

Pardee School Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking

Annual Report 2015-2016

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Directors and
Co-Chairs

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Inaugural Year

Founded in March 2015, FMHT at the Pardee School has already had a significant impact in the BU community and beyond. Included in this annual report are letters from our leadership, an assessment of our impact this year, and our plans for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Our mission is to foster Research, Education, and Advocacy on the topics of forced migration and human trafficking at BU.

To accomplish this, we have created a community of students, faculty, and practitioners working on these topics at BU and beyond. Drawing from the existing resources on campus and expanding our network globally, FMHT has established itself as the migration hub at BU.

Letters from the Directors: Prof. Noora Lori

In the span of a year—thanks to the immense capabilities of graduate co-chairs Kelberer and Ward—the Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking (FMHT) was transformed from a loose network of faculty and students into a fully fledged policy-driven research and teaching initiative.



We formalized the group, defined our mission of ‘research, education, and advocacy,’ expanded our faculty and student [membership](#), held over a dozen research and policy events, developed [teaching resources](#) on the Syrian refugee crisis, hosted a boot-camp for students interested in international human rights law, hosted a representative from the US State Department’s Population Refugees and Migration (PRM), and created a [master list](#) of all migration-related

courses at BU. Members of our team joined [BCARS](#) for fact-finding missions and workshops with the UNHCR and MiReKoc in Amman, Istanbul, and Geneva, and collectively the FMHT’s faculty and graduate co-directors have given over 30 public lectures on the refugee crisis across the country and internationally over the past year. At the Pardee School, the FMHT has been regularly hosting inter-disciplinary faculty working sessions on targeted legal and policy issues inviting Boston area experts and BU faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as BU’s Law School and Medical School. This year we also established a recurring newsletter with FMHT’s upcoming and past events (link to join [here](#)).

As the founding director of the FMHT, I was galvanized by the inter-disciplinary research and policy initiatives we developed this year but wanted to ensure that the teaching aspect of our mission was not an empty promise. I piloted a class on *Forced Migration and Human Trafficking* that was designed as a new kind of policy course, a ‘digital



FMHT in the Classroom: IR 500 Spring 2016

In January of 2016, a class of female undergraduate and graduate students from Boston University embarked on a unique course on forced migration taught by Prof. Noora Lori. After studying the complex situation of the Syrian Refugee Crisis and its effect on the greater Middle East, they identified an issue in the disruption of aid amongst non-camp Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The class saw an opportunity to go beyond the traditional classroom setting and academic expectations to create a product for change. They set out to compile a database of aid organizations working in Amman, which they plan to program into an app, so that refugees can easily discover and locate services available in their

Letters from the Directors: Prof. Noora Lori

policy incubator.’ The class sought to move beyond the idea that the only way to impact policies is through policy recommendations that target national policy-makers. Instead, student teams engaged with NGOs and refugee communities to identify and design a digital solution, culminating in a mobile application for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The idea behind the class was that students would be asked to use social science research to identify a specific policy problem, and then creatively problem-solve by designing a digital solution to that problem. The course guided students through an in-depth analysis of the Syrian refugee crisis’ impact on Jordan, focusing on both the challenges of displacement and how people are using new technologies to self-organize and respond to those challenges.

Students honed in on the issue of lack of refugee access to aid in urban settings. They sought out to build a simple but powerful solution: an aid locator. The students compiled a database of aid organizations working in Amman, which they are geo-coding and programming into an Android map-based app, so that refugees and Jordanian citizens in need can easily discover and locate services available in their areas.

This student-led initiative became known as the Urban Refuge project. The class developed an executive board and staff members who are working through the summer to build the beta version of their app. Google and Microsoft have both expressed interest in the project, and a variety of organizations such as the UNHCR have also asked to see the beta version. The students have been applying to grants are hosting a BU Crowdsourcing campaign to launch the app past the pilot phase. Find out more about the Urban Refuge project and the class process (in the students own’ words) on the website they [built](#) and through their op-ed’s (two of which have already been [published](#) by the Huffington Post).

