

## **Dr Dvir Abramovich**

The University of Melbourne

### **The experience, trauma and narratives of Holocaust refugees in Israel**

After their liberation from the Nazi death camps, Shoah survivors and their families immigrated to Israel in search of a safe haven and a new beginning. This presentation will centre on the experience, trauma and narratives of the remnant of the Holocaust, and their anguished absorption in Israel. Specifically, this paper will examine how in the 1950s and 1960's, Holocaust survivors at once carried the guilt for staying alive and the shame of being viewed as passive weaklings going to their death, felt rejected by Israeli society. Indeed, fresh from a precarious victory in the 1948 War, Israelis erected a psychological wall between themselves and the survivors, who at that time represented all that the heroic and triumphant Israeli must shun. The paper will argue that many Israelis felt an intense sense of alienation towards the millions who were exterminated and those who survived the gates of hell. As a result, the newcomers chose silence as a means of healing and forgetting, withdrawing into a life of deep denial and stillness. Employing a range of materials, this paper will probe how Holocaust survivors felt 'out of place' and displaced in their homeland, and how the 1961 Eichmann Trial marked a dramatic shift in attitude, empathy and identification.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Dvir Abramovich holds the Kipen Lectureship in Hebrew-Jewish Studies and is Director of the Program in Jewish Culture and Society at The University of Melbourne. A former president of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies and editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, he is the author of four books.

## **Kamee Abrahamian**

Pacifica Graduate Institute, California

### **Narratives and Sense of Community amongst Syrian-Armenian Newcomers in Toronto**

This paper outlines the connection between narratives and the sense of community (SOC) among Syrian-Armenian newcomers in Toronto. The current members of the Toronto-Armenian community come from a history of displacement and forced migration that echoes that of the newcomers - first as survivors of the Armenian genocide, then again when they fled from wars in the SWANA region. It is crucial to understand the historical and psychological context as it provides a basis for a shared emotional history between the newcomers and those who are currently supporting and sponsoring them. We will do so by briefly looking at what both the Syrian-Armenian and Toronto-Armenian communities look like, how their stories are tangled into one another, and how these stories are entrenched in a complex political environment.

#### *Biographical Information*

Kamee is a Canadian-born Lebanese-Armenian interdisciplinary artist, producer, and facilitator. She has a BFA/BA in film and political science from Concordia University (Montreal) and an MA in art therapy from the European Graduate School (Switzerland). Kamee is currently doing her masters/Ph.D. in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute (California).

## **Dr Karen Agutter and Professor Rachel Ankeny**

The University of Adelaide

### **The Migrant Hostel as Liminal Place: Prospects for a New Theoretical Approach**

The concept of liminality, originally formulated by anthropologist Victor Turner, has more recently been applied across a range of disciplines to illustrate and explore situations of transition. Within migration studies, the theory of the liminal space, the betwixt and between, is particularly relevant when considering the multiple transitions of place, belonging and identity with which migrants and refugees are confronted as they attempt to settle in a new land. For refugees arriving in Australia since the Second World War, this idea of the liminal space has often been conjoined with constraints on physical location (ie. temporary or longer-term accommodation in migrant accommodation centres, detention centres, and more recently off-shore processing centres). This paper explores the notion of the liminal space with reference to refugee arrivals in Australia since the late 1940s. We consider if these “centres” created, or acted as, liminal spaces and whether changing government and public attitudes towards and treatment of refugees impacted the nature and duration of the liminal experience.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Karen Agutter is an historian with a focus on the history of migration, particularly issues of migrant identity and host society reception, in Australia, Canada, and Great Britain. Karen has published widely in the areas of the migrant experience and has been involved in a variety of interdisciplinary collaborative research projects. She is currently a part of the Hostel Stories Project at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Rachel A. Ankeny is an interdisciplinary scholar with several lines of research, including migration history. She is particularly interested in food habits and medical care among refugees and migrants who went through the hostels in South Australia and elsewhere. She is the team leader and chief investigator for the Hostel Stories ARC Linkage Project at the University of Adelaide.

## **Dr Karen Agutter and Dr Catherine Kevin**

The University of Adelaide  
Flinders University

### **Failing Abyan: A Story of Lessons Not Learnt and Stories Not Told**

In September and October 2015, the story of detained Somali refugee ‘Abyan’ unfolded in the Australian media. Allegedly a victim of rape on Nauru, and seeking an abortion that could not be obtained on the island nation, Abyan was escorted to Sydney’s Villawood Detention Centre from where she was to attend a Marie Stopes abortion clinic. She spent five days in Sydney before being taken back to Nauru without having had the abortion. Some of the details of the government’s handling and representation of her case were only brought to light by lawyer Kellie Tranter’s Freedom of Information requests, made five months after Abyan returned to Nauru, in March 2016. These reveal Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s negligence in relation to Abyan’s psychological and physical well-being for the duration of her pregnancy, up to and including the five days she spent in Sydney.

This paper seeks to situate Abyan's story in a longer history of the care of refugee women's sexual and reproductive health in Immigration Department accommodation since World War Two. Drawing on records from the period 1948-1965 and placing these alongside what we know about Abyan, it will highlight continuities and discontinuities both in the level of care provided and the narrative strategies used by Department officials that concealed details of women's experiences while revealing the priorities of the Australian governments concerned.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Catherine Kevin is a Senior Lecturer in History at Flinders University. Her research has focused on the history of reproduction, women, and migration, and the making of Jedda. She is currently co-editing a special issue of *History of the Family* on refugee families in Australia with Karen Agutter and writing a book called *Re-framing Jedda: memory, community and dispossession in Ngunnawal country*.

#### **Dr Olivia B. Amabo**

University of Dschang, Cameroon

#### **Refugees, segregation and violence in Africa**

This paper examines the numerous and unending forms of violence against refugees in Africa. With pertinent examples gleaned from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa and Zimbabwe, the paper explores the outstanding strategies of segregation, torture and death labelled on African refugees.

Van Dijk's (2006:116-38) concept of ideology is used, that is, the social representation that defines the social identity of an individual, the belief about the individual's fundamental conditions and ways of existence. Data for this study were collected from reports, articles and news bulletins. Each country's excerpts were critically examined; classifying and interpreting words/lexes of segregation, violence and death with specific emphasis on Austin's (1975) 'performative' and its impact on refugees.

There is an irrefutable assertion that Africans either flee from deadly conflicts or they are in search of personal wellbeing and by so doing, face myriad challenges most specifically a sense of rejection as refugees are addressed using derogatory language and they are most often victims of violence. Most striking is the fact that the complexion, body build, accent and resident area are elements that determine the degree of segregation and violence on African refugees

#### *Biographical Information*

Olivia B. Amabo is a PhD holder in Discourse Analysis; a lecturer at the University of Dschang - Cameroon. She got a post-doctoral award in the Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa at the University of South Africa for one year. Her works focus on language use and conflicts in Africa.

## **Muhamed Amin**

University of Ottawa

### **Personal Asylum Narratives and Lived Refugee Experiences: Attempting to Deconstruct Negative Attitudes within an Emerging European Public Sphere**

As the current refugee crisis in Europe rages on, much of the media attention has focused on the indifference of EU member states to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of refugees seeking protection within its borders. Despite the social and political maelstrom that has characterized the crisis, one of its unassuming subtexts has been the emergence of personal refugee narratives, which have never occupied a legitimate space within the confines of the European public sphere. Although typically neglected by more authoritative actors (i.e. mainstream media, policymakers, anti-immigration groups), these narratives have permeated into the mainstream European public discourse and have helped deconstruct negative attitudes about refugees and how they fit into an increasingly cosmopolitan and diverse Europe. As such, this article examines the manner in which they can provide an alternative voice within the spatial boundaries of such a polarizing and traditionally one-sided debate. Based on in-depth interviews, such personal narratives contribute to better understanding the refugee experience, thus accentuating the human element that is often neglected within the discourse on asylum in Europe. Through them, we are better able to recognize and appreciate the value of such marginalized narratives, thus reinforcing a more inclusive membership in this debate.

#### *Biographical Information*

Muhamed Amin is a PhD candidate and Part-Time Professor in the Department of History at the University of Ottawa. He has taught about migration and integration in postwar Europe and is currently completing his dissertation on the history of asylum-seekers in Europe by examining their personal narratives and lived experiences.

## **Dr Melanie Baak**

The University of South Australia

### **The Ghosts of Forced Migration Studies**

In the mid-1990s, the field of forced migration studies grew from the field of refugee studies. The origins of refugee studies was in humanitarian and policy-related research, particularly with refugees in refugee camps (Malkki 1995). This paper argues that forced migration studies' origins in and continued focus on humanitarian, policy and advocacy related research have haunted the ways in which the field has developed and the ways in which forced migration research continues to be done. One of the outcomes of this focus of forced migration studies is the lack of consideration of experiences of resettlement in a third country as an aspect of forced migration. Currently, research with people from refugee backgrounds who have been resettled in a third country is referred to as research with or of refugees. This is problematic for those who have made their lives in a new country and should no longer be classified as refugees. This paper argues, by reflecting on a research project conducted with five Dinka women from South Sudan who were resettled in Australia, that there is a need for the field of forced migration studies to be broadened to incorporate research on resettlement experiences in third countries. This will enable a shift in terminology so that those who have

been resettled are able to move beyond being seen as always already a refugee.

### *Biographical Information*

Melanie has developed a broad understanding of the experiences of people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds through a number of research projects exploring themes including; belonging, schooling, identity, home, place, transition, family, gender and sexual violence. She is the author of the forthcoming book '*Negotiating Belongings: the haunted journey of Diäärjäng*'.

### **Dr Ruth Balint**

The University of New South Wales

### **DP Families and their use of History. Narratives of Displacement, 1947-1952.**

Recent histories of DPs tend to examine them in terms of individual stories of dislocation and resettlement. In this paper, Ruth examines the DP family experience of relief and resettlement. DP families faced a particularly unique history of struggle after the Second World War, and were often separated either at the point of origin or once they reached Australia. Ruth is interested in understanding how DP families negotiated the particular requirements of Australian immigration. She also examines those DP families that did not meet the requirements of migration officers: their exclusion, as family units, from the possibility of migrating to the 'new world' forces us to re-evaluate the project of family restoration that stood at the centre of humanitarian efforts to revive the shattered societies of defeated Europe.

### *Biographical Information*

Ruth Balint is a senior lecturer in History at the University of New South Wales. She is currently working on an ARC project with Sheila Fitzpatrick and Jayne Persian on Russian displaced persons who came to Australia via China after the Second World War, and another project on the separation of refugee families in migration. She recently collaborated with the Australian Red Cross International Tracing Service for the 2015 exhibition at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne, 'The Right to Know'.

### **Jeffrey John Barnes**

University of Akron, Ohio

### **The Art of Dispossession: Handhala and the Refugee Witness in Palestinian Art**

The editorial cartoons of Palestinian artist Naji Al-Ali brought international attention to the plight of Palestinians in the period between the resignation following Palestinian defeats in 1948 and 1967 and the resistance that characterized the 1970s and 1980s and that has come to define contemporary Palestinian identity. His child-character Handhala - a caricature of the artist's own experience of dispossession and exile - reflected the unifying theme of the breadth of Al-Ali's work, namely, the right of return for Palestinian refugees as a non-negotiable fixture of not just Palestinian national aspirations, but also as a core component of Palestinian identity. The present paper explores the role of Handhala as a refugee *shahid* (witness), a figure who mediated the Palestinian refugee experience for a global audience,

interrogated complicated questions of what it meant to be a generation of Palestinians coming of age in refugee camps, and challenged the dominant characterization of refugees as Palestinian refugees. Through understanding Handhala's role as refugee *shahid*, scholars are able to better able to understand the broader refugee experience, as well as the specificities that marked the Palestinian experience of expulsion and diaspora as unique.

### **Ann-Kathrin Bartels**

The University of South Australia

#### **Behind this is the question concerning our national self-conception**

The FRG's asylum debate and the national identity discourse examined on the basis of Western German national press, 1985-1987

In a detailed discourse analysis of the Western German asylum debate the author examines daily and weekly newspapers from 1985 to 1987. After a short recollection of the historical background of the basic right of asylum in Western Germany, different categories that the media used when portraying asylum seekers are being elaborated on. These range from degrading them as 'bogus asylum seekers' or 'economic refugees', to calling them criminals, stressing their cultural difference and accusing them of being the sources of social unrest and a new spread of racism in the receiving country. Arguing that the asylum debate and the discourse around a German national identity are interrelated, research on historical stereotypes, on the theoretical grounds of Hans Henning Hahn, Adam Schaff and Michael Imhoff, is being used to show the dualistic nature of the way others are perceived ('Heterostereotype') and the self-perceptive image ('Autostereotype'). The question arises what the representations of asylum seekers in turn convey about the Western German national identity which was highly contested. Following Siegfried Jäger's idea of the interconnectedness and entanglement of discourses, the author argues that the asylum debate is entwined with other identity-related discourses in Germany at that time like eg. the 'Historikerstreit' ('historians' quarrel) or the relationship to the GDR. The asylum debate works as a defence mechanism for parameters that are received as insecurities and violations of the status quo and which seemingly question the German national identity.

#### *Biographical Information*

Ann-Kathrin Bartels, born 1989, recently completed her studies at the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, Germany, with a MA in European History and a M.Ed. in History and English. Her thesis on stereotyping asylum seekers and the German national identity discourse reflects her interest in human rights. She currently resides in London.

