

REFUGEE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

WITHOUT EXCEPTION:
THE POLITICS AND POETICS OF
LOCAL RESPONSES
TO DISPLACEMENT

24th-25th October 2019

WHERE:
IAS Common Ground, South
Wing, UCL, London, WC1E 6BT

REGISTER:
Via Eventbrite
All welcome



Conference Programme:

Without Exception: The Politics and Poetics of Local Responses to Displacement

REFUGEE HOSTS #RHIC19 | #PoliticsAndPoetics | Twitter: @RefugeeHosts | www.refugeehosts.org

DAY ONE: 24th October 2019

- 09:30-10:00 *Registration and refreshments*
- 10:00-10:15 **Welcome and Introductions**
Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts – UCL)
- 10:15-11:00 **Distinguished Keynote**
Prof. Homi Bhabha (Harvard University)
- 11:00-11:15 *Coffee break*
- 11:15-12:45 **Panel 1: Disrupting Humanitarian Narratives**
Chair: Sarah Clarke (Article 19)
Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts – UCL)
Dima Hamadmad (Refugee Hosts)
Dr Tom Western (University of Oslo)
- 12:45-13:45 *Lunch and exhibition*
- 13:45-14:45 **Roundtable: Writing Displacements into Literature**
Chair: Prof. Philippe Sands QC (UCL and English-PEN)
Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts – University of Birmingham)
Yousif M. Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts Writer in Residence – University of Oxford)
- 14:45-15:00 *Coffee break*
- 15:00-16:30 **Panel 2: Hosting, Hospitality and the Common Good**
Chair: Prof. Alison Phipps (University of Glasgow)
Bayan Itani (Refugee Hosts)
Dr Estella Carpi (Southern Responses to Displacement Project – UCL)
Dr Ann-Christin Wagner (University of Edinburgh)
Dr Karen Lauterbach (University of Copenhagen)

- 16:30-17:00 **Closing Remarks**
The Refugee Hosts Team
- 17:00-18:30 **Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Displacement in/through Film**
Chair: Saiful Huq Omi (Principal, Counter Foto Centre for Visual Arts)
Dr Daniele Rugo and Abi Weaver (Directors of 'About a War')
Dr Stefano Fogliata (Screenwriter of 'Footballization')
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DAY TWO: 25th October 2019

- 09:45-10:00 *Registration and refreshments*
- 10:00-10:10 **Opening Words of Welcome:**
Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts – UCL)
- 10:10-11:45 **Keynote Conversation: The Politics and Ethics of Knowledge Production in Conflict Settings**
Chair: Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts – UCL)
Prof. Sari Hanafi (American University of Beirut)
Prof. Patricia Daley (University of Oxford)
- 11:45-12:00 *Coffee break*
- 12:00-13:30 **Workshop: Translation, Literature and Precarity**
Facilitator: Yousif M. Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts Writer in Residence – University of Oxford)
Prof. Wen-Chin Ouyang (SOAS)
Prof. Matthew Reynolds (University of Oxford)
- 13:30-14:15 *Lunch*
- 14:15-15:45 **Workshop: Locating Faith in Humanitarian Practice and Local Community Response**
Facilitators: Prof. Alastair Ager (Refugee Hosts – Queen Margaret University) and Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts – Durham University)
Dr Olivia Wilkinson (Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities)
Atallah Fitzgibbon (Islamic Relief)
Fernando Espada (Save the Children)
- 15:45-16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00-17:30 **Panel 3: Rethinking Community Rights: Theory and Practice**
Chair: Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts – University of Birmingham)
Dr Tamirace Fakhoury (Lebanese American University)
Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts – Durham University)
Dr Zeynep Kivilcim (Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin)
- 17:30-18:00 **Closing Roundtable Discussion**
Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts – UCL)
Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts – University of Birmingham)
Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts – Durham University)
Prof. Alastair Ager (Refugee Hosts – Queen Margaret University)
- 18:00-19:00 *Closing reception*

Panel 1: Disrupting Humanitarian Narratives

24th October 11:15 - 12:45

Chair: Sarah Clarke (Article 19)

Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts - UCL)

Dima Hamadmad (Refugee Hosts)

Dr Tom Western (University of Oslo)

Throughout the Refugee Hosts project, we have aimed to [disrupt humanitarian narratives](#) that have traditionally represented, and therefore *constituted*, refugees as individual suffering victims, passive recipients of aid and/or as unique ‘ideal’ refugees who are *truly* worthy of international sympathy, assistance and protection. By contrast, we have sought to explore how we can [document, trace and examine](#) alternative ways of seeing, knowing, feeling, listening to, writing, reading, drawing, conceptualizing, and otherwise responding to displacement. What might this mean for how displacement – and the people, places and spaces affected by and responding to it – are represented? Panelists have been invited to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation reflecting on the topic of representation in relation to everyday life in displacement; ‘local’ and ‘community’ narratives of displacement; the importance of the past/history in understanding current situations of displacement; and creative approaches to representing and otherwise responding to displacement.

As well as exploring the themes relating to this specific panel, panellists have been invited to also explore one of the key questions posed by the wider Refugee Hosts research project, namely: “how can we understand local community responses to displacement?”

Speaker abstracts will be available online at www.refugeehosts.org

Biographies

Sarah Clarke (Article 19)

Sarah Clarke joined ARTICLE 19 in January 2019 as Head of the Europe and Central Asia team, defending the human rights to freedom of expression and information in the region. From 2012-2018, she led PEN International’s free expression policy and advocacy work, overseeing its engagement with the UN, regional mechanisms and national governments. She has authored dozens of country-specific and thematic reports concerning legal restrictions on free expression and the protection of journalists and writers at risk. She has particular expertise on Turkey, where she has led numerous advocacy missions, trial observations and the amicus interventions on the priority cases of journalists before the European Court of Human Rights. She frequently consults for the UN High Commissioners for Human Rights and Refugees on freedom of expression and forced migration. She is a graduate of Oxford University and Trinity College Dublin and an Expert at Columbia University’s Global Free Expression.

Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts - UCL)

[Elena](#) Fiddian-Qasmiyeh is the Principal Investigator leading the Refugee Hosts project; she is Professor of Migration and Refugee Studies and Co-Director of the [Migration Research Unit](#) at University College London (UCL), where she is also the Coordinator of the UCL-wide [Refugee in a Moving World](#) interdisciplinary research network ([@RefugeMvingWrld](#)).

