



The Inaugural MDS Graduate Student Colloquium: “Migration, Refugees & Citizenship”

November 27, 2015
3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
3112 River Building
Carleton University, Ottawa
www.carleton.ca/mds



Program

Panel 1 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Katie Durvin: “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Emergencies: Implementation of the Minimal Initial Service Package in Chad, Indonesia, Haiti, and Jordan.”

Toby Leon Moorsom: “Ethnicity, Environmental Change and Resource Conflicts in Africa: The Case of Tonga Farmers of Zambia.”

Michelle K Barron: “Cosmopolitan Skeletons and Coral; Resisting International Law’s Regulations of Bone Excavations.”

Panel 2 | 4:45 – 6:15 p.m.

Yalcin Diker: “The Refugee Crisis and analysis of European Union Policies: Recent Developments, Political Reactions and Discussions.”

Denise Hansen: “The refugee crisis as experienced by small-town Germany: lessons from Pinneberg.”

Jay Ramasubramanyam: “India’s proposed amendment to The Citizenship Act 1955 and a comparison to Israel’s Law of Return: Risky ideological positions with an exclusionary intent.”

Panel 3 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Alejandro Hernandez: “Analyzing Potential Push Factors for Mexican Immigration to Canada: An Exploratory Analysis.”

Leslie Muñoz: “State-led Forced Migration in the Canadian Context: An Inquiry into Canada’s Deportation Flights.”

Emma Bider: “An Alternative Telling: Blackness and the Story of Canada”

Titles, Abstracts, and Biographies.

“Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Emergencies: Implementation of the Minimal Initial Service Package in Chad, Indonesia, Haiti, and Jordan.”

In the norm literature, emphasis has traditionally been on norm institutionalization—the international level process whereby states develop normative ideas and ratify treaties and agreements. This approach, however, has been limited in explaining why norms are viewed differently across states and how implementation practices vary. To address this, Betts and Orchard (2014) developed a framework on the domestic ideational, material, and institutional factors that may affect norm implementation. This paper applies this framework to examine the implementation of the Minimal Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations, an international standard of care in emergencies. It argues that material factors—such as national health system capacity—are as, or more, important than ideational or institutional factors in the implementation of MISP. This paper examines the cases of Sudanese refugees in Chad, Syrian refugees in Jordan, and internally displaced persons during the Indonesian tsunami and Haitian earthquake.

Katie Durvin is a former TD Fellow in Migration in Diaspora Studies (2014-2015) and MA Candidate at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) specializing in Development Projects and Planning. Her main research interests lie in the relationship between gender, human rights, and conflict in humanitarian emergencies and is particularly interested in sexual and reproductive health and rights for displaced women, adolescents, and girls. For her graduate research project, she is conducting research on the implementation of the Minimal Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises, which is an international standard of care in humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. She is currently working as a Junior Analyst in the Health & Nutrition Bureau at Global Affairs Canada. Prior to this, she worked as a Research Assistant for Dr. James Milner preparing a SSHRC Connection Grant for an international conference hosted by Carleton University on "Power and Influence in the Global Refugee Regime". In 2012, she worked as Program Assistant for the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) in Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi and she has also worked in Kampala, Uganda at an orphanage and primary school.

“Ethnicity, Environmental Change and Resource Conflicts in Africa: The Case of Tonga Farmers of Zambia.”

