The Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference offers a dedicated annual forum to share and debate latest research and cutting-edge developments in refugee law and protection.

This year’s special theme – ‘Mass Influx? Law, Policy and Large-Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants’ - reflects a need to re-examine complex issues surrounding large-scale sudden movements of persons across borders, as we move from the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants towards adoption of the Global Compacts in 2018.

Key to Panel Sessions:

Stream 1  Thematic: Large-scale movements – conceptual
Stream 2  Thematic: Large-scale movements – regional
Stream 3  Open theme

#RLIconf17

*Note: All sessions, speakers, chairs, titles and times as advertised are provisional and may be subject to change or cancellation at short notice due to circumstances outside the control of the organisers.
Day 1 – Monday 5 June 2017

0830-0915 Registration

0915-0930 Opening
  • Dr David James Cantor (Refugee Law Initiative)

0930-1030 Distinguished Keynote – Plenary Session
  • ‘Refugee Regime 2.0: How the World Has Changed and What It Means for Refuge’
    Professor Alexander Betts (University of Oxford)

1030-1200 Panel Session I

Stream 1 – Conceptual Approaches to ‘Mass Influx’ Situations
  Chair: (tbc)
  • ‘The “Migratory Crisis”: A Geohistorical Interpretation’ - Professor Etienne Piguet (University of Neuchâtel)
  • ‘Understanding the International and European Responses to “Large-Scale Movement of Refugees and Migrants”: A Historical Analysis’ - Professor Hemme Battjes (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) (tbc)
  • ‘Refugees, Migrants, Neither, Both? Categorical Fetishism and the Politics of Bounding in Europe’s “Migration Crisis”’ - Professor Heaven Crawley (Coventry University)
  • ‘Temporary Refuge in the Practice of “Most Affected” States’ - Rama Sahtout (Exeter University)

  Chair: Professor Jaya Ramji-Nogales (Temple University)
  • ‘The View from the Belly of the Beast: Responses to Large-Scale Movements in US Law and Policy’ - Professor Jaya Ramji-Nogales (Temple University)
  • ‘Current Developments in U.S. Immigration Law and Policy in light of International Refugee Law’ - Dr Fulvia Staiano (Italian National Research Council)
  • ‘The Extraterritorial Effects of US Executive Orders in Europe: Human Rights Standards in a Comparative Perspective’ - Professor Siobhán Mullally (University College Cork)
  • ‘Unintended Consequences: Do Progressive Legal Developments Protecting Forced Migrants Undermine Protection in Other Areas?’ - Dr Ralph Wilde (University College London)

Stream 3 - Confining EU External Border Management: Human Rights Obligations Shared, Diluted, Enforced?
  Chair: Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax (QMUL)
  • ‘Shifting Paradigms: Increased Operational Action at the External Border and the Unravelling of Effective Human Rights Responsibility’ - Joyce de Coninck (Ghent University)
  • ‘From Responsibility-Shifting to Responsibility-Sharing: EU Migration Partnership Framework and Legal Consequences of Contribution to Human Rights Violations’ - Ceren Mutus Toprakseven (QMUL)
• ‘The European Border and Coast Guard Rising: Recent Developments in the light of EU Accountability Standards and Mechanisms’ - Herbert Rosenfeldt (University of Passau)
• ‘Accountability of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency: The Litigation Route’ - Mariana Gkliati (Leiden University)

1200-1300 Lunch

1300-1430 Panel Session II

Stream 1 – International Law and the Response to Large-scale Refugee Arrivals
Chair: Martin Treadwell (New Zealand Immigration and Protection Tribunal)

• ‘The Principle of Non-Refoulement in Mass Influx Situations: A Comparative Analysis of International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law and Human Rights Law’ - Professor Vincent Chetail (Geneva Graduate Institute) (tbc)
• “‘Safe Country” Concepts in the Context of Large Arrivals’ - Dr Maria-Teresa Gil-Bazo (Newcastle University)
• ‘Non-State Agents and Protection under the Refugee Convention as a Mass Influx Issue’ - Bruce Burson (New Zealand Immigration and Protection Tribunal)

Stream 2 – Externalisation of Borders and Large-scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants
Chair: (tbc)

