Welcome to the Kaldor Centre’s sixth annual Emerging Scholars Network workshop. Across four days this year’s virtual event will feature the latest research in the following areas:

Asylum: Data and Definitions • the Gender & Diversity research group • Youth education and mental health • the Africa research group • the Asia-Pacific research group • Access to education • Climate Change, Disaster and Human Mobility research group

As a headline event in our annual workshop, we are delighted to be joined by emerging scholars Tina Dixson, Ahmad Akkad, Khulud and Thae Oo Khaing for a special panel discussion chaired by Dr Tamara Wood and introduced by Professor Geoff Gilbert, titled:

‘Displacement and the Academy: emerging scholars with lived experiences talk shop’

Our panellists will discuss the structural barriers to education and research dissemination that displaced scholars may encounter, and career pathways for refugees in academia.

This one-hour event will be on Thursday 7th October at 6pm Sydney (AEDT) /10am Nairobi (EAT) / 9am Geneva (CEST)/ 2pm Bangkok (ICT) via Zoom.

Register for this event via the Kaldor Centre website or at Humanitix

Zoom

Except for the above event, all workshop sessions are available via the same Zoom link.

Network members are very welcome to invite colleagues (who are not members) to attend; we ask that you please email Dr Claire Higgins at c.higgins@unsw.edu.au to let us know. Members are encouraged to attend any sessions they wish.

Each speaker has a maximum of 15 minutes to present, with 10-15 minutes for Q&A.

Many thanks

We are grateful to the Kaldor Centre’s Frances Nolan and Frances Voon, and to all our participants for their support for this event. We would especially like to thank UNSW Law student Shannen Welsh and her dog Bentley for their help in organising this workshop.
Program

Tuesday 5th October

Asylum: Data and Definitions

11.30am Sydney (AEDT)
7.30am Bangkok (ICT)
*5.30pm San Diego (PDT)
*8.30pm NYC (EDT)
(*Mon 4th)

One hour

Speakers:
Jan-Phillip Graf
Doctoral candidate, The Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict, Ruhr University Bochum

To view abstract, visit hyperlink

A Human Right to Asylum for Refugee Children

Sevin Gulfer Sagnic
Doctoral Candidate, University of California San Diego

Refugee Mobility, Gender and Vulnerability: Limitations and extent of the existing data

Dr. Nathan Bell
Academic Teacher, University of Melbourne

On the Refugee-Migrant Distinction

Discussants:
Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill
Deputy Director, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law Emeritus
Professor of International Refugee Law, University of Oxford

Regina Jefferies
Assistant Professor, Western Washington University
Doctoral candidate, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

Natasha Yacoub
Doctoral candidate, University of New South Wales
Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

Dr Yao-Tai Li
Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales

Dr Rawan Arar
Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Societies and Justice
University of Washington
Tuesday 5th October  Gender & Diversity research group

8pm Sydney (AEDT)  11am Geneva (CEST)
12pm Nairobi (EAT)  4pm Bangkok (ICT)

One hour

Chaired by:
Dr Nik Tan
Senior Researcher
Danish Institute of Human Rights

Speakers:
Natasha Yacoub
Doctoral candidate, University of New South Wales

To view abstract, visit hyperlink
Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

Gendering the cessation criteria for ceased circumstances in the Sudan

Sarah Craig
Doctoral Candidate and Lecturer in Law, School of Law
Queen’s University, Belfast

Sexualisation, Stereotyping and Disbelief: Reflections on LGBTI+ Asylum Claims in Recent CJEU Case Law

Discussants:
Dr Nik Tan
Senior Researcher
Danish Institute for Human Rights

Dr Kate Ogg
Associate Professor, College of Law
Australian National University

Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill
Deputy Director, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
Emeritus Professor of International Refugee Law, University of Oxford
Wednesday 6th October  Youth education and mental health

1pm Sydney (AEDT)  
9am Bangkok (ICT)  
*7pm San Diego (PDT)  
*10pm New York (EDT)  
(*Tues 5th)

One hour

Chaired by:
Shannen Welsh  
Law Student, University of New South Wales  
2021 T3 intern at the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

Speakers:
Carly Hawkins  
Doctoral candidate, Faculty of Arts, Architecture & Design  
University of New South Wales

To view abstract, visit hyperlinks

**Nauru: The impact of offshore immigration detention on the education of children**

Anna Xavier  
Doctoral candidate, School of Education  
University of New South Wales

**Breaking Barriers or Building Walls? The English Language and Literacy Support for Refugee-Background Students in Regional NSW**

Discussants:
Natasha Harding  
Doctoral candidate  
University of Newcastle

Jan-Phillip Graf  
Doctoral candidate, The Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict, Ruhr University Bochum

Dr Tracey Donohue  
Education Consultant  
Luxemburg Development

Dr Ash Hosseini  
Honorary Research Fellow  
University of Melbourne
**Wednesday 6th October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8pm Sydney (AEDT)</td>
<td>11am Geneva (CEST)</td>
<td><strong>Africa Research Group</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm Nairobi (EAT)</td>
<td>4pm Bangkok (ICT)</td>
<td>Chaired by: Grace Ampomsah, Doctoral candidate, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>90 minutes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Speaker:**

Peter Kibathi  
Uganda Country Representative, Ubongo

_To view abstract, visit hyperlink_

Refugees, Environmental Degradation and Conflicts in Nakivale Refugee Settlement

Vincent Dogbey  
Doctoral candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

Assessing the Cross-generational Impacts of Development-Induced Displacement and Resettlement in Sub-Saharan Africa

Dr Niro Kandasamy  
Lecturer in History, Australian Catholic University &
Emmanuel Chima  
Doctoral candidate, School of Social Work, Michigan State University

Restorving the Experiences of Rwandan and Burundian Refugees in Malawi

**Discussants:**

Dr Nathan Bell  
Academic Teacher, University of Melbourne

Natasha Yacoub  
Doctoral candidate, University of New South Wales  
Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

Dr Georgia Cole  
Chancellor’s Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Vincent Dogbey  
Doctoral candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

Dr Tamara Wood  
Visiting Fellow, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law  
Postdoctoral Researcher (external), RefMig Project, Hertie School, Berlin
Thursday 7th October

Asia-Pacific Research Group

12pm Sydney (AEDT)
11am Brisbane (AEST)
6.30am Colombo (IST)
8am Bangkok (ICT)
*6pm San Diego (PDT)
(*Wed 6th)

One hour

Chaired by:
Madeline Gleeson
Senior Research Associate, Kaldor Centre, UNSW
Convenor, Asia-Pacific research group

Speakers:
Abdul Aziz
Doctoral candidate, Digital Media Research Centre
Queensland University of Technology

To view abstract, visit
hyperlink

Voices Resistance: digital participation, visibility and identity politics of the
Rohingya diaspora

D. G. Niruka Sanjeewani
Senior Lecturer in International Relations
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

Ethnicity as a Matter of Citizenship: Analyzing Legal and Social Exclusion
of Rohingya in India

Discussants:
Ashraful Azad
Doctoral candidate, University of New South Wales
Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

Dr Yao-Tai Li
Lecturer, School of Social Sciences
University of New South Wales

Brian Barbour
Doctoral candidate, University of New South Wales
Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
Panel event

*Displacement and the Academy: emerging scholars with lived experiences talk shop*

Register via the Kaldor Centre website or at Humanitix

This event is hosted by the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, the Forced Migration Research Network at UNSW, and UNHCR’s Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network.