Elena’s research focuses on the intersections between gender, generation and religion in experiences of and responses to conflict-induced displacement, with a particular regional focus on the Middle East. She has conducted extensive research in refugee camps and urban areas including in Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, France, Lebanon, South Africa, Syria, Sweden, and the UK. Drawing on a critical theoretical perspective, her work contributes to key debates surrounding refugees’ and local host community members’ experiences of conflict-induced displacement, the nature of refugee-host-donor relations, and both North-South and South-South humanitarian responses to forced migration. Her recent publications include [The Ideal Refugees: Gender, Islam and the Sahrawi Politics of Survival](#) (Syracuse University Press,

2014), [*South-South Educational Migration, Humanitarianism and Development: Views from the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East*](#) (Routledge, 2015), [*The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*](#) (co-editor, Oxford University Press, 2014, 2016), [*Intersections of Religion and Migration: Issues at the Global Crossroads*](#) (co-editor, Palgrave, 2016), and [*The Handbook of South-South Relations*](#) (co-editor, Routledge, 2018).

Dima Al-Hamadmad (Refugee Hosts)

Dima Al-Hamadmad is a Syrian researcher based in Jordan. Soon after her graduation in 2015, she started working on several research projects with universities in US, UK, and Lebanon such as Yale, University of Florida, and Queen Mary University. She worked on research focused on the Syrian context, refugees' mental health and trauma, the impact of trauma on Syrian generations, and evaluation of psycho-social and educational programs. She participated in Refugee Hosts research workshops in Jordan and Lebanon. Beside her research work, she is currently working in monitoring and evaluation in an international NGO, Centre for Victims of Torture.

Dr Tom Western (University of Oslo)

Tom Western is a Marie Curie Fellow in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Oslo. He is an ethnographer and sound recordist, working primarily in Athens, Greece, where his research connects music, sound, borders, displacements and citizenships. His first book – *National Phonography* – is forthcoming with Bloomsbury in 2020. Tom has published in the journals *Sound Studies* and *Ethnomusicology Forum*, and has work forthcoming in *Migration and Society* and in several edited books. In Athens, he is a core team member of a refugee-led collective, running workshops on the city and citizenship, sound recording, storytelling and media production. You can read an abstract of Tom's presentation, [here](#).

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

You can read Refugee Host's series on Representations of Displacement [here](#) or see our recommended reading list:

Davies, D. (2019) [*Speculative Borders: China Miéville's The City & the City*](#)

Davies, D. (2017) [*Urban Warfare, Resilience and Resistance: Leila Abdelrazak's Baddawi*](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [*Shadows and Echoes In/Of Displacement*](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2017) [*Disrupting Humanitarian Narratives? Introduction to the Representations of Displacement Series*](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2016) [*Palestinian and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: Sharing Space, Electricity and the Sky*](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. and Qasmiyeh Y. M. (2017) [*Refugee-Refugee Solidarity in Death and Dying*](#)

Greatrick, A. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2017) [*The Roles of Performance and Creative Writing in Refugee-Related Research*](#)

Harsch, L. (2019) [*'Random Acts of Kindness': Reflections on Everyday Responses to Displacement in Hamra*](#)

Maqusi, S. (2017) [*Photo Gallery: Baqa'a Camp*](#)

Stonebridge, L. (2016) [*Poetry as a Host*](#)

Stonebridge, L. and Qasmiyeh, Y.M. (2017) [*Time Machine: Stereoscopic Views from Palestine, 1990.*](#)

Timberlake, F. (2019) [*Home-making and Home-taking: Living spaces for women refugees in Grande-Synthe*](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2016) [*Writing the Camp*](#)

Roundtable Conversation: Writing Displacements into Literature

24th October 13:45 - 14:45

Chair: Prof. Philippe Sands QC (UCL and English-PEN)

Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts - University of Birmingham)

Yousif M. Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts Writer in Residence - University of Oxford)

How can a critical engagement with stories, and communities of narrative, help us better understand local experiences of and responses to different forms of displacement and dispossession? How are these personal, collective and/or mythical stories themselves variously imposed, contested, mobilised and subverted through everyday encounters and histories of displacement? How do these stories connect both spatially and temporally across communities affected by displacement, whether that is in the Middle East or in other sites and spaces? In what ways does an engagement with stories, poetry and testimony challenge conventional wisdom around 'the local', 'refugees', 'guests' and 'hosts'?

In this roundtable discussants will reflect on the topic of stories, dispossession and displacement, building both on the key questions highlighted above, and on their experience in this and cognate fields/cases. Participation may take the form of a reading of poetry or prose, or similar and these reflections will be followed by an engaged conversation between discussants.

As well as exploring the themes relating to this specific panel, discussants will also address one of the key questions posed by the wider Refugee Hosts research project, namely: "how can we understand local community responses to displacement?"

Speaker abstracts will be available online at www.refugeehosts.org

Biographies

Prof. Philippe Sands QC (UCL, English-PEN)

Philippe Sands QC is Professor of Law at University College London and a practising barrister at Matrix Chambers. He appears before many international courts and tribunals, including the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, and sits as an arbitrator at ICSID, the PCA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Philippe is the author of *Lawless World* (2005) and *Torture Team* (2008) and several academic books on international law, and has contributed to the *New York Review of Books*, *Vanity Fair*, the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*.

East West Street: On the Origins of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide (2016) won the 2016 Baillie Gifford (formerly Samuel Johnson) Prize, the 2017 British Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and the 2018 Prix Montaigne. The sequel, which is also the subject of a BBC podcast, *The Ratline*, will be published in April 2020.

Philippe is President of English PEN and a member of the Board of the Hay Festival.

Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts – University of Birmingham)

Lyndsey Stonebridge is Professor of Humanities and Human Rights in the Department of English Literature and Institute for Research into Superdiversity, (IRiS) at the University of Birmingham. Her research focuses on twentieth-century and contemporary literature and history, Human Rights, and Refugee Studies, drawing on the interdisciplinary connections between literature, history, politics, law and social policy. She is a scholar of the political philosopher, [Hannah Arendt](#) and following Arendt, adopts a comparative and question-driven approach to modern cultural history.