Many existing political conflicts in Africa are driven by changes in agroecological systems, ongoing enclosures of communal lands and displacements of populations due to ecological

change, land-grabbing and agricultural commercialization. This could be argued in cases of the Sudans, the Central African Republic, Niger, Mali, Kenya, among others. The Plateau Tonga farmers in Zambia's Southern Province have been the subject of academic study for nearly 70 years and form part of a broader literature on the Tonga comprising upwards of 1200 sources. Yet there is one aspect of life that has evaded research. While migration from the Zambezi valley has long been examined, parallel processes from the plateau have been taking place since the 1940s. This paper seeks to advance research in this area with use of multiple sources of data. The data includes interviews conducted with farmers and agricultural officers in Southern Province and Central Province in 2007 and 2008. It is supplemented by an examination of newspaper articles archives of parliamentary records, and Zambian Ministry of Agriculture policy documents. I examine the reasons for migration, dynamics of family structure, and relations forged with local populations in host territories. Secondly, the paper considers changes in methods of production among migrants. Third, I assess some of the ways intimate aspects of social life are changing (religion, gender, inheritance practices and marriage). I examine the discourse of national debates on conflict over the extension of private-titled farming blocks that are disproportionately occupied by Tonga farmers. This provides insights into the evolving meaning of Tonga identity, and its implications in national politics. This study of climate change and rapid ecological transformation provides instructive insights into resource-driven migrations as well as ethnic and racial conflict in other parts of the continent. It also issues caution of potential future conflicts.

Toby Leon Moorsom is a PhD Candidate in History at Queen's University and a Sessional Instructor at the departments of African Studies and Political Science at Carleton University.

Cosmopolitan Skeletons and Coral; Resisting International Law's Regulations of Bone Excavations.

Bones lost in international waters harbour with them overlapping histories of movement and displacement. In the Middle Passage, bones submerged underwater are anchored in a violent history of ownership and oppression. In 2001 the specialized United Nations agency United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. This Convention was in response to an inadequacy of law to fully address the pattern of commercial exploitation of shipwrecks and cultural artifacts submerged underwater; however, the implication of the Convention involves the regulation and process of commodification of buried bones. Resisting the ownership of bones, M. NourbeSe Philip demands a figurative exhumation. Framing this dialogue around the waters and histories of the Middle Passage, my investigation incorporates an analysis of Philip's body of poetry *Zong!* in order to explore the way in which the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage's protectionist claims to colonized bones is perhaps an extension of the ownership of slave bodies. "What is the word for bringing bodies back from the water?" Philip asks. What marks those places of burial in underwater graves and how can someone reclaim the bones? Bound in both legal jurisdiction of the eighteenth century as well

as current laws governing international waters, Philip's poetry challenges the legal commodification and regulation of Afro-Caribbean bones as she seeks to unearth skeletons of diasporic narratives.

Michelle K Barron is an MA candidate for Legal Studies at Carleton University. She received her undergraduate degree in English with a minor in Law and Society and a second minor in Women's Studies from the University of Calgary. Her areas of interests revolve around the discussions around postcolonial literature, gendered spaces, Caribbean and African Diaspora narratives, and laws regulating bodies and spaces.

The Refugee Crisis and analysis of European Union Policies: Recent Developments, Political Reactions and Discussions.

Europe is straining under the refugee crisis. Dimitri Avramopoulos, the EU's Migration Commissioner, describes the current refugee crisis as "The worst refugee crisis in the world since the World War II". Respect for human rights is a core principle for the EU, hence, the EU is obliged to help refugees and asylum-seekers, and treat them within the EU borders humanely and with human dignity. However, there is significant public anxiety about irregular migration in Europe making this situation susceptible to exploitation by politicians and extreme parties. Europe, following North America, is one of the most attractive migration and asylum destinations in the world. According to studies, international migration benefits the EU because today the EU confronts dual demographic challenges: aging of population and population decline. The European Union authorities are aware that immigrants are needed for the EU's future; however, European citizens and member states have different sensitivities, priorities, and concerns regarding the social and economic issues. Also, some believe that refugee and irregular immigrants are harming the European Union by making European Societies less cohesive. This paper aims to analyze the current refugee crisis, political developments, challenges, public reactions and alternative European Union approaches.