Introduction: Professor Geoff Gilbert
Chair of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network Secretariat
Professor, School of Law, University of Essex

Chair: Dr Tamara Wood
Visiting Fellow, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law
Postdoctoral Researcher (external), RefMig Project, Hertie School, Berlin

Speakers: Tina Dixson
Doctoral candidate and Queer feminist academic activist
Australian National University
Co-founder of the Queer Sisterhood Project

Khulud
Doctoral candidate at Monash University

Ahmad Akkad
Doctoral candidate, Centre for Education Studies, Warwick University

Thae Oo Khaing
Doctoral candidate at the Australian Catholic University

At a time when many universities are trying to become more inclusive, the pandemic is prompting a rethink of traditional academic practice. Is this a moment for new possibilities? Our panel will consider the opportunities as well as the current challenges for scholars with lived experience – exploring the unique pressures, problems, influences and expectations that rest on those whose path to scholarship was informed by displacement.

The discussion will highlight the issues that matter to members of the Kaldor Centre’s Emerging Scholars Network, our multidisciplinary and international community of more than 200 graduate and early-career scholars in forced migration studies.
Thursday 7th October  Access to education

8pm Sydney (AEDT)
11am Geneva (CEST)
12pm Nairobi (EAT)
4pm Bangkok (ICT)

90 minutes

Chaired by:
Carly Hawkins
Doctoral candidate, Arts, Design & Architecture
University of New South Wales

Speakers:
Abdi Omar Aden
Masters candidate
York University

To view abstract, visit hyperlink
Access to tertiary education for people with disabilities (PWD) in Daghaley refugee camp - Dabaad

Thae Oo Khaing
Doctoral candidate
Australian Catholic University

University Programs for Refugee Young People in South-East Asia

Dr Tracey Donohue
Education Consultant
Luxemburg Development

Facilitating coping and hoping through education in protracted urban transitory displacement contexts

Discussants:
Nisha Rajoo
Manager of Knowledge and Insights
National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, Singapore

Carly Hawkins
Doctoral candidate, Arts, Design & Architecture
University of New South Wales

Anna Xavier
Doctoral candidate, School of Education
University of New South Wales

Hanh Nguyen
Mixed Migration Researcher
Danish Refugee Council
Friday 8th October  

Climate Change, Disaster and Human Mobility Research Group

Chaired by:
Sanjula Weerasinghe  
Independent Consultant  
Non-Resident Fellow, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University

Erica Bower  
Climate Change & Human Mobility Specialist  
Stanford University

Speakers:
Aylin Yildiz  
Doctoral candidate, World Trade Institute  
University of Bern

To view abstract, visit hyperlink

The International Protection of Persons Mobile in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change

Chuah Hui Yin  
Research Associate  
Asia School of Business

Agency Amongst Individuals and Humanitarian Organisations in the Provision of Aid During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysia

Discussants:
Dr Elin Jakobssen  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
The Swedish Institute of International Affairs

Nisha Rajoo  
Manager of Knowledge and Insights  
National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, Singapore

Dr Lauren Nishimura  
Advisory Committee  
Platform on Disaster Displacement
Participant Abstracts

Abdul Aziz

Voices of Resistance: digital participation, visibility and identity politics of the Rohingya diaspora

Rohingya diaspora have been campaigning to recognise their sufferings and citizenship rights in global advocacy forums using social media during and after ‘genocide’ in Rakhine state in 2017. Yet, the use of social media also poses security threats. In this context, this study examines how social media is used to negotiate identity politics, as well as how online narratives contribute to Rohingya transnational identity.

This paper mainly draws on literature of digital media and internet studies within forced migration, transnationalism and diaspora contexts. In digital migration studies (Leurs & Smets, 2018), research has made significant strides in understanding refugees’ media practices during the migration, transnational family ties, settlement in a host society. However, little attention has been paid to more nuanced understanding everyday (digital) resistance and identity negotiation through social media practice in the context of conflict and forced migration. This study follows the idea of multi-sited approach (Marcus, 1995), this study draws on a qualitative approach of semi-structured interviews and social media scroll back interviews (Robards & Lincoln, 2019) methods to investigate the use of technologies in their everyday experiences of prolonged displacement in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh and among resettled refugees in Brisbane, Australia. Face to face interviews (n=20) were conducted in Brisbane, while mobile/online interviews (n=10) were followed to collect data from the Cox’s bazar refugee camp.

The findings offer some new insights into the lived experience with technology and how participants negotiate using social media to form a community while also enables us to shed light on a larger context dealing with issues of surveillance and insecurity. Primarily, identity politics are negotiated on social media through (1) cultural resistance (e.g., traditional song, food event; (2) mediated visibility as a politics of resistance (e.g., photography practice, hashtag), and (3) information resistance (e.g., diasporic media). Such techniques of resistance can be regarded as ‘repressive and productive’ (Foucault 1978) as well as the politics of ‘confrontation and recognition’ (Abraham & Jaehn, 2019). In this paper, I argue that social media offer a niche of a repertoire of resistance and the rise of a new form of voce and engagement on a transnational space in a context of surveillance and statelessness. Overall, by focusing on both urban and refugee camp settings, this paper responds to calls for more research into power inequalities and transnational diaspora activism, authoritarian politics in the age of digital media.

Dr Nathan Bell

On the Refugee-Migrant Distinction

The distinction between the figure of the refugee and the figure of the migrant - in law, public policy, the media, activism and academic work - is being increasingly called into question. A recent book by Professor Rebecca Hamlin called Crossing: How we Label and React to People on the Move (SUP), deconstructs this binary as unhelpful and ultimately even harmful in failing to adequately capture the complex and not easily delineated reasons which cause people to move. In this paper, I engage with Hamlin's book as at once a fantastic and timely contribution to the literature, as well as an important challenge to all those who seek to defend the category of refugee as an important locus of protection. While Hamlin's work is vitally important, I also offer some critiques of some positions in the book, where it is not clear what follows in terms of changes to the law, to politics, reporting, activism and more. There are legitimate concerns, on the one hand, of diluting or calling into question the status of refugee as the primary access, however rarely given, of asylum and safety; on the other, if as seems apparent that public opinion in the Global North is hostile to migration tout court, what would it mean to shift the locus of political struggle
away from refugees? I suggest a possible alternative approach in the expansion of the definition of the refugee, as capturing more categories of 'migrants' where 'vulnerability' become the locus of protection status.