Her most recent book [Placeless People: Writing, Rights, and Refugees](#) (Oxford University Press, 2018) is a study of how the literature of exile gave way to a more complicated and vexed articulation of statelessness in the mid twentieth century. *Placeless People* is a follow-on to [The Judicial Imagination: Writing after Nuremberg](#) (2011/14), winner of the British Academy Rose Mary Crawshay Prize for English Literature, 2016, which also took the work of Arendt as a theoretical starting point in order to think about the relation between law, justice and literature in the aftermath of total war and genocide. Her other books include: *The Destructive Element* (1998), *Reading Melanie Klein* (with John Phillips, 1998), *The Writing of Anxiety* (2007), and *British Fiction after Modernism* (with Marina MacKay, 2007). Lyndsey is currently completing a [short polemical book](#) for OUP's Literary Agenda Series, *Writing and Righting: Literature in an Age of Human Rights* (2019).

Yousif M. Qasmiyeh

[Yousif M. Qasmiyeh](#) is *Refugee Hosts'* Writer-in-Residence. He is a poet and translator, and tutor in Arabic at the University of Oxford. In addition to his academic articles and chapters, and his recent contributions to *Refugee Hosts* – including '[Writing the Camp](#)', '[The Camp is Time](#)', 'Refugees are Dialectical Beings Parts [One](#) and [Two](#)', '[A Sudden Utterance is the Stranger](#)' and '[The Jungle](#)', his recent poems include '[At the Feast of Asylum](#)' (*GeoHumanities*, 2016), '[If this is my face, so be it](#)' (*Modern Poetry in Translation*, 2016) and '[Thresholds](#)' (*Critical Quarterly*, 2014).

A long-standing translator of Arabic poetry, his translations of poets including Nazih Abu Afash, Tammam Al-Tillawi, Abd Al-Hadi Al-Said, Rasha Omran and Firas Suleiman have been published, amongst others, in *Modern Poetry in Translation* and *The Oxonian Review*. Since 2012, Yousif has regularly led literary translation workshops with student-led PEN and Oxfam groups, resulting in a series of publications in [The Oxonian Review](#) and in poetry pamphlets co-edited by these groups, such as '*Shall I Write About My House? Poetry Reflecting on the Syrian Refugee Crisis*' and '*Flight: An Anthology of Poetry in Response to the Refugee Crisis*'.

Yousif's poem, '[If this is my face, so be it](#)' (*Modern Poetry in Translation*, 2016), featured in Jenny Holzer's public light projection artwork at Bispetorv (Aarhus, Denmark) in March 2017 as part of the European Capital of Culture festival, and was exhibited from May 2017 in a new installation at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. In 2017, his poetry also featured in 'The Absence of Paths' as part of the Tunisian Pavilion exhibition at the 2017 Venice Biennale.

For Yousif's most recent publications and poetry please see [here](#) and the recommended reading list below.

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

You can listen to Refugee Hosts' writer-in-residence, Yousif M. Qasmiyeh, in conversation with Adriana X. Jacobs (University of Oxford) on the Staying Alive: Poetry and Crisis podcast series, [here](#).

You can access our Creative Archive [here](#), our Translation and Displacement series [here](#), our Translation, Poetry and Displacement Essential Reading list [here](#), and our Contextualising the Localisation of Aid Agenda series [here](#), and you can visit the recommended reading list below:

Appignanesi, L. (2019) [The Dancer's Tale, as told to Lisa Appignanesi](#)

Davies, D. (2017) [Urban Warfare, Resilience and Resistance](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [The Poetics of Undisclosed Care](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2017) [Invisible \(At\) Night: Space, Time and Photography in a Refugee Camp.](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. and Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2018) [Refugee Neighbours and Hospitality](#)

Jordan, Z. (2018) [Why Host Refugees?](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2018) [Necessarily the Camp is the Border](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2018) [The Camp is the Reject of the Reject Par Excellence](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2016) [Writing the Camp](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2017) [The Camp is Time](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2017) [In arrival, feet flutter like dying birds](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [The Third Voice and Third Eye in Our Photo-Poetic Reflections](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [There will always be a vendor before and after the picture](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [A Daily Rhythm Inside Which Time Can Grow](#)

Stonebridge, L (2018) [Undoing the Meaning of the World: Creation and Decreation in Contemporary Refugee Studies](#)

Panel 2: Hosting, Hospitality and the Common Good

24th October 15:00-16:30

Chair: Prof. Alison Phipps (University of Glasgow)

Bayan Itani (Refugee Hosts)

Dr Estella Carpi (Southern Responses to Displacement, UCL)

Dr Ann Christin Wagner (University of Edinburgh)

Dr Karen Lauterbach (University of Copenhagen)

This panel aims to explore the diverse motivations, experiences and consequences of hosting, and of being hosted, in contexts of displacement, drawing on insights and examples from multiple perspectives and field-sites. In particular, we wish to focus on the ‘everyday’ nature of displacement and hosting, and hope that panelists will reflect on concepts such as ‘conviviality’ and of ‘being with’ refugees, following our project’s exploration of such dynamics in diverse refugee hosting neighbourhoods. How can we collectively advance an understanding of hospitality that moves beyond a static notion of citizens as hosts and refugees as guests, in light of the important role that refugees often play *as* hosts to other refugees? What roles do diverse models of encounter play in relation to a wider set of moral principles, including faith-based principles, and solidarity? How do these resonate or come into conflict with humanitarian assumptions and principles around local-level ‘hosting’ and state-level ‘burden-sharing’?

Panelists have been invited to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation reflecting on the topic of hosting, hospitality and the common good, drawing in particular on insights from their own field-research and disciplinary backgrounds.

As well as exploring the themes relating to this specific panel, panelists have also been asked to address one of the key questions posed by the wider Refugee Hosts research project, namely: “how can we understand local community responses to displacement?”

Speaker abstracts will be available online at www.refugeehosts.org

Biographies

Chair: Prof. Alison Phipps (University of Glasgow)

Alison Phipps UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts at the University of Glasgow and Professor of Languages and Intercultural Studies. She is Co-Convener of Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMNET). She was Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Waikato University, Aotearoa New Zealand 2013-2016, Thinker in Residence at the EU Hawke Centre, University of South Australia in 2016, Visiting Professor at Auckland University of Technology, and Principal Investigator for AHRC Large Grant ‘Researching Multilingually at the Borders of Language, the body, law and the state’ And now co-Director of the Global Challenge Research Fund South South Migration Hub. She is an academic, activist and published poet.