As our network has expanded it is also becoming clearer that the issues of forced migration and human trafficking are becoming more complex and global than ever before. While much of our emphasis has been on the Middle East and Syrian refugee crisis, next year co-director (and acting director) Schilde will expand our geographic focus to include a more systematic treatment of the European context. We have an exciting line-up of events planned, and we hope you will join us at the Pardee School. As always, we welcome your suggestions for feedback and future programming: migrant@bu.edu.

area. This student-led initiative became known as Urban Refuge.

Refugees have little control over the type and amount of aid they receive solidifying their alienation and lack of agency. Through our class contact at Caritas Jordan, we reached out to several young Syrian refugees living in Amman to gain their perspectives, assistance and input.

Just as our team incorporates Syrians, Jordanians, computer scientists and political scientists, the Urban Refuge app intends to bring refugees, citizens and aid workers together to improve quality of life for all members of Jordanian society. As we continue on this journey, we hope to continue to change the ways in which refugees receive aid and the ways in which students stretch the boundaries of their academic fields to create meaningful solutions.

Letters from the Directors:

Prof. Kaija Schilde

During 2016-2017 we will continue to expand the dynamic agenda of the Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking (FMHT). As I take on the role of FMHT director, I am inspired by the visionary accomplishments of Professor Noora Lori and graduate co chairs Trish Ward and Vicky Kelberer to establish a policy-driven research and teaching initiative with an emphasis on advocacy.

This year we will continue to build upon the interdisciplinary research and policy activities of our faculty and students involving Syrian refugees in Jordan, but we will also develop our teaching and advocacy agenda in additional directions. I will be harnessing the existing FMHT initiatives towards expanding into the topic of the European refugee crisis. The European crisis has intensified the interest and demand amongst Boston University students for information and analytical frameworks for understanding the causes and consequences of this forced displacement, and for understanding the crisis through the lens of European integration. Professor Lori and I have been organizing lectures on the topic --at the request of student groups- -outside of the regular coursework, advising the increasing number of student research papers on European migration and security, and tailoring existing coursework to focus on this student demand. In response to one of the most pressing questions of 2015-2016, when we see photographs of dead children on the beaches of Europe: “How did we get here? How is this possible in this place and at this time? And what can we do to help?”



In order to address the academic and policy dimensions of this question, I am adapting the innovative pilot project developed by Professor Lori in her IR 500 policy incubator course towards the European refugee crisis. The Fall 2016 version of the course will illuminate the particular policy challenges and opportunities in the EU and European states through an academic and policy lens into the phenomenon of asylum, migration, and border security in the European Union context. The course will also harness student motivations towards resolving policy dilemmas over EU migration issues, as students will work with policy partners to generate innovative tools and policy proposals in a specific area and for a specific institution or NGO.

We have identified multiple external project-based partnerships for the course. Students will work with different NGOs, firms, and experts on a range of projects on multiple dimensions of the European refugee crisis. The projects range from:

- Identifying the legal and technological challenges for matching families living in refugee camps with European host families and churches, as well as developing digital solutions to these peer-to-peer challenges;

Letters from the Directors:

