

LONDON'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY



UCL

MIGRATION RESEARCH UNIT STUDENT CONFERENCE

BETWEEN BORDERS

EXPLORING SPACES OF EXCLUSION AND
BELONGING IN GLOBAL MIGRATION

UCL CAMPUS: PEARSON BUILDING

09 JUNE 2017

**KEYNOTE
& GUEST
SPEAKER:**

Zoe Gardner

#UCLBETWEENBORDERS



@UCLMigration



UCL Global Migration Conference



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Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the Annual Global Migration Conference convened by the Migration Research Unit here at UCL's Department of Geography. Today promises to be a fascinating day of discussion. Thank you all for joining us and contributing to these timely and important conversations.

Today's conference aims to respond to the current migration crisis with a specific focus on exploring issues related to mobility, identity, and exclusion in the context of increasing hostility and securitisation. The conference offers a platform for students at UCL and beyond to reflect on a wide range of migration experiences which are characterized by a variety of global borders and boundaries. Speakers across an array of interdisciplinary topics will challenge differing notions of borders and highlight their importance for further thought and analysis.

Many thanks to all our panelists, and special thank you to our guest speaker, Zoe Gardner. Today's conference would not have been possible without the support of the Institute of Advanced Studies, the European Institute, the UCL Grand Challenge of Justice and Equality, and, of course, the staff here at the Department of Geography. We would like to particularly thank Dr. Claire Dwyer and Dr. Elena Fiddian-Qasmieh for their unwavering support and guidance in convening today's conference.

With best wishes,

Your 2017 MRU Student Conference Organisers

About the Migration Research Unit

The Migration Research Unit (MRU) is a critical nexus for research on migration across UCL. Established in 1988 and now co-led by Dr. Claire Dwyer and Dr. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, the MRU includes researchers from the Department of Geography and from across the social sciences and humanities at UCL. MRU research contributes to key debates pertaining to diasporas and transnationalism, asylum and refugees, national and international migration policies, theorising movement and (im)mobilities, development and migration, and measuring and mapping migration. The MRU leads UCL's interdisciplinary research network on displacement and conflict, *Refuge in a Moving World*, which draws together experts on displacement, refugees and conflict from across UCL and coordinates conferences, seminars, and public events to promote a research-led conversation on these complex issues.



The MRU leads UCL's interdisciplinary research network on displacement and conflict *Refuge in a Moving World*, which is an initiative of the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) in collaboration with the Institute of Global Prosperity (IGP). *Refuge in a Moving World* draws together experts on displacement, refugees and conflict from across UCL and coordinates conferences, seminars, and public events to promote a research-led conversation on these complex issues. The *Refuge in a Moving World* network is also coordinating a series of activities across UCL in support of refugees and forced migrants.

www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/research-centres/migration-research-unit

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Conference Programme

- 9.30 - 9.55 Coffee and Registration
- 9.55 - 10.00 **Welcome**
- 10.00 - 10.30 **Keynote Address: Zoe Gardner:** Migration Researcher and Consultant
- 10.30 - 12.00 **Panel I: Challenges in Contemporary Refuge and Migration**
- 1) Nicholas Maple: *The Migration Management of Refugees in Contemporary South Africa: The Erosion of the Refugee Regime?*
 - 2) Hassan Ould Moctar: *EU Border Externalisation and the Boundaries of Belonging in Mauritania: a look through the lens of 'deportability'*
 - 3) Idil Akinci: *Impossible Citizens of the Persian Gulf States: A Case Study of Second Generation Arab Migrants in Dubai*
- 12.00 - 12.15 Refreshments
- 12.15 - 13.15 **Panel II: Exclusionary Discourse in Migration**
- 1) Janina Pescinski: *Contesting the Criminalization of Humanitarian Assistance to Migrants*
 - 2) Sara Marino: *The Normalization and Denial of Europe's Borders in the Refugee Crisis*
- 13.15 - 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 15.15 **Panel III: Mobility and Social Cohesion in Refuge**
- 1) Sarah Houston: *Using Participatory Social Cohesion Approaches to Address Intimate Partner Violence in Displaced Syrian Communities*
 - 2) Aydan Greatrick: *Mobile Identities, Immobile Queers: Examining Local Turkish Stakeholder Responses to Sexual Minority Refugees from Syria.*
- 15.15 - 15.30 Refreshments
- 15.30 - 17.00 **Panel IV: Border Spatialities**
- 1) Lien Mostmans: *The Mediated city as a Borderscape: Notes on a Participatory Visual Methods Project with Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian Refugees*
 - 2) Tahmineh Hooshyar Emami: *Exploring In-Betweenness: Spaces of Contradiction in Refuge*
 - 3) Laura Gallon: *Crossing Spatial and Symbolic Borders in Shani Mootoo's "The Upside-Downness of the World as it Unfolds"*
- 17.00 - 18.30 Drinks Reception