### **Kathleen Blair**

Western Sydney University

#### **'Stop the boats!' Anti-asylum seeker sentiment in the 2013 Federal election campaign and its impact on the voting decision of Australians from Western Sydney**

Issues pertaining to asylum seekers and refugees have long been the focus of negative political interest. Such interest however, appears to coalesce in the lead up to and throughout federal election campaigns. Most recently, throughout the 2013 Federal Election campaign,

the Liberal party campaigned most fervently on ‘stopping the boats’. Their ‘stop the boats’ campaign slogan sums up a raft of controversial policy decisions and legislation that have been enacted by the Liberal Party since their coming to power. Choosing to campaign on this issue provided the opportunity for the Liberal party to crystallise its rhetoric on the issue of asylum seekers - and in so doing - to secure wide political support for policies designed to further deter, exclude and reject ‘illegal boat arrivals’. To understand the impact (or lack thereof) of the government’s discursive strategy on the voting decision of Australian citizens, 38 interviews were conducted with Australian voters from Western Sydney. This paper will present preliminary findings of an ongoing study and provides insight into the way in which anti-asylum seeker rhetoric is reflected in the sentiments of Australia voters.

### *Biographical Information*

Kathleen Blair is a PhD candidate at the Western Sydney University and Research Assistant on the Challenging Racism Project. Her doctoral work explores marginal vote seeking strategies and the use of anti-asylum seeker sentiment in federal election campaigns. Her research interests include asylum seekers, refugees, discourse analysis and prejudice.

### **Jesse Buck**

Australian National University

### **The Sugar in the Milk: An Indian story about refugees from Iran**

There is a story about a community called the Parsis that narrates the persecution of their Zoroastrian religion in ancient Iran by Muslims and their departure to India by boat. On arrival a Hindu king presents them with a full glass of milk to symbolise that the land is full and there is no room for them. One of their priests stirs sugar into the milk to symbolise that they will mix in and sweeten society not displacing the milk thus not creating territorial problems.

This paper asks, what challenges have provoked Parsis and Hindus to narrate a treaty trading asylum for loyalty and acculturation in post-colonial India? It is argued that Parsis use the story to wash away the colonial stain of their loyalty to the British and to explain their fusion of Zoroastrian and Hindu practices. For Hindus the story illustrates their munificence and how a minority should relate to them, how Muslims should acculturate Hindu practices and profess loyalty. For plural India the story includes Parsis and for Hindu India it excludes Muslims.

### *Biographical Information*

Jesse Buck is a doctoral candidate at the Australian National University. He researches revisions of a story that narrates a first encounter between Iranian refugees known as the Parsis and Hindus in India. Through studying revisions produced in the Mughal, late colonial and post-colonial eras, using the mediums of manuscript, print and the internet, Jesse reflects upon shifts in historical consciousness.

## Dr Greg Burgess

Deakin University

### Asylum as Idea and in Practice between the National and the International

This paper reflects on the interrelationship between national responses to refugees and the international regime of refugee protection under the various intergovernmental instruments of the twentieth century. Drawn from my recent research on the League of Nations responses to the refugees from Germany in the 1930s, and asylum in France after the Second World War, it argues that ‘asylum as idea’ the is the rights of refugees to protection frequently conflicts with ‘asylum in practice’ that is the rights and benefits that flow to refugees. Asylum as idea is determined through international instruments (the pre-war intergovernmental arrangements and conventions, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Rights, the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees), while asylum in practice is determined by national policy. The admission and residence of refugees is a question national sovereignty and border security, yet international instruments determine state behaviour towards refugees. This paper examines how this tension has been played out in these two historical contexts. It concludes that the failure of success of asylum measured by the willingness of nations to admit and confer protection on refugees is determined by the strength of the international refugee regime, which in turn is determined by the recognition of the rights of refugees.

#### *Biographical Information*

Greg Burgess’ research in the field of refugee history has had a special interest how refugees have influenced the history of France. He has paid particular attention to how notions of asylum and refugee rights have influenced approaches to refugees, in the popular imagination, in the broader conceptions of rights, and in government policy. His major publication on these themes, *Refuge in the Land of Liberty. France and its refugees from the Revolution to the End of Asylum, 1787-1939* (Basingstoke & New York: Palgrave, 2008, analyses, among other things, how the notion of asylum has often conflicted with the national policy towards refugees. Greg has recently completed a new study on the League of Nations and its response to the refugees from Nazism in the 1930s (*The League of Nations and the Refugees from Nazi Germany: James G. McDonald and Hitler’s Victims*, currently in press with Bloomsbury Academic, London. He is current writing a new book on refugees and asylum in post-war France.

## Professor Kate Darian-Smith

The University of Melbourne

### Australian Press Photographs and Refugees: the power of visual images

The 2015 World Press Photo of the Year was awarded to the Australian Warren Richardson, whose grainy image of a father passing his infant through a barbed wired fence documents refugees crossing the border from Serbia into Hungary. This international jury described this work as ‘timeless’, ‘classic’ and ‘incredibly powerful visually’ in conveying the specific and universal plight of refugees. This paper considers the political and emotional power of press photographs in its examination of how Australian newspapers have portrayed refugees, at home and abroad, from the mid-twentieth century to the present. It draws upon ARC-funded

research on the history of Australian press photography, including over 50 interviews with photographers recorded for the National Library of Australia. From the arrival in Australia of displaced persons after World War II, the Vietnamese ‘boat people’ of the 1970s, and more recent refugee movements, press photographers have been documenting these events. For some, this has been personally difficult, particularly in relation to photographing people detained in on and off-shore detention centres. Kate explores these experiences within the wider context of government policies and the official use of photographs; the issue of media access and ethics; the influence of press photography on public opinion; and the power of photographs in narrating the histories of refugees in our time.

#### *Biographical Information*

Kate Darian-Smith, FASSA, is Professor of Australian Studies and History, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, and Professor of Cultural Heritage, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne. She has published widely on Australian history and culture, and her current research includes leading an ARC project of cultural diversity, migration and Australian television.

### **Jack Davies**

#### **N97/18721 [1998] RRT 3701, or: I arrived in the spring when the snows were starting to melt: the start of the war season**

In most cases, asylum seekers arrive to countries of asylum without evidence of their need for protection - no documents or bullet wounds - nothing but their story. This paper is an early foray into larger research on asylum stories and is thus fairly open-ended: raising rather than answering questions. It reconstructs the 1998 Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) hearing of a single Kurdish asylum seeker from Turkey. His story challenges typical narratives/representations of asylum seekers, perhaps particularly those produced by sympathisers. There is no pathetic, helpless, or tragic figure in this account. Instead a charismatic, intelligent, and moral man with a dense and complicated past merges through the dusty legal setting.

However, the main intention is to raise questions about the story itself - not its truth or falsity, but what constitutes it. If asylum stories aren’t fixed or rigid, what are the discursive, legal, and bureaucratic circumstances at work? The paper speculates on the constitutive effects of asylum processes including the use of interpreters and legal advisors; the hearing room and its technologies; the production and use of “country of origin information”; and individual personalities. Using this single asylum seeker’s RRT decision record, annual RRT reports and practice directions, and an interview with a solicitor/migration agent, the paper begins research that will hopefully shed new light on refugee narratives and asylum processing.

#### *Biographical Information*

After four years working and volunteering at the Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre in Melbourne, Jack moved to Beirut to study Middle East Studies. He wrote an honours thesis on Kurdish asylum-seekers at The University of Melbourne and researched asylum trends for a Federal Court Justice. Jack has a research grant to travel to Australia in October.

### **Dr Alexandra Dellios**



The University of Melbourne

### **The Family in the Autobiographical Memories of Settlement: Refugees in on-arrival accommodation**

Existing discussions within refugee and immigration history in Australia have thus far neglected how memories of settlement and adjustment are retold, forgotten and remembered at the familial and intimate level of Australian migrant communities. Those invested in attending, promoting, restoring and conserving these sites and retelling their family stories have moved beyond affective and emotional responses to the site - they are actively engaged in its reproduction and reception. This chapter will investigate the emotional role of 'family' in remembering migration and settlement - mostly from the perspective of those that arrived in post-war Australia as children. These are memories formed in collaboration and conflict with family conversations, public histories of migration, and in recognition of the silences that surround settlement difficulties in post-war Australia. Recent official public history efforts in Australia, including the heritage listing of former government-administered accommodation centres like Bonegilla and Benalla, and have emboldened many second or 1.5 generation migrants to advocate for the historical importance of their respective settlement sites and family memories. This interplay between 'private' family memories and 'public' histories of migration forms the framework for many childhood reminiscences. In exploring these memories, I hope to highlight the importance of family in shaping migrant settlement memories, and how these private stories become public history.

#### *Biographical Information*

Alexandra Dellios was awarded her PhD from The University of Melbourne in 2015. She is researching family narratives of migrant settlement and heritage-making practices, specifically in relation post-war migrant centres. She also lectures in Australian studies and migrant history. Her book on family settlement and Bonegilla Migrant Centre will be published next year with Melbourne University Press.

### **Dr Samantha Dieckmann and Dr Jane Davidson**

The University of Melbourne

### **The Musical Voicing of Refugee Narratives**

Refugee life narratives have emerged as a performative genre, problematically shaped by the climate of local and global human rights campaigns and the structure of asylum laws. They have been examined in various forms - including autobiographical histories, legal testimonies and theatrical works - revealing the genre's discursive framing of notions of victimhood, hope, authenticity, agency, healing and identity. While it has been argued that narrative documentation offers refugees trauma therapy and power in response to exclusionary and hostile media coverage, at the same time, it has been suggested that public and institutionalised performances of such testimony reinforce the speaker's marginalisation. This paper explores the tension between public performativity and private negotiation of refugee identities and experiences, with particular reference to the role of music and emotion in refugee narrativity. The relationship between participants' affective and musical voicing of their own stories and the resultant ways in which their crises are encountered by listeners will form the core of the presentation. Participants are from various waves of forced migration

throughout Australia's history who shared songs, lullabies and recited poems as part of a project run by Multicultural Arts Victoria.

#### *Biographical Information*

Samantha Dieckmann is a postdoctoral fellow, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, The University of Melbourne. Research explores musical acculturation, refugee and asylum seeker music programs, and the use of music for intercultural understanding in personal, religious and political areas of conflict.

Jane Davidson is Deputy Director, the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, and Professor of Creative and Performing Arts at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. Research interests include the uses of music for socio-emotional wellbeing.

### **Dr Daniella Doron**

Monash University

#### **Jewish refugee youth in 1940s America**

This paper will examine Jewish refugee youth who had taken shelter in the United States in the 1940s. It will do so by focusing on one case study: the experiences of and professional debates that surrounded a group of approximately one hundred Jewish youth who immigrated to the United States without their parents in 1940, under the direction of the German Jewish psychologist and child welfare worker Ernst Papenek. Despite the fortunate nature of the children's escape from Nazi occupied Europe, many of the children's transition to life in America and their foster families did not proceed smoothly. Tensions soon emerged between the European immigrant youth and the American foster families over predictable sources of friction such the youth's unrealistic expectations about life in the United States, and the foster parent's insensitivity to the emotional strains of the refugee existence.

The experiences of these refugee children thus generated intense professional and scholarly amongst social workers, pedagogues, and psychologists both in Europe and the United States. This presentation draws upon the correspondence and the wide range of psychological and pedagogical studies produced in the 1940s and the 1950s regarding this particular group of refugee children and other unaccompanied Jewish children more generally. It will show how European and American Jewish child welfare workers - such as Papenek, an Adlerian psychologist trained in Europe but who found himself working in the United States in the 1940s; child welfare workers and psychologists still in France; and American Jewish social workers and child welfare agency employees - shared an investment in the children's quality of care, but harboured opposing visions of childhood, the role of family, and citizenship.

#### *Biographical Information*

Daniella Doron is a lecturer in Jewish History at Monash University. Before arriving at Monash, she held postdoctoral positions at the University of Toronto and Colgate University. She is the author of *Jewish Youth and Identity in Postwar France: Rebuilding Family and Nation* (Indiana University Press, 2015).

### **Dr Kate Driscoll**



### **From *Afghan to Tampa*; Australian political cartoons of race and refugees**

This paper uses political cartoons from the period 1886 - 2001 to explore Australian immigration, asylum seeker and refugee policy. The cartoons of nineteenth century Chinese and Japanese exclusion, Australia's treatment of Jews and Displaced Persons pre- and post-Second World War, the 1975 arrival of Vietnamese and Indochinese refugees, the Chinese nationals fleeing China after the Tiananmen Square massacre, the arrival of refugees from Kosovo, and finally the 2001 Tampa and Children Overboard incidents, the sinking of the SIEV X and the arrival of refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan provide a historical overview of the propaganda and politics, and the racism and nationalism which have contributed to asylum seeker and refugee policy regimes.

These cartoons provide a documentary account of the twists and turns of nation state engagement with asylum seekers and refugees as people experiencing persecution. They reveal myths of generosity and nation, and narratives of absurdity and brutality. The paper argues there are enduring themes and patterns which emerge in Australia's early treatment of migrants which have continued to shape Australia's policy responses to asylum seekers and refugees; hostility towards non-white and non-Anglo people; fear of invasion; rights ambiguity; legal challenges; illegal detention; sending boats away; and breaches of international treaties.