Yalcin Diker is a graduate student in the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Istanbul University, and has previously worked as a lecturer in the Turkish Naval Academy and as a Naval Officer. His research interests include: the European Union (particularly relations between Turkey and the European Union), the Turkish Diaspora in Europe, ethnic conflict, maritime security, forced migration and diaspora politics. Along with his academic studies, he has been a journalist and columnist for an ethnic Canadian newspaper which focuses on Turkish Diaspora related issues. He has also served as President of Canadian Turkish Cultural Association and Vice President of The Federation of Canadian Turkish Associations.

“The refugee crisis as experienced by small-town Germany: lessons from Pinneberg”

The refugee crisis facing Europe today, specifically Germany, is one that cannot be solved by large, metropolitan cities alone. If asylum seekers to Germany are to be successfully incorporated into German society, they must be evenly be distributed and integrated into Germany’s smaller cities and towns in addition to its larger cities. So long as the largest migration since the Second World War in Europe continues, and so long as asylum seekers continue to choose Germany as their preferred destination, Germany – all of Germany and not just its major cities – will have to learn to cope with and integrate the newly arrived refugees successfully. This paper looks into how the refugee crisis is translating in one of Germany’s smaller towns – Pinneberg: population 40,000—and the effect it is having on service providers and residents. During the month of September, I worked as a daily intern/volunteer in Pinneberg’s only migrant centre, getting a firsthand look at how the refugee crisis is being experienced by Germany’s smaller town and regions. I spent time working with staff at the migrant centre, spent time in their offices, worked with other interns, talked and volunteered with refugees, sat in on programs and workshops as well as interviews, did a literature review of local newspapers and participated in daily German life for a month, seeing how an influx of 60 refugees (now more) per week was translating in this town. What I found was that Pinneberg, with little familiarity or resources for newcomers at its disposal, was becoming so overburdened that interactions between refugees and the host community were becoming increasingly hostile and resentful. Bureaucratic processes at the migrant centre were also becoming ever more frayed as volunteers and interns were given tremendously important tasks, while workers struggled to maintain functioning and efficient systems for the hundreds of new arrivals. If Germany is to deal with the influx of thousands of refugee seekers successfully over the coming years, small towns need to be able to cope with new refugee residents just as well as bigger cities. That means that infrastructure needs to be in place – at migrant centres and other communal town spaces – that better supports this growth of people and integration of them into the host society. The successful ability to use technology and volunteers is most important in this success.

Denise Hansen is a graduate student at the University of London in the UK and a freelance writer based in Toronto, Canada whose interests include comparative immigration/ integration policies across North America and Europe and race relations within Western societies. She has written for Canadian publications including *Canadian Immigrant*, *Canadian Dimension*, *Sway*, *THIS*, *MixedPress* and the *Media Co-op* on topics including immigration, mixed-race identity, Black History Month, and migrants in Germany. Her international publications include work for the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) about the health outcomes of Black Europeans (book title: *Invisible visible minority: Confronting Afrophobia and Advancing Equality for People of African Descent and Black Europeans in Europe*).

India's proposed amendment to The Citizenship Act 1955 and a comparison to Israel's Law of Return: Risky ideological positions with an exclusionary intent.

In May 2015, the Indian Government initialised the process of formally amending The Citizenship Act 1955, to grant citizenship to Hindu and Sikh refugees from neighbouring South Asian nations. This was preceded by the naturalisation of 4300 Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan since May 2014. Statements have been made by the ruling government vis-à-vis India's implicit need to accept responsibility for Hindus and Sikhs, who are at risk of persecution in neighbouring Muslim majority countries. Such steps not only highlight the government's ideological position, but also accentuate the system's limited understanding of refugee issues. If the Act were to be amended, it will draw parallels to Israel's Law of Return that emphasises exclusionary overtones. The proposed move by India highlights issues such as inconsistency in citizenship policy, discrimination based on religion, *quasi-conformity* to international refugee policy, and most importantly a contradiction to the pre-existing Assam Accord policy, according to which all persons who crossed over from Bangladesh after 1971 during the Liberation War, are to be deported. In this paper I will analyse the proposed shift in the Indian citizenship policy which could stimulate debates on deviation from the Assam Accord policy, the *jus sanguinis* norm as favouring only Hindus and Sikhs, and finally invite criticisms on its ability to protect minorities. I will highlight the need for a harmonised national refugee policy and commitment to international norms on forced migration, sans which India continues to run the risk of deciding on such issues informally, driven by political, religious, and ideological considerations. I will also compare India's proposed move to Israel's *Law of Return* that allows persons of Jewish ancestry to assume Israeli citizenship, criticisms of which, have pointed towards Israel's creation of a policy of religiously exclusive citizenship. Finally, I will look at how policy on naturalisation of refugees is shaped in both nations without the presence of a coherent national refugee policy.