Keynote Address: Zoe Gardner



Zoe Gardner is currently doing her PhD at the European Institute at the London School of Economics. Previously, she worked as the Communications Officer for Asylum Aid where her work was credited for helping change public attitudes to refugees during the recent crisis. She was named on PRWeek's 2016 30 under 30 list. Zoe is also a member of the DiEM 25 Coordinating Collective and Organising Committee Member for Another Europe is Possible. You can follow Zoe and her work on Twitter [@ZoeJardiniere](#).

Calais Refugee Camp, 2016

"To try to understand the experience of another it is necessary to dismantle the world as seen from one's own place within it, and to reassemble it as seen from his." John Berger, *The Seventh Man*.

By alienating and dehumanising those seeking safety, political discourse and the mainstream media continue to distort the perception of the refugee. I felt it important to respond to this by creating a calmer and more sympathetic space from which more complex human narratives could emerge. I use a slow large format camera to deliberately disrupt an expected documentary image. The use of black and white film embraces the poetic alongside the factual, which in turn implicates an interior dialogue. The absence of refugees circumvents any subconsciously held racial prejudices and forces a consideration of the physical conditions of the camp, placing focus on the objects which trace personal, social and psychological contexts.

Tom Hatton

Tom Hatton is a recent graduate of the Royal College of Art's MA in Fine Art Photography. Since graduating his project 'Now Here' has been the recipient of several awards and been shown at exhibitions including: the Bloomberg New Contemporaries; a nomination at the Magnum Graduate Photographers Award; the RCA & Metro Imaging Award; the Post Graduate Award at the Travers Smith Art Programme 16-17 and was Highly Commended and Shortlisted at the Dentons Art Prize and the Open16 Brighton Photo Fringe respectively. His project was featured in Source Magazine's Best of the Photography Graduates 2016, where the work was commended by both Cliff Larsson, Curator at the Hayward Gallery and Kate Bush, Photography Curator at the Science Museum. tom-hatton.co.uk

PANEL I: Challenges in Contemporary Refugee and Migration

Nicholas Maple

PhD Candidate

Refugee Law Initiative, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London

The Migration Management of Refugees in Contemporary South Africa: The Erosion of the Refugee Regime?

Based on preliminary PhD fieldwork in South Africa, this paper highlights how the state is creating a new policy framework for refugees and asylum seekers, built on global trends towards 'selective' immigration policies, externalisation of border control and regional realpolitik. This approach is delinking the labels of asylum seeker and refugee from their corresponding legal rights and pathways to legal or de facto citizenship. Following broader global themes of the 'commodification' of migration and the increasing distinction between 'desirable' and 'undesirable' migrants, the asylum seeker in South Africa is now being constructed by policy, at best, as a potential economic asset based on 'selective' immigration policies or, at worse, a criminal or terrorist. The article concludes by reflecting on the role of the Global Compacts and the Sustainability Development Goals in reframing refugees as economic resources, and what this may mean for refugee policy within states in the Global South such as South Africa.

Hassan Ould Moctar

PhD Candidate/NUI Travelling Scholar

Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London

Hassan is a first-year PhD candidate at the Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, researching how EU bordering practices interact with systems of borders and human mobility in Mauritania. He was awarded a Travelling Scholarship by the National University of Ireland in 2016 to research this topic.

EU Border Externalisation and the Boundaries of Belonging in Mauritania: a look through the lens of 'deportability'

This paper discusses how the externalisation of EU borders has reconfigured the boundaries of belonging within the Mauritanian nation-state. In order to situate this particular bordering practice in relation to its antecedents in the country, the paper commences with a brief historical reading of the various ways in which social formations have been delimited in the territories that now make up the

Mauritanian state. It then discusses the conditions surrounding contemporary states of 'deportability' (De Genova 2002) in Mauritania, and what this indicates about the role of externalisation in redrawing boundaries of belonging in the country. It concludes with a theoretical reflection upon how this foregrounding of local context highlights and challenges prevailing assumptions that migration flows are only worthy of consideration when they are oriented toward Europe and the Global North more generally.

