



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

Minor Protections: Best Practices for Representing Child Migrants by Laila Hlass

Drawing on original, empirical data regarding recent Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) applications and extensive interviews with organizations and individuals nationwide filing the most SIJS applications, this article considers emerging trends in the representation of child migrants, identifies common characteristics of effective high volume practices representing children, and offers recommendations to expand access to qualified counsel and to create a child-centered approach to youth in removal proceedings. **The article can be accessed at:** https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2986233

Examining the role of border closure and post-colonial ties in Caribbean migration by Marie-Laurence Flahaux and Simona Vezzoli.

This article analyses the role of border regimes and post-colonial ties in Caribbean migration between 1960 and 2010. Over this period, 18 out of 25 countries in the Caribbean region have experienced the closure of borders by their former colonial state. The article argues that border closure seems to encourage a weakening of 'post-colonial' migration patterns through the diversification of emigration towards destinations other than the former colonial state and its former colonies. **The article can be accessed at:** <https://academic.oup.com/migration/article-abstract/doi/10.1093/migration/mnx034/3829671/Examining-the-role-of-border-closure-and-post?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

Book Review: Keywords of Mobility: Critical Engagements Edited by Noel B. Salazar and Kiran Jayaram

This edited volume presents contributions that critically analyze mobility-related keywords: capital, cosmopolitanism, freedom, gender, immobility, infrastructure, motility, and regime. Each chapter provides an historical context, a critical analysis of how the keyword has been used in relation to mobility, and a conclusion that proposes future usage or research. **A book review of this volume can be accessed at:** <http://refuge.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/refuge/article/view/40456/36449>

Reports, Working Papers and Briefs

Islamic Terrorism in the West and International Migrations: The “Far” or “Near” Enemy Within? What is the Evidence (2017). European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. By Maria do Céu Pinto Arena.

This working paper aims to enhance the understanding of the immigration-terrorism nexus at a time when the massive inflow of immigrants in Europe coincides with the rise of the so-called Islamic State and a spike of terrorist incidents on European soil driven by the war in Syria. The article surveys theoretical contributions on immigration, security and terrorism and research evidence on whether terrorism is driven by recent immigrants or nationals. The paper proposes that a main terrorist threat to Western countries originates from home-grown extremists inspired by the ongoing jihad in Syria instead of recent immigrants or refugees. **The article can be accessed at:**

http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/46604/RSCAS_2017_28.pdf?sequence=1

The Migration & Development Apparatus: Contradictions between international discourse, institutional practices, and migrants’ perspectives by Laura Stielike.

This working paper focuses on the contradictions between the international discourse on migration and development, the institutional practices of states and NGOs, and the perspectives of migrants themselves. Using the example of Cameroonian migration to Germany, it argues that the migration and development apparatus is characterised by four major contradictory binaries: inclusion and exclusion, competence and incompetence, politicisation and depoliticization, as well as dependency and independency. **The paper can be accessed at:**

<https://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/the-migration-development-apparatus>

Perspectives on Global Development 2017: International Migration in a Shifting World, OECD report 2016

This report presents an overview of the shifting of economic activity to developing countries and examines whether this shift has led to an increase in international migration towards developing countries. The report focuses on the latest data on migration between 1995 and 2015 and analyses what drives particular trends and also studies the special case of refugees. It examines the impact on migration of migration policies as well as various sectoral policies in developing countries of origin as well as of destination, and studies the impact of migration on these countries. **The report can be accessed at:** <http://www.oecd.org/dev/perspectives-on-global-development-22224475.htm>

News Articles and Blogs

Is ‘voluntary’ return the new way forward for managing irregular migration? by Myriam Cherti.

This blog demonstrates that Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) is a preferable option, both for European member states and for returning migrants. It argues that such approach is more dignified and more humane for the migrant, more cost-effective for the member states, more sustainable than forced return and it does not require the same cooperation between states that forced return demands. The author also highlights some of the

challenges such as the fact that AVR cannot always help returnees to overcome systemic challenges back home. **The blog can be accessed in full at:** <https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2017/is-voluntary-return-the-new-way-forward-for-managing-irregular-migration/>

A woman's world for South Sudanese refugees, BBC report by Paula Dear.

This article shed some light on how some south Sudanese refugee women in Uganda try to overcome some major challenges such as malnutrition by sticking together and collaborating with NGOs. **Available at:** <http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-39998759>

Windows, Mirrors, Lenses: The Trauma of Visible Deportation by Johan Schimanski.

This blog reflects on the experience of a Russian deportee who published a book describing her incarceration in the Trandum deportation facility near Oslo Airport. The book Takk ('Thank You') is meant as an expression of gratitude to her supporters, but also an attempt to make the private trauma of deportation visible, counter accusations of being a privileged, 'de-ethnicized' migrant, and make the untold stories of fellow deportees she met at Trandum heard. **The blog can be accessed at:** <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2017/06/windows-mirrors>

Videos and Social Media

How tablets are transforming the lives of young refugees in sub-Saharan Africa by Matt Petronzio

The Vodafone Foundation announced its [Instant Schools for Africa](#) program last week—an initiative providing free, unlimited access to online educational materials for young people and teachers. The program launched in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Tanzania. This article sheds some light on how this initiative should have a particular impact on refugee youth in camps. **The article and more details about the initiative are available at:** <http://mashable.com/2017/06/14/refugees-instant-schools-for-africa-tablets/#Nv3oxAbvgSqq>

Alternatives to detention:

The international detention coalition has launched a free online course that helps advocates and practitioners define alternatives to detention, understand different ways of approaching alternatives to detention and Identify key arguments for using alternatives to detention. **Registration is available at this ink:** <http://toolkit.idcoalition.org/>

World Refugee Day:

Every year on June 20, World Refugee Day gives us a chance to focus on the plight of refugees. Learn more and Spread the word about World Refugee Day by using #WRD2017 on Twitter and Instagram