Bayan Itani (Refugee Hosts)

Bayan Itani is a Lebanese writer and researcher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts from the Lebanese American University (2009) and a Master of Arts in Sociology from the American University of Beirut (2015). In addition to her work in Beirut as part of the Refugee Hosts project, Bayan has had several experiences working with refugees around Lebanon, particularly after the outbreak of the Syrian crisis. These include monitoring protection work, overseeing surveying procedures, and conducting communication activities. Bayan's hobbies are reading and writing; she writes socially themed Arabic short stories for children to fulfil this passion.

Dr Estella Carpi (Southern Responses to Displacement, UCL)

Estella is Research Associate on the [Southern Responses to Displacement Project](#) at UCL and received a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Sydney (Australia), with a study on social responses to crisis and crisis management in Lebanon. Her work has focused on displacement, forced migration, social welfare, gender equality, and humanitarian aid provision in the Arab Levant and Turkey. She has lectured extensively in the Social Sciences in Italy, Australia, and Lebanon. In autumn 2016 she was awarded a "Mobility, Displacement, and Forced Migration" CIRS-Georgetown University (Qatar) grant to carry out research on livelihoods and refugee self-reliance in northern Lebanon and southern Turkey. You can read Dr Carpi's presentation abstract [here](#).

Dr Ann-Christin Wagner (University of Edinburgh)

Dr Ann-Christin Wagner is a lecturer in the Anthropology of Development at the University of Edinburgh. For her doctoral studies, Ann undertook fourteen months of ethnographic fieldwork with Syrian refugees in northern Jordan in 2016/17. In 2019, she conducted research with Syrian and Congolese youth in Uganda and Jordan as part of a pilot study on adolescent refugees' reproductive health. Before her PhD, she worked with the International Organization for Migration in Geneva.

Dr Karen Lauterbach (University of Copenhagen)

Karen Lauterbach is Associate Professor at the Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen. Her primary fields of research include Christianity in Africa, religion, politics and social change and religion, displacement and governance. Her current research focuses on institutional trust in Africa, the spiritual history and topography of urban space, religion and development, religious institutions, and governance and wealth and charismatic Christianity in Africa. You can read an abstract of Karen's presentation, [here](#).

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

Berg, M. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Hospitality and Hostility towards Migrants: Global Perspectives—An Introduction](#)

Carpi, E. (2019) [Local Faith Actors in Disaster Response and Risk Reduction - ALNAP Webinar](#)

Carpi, E. (2018) [Does Faith-Based Aid Provision always Localise Aid?](#)

Carpi, E. (2017) [Syrians in Akkar: Refugees or Neighbours? Rethinking hospitality towards refugees in Lebanon](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2016) [Refugees hosting refugees](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [The poetics of undisclosed care](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. and Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2018) [Refugee neighbours and hospitality](#)

Harsch, L. (2019) ['Random Acts of Kindness' – Reflections on Everyday Responses to Displacement](#)

Itani, B. (2019) [The importance of identity: reflections from fieldwork in Hamra](#)

Lauterbach, K. (2019) "[A Refugee Pastor in a Refugee Church](#)" – Hybrid Forms of Faith-Based Hosting in Kampala, Uganda

Rayes, D. (2018) [In God We Trust: Faith communities as an asset to refugee youth in the United States](#)

Rowlands, A. (2018) [Turkey - Crossroads for the displaced](#)

Taylor, K. (2018) [Belgian Refugees in Glasgow: Local Faith Communities, Hosting and the Great War](#)

Wagner, A. (2019) "[There are no missionaries here!](#)" – How a local church took the lead in the refugee response in northern Jordan

You can listen to Dr Anna Rowlands discussing more on these themes, [here](#).

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Displacement in/through Film

24th October 17:00-18:30

Chair: Saiful Huq Omi (Principal, Counter Foto Centre for Visual Arts)

Dr Daniele Rugo (Director, *About a War*)

Abi Weaver (Director, *About a War*)

Dr Stefano Fogliata (Screen Writer, *Footbalization*)

At the end of Day 1 of Refugee Hosts' International Conference, Without Exception: The Politics and Poetics of Local Responses to Displacement, there will be a screening of two film extracts: *About a War* and *Footbalisation*. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Saiful Huq Omi, the Director of CounterFoto photography school, and film directors Dr Daniele Rugo and Abi Weaver (*About a War*) and screen writer Dr Stefano Fogliata (*Footbalization*).

[About a War](#), is a feature documentary that explores violence and social change through the testimonies of ex-fighters from the Lebanese Civil War. Moving through the testimonies of Assaad, a right wing Christian intelligence officer; Ahed, a Palestinian refugee fighter and Nassim, a Communist commander, *About a War* unpicks the personal motivations, trauma and regret of militiamen who picked up arms during the Lebanese Civil War. With no official account of the conflict, their testimonies build a multi-perspective picture of a crucial turning point in Lebanese history that radically transformed the Middle East.

[Footbalization](#) is a documentary shot in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, and follows the stories of Louay, Yazan and Rami who played together as children in the soccer fields of the Yarmouk Palestinian camp in Syria. Following the intensification of the war around Damascus, the children found shelter in the Borj el Barajneh camp outside Beirut. There they defend the football colours of Al-Aqsa, the Palestinian team that represents the camp, and pursue the dream of playing for one of Lebanon's most famous teams. Researcher and Al-Aqsa player, Stefano, leads us inside the camp and the daily lives of his team mates.

Biographies

Saiful Huq Omi (Principal, Counter Foto Centre for Visual Arts)

Saiful Huq is the principal of *Counter Foto - A Center for Visual Arts*. He is founder of the institute. Established in 2012, this institute offers formal academic degrees on Photography and the only institute affiliated with National University of Bangladesh. Over the years it has taught little over 1500 students.

Saiful Huq has taught and lectured in many major universities in the world over his career. He has lectured and presented his works and took photography workshops at The London School of Economics, Rochester Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Beaconhouse National University in Pakistan, Danish School of Photojournalism in Denmark and Mahidol University in Thailand and in many other universities.

He has also lectured in University of Dhaka, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET), and in the North South University in Bangladesh, and taught documentary photography in Pathshala for 3 years before he started his world-renowned school Counter Foto- A Center for Visual Arts in 2012.

Dr Daniele Rugo (Director, About a War)

Daniele Rugo is an award winning filmmaker and Reader in Film at Brunel University London. *About a War* is his latest feature documentary. His research focuses on conflict and sustainable peace and has been funded by AHRC, ESRC and British Academy. He is the author of two monographs, one edited volume and several journal articles. He is an affiliate of the *Centre for Lebanese Studies* at LAU and has been an associate of the American University of Beirut.

