As we turn further into the twenty-first century, our ways of making sense of the world are becoming increasingly compromised. Shifting causes and patterns of human movement are encouraging a reassessment of perspectives and practices towards migration. In terms of forced migration studies, factors such as climate change, food security and the economic crisis, as well as the continuation of existing pressures, like protracted refugee situations and internal displacement, have dramatically altered the field. If people are not forced by the violent or persecutory actions of others to seek protection but feel compelled to leave their home due to natural disasters or poverty, to what extent can they be considered forced migrants?

‘Forced Migration: Global Perspectives and Practices’ is a student conference organised in collaboration with the Migration Research Unit at UCL in order to encourage students from different disciplines to share their current research in this area. The event aims to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas and knowledge between students working on these issues.

The conference will conclude with a talk by Guido Ambroso, Senior Evaluation Officer at Policy Development and Evaluation Service, UNHCR.
Forced Migration: Global Perspectives and Practices

We are delighted to welcome you to the second UCL Migration Research Unit student conference. Research shifts have been taking place rapidly in the field of migration, every time leading to new issues that need to be addressed. Today, with the conference ‘Forced Migration: Global Perspectives and Practices’, we hope to provide a platform for discussing some of the new and interesting research that students are conducting in relation to ‘forced’ migration.

We are grateful for the UCL Migration Research Unit for collaborating with us in organising this event of interdisciplinary exchange of research. Additionally, we would like to thank the UCL Institute for Human Rights, the UCL Environment Institute and UCL Grand Challenges for sponsoring the conference.

The programme for today is an engaging mixture of very different and interesting papers. These papers will question the definition of the term forced migration, give thought-provoking insights into the practices of states and other factors at a macro-level in regulating and restricting migrant flows and shed light on local and individual perspectives in relation to the consequences of forced migration. After the conference we will publish conference proceedings, which will provide you with an overview of what is presented today. Before our drinks reception, we are honoured to have Dr Guido Ambroso (UNHCR) as a keynote speaker. He will give a presentation about his work and experience in the field of forced migration.

The conference will provide a stimulating exchange of ideas on ‘forced’ migration issues. The varied background and academic disciplines of our participants will certainly contribute to this.

We are looking forward to a great conference day!

UCL’s MRU Student Conference Team:

Conference Organisers:

Siril Berglund, Elizabeth Connely, Larissa van Es, Samuel Yelland, Ana Macouzet, Lorna Gledhill (Msc Global Migration)
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<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Claire Dwyer, Co-Director, MRU, UCL</td>
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<td>Session 1: Challenging the Concept of ‘Forced’ Migration</td>
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<td><strong>All Roads Lead to Edinburgh: A Theoretical Study of the Polish Medical Refugee Movement, 1941-1949.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Michał Adam Palacz, University of Edinburgh, UK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>An Analytical Approach to Displacement of Kurds in Turkey during the 1990s.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Where are they? Technologies of Invisibility and the Rights of Forced Migrants of the “Emergenza Nord Africa”.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The New Argentinean Asylum System: an Enhancement in Public Policy towards the Integration of Refugees?</strong></td>
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<td>Rights Abuses that Colombian Refugees Face in Ecuador.</td>
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<td>*Refugees’ and Asylum Seekers’ Challenges of Local Integration in</td>
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<td><em>Austerity in Greece and its Impact on Refugee Employment.</em></td>
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<td><em>Ioanna Voudouri</em>, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law</td>
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<td>*Transforming the Pakistani City: Shared Afghan Refugee and Pakistani</td>
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<td>Citizen Spaces in Karachi and Peshawar.*</td>
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<td><em>Sanaa Alimia</em>, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK</td>
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SESSION 1:
Challenging the Concept of ‘Forced’ Migration

Michał Adam Palacz
University of Edinburgh, UK (PhD)

Michał Palacz comes from Gdynia in Poland. He holds a BA in History from Jacobs University Bremen and a MA in Modern Global History degree from Jacobs University Bremen and Universität Bremen. He is currently a second year PhD candidate in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. The topic of his dissertation is the history of the Polish School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh (1941-1949).