#### *Biographical Information*

Kate Driscoll works in the School of Global, Urban and Social Science at RMIT teaching public policy to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Kate's PhD thesis *Drawing race and refugees: making sense of political cartoons of Australian refugee policy 1886 - 2001*, was completed in 2015.

### **Dr Clemence Due**

The University of Adelaide

### **Wellbeing and Identity in Refugee Children at School in Adelaide, South Australia**

When arriving in a resettlement country, children with refugee backgrounds may face a range of challenges, including negotiating changing identities, challenges learning about and 'fitting in' to a new culture, and issues such as discrimination or social exclusion. This project used a participatory design to examine what it meant for refugee children to be 'doing well' at school in Australia, with a particular focus on the impact of culture and identity. Consistent with participatory research, this project used a variety of methods to ensure that the children's voices could be heard in the research. The research project was longitudinal, and included a total of 60 students aged between five and 12 years old. This presentation will focus photographs and interview data relating to issues of culture and identity, and argue that sharing culture and identity at school is central to the wellbeing of young refugee children in resettlement countries.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Clemence Due is a lecturer in the School of Psychology at The University of Adelaide. Her research primarily concerns the mental health and wellbeing of children and adults with refugee backgrounds, with a focus on cultural understandings of mental health and service

delivery.

## Professor Mark Edele

The University of Western Australia

### **Collaborator, traitor, refugee: On ill-fitting categories and moral ambiguities in the German-Soviet war 1941-1945**

This paper explores the choices made by one man and the categories we use to evaluate his acts in retrospect. Ivan Nikitich Kononov was among the most spectacular Soviet defectors to the Germans in the summer of 1941. Serving as commander of a rifle regiment, he ordered his men to surrender before voluntarily giving himself up to the enemy. He intended to fight Stalin from the other side of the frontline and indeed was among the first to be allowed to form a military unit recruited from former Soviet citizens. He served the entire war alongside Hitler's Wehrmacht, largely fighting partisans behind German lines. His men were known for their brutality against civilians. In 1945, Kononov evaded capture and repatriation to the Soviet Union. In 1950, now under a new name and identity, he emigrated to Australia as part of the IRO's mass resettlement of DPs. This paper asks how we should classify Kononov: Was he a traitor and criminal, as the Soviets assumed? Was he a collaborator with the Germans? Was he an "illegal immigrant," forging papers to gain entry into Australia under false pretences? Or was he a freedom fighter against Stalinism, a refugee, escaping a totalitarian regime via inadvertent service to another one?

#### *Biographical Information*

Mark Edele is Professor of History at the University of Western Australia, where he has been teaching history and historiography since 2004. Currently, he is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2015-19). Together with Sheila Fitzpatrick (University of Sydney), he was Chief Investigator on ARC Discovery Grant "War and Displacement: From the Soviet Union to Australia in the Wake of the Second World War" (DP130101215). He was trained as a historian at the Universities of Erlangen, Tübingen, Moscow and Chicago. He is the author of *Soviet Veterans of the Second World War* (OUP, 2008) *Stalinist Society* (OUP, 2011), and *Stalin's Defectors* (OUP forthcoming) as well as one of the editors of *Totalitarian Dictatorship: New Histories* (Routledge 2013), *War and Peace, Barbarism and Civilization in Modern Europe and Its Empires* (special issue of *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 2012), *Displaced Persons: From the Soviet Union to Australia in the Wake of the Second World War* (a special issue of *History Australia*, 2015), and *The Limits of Demobilisation: Global Perspectives on the Aftermath of the Great War* (special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary History*, 2015). His essays have appeared in academic journals based in Germany, the United States, Korea, Japan, Russia, and Australia. His latest two pieces, entitled, "Take (No) Prisoners. The Red Army and German POWs, 1941-1943," and (with Phillip Slaveski) "Violence from Below: Explaining Crimes against Civilians across Soviet Space. 1943-1947," have just been published in *The Journal of Modern History* and *Europe-Asia Studies*, respectively. He is currently completing a short history of the Soviet Union.

## Christopher Enger

The University of Melbourne

### **The need to act: changing policies on German refugees during the British and American**



## **occupations of Germany 1945-46**

Following WW2, 12-14 million German/ethnic Germans were expelled from across East-Central Europe into Germany. These German refugees were explicitly precluded from being assisted by the recently established United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) that was caring for an estimated 11 million displaced persons (DPs) in Germany. Scholarship has focused overwhelmingly on the UNRRA and the DP story, pinpointing it as crucial moment in postwar international humanitarianism. Often overlooked, however, was the treatment of German refugees by the Allied occupying authorities.

Using archival material from the British and American National Archives, this paper examines how British and American authorities handled German refugees during the first year of occupation of Germany. It identifies that these authorities initially sought to continue wartime refugee frameworks, requiring local administrators to tackle their own national refugees inside their nation's borders, because they did not comprehend the scale of the German refugee situation. This paper will argue that over the course of the first year of occupation there was a significant shift in how both occupiers handled German refugees, particularly in the lead-up to the winter of 1945/46. Consequently, British and American officials played a significantly larger role in managing German refugees than previously thought.

### *Biographical Information*

Christopher Enger is a PhD Candidate in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. His PhD research examines the handling, by British and American officials, of German refugees in the British and American occupation zones in Germany from 1945-49.

## **Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick**

The University of Sydney

### **Shipboard transformations: Baltic DPs arriving on SS. General Heintzelman, November 1947.**

DP identities were often fluid, to suit the requirements of various authorities and selection committees. When Australia decided to accept DPs from Europe, it wanted unskilled labor - but also preferably blonde and blue-eyed, with some knowledge of English. The first boatload to arrive on the "Mass Resettlement" scheme was full of DPs from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia who, to satisfy selection requirements, had identified themselves as farmhands, building labourers and domestic servants. When they embarked at Bremerhaven, the DPs were unskilled labour, but by the time the boat docked in Fremantle they had been miraculously transformed into well-educated professionals, even including a woman teacher of theology.

### *Biographical Information*

Sheila Fitzpatrick is Professor of History at the University of Sydney and Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of the University of Chicago. Her monograph *On Stalin's Team: the Years of Living Dangerously in Soviet Politics* was published in 2015. She is currently

working on displaced persons after the Second World War.

## **Sarah Green**

The University of Melbourne

### **But my uncle picked us up from the airport': the conceptualisation of Bosnian child refugees in Australia**

This paper looks at how child refugees from the Bosnian war of 1992-1995 were viewed and depicted by the Australian government and international aid agencies. Drawing on archival material, Sarah will examine the conceptualisation of Bosnian refugees, particularly children, as the recipients of humanitarian efforts, both in Bosnia and after their arrival in Australia. This research will be discussed alongside my oral history interviews with adults who came to Australia from Bosnia as children. She will explore how these children, now adults, experienced their arrival in Australia and how they have incorporated those experiences into their life narrative. This paper will conclude by questioning whether we can see any significant gaps between the discourse about Bosnian children and their lived experiences.

#### *Biographical Information*

Sarah Green is a PhD candidate in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at The University of Melbourne. Her research interests include histories of childhood, migration and welfare. Her PhD research examines the experiences of Bosnian child refugees who came to Australia in the 1990s.

## **Dr Vanessa Hearman**

Charles Darwin University

### **Unsettling Australia-Indonesia relations: The 1995 arrival in Darwin of Timorese asylum seekers aboard the Tasi Diak**

The Tasi Diak (Good Sea) was a wooden boat carrying 17 Timorese young men and women and a baby that arrived in Darwin, Australia on 29 May 1995. The boat passengers claimed asylum in Australia citing Indonesian persecution. The arrival of the Tasi Diak signalled the beginning of a diplomatic nightmare for Australia. Prior to the boat's arrival, there had not been any history of asylum seekers arriving by boat from East Timor and Indonesia expected Australia to reject their claims immediately.

This paper traces responses to the boat arrival from government and civil society in Australia where a strong pro-East Timor independence movement existed. It analyses the bilateral relationship through government documentary sources and newspapers. It examines how over several years Australia avoided a diplomatic crisis with Indonesia by embarking on policy twists and turns in order to appease its ally, while balancing Australia's obligations to process the asylum seekers' claims.

#### *Biographical Information*

Vanessa Hearman is lecturer in Indonesian Studies at the University of Sydney. Her research deals with the 1965-66 anti communist violence in Indonesia, as well as histories of

activism in Indonesia and Timor Leste and the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Australia.

## **Dr Claire Higgins**

The University of New South Wales

### **The merits of ‘in-country’ processing: lessons from Canadian and Australian refugee policy history**

In-country programs are little-known procedures that enable people in refugee-like situations -but who have not yet fled their homes -to be processed within their countries of origin and then resettled abroad. During the 1980s, Canada and Australia implemented in-country programs in Poland, Chile, El Salvador and Sri Lanka. Former immigration officials have described this work as ‘life-saving’, and a genuine ‘rescue mission’ in ‘the most dramatic circumstances’. Yet the programs were deliberately ‘kept quiet’ by both governments, so as to ensure the tacit cooperation of governments within the respective countries of origin. As a result, this form of processing is not well documented. This paper will present original archival and oral history research to explore how these unique procedures operated.

In recent years there have been recurring calls from practitioners and scholars for in-country processing to be used more widely by countries of resettlement, in order to offset restrictive border controls. This paper will therefore use the historical case studies to consider how in-country processing may improve refugee protection today. The paper will detail the benefits and limitations of this method, including issues surrounding the safety of applicants, the selection criteria, and potential foreign policy implications.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Claire Higgins is a Research Associate and historian, and the Director of the In-Country Processing research project at the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, at the University of New South Wales, Australia.

## **Asher Hirsch**

Refugee Council of Australia

### **Historical overview of Australia's extraterritorial migration controls**

In an age of increasing border controls and securitisation, many states have attempted to restrict access to asylum through a range of extra-territorial measures that seek to prevent asylum seekers from reaching territorial borders in order to apply for protection. Over the last four decades, Australia has increasingly implemented a range of extraterritorial border control measures, including carrier sanctions, disruption activities in countries of origin and asylum, the use of immigration officials and law enforcement agencies in foreign countries, the support and training of foreign law enforcement agencies, the offshore detention of asylum seekers, and the interception and turn-backs of boats on the High Seas. However, rather than controlling migration, it is argued that these policies have forced those who seek protection to use irregular, unauthorised and dangerous pathways to find safety. This paper will provide a historical overview of Australia’s deterrence and disruption activities beyond

its borders from 1976 to the present day.

### *Biographical Information*

Asher Hirsch is a Policy Officer with the Refugee Council of Australia, the national umbrella body for refugees and the organisations and individuals who support them. He is also completing a PhD at Monash University in refugee and human rights law. Asher holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Human Rights Law, and a Juris Doctor.

## **Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter**

The University of Queensland

### **Helping out - philanthropy and social welfare for refugees in Malaysia**

Malaysia is home to one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world. The UNHCR is barely tolerated and Malaysia is not a signatory to the UN convention and protocol on refugees, which leaves refugees and asylum seekers in a state of limbo. They are provided no government support nor do they have work rights. They live with and amongst Malaysian society and various NGOs, social and religious groups and individuals help out where they can to support refugees. Their work is complicated by the legal and social unease about foreigners, their status and the government's continued crackdowns on undocumented persons. Ethnographic vignettes will provide some insight into how some organisations help refugees, how this help is perceived by refugees themselves and why the future for service provision for refugees in Malaysia remains bleak. This research is based on one year of ethnographic fieldwork in Malaysia in 2015-2016.

### *Biographical Information*

Gerhard Hoffstaedter is a senior research fellow (DECRA) in anthropology at the University of Queensland. He currently holds an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award to produce an in-depth ethnography of the refugee experience in Malaysia. He is a regular commentator in newspapers, radio and online media on topics of his research. His first book entitled *Modern Muslim Identities: Negotiating Religion and Ethnicity in Malaysia* is published by NIAS Press. A co-edited volume *Urban Refugees: Challenges in Protection, Services and Policy* has just been published with Routledge.

## **Associate Professor Renate Howe**

Deakin University

### **'She Moved Mountains'; Margaret Holmes and Refugee Resettlement 1939-1959**

'She moved mountains' was the title of an unpublished biography of Margaret Holmes, long time secretary of the Australian Student Christian Movement and written 'as a debt of gratitude' by George Strauss, one of the 'Dunera boys' whom Holmes had assisted with resettlement. Strauss writes that Margaret Holmes was responsible for bringing thousands of newcomers to Australia between 1939-1969 initially through the refugee initiatives of the Geneva based World Student Christian Federation and later through the ecumenical World Council of Churches. Her experience in refugee resettlement and migrant welfare as well as contacts in international refugee organisations made her an invaluable advisor to federal

public servants and especially founding immigration ministers Arthur Calwell and later Harold Holt as the Commonwealth government moved from resettlement to developing Australia's post war migration program.

Much to George Straus's disappointment, he was unable to find a publisher for his book on Margaret Holmes. This paper draws on his work to outline Holmes remarkable but largely unacknowledged contribution to refugee resettlement in postwar Australia.

