

## Refugee Studies Centre

In 2007 the Refugee Studies Centre, part of the University of Oxford's Department of International Development, celebrates 25 years of research, teaching and international outreach in the multidisciplinary field of forced migration studies. The Centre combines world-class academic research and teaching with a deep commitment to improving the lives of some of the world's most disadvantaged people.

The Refugee Studies Centre's pioneering role has been recognised by the award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. The prize honours institutions that clearly demonstrate the wider benefits of their work.



*25th Anniversary (1982–2007)*

**2–20 July 2007**

**Refugee Studies Centre**

**University of Oxford**

# International summer school in forced migration

*Courses in asylum policy and international refugee law; globalisation and forced migration; the psychosocial needs and experiences of refugees; negotiating strategies in humanitarian situations; development-induced displacement and resettlement; Palestinian refugees; human trafficking and smuggling.*

## **Why study forced migration?**

Conflict and displacement are intractable problems in the contemporary world. At the start of 2006 the number of people 'of concern' to UNHCR had risen to 20.8 million, six per cent more than in the previous year. Whether asylum seekers or refugees, stateless or internally displaced people, the figures represent women, children and men who have been forcibly uprooted from their homes by war, persecution, and extreme poverty.

Understanding the causes and consequences of forced migration and possessing the practical skills to deal effectively with its challenges are essential, both for the development of effective programmes to assist refugees, and in addressing the root causes of human displacement.

The Refugee Studies Centre's international summer school fosters dialogue between academics, practitioners and policy-makers working to improve the situation of refugees and other forced migrants. It provides the time and space for them to reflect on their experiences and think critically about some of the aims and assumptions underlying their work.

## Who is the summer school for?

Experienced *practitioners* involved with assistance and policy-making for forced migrants. Participants typically include host government officials, intergovernmental and non-governmental agency personnel engaged in planning, administering and co-ordinating assistance.

Graduate *researchers* intending to specialise in the study of forced migration.

## Why participate?

The summer school offers an intensive, interdisciplinary and participative approach to the study of forced migration. It aims to enable people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the world of the displaced.

Now in its eighteenth year, the three-week course combines the very best of Oxford University's academic excellence with the ground-breaking interactive method of study developed by the Open University.

*“The programme serves as an essential bridge between the seemingly distant worlds of theory and practice”*

Chen Fye Tham, journalist, Singapore

*“Making participants actively involved in the process helped develop skills needed to handle refugee issues”*

Nirekha de Silva, human rights consultant, Sri Lanka

## How is it structured?

### **The curriculum**

Over three weeks, the course looks at the complex phenomenon of forced migration from a number of different angles. Beginning with reflection on the diverse ways of conceptualising forced migration, the course considers the political, legal and psychosocial issues associated with contemporary displacement. Individual course modules also tackle a range of other topics, including globalisation and forced migration, negotiating strategies in humanitarian situations, and development-induced displacement.

### **The methodology**

The summer school aims to foster a culture of the reflective practitioner while also practising and developing skills useful in the workplace. The course takes an active learning approach to the transfer of knowledge. Participants engage in reflection–analysis–synthesis–teamwork, via critical engagement with lectures, readings, case studies, interactive exercises and the sharing of insights and experiences. Each participant is allocated to a tutor group, sometimes working in these small groups, at other times in larger groups.

### **The teaching**

Lecturers, tutors and seminar leaders are drawn both from the Refugee Studies Centre and from outside institutions. They include research staff, academics and professionals from a number of disciplines and practices, including anthropology, politics, law, psychology, international relations, and social development.

### **The participants**

A maximum of 72 participants from around the world study together, take part in group activities and produce an independent presentation. Participants have the time and space to reflect on their own work and to benefit from the international mix and varied professional experience of other participants.

### **Language of instruction**

All teaching and instructional materials are in English.

## What is the programme?

### **The conceptualisation of forced migration**

The course begins by examining and assessing different conceptualisations of forced migration, including legal, socio-economic and political economy approaches.

### **Causes, patterns and consequences of forced migration**

The course moves on to analyse links between forced migration and processes and patterns of globalisation. It considers ways of addressing the tension between a globalised world of free circulation of capital, investment and resources, and the barriers to movement facing refugees and other migrants. Individual experiences then take centre stage through consideration of psychosocial responses to refugees. The efficacy of psychological interventions for refugees is considered critically and participants are encouraged to reflect upon the requirements for successful interventions.

### **Responses**

The second half of the course examines key issues raised by responses to forced migration – responses that involve numerous different organisations and agencies with different and often competing interests and values. The negotiation module enables reflection on how to navigate these tensions, through the simulation of a humanitarian

crisis. The emphasis on the institutional dimension of forced migration is continued in the law module, which considers the nature and adequacy of international law relevant to forced migration. Asylum in northern states and ‘mass influx’ in southern countries are both considered. The last section of the course is dedicated to discussion of some freestanding issues; in recent years topics have included ‘Palestinian refugees’, ‘trafficking and smuggling’ and ‘development-induced displacement’.

### **Individual reports**

Time is set aside for participants to produce an independent piece of work: an essay, report or other presentation. The aim is for participants to reflect on their professional practice in the context of the course, and also to consider the course in light of personal experience. To help with this task participants have access to the Refugee Studies Centre library, which holds a unique collection of over 30,000 books and documents that are vital to the study and understanding of current refugee issues.

### **Evening and weekend sessions**

An optional programme of films and seminars on topics related to forced migration is offered, as well as various social events.