All Roads Lead to Edinburgh: A Theoretical Study of the Polish Medical Refugee Movement, 1941-1949

Abstract: The Polish School of Medicine (PSM) at the University of Edinburgh was an autonomous Polish-language faculty in the years 1941-1949. The teaching staff and the student body of the PSM were comprised of Polish nationals who were displaced by the German and Soviet invasions of Poland in September 1939. This study analyses the wartime migration of Polish medics to Edinburgh with the use of two theoretical models developed by Egon Kunz and Rune Johansson. Both models distinguish between ‘anticipatory’ and ‘acute’ refugee movements, and recognise three types of displacement – by flight, by force, and by absence (réfugiés sur place). Kunz’s ‘kinetic model of refugee movements’ accounts for the ‘push-and-pull’ factors that determine the direction of refugee movements. Johansson’s multi-level model of ‘refugee predicament’ complements the analysis of structural forces with the inclusion of two more subjective sets of factors – barriers and resources and values and objectives. Accordingly, this study analyses the involuntary migration of Polish medics to Edinburgh during the Second World War as a multi-step ‘acute’ refugee movement, which was triggered by a sudden ‘push’ event, namely the German and Soviet invasion of Poland. This study also points out that organised help and information provided by Polish and British authorities, combined with individual resources of the refugees, allowed the latter to cross several political and geographical boundaries on their way to Edinburgh. Finally, it is argued that, aside from the need for survival, patriotic duty and a sense of ‘exilic mission’ also motivated the Polish medical refugees’ long march towards the capital of Scotland. This study demonstrates that the existing theoretical models of refugee movements can with some necessary modifications be applied to a historical case study of the wartime migration of Polish medics to Edinburgh. These models allow us to analyse victims of forced migration not only as ‘helpless pawns’ of structural forces, but also as agents who sometimes have the possibility to decide their own fate.
Mert Peksen
University of Osnabrück, Germany (PhD)

Besides his PhD at the University of Osnabrück (Social Geography Department) Mert also works there as a research and teaching assistant. Mert holds a joint master’s degree from the Erasmus Mundus - International Migration and Social Cohesion (MISOCO) Master’s Program (University of Amsterdam, University of Deusto, Spain and University of Osnabrück, Germany). He has completed his studies at MISOCO with a research project on displacement of Kurds in Turkey during the 1990s.

An analytical approach to displacement of Kurds in Turkey during the 1990s

Abstract: This presentation suggests that forced migration should be seen as a lived experience within a complex political and socio-economic context and should be analyzed from a more analytical and interdisciplinary perspective rather than by using rigid policy-making categories which usually fail to encompass the unique displacement experiences of individuals. There are two main research questions which will be addressed in the presentation. First, are forced migrants really different than “ordinary” migrants? Second, in addition to push factors (e.g. armed conflict), what others factors do play role in forced migrants’ decision making processes, choice of destination, search for job and housing, and economic survival in the post-migration stage?

In the first part of his presentation, looking from a critical perspective Mert will argue for an analytical approach which understands forced migration as a phenomenon embedded into a certain socio-economic and political context and takes into account forced migrants’ voices and their active role in migration, thus challenging the conventional narratives in which great emphasis is placed on push factors and perceiving forced migrants as passive victims who share similar experience. Using the empirical material he collected during his fieldwork research with Kurdish internally displaced persons in Turkey, in the second part of the presentation, Mert tries to illustrate how Kurdish forced migrants organized their migration, activated their social networks, transformed different types of capital they have into other kinds, actively constructed their lives in destination places, integrated into existing migration regimes and used very similar strategies to those that “ordinary” migrants use in Turkey.

Afsaneh Lotfizadeh
University College London, UK (LLM)

Environmentally Induced Migration: The Need for a New Convention

Abstract: In recent years, the fundamental principle of surrogate protection has been seen to relegate certain vulnerable groups, who although requiring such protection, do not fit the criteria. This notion is most evidently seen with persons displaced by environmental
disasters/degradation and climate change. It seems surprising that such a large group subject to inevitable mass displacement befalls these 'gaps' in protection, given the extensive scope of protections available for different groups of forcibly displaced and vulnerable populations. Inconsistencies that generate these gaps in law are however manifold; as with most controversial issues, policy discourse perpetuates the narrow definition and lack of responsibility being taken for the environmentally displaced.

