

Crossing Borders // Crossing Disciplines

Rethinking Inclusion, Exclusion, and Human Mobility

Annual Interdisciplinary Migration Conference
University of Oxford
17 & 18 May 2018
Worcester College

Oxford Migration Studies Society
The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) Migration and Mobility
Network

Program

Thursday 17 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College

2:00-2:30 - Walk in

2:30-3:00 - Keynote Speech by Professor Elleke Boehmer

3:00-3:15 - Coffee break

3:15-4:30 – The Craft of Belonging – Chaired by Nick van Hear

4:45-6:00 – Challenging Hospitality – Chaired by Gunvor Jónsson

Throughout the duration of the day, Thomas Nicolaou's photographic project 'Demarcation' will be on display.

Friday 18 May – Morning – Memorial Room, Worcester College

10:00-10:15 - Walk in with coffee

10:15-11:30 – Divided along Political Lines – Chaired by Dace Dzenovska

11:45-01:00 – Portraying in- and exclusion – Chaired by Ruben Andersson

1:00-2:00 - Break

Friday 18 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College

2:00-2:30 - Walk in with coffee and a simple sandwich lunch

2:30-3:45 - In- and Exclusion on the Labour Market – Chaired by Biao Xiang

4:00-5:15 – Vulnerabilities at the Edge of Inclusion – TBC

5:30-6:15 – Final Closing Address



Keynote

Thursday 17 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College
2:30-3:00 - Keynote Speech by Professor Elleke Boehmer

Elleke is Professor of World Literature in English in the English Faculty, University of Oxford, and currently Director of the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH). She is a founding figure in the field of colonial and postcolonial studies, and internationally known for her research in anglophone literatures of empire and anti-empire. She is also an acclaimed novelist and short story writer, most recently of *The Shouting in the Dark* (2015). Elleke Boehmer's creative work, like her critical and historical research, explores issues of migration, empire, identity, friendship, diaspora, race and gender representation, nationalism, and the global, in particular relating to sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and contemporary Britain. Professor Boehmer is a Professorial Governing Body Fellow at Wolfson College, and Deputy Director of the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Wolfson.

Photographic Display

'Demarcation'

Thomas Nicolaou – University of Westminster; Oxford Brookes University

My photo-montage work reimagines two geographic spaces (Oxfordshire and Cyprus) to explore how external elites can disrupt and exclude people from land, identity and belonging. Using archive, family and constructed photographs, I've reimagined conflated landscapes alluding to both personal and collective memories. After county boundary changes, Oxfordshire lost its old border to Berkshire. Similarly, Cyprus was confronted with a new sort of 'border' imposed as a result of the Turkish invasion. The green line (or buffer zone) remains administered by the U.N. Both of these 'borders' were 'created' in 1974.

Panels

Thursday 17 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College
3:15-4:30 – The Craft of Belonging – Chaired by Nick van Hear

Integration, exclusion and teaching gender norms to asylum seekers in Germany

Giselle Bernard – Department of International Development – Wolfson College, University of Oxford

Integration programmes for asylum seekers in Germany have significantly evolved since the 2015 'refugee crisis' to include compulsory 'orientation' modules dealing with 'German culture' and 'everyday life'. This paper will focus on the gender and sexuality aspects of the orientation programmes, and on the implications of teaching contested notions such as gender equality and appropriate gender roles to newcomers. It will question the notion of 'integration' and ask if these courses could in fact be read as new ways of establishing boundaries between progressive, feminist 'Us' and inegalitarian, traditional 'Them'. I will also discuss how building these boundaries through the teaching of gender and sexuality norms is a way of reconciling otherwise very different political actors and interests, namely women's rights advocates, far rights nationalists and a conservative, economically liberal government.