Abi Weaver (Director, About a War)

Abi Weaver is an award winning producer/director who has worked across a range of visual media from independent feature documentaries and online shorts through to programming for major UK broadcasters (BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5). Her latest film *About a War* explores violence and social change through the testimonies of ex-fighters from the Lebanese Civil War. Abi is also a researcher at the University of Surrey working on the voice in the filmed documentary interview through the lens of Levinasian philosophy. She is an affiliate of the *Centre for Lebanese Studies* at LAU in Beirut

Dr Stefano Fogliata (Screenwriter, Footballization)

Stefano Fogliata obtained the Ph.D in Humanistic Intercultural Studies at the University of Bergamo. He was a research fellow at the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, where he worked in the fields of anthropology and refugee studies. His thesis "Who does not how to go back home? Overlapping narratives of spatio-temporal displacements in Lebanon's refugee camps" is at the core of the documentary movie "Footballization", which will be distributed around Italian cinemas starting from October 2019.

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

Antonopoulou, A. (2017) [The Virtual Reality of the Refugee Experience](#)

Davies, D. (2019) [Speculative Borders: China Miéville's The City & the City](#)

Davies, D. (2017) [Urban Warfare, Resilience and Resistance: Leila Abdelrazak's Baddawi](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Shadows and Echoes In/Of Displacement](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2017) [Disrupting Humanitarian Narratives?](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2016) [Palestinian and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: Sharing Space, Electricity and the Sky](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. and Qasmiyeh Y. M. (2017) [Refugee-Refugee Solidarity in Death and Dying](#)

Greatrick, A. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2017) [The Roles of Performance and Creative Writing in Refugee-Related Research](#)

Lokot, M. (2018) [Mobility, Hope and the Appropriation of Space: Reflections from a Photovoice Project](#)

You can also read our full Representations of Displacement series [here](#).

Keynote Conversation: The Politics and Ethics of Knowledge Production in Conflict Situations

25th October 10.10 - 11.45

Chair: Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts - UCL)

Prof. Sari Hanafi (American University of Beirut)

Prof. Patricia Daley (University of Oxford)

In this Keynote Conversation, Prof. Sari Hanafi and Prof. Patricia Daley will discuss and debate the politics and ethics of knowledge production in refugee situations.

Together, our Keynote Speakers will explore questions including:

- the role of different types of politics in knowledge production in the refugee-related research;
- the diverse biases and hierarchies that characterise refugee research in different 'areas' or 'regions' of the world;
- the power imbalances that exist and persist in claims to 'expertise' in relation to contemporary refugee research;
- how/if refugee research can be 'more ethical'; and
- what role, if any, decolonial and Southern approaches to knowledge production can, could and should play in this field?

Biographies

Prof. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts – UCL)

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh is the Principal Investigator leading the Refugee Hosts project; she is Professor of Migration and Refugee Studies and Co-Director of the [Migration Research Unit](#) at University College London (UCL), where she is also the Coordinator of the UCL-wide [Refuge in a Moving World](#) interdisciplinary research network ([@RefugeMvingWrld](#)).

Elena's research focuses on the intersections between gender, generation and religion in experiences of and responses to conflict-induced displacement, with a particular regional focus on the Middle East. She has conducted extensive research in refugee camps and urban areas including in Algeria, Cuba, Egypt, France, Lebanon, South Africa, Syria, Sweden, and the UK. Drawing on a critical theoretical perspective, her work contributes to key debates surrounding refugees' and local host community members' experiences of conflict-induced displacement, the nature of refugee-host-donor relations, and both North-South and South-South humanitarian responses to forced migration. Her recent publications include [The Ideal Refugees: Gender, Islam and the Sahrawi Politics of Survival](#) (Syracuse University Press, 2014), [South-South Educational Migration, Humanitarianism and Development: Views from the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East](#) (Routledge, 2015), [The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#) (co-editor, Oxford University Press, 2014, 2016), [Intersections of Religion and Migration: Issues at the Global Crossroads](#) (co-editor, Palgrave, 2016), and [The Handbook of South-South Relations](#) (co-editor, Routledge, 2018).

Prof. Patricia Daley (University of Oxford)

Patricia Daley is Professor of the Human Geography of Africa and Vice-Principal and The Helen Morag Fellow in Geography at Jesus College, Oxford. Prof. Daley's main research interests are the political economy of population

migration and settlement (forced migration, identity politics and citizenship); the intersection of space, gender, militarism, sexual violence and peace (feminist geo-politics); racial hierarchies and violence (geographies of racialization and coloniality using Critical Race Theory and decolonizing methodologies); the relationship between conservation, resource extraction, and rural livelihoods (political ecology). She has authored, edited and contributed to numerous publications, including her 2018 co-edited book, [The Routledge Handbook of South-South Relations](#).

Prof. Sari Hanafi (American University of Beirut)

Sari Hanafi is Professor of Sociology at the American University of Beirut and editor of *Idafat: the Arab Journal of Sociology* (Arabic). He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Poitiers and Migrintern (France), University of Bologna and Ravenna (Italy) and visiting fellow in CMI (Bergen, Norway). The former Director of the Palestinian Refugee and Diaspora Centre (Shaml) from 2000-2004, Prof. Hanafi has authored a number of publications including [Knowledge Production in the Arab World](#) (Routledge). He is the co-editor of [Palestinian Refugees: Identity, Space and Place in the Levant](#) (Routledge).

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

Carpi, E. (2019) [Thinking Power Relations across Humanitarian Geographies: Southism as a Mode of Analysis](#)

Carpi, E. (2018) [Empires of Inclusion](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [Thinking through ‘the global South’ and ‘Southern-responses to displacement’: An introduction](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [Exploring refugees’ conceptualisations of Southern-led humanitarianism](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Shadows and Echoes in/of displacement](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Disrupting Humanitarian Narratives?](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Histories and spaces of Southern-led responses to displacement](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. and Daley, P. (2018) [Conceptualising the South and South-South Encounters](#)

Harsch, L. (2018) [Giving Refugees a Voice? Looking Beyond ‘Refugee Stories’](#)

Nimer, M. (2019) [Reflections on the Political Economy in Forced Migration Research from a ‘Global South’ Perspective](#)

El-Sheikh, S. (2017) [Dehumanizing Refugees: Between Demonization and Idealization](#)

Workshop: Translation, Literature and Precarity

25th October 12.00 – 13.30

Chair and Facilitator: Yousif M. Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts Writer-in-Residence and University of Oxford)

Prof. Wen-Chin Ouyang (SOAS)

Prof. Matthew Reynolds (University of Oxford)

This workshop will explore the poetics and politics of translation in the context of displacement by drawing on texts, fragments and poems produced by displaced people and citizens as part of the Refugee Hosts’ writing workshops convened in camps and cities across the Middle East. It will begin as a discussion between Prof. Wen-chin Ouyang, Prof. Matthew Reynolds and Yousif M. Qasmiyeh, who will interrogate the intimate, legal and linguistic facets in/of translation and the fragility of languages, in both the origin and in translation, in precarious situations. The second half of the session will invite conference participants to reflect on a number of sample translations from the Refugee Hosts project, providing a space to discuss and debate individual and collective responses to these texts.