The first section of this work looks at the pitfalls of surrogate protection and the reasons for the avoidance of the 'climate/environment-migration nexus' vis-à-vis protection rights. The second section examines the reasons that underlie environmental migration ranging from natural disasters and climate change to degradation through corporations. The paper also looks at the differing ranges of migration (internal/long-term, short-term and long and short distance) that are vital factors in the type of protection required. In the final section the arguments for a new protection instrument for the environmentally displaced are analysed. Such protections need to be separate from the Refugee Convention itself and rather focus on a template that encapsulates the complexities of environmental displacement that involve a cluster of causes. The Torture Convention can be used as an outline for the development of such a convention.

Session 2:
State Responses to Migration:
Responsibility, Protection and Control

Nath Gbikpi
University of Oxford, UK (Masters)

Nath is pursuing an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at the University of Oxford, and holds a BA in Development Studies and Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies. She has work experience in Cairo and Burundi. She has also visited, and coordinated visits to, the women detention centre of Yarl’s Wood (UK). Her research interests include the relation between North Africa and Europe and its consequences on the rights of forced migrants; forced migration in Burundi and the Great Lake Region; and the politics of refugee and human rights law.

Where are they? Technologies of invisibility and the rights of forced migrants of the “Emergenza Nord Africa”

Abstract: During the first half of the year 2011, Italy received between 20 and 25 thousand forced migrants fleeing the conflict that erupted in Libya. Those numbers came to add to the twenty-eight thousand who had arrived from Tunisia in the preceding months. Many will remember the highly mediatised images of an “invaded and overpopulated” Lampedusa – the tiny Italian island where the majority of those migrants arrived – that
dominated the media at the time. There were also alarming cries threatening a “biblical exodus” and pleas for help from Italy to the European Union to institute a system of burden sharing. Today, many of those individuals, who had made the front page of many newspapers in Italy two years ago, find themselves in destitute conditions across Italy, if they have not moved to another European country. They often struggle to access the rights they are entitled to, while their conditions and needs are ignored, and legitimately so, by the Italian government.

This paper is an attempt at retracing the “techniques of invisibility” (Biehl 2005) that the Italian government used to render those individuals institutionally invisible, and the effects those technologies of invisibility had on the rights of the migrants. By adopting the Foucauldian concept of “technologies of power”, the paper argues that the government has adopted “technologies of invisibility” to construct forced migrants, their needs and survival strategies as a matter of the social networks and charitable sector, rather than of the state. As such, forced migrants have been made “invisible” in the institutional and political sphere. The paper also argues that framing migrants as a humanitarian issue has been translated into a reception framework that focuses more on the material needs of refugees than on their rights. The focus on needs rather than rights in turn means that the state does not make conscious efforts to improve the conditions that would allow refugees to access their rights. The paper will conclude that, by abandoning its humanitarian and securitarian discourse towards refugees, the Italian state could shift to a rights-based approach to refugees’ reception, ultimately empowering them.

Maritza Loaiza
International Migration and Social Cohesion, Erasmus Mundus (Masters)

Maritza studied Sociology in the Universidad de Costa Rica and recently finished her Masters in International Migration and Social Cohesion from the Universiteit van Amsterdam and University College of Dublin. She has extensive experience mixing her interests in education, art and migration, into creative workshops aimed towards migrant populations.

*Development-induced Displacement in Colombia: migratory movements towards Costa Rica?*

Abstract: The Colombian population has faced forced displacement due to an ongoing armed conflict over the past 50 years, forcing millions to migrate and seek protection due to persecution and violations of human rights. More recently, Colombia’s armed conflict has evolved into a complex phenomenon with new actors at play: the presence of multinational development projects in Colombian territory with the political-economic interest and support of the Colombian ruling class. These actors – under a model of global capital accumulation – together with paramilitary groups are perpetuating land conflicts over strategic territories and natural resources, thereby generating large migratory movements. Maritza Loaiza’s study analyzes the Colombian armed-conflict under the lens of ‘accumulation by dispossession’ and ‘disaster capitalism’, which has
resulted in extreme violence towards thousands of peasants, indigenous populations and Afro-Caribbean communities. Field experts, Colombian migrants and refugees are interviewed in order to explore the Costa Rican panorama regarding the existence of development-induced displaced Colombians. It examines the factors influencing the migratory movements of development-induced displaced individuals from Colombia to Costa Rica. Maritza concludes that forced displacement in Colombia, under the logic of ‘accumulation by dispossession’ and ‘disaster capitalism’, is being used as an economic development strategy.