How Specific Primary Teachers' Practices Exclude Refugees and Migrants

Dana Dabbous – University of Edinburgh

This paper discusses the results of a case-study aimed at identifying primary school teachers' practices that enabled holistic learning for refugees and migrants across four schools in Glasgow. Through interviews and observations with teachers, it was revealed that there are many complex challenges that can emerge for teachers which limit their practices. The findings illustrated teachers were unaware of many policies required for schools to adhere to. Teachers lacked inter-cultural and intra-cultural knowledge of pupils' backgrounds. Additionally, teachers illustrated sensitivity and caution in promoting cultural backgrounds of pupils. Although the schools in this study adopted an ethos of inclusion and a commitment to promoting social justice, the evidenced practices among the participants of the study failed to illustrate this. Thus, unavoidably forming an exclusionary environment for migrant and refugee pupils in the classroom

Citizenship as border crossing: Negotiating inclusion in the national discourse

Lion König – Department of Politics and International Relations - St. Antony's College, University of Oxford

The paper argues that if the nation is a discursive project, then inclusion in the narrative is an essential requirement for the feeling of 'belonging' to the national community and being a citizen in the holistic sense of the term. In this context, the trope of the border becomes relevant, not only as a geographical demarcation, but also as a social, communicative, cultural, iconographic and symbolic measure. With contemporary India as its case study, the paper seeks to determine the ways in which discursive plurality has challenged existing power structures within the field of citizenship. By investigating into visual and textual 'crossings' of the dominant discursive borders established by self-proclaimed cultural guardians, it traces how groups and individuals negotiate belonging to the national community and (re-) position themselves in the discursive sphere of a multi-cultural society.

Turning the myth of return into reality? British Asian artists in India

Julia Szivak – School of Media – Birmingham City University

The myth of return to the homeland was often present in early British Asian music but it disappeared as musicians increasingly viewed Britain as their home. Even though, they still referenced India in their music, they expressed no desire to "return" any more. Interestingly, in the 21st century, many British Asians musicians relocated to India to pursue their careers there. Are these artists making the myth of return come true? Through looking at the trajectories of these artists, the paper seeks to expose the complex conceptual questions behind this specific stream of migration.

Thursday 17 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College

4:45-6:00 - Challenging Hospitality – Chaired by Gunvor Jónsson

Sites of inclusion/exclusion of African-origin refugees in urban Amman: Informal workplaces and NGO community centres

Zoë Jordan – Oxford Brookes University

The Sudanese refugee experience in Jordan is one of exclusion - from the humanitarian system, community support, education, and work. Yet daily practices reveal transient and informal sites of inclusion, places where refugees establish new relationships, familiarise themselves with host community practices, and gain access to financial and material support. Drawing on Sudanese experiences in two everyday urban sites - informal workplaces and non-governmental organisation (NGO) community centres – I explore how simultaneous but unequal processes of inclusion and exclusion operate and influence each

other in these two sites, and their wider impact on experiences of urban displacement for forced migrants.

The Unsanitary Route: Transience and Hospitality in Marseilles and Naples c. 1880-1914

Riccardo Liberatore – Brasenose College, University of Oxford

As emigration from Europe, including the Mediterranean, to the Americas grew in the late nineteenth century, the question of where and how to host transient populations became a growing concern for both sending, transit and receiving authorities. Together with shipping companies, they collaborated and competed to monitor the health of transit migrants and pre-emptively reject 'undesirables'. This paper explores the history of housing for transit migrants in Marseilles and Naples in order to explain how border controls have spread in the past.

Hospitality's 'Zone of Craft': Solidarity, Ambiguity, and Power in reception of immigrants in contemporary Palermo, Sicily

Maggie Neil – Department of International Development – Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

I examine mayor of Palermo, Italy, Leoluca Orlando's, "ambiguous" (Candea & Da Col) and "paradoxical" (Derrida) employment of the "metaphor" (Marcus) of hospitality. Is it a mechanism of radical solidarity/inclusion with newcomers? Is it a means of "re-imagining" the historically crime-ridden, beleaguered city? Is it a way to re-appropriate racist stereotypes of Sicily as the "Africa of Italy"? Is it a means of ensuring authority and simply reinforcing colonial/power dynamics? In this ethnography of the metaphor of hospitality, I seek to shed light on the mechanisms by which inclusion/exclusion occur, challenging the notion that they are born of opposing discourses or actions.