Prof. Kaija Schilde

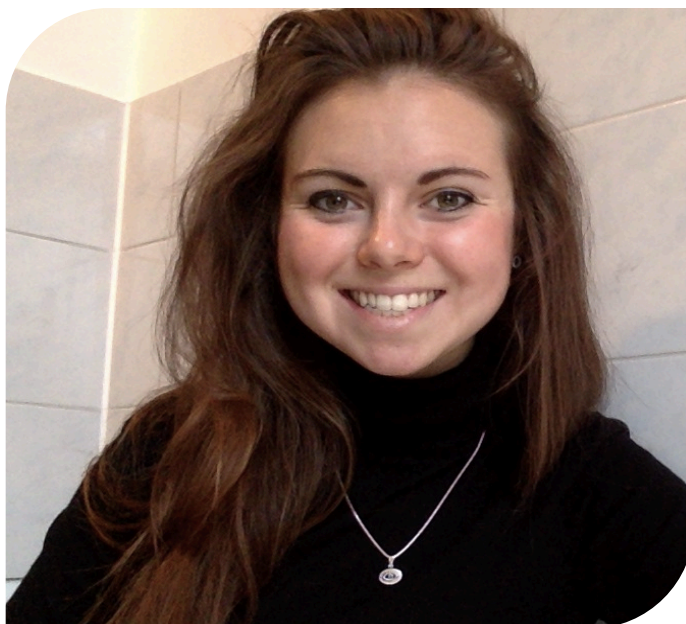
- Analyzing data on flows and locations of at-risk refugee children in sex trafficking conditions across Europe to advise a private security firm conducting armed extraction rescues;
- Coordinating with the UNHCR and NGOs to research, identify, and create API and training frameworks for humanitarian standards in a European setting;
- Working with refugees and NGOs on the ground in transit locations such as Greece, Austria, and Hungary to identify and develop needed research on humanitarian needs, as well as digital solutions to resolving key coordination issues.

In addition to the IR 500 course, we plan to establish a forum for developing links between students developing solutions, policymakers, NGOs, and academic experts. In order to do the latter, we will continue to develop a sustained policy dialogue at the expert and academic level in the form of BU-based workshops on European migration and security bringing together Boston-area experts and students, as well as an annual symposium highlighting and evaluating student generated policy solutions and disseminating expert analysis for key policymakers in European NGOs, organizations, and institutions at the front lines of the European migration crisis.

Through the policy incubator and expert workshops and symposia we hope to create a collaborative space where students, faculty and experts and NGOs interact to develop technological and policy proposals to implement sustainable interventions in the fields of forced migration and border security. This effort seeks to enact a relationship between academia and policy-making that goes beyond academic involvement on the level of policy recommendations and lobbying efforts that target national policy-makers. The goal is to create a knowledge-exchange platform through which students and scholars of European Union politics, geography and society can collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations working directly to address EU border and migration management. Such synergy between academia and policymakers can take different dimensions: crowd-sourced consultations on policy change or micro-policy interventions to address data collection or coordination in the field. I will use the incubator as a “clinical” or applied learning component of the forced migration curriculum at the Pardee School. Through it, in addition to teaching students how to write policy recommendations, we seek to work with them, along with communities and NGOs, to design digital solutions, such as phone apps and databases, which can help solve problems calling for attention to local needs, as well as large-scale coordination across national boundaries.

My own research activities attempt to explain the structural and legal background of the EU migration crisis. In addition to my forthcoming book “Building a European Security State,” I will present research at a September conference on “Fortress Europe or E Pluribus Unum?: Multilevel Governance and the Governance of Migration and Asylum in the EU”.

Our advocacy on this topic will be global—through the reach of our students and their projects—but it will have a local component, as well. We plan to hold a gala benefit in September to increase the visibility of Boston-area organizations working on the European refugee crisis. The gala will highlight the recent initiatives of these groups, and also feature the art and music of the people living in the refugee camps in Europe.



Letter from the Graduate Co-Chairs: Vicky Kelberer and Trish Ward

We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to be a part of the BU Pardee School Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking's inaugural team as Graduate Co-Chairs.

From conversations with our peers, and as student-researchers ourselves, we can confidently say that the FMHT initiative is a welcomed and unprecedented platform for building a BU and Boston-wide network between students, scholars, and practitioners of forced migration. FMHT has provided a critical space for us and fellow students to network with and learn from established scholars and practitioners in the field, collaborate across disciplines to organize conferences and workshops at BU and beyond, and even implement projects designed to address and solve issues of displacement at the global scale.