Soorej Jose Puthoopparambil
Uppsala University, Sweden (PhD)

Soorej holds an MSc in International Health from Uppsala University and has focused his research on the health issues of irregular migrants in Sweden since conducting a pilot study on the subject during his masters education. Complemented by ongoing voluntary work in the sector, his current research is part of his PhD project.

“A prison with extra flavors” - Making Sense of Life in Swedish Immigration Detention Centers

Abstract: The detention and deportation of irregular migrants, including refused asylum seekers, has become one of the main strategies of governments around the world to control irregular migration. Studies from different parts of the world have repeatedly shown poor health and wellbeing amongst detainees, and the practice of detention has been indicated as a causative factor. However, there is limited research into how detainees cope with detention and into ways of minimizing its effect on their health. The aim of this study was to explore immigrant detainees’ experiences of life in Swedish detention units in order to identify factors that could minimize the effect of detention on detainees’ health and wellbeing.

Three themes - ‘stressors in detention’, ‘being managed and controlled by the system’ and ‘futility of seeking help’ - help describe the detainees’ life at the detention unit. The interviewed detainees considered the detention environment to be stressful and felt an inability to influence their life situation. Detainees were convinced of the futility of seeking help since their voices were not heard and considered the system to be unfair. They described detention as a prison with extra flavors and sometimes, as being worse than a prison. Notably, there were observable differences in the amenities available in various detention centers. Presence of some amenities such as computer or English classes was considered by the detainees to minimize the impact of detention on their health and wellbeing whereas the absence of the same in other centers had a negative impact.

‘New penology’ as a framework has helped to shed light on how the detainees felt being criminalized, imprisoned and how that affects their health. Immigrant detainees in Sweden
experience a lack of control over their life situation, unfairness and helplessness. The barriers to better health and wellbeing identified are the physical environment, language barriers, uncertainty about the present and future, lack of health services and the general behaviour of staff. This study highlights various aspects of detention which, if altered, could help the authorities to mitigate the impact of detention on detainees’ health and wellbeing.

María Paula Subia
Carl von Ossietzky University, Germany (Masters)

María Paula holds a Master in Diplomacy and International Relations with specialization in Maghreb and Middle Eastern Affairs from the Diplomatic School of Madrid, Spain. She previously graduated with Honours in International Relations at the Del Salvador University, Argentina. Currently, she is undertaking a European Master in Migration and International Relations at the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, Germany.

Paula has worked in Programme Development at the IOM National Office in Buenos Aires and in Refugee Protection at the UNHCR Office in Quito, Ecuador. She is also a member of the Argentinean NGO Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH).

The new Argentinean asylum system: an enhancement in public policy towards the integration of refugees?

Abstract: During the last decades, forced migration has become very relevant. Crises throughout the world have increasingly forced significant numbers of people both to cross borders in search of protection and to relocate within the territory of their country of origin. Although Argentina is not considered a large receiver of refugees in comparison to other countries, in recent years it has seen a steady growth in the amount of asylum claims and has become a country with a high eligibility coefficient. Even if the majority of refugees in Argentina are still from Latin American countries, since the turn of the century their origin has diversified more and nowadays comprises a high percentage of applications from African citizens. The fact that Europe has been progressively closing its borders to third-country nationals and that many Latin American countries are adopting more flexible migratory regulations, while the escalation of crises and conflicts continue to affect vulnerable populations, may have played an important role in the arrival of asylum-seekers to and from non-traditional destinations.

The integration of migrants and refugees, and the development and implementation of policies to include immigrants into the majority population is nowadays widely debated in the European context. Not only does integration constitute a two-directional process where policies are to be directed both at migrants and the local population, but it is also present in every society, even in those without specific policies, as is the case for new countries of destination such as those from the Southern Cone.
The analysis in the paper focuses on the integration of refugees in the Argentinean society and, specifically, on the extent to which the establishment of the National Commission for Refugees (CONARE) since the passing of the new Refugee Law has contributed to an enhancement in public policy towards the integration of refugees. In addition, reflections are offered on the strengths, weaknesses and main challenges for an Argentinean refugee integration policy, as well as preliminary recommendations for further developments.

