



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

Diasporas and conflict: Distance, contiguity and spheres of engagement by Nicholas Van Hear & Robin Cohen

This article considers two variants of conflict-related diasporas: ‘distant diasporas’, alluding particularly to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Somalia, and ‘contiguous diasporas’ referring mainly to the Russian-speaking peoples in the former Soviet Union but also to groups like the Kurds spread across several nation-states. It argues that while Diasporas have variously been described as war-mongers, peace-builders, or ambivalent in their influence on conflict, the authors suggest that this variety of characterizations might be explained by disaggregating forms of diaspora engagement and the public and private spaces in which they occur into three ‘spheres of engagement’. Available at: <https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2017/diasporas-and-conflict-distance-contiguity-and-spheres-of-engagement/>

The Tale of Two Men: Testimonial Styles in the Presentation of Asylum Claims by Forough Ramezankhah

This article compares two asylum seekers with similar attributes and similar asylum grounds, whose presentational skills were found to be significantly dissimilar. The article challenges the assumption and expectation that asylum seekers can be left to their own devices to present a detailed and consistent claim. It concludes that, if individuals, even if they share a similar socioeconomic status, possess different presentational skills that may affect the outcome of their claims, then asylum seekers deficient in such skills should be supported by prior familiarization with the asylum process. Available at: <https://academic.oup.com/ijrl/article-abstract/29/1/110/3798538/The-Tale-of-Two-Men-Testimonial-Styles-in-the?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

Within and Beyond Citizenship: Borders, Membership and Belonging, Edited by Roberto G. Gonzales, Nando Sigona

This new book brings together cutting-edge research in sociology and social anthropology on the relationship between immigration status, rights and belonging in contemporary societies of immigration. It offers new insights into the ways in which political membership is experienced, spatially and bureaucratically constructed, and actively negotiated and contested in the everyday lives of citizens and non-citizens. More information available at: <https://www.routledge.com/Within-and-Beyond-Citizenship-Borders-Membership-and-Belonging/Gonzales-Sigona/p/book/9781138285521>

Reports, Working Papers and Briefs

Torture in Turkey: past, present and future? Prepared by Freedom from Torture.

This briefing is based on 60 medico-legal reports produced by Freedom from Torture between February 2012 and March 2017 documenting torture between 1992 to 2015. The Key Findings referred that the majority of cases involve men under the age of 40 of Kurdish background, The reason for detention was

invariably related to perceived or actual political activity, that 87% of people reported being detained and tortured by the police on one or more occasions and that At least 17 different police detention facilities were described, of which Istanbul Police Headquarters on Vatan Street was the most commonly mentioned.

Available at: https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/news-blogs/13_04_2017/torture_in_turkey_past_present_and_future

The history of global migration governance, by Alexander Betts and Lena Kainz

This working paper on the history of global migration governance has been written in the context of discussions on the Global Compact for Migration. It traces the evolution of migration institutions over the last 100 years and highlights key turning points that have enabled to pace of institutional developments to accelerate in recent years. It argues that one of the great challenges of global migration governance has been its fragmentation, and concludes with a series of recommendations about how policy-makers can manage fragmentation in a way that promotes international cooperation. Available at: <https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/publications/the-history-of-global-migration-governance>

Dunkirk – A Tale of Two Cities, by Monica Ibrahim

In the wake of Christopher Nolan's blockbuster, the author reports on the city of Dunkirk's ongoing peril for refugees. The author highlights how the population of Dunkirk camp has swelled significantly after the dismantling of Calais camp last year, which was home for 8,000 migrants and refugees hoping to cross to the UK to join relatives or to seek asylum. Nevertheless, Dunkirk camp has never received the same media attention or outcry from humanitarian initiatives. She also draws attention to an important [report](#) prepared by Dunkirk legal support team who issued a detailed, independent assessment of the situation in the camp. Available at: <http://blog.jis-oxford.co.uk/2017/07/31/dunkirk-a-tale-of-two-cities/>

News Articles and Blogs

Academia and the refugee crisis: Crisis what crisis? By Gayle Munro

In reducing the debate to quantifications of the migration process, much of the public discourse has placed states within Europe as the 'victim' of the crisis, as opposed to individual migrants seeking refuge. On the other hand, the academic community has had to say on the migration crisis, almost with one voice, has been to refute the existence of a crisis altogether. The author argues that statements made by academics refuting the existence of a migration crisis might resonate with those whose roles it is to engage with the numbers debate, those who define the crisis (or lack of) on a gradient of quantitative data. But for those whose are either experiencing or witnessing the qualitative human suffering of migration-induced destitution, such statements ring hollow. Available at: <http://discoversociety.org/2017/07/05/academia-and-the-refugee-crisis-crisis-what-crisis/>

New children book: Travelling Tales

[Travelling Tales](#) is a fairy tale book born of a collective production. In this book, you will find stories invented by girls and boys who migrated from different places, and are now in Greece, most of them waiting to continue their trip to Europe. The stories were invented by children, with the help and supervision of an adult, in many different ways, with laughter, acting and playing always being part of the process. This post takes us to the behind scenes that produced this unique work.

Available at: <http://advocacyarts.com/2017/07/04/refugee-children-have-written-a-book-of-fairy-tales-and-its-amazing/>

The Forgotten Refugees, by Michelle Chen

This report highlights the crisis facing unprotected, internally displaced populations. Violence-driven internal migration is concentrated in war-torn countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with about 920,000 displacements, followed by Afghanistan, with 652,000. The emerging data on IDP flows expose how international humanitarian law offers only partial solutions. While international refugees are

afforded certain legal protections (like the right to claim asylum in the court system of their host country, or to access humanitarian aid like emergency shelter and medical care), IDPs are generally subject to domestic laws, and often live under oppressive regimes with policies that forced them to migrate in the first place. Available at:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-forgotten-refugees/>

Digital and Social Media

Refugee Council Archive

The Refugee Council Archive at the University of East London represents one of the largest collections of materials relating to the study of forced migration and the refugee. Through its social media account on Paper.li, it works as a source of information and analysis on displacement, flight and exile; on legal, political and social issues; and on refugee community life. Its feeds are updated daily through thousands of relevant shares. Available at: http://paper.li/refugee_archive/1383231130#/

Right Relevance

This is yet another helpful and effective tool that can help you customize and organize your social media accounts and news feed to meaningfully address relevant topics of your interest. This [video](#) explains it clearly. Available at: <http://info.rightrelevance.com/right-relevance-influencers-topical-scores-rankings/>