## Who are the people?

### Some recent lecturers

Mr Jon Bennett – *independent consultant and Director of Oxford Development Consultants*

Dr Chaloka Beyani – *Lecturer in Law at the London School of Economics*

Dr Peter Carey – *Laithwaite Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, University of Oxford*

Professor Stephen Castles – *Co-Director and Senior Researcher at the International Migration Institute, University of Oxford*

Professor Supang Chantavanich – *Director of the Asian Research Centre for Migration at Chulalongkorn University*

Professor B S Chimni – *Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Juridical Sciences*

Professor Francis Deng – *Research Professor of International Politics, Law and Society at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies*

Mr Jean Francois Durieux – *Deputy Director, Europe Bureau, UNHCR*

Professor Anthony Good – *Chair of Social Anthropology in Practice at the University of Edinburgh*

Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill – *Barrister at Law, and Fellow of All Souls College at the University of Oxford*

Ms Irene Khan – *Secretary General, Amnesty International*  
Professor Gaim Kibreab – *Reader in Sociology and Director of Refugee Studies at London South Bank University*

Professor Harold Koh – *Dean of Law School, Yale University; formerly US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor*

Dr Maryanne Loughry – *psychologist, formerly Pedro Arrupe Tutor at the Refugee Studies Centre*

Professor Susan Martin – *Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University*

Dr Derek Summerfield – *psychiatrist and Honorary Senior Lecturer at St George's Hospital Medical School, London*

Professor David Turton – *social anthropologist and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre*

Ms Monette Zard – *Research Director, International Council on Human Rights Policy*

Professor Roger Zetter – *Director of the Refugee Studies Centre and Leopold Muller Reader at the University of Oxford*

*“The course was very well structured, in a way that helped the participants to understand each topic with a multidisciplinary approach”*

Cecilia Bock, Programmes Co-ordinator, Jesuit Refugee Service, Italy

*“As a policy maker, it was a great opportunity to reflect on everyday work with people working directly with refugees”*

Lenny van der Spek, EU adviser to the Prime Minister of the Netherlands

## Funders

The Refugee Studies Centre thanks the following for scholarship funding to recent summer schools:

A W Mellon Foundation

Department for International Development, UK

E S Hogg Charitable Trust

European Commission

Ford Foundation Cairo

Ford Foundation Eastern Africa

Ford Foundation Southern Africa

Fritz Institute

Genevieve Muinzer in memory of Sara Muinzer

Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation

Open Society Institute

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

## Images



Photographs by Corinne Owen

Wadham College dining room  
Participants

Tutor group session  
Wadham College

*“The Summer School gave me a deeper and broader understanding which I can use to add value in my work in Indonesia”*

Zulham Ibrahim, Vice Dean, Malikussaleh University, Indonesia

*“My expectations to be well abreast of the new developments in the evolving protection regime for refugees and IDPs were satisfied”*

Kennedy Sargo, Protection Officer, UNHCR, Kenya

## The detail

### When?

Annually, during July. In 2007 the dates are 2–20 July.

### Where?

At the University of Oxford. In 2007 the summer school will be held at Wadham College.

### How much?

The fee for 2007 is £2,600. Apply and pay by 31 March to qualify for a reduced fee of £2,400.

### What is included?

This covers 19 nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation and all weekday lunches; all tuition; all course materials, including reading materials; and a range of social activities. Evening and weekend meals are not included in the course fees.

### Requirements

Applicants should have:

- experience in working with, or on issues related to, refugees or other forced migrants
- a first-degree
- proficiency in the English language; as a guide, foreign-language English speakers should be able to obtain a score of 7.00 in ELTS/ IELTS or 570 in TOEFL.

### Accommodation

Accommodation is of general student standard. There are no facilities provided for partners or other family members. Participants arriving before or staying on after the summer school should make their own accommodation arrangements.

### Subsistence

As well as fees and travel costs, participants should budget for subsistence and incidental expenses during the course. We suggest a minimum of £20–£25 per day. In addition you might want to add a books/photocopying allowance.

### Use of the Refugee Studies Centre library

The programme provides a course pack of reading materials, and a dossier on relevant films. Many more documents are available in the library. Participants may request to remain on after the summer school to make further use of the library.

### Sponsorship

A number of bursaries are offered on a competitive basis. Conditions for their allocation also depend on the bursary providers' criteria, and are usually linked to certain countries or regions. Some past participants have been successful in obtaining sponsorship by dealing directly with funding sources that they have researched themselves. We advise potential applicants to look for funding as widely as possible, as we always receive many more bursary applications than we have funds to support.

### Insurance

Participants are responsible for their own insurance. Participants from outside the European Union should consider medical insurance if their country does not have a reciprocal agreement with the UK for free medical treatment.

### Administration

Dr Matthew Gibney, Summer School Director  
Ms Katherine Salahi, Summer School Administrator

### How to apply

You can apply by post, fax or online. Please use the application form (available online or from the address below), together with a personal statement and your curriculum vitae. All applications are reviewed by a selection committee. We will inform you of the committee's decision; if you are accepted you must confirm your acceptance to ensure a place. The closing date for applications is 1 March 2007 for applicants requiring sponsorship through the Refugee Studies Centre, 1 May 2007 for all other applicants. As the summer school is typically oversubscribed, we advise you to apply in good time; reservation of places is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please send all applications and enquiries to  
**The International Summer School Administrator**  
**Refugee Studies Centre**  
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