Session 3: Migrants’ Engagement and Agency

Nereida Ripero-Muñiz
University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa (PhD)

Nereida is currently doing a PhD at the African center for Migration and Society, University of Witwatersrand.

The dynamics of cultural and gender practices among Somali Women Living in Nairobi and Johannesburg: a narrative approach

Abstract: Nereida’s study is qualitative, combining methodology of narrative analysis with participant observation to analyze the cultural and gender dynamics of Somali migrant women in two of the main metropolitan hubs of sub-Saharan Africa. The Somali diaspora constitutes one of the biggest and most widely-spread around the world. However most of the studies about the Somali diaspora focus on the situation in Western countries (Hopkins, 2010; Holman & Holman, 2006; Crosby, 2006; Harris, 2004; Cole & Robison, 2003; Griffiths, 2002; Kusow, 2001) and the attention regarding Somalis in other African countries is normally focused on the situation of refugees in the camps in Northern Kenya (Horst, 2006; Crisp, 2000). Moreover, it seems to be a tendency to portray a victimized image of Somalis living in other African countries, which completely ignores the role that the diaspora plays in some of the continent’s metropolises.

Nereida’s ongoing PhD research intends to challenge this representation and explore the cultural and gender dynamics of the Somali diaspora in Nairobi and Johannesburg. In both cities, Somalis are well established and form part of a circular worldwide network of “transnational nomads”. More specifically, this study focuses on Somali women, wherein the mentioned victimization is further exacerbated as they tend to be represented as victims of a patriarchal society that completely relegates them to a second place, making them passive subjects of their circumstances; at the same time they are normally stereotyped under the rubric of “black Muslim women” (Mohanty, 1988). This doesn’t take into account different scenarios in which women migrate by themselves, start businesses, get organized and take control of many cultural practices (Jinnah, 2012a, 2012b; Langellier, 2010; Hopkins, 2010; Al-Sharmani, 2010; Gardner & El Bushra, 2004; Farah, 2000; Bryden and Steiner, 1998).
Bashair Ahmed
(Masters)

Living in different countries inspired Bashair to study Peace Studies for her BA and International Studies for her MA. She later went on to spend around ten years working in the development and humanitarian sectors. Through this exposure, she became fascinated by work on migration and saw the potential of diasporas as agents for development and now plans to pursue a PhD in migration studies at a European university.

Old Home, New Home: Positioning 1.5 and Second Generation Migrants in the Diaspora and Development Debate

Abstract: The purpose of this research is to deconstruct diaspora communities as a problem or burden into potential meaningful agents of change in socio-economic, cultural and political aspects of development. The focus will be on 1.5 and second generation diaspora, a group that has been largely overlooked by academics and practitioners. This intriguing group are likely to be more detached from their homeland but nonetheless can have a strong sense of identity(ies) associated with their homeland or region, whether based on religion, ethnicity or other factors. They are also the new emerging generation who are the ‘producers’ in the coming years, and this makes them potential contributors to development in their host country and homeland. Those who migrated to developed countries would have acquired skills, formal education and had access to communication technology, making them an important group. To have a clear grasp of the myriad of identities, relationships and the type of contributions to development, if any, the research will gather case studies and analyse them through comparative case studies of 1.5 and second generation diasporas from Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan based in developed countries.

These three case studies have been selected for several reasons, their countries of origin have been engulfed by conflicts, humanitarian disasters and political crises that has led to mass dispersal of its population across the region and beyond, most notably in the early 1990s. Thus, their engagement can have major influence in their homelands as well as the policies of the host country.