Anna Xavier

*Breaking Barriers or Building Walls? The English Language and Literacy Support for Refugee-Background Students in Regional NSW*

This ongoing study examines the current English language and literacy support provided for refugee-background students in regional New South Wales (NSW) to facilitate their integration into mainstream academic classes. The successful integration of refugees into the NSW educational system is argued to be crucial to facilitate their integration into Australian society (NSW Department of Education, 2018). However, little is known about the provision of English language and literacy support in the public high schools of regional NSW, despite the crucial role that these schools play in developing the English language proficiency and literacy of students. This study therefore aims to investigate the multiple layers of context surrounding the current English language and literacy support provided for refugee-background students in the public high schools of regional NSW. These layers of context, which are identified via Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model (1979), include the following: state policies, school-based strategies, classroom-level practices and the lived experiences of refugee-background students. Data collection methods employed in the study include an analysis of state policies related to English language and literacy education in NSW, and semi-structured interviews with external stakeholders, high school teachers, school leaders, refugee-background students and their parents. Findings from phase one of data collection (policy analysis) reveal the limited recognition of the distinct language and literacy needs of refugee-background students, and the invisibility of the regional context and its challenges in policies related to English language and literacy education in NSW. These findings highlight the need for increased visibility and an accurate representation of refugee-background students and the regional context in policy to ensure the adequate provision of resources and targeted interventions.

Sarah Craig

*Sexualisation, Stereotyping and Disbelief: Reflections on LGBTI+ Asylum Claims in Recent CJEU Case Law*

The levels of protection currently afforded to LGBTI+ persons significantly vary on the global scale and constrain individuals from living freely and openly. As such, it is without any great surprise that the legal regulation of forced migration comes to the fore. It is in this respect that those seeking asylum are not only forced to flee persecution from their country of origin, but are faced with a legal regime which further attempts to deem those worthy of status. The refugee regime is marked by the stark reality that it is both inclusionary and exclusionary, one in which asylum claims based on sexual orientation are still trying to find their rightful place.

The nexus, therefore, between finding that place of refuge within the EU and having refugee status recognized is one of small margins. While great strides have been made at the EU level, LGBTI+ asylum applicants continue to face ongoing struggles regarding consistent and effective determinations of status at first instance during the credibility assessment phase. Credibility assessment amounts to one of the most pivotal aspects of the refugee determination process. Essentially whether, in light of the evidence, the narrative of the claimant is believed or disbeliefed. As the asylum process becomes increasingly stringent and delimited, claims based on sexual orientation face substantial difficulties in essentially ‘proving’ their claim.

The case of F v. Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal highlights the ongoing struggle which LGBTI+ persons face regarding consistent and effective determinations of status. Specifically, at first instance within the credibility assessment phase on the grounds of sexual orientation. The judgment is a significant and welcomed decision insofar as prohibiting projective personality tests (namely Draw-A-Person-In-The-Rain, Rorschach and
Szondi tests) on the basis of a psychologist’s expert report. However, the case raises important concerns that stereotyped notions of sexuality, not categorically rejected in the prior case law of A, B, C v. Staatssecretaris van Veiligheid en Justitie, continues to underpin the evidentiary process at the national level. This purpose of this paper will therefore be two-fold; evaluating the CJEU judgment in F and, furthermore, contending that sexual orientation based claims continue to be adjudicated by predisposed sexualised and stereotyped notions, whereby the claimant is disbelieved from the outset.

Vincent Dogbey

Assessing the Cross-generational Impacts of Development-Induced Displacement and Resettlement in Sub-Saharan Africa

In many developing societies across the globe, modernist aspiration and imagination of development have led to state-led development interventions through the building of large-scale technological projects such as dams. These are either for purposes irrigation agriculture, water supply or to produce climate-friendly renewable energy for domestic, national and industrial use. Often, such development pathways have led behind problems of displacement and resettlement, as people are made to involuntarily abandon their familiar physical dwellings and entire systems of livelihoods in order to allow such development infrastructures to take place. In some cases, project victims, especially the legitimate land title owners, are enabled to relocate to unfamiliar newer locations to begin life all over again. The impact and ramifications for such categories of people are diverse, ranging from the loss of job, the loss of land, limited access to education, limited access to health facilities, social disarticulation, and risk of impoverishment. Moreover, not only have these adverse outcomes been only deeply felt by the older populations usually of the same generational bracket, and who were somewhat involved in the process of the resettlement. Overtime, such adverse outcomes have also spilt over across-generations due to the lack of attention to several factors.

This research investigation uses ethnographically informed methods such oral histories and traditions, interviews, direct and indirect participant observations, focused group discussions to partly assess the cross-generational ramifications of the volta dam-induced displacement and resettlement on some selected affected communities in contemporary Ghana. The research is particularly focused on understanding the intersection between such an induced involuntary resettlement and the contemporary personal social development of people who in different ways are still living with the memories and impact of their resettlement experience. It explores the thoughts and experiences as well as the different ways the affected people have engaged with the realities of resettlement through time and space.

The research brings to bear the often-undermined generational differences that exist within populations that suffer involuntary displacement and resettlement in the long run. It challenges the prioritization of the immediate gains of development pursuits at the expense of the longer-term adverse impacts for people, who perhaps due to the gap in age, have little or no understanding about the consequences of involuntary resettlement.

Dr Tracey Donohue

Facilitating coping and hoping through education in protracted urban transitory displacement contexts

There are currently over 15 million refugees and asylum seekers living in urban sites of protracted transitory displacement throughout the world. People in this situation, including children, are often denied access to formal education, which has led to the establishment of informal Alternative Learning Centres (ALCs) by refugees themselves.
English is commonly adopted as the medium of instruction at ALCs, with teachers drawn from refugee communities based on their relative levels of English proficiency. How these spontaneous teachers negotiate their language teacher identities (LTIs) given their lack of teacher education and precarious social positioning is yet to be considered by applied linguistics and refugee education scholars despite the educational ramifications teachers’ LTIs have on the provision of quality education for countless refugee students. Through a critical identity theoretical and pedagogic frame, this study attends to this voluminous gap in the literature by reporting on a 12 month critical participatory action research (PAR) inquiry aimed at facilitating the desired LTIs of thirteen spontaneous English language teachers practicing at an ALC in Indonesia.

The critical element of this PAR approach is influenced by Darvin and Norton’s (2015) view of identity formation which, in conjunction with the teacher participants’ expressed desires regarding their LTIs, guided the formulation of the following research questions:

- In what different ways do spontaneous teachers conceptualise and negotiate their LTIs across temporal scales in urban displacement contexts?
- What factors enable/constrain the formation of desired LTIs for the spontaneous teacher participants in urban transitory displacement?
- How could a PAR approach facilitate the formation/strengthening of spontaneous teachers’ desired LTIs in urban displacement contexts?

The research reports that the transitory displacement context gives rise to theoretical and practical deviations from identity studies situated in formal non-displacement education contexts. Drawing on key constructs from Darvin and Norton’s (2015) critical identities framework, the participants’ LTI negotiations, although situated and temporary, are shown to be structured across time and space through the ongoing interplay between primary and secondary habitus values, beliefs, feelings, and attitudes; their own and their students’ English-related future desires; and their present micro, meso and macro-fields of practice. For the participants, these multidimensional negotiations enabled them to move from inhabiting tentative language teacher identities to inhabiting and being ascribed their desired LTIs.