Idil Akinci

PhD Candidate

School of Global Studies, University of Sussex

Idil Akinci is a third-year PhD student in Migration Studies at the University of Sussex, funded by the Chancellor's International Research Scholarship.

Impossible Citizens of the Persian Gulf States: A Case Study of Second Generation Arab Migrants in Dubai

Despite the policies that aims to prevent permanent settlement and naturalisation, migrants constitute 90% of the population in the United Arab Emirates. Some of these migrants are born and raised in the UAE and have made the Gulf their unofficial home, even though they are labelled as temporary and economic by the state. This paper explores both the various tactics second generation Arab migrants from Dubai develop to protect themselves against their temporary statuses in the UAE and how their cultural identities (ethnicity, language, and religion) are implicated in the diverse ways that they articulate legal and social boundaries that exist between them and their host society, and, consequently, their experiences of belonging in this context.

PANEL II: Exclusionary Discourse in Migration

Janina Pescinski

Junior Research Fellow

United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility

Janina Pescinski is a Junior Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility in Barcelona, where she works on migration, human rights and civil society. She holds a Masters in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from Sciences Po Paris.

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Contesting the Criminalization of Humanitarian Assistance to Migrants

This paper assesses the relationship between the law and morality with regard to the criminalization of humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees, specifically by analysing such assistance using the theoretical framework of acts of citizenship. Acts of citizenship are practices by which individuals constitute themselves as citizens by claiming rights, and in this case by acting in a way that fulfils the rights of others when the state fails to do so. In the case of humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees, these acts of citizenship are not necessarily law-abiding, but strive to uphold universal human rights even when that means subverting local laws. As such, this paper reflects on the role of the humanitarian citizen in an increasingly securitised world.

Dr. Sara Marino

Teaching Fellow in Digital Culture

Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London

Dr. Sara Marino is a Teaching Fellow in Digital Culture at King's College London. Her main research focuses on the social understanding and analysis of digital diasporas from a political economy perspective that seeks to explore how the socioeconomic European scenario has affected intra-European migration. More recently, she became interested in the study of borders and transit zones, especially in relation to the refugee crisis and to the idea of Fortress Europe.

The Normalization and Denial of Europe's Borders in the Refugee Crisis

This presentation will attempt to contextualise Europe's borders policy as a response to the continent's heightened concerns about security and invasion narratives, which have provided the moral justification for what journalist Matthew Carr defines as "a sustained and far-reaching border enforcement programme that has transformed the traditional notion of the border as a territorial dividing line" (2015, pp.23-24). Especially in recent years, media and public debates have shared responsibility for the creation of a climate of fear over the arrival of unwanted and unwelcome guests. Rather than searching for more human responses to the challenges of contemporary migration, we have witnessed two main events: on the one hand, Europe's failed Refugee Policy and its inability to provide a collective response to the plight of asylum seekers; on the other hand, the normalization of borders as legitimised instruments of power. This presentation will precisely focus on such practices of normalization, which have been morally legitimised (and transformed into routines) by an array of policy frames and narratives of deservingness.

Sarah Houston

MA Candidate

Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Using Participatory Social Cohesion Approaches to Address Intimate Partner Violence in Displaced Syrian Communities

I argue that to challenge existing levels of intimate partner violence (IPV) against Syrian women in Lebanon, participatory methods that emphasize social cohesion between the host community and male refugees as a key strategic objective must be implemented. Specific programs to combat IPV currently lack a focus on men's positionality in Lebanese society, ignoring key social tensions linked to gender based violence in the home. This can be addressed by creating men's therapy groups, community livelihood projects, and participatory video initiatives that integrate discussions of masculinity and power relations into programming.

PANEL III: Mobility and Social Cohesion in Refuge

Aydan Greatrick

Refugee Hosts Project Coordinator

Department of Geography, University College London

Aydan Greatrick is the Project and Communications Coordinator for the Refugee Hosts project based in the UCL Department of Geography. His research interests focus on how gender and sexuality inform experiences of and responses to forced migration, with a specific regional focus on the Middle East and North Africa.