Within the BU community alone, FMHT has positioned Pardee to take the lead in promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and conversations with students and faculty from the Law School, Questrom, the College of Arts and Sciences and even the school of Engineering. Students and faculty alike have told us how critical FMHT has been for them in terms of providing a space to not only share and receive feedback related to their latest research and ongoing projects, *but also to build a dynamic community to address the most pressing issues of forced migration today.*

As the FMHT enters its second year, students are already meeting and collaborating with NGOs in (city/area in Boston), refugee communities in Jordan, and national trafficking clinics to develop dynamic projects and initiatives to address issues of forced migration in and beyond the borders of Boston. We are excited to witness and be a part of such dynamic efforts and look forward to watching the FMHT community grow, develop and prosper in the years ahead.

FMHT brings together students, scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers to support research, education, and advocacy on the pressing issues of forced migration and human trafficking.

Close to 34,000 people were displaced every day of 2015, taking global levels of displacement to an unprecedented high of approximately 65.3 million. While existing international humanitarian and legal tools are designed to deal with refugees and other forced migrants on an individualized basis within short-term crises, we are witnessing a structural human displacement problem that is becoming more and more acute.

In response to this growing global crisis, the FMHT was founded in March 2015 at the Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University. It is fitting that this initiative should be housed at the Pardee School—which boasts an interdisciplinary faculty committed to developing long-term sustainable policy solutions to some of the most pressing issues of our time.

FMHT was founded to bring together these scholars and practitioners in order to create

policies and resources that have an impact beyond the classroom. We are enriched by our location in Boston—with its vibrant history as a migrant and refugee host city and thriving community of academics that is unparalleled in the United States. Our members include political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, doctors, economists, public health professionals, anthropologists, and religious figures; academics, practitioners, policymakers, and students.

By drawing specialists from such a broad range of fields, we are able to discuss and craft more comprehensive policies to propose to various stakeholders in humanitarian assistance. Our partnership with the Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies allows us to include academics and students from the entire Boston area and further develop our ability to cultivate multiple approaches to migration and trafficking.

Our Mission Statement
Research. Education. Advocacy. Impact.



The Pardee School Initiative on
Forced Migration and Human Trafficking

Year in Review: FMHT 2015-2016

In 2015-2016, FMHT's activities focused on the three core areas of our mission: **research, education, and advocacy**. It was a busy year for FMHT, driven by heightened interest from students and faculty about topics related to forced migration and human trafficking. Our membership grew to over 40 BU members and faculty members from 4 Boston-area institutions, and our monthly newsletter reaches 121 people.

Our **research** activities focused on fostering, improving, and presenting the research conducted by our members. Director Noora Lori and Graduate Co-Chair Vicky Kelberer participated in a fact-finding mission in Amman and Istanbul in March 2016. As a result of the trip, Director Noora Lori and Graduate Co-Chairs Trish Ward and Vicky Kelberer were brought onto a **UNHCR research project on the Jordanian work permit program for Syrian refugees** that will continue through 2016-2017.

Founding Director Noora Lori also participated in an APSA-MENA Workshop in Beirut, and meetings with UNHCR in Amman in May-June 2016. She will be on leave next year to finish her book manuscript entitled "Offshore Citizens: The Rise of Permanent 'Temporary' Residency" about the outsourcing of labor and national identity in the Persian Gulf. Acting Director Kaija Schilde's Kaija Schilde's book "Building the European Security State" is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press in Spring 2017, focusing on the evolution of European internal security and border control policy and institutions, including the agenda-

"An unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees..."

*UN High Commissioner for
Refugees*

setting role played by private actors such as transnational security industry associations.

Graduate Co-Chair Vicky Kelberer presented research at a conference on Forced Migration at University of South Florida in April, and conducted research in Switzerland, Turkey, and Lebanon in May-June 2016. Graduate Co-Chair Trish Ward presented her recent work on Gulf country donations to refugee relief at the 16th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) conference and is currently preparing her dissertation prospectus related to issues of forced migration within the Middle East context.