The lessons learned from our PAR collaboration extends the scope of LTI and critical identity studies into the extreme anti-belonging context of transitory displacement. Further, as English-medium ALCs provide the sole source of education for tens of thousands of refugees around the world, this first study on spontaneous teacher development from an LTI perspective serves to shine the spotlight on spontaneous English teachers’ knowledge bases, desires, teaching strengths, and teaching challenges and, in doing so, informs the growing need for language teacher development in displacement contexts. Lastly, as a longitudinal PAR inquiry with refugee participants, our collaboration has substantive methodological implications for researchers wishing to engage with, and in the service of, marginalised communities.

Jan-Phillip Graf

A Human Right to Asylum for Refugee Children

"The PhD project ‘A Human Right to Asylum for Refugee Children’ explores the contradiction between a developed framework of rights for refugee children and severe shortcomings in their practical protection. By following the question ‘how can international human rights law, in particular the rights of the child, be interpreted and applied to protect refugee children’s inherent right to asylum’ the project follows two objectives: (1) to provide a comprehensive analysis of refugee children’s legal protection framework, and (2) to find an explanation for the mismatch between their rights and their practical enforcement.

The analysis of this topic follows three steps. The first part focuses on article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a central point
for the systemic integration of refugee children’s rights. Article 22 requires “that a child who is seeking refugee status […] shall […] receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights”. Thereby, this provision integrates all other human rights applicable to the context of refugee children and connects them in one legal framework. Understood in this way, article 22 provides a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of refugee children during all stages of their migration processes. The goal of this part is to establish a comprehensive list of refugee children’s rights and explain how they can work in the context of forced migration.

In a second step, the project assesses how and to what extent states have managed to implement children’s rights into their regional and domestic refugee protection regimes and immigration laws. This is achieved by comparing the immigration codes and procedures of a limited number of states with different legal systems located both in the Global North and South. This part aims at identifying challenges and best practices when states operationalize their international obligations. The third part of the project will analyze the appropriateness and effectiveness of the international legal protections by conducting a survey among the affected stakeholders, i.e., refugee children, border patrol officers, NGOs, immigration judges, social workers etc. This part’s objective is to find an explanation for the mentioned practical protection gap by involving the individuals who have firsthand experiences with refugee children.

The overall research objective of this project is to argue that children enjoy a distinct right to asylum under article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which goes beyond the legal protection of adults in comparable situations. Moreover, the project will also identify the legal and procedural reasons for the lack of enforcement of refugee children’s right to asylum.

Sevin Gulfer Sagnic

Refugee Mobility, Gender and Vulnerability: Limitations and extent of the existing data

Gendered aspect of refugee vulnerabilities has long been a concern for academics, activists, and policymakers. Both academic researchers and the international organizations have been drawing attention to the problems of the existing refugee mobility data that disallows understanding the real extent of these vulnerabilities. However, these calls for disaggregation have been limited to certain gender and age categories. I argue that the existing refugee data suffers from critical disaggregation and measurement problems beyond the disaggregation problem identified in the literature. There are three fundamental problems with the data: (1) lack of gender, age, and nationality disaggregation (2) heteronormativity (3) survivor bias. This article focuses on the question of “What kind of data is needed to understand the gendered vulnerabilities associated with the refugee mobilities?” Drawing on the data collected by contacting with the international organizations, national authorities, and independent researchers in the Eastern Mediterranean between 2017 and 2019 and systematic review of the available datasets this article makes a case for the need for better measurement and collection of more disaggregate comprehensive data along with increasing transparency and cooperation for data collection and dissemination.

Carly Hawkins

Nauru: The impact of offshore immigration detention on the education of children

Offshore detention of asylum seekers and refugees is one of the most controversial issues in the Australian political landscape. The aim of this PhD project is to explore the experience of schooling and education of children who were subject to offshore immigration detention in Nauru. With migration movement at unprecedented levels, many countries have implemented harsh policies as a response to asylum seekers and refugees. Australia legislates one of the harshest immigration policies in the world for those who seek asylum. Any family or children who attempt to arrive in Australia by boat
without a visa are sent to indefinite detention on the remote pacific island of Nauru. This is in direct contravention of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children must not be detained arbitrarily and only as a last resort. Despite international concerns that immigration detention is harmful to children, the Australian government policy remains in place. Much of the research around the impact of immigration detention has centred on the mental health of children. Findings from Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA have unequivocally demonstrated that detention causes psychological harm. There is limited research however, into children’s educational experience while detained. The impact of immigration detention on education is a consequential topic as over 200 children were held in Nauru, some staying for more than 2000 days. This is a significant proportion of a child’s life, incorporating key stages of educational development. The topic needs further research and as such, my research specifically focuses on school-aged asylum seeker and refugee children who were held in Nauru from 2013-2019.

This project uses a qualitatively-driven research methodology that will use semi-structured in-depth interviews as the primary data collection method. The interviews will explore the following research questions:

1. What were the educational experiences of school-aged asylum seeker and refugee children in Nauru?

2. What were the supports and barriers to education for school-aged asylum seeker and refugee children while detained in Nauru?

3. What were the educational outcomes for school-aged asylum seeker and refugee children who lived in Nauru?

Supplementary quantitative data will be gathered and analysed to assist in answering the research questions. School attendance data will indicate to an extent, the level that asylum seeker and refugee children engaged in schooling in Nauru. These statistics will be used to inform the research findings. Additionally, a quantitative comparison of school results will be used for academic outcomes achieved by Year 12 asylum seeker and refugee students in Nauru and Year 12 students in Australia.

Educational success plays a fundamental role in the holistic well-being of all children, especially those who are vulnerable such as asylum seeker and refugee children.

**Dr Niro Kandasamy and Emmanuel Chima**

*Restorying the Experiences of Rwandan and Burundian Refugees in Malawi*

Since the UNHCR established the Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi in 1994, people fleeing genocide in Rwanda and Burundi have pursued creative and critical approaches to gain social and cultural autonomy from the state as they seek to rebuild their lives. Refugee people from Rwanda and Burundi remain Persons of Concern to UNHCR, while the government has not yet invoked key protocols that can formally permit them to resettle outside the camp. The Rwandan and Burundian community’s abilities to control stress and seek opportunities to improve their lives in conditions of long-term protracted displacement represents a significant negotiation between refugee pressures and supports. Equally significant is how these negotiations have changed over time, from the initial flight to the present day persisting challenges.