Humanitarianism as Containment: The Paradox of Inclusion and Exclusion

Alejandro Olayo-Mendez – University of Oxford

'Casas de migrantes' (migrant shelters) aiding migrants in distress in Mexico have become an informal social welfare system for Central American migrants and an outsourced welfare system for deported Mexicans. By providing aid to migrants, humanitarian actors foster a form of inclusion of vulnerable groups. However, due to the roles 'casas de migrantes' play in the migration process and to their internal procedures, these humanitarian spaces blur the line between a shelter and a detention centre and may function as a form of 'containment', which in turn excludes or singles out irregular migrants and deportees.

Friday 18 May – Morning – Memorial Room, Worcester College

10:15-11:30 – Divided along Political Lines – Chaired by Dace Dzenovska

The Roots of Inclusion: Re-empowering the EU's 'free movement of persons' through historical analysis

Dr. Cristina Blanco Sío-López – European Studies Centre – St. Antony's College, University of Oxford

This paper critically analyses the role of the multilevel European Union institutions' players in articulating resilient responses to evolving modes of exclusion since the inception of the Schengen Area in 1985. Key questions: What are the evolving modes of exclusion in transnational mobility in Europe and beyond? How can historical critiques be relevant to today's challenges to free movement of persons? What are the neglected solidarity and diversity dimensions of European integration? Can we articulate responses to humanitarian

dilemmas beyond security-centred conceptions of transnational mobility? Are narratives on 'shared values' sufficient to mediate countervailing factors of exclusion?

Behind the Border, Before the Law: Il-/legal Migration, the Securitized Welfare State, and the Role of the Economic Migrant in German Migration Politics

Merve Kania – SOAS, University of London

This paper draws from the case of Germany's im/migration policy debates from 1949 through 2002 and Giorgio Agamben's investigations of the figures of the Roman Homo Sacri and the 20th century 'stateless'. It argues for an expansion of Agamben's analyses of 'those who are not clearly associated to a legal area and, thereby, neither death nor alive but outlawed' towards the figure of the 'economic migrant and that the socioeconomic fears underlying their legal exclusion from rights and permits must be addressed for coming to terms with the realities of modern mobilities.

The Politics of Population in a Stateless Nation

Max Cohen – Department of International Development – Jesus College, University of Oxford

In this presentation, I am concerned with instrumentalist approaches to migration within proposals for a Scottish migration policy after the Brexit vote in 2016. In the context of acute anxieties over Scotland's ageing population, migrants are being addressed as economically productive age groups compensating and balancing national age proportions, while Scotland's older population are constructed as dependent and to be managed as a socio-economic risk. The ways in which the Scottish national identity has been cultivated through population statistics and Scotland's 'egalitarian myth' are central to historically situating this simultaneously exclusionary/inclusionary migration policy proposal.

Detention as a litigating strategy: Space, power, and exclusion in US immigrant detention

Hallam Tuck – Department of International Development – St. Antony's College, University of Oxford

My research focuses on the social production of immigrant detention in the United States of America, examined through a case study of the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia. I examine how the private corporations, enforcement officers, and bureaucratic officials that operate the facility negotiate the competing demands of detention as a duty of the state, administrative task, and profit-making activity. In particular, this paper focuses on how power is mobilized in detention contexts to achieve particular goals. Examining the specific case of Stewart Detention Center, I argue that critical focus to the internal logics and contradictions of power suggests that the discursive function of detention operates not through the direct abrogation of detainees' legal personhood, but through the manipulation of spatial and temporal orders that transform detainees into remote, removable subjects.

Friday 18 May – Morning – Memorial Room, Worcester College

11:45-01:00 – Portraying In- and Exclusion – Chaired by Ruben Andersson

Iconicity and recurrence of motifs: a procession of inclusion in the collective imaginary: the example of the representation of exile in the Mediterranean

Elsa Gomis – University of East Anglia

This paper studies the specific role of motifs inherent in images as leverage to get them across borders. It explores how the repetition of these motifs fosters inclusion of a specific imagery into a pre-existing one. Free from borders, motifs' circulation affects all kind of images, whether they be documentary or fictitious, media or artistic. In that purpose, it

examines four images related to exile in the Mediterranean: one connected to the iconic pattern of the Piéta; one evoking warlike operations; one discovered on the occasion of the shooting of a documentary part of my PhD and one recalling an abolitionist campaign against slavery.