• ‘The Khartoum Process: The Promise and Perils of Regional Migration 'Management' Partnerships’ - Dr Lutz Oette (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)
• ‘Outsourcing Migration Management: The EU-Turkey Deal’ - Dr Margarite Helena Zoeteweij-Turhan (University of Fribourg) (tbc)
• ‘From Turkey to Libya: The EU Migration Partnership from Bad to Worse’ – Dr Mariagiulia Giuffré (Edge Hill University)
• ‘Outsourcing and the Human Trade of Refugees’ - Dr Daniel Grinceri (Independent Researcher)

Stream 3 - New Litigation Dynamics in the Refugee Field
Chair: (tbc)

• ‘UNHCR’s Judicial Engagement: Enhancing the Protection of Refugees’ Human Rights through Litigation’ - Denise Venturi and Dr Emanuela Parisciani (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna)
• ‘Constitutional Litigation of the Right to Asylum: Lessons for Europe from Latin America’ - Professor Stephen Meili (University of Minnesota)
• ‘Crowdsourcing Legal Assistance: A Humanitarian Response to Large-Scale Movements of Refugees and Migrants’ - Professor Kif Augustine-Adams (Brigham Young University)

1430-1500 Coffee

1500-1630 Panel Session III

Stream 1 – “In Challenge Lies Opportunity”: Coherence in Refugee Protection – Reflections on “New” Approaches to Programming for Large-Scale Movements of Refugees
Chair: Giovanni Baticci (Delegate to the OECD)
• ‘Programming Coherence through a Common Vision: The Parameters for Comprehensive Solutions Programming for Refugees’ - Jackie Keegan (Comprehensive Solutions, UNHCR)
• ‘The Politics of Policy Making: Counting Aid and Making Development Co-operation Work for Refugees’ - Brenda Killen (Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD)
• ‘Beyond the Rhetoric: Defining a ‘Whole-of-Government’ Approach to Coherent Programming in Refugee Responses’ - Barbara Lecq (Protracted Crisis Hub, DFID)
• ‘Private Financing for Public Good: Catalysing Innovative and Strategic Long-term Solutions to Address Critical Refugee Challenges’ - Xavier Devictor (Global Program on Forced Displacement, World Bank Group)

Stream 2 – Mass Displacement and Regional Protection Frameworks in Africa
Chair: Tamara Wood (University of New South Wales)

• ‘The 1969 African Refugee Convention’s Expanded Refugee Definition: Scope and Application in Mass Influx Situations’ - Tamara Wood (University of New South Wales)
• ‘New Insights into Old Law: The 1969 OAU Refugee Convention’ - Dr Marina Sharpe (McGill University)
• ‘Towards the 1969 Refugee Convention’s Fiftieth Anniversary’ - Jean-François Durieux (Refugee Law Initiative)
• ‘The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons: Prospects and Challenges’ - Dr Aderomola Adeola (McGill University)
• ‘Mass Displacement in Africa: Translating the Kampala Convention into Practice’ - Julie Tenenbaum (ICRC)

Stream 3 – Integration of Refugees and Migrants
Chair: (tbc)

• ‘Debating “Refugee Integration”: Emerging Perspectives from Latin America’ - Dr Marcia Vera Espinoza (Sheffield University)
• ‘Labour Market Integration of New Refugees: Entry Channels, Strategies and Experiences’ - Dr Sonia Morano-Faodi (Oxford Brookes University)
• “’Grounding’ Large-Scale Movements: Challenges and Potentials of Local Migration Governance’ - Dr Eva Dick and Dr Benjamin Schraven (German Development Institute)

1630-1730 Distinguished Keynote – Plenary Session

• ‘Prospects for the Global Compact on Migration: Towards a Mobility Agenda?’ Professor Francois Crépeau (UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants)

1730-1900 Conference Drinks Reception and Poster Session

• For all registered conference participants
• Please see List of Posters at the end of this programme
Day 2 – Tuesday 6 June 2017

0930-1100  Panel Session IV

Stream 1 – Shared Protection: Rethinking the Role of the State of Origin in International Refugee Protection
Chair: Jean-François Durieux (Refugee Law Initiative)

- ‘Why and How Can Refugee Protection be ‘Shared’ by Countries of Origin? Contemporary Insights from Central America’ - Dr David James Cantor (Refugee Law Initiative)
- ‘Proactive Responsibility and Protection Sharing Initiatives by Country of Origin: The Case of Colombia’ - Andrea Lari (Integritas International Advisors)

Stream 2 – Law, Politics and Large-scale Refugee Movements in the Middle East and SE Asia
Chair: (tbc)