Yousif M. Qasmiyeh (Refugee Hosts Writer-in-Residence and University of Oxford)

[Yousif M. Qasmiyeh](#) is *Refugee Hosts'* Writer-in-Residence. He is a poet and translator, and tutor in Arabic at the University of Oxford. In addition to his academic articles and chapters, and his recent contributions to *Refugee Hosts* – including '[Writing the Camp](#)', '[The Camp is Time](#)', 'Refugees are Dialectical Beings Parts [One](#) and [Two](#)', '[A Sudden Utterance is the Stranger](#)' and '[The Jungle](#)', his recent poems include '[At the Feast of Asylum](#)' (*GeoHumanities*, 2016), '[If this is my face, so be it](#)' (*Modern Poetry in Translation*, 2016) and '[Thresholds](#)' (*Critical Quarterly*, 2014).

A long-standing translator of Arabic poetry, his translations of poets including Nazih Abu Afash, Tammam Al-Tillawi, Abd Al-Hadi Al-Said, Rasha Omran and Firas Suleiman have been published, amongst others, in *Modern Poetry in Translation* and *The Oxonian Review*. Since 2012, Yousif has regularly led literary translation workshops with student-led PEN and Oxfam groups, resulting in a series of publications in [The Oxonian Review](#) and in poetry pamphlets co-edited by these groups, such as '*Shall I Write About My House? Poetry Reflecting on the Syrian Refugee Crisis*' and '*Flight: An Anthology of Poetry in Response to the Refugee Crisis*'.

Yousif's poem, '[If this is my face, so be it](#)' (*Modern Poetry in Translation*, 2016), featured in Jenny Holzer's public light projection artwork at Bispetorv (Aarhus, Denmark) in March 2017 as part of the European Capital of Culture festival, and was exhibited from May 2017 in a new installation at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. In 2017, his poetry also featured in 'The Absence of Paths' as part of the Tunisian Pavilion exhibition at the 2017 Venice Biennale.

Prof. Wen-Chin Ouyang (SOAS)

Wen-Chin Ouyang FBA is Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature at SOAS, University of London. Born in Taiwan and raised in Libya, she completed her BA in Arabic at Tripoli University and PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University in New York City. She is the author of *Literary Criticism in Medieval Arabic-Islamic Culture: The Making of a Tradition* (1997), *Poetics of Love in the Arabic Novel* (2012) and *Politics of Nostalgia in the Arabic Novel* (2013). She has also published widely on *The Thousand and One Nights*, often in comparison with classical and modern Arabic narrative traditions, European and Hollywood cinema, magic realism, and Chinese storytelling. She founded and co-edits *Edinburgh Studies in Classical Arabic Literature*. She has been the Editor-in-Chief of *Middle Eastern Literatures* since 2011. She also co-chairs the Editorial Committee of *Legenda Studies in Comparative Literature*. She was a member of the judging panel for Man Booker International Prize for Fiction 2013-15. A native speaker of Arabic and Chinese, she has been working towards Arabic-Chinese comparative literary and cultural studies, including Silk Road Studies.

Prof. Matthew Reynolds (University of Oxford)

Matthew Reynolds is Professor of English and Comparative Criticism at Oxford and a Fellow of St Anne's College. Among his books are *Translation: A Very Short Introduction* (2016), *The Poetry of Translation: From Chaucer & Petrarch to Homer & Logue* (2011), *Likenesses: Translation, Illustration, Interpretation* (2013), *The Realms of Verse, 1830-1870: English Poetry in a Time of Nation-Building* (2001), and the novels *Designs for a Happy Home* (2009) and *The World Was All Before Them* (2013). He chairs the Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation research centre (www.occt.ox.ac.uk) and leads the AHRC-funded Prismatic Translation project (<https://prismaticjaneeyre.org>).

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

You can listen to Refugee Hosts' writer-in-residence, Yousif M. Qasmiyeh, in conversation with Adriana X. Jacobs (University of Oxford) on the Staying Alive: Poetry and Crisis podcast series, [here](#).

You can access our Creative Archive [here](#), our Translation and Displacement series [here](#) our Translation, Poetry and Displacement Essential Reading list [here](#), and our Contextualising the Localisation of Aid Agenda series [here](#), and you can visit the recommended reading list below:

Appignanesi, L. (2019) [The Dancer's Tale, as told to Lisa Appignanesi](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [The Poetics of Undisclosed Care](#)

Harsch, L. (2019) [Random Acts of Kindness: Reflections on Everyday Responses to Displacement in Hamra](#)

Itani, B. (2019) [The Importance of Identity - Reflections from Fieldwork in Hamra, Beirut](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2018) [Necessarily the Camp is the Border](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2018) [The Camp is the Reject of the Reject Par Excellence](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2016) [Writing the Camp](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2017) [The Camp is Time](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. (2017) [In arrival, feet flutter like dying birds](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. and English-PEN (2017) [Panoramas of Death and Dying](#), part of a series on translation with PEN-Oxford students

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2019) [The Third Voice and Third Eye in Our Photo-Poetic Reflections](#)

Qasmiyeh, Y. M. and Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [There will always be a vendor before and after the picture](#)

Sheringham, O. (2019) [Sharing Stories and the Quiet Politics of Welcome](#)

Workshop: Locating Faith in Humanitarian Practice and Local Community Response

25th October 14:15-15:45

Chairs and Facilitators: Prof. Alastair Ager (Refugee Hosts - Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh) and Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts - Durham University)

Dr Olivia Wilkinson (Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities)

Atallah Fitzgibbon (Islamic Relief Worldwide)

Fernando Espada (Save the Children UK -Humanitarian Affairs Team)

This workshop session will draw upon - and seek to extend - insights from material that Professor Alastair Ager and Dr Anna Rowlands are using to formulate a *Religious Literacy Handbook* on refugee hosting in local communities, as an output from our Refugee Hosts research. The workshop will present research findings from our interviews with the representatives and members of Faith Based Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and local communities, integrated with the findings and case studies from similar recent projects.