#### *Biographical Information*

Renate Howe is an historian and Honorary Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University. This paper draws on her *book A Century of Influence: The Australian Student Christian Movement, 1896-1996* published by UNSW Press (2009). Her most recent publication is *Trendyville: the Battle for Australia's Inner Cities*, Monash University Publishing (2014) co authored with David Nicholls and Graeme Davison.

### **Madhusmita Jena**

Jawaharlal Nehru University

#### **Government Response to Refugee Crises: A Case Study of India**

Committed to the doctrine of peaceful co-existence and brotherhood of humankind, historically India has provided space to thousands of refugees for centuries. These assimilating cultures notwithstanding refugees in India neither have any legal status, nor any clear protection regime to turn for help. In the absence of any national law for refugees, India deals with them at the political and administrative level. The refugees are, therefore, dependent on the benevolence of the state rather than on the regime of rights to reconstruct their lives in dignity. Nevertheless protection and assistance is offered to the refugees, void of any legal sanction.

A close and perceptive look at India's responses to diverse refugee groups that have entered the Indian territory and given refuge brings bare the facts that in the absence of a national refugee legislation, India's responses are characterized by inconsistency, ad hoc approaches and idiosyncrasies. Against this backdrop, the present paper endeavours to explore, what premises the provision of assistance and protection to these refugee groups (Tibetans, Sri Lankan, Burmese etc.) in India in the absence of national refugee protection legislation; and whether this protection and assistance is devoid of discrimination and differential treatment towards different refugee groups.

#### *Biographical Information*

Madhusmita Jena The researcher is a doctoral scholar working on the refugee issue at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The focus of her doctoral research is on the response of India as a host state to different refugee groups on its territory since its independence and the factors influencing this response towards them.

## Max Kaiser

The University of Melbourne

### **Refugees vs Refugees?: The Jewish campaign against German Migration to Australia 1950-1952**

From 1950 to 1952, the Australian Jewish community prosecuted a vigorous and passionate public campaign aimed at preventing a migration deal between the Menzies Australian Government and West Germany. Organised with the assistance of union and civil society allies, the campaign objected to the migration to Australia of tens of thousands of non-Jewish Germans and *Volksdeutsche* - ethnic Germans living in Eastern Europe who either fled or were forced to leave after the defeat of the Nazis. What is striking about this campaign is that it was the first time the Jewish community had organised publicly against Australian government policy. The campaign was informed by a transnationally constituted anti-fascist consciousness that saw prospective German migrants as representative of a transnational fascism.

This paper presents an examination of this campaign to illustrate the limited nature of histories of refugees that depict them as people with issues/problems in other countries who then come to Australia and are either successfully or unsuccessfully resettled. Rather than representing refugees as objects of governance, Max suggests we should see them as having their own ongoing transnationally constituted political imaginations.

#### *Biographical Information*

Max Kaiser is a PhD candidate at The University of Melbourne, Australia. He is working on a thesis titled 'Race, Genocide and Anti-Fascism: Australian Jews in the Post-War era'.

## Niro Kandasamy

The University of Melbourne

### **Maternalising childhood memories of Sri Lankan Tamils**

In 2010 a Tamil woman named Ranjini arrived to Australia with her children fleeing persecution by the government of Sri Lanka for being a former combatant of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Two years after her arrival to Australia, Ranjini made news headlines when ASIO reversed her refugee status by giving her an adverse security assessment and returned her and her children back to Villawood detention centre, where they remained until their release late last year. Ranjini is one of many mothers who has significantly shaped the immigration experiences of her children, yet notions of mother are rarely explored in the context of resettlement experiences. In this paper Niro will explore how forced migrants incorporate notions of mother in their childhood memories of resettlement, by focusing on the narratives of Sri Lankan Tamils who arrived to Australia from 1970-2000 as children. For Tamil children fleeing Sri Lanka, the notion of mother is strongly connected to their literal mother, but also to their marginalised Tamil language, culture and religion that they must (re) navigate in their resettlement country. By analysing the literal and figurative role of the notion of mother in their narratives, this paper will explore the ways in which these discourses help to understand how forced migrants remember their resettlement experiences, including the connections that they maintained between the homeland and country of

resettlement.

### *Biographical Information*

Niro Kandasamy is a PhD candidate at The University of Melbourne under the supervision of Professor Joy Damousi. Her thesis explores the long term resettlement experiences of Sri Lankan Tamils who arrived to Australia from 1970-2000 as children and resettled in Victoria and New South Wales.

## **Sreekumar Kodiyath**

### **Stifled narratives: The Post Conflict Sri Lankan Refugees of Tamil Nadu**

Although the conflict in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, the plight of the Tamil population in the island nation remained unchanged under the government headed by Mahinda Rajapaksa. The outflow of refugees to India continued despite the discontinuance of granting refugee status by Government of India after the end of the conflict. The incoming refugees thereafter were meted out a different treatment, of being slapped with criminal charges for entering the country illegally. The proposed paper would draw heavily on statistical and other data collected from an extensive field research conducted by the author in the state of Tamil Nadu (India) and Sri Lanka between the months of August, 2015 and March, 2016 to explore the plight and stories of these individuals, many of whom remain in highly secure detention facilities in India. It would focus on the story of two women who are presently detained in a special detention facility for refugees in Tamil Nadu and their families which continue their efforts to secure them freedom. Based on the same, the paper would expand its canvas to narratives from other refugees who fled to India after the conflict.

### **Background**

On 5th May, 2014 nine refugees arrived from Sri Lanka by boat on the shores of Tamilnadu and were promptly taken by the infamous Q-Branch of Tamil Nadu police to the erstwhile transit camp for Sri Lankan refugees, a highly guarded facility in Mandapam of Tamil Nadu.

Remeka, Udyakala (physically handicapped), their husbands Dhayabaraj, Suthakaran and their five children were charged with offences under Sec. 13 and 14 of Foreigners Act, 1946.<sup>ii</sup> The offence was entering India without a passport. While the proceedings against them were going on, they applied for bail and secured it. However, the Q-Branch had already procured an order for their detainment in the “Special Refugee Camps”, those highly secure detention facilities which are more prison like than regular prisons. The two men were promptly transferred to special camps at Cheyyar and women were sent to a secret special camp inside Mandapam facility with their children. Eventually, they were sentenced to undergo imprisonment for a year on 6th January, 2015 and were transferred to regular prisons. Their children were also directed to be lodged in the prison with them. Upon completing their sentences in January, 2016, the state which didn't find the idea of releasing them to its favor, returned them to the same “Special Camps”. They continue to be detained till date. \*

The complex geopolitics of South Asia remains elusive and dynamic, difficult to be updated with. However, when you are a refugee on the run, it determines your liberty or life. Indo-Sri Lankan relationship and the Eelam war is such a context. While the war between Sri Lankan

government and LTTE concluded through a gory bloodbath in 2009, unknown to the scores of Tamils who survived it, their status had changed in their most accessible refuge, India. On a policy level, India had incredibly decided that conclusion of the conflict indicated reign of peace in the Island nation and the boat refugees who arrived at the protruding lip of Tamilnadu from Talaimannar of Sri Lanka would be treated under the provisions of its archaic and cold Foreigners Act of 1946.

The grim ground realities of the state of affairs in Sri Lanka under the dictatorial regime of Mahinda Rajapaksa were not of a concern to the policy makers in India. As far as they were concerned, the abductions, murders and state crackdown on human rights activists, journalists and international organizations as well as the persecution of the Tamils by the military and the policed under the allegation of links with LTTE were just indicators of the efficient functioning of a state. Even Sri Lankan authorities, who talked to the author on conditions of anonymity, denied any knowledge of refugees fleeing to India after the conclusion of the conflict.

What is notable in this case is the nature of the “special camp” in Mandapam. It does not feature under the category of “special camp” anywhere in the camp population statistics that the Department of Rehabilitation under Government of Tamilnadu regularly publishes. Neither is anyone allowed to inspect or even go anywhere near the facility in Mandapam. With the law and judiciary terming these camps lightly as mere “places of internment” and with the Q-Branch remaining in absolute control over them, the individuals in these camps continue to be indefinitely incarcerated under complete anonymity.

Mr. P. Pugalendhi, a prisons rights activist and an advocate who represents the Special Refugees including these individuals in the High Court, is not hopeful about their release any soon. He has not even been granted permission to visit his clients or enquire about their well-being. With the continuances that government regularly seeks in the court and the insensitive attitude of the judiciary to the issue of special camp refugees, he is doubtful if these people would be able to get out of these prisons any soon.

### *Biographical Information*

Sreekumar Kodyath is a Masters graduate of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Torino (UNICRI) and presently works as an independent researcher on Sri Lankan refugees in India.

## **Assistant Professor Edward Kolla**

Georgetown University

### **Refugees and the Modern Passport**

Long before we were all required to carry little blue, green, or red booklets for international travel, people had to vouch for their provenance and identities in a variety of other ways when they crossed borders. There was no systemic attempt to regularize passports until, after the First World War, the appearance of the DzNansendz passport. Instituted in 1922 for refugees from the Great War and its aftermath, and named for Fridtjof Nansen, the League of Nation’s first High Commissioner for refugees, the Nansen passport was a remarkable innovation in the history of a now-ubiquitous document.

National passports, based on the Nansen model but ultimately unavailable to most refugees, proliferated in the second half of the twentieth century. And yet, the Schengen zone of visa harmonization and passport-free travel has augured another trend - of open borders. Recently, the right of free passage and residence for Europeans, envisaged in the EU's DZFree Movement of Citizens Directive, dz has become controversial especially in light of the current refugee crisis. Refugees have therefore been intricately tied to the history of the modern passport, from its birth, to a re-emphasis on its importance in contemporary debates.

### *Biographical Information*

Edward Kolla is a historian of European international relations, political cultural, and especially international law. He has a book forthcoming with Cambridge University Press on the impact and effect of the French Revolution on international law, and he is preparing another on the history of the passport.

## **Emma Kluge**

The University of Sydney

### **Rebels or Refugees?: West Papuan border crossers and the Australian administration in PNG, 1969-73**

In 1969, the Western half of New Guinea became the territory of West Irian and was officially consolidated into the Indonesian Republic. This transfer triggered a movement of border crossers, who identified as West Papuans and advocated for independence, into Australian-administered Papua New Guinea. Archives from Canberra, which have remained largely untouched, provide a rare window into the experiences of these refugees. Through examining the life of border crosser, Peter Bonsapia, this paper will argue that the West Papuan refugees used their audience with the Australian administration in PNG to both advocate for West Papuan independence and seek protection and intervention. This paper will also show how the Australian archive can be used to restore the West Papuans' voice into the geopolitical debates occurring during this time.

### *Biographical Information*

Emma Kluge is a History PhD candidate at the University of Sydney. Emma has worked as a researcher for the *Hostel Stories: Migrant Lives* project run by The University of Adelaide and History SA. Her interests are Australia's colonial past in PNG and the history of refugees in the Pacific.

## **Dr Ursula Ladzinski**

Curtin University

### **Post-migration experiences of post WWII second generation DPs in Australia: different time, same place, same issues?**

Post World War Two, Australia took in almost 180,000 refugees (DPs) who had been displaced by the war and, as a consequence of the post-war Yalta agreement, then became political exiles. Australia's acceptance of these refugees (displaced persons - DPs) was not purely for humanitarian reasons though this did have some part in the decision. These

refugees and their families have long been absorbed into Australian society, though not into the greater history of Australia.

Significantly, there is very little known about the second generation DPs and their early migration or life experiences. Using the example of a cohort of second generation Displaced Persons of Polish and German background, this paper describes the issues and experiences of the cohort in the context of their refugee families' resettlement in Western Australia and how this has impacted their lives. The question is also raised as to whether there has been a significant change to Australian government attitudes and in the challenges faced by contemporary refugees on resettlement over the last seventy years.

#### *Biographical Information*

Ursula Ladzinski has recently completed her PhD thesis at Curtin University, on the subject of the early migration experiences of second generation displaced persons of Polish/German background in Western Australia. Her main research focus is the history of second generation post-WW2 DPs in Australia and how resettlement affects refugee families.

### **Laurel Mackenzie**

RMIT

#### **Public Policy relating to refugees**

In this paper Laurel looks at some of the effects of Australian immigration policy drawing on Carol Bacchi's what is the problem represented to be approach, to explore how Hazara post-settlement refugees living in Australia are affected by the policy context in which their experiences of Australia have been framed. Bacchi describes three main overlapping ways in which the effects of policy can be measured: these are via discursive, subjectification, and lived effects. In this paper Laurel will focus on the lived effects of policy on Hazara lived experience, which also has some impact on the construction of subjectivity.

The embodied experiences of Australian Hazaras provide evidence of the tangible effects of policy. The post-settlement refugee narratives Laurel has gathered tend to have chapters or stages - from incarceration, to release, attaining work rights, the gradual accumulation of privileges, reunion with families, and PR or citizenship. Each of these significant chapters accorded with a shift in policy, or a change in status under policy. The stages in the narratives accord with the policy context that accompanies each stage, and with the shifts in subjectivity as described in the narratives. This suggests a correlation between the effects of policy and lived experience and embodied subjectivities.

#### *Biographical Information*

Laurel Mackenzie is in the final year of a PhD that looks at the ways that Hazara post-settlement refugees construct themselves in narrative interviews. She completed her BA at Monash and her MA at The University of Melbourne, writing both dissertations in Gender Studies. She currently lectures in Sociology at RMIT.