The topic of this paper addresses an understudied and essential history of the Rwandan and Burundian people who are hosted at the Dzaleka refugee camp. Despite the growing body of literature on refugees in Africa, scholars largely overlook histories of the Dzaleka refugee camp. This paper looks at how the Rwandan and Burundian people narrate experiences about their psychosocial wellbeing, which are tied to their past and present; the gendered and generational histories of being exiled multiple times, its
impacts on individual and family stress, and their determination to build new lives in the refugee camp. While the individuals are active reactors to macro events outside their control such as genocide and forced migration, they are active shapers of the social and cultural relationships that they forge inside the refugee camp. There, individuals have more volition and control to not only react but also to shape their coping and resilience in the face of poverty, economic inequality, legal status precarity, and discrimination. This paper will argue the Rwandan and Burundian people assert their resistance within the historical and ongoing political landscape of their forced displacement to shape their processes of coping and resilience. Ultimately, this resistance contributes to strengthening, shaping, and remaking Rwandan and Burundian identity in the Dzakela refugee camp. This study draws on interviews undertaken with refugee people, government and non-government reports, newspaper articles, and legal documents to construct a narrative of refugee agency in long-term experiences inside the refugee camp.

Kibathi Peter

Refugees, Environmental Degradation and Conflicts in Nakivale Refugee Settlement

Background
Natural resource related conflicts is not a new phenomenon in refugee camps and settlements the world over. The scramble for arable land, water, fish, and trees among others has been witnessed in almost all refugee host countries. As the refugee population grows the pressure on these and other natural resources multiplies.

Conflicts related to land, water, grazing fields and forests have been documented in refugee settlements in Uganda, such as Adjumani, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali and Rwamwanja.

Introduction
Nakivale refugee settlement situated in South Western Uganda is the biggest refugee camp in Uganda. The camp opened its door in the early 1960s to accommodate mainly Tutsi refugees fleeing conflict in Rwanda. The refugees are from different countries mainly from Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The rest are from Eritrea, Ethiopia Southern Sudan, Somalia and Kenya. Currently the settlement has a population of 86639 refugees and asylum seekers.

In the early 1960 the population of Nakivale camp was a couple of thousands, to 22,000 around 2006, to 35000 in 2008, 65,000 in 2010 to the current figures of 86639 and counting. This has been occasioned by incessant refugees’ influx to the settlement occasioned by conflicts in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

These influxes have had and continue to have very negative environmental and ecological effects on the settlement and its environs. For example because of land pressures as the population continue to swell, more and more people are farming near the shores of lake Nakivale. This has affected the ecosystem of the lake as year in year out lake Nakivale is shrinking in size. The fish numbers in the lake has greatly reduced as a result of overfishing to feed the blooming population. The main source of cooking energy in Nakivale settlement is firewood and charcoal. As the population increase the demand on these two commodities has grown exponentially putting pressure on the environment. A camp which some decades back was lush and green has no turned into a semi-arid and dry place.

Also as the population growth continues, the size of the settlement and its natural resources are not growing. This has led to unhealthy land, water, firewood and other resources conflict in the settlement including loss of lives.

Thus the constant influx of refugee into Nakivale refugee settlement has negatively affected both the environment and ecosystem of the place and has become a source of insecurity and conflicts. If this is not addressed sooner rather than later its repercussions may be very dire.
Abdi Omar Aden

Access to tertiary education for people with disabilities (PWD) in Daghaley refugee camp - Dabaad

This paper seeks to elucidate access to tertiary education for people with disabilities in Dadaab refugee context. As a graduate candidate, I was interested in investigating higher education opportunities for people with disabilities in Dadaab refugee camp with emphasis on scholarship, inclusivity, resources, barriers, and recruitment process. The latter was quite restrictive/highly competitive and mainly based on high school grade. There was no existing academic literature that examines specifically access to tertiary education for people with disabilities in Dadaab camps. This dissertation paper employs qualitative approach and seeks to uncover existing tertiary opportunities for PWD and challenges they encounter. In addition to that, it was guided by semi-structured questions and participants’ feedback allowed me to explore deep in detail higher education opportunities, accessibility and changes they (PWD) like to have done in relation to recruitment criteria. Upon interviews with high school graduates who had no tertiary opportunities and others who receive scholarships, my findings emanate from interviews conducted from mention participants and explore myriad ways in which PWD can be considered and enrolled in existing scholarships in Dadaab camps and beyond Kenya. I contend that, although there are limited scholarships from NGOs, access to tertiary education for PWD in Dadaab refugee camp is still immensely valuable to strengthen their skills and expertise as they wait for durable solutions.

D.G. Niruka Sanjeeewani

Ethnicity as a Matter of Citizenship: Analyzing Legal and Social Exclusion of Rohingya in India

Rohingya community has become a statelessness community since they do not enjoy the citizenship rights of Myanmar. In this setup, cross border movements of Rohingya Muslims to neighboring India, where hardline Hinduism are being practiced have intensified legal and social exclusion of them. Particularly, their inability to access public services including health and livelihood opportunities often intertwined with xenophobic views which are prevalent in India. This phenomenon can be recognized as a bi-product of the nationalist narratives which brands Rohingya as illegal immigrants. Within this background, the main objective of this paper is to demonstrate the impact of Rohingya’s ethnicity on legal and social exclusion of them.

Though India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee convention or 1967 its protocol, the country is a signatory to several international conventions on human rights, including the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. In this regard, the study further elaborates discriminatory legal provisions of India, including the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). A specific focus will be given to push and pull factors of the infiltration of the Rohingya community to India. As the influx of Rohingyas has been framed as a national security issue, it is required to recognize the issue as a humanitarian issue which permits a transnational and humanitarian response. Mainly, national and regional frameworks including South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) can play a major role in enabling more effectual responses to ensure the protection of Rohingyas. Grounded on that, the paper also examines international provisions that can be applied to address the protection needs of Rohingya. Finally, the paper suggests to revise legal frameworks and administrative policies of India by asserting the human dignity of the Rohingya community sheltered within the country.
Natasha Yacoub

*Gendering the cessation criteria for ceased circumstances in the Sudan*

Gender persecution was one the main reasons women fled the Sudan to neighbouring countries over the past two decades. Rape as a tool of warfare in Darfur, moral laws preventing women from participating in public life, and silencing of women’s groups were enabled by systemic discrimination against women under the former military government of President Omar Al Bashir. The Sudan is preparing for a new era following the revolution of 2019 that saw the end of Al Bashir’s rule. Peace agreements to end the war are being signed, with attempts to mainstream gender issues in the talks, and pro-democracy protests in support of the revolution continue as the country prepares for its first democratic election in decades.

With fundamental political changes in motion, asylum countries will consider the cessation of refugee status of some 2 million Sudanese in neighbouring countries. Under international refugee law, these countries may invoke the ‘ceased circumstances clauses’ in Article 1C(5) and (6) of the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. In interpreting these clauses, asylum countries must assess whether the situation in the country of origin has improved such that it no longer presents a risk of persecution and refugees can access protection of their country. Do the cessation clauses adequately take into account the experiences of women? If not, can a dynamic interpretation of the law to include women’s human rights remedy this? Or will women from the Sudan be returned to the gender persecution they fled?