Sachiyo Yasunaga
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK (Masters)

Sachiyo is currently enrolled in the MA Human Rights programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science and majored in liberal arts with concentration on social and behavioural sciences at the Soka University of America. Her academic interests currently focus on refugees and internally displaced persons. Alongside her academic history, Sachiyo has also done an internship with a charity working with Colombian refugees in Ecuador.
From the Frying Pan into the Fire: Forms of Discrimination and Human Rights Abuses that Colombian Refugees Face in Ecuador

Abstract: As a result of the Colombian Civil War, which began in 1964 and continues today, approximately 500,000 to 700,000 Colombians have fled to neighbouring countries. Ecuador is one of the main countries receiving Colombian refugees. Despite their expectations of protection in Ecuador, Colombian refugees suffer from various forms of discrimination. Based on interviews with Colombian refugees and human rights activists in Ecuador, this research investigates the forms of discrimination that affect the human rights of Colombian refugees in Ecuador, the influence of discrimination on the human rights of Colombian refugees, factors reinforcing discrimination, and the activities carried out by the Ecuadorian state and NGOs to address the issue.

This research found that Colombian refugees face multiple forms of discrimination in Ecuador: xenophobia against Colombians, discrimination against refugees, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination. All Colombian refugees have to deal with at least xenophobia against Colombians and discrimination against refugees. Colombians are often associated with negative stereotypes perpetuated by the media that focus on Colombia’s cocaine production and violence brought by the guerrillas from the civil war. As refugees, they are often viewed as illegal immigrants who do not deserve the same rights as Ecuadorians. As a consequence, they struggle to exercise their human rights especially at school, in the workplace, at banks, and in securing housing. Despite the social activism meant to overcome the issue, few activities run by the Ecuadorian state and human rights organizations have had a significant impact on the discriminatory attitudes in Ecuadorian society. Moreover, whereas many Ecuadorians avoid interacting with Colombian refugees, many Colombian refugees also try to self-segregate themselves from the Ecuadorian population due to their plan to return to their home country after the conflict and the lack of sense of belonging to Ecuadorian society. The misunderstanding about refugees’ situations caused by the separation between Colombian refugees and Ecuadorians reinforce the stereotypical images of Colombian refugees even more. In addition, Colombian refugees are reluctant to denounce human rights abuses since they have few economic resources to carry through with their legal cases and because they fear deportation back to Colombia.

Abdellatif El Bekkari
University Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona, Spain (PhD)

Abdellatif works as a fellow researcher at the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, Philosophy and Social Work at the University of Rovira I Virgili, and is currently finishing his PhD research on multi-membership as social capital in the case of the Syrian Diaspora. Alongside his academic history, Abdellatif has also worked for a variety of mediation projects in Spain, focusing on the reception of immigrants in the country.
Making boundaries blurred: A strategy to expand social networks

Abstract: Belonging to an ethnic group is often seen to imply that one cannot belong to other groups; membership is thus exclusive. However, in practice, individuals may belong to more than one ethnic group and can have a sense of belonging to more than one community, or may participate in different communities in different parts of their lives. The migration process is perhaps where we can observe how multi-belonging is used as a strategy of incorporation into the host society and for improving social status. This paper deals with the case of Syrian migrants (from the Syrian area – modern Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan) in two geographically and culturally distinct host societies: Spain and Chile. In these two societies, the migrants permanently transform their ethnicity or ethnic identification (Syrian, Arab, Muslim / Christian / Druze, or from the Syrian area – modern Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan) to blur supposedly fixed ethnic boundaries in order to expand their personal social networks.

Subsuming “confessional group” and “nationhood” under “ethnicity” is necessary in order to study how the migrants cross different boundaries without losing a sense of their own background. Thus, this paper attempts to expand upon these conceptions of boundaries through an examination of the circumstances under which migrants from an area marked by ethnic conflicts, such as this part of the Middle East, can cross those differential boundaries and move into other communities where they share values, networks and practices. The combination of the concept of “translocal positioning” introduced by Floya Anthias and the transnational perspective often posited in migration studies, offers the possibility to better understand how movement across national boundaries can transform ethnic boundaries. Because of the nature of the study, the methodology used in this research was qualitative, based on multi-sided ethnography in Spain and Chile.