FMHT members from the Law School led by Prof. Susan Akram conducted an initial legal research project along the migrant trail in Mexico in December 2015, and presented their findings at a panel in February. In March, **FMHT hosted a student paper roundtable** featuring papers from three of our student members, both graduate and

Year in Review: FMHT 2015-2016 (continued)

undergraduate, which were work shopped by three expert faculty members. Reactions from student participants can be read on Page 10.

FMHT's **education** initiatives took place both inside and outside of the classroom. In September, FMHT faculty member Prof. Susan Akram taught a **legal boot-camp to FMHT student members on domestic and international laws pertaining to refugees**. Former State Department official Joseph Livingston hosted a lunchtime discussion with student members in October regarding the US government's policy vis-à-vis refugees. Faculty member Prof. Irene Gendzier hosted a discussion of her new book "Dying to Forget: Oil, Power, Palestine, and the Foundations of US Policy in the Middle East" in January, **Director Noora Lori, Graduate Co-Chair Vicky Kelberer, and faculty member Christina Bain gave a panel for the Alumni Association** about forced migration and human trafficking in February. Additionally, FMHT hosted a series of **lunchtime discussions**, detailed in the box on Page 10.

These lunchtime discussions were held parallel to the **first FMHT class, IR 500 C1 Forced Migration and Human Trafficking**, taught by Director Noora Lori and TA'ed by Graduate Co-Chair Vicky Kelberer. The class produced reading lists as educational resources for other people interested in teaching or learning about topics related to FMHT. The class also resulted in the creation of a new model for policy classes, and a digital solution for refugees in Jordan, which

is described in-depth in the Spotlight on Page 2-3.

Finally, FMHT members engaged in **advocacy** activities around the world. In October, FMHT and BCARS sponsored a closed-door meeting with former State Dept. official Joseph Livingston, representatives from Save the Children, International Rescue Committee, and others to discuss the political and legal climate and challenges surrounding forced migrants in Turkey. Students in the FMHT course IR 500 C1 advocated with NGOs, government entities, and private corporations for more resources and support for Syrian refugees in Jordan. **Students in the class also wrote op-eds on topics related to FMHT, two of which have already been published with Huffington Post.**

On the March fact-finding mission in Jordan, Lori and Kelberer met with representatives from UNHCR, the Government of Jordan, Caritas, and the Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development, whose director is running for UN Secretary General, to discuss policies towards Syrians and other migrants living in Jordan. The new research collaboration with UNHCR as a result of these meetings will also include presenting policy recommendations to a variety of stakeholders in Jordan in 2016-2017. Lori and Kelberer won a grant from BU's Initiative on Cities to support this research in 2016-2017.

2015-2016 FMHT Highlights

Spring 2016 Lunchtime Discussion Series: Topics and Speakers

In Spring 2016, FMHT held a series of seven lunchtime discussions with prominent experts in the field as well as FMHT student members about their ongoing research. The speakers and topics were as follows:

- Feb. 19: “Digital Solutions and Displacement” with Noora Lori and the BU Global App Initiative
- Feb. 26: “Migration, Gender, and Medicine Across Cultures” with Dr. Lance Laird, Medical Anthropology, Medical School
- March 18: “Human Trafficking, Care, and the U.S. Healthcare Environment” with Jeff Nicklas, MS Candidate
- March 30: “Remittances, Forced Displacement, and Human Security” with Dr. Daivi Rodima-Taylor
- April 11: “Managing refugees through economic integration? Some case studies from the Middle East” with Dr. Oroub el-Abed, SOAS
- April 15: “Syrian Refugees and the Limits of Turkey’s ‘Open Door’ Policy”, Cigdem Benam
- April 22: “Refugees NGOs, Social Networks, and Urban Homemaking: Ethnographic observations from Cairo”, Dr. Anita Fabos



Student Working Paper Roundtable: Participants' Reactions

“It’s wonderful to see a community emerging at BU around forced migration issues. The group has provided a venue for the exchange of ideas across disciplinary boundaries, and I have found it incredibly rewarding to participate in discussions and meetings. The student roundtable was an excellent example of this kind of multidisciplinary in action - it ... enriched my own understanding of the complex facets of migration as a social phenomenon. The workshop

and the feedback I received has aided me in developing my doctoral dissertation research agenda, and I look forward to many more engaging and productive conversations with members of the FMHT group in the future.” - Calynn Dowler, Sociology PhD