Aylin Yildiz

*The International Protection of Persons Mobile in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change*

To understand and address the impacts of disasters and climate change on human mobility under international law, my Ph.D. thesis answers three research questions. First, how can human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change (‘HMDCC’) be conceptualised under international law? Borrowing the definition of complex problems from Jutta Brunnée, I conceptualise HMDCC as a planetary and intergenerational complex problem. Second, how can the complex problem of HMDCC be addressed under international law? I advocate for setting an international minimum standard for the treatment of persons mobile in the context of disasters and climate change (‘PMDCC’). I argue that the notion of international protection should be that standard. International protection of PMDCC should aim to (i) grant protection against return to the country of origin (non-refoulement); (ii) prevent future displacement; and (iii) facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration in the context of disasters and climate change. Third, how can the international protection of PMDCC be operationalised? I investigate two separate and non-contradictory approaches: (i) the international protection of PMDCC as a community interest, leading to an obligation erga omnes; (ii) the international protection of PMDCC as a common concern of humankind, leading to a treaty regime with novel duties to cooperate and to act. The former approach allows for using (i) the procedural mechanisms under international law, and (ii) the follow-up and review mechanisms of the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, to promote the international protection of PMDCC as an obligation erga omnes. The second approach borrows the concept of common concern from Thomas Cottier. It advocates for a treaty regime that places adequate and effective constrains on State sovereignty by incorporating: (i) the interests of the people living in their countries of origin as well as people on the move; (ii) due process transparency; (iii) duty to consult and negotiate; (iv) modalities on burden-sharing and differentiated responsibility; (v) duty to do homework, in other words, transposing the obligations deriving from the treaty domestically; and (vi) securing compliance and enforcing the rules of the treaty. In conclusion, this analysis shows that international law is equipped to respond to imminent global problems humanity is facing.
Participants

Ahmad Akkad

Ahmad Akkad is a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Warwick, studying the role of displaced academics in post-conflict reconstruction. He was previously a Lecturer of Linguistics and English at the University of Aleppo and Cordoba Private University in Syria, and was awarded a prestigious scholarship from the Said Foundation for Development to complete an MA in Global Education and International Development at the University of Warwick.

Ahmad tweets @AhmadAkkad_

Grace Ohene Amponsah

I have a background in Geography and Resource Development with specialisation in Disaster Risk Management. I am currently studying for my PhD at the Centre for Migration Studies in the University of Ghana, Legon. My research interests include environmental change and human mobility, social inequalities and developmental changes to human health.

Dr Rawan Arar

Rawan Arar is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, Societies, and Justice. She completed her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of California San Diego. Her research program begins with the refugee as a central figure of analysis. Refugee displacement is the manifestation of the breakdown of borders and citizenship rights while refugee status, as a legal construct, is delimited by the principle of sovereignty. Refugees’ lives and life chances are inextricably tied to national and global policies, which create or impede access to basic needs, education, rights, and mobility. Rawan’s research lies at the intersection of these issues and pushes forward debates about states, rights, and theories of international migration.

Rawan tweets @RawanArar

Abdul Aziz

Abdul Aziz is a PhD candidate in the Digital Media Research Centre at QUT, Australia. He holds a master’s degree from University of Salzburg, Austria and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, in Digital Communication Leadership (DCLead) under the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s scholarship program. His research investigates digital media and forced migration, focusing on social justice, race & ethnicity, cultural diversity and digital inclusion. His recent papers have appeared in Technology in Society, Contemporary South Asia, and Communication, Culture and Critique. His doctoral research draws on a multi-sited qualitative approach to explore the Rohingya diaspora’s digital media use for identity negotiation and integration in Bangladesh and Australia.

Brian Barbour

Brian is a Senior Refugee Protection Advisor at Act for Peace, and an Affiliate at the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, where he is completing his doctorate on the subject of “Developing New State Asylum Systems in the Asia Pacific”.
Dr Nathan Bell

*Dr Nathan Bell teaches at the University of Melbourne. His research focus is on political theory, philosophy, human rights and refugee studies. His book Refugees: Towards a Politics of Responsibility was published by Rowman and Littlefield in 2021.*

He tweets @Nathan_Bell10

Erica Bower

*Erica Bower is a specialist on climate change-related displacement and planned relocation, currently pursuing an interdisciplinary Doctorate at Stanford University. She is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and previously worked at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as the climate change and disaster displacement specialist in the Protection Policy and Legal Advice section. As an independent consultant, she has conducted research on climate-related human mobility for National Geographic, UN Women, Oxfam, the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and the South Asia consultations of the Nansen Initiative. She holds an MSc from Oxford University in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and a BA from Columbia University in Sustainable Development and Human Rights.*

Erica tweets @EricaRBower

Emmanuel Chima

*Emmanuel is a third-year PhD student in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. His research focuses on experiences of forced displacement, youth transitions, and aging. His current research centers on the community at Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi.*

Dr Georgia Cole

*Dr Georgia Cole is currently a Chancellor’s Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences. Her research focuses on the alternatives that people pursue to formal asylum pathways and on pluralising geographies of refuge to account for diverse sites of protection and respite. She works primarily with Eritrean refugees and migrants in Eritrea, East Africa and the Gulf States, where she is trying to understand the historical and contemporary role of Gulf actors in global systems of displacement and humanitarianism. More broadly, she is interested in exploring how displaced populations access durable solutions and how international and domestic politics affects this, and on displacement dynamics within the Horn of Africa.*

Georgia tweets @GcrCole

Chua Hui Yin

*Chuah Hui Yin is a Senior Research Associate at the Asia School of Business. She holds graduate degrees from London School of Economics and Universiti Malaya. Prior to joining ASB, she was a research assistant at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and had worked on research projects related to international trade, small and medium enterprises, and economic competitiveness in ASEAN region.*
Sarah Craig

My research focuses broadly within two areas of refugee law: solidarity within the Common European Asylum System and also LGBTI+ asylum claims within the EU regional context.

Tina Dixson

Tina Dixson is a PhD Candidate researching the lived experiences of queer refugee women in Australia. She has worked in the areas of LGBTIQ, refugee and women’s rights both in Australia and overseas, including for the Forcibly Displaced People Network. Tina is a co-founder of the peer-support network the Queer Sisterhood Project.

Tina tweets @TNDixson

Vincent Dogbey

A doctoral candidate in the School of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Melbourne and a member and co-leader of the African Studies Group at Unimelb. My research interest revolves round development-induced involuntary displacement and resettlement, anthropology of development, culture and heritage studies, and rural community development.

He tweets @VinceMcDogbey

Dr Tracey Donohue

Dr Tracey Donehue is a PhD graduate of the UNSW School of Education. Her research adopts a collaborative approach to facilitating quality education in transitory displacement contexts. She is also the founder and manager of the Cisarua General Education Development (GED) Support Project in Indonesia. Tracey has over 15 years’ experience as an educator in Australia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru and Indonesia. After firsthand experience teaching people detained on Nauru, Tracey has also been an outspoken critic of Australia’s offshore detention regime.

Eleonora Frasca

In November 2018, I started a PhD in European Migration Law at UCLouvain (Belgium). My research interests lie in the legal implications of migration cooperation between the EU and Africa. I hold a Law degree from Sapienza University of Rome (Italy) and a double-degree in Public Policy and Human Development (MSc) from the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and the United Nations University (UNU-merit).