Panellists contributing to the workshop have prepared short responses to the findings of the research and will present their own case studies relating to faith and local community responses to refugees. This session principally draws on the Middle East focused work that we have undertaken through the Refugee Hosts project, but will also draw on a wider range of global perspectives.

Biographies

Prof. Alastair Ager (Refugee Hosts - Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh)

Alastair Ager is Director of the Institute for Global Health and Development, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh and Professor of Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. He has

worked in the field of health and development for over 30 years, after training in psychology at the universities of Keele, Wales and Birmingham. He has worked as Head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Malawi; Senior Research Manager for health and education research with the UK Department for International Development; and Executive Director of the Global Health Initiative and Director of the DrPH in Leadership in Global Health and Humanitarian Systems at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. He has worked as a consultant with a broad range of agencies including UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, Save the Children, World Vision and ChildFund International.

Alastair is active in five major areas of research: the engagement of local faith communities in humanitarian response (in collaboration with the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities and a range of faith-based, secular and academic partners); the evaluation of humanitarian programming (particularly with regard to protection and psychosocial support of refugee children); health systems resilience in contexts of crisis (especially through work in northern Nigeria and the Middle East); the adjustment and well-being of humanitarian workers (in collaboration with the Antares Foundation); and health research capacity strengthening. His work is currently funded by DFID, the Wellcome Trust, the US National Institutes of Health, the ESRC and the AHRC.

He is author of over one hundred scholarly publications including papers in *Science*, *The Lancet*, the *British Medical Journal*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Health Policy and Planning* and the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and the book *Faith, Secularism and Humanitarian Engagement* (Palgrave, 2015), co-authored with his son, Joey Ager.

Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts - Durham University)

Dr Anna Rowlands is a Political Theologian with a background in the social sciences as well as theology. She is Lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Theology and Deputy Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies in the Dept of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK. She has worked in the area of theological ethics and human migration for nearly a decade, working in particular on questions of European policy, immigration detention and narratives of the good. She is the co-author of a comparative piece on Christian and Islamic traditions of thought on migration, and has researched and written on community based responses to migration in a UK setting. She is an editor of *T&T Clark Reader in Political Theology* (2016) and *Anglican Social Theology* (2014), and the author of the monograph *Catholic Social Teaching: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Bloomsbury: 2017). She works with a number of UK faith-based organisations in the field of migration and development work. She has additional research interests in the work of Hannah Arendt, Simone Weil and Gillian Rose (on whom she completed her PhD research). Her interests lie at the intersection of theological metaphysics and ethics, political theory, the practice of the church and the practice of politics. She also has a long term commitment to working as a community organiser.

Fernando Espada (Save the Children UK - Humanitarian Affairs Team)

Fernando Espada is Head of Humanitarian Affairs at Save the Children UK and an editor of the *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*. With almost two decades of experience in non-profit organisations, he was Senior Research and Policy Associate at DARA and Deputy Director of the think-tank FRIDE. Fernando is co-author of *The Echo Chamber: Results, Management and the Humanitarian Effectiveness Agenda*, editor of *Essays on Humanitarian Effectiveness*, and co-author of OCHA's report *Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow: Managing the Risk of Humanitarian Crises*. Fernando has conducted research about humanitarian crises and responses in countries such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Haiti, Liberia, Pakistan or Yemen.

Dr Olivia Wilkinson (Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities)

Dr Olivia Wilkinson is the Director of Research for the Joint Learning Initiative, and a research consultant working on issues of religion and culture in humanitarian and development work. She is a graduate of the University of Cambridge (Theology and Religious Studies), Université Catholique de Louvain (NOHA Masters in International Humanitarian Action), and her PhD research was at Trinity College Dublin on secular organisations and local faith communities in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan.

Atallah Fitzgibbon (Islamic Relief Worldwide)

After 12 years of working in the voluntary and public sector in the UK followed by 24 years' experience in humanitarian aid work, Atallah has worked at senior management and director level managing international programmes, spearheading organisational and performance improvement and leading on strategy and policy development. At Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) Atallah has worked as Programmes Director, Performance Improvement Manager, Head of Policy & Strategy and Global Advocacy manager. He is currently leading IRW's engagement and partnerships on faith-based approaches to tackling the major challenges of our time.

Atallah has led the development of Islamic Relief's last two global strategies between 2009-21, which has involved leading on the drive to improve faith literacy and localisation within IRW's work and the development of IRW's conceptual framework and theory of change on human development. As Global Advocacy Manager Atallah focussed heavily on refugee protection, and co-chairs the JLI Learning Hub on Forced Migration. As Co-chair Atallah has been active in recent initiatives and research that has focused on the role of faith-based actors in refugee protection and is active both in the World of Neighbours initiative in Europe as well as KAICID's Network for Dialogue which explores the role of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue for the social inclusion of migrants and people seeking refuge in Europe.

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

You can read our Faith and Displacement series [here](#).

Ager, A. (2019) [Research impact and policy influence: On bricks and visions](#).

Carpi, E. (2018) [Does faith-based aid provision always localise aid?](#)

Eghdamian, K. (2018) [How to overcome religious prejudice among refugees](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Employment and pension rights in the context of the localisation of aid agenda](#).

Goodwin, E. (2019) [Engaging with religion at the local level for Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-Being following humanitarian crises](#)

Harsch, L. (2019) [Soundscape: Faith Communities in Hamra](#)

Lauterbach, K. (2019) ['A Refugee Pastor in a Refugee Church' – Hybrid Forms of Faith-Based Hosting in Kampala, Uganda](#)

Rayes, D. (2018) [In God We Trust: Faith communities as an asset to refugee youth in the United States](#)

Rowlands, A. (2018) [Faith and Displacement: Introducing the Series](#)

Schmidt, K. (2019) [Developmentalising humanitarian space: Questioning the value of development approaches to protracted displacement](#).