## **Scientia Professor Jane McAdam**

The University of New South Wales

### **The evolution of ‘resettlement’ as a solution to displacement**

This paper re-evaluates the concept of resettlement in international refugee law and practice. While resettlement is today synonymous with the protection of refugees, it has a much longer, and broader, genealogy.

Modern scholars have under-appreciated the historical linkages between refugee resettlement and resettlement as a population management tool. In fact, they are cut from the same cloth. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, German, Japanese, US, French and British scholars and statesmen regarded the resettlement, population transfers and exchanges, and the identification of ‘empty’ areas to resettle ‘surplus populations’ from the world’s ‘danger zones’, as key to international peace and security. In the 1920s, some scholars even suggested that States had an obligation to cede territory to those who needed land if their own citizens were not cultivating it.

This paper conceptualizes resettlement as an 18th-century innovation, which gained especial academic and political traction from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. It responded to concerns that a burgeoning global population could not be sustained unless it were redistributed across under-utilized land. The core premise was that if populations could be transferred from high-density ‘danger zones’ to low-density areas, then land could be used more efficiently and conflict over limited resources could be avoided.

Over the long 19th century and into the mid-20th, relocation was thus understood both as a pre-emptive solution to anticipated overpopulation and resource scarcity, and as an answer to existing refugee displacement. Thus, when resettlement was proposed as a solution to the Jewish refugee problem in the 1930s and 1940s, this was evolutionary rather than novel.

#### *Biographical Information*

Jane McAdam is Scientia Professor of Law and Director of the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Australia. She is a non-resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at The Brookings Institution in Washington DC, a Research Associate at Oxford University’s Refugee Studies Centre, and an Associated Senior Fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway. She is Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, the leading journal in the field.

## **Sherry McGahan**

Griffith University

### **Beings and Becomings: Representations of Childhood during the Pacific Solution**

Childhood is often employed during humanitarian crises as an evocative symbol of universal humanity. During the Pacific Solution (2001-2008), the invocation of childhood was utilised prominently by both the Howard government and refugee advocates in the public debate regarding appropriate response to refugees and asylum seekers. Scholars have documented the exclusionary discourse promulgated by the Howard government to distance asylum

seekers and refugees. Advocates' attempts to counter these representations, as well as the utilisation of childhood in the public discourse, have not yet garnered comparable attention. This paper draws attention to the way childhood was invoked as a representational practice in the discourse on refugees and asylum seekers by both government and advocates. Archival sources demonstrate how government and advocates invoked childhood in divergent ways in order to justify and garner support for their respective positions. This paper demonstrates that the invocation of childhood resulted in the reproduction and reinscription of asylum seekers in positions of deficit, further compounding their discursive and physical exclusion. Equating the asylum seeker with the suffering child enacted a violent discourse that situated the asylum seeker as an object of protection, imposing expectations that rendered the asylum seeker passive, speechless and incapable.

#### *Biographical Information*

Sherry McGahan recently completed a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction. Sherry will complete Honours at Griffith University in June 2016 with the intention of pursuing PhD candidature. In her thesis, Sherry explores the construction of asylum seekers detained during Australia's Pacific Solution through the lens of childhood.

### **Carol McKirdy**

**Using oral history, three women from Pol Pot's Cambodia, speak about issues of trauma, language and other concerns and recount their lives then and now, in Sydney's south**

Carol's paper is based on the oral histories of three Cambodian women she recorded in 2014, 2015 and 2016. In different locations in Cambodia they experienced life during Pol Pot's rule during 1975 - 1979. They are now friends and study companions in Australia. Dealing with the issues of immigration and being a refugee has varied for each narrator but the oral histories explore important commonalities of the refugee immigrant experience. Enduring trauma in Cambodia, its repercussions and the duty of care that should be implemented when gathering and exploring traumatic narrative will be discussed. Language and its complexities and impact will be explored; especially for emerging users of English. The importance of cultural awareness and community engagement will be considered. For refugees, photos may be of great significance. Oral history's capacity to record unique perspectives of what occurred from someone who experienced and lived the history, supports traditionally documented historical accounts. It also provides invaluable acknowledgement and validation of personal historical experience for the narrator.

#### *Biographical Information*

As an independent oral historian Carol has been collecting stories of immigrant and refugee narrators since 2008. Inspiration to collect and formalise individual histories stems from her work as a TAFE adult language and literacy teacher. Her book, *Practicing Oral History with Immigrant Narrators* was published by Left Coast Press in 2015.

## **Abigail Miller**

Clark University, Worcester

### **Holocaust Memory and Refugee Experiences in Argentina**

A small, steady stream of Jewish refugees made their way to Argentina from the mid-1930s through the late 1940s. In the aftermath of their Holocaust experiences, these refugees faced new threats of discrimination and violence due to their public identity as refugees and Jews.

Drawing on testimonies from the USC and Yale Archives, and oral histories conducted by the author, this paper explores how memory of genocidal persecution affects the perception of threat by refugees. Refugee-survivors in Argentina perceived threats and reacted strongly to antisemitic violence due to the trauma of their experiences in Europe. Faced with Nazi perpetrators living in their Buenos Aires neighborhoods, antisemitic legislation from the state, and racist proclamations in the Argentine press, some saw warning signals of impending systematic persecution. Yet others suppressed their concerns, denying fear and discomfort in the face of antisemitism.

Abigail's paper will elucidate lingering effects of trauma after genocide. As refugees are resettled today under fraught circumstances, her work raises questions of how aid organizations might better address similar situations. By exploring the historical case of Jewish refugees in Argentina, we can look to design more effective refugee resettlement and rehabilitation programs in the wake of mass violence today.

#### *Biographical Information*

Abigail Miller is a third-year doctoral student at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her dissertation examines Jewish refugees in Argentina after the Second World War and the effects of intergenerational memory transmission. Abigail's research interests center around gender, genocide, and memory.

## **Dr Gayle Munro**

The Salvation Army, London

### **The refugee-trafficking-migrant nexus: gaps between policy and practice**

Abstract Policies and support practices around refugees, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants are frequently siloed by 'type' of migrant. Policy makers and support service commissioners are often working according to distinct funding streams, legislation and government-led outcome expectations. Large-scale points of migration-related 'shocks' such as the refugee and wider migration crisis of 2015-2016 can reveal gaps and shortcomings in public policy formation but can also provide an opportunity for change in the way that services are commissioned and delivered. This paper draws upon the findings of a number of research projects carried out under the auspices of The Salvation Army which holds a government contract to provide accommodation and support to adult victims of trafficking in England and Wales and upon the researcher's experience of working within the context of the voluntary sector's provision of services to vulnerable migrants in the UK. The discussion highlights some of the challenges in supporting refugees and victims of trafficking

within the context of both historic and current government policy and legislation and argues for a more holistic approach to the conceptualisation of support needs, to the formation of policies and in the delivery of support on the 'front-line'.

*Biographical Information*

Dr Gayle Munro is research manager for The Salvation Army in London where she works on social exclusion issues in the UK. Gayle sits on a number of statutory and academic advisory committees on support for refugees. Gayle's doctoral work at UCL (Migration Studies, 2015) explored the transnational and diasporic experiences of migrants from the former Yugoslavia in the UK.

**Dafina Nedelcheva**

Independent Researcher

**Crossing Imagined Borders: history and memory of Aegean refugees in Post-World War II Balkan politics and society**

Inspired by oral history, this case study examines the processes involved in the formation of memory and identity among the Greek refugee community in Bulgaria in the aftermath of World War II. It combines bottom-up and top-down approaches. The bottom-up approach is based on a grass-roots level history of what happened in 1945 in the region of North Greece, raising the question of collective memory. The top-down approach engages examination of official states' policies involved in the processes. The study relies on interviews conducted among the refugee community, historical and ethnographic source, official documents available in the national archives of Greek and Bulgarian, as well as international treaties and resolutions, related to ethnic minorities and refugees in the region. The paper has no ambition in establishing the ethnic origins of the Greek refugees in Bulgaria, avoiding the trap of nationalistic and political aspirations that have dominated literature on the topic. Instead, the study focuses on establishing the major political conflicts that had influenced the personal and collective identities of the refugees.

*Biographical Information*

MA graduate, specializing in modern and contemporary European history, politics, culture, and society, with expert training in writing, research, and presentation, and years of experience in non-profit organizations, human rights protection, and international relations.

**Professor Klaus Neumann and Associate Professor Savitri Taylor**

Swinburne University of Technology  
La Trobe University

**Australia and the right of/to asylum: an important cul-de-sac in Australia's response to asylum seekers and refugees**

When contributors to Australian public debate refer to Australia's international legal obligations towards asylum seekers, and to the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, they tend to have the 1951 Refugee Convention in mind. Indeed the fact that the Convention only came into force once Australia had acceded to it in January 1954 features prominently in discussions about Australia's response to displaced people then and now. Notwithstanding

the relevance of the criteria to distinguish refugees from other displaced people, which are enunciated in Article 1, and the prohibition of refoulement in Article 33, the Convention represents only one strand of international law dealing with the protection of people who experience persecution. The other strand is represented by Article 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which formulates a right of asylum (that is, the right of states to grant asylum, rather than the right of asylum seekers to be granted asylum). This strand is often overlooked - not only in discussions about the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, but also in debates about the history of human rights more generally. It also tends to be overlooked in analyses of Australia's response to asylum seekers; even today, an asylum seeker could be granted a territorial asylum visa, rather than a protection visa. In our paper, we explore how this second strand evolved after 1948, and argue that it is useful to pay attention to this and other intersections of international refugee law and international human rights law when searching for responses to displacement today. This paper is particularly interested in how Australia contributed historically to international discussions about the right of/to asylum, and how the concept of a right of/to asylum was interpreted by Australian policy makers dealing with individual requests to grant asylum.

#### *Biographical Information*

Klaus Neumann is professor of history at Swinburne University of Technology. He has long been interested in and written about responses to refugees and asylum seekers in Europe and in Australia and New Zealand. His most recent book, *Across the Seas*, is a history of Australia's response to refugees until 1977.

Savitri Taylor is an associate professor of law at La Trobe University. She has been researching Australian, regional and international legal and policy responses to asylum seekers for 25 years but has only recently started venturing into legal history.

#### **Carolyne Adhiambo Ngara**

University of Nairobi, Kenya

#### **History of particular refugee groups over time: A Case for the *Mushunguli and the Bantus of Somalia***

The Bantu people of Southern Somalia (population 900,000) are believed to have descended from Southeastern Africa, where their ancestors were captured and sold into slavery in Somalia and Northeast Africa during the Arab slave trade. After the Somalia civil war, they were forced to flee and seek refuge at Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya.

In 1999, the US government classified the Bantu refugees as a 'priority group' and began the resettlement of 13,000 Bantus in America. However, before the prospect of immigrating to America was raised, the Bantus' preference to be resettled in their ancestral homelands in East Africa was ignored, despite many voluntarily leaving the UN refugee camps, to seek refuge in Tanzania. While Mozambique emerged as an alternative ancestral homeland for resettlement, Tanzanian authorities retracted their initial offer to accommodate the Bantus, when the UNCHR failed to provide the financial and logistical guarantees to support the resettlement and integration of the refugees into Tanzania. As it became clearer that the United States was preparing to resettle the Somali Bantu refugees, the Mozambican government backed out on its promises, citing lack of resources and potential political

instability in the region where the Bantus were to be resettled.

This paper examines the history of the Somali Bantus and any prior attempts made to resettle them as refugees in their ancestral homelands. It also analyses the agreements and discusses the chronicles of their journey and resettlement in the United States to date.

### *Biographical Information*

Carolyn Ngara works with the Enduring Voices Foundation as a Linguistic and Cultural Anthropological Researcher. Carolyn has research experience in Endangered Languages, Indigenous Tribes, and Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa. She has also done research on refugees and exiles in Kenya.

Carolyn has worked on numerous Linguistic Documentation and Cultural Revitalization projects for the reconstruction and restoration of extinct indigenous languages of Sub-Saharan Africa such as: Olusuba spoken on the Mfangano and Rusinga Islands of Kenya, Sengwer spoken in the Mau Forest of Kenya and El Molo once spoken by the Gurapau people of Lake Turkana.

She also pioneered the cultural research on the (Tumbatu and Ngasa indigenous peoples of Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, the Af Boon of Jilib River, Somalia, the Bantus of Somalia, the Nubi of Kibera, Kenya and the Ogiek of Mt. Elgon, Kenya). Many of these studies have led to publishing of research papers, Indigenous books and Dictionaries in respectively languages. Carolyn has also worked on the “No Sex For Fish” - A cultural Anthropological Research project funded by the Israeli MASHAV-Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was a study meant to draw a conclusive research and findings on the effects of the “sex for fish” system - A phenomenon in which female fish traders engage in sexual relationships with multiple fishermen to secure their supply of fish. This practice has contributed to the widespread of HIV/AIDS among the fisher communities of Homa Bay Kenya.

Carolyn is currently conducting a Public Engagement Anthropological Research - Sponsored by the Wellcome Trust-UK, that has brought together Linguistic, Cultural and Health Anthropologists, Scholars and Researchers from Kenya and across the East African region Kenya to conduct research on the effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on High Maternal Deaths in Narok, Samburu, Kajiado, Rift Valley Wajir Counties of Kenya. She is also conducting a Public Engagement Anthropological Research sponsored by the Wernner Grenn Foundation, which is meant to enhance Innovations in Public Awareness of Anthropology across Kenya.