Mobile Identities, Immobile Queers: Examining Local Turkish Stakeholder Responses to Sexual Minority Refugees from Syria

This presentation explores the ways in which different organisations in Turkey are responding to and engaging with sexual minority refugees displaced as part of the 'Refugee Crisis'. It does so by examining the discursive representations of queer or LGBTQI refugees, and their impact on both local and international responses to sexual minority displacement in Turkey. In so doing, this presentation argues that whilst attempts to mainstream sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) persecution into international and state-level protection strategies is welcome, the Turkish example shows better policies are needed to ensure that this engagement does not result in the furthering of practices that

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may in fact make it more difficult to protect the most vulnerable of queer folk. In light of this assessment, this presentation notes the significant and under-researched ways in which local organisations in Turkey are navigating these problems within their sexual minority refugee protection programmes, in turn presenting the conceptual tools that may enable international actors to respond to and engage with sexual minority refugees in more effective ways.

PANEL IV: Border Spatialities

Lien Mostmans

PhD Candidate

Media and Communication Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Lien Mostmans is a PhD Candidate in Media and Communication Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium. As of April 2017, she has been working as a research assistant on the Belspo-funded project IM2MEDIATE (Images of immigrants: thought provoking effects), a consortium led by the University of Leuven.

The Mediated City as a Borderscape: Notes on a Participatory Visual Methods Project with Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian Refugees in Brussels

Applying insights from border studies, particularly the work done around the concept of borderscapes and the performativity of borders (Brambilla 2015), to cultural media studies, our study looks at the role media (consumption) can play in performing borders and experiencing borderscapes in the city. We explore this issue through a participatory visual methods project with/ among Afghan, Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Brussels (Belgium). While refugees themselves are often overlooked in discussions on this topic, we attempt to approach the subject of media, belonging and boundaries in the city through their perspective, and in dialogue with them.

This paper reports on the conceptual framework of the on-going study, and provides critical insight into the challenges and benefits of the participatory visual methodology. The paper was co-written with Kevin Smets, Assistant professor in media and culture at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium, and a postdoctoral fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders at University of Antwerp. He is the vice-chair of the Diaspora, Migration & Media section of the European Communication Research & Education Association (ECREA) and has published on media culture and migration in journals such as *Media, Culture & Society*; *International Journal of Communication* and *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

Tahmineh Hooshyar Emani

Architect

Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London

Exploring In-Betweenness: Spaces of Contradiction in Refuge

In light of the current political turmoil in Middle-East, this paper seeks to investigate the spatial implications of refuge in the context of enforced mobility on the European route to safety. Recent growth in temporary settlements and mass-movement has been the tragic consequence of political strife. The investigation is based on the initial premise that due to the increase in mass-migrations, a new breed of cities and spaces has emerged which blurs the boundary between temporariness and permanence, named the 'in-between city'. Within this new subspecies of the city, which becomes the place of contradiction, traditional spatial conceptions no longer apply. Architectural necessities, such as doors, walls and rooms, for instance, which are markers of domesticity, born out of our desire to set ourselves territorial boundaries, become invadable barriers in the context of refuge. The paper uses critical and creative writing and illustration as alternative tools to explore the premise in the recently demolished 'Jungle refugee camp' near the port of Calais, focusing on its liminality and transitory geopolitical and demographic position – a border city.

Laura Gallon

PhD Candidate

University of Sussex

Laura Gallon took her MA in contemporary American and postcolonial literature at the University of Rennes. She is currently pursuing a doctorate at the University of Sussex under the supervision of Dr. Denise deCaires Narain. Her research concentrates on contemporary short fiction by postcolonial and diasporic women writers.

Crossing Spatial and Symbolic Borders in Shani Mootoo's "The Upside-Downness of the World as it Unfolds"

Drawing on textual analysis of Shani Mootoo's "The Upside-Downness of the World as It Unfolds", I will argue that admiration for borders, clear categories and cultural boundaries are a sign of nostalgia for the power structures of the past. As globalization creates the potential for new power hierarchies, this story underlines how physical and symbolic boundaries have become a tool for continuing Western superiority and cultural segregation. Mootoo's story focuses on an Indo-Trinidadian lesbian who moves to Canada after receiving a British education in Trinidad, and becomes friends with two white Canadian women who teach her about her Indian cultural background and expect her to perform

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it. Geographical, cultural and ethnic boundaries are crossed and become a source of confusion and chaos to the narrator, who comes from a multicultural background – since Trinidad has undergone several waves of colonization (by the Spanish, French and British) and migrations (incoming African slaves, and later indentured East Asians). Mootoo rejects cultural essentialism and boundaries as they recreate old colonial tropes and she underlines how all identities are, as Stuart Hall puts it, “hybrid”, intersectional – and non-homogenous.