- ‘Rules and Exceptions governing Protection: The Case of Palestinian Refugees’ - Francesca Albanese (Georgetown University)
- ‘The Protection of Syrian Refugees in the Middle East: What’s Law Got to Do with It?’ - Professor Dallal Stevens (Warwick University)
- ‘Refugees in Jordan: Beyond the Financial Burden, Can They be an Asset with a Win-Win Deal?’ – Dr Oroub El-Abed (British Institute in Amman)
- ‘Reading Rejection: What does the Rhetoric of Southeast Asian Diplomacy Tell Us about the Regional Response to the Rohingya Crisis?’ - Theophilus Kwek (Oxford)

Stream 3 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Asylum Claims: A European and Comparative View
Chair: Professor Nuno Ferreira (University of Sussex)

- ‘The European SOGI Asylum Framework: A European Human Rights Challenge’ - Professor Nuno Ferreira (University of Sussex)
- ‘Proving the Unprovable: Asylum for Sexual Minorities in the UK’ - Dr Moira Dustin (University of Sussex)
- ‘Living with Contradictions: The Intersectional Experience of SOGI Asylum Seekers in Germany’ - Dr Nina Held (University of Sussex)
- ‘Breaking Clichés: The Italian Attempt to Set Higher Standards of Protection for SOGI Asylum Seekers’ - Dr Carmelo Danisi (University of Sussex)

1100-1130  Coffee

1130-1230  Distinguished Keynote – Plenary Session

- ‘At the Heart of the Problem: Attention to the Global Crisis of Internal Displacement?’
  Alexandra Bilak (Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

1230-1330  Lunch
1330-1500  Panel Session V

Stream 1 – Climate Change, Disasters and the Mass Movement of Persons
Chair: Dr Cosmin Corendea (United Nations University)

- ‘The Progression of Climate Law, Human Rights and Human Mobility’ - Dr Cosmin Corendea (United Nations University)
- ‘UNHCR Perspectives for Enhancing Legal Protection for People Displaced in the context of Disaster and Climate Change’ - Marine Frank (UNHCR)
- ‘State-led, Regional, Consultative Processes: Opportunities for Developing Legal Frameworks on Disaster Displacement’ - Atle Solberg (Platform for Disaster Development)
- ‘”The Case for a Rights-based Approach to the Management of Environmental Migration: Sharing IOM’s Experience from Operations to Policy Work’” - Daria Mokhnacheva (IOM)

Stream 2 – Crisis, Cross-border Mobility and State Responses in Europe and Latin America
Chair: (tbc)

- ‘A European Protection Space? “Beneficiaries of International Protection” and Freedom of Movement’ - Dr Ruvi Ziegler (Reading University)
- ‘The Re-Nationalization of Migration Policies in Times of Crisis’ - Dr Jan-Paul Brekke (Institute for Social Research Oslo) and Anne Staver (Intergovernmental Consultations on Refugees)
- ‘Searching for Safe Havens Across the Atlantic: The Protection of Syrian Refugees in Latin America’ - Dr Luisa Feline Freier (Universidad del Pacífico Peru)
- ‘”Crisis” on the Southern US Border and the Consequences of Externalised Migration Controls in Mexico’ – Victoria Knox (Refugee Law Initiative)

Stream 3 - Flight from Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence: The Impact of UNHCR Guidelines No. 12
Chair: Jean-François Durieux (Refugee Law Initiative)

- ‘Using the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Regional Refugee Definitions to Protect “War Refugees”’ - Dr Cornelis (Kees) Wouters and Dr Katinka Ridderbos (DIP, UNHCR)
- ‘Imminence of Harm in Situations of Armed Conflict’ - Professor Hélène Lambert (Westminster University)
- ‘Has Peace Broken Out? Armed Conflict in International Protection Law: Are There Remaining Areas of Disagreement?’ - Dr Hugo Storey (International Association of Refugee Law Judges)

1500-1530  Coffee

1530-1630  Distinguished Keynote – Plenary Session

- ‘Repercussions of the European ‘Crisis’ for Global Politics on Migration and Displacement’ Professor Loren Landau (African Centre for Migration and Society, Witwatersrand University)

1800-2000  Conference Dinner

- Optional - separate registration required by those wishing to attend
Day 3 – Wednesday 7 June 2017

0900-1030 Panel Session VI

Stream 1 – Burden-sharing in the context of Large-Scale Refugee Movements
Chair: (tbc)