“I found the roundtable to be very helpful because it gave me the chance to have my paper read by various individuals from different backgrounds... They also suggested the addition of information, which I had not considered before.” - Michelle Abou-Raad, BA in International Relations and MENA

Research, Education, and Advocacy in Action: FMHT Impacts in Jordan

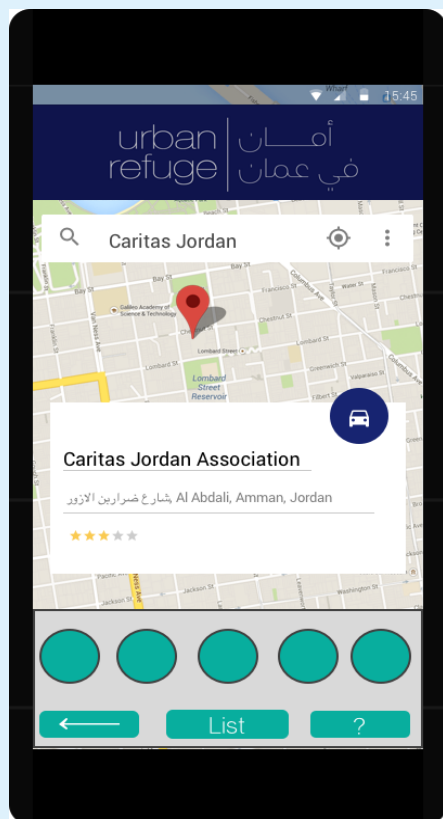
In March, FMHT Director Noora Lori and Graduate Co-Chair Vicky Kelberer visited Jordan as part of a BCARS-sponsored fact-finding mission. During the trip, they established contacts at UNHCR that led to a research partnership on a new project to assess the work permit program for Syrian refugees in Jordan. The project entails a working paper about the obstacles to refugee work permit access; a revision of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework, the evaluation tool used by every humanitarian agency in Jordan to assess refugee households' needs; and the creation of a standardized questionnaire to be used in town hall meetings with refugees. The project will be supported by a generous grant from the BU Initiative on Cities for its focus on refugees specifically located in Jordan's urban areas. The project will continue throughout 2016-2017, and the first products will be generated in August 2016.



"This research has direct implications for policy not only in Jordan, but for refugee host countries worldwide."

-Vicky Kelberer

From Classroom to Mobile Phones: The Urban Refuge App



The Urban Refuge mobile phone app project developed in Spring 2016 in IR 500 C1, taught by Acting Director Noora Lori, has continued past the semester's end. Despite the fact that many students in the class graduated from BU in spring 2017, the entire group signed on to continue the project into summer 2016. The student group is currently seeking funding from a variety of partners, including Uniqlo, BU Crowdfunding, TENT Foundation, Clinton Global Initiative, and Girl Boss, and are currently working to bring the app to market in Fall 2016. Microsoft and Google have both expressed interest in the project, and after successfully developing the Beta version the group plans to bring it to investors in both the public and private sectors to expand the app's market from Amman, to all of Jordan, to other host countries in the region, with the potential to reach urban refugees worldwide.

The Year Ahead: FMHT 2016-2017

In Fall 2016, Prof. Kaija Schilde will take on the roll of Acting Director of FMHT while current Director Noora Lori is on sabbatical. The following activities are currently planned for 2016-2017:

Research

- UNHCR Research Project on Syrian Refugees in Jordan (Fall and Spring)
- Student Working Paper Roundtable (Spring 2017)
- Research grants for students working on FMHT (Fall and Spring)