Madeline Gleeson

Lawyer and award-winning author of Offshore: Behind the Wire on Manus and Nauru (NewSouth 2016) Madeline Gleeson’s areas of expertise include offshore processing, State responsibility and regional refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific. A graduate of UNSW with first class honours, she practiced as a solicitor in Sydney before leaving for Cambodia to work for the Jesuit Refugee Service. As a John Monash scholar, she completed her Masters in International Law in Geneva, where she also worked with UNHCR. Offshore won the 2017 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award for non-fiction, was shortlisted for the Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards, NSW Premier’s Award, the Australian Book Industry Awards, and the 2017 Colin Roderick Award and long-listed for the Stella Prize and Walkley
Book Award. In 2017, Ms Gleeson launched the Asia-Pacific Research Group, as part of the Kaldor Centre’s Emerging Scholars Network.

Madeline tweets @madelinegleeson

Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill

Widely recognised as the preeminent legal scholar in the field of international refugee law, Professor Goodwin Gill is Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford and Emeritus Professor of International Refugee Law of the University of Oxford. He formerly practised as a barrister from Blackstone Chambers in London. His distinguished career has encompassed various roles with UNHCR, advocacy before the courts in a number of prominent cases, and academic posts in Canada and throughout Europe.

Jan-Phillip Graf

Jan-Phillip Graf is a PhD candidate and SYLFF Young Leaders Fellow at the German Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at Ruhr-University Bochum. His research focuses on international refugee law and child protection. He holds a master's degree in international law from the Graduate Institute in Geneva and a bachelor's degree in international relations from Dresden University.

Sevin Gulfer Sagnic

I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at UC San Diego. I also hold M.A. degrees in International Migration from the University of Kent-BSIS (2014) and International Relations from Bogazici University (2017). I worked on several EU-funded projects in the Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly, Istanbul (2015-2017). My more recent work includes serving as an expert consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and as a researcher at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies. My research interests lie between international migration and political sociology. My dissertation research titled “The Role of Foreign Policy in Refugee Governance in the Middle East” investigates refugee policy from the 19th century Ottoman Empire to modern Turkey. This project uses archival materials, interviews, policy documents, and various other sources to explore the intersection between international relations and refugee policy.

Natasha Harding

Natasha is a PhD Candidate in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle. Her research explores mental health and wellbeing with young people who have a background of forced displacement. Specifically, she is interested in the mental health impacts of societal attitudes towards refugees as depicted in media, social media and political commentary. Natasha has a strong background working in the community mental health sector and more recently in public sector mental health services as well as independent consulting.

Natasha tweets @TashHarding
Carly Hawkins

Carly is a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Carly is researching the impact of the Australian government’s offshore refugee processing policy on the education of children. Her interest in this area came as a direct result of her experience working in offshore immigration detention where she had oversight for all educational and recreational programs for asylum seeker and refugee children held in Nauru. Prior to that, Carly was employed as a teacher and school principal in Sydney, London and rural Tanzania. She holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Teaching, a Graduate Diploma in Political and International Studies and a Master of International Relations.

Dr Claire Higgins

Dr Claire Higgins is an historian and Senior Research Fellow at the Kaldor Centre, and an Affiliate Scholar at the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University. She holds an Australian Research Council 'DECRA' for her research on complementary pathways known as in-country processing and protected entry procedures. Claire is the convenor of the Emerging Scholars Network.

Claire tweets @higginsCM

Dr Ash Hosseini

Ash is an Honorary Research Fellow at The University of Melbourne. She has been involved in several collaboration projects at the University of Melbourne and internationally as well as Higher Degree supervision, publications and presentations. Psycho-oncology, Resilience, Mental health outcomes are core factors in her field of expertise. In her current project entitled, Familial cancer and its impact on adolescents’ psycho-social and practical functioning, she is exploring the interventions to support adolescents and young adults impacted by familial cancer.

Elin Jakobsson

I have a PhD in International Relations from Stockholm University focusing on norm diffusion and global governance of climate-induced migration.

Regina Jefferies

Regina Jefferies is an Assistant Professor at Western Washington University, an Affiliate of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, and a member of the International Journal of Refugee Law, Case Law Editorial Team. She is completing her PhD at UNSW and her research focuses on street-level bureaucrats, policy implementation, technology, and legal compliance in the context of immigration and refugee law.

Regina tweets @reginajefferies

Niro Kandasamy

Niro is a sessional lecturer in history at the Australian Catholic University. Her research focuses on the long-term resettlement experiences of refugees.

Niro tweets @Niro_Kan
Kibathi Peter

I’m an emergency management and humanitarian expert, with over 15 year’s working experience in the emergency response, refugee management and humanitarian assistance sectors in Uganda and the greater East African region. I have implemented a number of emergency and relief interventions for refugees in different settings in East African region.

Thae Oo Khaing

Thae Oo Khaing is a Karen ethnic from Myanmar. She will commence her PhD candidature in March 2022 at Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Australia with ‘ACU community engagement PhD stipend scholarship’. She finished a diploma in Liberal Studies from the ACU’s Refugee Education Program situated on the Thai-Burma Border in 2014, followed by a bachelor’s degree in Education (English Language-Secondary) (Honours) from the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Hong Kong. Her research focuses on ‘Evaluating the impact of university education programs for refugee young people in South-East Asia’.

Thae Oo tweets @ThaeOoKhaing

Dr Yao-Tai Li

Dr Yao-Tai Li is a lecturer of School of Social Sciences at University of New South Wales, Australia. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego. His research interests include race & ethnicity, migration, labor rights, social movement, and social media. His work has been published in several scholarly journals including British Journal of Sociology, World Development, Urban Studies, Work, Employment and Society, Sociological Perspectives, Current Sociology, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Chinese Sociological Review, Critical Sociology, International Migration, International Sociology, Discourse & Society, Journal of Sociology, Journal of Contemporary Asia, among others.

Yao-Tai tweets @yaotaili

Dr Emilie McDonnell

Emilie recently completed her DPhil in Law at the University of Oxford. Her research focused on protecting the right to leave and related human rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants during externalised migration control, specifically when it is conducted extraterritorially and has been outsourced to states of origin and transit, private actors, and international organisations. Emilie is the 2016 Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar and is also an Australian lawyer.