## **Anh Nguyen**

The University of Melbourne

### **Vietnamese Child Refugee Experiences: In Memory, is there Resilience?**

Child refugee narratives provide a way of understanding personal and public self-historization for immigrants. What do the historical narratives of Vietnamese child refugees tell us about the use of memory and emotions in narratives of resilience? Is there some gap between the stories told and the stories lived? This paper explores the use of memory and the construction of narratives of resilience, how adults who were once child refugees re-tell the

stories of childhood and whether that builds their character for self or future preservation.

Based on an analysis of memoir and oral history interviews with Vietnamese child refugees as adults, this paper will explore a range of narrative uses of complex and sometimes contradictory emotions such as a spirit of adventure in the face of adversity, fearlessness in the face of potential trauma to showcase how historical memory works in Vietnamese child refugees' construction of self and narratives of resilience. These poignant moments showcase the adult's historical and emotional intelligence, a command and heightened awareness of a past, present, and future self in formation. However, is it only in retrospect, working through the memory, that there is resilience? What do these narratives tell us about how childhood memories work and shape refugee children's experiences?

### *Biographical Information*

Anh Nguyen is currently a PhD student at The University of Melbourne. She graduated with a Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity and Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Bryn Mawr College. In 2002, she had a postgraduate fellowship from Harvard to conduct research interviews about the acculturation of Vietnamese in Australia. She then worked with Harvard School of Public Health on AIDS research and treatment in Nigeria, and became a bilingual legal aid advocate for Vietnamese immigrants in Boston. She currently volunteers as a Research Associate with Melbourne Museum and works at Native Title Services Victoria.

### **Dr Elin Nicholson**

The University of Melbourne

### **Theorising Refugee Performance Space in Australia: Creating Exceptional Spaces in a State of Exception?**

The use of Giorgio Agamben's state of exception in relation to refugee camps and the bodies contained within them is ubiquitous. The state of exception can be defined as "a legal-political term describing the supposedly temporary (exceptional or emergency) suspension of constituted law, with the state operating immediately and without limit". Refugee cultural production has been under investigation by research-practitioners and academics such as Alison Jeffers, James Thompson, and Michael Balfour et al. Few, however, have applied Agamben's theory to theatrical productions with, by and/or for refugee communities in the Western world. Those who have, such as Emma Cox in her recent monograph, provide an excellent foundation upon which to build, particularly in relation to refugee performances in "middle power" countries such as Australia.

Elin's current research project examines the creation of exceptional spaces of resilience and creativity in theatrical performances involving refugees. She analyses the spaces in which amateur and professional theatrical productions involving refugees are performed, within their sociolegal and political contexts. The spaces in which refugees in Australia reside - from detention centres whilst being processed to marginalised and impoverished urban sites once accepted - can be said to exist as Agambenian 'refugee camps', whereby refugees are defined by their immigration status and exist in a state of temporal and spatial uncertainty. The spatial analysis will differ depending upon the space in which theatre initiatives are being conducted and performed in relation to Adam Ramadan's concept of multiple, competing sovereigns at

play within the localised space, to investigate whether refugee performers can forge their own sovereignties of resilience within the theatrical space. Through locating theatre performances within their spatial context (using Gay McAuley), Elin analyses theatre space as an “active agent”, which provides the potential for theatre practitioners to create an ‘exceptional space’ of resilience through multiple localized sovereignty out of this ‘state of exception’.

Elin wishes to propose a preliminary theoretical model to analyse theatrical productions with/for/by refugee communities, within their social-spatial and geopolitical contexts, focusing in particular on Australia as space and place.

### *Biographical Information*

Elin Nicholson has recently (2014) completed her doctoral thesis on contemporary Palestinian theatre within its geopolitical and spatial contexts at the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) at the University of Manchester. She currently is a McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellow for 2015-18 at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, researching refugee and asylum seekers theatre practices in Melbourne.

## **Dr Chamunogwa Nyoni and Obediah Dodo**

Bindura University of Science Education

### **Unaccompanied Child Refugees and their lived experiences: the case for Tongogara Refugee Camp, Zimbabwe**

Prolonged conflicts in the Great Lakes region and the biting economic meltdown in most countries have seen more than a steady flow of refugees from the Central African region mostly Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo into Southern African countries. Despite the economic challenges besetting the country, Zimbabwe has continued to host a number of refugees and among these are unaccompanied child refugees who are trying to escape the brutal wars and the nail biting poverty in their respective countries. This research investigated unaccompanied child refugees and their lived experiences.

The research sought to understand the personal circumstances of unaccompanied child refugees that made them to leave their countries of origin and to explore the challenges that they face in the host country. The research was qualitative in nature and employed the narrative inquiry as a research design. Convenience sampling method was used to identify unaccompanied child respondents and purposive sampling was used to select the key informants. The sample size for the study was twenty respondents comprising eleven males and four female unaccompanied children as well as five key informants (three social workers, one teacher and one lawyer) selected chiefly for their knowledge of the subject. Recall and in-depth interviews were used to gather data from the respondents. Data was analysed through content and thematic analysis. The research findings indicate that unaccompanied children were mostly from the Horn of Africa region and were mostly fleeing war, hunger and famine in the great lakes region. Most child respondents who were in the age range eleven years to seventeen years cited instability necessitated by the raging wars in the region and hunger and starvation as the reasons why they flew away from their respective areas. Respondents also highlighted of gruesome killings that they witnessed as their communities came under constant attacks from the warring lords. Respondents highlighted an array of problems that they faced as unaccompanied child refugees.

Chief among the problems was the fact that they did not have anyone to look up to for guidance, protection and security. Most respondents noted that they had lost contact with their families. This according to respondents noted that they were in danger of losing their identity. Respondents highlighted that in Zimbabwe they were able to attend school and expressed hope of a better future. The research recommends that unaccompanied refugee children's needs be closely addressed and that foster families should be taught on how to raise the children

### *Biographical Information*

Dr Chamunogwa Nyoni is a Lecturer and the current chairperson for the Department of Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. His research interests are in the areas of migration, child rights and welfare, gerontology, population and family studies especially areas of livelihoods and poverty reduction.

## **Louise Olliff**

The University of Melbourne

### **From resettled refugees to humanitarian actors: Exploring the role and potential of diaspora community-based organisations in the international refugee regime**

This paper presents findings from research exploring the role diaspora community-based organisations (CBOs) play in “helping their communities” overseas. Refugee and humanitarian entrants in Australia commonly set up small CBOs to raise funds and implement humanitarian projects targeting displaced populations in other countries. Drawing on transnational social networks, the personal experiences, knowledge and motivations of individuals involved, and their enhanced mobility and capacity to mobilise resources by virtue of residing in a wealthy country like Australia, diaspora CBOs are unique in the humanitarian arena. In terms of their practices, diaspora CBOs build schools and health centres, fund teachers' salaries, purchase wheelchairs and water pumps, and send material aid in emergencies. In short, they try to fill “protection gaps”. Their work has significance in the context of the current scale of forcible displacement, the failings of the international refugee regime to effectively negotiate ‘durable solutions’ for the vast majority of those under the UNHCR mandate, and the considerable challenges faced by traditional humanitarian actors in meeting even the basic needs of displaced populations. Based on multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork with diaspora CBOs in Australia, Indonesia and Thailand and with humanitarian workers in different parts of the world, this research asks: What can refugee diaspora in Australia do in humanitarian contexts that others can't?

### *Biographical Information*

Louise Olliff is a PhD Candidate in the School of Social and Political Sciences at The University of Melbourne, Australia. Due to complete in early 2017, her doctoral research focuses on diaspora-led humanitarianism. Louise has worked for the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) since 2009 and is currently RCOA's Senior Policy Officer focusing on international advocacy. Louise has worked with refugee and migrant communities in Australia, Ghana and Cambodia since 2001 and holds an MA in Collaborative International Development Studies and a BA Hons in Journalism/Development Studies. She is a recipient of the University of Melbourne Human Rights Scholarship.

## **Associate Professor Bruce Pennay**

Charles Sturt University

### **Faces and places: Photographs of post-war refugees and their children at Bonegilla and Benalla migrant camps**

Many photographs were taken of European refugees and their children at the Bonegilla and Benalla camps by (i) government officials, (ii) the media and (iii) camp residents in the post-war years. These three sets of photographs have been subsequently archived differently and are now being used to interpret the Bonegilla and Benalla as heritage-listed public memory places.

The publicity photographs were taken and used by government at a time when it was working hard at winning refugees, and later assisted migrants, from Europe and at keeping the Australian community favourably disposed to the mass migration program. Picture stories in the national media complicated the widely-circulated official publicity stories, particularly at times of crisis, for example the health scare of 1949 and the riots of 1952 and 1961 at Bonegilla. Local media picture stories illustrate what Doreen Massey calls the thrown togetherness of newcomers and the longer-settled in immediate host communities. The photographs taken by residents of the camps, generally suggest newcomers were on an assimilationist trajectory, finding meaningful work and re-establishing family life as it should be. All three sets of photographs underlie a notion of banal assimilation.

Finally, the paper explores current heritage-place visual strategies in the light of recent thinking about public memory places by Jay Winter (2010) and Andrea Witcomb (2013) for example. Which picture stories are crafted for Bonegilla and Benalla visitors to read?

#### *Biographical Information*

The article is a further reflection on work Bruce has published recently, namely *Picturing Post-war Assimilation in Historical Studies* (2013); 'Wodonga's Bonegilla' in *Victorian Historical Journal* (2016); and my books on *Benalla: a difficult heritage* (2013); and *Picturing and Re-picturing Bonegilla* (2016).

## **Associate Professor Richard Pennell**

The University of Melbourne

### **Assessing and quantifying other people's fear in refugee tribunals.**

The 1951 Refugee Convention talks of refugees as having a wellfounded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. This means that assessor or a tribunal, people who necessarily cannot share the fear must categorise the grounds of a fear of persecution and determine its credibility and intensity. That can only be done by setting the statements made by refugees against the general accounts of the country they came from and validating them according to external typological criteria. This paper uses the records of asylum tribunals in Australia, New Zealand, Britain and Canada to examine how the circularity of this process shifts value away from the evidence given by asylum seekers to the evidence that they are expected to

give by the assessors. This is a historic as well as a bureaucratic function in which the complications of individual cases conflict with the demand for generic judgements. It argues that the memory of fear, and the narratives supplied by refugees are determined, in part, by the responses of government to the arrival of huge numbers of refugees.

*Biographical Information*

Associate Professor Richard Pennell is al-Tajir Lecturer in the History of the Middle East and North Africa at The University of Melbourne. He has published extensively on North Africa and the Middle East and is researching the history of refugees using their submissions to refugee tribunals in New Zealand Australia Britain etc.

**Dr Jayne Persian**

The University of Southern Queensland

**Cossack Identities: From Russian Emigrés and Anti-Soviet Collaborators to DPs, via Genocide.**

Cossack DPs who were re-settled in Australia as part of the IRO scheme had already survived several turbulent eras, including what historian Shane P. O'Rourke describes as genocide at the hands of the Bolsheviks in 1919. Survivors refashioned their identities in the post-Bolshevik period as Russian emigrés and then, in the Second World War, as anti-Soviet collaborators of the German Army. At the end of the war, these Cossacks were rounded up by the British and handed to the Soviets, who shot Cossack officers as traitors while the rest were sent to Gulag. Those who managed to escape melted into the DP camps, on the run from the Soviets and the British; some became 'New Australians'.

*Biographical Information*

Jayne Persian is a historian of twentieth century Australian and international history at the University of Southern Queensland, focusing on aspects of the experience of the post-war Central and Eastern Europeans who became known as Displaced Persons. Jayne's manuscript on Displaced Persons in Australia will be published by UNSW Press in 2016.

**Dr Nadia Rhook**

La Trobe University

**When a migrant locks his lips: Hearing the Intelligibility of Syrian Lives in colonial Melbourne**

Late 19th century Melbourne was a polyglot city, ruled by anglophones. Here, as in sites across the globe, linguistic difference shaped whether a migrant's life could be rendered intelligible to the colonial state. The 1896 manslaughter trial of one Abraham Khaled gives a window into the intimacies of the trade and romantic lives of Syrian merchants and hawkers who took up residence in the city's so-called slum district. In the interstices of Melbourne's street grid, this paper explores, racialized subjects forged spaces of political and linguistic autonomy. By taking a city's linguistic margins as the center, how might we recover fragments of non-anglocentric mappings and uses of urban spaces? And if privacy was, in part, about the ability to select to whom your voice became audible, then how did migrants

such as Khaled use speech and silence to impede colonial surveillance?

### *Biographical Information*

Nadia Rhook researches and lectures colonial history at La Trobe University. She has published on the racial and linguistic politics of migration in journal including *Postcolonial Studies and the Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*. From her PhD research she's developed the walking tour 'Migration and the Private Lives of the Hoddle Grid'.

## **Associate Professor Laura Robson**

Portland State University

### **Refugees and the Case for International Authority in the Middle East**

In the immediate aftermath of the First World War, the newly formed League of Nations saw Middle Eastern refugees - particularly displaced Armenians and Assyrians scattered in camps across the Eastern Mediterranean - as venues for working out new forms of internationalism. Declaring the refugee situation, a humanitarian "crisis," the League's new Commission for Refugees began to construct a series of long-term, highly interventionist plans for large-scale refugee relocation and resettlement that sought to create a permanent role for the League in governing Middle Eastern states from Lebanon to Iraq.