Education

- CAS IR 500 B1 Forced Migration and Human Trafficking in Europe, taught by Acting Director Kaija Schilde using the model introduced by Prof. Lori in Spring 2016 (Fall 2016)
- Fall Lunchtime Discussion Series on FMHT in Europe, held in concert with IR 500 (Fall 2016)
- Human Trafficking and Refugees Legal Bootcamps led by Profs. Julie Dahlstrom and Susan Akram (Fall and Spring)
- Panel discussion of current issues in human trafficking, featuring Profs. Dina Haynes, Christina Bain, and Julie Dahlstrom (Spring 2017)
- Panel discussion of the economics of forced migration, featuring Profs. Anna Hardman, Karen Jacobsen, and Robert E. Lucas (Spring 2017)

Advocacy

- Refugee benefit gala held with NGOs working in Europe (Fall 2016)
- Advocacy with Government of Jordan based on findings of UNHCR Research Project (Fall and Spring)
- Presentation of findings of UNHCR Research Project to State Dept., other migration stakeholders in Washington, DC (Spring 2017)
- Presentation of findings of UNHCR Research Project in academic article to be co-authored by Prof. Noora Lori and Vicky Kelberer (Spring 2017)



Digital Solutions and Displacement

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Inaugural Lunchtime Discussion

Join the FMHT for the first in a series of lunchtime discussions: Prof. Noora Lori will discuss technology's potential to address challenges of displacement in the context of the global refugee crisis. We will explore how apps, databases, and other tech tools can be applied to migration issues, and share ideas for our own projects.

RESCHEDULED: Friday, Feb. 19
12:00-2:00 p.m.

154 Bay State Rd., rm. 203
Pizza will be served, space is limited.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu



Migration, Gender, and Medicine across Cultures

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Lunchtime Discussion

Join the FMHT for the second in a series of lunchtime discussions: Prof. Laird will share his research regarding progress on pathways to care for Somali and Arab Muslim women experiencing domestic violence in the Greater Boston area. How does migration create new vulnerabilities for women? What are the barriers to care in existing program and shelters? What resources are available in religious and ethnic communities?

Friday, February 26th
12:00-2:00 p.m.

152 Bay State Rd., rm. 220
Pizza will be served, space is limited.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu



Remittances, Forced Displacement, and Human Security

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Lunchtime Discussion

Hundreds of billions of dollars are transmitted as migrant remittances every year. The ongoing global refugee crisis has resulted in millions of newly displaced. Although remittances are crucial for the livelihoods of those living in conflict-affected countries, very little is known about the dynamics of refugee remitting. Prof. Daivi Rodina-Taylor of the BU CFP and the Pardee School discusses remitting patterns and channels among forced migrants and IDPs and the profound impacts of these resource flows to the survival of those left behind.

RESCHEDULED: Weds., March 30
12:00-2:00 p.m.

121 Bay State Rd.
Pizza will be served, space is limited.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu



Human Trafficking, Care, and the U.S. Healthcare Environment

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Lunchtime Discussion

Medical Anthropology MS candidate Jeff Nicklas will share his research plan regarding access to healthcare among survivors of human trafficking in the United States. What does health and well-being mean to those who have survived a trafficking experience? What forms of care are available to these individuals? What barriers might exist for survivors of trafficking acquiring the care they need? Jeff will provide a background on human trafficking and the political-economy of access to care as well as share his master's thesis research plans for discussion and feedback.

Friday, March 18
12:00-2:00 p.m.
121 Bay State Rd.

Pizza will be served, space is limited.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu



Syrian Refugees and the Limits of Turkey's 'Open Door' Policy

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Lunchtime Discussion

Join FMHT and Dr. Cigdem H. Benam of Boston College for a Lunchtime Discussion. The Syrian civil war has become one of the worst man-made disasters in history, resulting in intense and brutal fighting, with non-state actors replacing the authority of the state, and the displacement of half of the population of the country. Turkey, as a neighbor of Syria with the longest borders, opened its doors to refugees and in couple of years became the number one refugee hosting country in the world. This was an unexpected move, since Turkey has not always been that welcoming towards mass refugees movements. Dr. Benam will discuss the sources and transformation of Turkey's policy towards Syrian refugees while questioning the sustainability of its 'open door' policy.