Emilie tweets @EmilieMcDonnell

Hanh Nguyen

Hanh is a researcher at the Mixed Migration Centre of the Danish Refugee Council, Asia-Pacific Regional Office. Her research covers the mixed migration and vulnerabilities of refugees and undocumented migrants across the region, with a focus on Rohingya and Afghan populations.
Dr Lauren Nishimura

Lauren Nishimura has a DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford, where her research focused on climate change adaptation, human rights, human mobility, and public international law. She is a member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement’s Advisory Committee and is on the editorial advisory board of RefLaw at the University of Michigan Law School. Prior to her doctoral research, Lauren practiced law for a decade, including as an environmental litigator based in the United States and environmental and human rights advocate based in Thailand and Myanmar. She holds an MSt in International Human Rights Law from Oxford and a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Associate Professor Kate Ogg

Dr Kate Ogg is an Associate Professor at the Australian National University College of Law. She undertakes interdisciplinary research in the areas of refugee law, human rights, litigation, access to justice and feminist legal theory. Kate is the co-editor of The Future of Feminist Engagement with International Law (Edward Elgar, 2019) and has published a number of influential book chapters and journal articles in leading international and Australian edited collections and journals. Kate has been twice invited to present her research at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Headquarters in Geneva. She has been called to give evidence on international refugee law to the Australian Federal Parliament and regularly provides commentary on developments in refugee law and policy in domestic and international media outlets.

Isaiah Okorie

Isaiah is a Lawyer and Registered Migration Agent with an avid interest in migration and refugee law and policy. Isaiah has over 15 years’ experience practising law in overseas commonwealth countries with a common law tradition. He also specialises in maritime law and policy with a broad interest in surface transport and aviation policy. He is enrolled as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria (2007); Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand (2015) and enrolled as a Solicitor in Australia (2015). Isaiah graduated from the University of Ibadan Nigeria in 2006 with a Bachelor of Law degree (First Class Honours). He holds dual (Master of Law) LL.M degrees from New York University (Global Business Law, 2012) and the National University of Singapore (Maritime Law, 2012). He has a Graduate Certificate in Research from the University of Tasmania (2016) and a Graduate Certificate of Public Administration from the Institute of Governance and Public Policy, University of Canberra (2021) obtained as a recipient of the Commonwealth’s Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Secretary Scholarship.

He is a sessional academic at the Faculty of Law and PhD Researcher at the Australian National University whose research interest is on non-refoulement and custom. The thesis is an empirical analysis of state practice and opinio juris on non-refoulement in a predominantly refugee context.

Isaiah tweets @IzOkorie

Abdi Omar Aden

I am a graduate student, second year master's student at York university through BHER program. I lived in Dadaab refugee camps, then served humanitarian organizations in Dadaab camps. After that, I joined United nation assistant mission in Somalia and then participated state building process. After that, to bolster my career in an international setting, I joined UNHCR as IUNV international specialist and currently served evacuated migrants from Libya at emergency transit mechanism in Bugesera, Rwanda.
Nisha Rajoo

A lawyer and public policy professional by training, Nisha worked with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung’s Rule of Law Programme Asia to promote democracy and human rights in the region, including coordinating a regional workshop on forced migration in the Asia-Pacific. She has also worked on law reform projects, ethics & risk management, and issues relating to the development of the legal profession in Singapore with the Law Society of Singapore. She currently works as a researcher in the social impact sector, leading qualitative research projects on charitable giving and philanthropy.

D.G. Niruka Sanjeewani

D.G. Niruka Sanjeewani is working as a Senior lecturer in International Relations, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. She has obtained her Bachelor of Arts, International Relations (Hons) and Master in International Relations from University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Her research interests are international relations, forced migration, post war reconciliation, international development and transitional justice.

Dr Nik Tan

Dr Nikolas Feith Tan is senior researcher at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, where he works on human rights and refugee law.

Nik tweets @NDFTan

Natasha Yacoub

Natasha Yacoub is an international refugee law scholar and practitioner. She has worked for two decades in conflict and peacetime settings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including in Australia (covering Papua New Guinea and Nauru), Myanmar, UN Headquarters New York and the Sudan. She is a former member of the Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia. She teaches international refugee law at the University of London.

Natasha tweets @natashayacoub

Aylin Yildiz

Aylin Yildiz is a Ph.D. in law candidate at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern. She joined the WTI in September 2017 as a PhD candidate in law. She will be writing her PhD thesis in the framework of the CLI_M_CO2 project, which involves a case study of the Pacific Small Island States investigating climate-induced migration under the doctrine of common concern in international law. Her PhD thesis is supervised by Prof. Elisa Fornalé and funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).

Originally from Turkey, Aylin has a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree in English law from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences in London (UK). She completed her Master of Laws (LLM) degree in international law and legal theory at the University of Toronto in Ontario (Canada). She was awarded the University of Toronto Fellowship due to her previous academic achievements, which provided partial funding for her Master’s degree. Afterwards, she completed a Bachelor of Laws equivalency degree in Turkish law at Istanbul University in Istanbul (Turkey).

Aylin tweets @aylinnyildizz
Dr Tamara Wood

Dr Tamara Wood is an expert on refugee protection, forced migration and international law. Her work focuses on regional law and policy frameworks in Africa, and on displacement in the context of natural hazards, disasters and climate change. As an expert advisor and research consultant, Tamara has worked with a wide range of international agencies and academic institutions, including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Bank, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Nansen Initiative on Disaster-Induced Cross-Border Displacement, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW and Institute for Security Studies, Africa. Tamara is a Visiting Fellow at the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law; Lecturer in Law at the University of Tasmania; Research Affiliate at the Refugee Law Initiative, University of London; Member of the Advisory Committee to the Platform on Disaster Displacement; and the Coordinating Case Law Editor for the International Journal of Refugee Law.

Tamara tweets @tamarajanewood

Sanjula Weerasinghe

Sanjula Weerasinghe is an Australian lawyer who works at the intersection of international law, humanitarian crises, and displacement. She is an independent consultant, based in Geneva. For UNHCR, Sanjula authored In Harm’s Way, which examined State practice on refugee-law based international protection for persons fleeing disaster and violence. With IOM, Sanjula was the lead drafter of the Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster within the secretariat of the State-led MICIC Initiative. With the Kaldor Centre, Sanjula co-authored International Law and Sea-Level Rise: Forced Migration and Human Rights, which informed the Sydney Declaration of Principles adopted by the International Law Association’s (ILA) thematic subcommittee. Sanjula began her career at a large Australian law firm, has directed legal aid centres in Thailand and Hong Kong, and consulted for the Brookings Institution’s former IDP project. Sanjula is a Non-resident Fellow at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown University, where she previously managed a project on ‘Crisis Migration’ and co-edited a book on humanitarian crises and migration.

Sanjula tweets @SanjulaSW

Anna Benice Xavier

Anna is a PhD candidate at the School of Education, UNSW. Her research looks at the English language and literacy education for refugee-background students in regional NSW, and her research interests include qualitative studies, socially just education and policy studies.

Sangeetha Yogendran

Sangeetha Yogendran is a PhD Fellow, Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law and Criminology, University of Ghent where she is working on righting victim participation in transitional justice. Sangeetha has worked in a range of international law fields, having previously worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore on international law issues, in the occupied Palestinian territories on violations of international humanitarian law, in Cambodia with the Khmer Rouge Tribunal’s Victims Unit, the International Criminal Court, Interpol and with refugees in Malaysia with the UNHCR. Sangeetha is a qualified Advocate & Solicitor in Singapore, and holds an LL.M. in Public International Law from the University of Melbourne, an LL.B (Honours) from the National University of Singapore.