Meet the Candidates on the MSc in Global Migration

Please feel free to contact any of us about our own work and ongoing research projects.

Sarah Bahengam, a student of German-Iranian origin, moved to London in 2012 to pursue a BA in French and Russian at UCL. Afterwards, she immediately continued with a Master’s in Global Migration. Her academic interests are nationalism, islamophobia, and anthropological research methods. Moreover, she is a scholarship holder of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and author for Europe & Me Magazine. She can be reached at sarah.bahengam.12@ucl.ac.uk.

Hallgeir Berge graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Philosophy and the History of Ideas at the University of Bergen in 2012. Over a period of ten years he has volunteered amongst refugees in asylum camps in Norway, in addition to several aid projects and trips to Kenya, Ethiopia, Burundi, Italy and Greece. He was a board member of the Norwegian Immigration Appeal Board over four years where he decided asylum claims, and the year before coming to UCL he worked as a refugee coordinator in a Norwegian municipality. Hallgeir’s research at UCL explores the impact of a multicultural arts project in Norway, which consists of around 100 youths from 35 different nations. He can be reached at hallgeir.berge.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Silvia Binenti holds a BSc in Political Economy from King’s College London and, in parallel to her studies, had the opportunity to collaborate with the Institute of Race Relations by researching and reporting the discrimination against migrants in Italy. As a result, she based her final undergraduate dissertation on the border spectacle staged in the island of Lampedusa and the portrayal of the figure of the migrant in public culture. She is currently working on a project investigating the consumption of national emblems in the UK, in the belief that the ideological ‘problem’ of migration starts from mundane forms of sedentarist, nationalist thinking. Striving to acquire an international perspective in the field,

she has previously worked in the non-profit sector in Buenos Aires, Mexico City and London. She can be reached at silvia.binenti@gmail.com.

Stefanie Buzmaniuk is from Austria and has a BA in Transcultural Communication and a MA in Advanced European and International Studies. Throughout her time as a student, she has lived in several European cities – Vienna, Paris, Nice, Berlin and London – where her passion for foreign languages has deepened. Her academic interests in migration in Europe and foreign languages have inspired her to investigate the mother tongue of Austrian migrants in the U.K. in her dissertation for the MSc in Global Migration. She can be reached at stefanie.buzmaniuk.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Lara Casalotti is based in London and is studying the Global Migration MSc part-time. Currently she is working with Asylos, an organisation that researches Country of Origin Information for asylum claims, as the Afghanistan team coordinator. She also volunteers as a caseworker at British Red Cross Refugee Services. Lara can be reached at laracasalotti@gmail.com.

Olivia Field graduated with Joint Honours in Philosophy and French from the University of Bristol in 2012. Soon after university Olivia joined the British Red Cross and has worked in the policy, research and advocacy team for five years, primarily advocating for an improved UK asylum system. During that time she has worked on several successful advocacy campaigns including refugee family reunion, unaccompanied minors in Calais, the ‘move on period’ for refugees and the Azure payment card. In 2013 she enrolled on a humanitarian diplomacy course with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and DiploFoundation. Her final paper explored how to better advocate for destitute refused asylum seekers. Now a policy and advocacy manager at the Red Cross she’s studying part time - eager as ever to learn more about a fascinating subject and hopefully to also improve her ability to influence Government through academia. She will finish her studies in September 2018. She can be reached at olivia.field.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Oliver Guerrero graduated with Joint Honours in History and Politics at the University of Warwick in 2015. His current research at UCL focuses on the labour market experiences of Latin American migrant workers living and working in London. Oliver can be contacted at oliver.guerrero.15@ucl.ac.uk.

Anna Hutchinson graduated with Joint Honours in History and Middle East Studies at McGill University in 2015. Her undergraduate theses examined the arrival of Ugandan Asians expelled under Idi Amin to Canada in 1972 and the intersections between cultural heritage and Iraqi identity from the time of Gertrude Bell to the present day. Prior to coming to UCL she worked as an Assistant in the Development and Outreach team at Human Rights Watch in Toronto.