Syro-Lebanese immigrants and refugees: Cultural sites of integration and resistance

Otared Haidar – Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford

In times of fear and death, millions of Levantines pushed their ways north and west, including hundreds of famous writers who were displaced to the same destinations. Their writings put in view their own experiences and experiences of their communities in the new setting. This paper applies an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the dominant discourse of mainstream media on forced immigrants and refugees, and the counter-discourse presented by writers. It presents their cultural works as a primary source for examining the complex process of integration and prospects and challenges of inclusion and exclusion during their resettling and rebuilding new lives.

Imminent Immigrants who steal jobs and abuse the welfare system: towards a discursive understanding of speech acts

Denny Pencheva – School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies, University of Bristol

The paper focuses on the portrayal of Bulgarians and Romanians in British news media. It adopts a multidisciplinary approach that seeks to demonstrate that i) cultural proximity is as important as cultural distance for successful securitisation, and that ii) the latter involves both continuity and change. Building on the premise that migration is quintessentially political, the argument suggests that there is a mutually constitutive relationship between discourse and speech acts, which reveals when and under what conditions the traditional ambiguity that marks the image of Bulgarians and Romanians in public imagination gains threatening qualities.

Disempowerment, Otherness and Exclusion: Discourses of climate change induced migration in the UK news media

Maria Sakellari – University of Brighton

Through critical discourse analysis, both image and text, and frame analysis this study explores the representations of climate change induced migration in online news media in the UK and demonstrates how news media focus their attention towards particular policies and interpretations and marginalize or exclude certain voices or solutions. In particular, dystopian imaginaries are raised in combination with state security or resource conflict concerns, which work to distance and disempower vulnerable communities. While the dialogue around climate change and migration is politically charged, news media fail to capture the political agency of climate migrants.

Friday 18 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College

2:30-3:45 – In/Exclusion on the Labour Market – Chaired by Biao Xiang

Labour Market Impacts of States Issuing of Driver Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants

Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, Esther Arenas-Arroyo (presenting), Almudena Sevilla – Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford

A new wave of regulation was a turning point in a series of restrictive immigration laws. This paper examines how state level policies granting undocumented immigrants access to driving licenses impact undocumented immigrants' employment outcomes and labour

incomes. We find that likely undocumented women increase their weekly hours of work by 5 percent in response to the availability of driver licenses. We find no similar impacts among likely undocumented men. At a time when anti-immigrant sentiments are at all-time high, understanding how these policies impact targeted groups and similarly skilled native populations is crucial for maintaining an informed immigration policy debate.

‘Neither Elites Nor Cosmopolitans,’ Effects of the Complexification of Visa Policies since the Nineties in the United States on Highly Skilled Immigrants’ Work Trajectories

Marcela F. González – Department of Sociology, Graduate Centre of the City University of New York

The complexification of legal statuses for highly skilled immigrants since the nineties entailed a differentiation of rights for immigrants. I refer to membership in democratic nation-states under permanent legal status as belonging with inclusion. The growth of temporary legal statuses has challenged this trend in democratic societies. Time spent in the U.S. on a temporary legal status neither counts toward nor qualifies immigrants for permanent residency, or even naturalization. I define temporary immigration as belonging with partial inclusion. Temporary immigrants belong to their society in many ways, but belonging does not imply the achievement of substantive rights, benefits, and an inclusive path to full membership.

Do Different Doors Lead to Different Paths? Reasons for Immigration and Job Search Methods

Zovanga Kone (presenting), Isabel Ruiz and Carlos Vargas-Silva – University of Oxford

This paper explores differences in job search methods between UK-born and foreign-born by reason for immigration to the UK (i.e. employment, study, family and asylum). We find key differences across groups, which partly reflect their likely interactions with UK-born and government authorities before joining the labour market. Those who migrated originally for study reasons are more similar to UK-born in their job search methods than other migrants. Those who migrated for employment reasons rely more on private agencies. Those who migrated for asylum reasons rely more on public employment agencies. These differences in job search behaviours could explain previous findings showing that migrants coming via particular routes integrate faster than others.

How do Syrian refugee workers challenge the supply chain management in Turkish garment industry?

