



Refugee Research Network

Research Digest

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

Books on refugee issues

Elusive Refuge: Chinese Migrants in the Cold War

Book by Laura Madokoro, McGill University

This timely book brings attention to a lesser-known chapter of 20th century history that sadly resonates with our current moment in ways that should make us most uncomfortable. Geopolitics, borders, settler colonialism and its effects, the making of humans as illegal, the role of civil society... we have been here before.

More information about the book is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/Madokoro>

Refuge: Transforming a Broken Refugee System

Book by Alexander Betts and Paul Collier

In the context of the most significant refugee crisis since the Second World War, there is a need for new thinking regarding what a global response might include. The authors of this book start with the recognition that refugees are able to contribute to their adopted countries when given access to employment and education. In this book, they propose an alternative vision that can help refugees help themselves and at the same time make a contribution to their host societies and rebuild their countries of origin.

More information about the book is available here:

<https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications/refuge-transforming-a-broken-refugee-system>

Recent Publications and New Research

UNHCR's Origins and Early History: Agency, Influence, and Power in Global Refugee Policy

By Gil Loescher, Visiting Professor at the Refugee Studies Centre (University of Oxford)

This article, published by Refuge, assesses the role and functions of UNHCR during its formative years. The author traces how UNHCR's first four high commissioners employed expertise on refugee law and protection to convince states of the Office's usefulness to international stability. The author concludes that the Office should use the lessons of this early period to explore ways to exercise similar attributes today.

Article available here: <https://tinyurl.com/UNHCR-s-origins>

Syrian Refugees in Egypt: Challenges of a Politically Changing Environment

By Maysa Ayoub and Shaden Khallaf, of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (The American University in Cairo)

By 2014, some 300,000 Syrian refugees had already sought refuge in Egypt, a country that is itself undoing political change. This research considers the challenges they face, particularly in relation to their economic activities. The researchers found that the refugees' living conditions have shifted in relation to political changes in the country of refuge, leading to greater hardship. The study also found that policymaking in Egypt with regards to the refugee population is marked by a lack of clarity, especially in the area of visas.

Article available here:

http://schools.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/cmrs/Documents/Final_Syrian%20refugees.pdf

Reports, Working Papers and Briefs

Latin Americans in Southwark: Service access and provision

By Mette Louise Berg, was a lecturer at COMPAS, now at University College London

This research report considers the barriers to service access experienced by Latin American residents of Southwark, a central London borough characterised by considerable linguistic and ethnic diversity. The author uses census analysis as well as interviews and workshops with service providers to build an analysis of the existing barriers and to make recommendations for improvements.

Report available here: <https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2017/latin-americans-in-southwark-service-access-and-provision/>

No Safe Refuge: Experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in detention

By Chaka L. Bachmann. Interviews conducted by Sarah Singer of the Refugee Law Initiative (University of London)

This publication reports on research into the situation of lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) asylum seekers in detention facilities in the United Kingdom. A joint project between the organization Stonewall and the United Kingdom Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG), the research included interviews in detention centres throughout the country. The research found that LGBT asylum seekers face discrimination and harassment in detention centres, that trans asylum seekers face particular threats of violence, that detention staff fail to protect LGBT asylum seekers from abuse, and that LGBT asylum seekers cannot fairly pursue their legal claim while in detention.

Report available here: http://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/no_safe_refuge.pdf

Growing Older as a Refugee: A Study of Bosnian Refugees in the UK and their Experiences of the Ageing Process

Working paper by Luciana Caffarelli, Sussex Centre for Migration Research (University of Sussex)

This paper explores and evaluates the interaction between ageing and forced migration. The researcher found that while some experienced by forced migrants are similar to those faced by labour migrants, most of the forced migrants interviewed felt they are unable to return home because of conditions there. The researcher recommends that that additional research is needed regarding ageing and migration in order to better support policy-makers working with this group.

Working paper available here:

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=mwp89.pdf&site=252>

MoVE (method: visual: explore): marginalized migrant populations and the use of visual and narrative methodologies in South Africa

By Elsa Oliveira, African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS)

Since 2006 the ACMS has explored the use of visual and narrative methodologies and projects alongside more traditional qualitative research methods. The MoVE project explores the efficacy of such methods and their resulting research and advocacy projects.

To view this practitioner report as published in Refugee Review, a publication of the Emerging Scholars & Practitioners on Migration Issues (ESPMI) Network, use this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/n49gtwe>

Videos from RRN Partners

New Hope

This video, produced for the 2017 Ockenden International Prize, highlights the work of the Refugee Law Project.

To view video, use this link: <http://refugeelawproject.org/index.php/resources/video-advocacy?slg=new-hope>

ISIM Podcast about the Executive Order

Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) Professor from Practice Andrew Schoenholtz analyzes the immigration court case on February 9, 2017.

To view podcast, use this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/washingtonpost/videos/10154759328392293/>