Friday, April 15
12:00-2:00 p.m.

121 Bay State Rd.
Pizza will be served, space is limited.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu



Refugee NGOs, Social Networks and Urban Homemaking: Ethnographic observations from Cairo

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Lunchtime Discussion

Join FMHT and Dr. Anita Fabos of Clark University for the final Spring 2016 Lunchtime Discussion. Humanitarian and aid agencies, policymakers, and planners have responded to the short-term needs of urban refugee populations with creative approaches to aid delivery, knowledge sharing, and other shifts in disaster preparedness. Despite the increasingly protracted circumstances of forced displacement, policies generally presume a temporary presence of refugees. What might we learn from the self-organizing efforts of urban refugees to create spaces of belonging and cultural meaning under protracted conditions? Reflecting upon her long-term fieldwork among Arabic-speaking Muslim Sudanese refugees in Cairo, Dr. Fabos presents observations about the historical and policy context that supported a vibrant Sudanese refugee NGO sector during the height of their displacement to Egypt. She proposes that Sudanese civil society organizing was contingent upon the fluid social networks that connected Sudanese to one another and to the idea of their Sudanese homeland.

Friday, April 22

12:00-2:00 p.m.

121 Bay State Rd.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu

Spring 2016 FMHT Lunchtime Discussion Series



Managing refugees through economic integration?

Some case studies from the Middle East

Pardee Initiative on Forced Migration and Human Trafficking
Lunchtime Discussion

Join Dr. Oroub el-Abed of SOAS to discuss her ongoing research. Since the arrival of Palestinians in neighbouring countries as refugees in 1948, economic integration has been suggested as a solution in light of the political challenges. The labels given to forced migrants, whether Palestinians, Iraqis or Syrians have differed, undercutting the principle of ensuring basic human rights for forced migrants. Such categorization offers a way of understanding policy agendas, economic interests and host state interest in the refugee issue. Most importantly, it serves in the rent-seeking agenda and the way it helps host country in its economic development projects or in funding its budget.

Monday, April 11

12:00-2:00 p.m.

121 Bay State Rd.
Pizza will be served, space is limited.
RSVP to migrant@bu.edu

Appendix A: List of Activities 2015-2016

Research

- Feb. 18: “Living in the Shadows - the Disappeared Migrants in Mexico”
- March 17: FMHT Student Working Paper Roundtable
- May-June: Vicky Research Trip
- Fact-finding mission in Amman and Istanbul with BCARS

Education

- Legal Boot Camp with Prof. Susan Akram
- Joe Livingston, PRM State Department - Open Student Discussion
- Jan. 25: “Dying to Forget: Oil, Power, Palestine, and the Foundations of US Policy in the Middle East.”
- Feb. 19: “Digital Solutions and Displacement” with Noora Lori and the Global Apps Initiative
- Feb. 26: “Migration, Gender, and Medicine Across Cultures” with Dr. Lance Laird, Medical Anthropology, Medical School
- March 18: “Human Trafficking, Care, and the U.S. Healthcare Environment” with Jeff Nicklas, MS Candidate
- March 30: “Remittances, Forced Displacement, and Human Security” with Dr. Daivi Rodima-Taylor
- April 11: “Managing refugees through economic integration? Some case studies from the Middle East” with Dr. Oroub el-Abed, SOAS
- April 15: TBA, Cigdem Benam
- April 22: TBA, Dr. Anita Fabos
- Pilot Course: IR 500 Forced Migration and Human Trafficking: Virtual Policy Incubator
- Forced Migration reading lists (class project)

Advocacy

- Closed door Workshop with BCARS, Save the Children, IRC, State Dept.
- Report to be published with BCARS
- Collaboration with NGOs and private entities in IR 500
- Meetings with officials in Amman and Istanbul
- IR 500 Op-Eds and Policy Papers
- IR 500 App Developed
- Video abstracts/takeaways

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