Emre Eren Korkmaz – Department of International Development – St. Edmund Hall, University of Oxford

Rather than solely objectifying refugees as a vulnerable group, paying attention to their contribution to the industrial relations is crucial in order to acknowledge refugees as active agents capable of changing their lives and structures. Syrian refugees in Turkey follow a survival strategy based on their social networks that also affects and changes living and working conditions of local people and existing labour relations. The paper aims to focus on the relationship between the informal and formal sectors in Turkey and how such relations have affected the survival strategies of Syrian refugees. In turn, it also attempts to assess how the participation of Syrian refugees in the informal economy has changed this historical relation between formal and informal employment. Findings shared in this paper are based on observations and fieldwork carried out between August- December 2016 and June-August 2017. The findings of the fieldwork will shed light on how the massive employment of refugees in informal sector have changed the traditional relations among formal and informal sector and how this movement affected the supply chain management model of the Turkish apparel-textile industry.

Friday 18 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College4:00-5:15 – Vulnerabilities at the Edge of Inclusion – TBC**“I am Korean”: North Korean Defectors Negotiating Identity in London***Hyeyun Jeong (presenting) and Bridget Ryan – School of Sociology, University of Oxford*

In recent years, approximately 500 North Korean defectors have settled in New Malden, south-west London, living alongside a substantial and established community of over 10,000 South Korean immigrants. This paper presents the preliminary findings from in-depth interviews with a sample of these North Korean defectors and activists. Throughout the interactions with South Koreans, North Koreans, and non-Koreans in New Malden, North Koreans semi-strategically negotiate their identity according to the situations that they face. This paper exists as an early contribution to an emerging literature exploring the identity and experiences of North Korean defectors, who have the unique experience of escaping a twenty-first century totalitarian state.

Seeking informal asylum: Undocumented immigrants in the United States*Angela Remus – Department of International Development – Kellogg College, University of Oxford*

Why do people go to state authorities for asylum? What circumstances make it unlikely that someone will go to the authorities for asylum? I interrogate this question with respect to the 11.6 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, considering Central American immigrants most specifically. Paradoxically, for many who fear, pursuing ‘informal asylum’ by remaining in undocumented status offers protection that the formal asylum system does not. Asylum seekers are more than mere subjects in the state’s offer of asylum, and the social context in which an asylum seeker sits will influence their choice on whether to pursue legal status.

Less (Than) Human: Modes of social exclusion in the contemporary refugee crisis*Adrienne de Ruiter – European University Institute*

This paper identifies five modes of social exclusion in the contemporary refugee crisis based on interviews with 30 refugees and asylum seekers. The interview data yields the conclusion that refugees and asylum seekers often experience a sense of a loss of value. This sense of a loss of value can be produced by different types of exclusionary practices, which include, but are not necessarily limited to, humiliation, marginalisation, stigmatisation, inhumane treatment, and dehumanisation. The paper analyses the characteristics of each of these in order to highlight what is distinctive about dehumanisation compared to other exclusionary practices.

Losing a Driver's License in Los Angeles: Elder Mobility, Freedom and Care*Carrie Ryan – University of Oxford*

Cars symbolize freedom in America, and in freeway layered Los Angeles, access to automotive transport transcends self-rule and becomes a precursor for self-actualization. Losing a driver’s license in America is a significant rite of passage in an elder’s life and, especially in Los Angeles, symbolizes the loss of an elder’s independence and a return to a ‘child-like’ stage. This paper uses two years of ethnographic fieldwork at a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Los Angeles to reflect on the experiences of elders who recently lost a driver’s license or had it revoked, and who then relied on communal bus transportation. In particular, it draws attention to the ways in which elders speak about their new form mobility in relation to connectivity, access and control, and how these experiences connect to elders’ feelings of both inclusion in and exclusion from the city, community, kin, friends and self. Connecting bus riding to other forms of mobility, like moving from canes to

walkers to wheelchairs, this paper explores how forms of mobility restrict as well as enable elders, and how belonging, independence, and debility entwine.

Closing Address

Friday 18 May – Afternoon – Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College

5:30-6:15 – Final Closing Address – TBC