Session 4: Possibilities for Belonging, Citizenship and Integration

Friederike Anita Nürge
Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences, Germany (Masters)

Friederike recently completed the MA programme ‘Intercultural Conflict Management’ at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences in Berlin, Germany, with the MA thesis ‘Refugees’ and Asylum Seekers’ Challenges of Local Integration in Northern Ireland’. She also holds a BA in Cultural Studies/Social Anthropology and English-Speaking Cultures from Bremen University. Friederike gained experience in the field of migration and integration with Nasc – The Irish Immigrant Support Centre (NGO) in Cork, Ireland, in 2007, and NICRAS – The Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (RCO) in Belfast, NI, in 2012/2013. Another formative experience was her time as a face-to-face fundraiser in
Refugees’ and Asylum Seekers’ Challenges of Local Integration in Northern Ireland

Abstract: This paper identifies the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees in Northern Ireland (NI), a post-conflict society which is still, broadly speaking, divided along sectarian lines. Through an ethnographic approach, Friederike presents an in-depth exploration of the specific issues this engenders and demonstrates the complexity of refugee integration into a former conflict-ridden society. Issues regarding neutrality, positioning, international enclaves, sectarian segregation and lack of representation, as perceived by respondents, are illustrated. The theoretical framework of this paper provides definitions of integration and gives some background on the history of refugees in NI. It also explores the prevailing circumstances and sectarian divisions of contemporary Northern Irish society. In addition, refugees’ and asylum seekers’ voices and perceptions regarding integration in NI are examined, along with phenomena that challenge integration. Through this study, Friederike concludes that refugee integration in NI faces specific problems due to past conflict and thus it demands increased attention and an innovative integrative approach, including all members of the community.

Ioanna Voudouri
Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Switzerland (Masters)

Ioanna is an LLM candidate at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and holds a Law degree from the Universities of Athens and Utrecht. She is currently interning at the Division of International Protection at the UNHCR HQ, focusing on issues of local integration of refugees. She is also part of a research project with the ICRC aimed at updating the “How does Law protect in War” casebook. Her previous experience includes working with UNHCR Greece, Caritas (Refugee Service), the Luxembourgish Red Cross and a law firm in Athens. She is a member of the Athens Bar Association (Trainee Section).

Austerity in Greece and its impact on Refugee Employment

Abstract: The recent rise of xenophobia and racist attacks in Greece is inextricably linked with the economic crisis and begs the question of how asylum seekers and refugees fare in terms of protection while unemployment of nationals escalates.

Employment laws regarding asylum seekers and subsidiary protection beneficiaries request that when applying for a position, they must prove that, following market research, there are no Greek, EU citizens, expatriates or recognized refugees, who are interested in the specific job. I argue that they should benefit from “most favorable treatment” the same way a refugee would (due to the declaratory nature of the term) but also according to the relevant Human Rights provisions. “Labor market policies”
viewed through the austerity spectrum as a basis for exclusion of asylum seekers, fails to promote the “general welfare in a democratic society” and often leads to marginalization and delinquency. The inclusion of beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in this group is in violation of EU Law. For recognized refugees, the surrounding climate of insecurity and fear makes local integration a challenge and implementation of access to employment problematic. Refugees are indiscriminately targeted by acts aimed at the elimination of employment opportunities for foreigners “so that they will be forced to go home”. Under such circumstances, the author argues that not only should the State not use its economic policy as a redeeming excuse but that it has a positive obligation to provide employment-related education, training and engagement of the private sector.

**Sanaa Alimia**

School of Oriental and African Studies, UK (PhD)

Sanaa recently completed her PhD at the Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS. She holds a BA in History of International Relations and an MSc in History of International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Sanaa is currently teaching ‘Comparative and International Politics’ and ‘Government and Politics of South Asia’ at SOAS.

**Transforming the Pakistani City: Shared Afghan Refugee and Pakistani Citizen Spaces in Karachi and Peshawar**

Abstract: This paper analyses how, despite lines of legal and imagined distinctions, Afghans and Pakistanis exist in shared realities in urban Pakistan and it does so by paying special attention to urban spaces: refugee tented villages, informal housing, regulated housing areas, and other types of urban accommodation that house both Afghans and Pakistanis.

Refugees, we are told, are not a part of the state. In the modern nation-state system refugees, it is assumed, are simply anomalies, or temporary guests, waiting to “return home”. However, the Afghan refugee “issue” has been a significant feature of Central and South Asian regional politics since the 1978 Saur Revolution in Afghanistan and subsequent invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in 1979. It is one of the world’s largest and longest “protracted refugee displacements”. At the peak of displacement during the 1990s 7-8 million Afghan refugees were recorded, primarily in Pakistan and Iran. In 2013, thirty-five years on, the United States military occupies Afghanistan and many Afghans have still not returned “home”. Neighbouring Pakistan has been the largest “host” state of Afghan refugees, followed by Iran.

