the wider global South, with rich empirical case studies ranging from Senegalese migrants in Argentina to Lebanese traders in Nigeria. The contributors argue that this exchange represents a form of ‘globalization from below’ which defies many of the prevailing Western assumptions about migration and development, and which can only be understood if we consider the full range and complexity of migrant experiences. More information available at:

<https://www.zedbooks.net/shop/book/mobility-between-africa-asia-and-latin-america/forthcoming/>

The Eritrean National Service: Servitude for "the common good" and the Youth Exodus, by Gaim Kibreab

This book provides an in-depth and critical scrutiny of the ENS's achievements and failures and its overarching impact on the social fabric of Eritrea. The author discusses the historical backdrop to the ENS and the rationales underlying it; its goals and objectives; its transformative effects, as well as its impact on the country's defence capability, national unity, national identity construction and nation-building. It also analyses the extent to which the national service functions as an effective mechanism of transmitting the core values of the liberation struggle to the conscripts and through them to the rest of country's population. More information available at: <https://boydellandbrewer.com/jc-african-griot-eritrean-national-service>

Recent literature and Journal articles

Unwelcome Participation, Undesirable Agency? Paradoxes of De-Politicisation in a Refugee Camp Naohiko Omata

This article investigates the political dynamics inside a Liberian refugee camp, with a particular emphasis on the rivalry between the official refugee representation and informal opposition groups. Refugee-governing bodies often actively discourage political activity within refugee camps, perceiving it as a source of trouble. The de-politicisation of refugees, however, contradicts efforts to advance refugees’ “agency” and their “participation”. This article illuminates the inherent contradictions involved in the de-politicisation of refugee populations by the humanitarian regime, and argues that refugees’ political activities should be understood as an expression of agency and desire for authentic participation. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdx009>

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, available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/10455752.2017.1356494>

Special edition: India at 70: The Many Partitions (Issue 38)

Cafe Dissensus is an alternative magazine dealing in art, culture, literature, and politics. The magazine also runs a blog, [Cafe Dissensus Everyday](http://cafedissensus.com). The main objective of this magazine is to challenge the contemporary parochial attitude in Indian media. This special issue of *Cafe Dissensus*, looks at the many partitions—figurative and literal—that India continues to grapple with as it steps into its 70th year of freedom. Available at: <https://cafedissensus.com/2017/08/15/contents-india-at-70-the-many-partitions-issue-38/>

Reports, Working Papers and Briefs

Environmental Impact of Refugee Camps: Resource Usage and Management, ISIM

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://isim.georgetown.edu/EnvironmentalImpactofRefugeeCamps>

Field Report: On the Edge of Disaster: Somalis forced to flee drought and near famine conditions, By Mark Yarnell and Alice Thomas

At present, Somalia remains in the chokehold of a severe, protracted drought. More than 800,000 people have been forced to flee in order to reach lifesaving assistance. Many of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) have gone to urban centers that are under the control of the government and African Union peacekeeping forces. In cities like Mogadishu and Baidoa, the humanitarian community is struggling to keep pace with thousands of new arrivals in a challenging operating environment. Many of the displaced are currently living in squalid conditions where they not only lack adequate food, nutrition, water, shelter, and healthcare, but also are exposed to risks that threaten their health and physical safety, including sexual and gender-based violence (GBV). The response requires improved coordination, especially at the regional level, in order to address gaps in services and the worsening conditions. Of particular concern has been the lackluster response by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to the serious and well-known protection risks IDPs face, given its role as leader of the protection cluster. Available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/506c8ea1e4b01d9450dd53f5/t/599b591ce6f2e193bc82d161/1503353136024/2017+Somalia+Report+Final.pdf>

News Articles and Blogs

Rescue operations in the Mediterranean and the intra-European distribution of responsibility for refugees by Dr Dana Schmalz

This blog addresses the role of non-governmental organizations engaged in rescue operations and highlights the conflict surrounding the role of NGOs in this area and the increasing pressure they face, and underlines the link between questions regarding control of Europe’s external borders and the question

of intra-European responsibility-sharing. Available at: <https://rli.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2017/08/22/rescue-operations-in-the-mediterranean-and-the-intra-european-distribution-of-responsibility-for-refugees/>

IMPACT initiative

IMPACT Initiatives is a leading Geneva based think and do tank, created in 2010. It aims at shaping practices and influencing policies in humanitarian and development settings, in order to positively impact the lives of people and their communities. It does so by co-constructing and promoting knowledge, tools, and practices which enable better decision-making by key aid stakeholders. In this week's latest news, it highlights recent mixed migration trends into and through Libya, draws attention to attempts using area-based approaches to support returns and recovery in Bangui, Central African Republic, seeks to understand vulnerabilities and needs of refugees in out-of-camp settings: AGORA pilot in the city of Mafraq, Jordan as well as other cases world wide. Available at: <http://www.impact-initiatives.org/news>

Digital and Social Media

Aid workers at risk on World Humanitarian Day #WorldHumanitarianDay #NotATarget #WHD2017

You can follow conversations and updates regarding the World humanitarian day and the concurrent campaign “not a target” that addresses the increasing number of aid workers killed, kidnapped and wounded over the past 20 years by following the above hashtags. Also here are some helpful tweets that gather some interesting and relevant articles:
<https://twitter.com/irinnews/status/898847258711441409?s=03>
<https://twitter.com/ICRC/status/898824362521796610?s=03>
<https://twitter.com/irinnews/status/898907909895012356?s=03>