Taylor, K. (2018) [Belgian Refugees in Glasgow: Local Faith Communities, Hosting and the Great War](#)

Panel 3: Rethinking Community, Rights and Displacement: Theory and Practice

25th October 16:00-17:30

Chair: Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts - University of Birmingham)

Dr Tamirace Fakhoury (Lebanese American University)

Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts - Durham University)

Dr Zeynep Kivilcim (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Rights – as they are mobilised by states, international actors and human rights bodies – frequently become objects of contention. This is especially the case when considering the rights of stateless people and refugees. Following our project's critical engagement with questions of rights, local community and displacement, this panel aims to conceptualise 'rights' in relation to the lives, stories and experiences of those affected by displacement, including on

the level of the individual and of 'the community'. This will include reflections on the conceptualisation of 'the community' itself in relation to rights.

Overarching questions explored in this panel will include: How are rights understood by diverse actors and communities? How might these conceptualisations challenge us to think beyond the existing paradigm of refugee rights(lessness)? What are the relationships between the theory and practice of rights when it comes to thinking through the roles played by members of local communities in response to displacement?

Panelists have been invited to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation reflecting on the topic of rethinking community rights, and the provocations captured above, drawing in particular on insights from their own research and disciplinary backgrounds. As well as exploring the themes relating to this specific panel, panelists have also been asked to address one of the key questions posed by the wider Refugee Hosts research project, namely: "how can we understand local community responses to displacement?"

Speaker abstracts will be available online at www.refugeehosts.org

Biographies

Chair: Prof. Lyndsey Stonebridge (Refugee Hosts – University of Birmingham)

Lyndsey Stonebridge is Professor of Humanities and Human Rights in the Department of English Literature and Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) at the University of Birmingham. Her research focuses on twentieth-century and contemporary literature and history, Human Rights, and Refugee Studies, drawing on the interdisciplinary connections between literature, history, politics, law and social policy. She is a scholar of the political philosopher, [Hannah Arendt](#) and following Arendt, adopts a comparative and question-driven approach to modern cultural history.

Her most recent book [Placeless People: Writing, Rights, and Refugees](#) (Oxford University Press, 2018) is a study of how the literature of exile gave way to a more complicated and vexed articulation of statelessness in the mid twentieth century. *Placeless People* is a follow-on to [The Judicial Imagination: Writing after Nuremberg](#) (2011/14), winner of the British Academy Rose Mary Crawshay Prize for English Literature, 2016, which also took the work of Arendt as a theoretical starting point in order to think about the relation between law, justice and literature in the aftermath of total war and genocide. Her other books include: *The Destructive Element* (1998), *Reading Melanie Klein* (with John Phillips, 1998), *The Writing of Anxiety* (2007), and *British Fiction after Modernism* (with Marina MacKay, 2007). Lyndsey is currently completing a [short polemical book](#) for OUP's Literary Agenda Series, *Writing and Righting: Literature in an Age of Human Rights* (2019).

Dr Tamirace Fakhoury (Lebanese American University)

Dr Tamirace Fakhoury is an associate professor of political science and international affairs in the Department of Social Sciences at the Lebanese American University (LAU), and the director of [the Institute for Social Justice and Conflict Resolution \(ISJCR\)](#). Dr. Fakhoury has been a visiting assistant professor in the summer sessions at the University of California in Berkeley between 2012 and 2016. She has just completed a research fellowship at the [Käte Hamburger Kolleg/ Centre for Global Cooperation Research](#) in Germany on the European Union's role in the polycentric governance of displacement in the Middle East. Her core research and publication areas are: power sharing in divided societies, Euro-Mediterranean migration dynamics and governance, and refugee politics in the Middle East. You can read an abstract from her presentation [here](#).

Dr Anna Rowlands (Refugee Hosts – University of Durham)

Dr Anna Rowlands is a Political Theologian with a background in the social sciences as well as theology. She is Lecturer in Contemporary Catholic Theology and Deputy Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies in the Dept of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK. She has worked in the area of theological ethics and human migration for nearly a decade, working in particular on questions of European policy, immigration detention and narratives of the good. She is the co-author of a comparative piece on Christian and Islamic traditions of thought on migration, and has researched

and written on community based responses to migration in a UK setting. She is an editor of *T&T Clark Reader in Political Theology* (2016) and *Anglican Social Theology* (2014), and the author of the monograph *Catholic Social Teaching: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Bloomsbury: 2017). She works with a number of UK faith-based organisations in the field of migration and development work. She has additional research interests in the work of Hannah Arendt, Simone Weil and Gillian Rose (on whom she completed her PhD research). Her interests lie at the intersection of theological metaphysics and ethics, political theory, the practice of the church and the practice of politics. She also has a long term commitment to working as a community organiser.

Dr Zeynep Kivılcım (Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin)

Zeynep Kivılcım is an associate professor of public international law. She got her MA and PhD degrees from Université Paris II. Her work deal critically with the human rights law and politics of legality with a gender perspective. She taught at Istanbul University, Gottingen University, Osnabrück University and Humboldt University. She is currently an Einstein Foundation Senior Scholar Humboldt University. Her recent publications in the field of migration include: "Migration Crises in Turkey", in *Oxford Handbook of Migration Crisis*, Cecilia Menjivar, Marie Ruiz and Immanuel Ness Eds., Oxford University Press, 2019, p.427-444 and *A Gendered Approach to the Syrian Refugee Crisis*, (co-editor with Jane Freedman and Nurcan Özgür Baklacioğlu), Routledge, 2017

Recommended Reading – Refugee Hosts Blog

Ager, A. (2019) [Research impact and policy influence: On bricks and visions.](#)

Al Mehdi, D. (2019) [The Tribulations, and Deportations, of Syrian Guests in Turkey](#)

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (2018) [Employment and pension rights in the context of the localisation of aid agenda.](#)

Harsch, L. (2019) ['Random acts of kindness': Reflections on everyday responses to displacement in Hamra.](#)

Lenette, C. (2019) [The value of everyday resilience](#)

Muller, A. (2019) [Belonging: a privilege or a right? Conditional inclusion in the Netherlands](#)

Schmidt, K. (2019) [Developmentalising humanitarian space: Questioning the value of development approaches to protracted displacement.](#)

Steinberg, A. (2019) [Sustaining protracted displacements: A brief history of labor policy for Jordan's refugees](#)

Timberlake, F. (2019) [Home-making and home-taking: living spaces for women refugees in Grande Synthe](#)

You can listen to Prof Lyndsey Stonebridge and Dr Anna Rowlands discussing more on these themes, [here](#).