What do these shared spaces reveal? First, they question ideas of spatial segregation between “refugee spaces” and “citizen spaces”. The idea of the segregated “desert camp” (Agier, 2010; Arendt, 1943) is never fully possible in an urban context and in a protracted
displacement. Interlinked with this, secondly, it challenges assumptions that refugees, as “guests”, have limited forms of political agency and expression to challenge ideas of “refugeedom” – particularly concepts of return, belonging, and helplessness. Third, it also reveals a devalued reality of citizenship. In Pakistan, a country of the global South, citizens, as natives of the soil, do not enjoy enforceable rights and access to public goods or housing, thus, citizens and refugees in de facto terms are not that different from each other. Finally, this paper closes by demonstrating how shared citizens and non-citizen spaces have transformed Peshawar and Karachi in physical and non-physical ways. Using the oral narratives and ethnography collected during fieldwork, I show how expressions and forms of belonging that transcend ideas of refugeedom, citizenship, and belonging are expressed by Afghans and Pakistanis in urban Pakistan.

**Keynote speaker**

**Dr Guido Ambroso**
Senior Programme Evaluation Officer
Policy Development and Evaluation Service UNHCR

Guido Ambroso has given us the honour of presenting as our keynote speaker for the conference. Having studied at undergraduate level as well as written his PhD at UCL, he holds a special attachment to the university. After receiving his doctorate in Geography on the subject of *Urban ethnicity: culture and politics among Eritrean and Egyptian migrants in Milan, Italy*, in 1987, Guido started his career at the UNHCR as a protection officer in Kampala, Uganda where he worked from 1988 to 1990. He has since then held different positions throughout the world including Iran, Ethiopia, Somalia and Belgium among others. These positions have led him to his current work as Senior Policy and Evaluation Officer at the Geneva Head Quarters of the UNHCR. Guido also contributes to academic work, writing for various publications for the Refugees Survey Quarterly and Limes, an Italian Review of Geopolitics.
Migration Research Centre

Founded in 1988, the Migration Research Unit (MRU) undertakes research, teaching and consultancy on migration. Members of the MRU are all based in the geography department and their research focuses broadly on diasporas, transnationalism, asylum and refugees, national and international migration policies, measuring and mapping migration and ethnicity, theorising mobilities, development and migration.

Msc in Global Migration - a interdisciplinary degree

Migration in today’s globalised world stands at the heart of key national and international debates: over migrants’ and asylum seekers’ rights and citizenship, state security and border management, development in the global South, ageing populations in the West, the globalization of skilled labour markets and other issues.

UCL has internationally recognized expertise in the field of migration. It has two established research units, the Migration Research Unit (MRU) within the Department of Geography, and the Centre for Research on Economic Analysis of Migration (CREAM) within the Department of Economics. UCL researchers are actively engaged with debates on a broad range of migration topics, from the latest developments in domestic, European and international law, analyses of state and global migration regimes, intersections between migration, health and disease, explorations of identities and cultural change, to ethnographic, visual and literary representations of migration and displacement. Migration research at UCL has a strong international dimension, benefiting from extensive networks across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

The MSc programme is interdisciplinary in scope, and offers the best of migration teaching and dissertation supervision from across UCL Faculties. The departments involved include: geography, anthropology, laws, economics, SSEES, development planning, Institute of Child Health and others. This range makes the programme unique among migration studies programmes. MSc students will benefit from the consolidation of migration expertise across UCL and beyond through programmes such as the London Migration Research Network, a departmental migration seminar series and a vibrant and expanding body of PhD students working in the field of migration.

The course combines policy and theoretical debates over migration. It is aimed at students who wish to work with migrants and asylum seekers in different parts of the world, who aspire to posts in UN, EU, national policy think-tanks, government research and policy departments, NGOs, community-based and grassroots organizations, and at students wishing to pursue doctorates in the interdisciplinary field of migration studies.
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