In the late 1940s, following the British abandonment of the Palestine mandate and the subsequent Zionist expulsion of most of the Palestinian Arab population, the new United Nations revived this concept of a refugee crisis requiring international intervention. The UN took the decision to support Palestinian refugee camps as separate, internationally funded spaces, in but not of their Arab host states, at the same time it declared European Jewish refugees "stateless" and began advocating for their mass transfer to Israel. In this formative period, the nascent United Nations made use of refugees to make the case for its own utility (and its long-term presence) as an international arbiter of ethnicity, citizenship, and borders across the Middle East.

Following both the First and the Second World Wars, then, the multiple refugee streams swirling around the Middle East emerged as sites for hammering out the particularities of – and the case for - new forms of international governance. This paper examines the parallel ways in which advocates for both the nascent League of Nations and the new U.N. made use of mass refugee flows to formulate arguments for new, highly visible, and essentially permanent iterations of international authority across the Middle East.

### *Biographical Information*

Laura Robson is Associate Professor of modern Middle Eastern history at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. She is the author of *Colonialism and Christianity in Mandate Palestine* (University of Texas Press, 2011) and editor of *Minorities and the Modern Arab World: New Perspectives* (Syracuse University Press, 2016). Her most recent book, tentatively entitled *States of Separation: Transfer, Partition, and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, will be published by University of California Press next year.

## Jessica Stroja and Dr Robert Mason

Griffith University

### **‘My thoughts are dark’: Echoes of post-war refugee experiences in the contemporary conflict in Ukraine**

In October 2014, Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 was shot down from the skies above Ukraine with the loss of life of everyone on board, including 38 Australian citizens and residents. This incident was part of ongoing conflict in Ukraine that has cost almost 10,000 lives and displaced almost 1.4 million people. This paper traces the impact of these events on former Ukrainians now living in Australia. Arriving in Australia as child refugees in the years following the Second World War, they had themselves fled conflict in Ukraine. Drawing on forty interviews with former refugees, the paper explores how remembered injustices dating from the Soviet era were evoked as a primary means to understand contemporary events. Interviewees’ sense of connection to Ukraine was intensified by strong emotional reactions, as well as by the violence and orchestrated chaos they believed echoed earlier Russian interference in the lands of their parents. Australia’s Ukrainian community has vocally opposed the conflict and expressed their horror at the shooting down of MH17. The refugees’ experience of displacement and conflict following the Second World War facilitated a unique response to the incident, which went beyond generalised anger to a profound sadness for a landscape defined by war.

#### *Biographical Information*

Jessica Stroja is a PhD candidate at Griffith University where her thesis focuses on settlement experiences of Displaced Persons and their children in Queensland following the Second World War. Her research focuses on experiences of conflict and migration, with an interest in community engagement with refugee and migrant experiences.

Robert Mason is a Lecturer in Migration and Security Studies at Griffith University. His research focusses on emotion and the legacies of violence in both migration and heritage. He is particularly interested in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking communities in Asia, Australia and North America.

## **Dr Michal Shaul**

Herzog College, Israel

### **Re-connecting the Chain of Generations - The Key role of Refugee’s Testimonies in the Formation of Jewish Ultra-Orthodox World After the Holocaust**

The reappearance of Jewish Ultraorthodox society on the historical map, after the severe blow it suffered in the Holocaust, in demographic, geographic, ideological, theological, and moral terms, was an enigma: How did it chart its new path after it lost the core of its future generation and was deprived of its best leaders and rabbis? How did the miraculous revival of this group come to pass in the secular Zionist State of Israel, of all places, where it was a demographic and ideological minority? And how is it that the process of recovery, which took place with surprising speed, was led by Holocaust refugees who personally experienced the inferno and emerged from it broken and mourning their dead? The goal of this lecture is to point out the special role played by the Ultra Orthodox Holocaust refugees and of the

Holocaust consciousness that they passed on as part of the consolidation of Ultra Orthodox society after the Holocaust. The lecture will expose the complexity of the Ultra Orthodox refugees' memories by analyzing the structure of their testimonies and its contribution to Holocaust memory in the Ultra Orthodox community.

*Biographical Information*

Dr Michal Shaul is a Lecturer in the Department of history and the director of the holocaust studies program at Herzog College, Israel. Her book about Holocaust memory in the Ultra-orthodox society in Israel was published in the *Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Studies and Yad Ben Zvi Hebrew* (2014).

**Karen Schamberger**

Deakin University

**Weaving a family and a nation through two Latvian looms**

Between 1943 and 1954 the United Nations Refugee and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Refugee Organisation created and administered Displaced Persons (DP) Camps in Europe, the Middle East and China. World War II had caused 16 million people to flee their homes and they required food, shelter and rehabilitation. While in these camps, refugees considered how to rebuild their lives and many created objects which sustained their cultural and national identities in the camps and in the countries they later migrated to.

Using object biography (Kopytoff 1986) this paper will trace the stories of two weaving looms created in German DP camps after World War II that are now in the collections of Museum Victoria and the Latvians Abroad - museum and research centre. Karen will also interweave the story of the Apinis family to show how Latvian cultural nationalism (Hilton 2009) was created and maintained across two generations in the DP camps and in Australia. When Anita 'returned' to her mother Anna's homeland, she was forced to confront the gap between her family's memories and the memories of people who had remained in Latvia through the war and Soviet occupation.

*Biographical Information*

Karen Schamberger recently completed a PhD dissertation: Identity, Belonging and Cultural Diversity in Australian Museums. She has previously worked in curatorial roles at Museum Victoria and the National Museum of Australia on exhibitions that included the themes and personal stories of migration, personal and collective identity and transnationalism.

**Dr Jordy Silverstein**

The University of Melbourne

**His happy go lucky attitude is infectious: Australian Government Imaginings of Child Refugees, 1970s-1980s**

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, unaccompanied Vietnamese and East Timorese refugee children were arriving and being settled in Australia. While their first home was, generally, a hostel, many were then moved into the community. But at each stage of their arrival and settlement experience, workers in the departments of immigration and social services who controlled their circumstances also documented their lives. At times this documentation served as a means of tracking their material needs, while these children's temperament, emotions, friendship groups and desired living arrangements were also regularly documented. These descriptions were intended to make the children known to the government bureaucracy.

This collection of reports thus provides an important window into understanding how government departments viewed and imagined unaccompanied child refugees. Through their descriptions, which would lead to action being taken with regard to each child's settlement process, knowledge was created about who a child refugee was, and what they required. By examining these records, we can gain insight into the racialised and gendered government discourses surrounding these child refugees which circulated at this time, understanding how they helped to construct and produce practices of governing the lives of child refugees.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Jordy Silverstein is a postdoctoral research associate in History at The University of Melbourne, working as part of the ARC Laureate Project 'Child Refugees and Australian Internationalism, 1920s to the Present.' She is the author of *Anxious Histories: Narrating the Holocaust in Jewish Communities at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century* (2015) and co-editor of *In the Shadows of Memory: The Holocaust and the Third Generation* (2016).

### **Kartia Snoek**

The University of Melbourne

### **Australia's Tiered System of Immigration and Citizenship, from White Australia to Border Protection**

During the early twentieth century numerous pieces of federal legislation in Australia restricted the political, social and economic rights of Aboriginal people and residents born in Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands. This included acts preventing them working in certain industries, curtailing their right to vote and denying them access to pensions and other welfare entitlements. The result was a tiered system of Australian citizenship privileging Anglo-European migrants. Despite decades of deconstruction, remnants remain today. One area it is apparent in is our treatment of refugees. Today this tiered system is based not on race, but on mode of arrival. It permits those who arrive by plane access to permanent protection and a pathway to Australian citizenship, while denying this to those who arrive by boat. This paper argues that while the aim of current policies is to paint Australia as an unwelcoming destination for those persecuted in their country of origin, the "White Australia Policy" lingers. Early twentieth century legislation and case law will be examined alongside our current border protection policies to argue that a tiered system of access to citizenship is a facet of Australian law, as it was more than a century ago.

#### *Biographical Information*

Kartia Snoek's love of research spans legal, political and social histories. She is currently completing a PhD exploring how federal legislation created a discriminatory system of citizenship rights favouring Anglo-European subjects over Aboriginal people and residents born in Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

## Dr Seumas Spark

Monash University

### **The Dunera boy as 'refugees': divisions in history and memory**

In 1940, approximately 2000 internees, mostly German or Austrian and predominately Jewish, were transported from Britain to Australia on the *Dunera*. Their internment had been ordered by the British government on account of their nationality, despite the fact that many were refugees from the Nazi regime. The 'Dunera boys', as they are now known, later were released from internment and given the choice of remaining in Australia or returning to Europe. Many of the 900 who stayed made an extraordinary contribution to Australian post-war life.

This paper examines Dunera narratives that have arisen over the past seventy-five years. A particular focus is how the telling of the Dunera story has narrowed over time, admitting certain people, themes and events while moderating and ignoring other aspects of Dunera history. For example, many 'Dunera boys' objected to being called 'refugees', even though their experiences fitted this definition: for some 'refugee' was a pejorative, a word from which to dissociate themselves. The paper considers this, and examines why in recent times 'Dunera boys' have rejected parallels between their experiences and those of contemporary refugees and asylum seekers. The paper argues that these positions were and are informed by the spectre of the Second World War and the Holocaust in particular.

#### *Biographical Information*

Seumas Spark completed a PhD (History) at the University of Edinburgh in 2009. Since then Seumas has been employed mostly at Monash University. Seumas is working full time with Ken Inglis and Jay Winter on a research project about the *Dunera* and *Queen Mary* internees. This research will lead to a co-authored book.

## Dr Marcin Starnawski

University of Lower Silesia, Wrocław

### **Polish-Jewish diaspora since 1968: historical and biographic narratives of exile**

The paper will discuss experiences of Jews who left Poland following the political crisis and state-sponsored anti-Semitism in the late 1960s. The exodus of 15-20,000 people had marked a dramatic point in the lives of the Holocaust survivors' generation, while for many of their children - teenagers or young adults at the time - constituted a defining biographical moment. After students' protests in March 1968, the party-state authorities responded with populist scapegoating campaign (coded as "anti-Zionist"), which targeted intellectuals, socialist "revisionists" and democratic oppositionists, but particularly people identifying as Jews or persons of Jewish descent. Sociologist Zygmunt Bauman was among those exposed as

“public enemies” by the press and officials in the political operation that stigmatized a group of Polish citizens, leading to them being fired from jobs, expelled from universities and deprived of citizenship. The forced exile and dispersion created a condition, which the Polish-Jewish refugees dealt with individually and collectively (through family and peer networks), eventually reintegrating in various diasporic spaces and reestablishing their relationship with Poland (especially during and after the post-1989 transition). In the presentation, I will refer to my interviews conducted in early 2000s with émigrés and to vast autobiographic material and memoirs published officially and in emigrant press up until recent years.

#### *Biographical Information*

Dr Marcin Starnawski’s background is in sociology, Jewish studies and education. Marcin works as assistant professor at the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw. Research interests include topics such as racism and right-wing populism, migration and identity, social movements, critical pedagogy and world-systems analysis.

### **Rachel Stevens**

The University of Melbourne

#### **Islandness and vulnerability: The case of Malta**

During the first decade of the twenty-first century, Malta received an increasing number of boat people, growing from 24 arrivals in 2000 to nearly 3,000 arrivals in 2009. Once a country of emigration, Malta has now become one of the largest recipient country of asylum applications on a per capita basis. With 6.5 asylum applications per 1000 people, Malta has one the highest rate of asylum resettlement than the rest of the EU, 13 times the EU average of 0.49 applications per 1000 people. Most asylum seekers are from sub-Saharan Africa (especially Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea) and arrive by boat from the North African coast. The case of Malta highlights the importance of geography in understanding a country’s ideas about immigration, asylum and refuge. Malta’s location at the cross section of three continents renders it open to foreigners; its isolation and small population also leads its people to perennial feelings of vulnerability. This paper will explore Maltese attitudes towards African asylum seekers and also draw comparisons with Australia.

#### *Biographical Information*

Rachel’s research focuses on twentieth century American and Australian immigration history. She has published her research in the Australian Journal of Politics and History, Immigrants & Minorities and History Australia. She is currently completing articles on intercultural marriage in Australia, urban multiculturalism and the use of role-play in the history classroom.

Rachel received her PhD in History at Monash University, where she lectured in contemporary history until 2014. She has also been a visiting fellow at New York University (2013), the University of Texas at Austin (2006) and the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UCSD (2006-07).

## **Associate Professor Maila Stivens**

The University of Melbourne

### **Gender, Cosmopolitanisms and Counter-cosmopolitanisms: Hospitality and the Asylum Seeker Other**

Cosmopolitanism has become an increasingly important and influential concept. A growing body of scholarship has been expressing serious reservations, however, seeing it as exclusionary, analytically problematic, and of dubious political relevance. While the new cosmopolitanisms pose a more nuanced range of qualifiers, it is argued here that a gendering of such arguments can add important dimensions to these debates. The paper develops this theme by exploring in particular the much-neglected gendered character of the ‘hospitality’ at the heart of the founding normative arguments about cosmopolitanisms: to ground the arguments, the paper discusses the activities of several prominent woman-centered asylum seeker support and advocacy groups in Melbourne, Australia, against the background of the often equally gendered counter-cosmopolitanisms of anti-refugee groups both in Australia and in the wider global context of the present refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe.