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Anna's research at UCL explores how Canadian discourses of hospitality are negotiated, embodied, and performed by private refugee sponsors and privately sponsored refugees. She can be reached at anna.hutchinson.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Jo Hynes is interested in issues of immigration detention and the experience of judicial systems by migrants and asylum seekers. Having worked for Student Hubs and Quakers in Britain in the past, she hopes her dissertation on First-Tier Tribunal hearings will lead her into a future career working with community-based migrant and asylum advocacy groups. Jo can be reached at johynes4@gmail.com.

Nada Ismail moved to Egypt in the wake of the Arab Spring in the summer of 2011 to pursue her BA in Political Science at the American University in Cairo. During her final year of studying she interned at the UNHCR. Shortly after graduating Nada joined the European Union Delegation to Singapore as a Political, Press and Information Trainee. Her professional and personal experiences with migration led her to move to London to pursue an MSc in Global Migration at UCL. Nada's research focuses on the effect of migrant worker poetry recitals in Singapore as tools for integration, identity formation and self-representation. Should you wish to discuss her research, politics and/or anything related to jazz music please feel free to email her at nada.ismail.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Tatevik Khudinyan moved to Yerevan to study languages at Yerevan Gladzor University from Chochkan, Armenia. In 2010 she graduated with a BA degree in Linguistics - Pedagogy and started working for the largest landline-mobile and internet provider company in Armenia, ArmenTel. In 2011 she received an invitation and was sponsored by an American couple to study in the USA. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a BA in International Studies in 2013 after which she worked as a research intern for a Washington DC based think tank and as a translator for a Consultancy. Currently Tatevik Khudinyan is a postgraduate student at University College London studying migration with a focus on Development. She speaks Armenian, English, Russian and some French and enjoys watching documentaries/films in those languages in her free time. She can be reached at tkhudinyan@gmail.com.

Janard Liew read Human Geography at the National University of Singapore prior to UCL where he covered a wide range of migration themed research in Asia including cosmopolitanism and skilled 'middling' mobilities; gender and the global care chain; marriage migrants and attendant citizenship debates as well as global householding in a transnational era. Currently, his Master's dissertation seeks to explore the intersections between space/place, race ('Chinese'), ethnicity and transnationalism through a postcolonial lens. In his free time, Janard enjoys sitting in cafes with a cuppa, doodling nonsense and immersing himself in sci-fi fiction. He can be reached at liew.ja@hotmail.com.

Yilan Luan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chinese Literature and a master's degree in Comparative Literature at MinZu University of China in 2008 and 2012 respectively. Her master thesis examined cultural identity, a sense of belonging and the existence of diasporas in Pai Hsien-yung's *The New Yorker*. Prior to coming to UCL she worked as a Media Manager in the Children's Publication Department at the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press in Beijing. Yilan's research at UCL explores how ant-tribe reveal new migration narratives and youth migration culture in urban China. She can be reached at luanyilan18@163.com.

Katri Matilda Nevalainen holds a degree in BA (Hons) International Relations from Loughborough University. Her current research explores the influence of multidimensional social networks on the settlement experiences of Somali refugees in a small town of Lieksa in eastern Finland. Outside of her studies, Katri enjoys volunteering with young refugees and asylum seekers at Community Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (CARAS) in Tooting as well as gaining new experiences by travelling. For further queries, please contact her at katri.nevalainen.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Isabelle Rothstein is from Sweden and has a BSc in Peace and Conflict studies from Lund University. Prior to joining the MSc Global Migration programme she worked as an Asylum Case Officer at the Swedish Migration Agency, which sparked her interests for forced migration and refugee issues. For her dissertation she will analyze the situation of Moroccan undocumented migrants in Sweden using a multidisciplinary concept of statelessness. Her academic interests include refugee and asylum law, statelessness, gender, and child migration. She can be reached at ucfalir@ucl.ac.uk.

Abby Scott is from Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and is writing her dissertation on refugee civic engagement at the municipal level. Prior to arriving at UCL, she completed a BA in both History and International Affairs at the University of Georgia, where she first became interested in integration after completing research projects on community perceptions toward refugees in Athens, Georgia, and on local aid organizations for Belgian refugees in the UK during World War I. She loves talking about refugee representation in government and media, agency, local government, and immigration history. Feel free to email her at leahabigailscott@gmail.com, as long as it's not about Super Bowl LI.