- ‘The Search for Creativity in Response to Crisis: Moving Beyond Durable Solutions’ - Amanda Cellini (Peace Research Institute Oslo)
- ‘“What’s In A Name?” Cooperation, Solidarity, Burdens and Responsibilities in the Refugee Regime’ - Claire Inder (UNHCR)
- ‘Meeting the Challenge of Refugee Burden-Sharing: Enhancing Refugee Mobility through Legal Migration Schemes’ - Dr Ingrid Boccardi (University College London)

Stream 2 - Trends towards Securitisation in Europe in the face of Large-scale Movements
Chair: (tbc)

- ‘Mass Influx or Massive Failure? The EU Governance Crisis of Forced Migration: A New “Coercion for Protection” Refugee Regime’ - Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax (QMUL)
- ‘The EU Hotspot Approach and Expansion of De Facto Immigration Detention’ - Izabella Majcher (Geneva Graduate Institute)
- ‘Migrant Rights in an Age of International Insecurity: Competing Approaches and Disjointed Actions to Protect Migrants while Ensuring National Security’ - Jamie Brown (Council of Europe) and Saagarika Dadu-Brown (Independent Researcher)

Stream 3 - Flight from Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence: Selected State Practice on Adjudication of Refugee Claims
Chair: Dr Cornelis (Kees) Wouters (DIP, UNHCR)

- ‘The Danish Refugee Appeals Board’s Approach in Appeals from Persons fleeing Gender-based Violence in the context of Armed Conflict’ - Christel Querton (Newcastle University)
- ‘Flight from Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence: Focus on Italian Caselaw and Practices’ - Giulia Vicini (University of Milan)
- ‘Analysis of the French Practice on the Adjudication of Refugee Claims related to Situations of Armed Conflict and Violence’ - Véronique Planès-Boissac (Independent Researcher)
- ‘The German Practice on Protection Claims related to Situations of Armed Conflict and Violence: Turning Subsidiary Protection into Primary Protection?’ – Dr Roland Bank (UNHCR)

1030-1100 Coffee

1100-1230 Distinguished Keynote – Plenary Session

- ‘Masses and Power: What Does the Future Hold?’
  Dr Volker Turk (Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR)

1230-1245 Closing

- Dr Sarah Singer (Refugee Law Initiative)
Day 1 Poster Session – Sample of Posters

- Giulia Brancoli Busdraghi (University of Rome "La Sapienza") – ‘Potential for Resettlement and Private Sponsorship: The Case of Italy – Community of Sant’Egidio’
- Diego Caballero Vélez (University of Granada) – ‘Member States’ “Perception of Threat” to Irregular Migration Flows as a Determinant Factor of Change in Cooperation at EU Level: A Comparison between the Yugoslav Migration Crisis and the Syrian Refugee Crisis’
- Fred Dunwoodie Stirton (University of Bristol) – ‘Forced Migrants with a Disability: An Analysis of the UK and Canada’
- Margaret Hunter (MA in Refugee Protection, RLI) – ‘Unaccompanied Children in the United States: Vulnerability, Protection and the Limits of Political Harm’
- Bashar Ibrahim AlHadla (Independent Researcher) – ‘The Violation of the Right to Asylum in Serbia’
- Dr Dina Imam Supaat (Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia) – ‘Refugee Children and the Protection under the Principle of the Best Interests of the Child’
- Roshan Jain and Rohan Kumar (Saveetha University) – ‘Redefining International Refugee Regime and Need for Inclusiveness: A Case Study from India’
- Dr Tally Kritzman-Amir (College of Law and Business Israel) – ‘Mass Influx’
- Stephanie Lee (University of New South Wales) – ‘Achieving Local Integration: An Analysis of Self-Help Mechanisms Utilised by Refugees in Malaysia’
- Jenny Poon (University of Western Ontario) – ‘International and Regional Responses to the EU Migrant Crisis: Too Little, Too Late?’
- Irem Sengul (University of Warwick) – ‘Questioning Temporary Protection as a Contemporary Solution to Large-Scale Movements: Temporary Protection in Practice in Turkey’
- Agnes Simic (Middlesex University) – ‘Legal Practitioners as Key Sites of Information Provision in the Asylum Process: Recognition and Relevance of Another Crucial Role’
- Gina Starfield (Oxford University) – ‘Litigating Children’s Rights Across Borders: Does the ZAT and Others v. SSHD Ruling Enhance Access to Protection??’