#### *Biographical Information*

Maila Stivens is Principal Research Fellow, Asia Institute, University of Melbourne. Widely published, she has researched middle-class kinship in Sydney, Malaysian ‘matriliny’, modernity, work, family, ‘public’ and ‘private’ in Southeast Asia, especially Malaysia; and ‘New Asian Childhoods’. Previously Director of Gender Studies at the University of Melbourne, she also taught Anthropology at University College, London, and has held visiting fellowships at the Asia Research Institute and in Sociology at the National University of Singapore, and at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

## **Dr Mary Tomsic**

The University of Melbourne

### **Post-WWII displaced children- Australian photographs and publicity narratives**

After the 1956 anti-Communist uprising in Hungary, just over 14,000 Hungarian refugees were resettled in Australia. The federal government specially sought out a number of ‘compassionate cases such as children’, and many groups and individuals within the host population offered support to care for what they imagined would be large numbers of orphaned and unaccompanied Hungarian children.

These Hungarian refugees came to Australia in the context of the Cold War, and increased government interest in public relations and publicity around immigration. A Public Relations director was first appointed within the Department of Immigration in 1955, and a publicity section was established as part of the Planning and Research Division. Many press releases telling the stories of the Hungarian refugees were despatched. These ‘human stories’ were said to ‘speak for themselves’ and served to ‘underline the fine calibre’ of those who were offered ‘permanent sanctuary’ in Australia. Photographs of these Hungarian refugees featured in the 1957 Australian Citizenship Convention as ‘Immigration in Action’, and in a documentary, *Flight to Freedom* (1957), that was made by the Film Division of the News and

Information Bureau for the Department of Immigration.

In this paper Mary uses publicity narratives, news reports, film footage and photographs of Hungarian refugee children and their families to consider the ways in which children's experiences of war and displacement were publicly presented to a local audience, and how these displaced children were positioned as valuable to the Australian nation.

### *Biographical Information*

Dr Mary Tomsic is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at The University of Melbourne working on a project titled 'Picturing Child Refugees' as part of the ARC Laureate Research Project 'Child Refugees and Australian Internationalism from 1920 to the present'. She co-edited *Diversity in Leadership: Australian women, past and present* (with Joy Damousi and Kim Rubenstein, ANU Press 2014).

## **John van Kooy and Dr Liam Magee**

RMIT

Western Sydney University

### **The language of 'boat people' and 'illegal maritime arrivals': Australian policy discourses on asylum seekers, 1975-76 and 2012-13**

In this paper, we examine how language in Australian parliamentary and media debates serves to represent asylum seekers as a policy problem, with a narrow set of solutions. We compare two key historical policy debates: concerning the arrival of Vietnamese boat people from 1975-76, and the transfer of illegal maritime arrivals to regional and offshore processing centres in 2012-13. We argue the use of language in these debates is crucial in highlighting Bacchi's (2009) critical policy question of problem representation (what's the problem represented to be?), and further illustrates the limitations of Australia's political responses to humanitarian migration.

We draw upon computational content and critical discourse analysis of parliamentary Hansard transcripts and media responses to asylum seeker boat arrivals in Australia. First, we analyse term frequency, concordance and co-occurrence to identify quantitative relations between lexical units in our document corpus. Second, we undertake interpretative analysis of these results, to identify the key articulations of the boat arrival problem both in 1975-76 and 2012-13, discern the assumptions underpinning these representations, and reveal gaps and 'silences' in the debates. As debates around the management of Australia's borders and migration policies continue, such insights can assist in identifying alternative courses of action.

### *Biographical Information*

John van Kooy is a PhD Candidate in the School of Global, Urban & Social Studies at RMIT University and a Senior Research Officer at the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Dr Liam Magee is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Cultural Studies at the Western Sydney University.

## Max Walden

The University of Sydney

### **Invaded by Asians or welcoming willing workers? The Australian media's depiction of Vietnamese refugees during the 1970s Indochinese refugee crisis**

After 'boat people' arrived in Darwin in April 1976, the late 1970s saw the first major wave of Asian immigration to Australia in the twentieth century. Responding to the Indochinese refugee crisis, the Fraser Government came to resettle tens of thousands of Indochinese refugees. During these years the Australian news media would play a major role in shaping the discourse and perceptions of incoming refugees, and multiculturalism more broadly, after the White Australia Policy was overturned. Phrases such as 'boat people', 'queue jumper' and 'legitimate refugee' introduced during the 1977 election campaign remain prominent in Australia's political vocabulary in contemporary debates regarding forced migration and border protection. Nevertheless, in subsequent years an elite consensus developed among the media and political class in which refugees were seen as brave people who had fled the terrors of communism, survived squalid refugee camps and dangerous maritime transit, and were now working hard to contribute to Australian society in the face of 'occer' racism. This paper argues that the news media's depiction of refugees altered significantly over the course of the late 1970s, shaped by a number of factors including the frequency of boat arrivals, Commonwealth policy responses, a rapidly evolving international situation, and changes within the Australian media itself.

#### *Biographical Information*

Max works in the development sector and is a Research Assistant in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Sydney, working on a project on migrant workers' rights. In 2015 Max completed a Master of Human Rights and Democratisation and lived in Yogyakarta, Indonesia where he taught English with the Jesuit Refugee Service. He has also worked for the Widening Participation unit at Macquarie University as a Research Officer, focusing on refugee education initiatives. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Sydney. He is an editor for *E-International Relations and Inside Indonesia*, and has written on refugee issues for publications such as *SBS News*, *RightNow* and *Australian Policy Online*.

## Wanda Warlik

The University of Western Australia

### **Wartime Peregrination from Poland to the Antipodes**

After the Second World War, Australia agreed to resettle 100,000 displaced persons from refugee camps in Europe. In November 1949, it also sent a Department of Immigration Selection Commission to British East Africa to interview a group of remnant refugees in Uganda and Tanganyika and decide on their suitability for migration to Australia. The refugees were not African but Polish, mostly women and children who had lived for up to seven years in refugee camps scattered across the continent from the equator to the Cape of Good Hope. Who were these Poles and what was their history as refugees? This paper will seek to tell their story with a particular focus on its ending, the decision by Australia to offer over a thousand Polish refugees caught in transit in Africa a new place to call home and their

choice to become 'New Australians'.

### *Biographical Information*

Wanda Warlik is a PhD candidate at the University of Western Australia researching the wartime displacement of Polish civilians whose epic journey took them from Poland, through the Soviet Union, the Middle East and Africa to Australia (1940-1950).

## **Niels Wouters**

University of Leuven, Department of Architecture, Research[x]Design

### ***Stories of Exile: Architectural Storytelling with Refugees***



*Stories of Exile* is a building-sized interactive media architecture installation that depicts four phases of the displacement of refugees. The installation has been designed in collaboration with refugees through a series of participatory design sessions that aimed to uncover the individual experience of migration. The work has formerly been projected onto the facade of a refugee center in Belgium, with the intention of facilitating interactions between local citizens and refugees.

The development of the installation will be discussed, as will the successes and challenges of the project in creating and supporting public social interactions. *Stories of Exile* will be screened in a different setting at this conference, but the features of the interactive media architecture installation will be displayed.



### *Biographical Information*

Niels Wouters is an academic, architect and creative technologist who is completing his PhD at KU Leuven - University of Leuven, Belgium in the Department of Architecture. His PhD project investigates the social relevance and social qualities of media architecture and its ability to interact with people and places. As part of this, he worked with refugees in Belgium to develop a public architectural storytelling projection. Further details of his research and

work is available at: [www.nwt.rs](http://www.nwt.rs)

## **Panel- Community Curation of Behind the Wire Exhibition: Refugees and Asylum seekers from Christmas Island, Nauru, and Manus Island**

### **Maggie Watson**

Exhibition Project Officer, Immigration Museum

### **Michael Green**

Project Coordinator and Editor, Behind the Wire

### **Aran Mylvaganam**

Project Advisor, Behind the Wire

Museum Victoria has been working on project Behind the Wire, a community curated exhibition that will open in March of 2017. Behind the Wire is an oral history project that seeks to document the experiences of people who have been detained through the mandatory detention system. The project seeks to show the humanity and individuality of detainees, in contrast to the negative stereotypes and misconceptions in the public debate, and to counteract the one-dimensional public imagination of people seeking asylum and refugees. Museum Victoria will be working in collaboration with Behind the Wire to produce an exhibition that showcases these stories providing an opportunity for the public to hear and learn from first-accounts experiences in detention. The exhibition is not a history lesson, and not a political commentary. In seeking to reflect the humanity and diversity of asylum seeker experiences, we have as part of the project, consulted with a reference group of people who have been in detention to ensure that Museum Victoria are accurately representing their stories and that they maintain their authority and ownership over their stories.

While historians have been working with Michael Frisch's concept of shared authority, this panel will showcase the process behind the scenes of putting together a refugee and asylum seeker lead exhibition. We will hear from the refugee and asylum seeker community reference group, the exhibition project officer and journalist from Behind the Wire about the planning process as well as their story selection conversation. How do we negotiate recent and controversial history and its public history presentation? What are the emotions and communication challenges involved? What does it take to create works that inspire empathy for the subjects of history? Adam Zagajewski writes in a poem, "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," about a trip that he takes with his father through Ukrainian villages in Poland whose inhabitants were forced out during the population transfers following the Second War." The call to try and praise the historical quagmire that is Australia's immigration policies seems a near impossible task for any museum let alone the subjects of history, however, it is in the most welcomed tone that you are invited to hear about the process of "praising the mutilated world" behind the wires of Australia's detention centers.

## **Panel- The Aftermath of War: Dr Leonhard Adam; building of identity intellectually, professionally and personally, after ‘Dunera’ and Tatura**

### **Mary-Clare Adam**

Trinity College

#### **The personal in the global; the impact of the refugee experience and the contribution of Dr Leonhard Adam**

### **Michael Davis**

The University of Sydney

#### **The outsider anthropologist? Leonhard Adam's networks among the scholarly community in Australia and internationally**

### **Professor Robyn Sloggett**

The University of Melbourne

#### **Welcoming Dr Leonhard Adam: political and social activism supporting refugees from Europe 1938–1948**

Dr Leonhard Adam was born in Berlin in 1891 His father was Jewish and his mother a Protestant who converted to Judaism on marriage. He was admitted to the law in 1920, but his passion was ethnology, which he studied at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Berlin. In Berlin he built an important ethnographic collection, edited *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Rechtswissenschaft* (Journal of Comparative Jurisprudence), and was a member of the board of experts of the Berlin Ethnographical Museum. By 1938 he found himself a refugee in London, and in 1940 was sent to Australia on The Dunera. He was released from the Tatura Internment Camp to take up a research position at the University of Melbourne, supported by the Department of History and Queen’s College. At The University of Melbourne he taught the first course in Primitive Art to be taught in Australia, discussing contemporary Aboriginal bark paintings in an international context. His book *Primitive Art* was translated into seven languages and reprinted five times. He built a significant ethnographic collection at the University of Melbourne. Yet during his lifetime his views were largely ignored within Australian anthropology.

#### *Biographical Information*

Mary-Clare Adams: After graduating from Monash University in anthropology, she spent five years in Papua New Guinea exploring tribal art and tradition in different villages in the East Sepik District.

Her knowledge of the subject has been sought by the British Museum, the World Museum in Vienna and the Israel Museum. She has presented series of lectures on art of Papua New Guinea at Tel Aviv University. Her expertise in the field comes mainly from primary sources. She has an extensive collection of tribal art, the core of which includes her father Leonhard Adam’s private collection and which she continued to develop during her years in Papua New Guinea and later, through her extensive travels in the region. She was a major

contributor to a United Nations publication on handcraft marketing edited by Ajeet Kanwal. In 1996 she published “Leonhard Adam From the Spree to the Yarra - Aquarelles: 1911 - 1955”. She speaks eight languages. Mary-Clare is currently Hon. Consul of Solomon Islands in Israel.

Michael Davis: Michael researches and writes about Indigenous/European histories and encounters, the relationships between Indigenous and other knowledge systems, ecology and place, and ethical guidelines and protocols for Indigenous research. He has worked for many years with a range of organisations, including academia and government, with Aboriginal community organisations, and as an independent researcher. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Sydney. Michael also has a research interest in biographies of anthropologists and historians of Indigenous culture, and, supported by various grants, he has worked on the papers of Leonhard Adam, Greg Denning, and Fred McCarthy.

Michael’s publications include (with Joni Adamson) *Humanities for the Environment: Integrating Knowledge, Forging New Constellations of Practice* (Routledge Earthscan, forthcoming), and *Writing Heritage: the Depiction of Indigenous Heritage in European-Australian Writings* (2007, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, and National Museum of Australia Press, Canberra).

Professor Robyn Sloggett: Professor Robyn Sloggett is Director of the Grimwade Centre for Materials Conservation, The University of Melbourne. Her research interests include attribution and authentication of paintings, materials conservation in the Asia-Pacific, collection development and history, studies in materials and techniques, and the preservation of new information technologies held in regional and remote communities.