Anna Spencer worked as a researcher for a Labour MP before starting her Masters at UCL. She now works part-time and volunteers with the Helen Bamber Foundation alongside her degree. Anna is particularly interested in UK immigration and asylum policy and is writing her dissertation on parliamentary discourse around 'foreign national offenders', deportation and access to justice. She can be reached at annaspencer93@gmail.com.

Victoria Tecca's research draws from material culture studies to investigate the materiality of displacement and irregular migration. She was awarded a BSc Anthropology with first-class honours from UCL, during which her research focused on the embodiment of built space and cognition distribution in service environments. Her current research at UCL concentrates on the materiality of security mechanisms used to control irregular migration in Nord-Pas-de-Calais. She will begin research towards an MPhil/PhD Anthropology at UCL in September 2017, which will examine the ways in which displaced individuals navigate issues of personhood and identity by drawing from embodied cognition. She can be contacted at victoria.tecca.13@ucl.ac.uk.

Charles Toccock studied an undergraduate degree in Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Nottingham and has worked across sectors internationally in Latin America and London. His current interests include multiculturalism, identity politics and notions of difference. His dissertation research will be focused on the Palestinian diaspora community in Chile, the formation of nation-states and discourse in print media. He can be reached at charles.toccock.16@ucl.ac.uk.

Luise Yang is from Vancouver, Canada and received a BSc in industrial labour relations from Cornell University. Her dissertation examines how urban migrant workers respond to environmental degradation in their everyday lives. She's interested in environmental and labour migration, literature of migration, and migration inequalities. She can be reached at luise.yang.16@ucl.ac.uk.

UCL Grand Challenge of Justice and Equality

The **Grand Challenge of Justice and Equality (GCJE)** is one of six Grand Challenges. The Grand Challenges programme brings together expertise from across the university to help address key global problems by helping to create and support new cross-disciplinary research collaborations and promote resulting research outputs.



Mission

GCJE was launched in 2016 to promote attention to the barriers people face in securing adequate healthcare, safe living and working conditions, education and employment. GCJE seeks to overcome or improve societal structure that limit access to opportunities or sustain inequalities.

Priorities

Current priorities agreed by the GCJE Working Group:

- Access & participation
- Structural & relational inequality
- Societal exclusion including displacement
- Intergenerational equity
- Cultural heritage, diversity & equality
- Environmental justice & equality

Activities

Ongoing activities include:

- Four small grants funded for the academic year 2016-2017
- Access and Participation Round Table on Labour Market and working Parents
- Post Brexit, Thursday 4 May 2017
- Ad-hoc modest funding support for activities addressing GCJE priorities

www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/justice-and-equality

UCL European Institute

The **European Institute** is UCL's hub for research, collaboration and information on Europe and the European Union. We exist to promote academic excellence in the study of Europe at UCL, working to provide a leading forum for intellectual debate and acting as liaison to EU and UK policy-making communities within the University.

We offer a diverse programme of public events, provide expert analysis and commentary for media outlets and policymakers, and help coordinate and develop networks of research.

The logo for the UCL European Institute, consisting of the text "UCL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE" in white, uppercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

UCL Institute of Advanced Studies

UCL's **Institute of Advanced Studies** in the Humanities and Social Sciences was founded in 2015. The IAS is a research-based community of scholars comprising colleagues and doctoral students from across UCL as well as visiting fellows and research collaborators/interlocutors from the UK and internationally. The IAS is committed to critical thinking and engaged enquiry both within and across

conventional disciplinary and institutional boundaries, and aims to provide a creative and generative context in which to question and dislodge habitual practices and modes of thought. In particular, in the context of a major multi-disciplinary university, the IAS harnesses UCL's extensive expertise across the humanities and social sciences, to investigate received wisdom, to bring the aesthetic and the political into dialogue with one another, to foster collaborative cutting-edge research, to identify and address the urgent ethical and intellectual challenges that face us today, and to confront our responsibilities as citizens of an increasingly contracting and inter-connected world, exploring our place (historically as well as spatially) within it.



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Conference partners:

UCL Migration Research Unit (MRU), RiMW, Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS),
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