Jay Ramasubramanyam is a first year PhD student in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University. He was previously employed by the UNHCR and the ICRC in their missions in New Delhi. His areas of interest encompass forced migration, refugee policy, statelessness, human rights and climate change. While in Carleton, Jay will study the implications of climate change on juridical personality and legal status of citizens of low lying island nations and also explore the challenges of adapting International Law to devise solutions to protect them, by studying the applicability of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1954 Statelessness Convention in this regard.

Analyzing Potential Push Factors for Mexican Immigration to Canada: An Exploratory Analysis.

Latin American and particularly Mexican immigration to Canada is a somewhat recent phenomenon. While some of the identified reasons for Mexican immigration in the literature

focus mostly on the socio-demographic composition of migrants, there is both a lack of engagement with a broader macro politico-economic analysis to explain such migration and, in some cases, a critical approach to either the hypotheses established or the analysis of the findings. While making use of a politico-economic theoretical framework, this paper seeks to further advance our understanding of Mexico's macro-structural reasons or push factors that potentially led a number of Mexicans to migrate permanently to Canada. I will analyze the development of some of the politico-economic conditions that Mexico experienced since the 1960s, and particularly will emphasize the introduction of the neoliberal model implemented in the 1980s, contending that neoliberal practices created propitious circumstances for demographic displacements from Mexico not only to the United States but potentially to Canada, although to a lesser extent.

Alejandro Hernandez is a doctoral student in Sociology with specialization in Political Economy and a Vanier scholar at Carleton University. His academic interests are broad –ranging from youth to migration to social exclusion– as well as his interest in volunteering activities, such as radio production.

State-led Forced Migration in the Canadian Context: An Inquiry into Canada's Deportation Flights.

This paper describes preliminary findings of a thesis research project on state-led forced migration aboard deportation flights in the Canadian context. Deportation statistics more than doubled over a period of 10 years from a total of 8, 683 in 2002-2003 to 18, 946 in 2012-2013. Most of these removals involved rejected refugee claimants and ranged in price from \$1,500-\$15,000. Other more costly deportations featuring chartered aircraft and escort personnel totalled over \$1 million. Using empirical evidence obtained through access to information requests, media sources and from select corporate documents produced by the Canada Border Services Agency, I explore the emergence of increasingly exclusionary and austerity contradicting trends in Canadian immigration enforcement while focusing on the mechanisms and partnerships in place to carry out forced removals. I argue that the deportation passage is a carefully mediated spectacle of biopolitical and sovereign governance implicating a diverse range of actors and functioning to violently (and secretly) remove a criminalized 'deportspora' from the settler-colonial Canadian landscape. My findings also demonstrate the weaponization of corporate airpower against excluded foreign nationals and the stateless, while offering a counter-history of deportation characterized by resistance, escapism and indigenous solidarity.

Leslie Muñoz is a second year MA student at Carleton University's Institute of Political Economy. Her research interests include the political economy of migration and mobility, immigration enforcement and migrant justice resistance.

An Alternative Telling: Blackness and the Story of Canada

The story of Canada is just that: a story. However, this story has been told through the voices of white settlers, and consequently, it excludes other points of view, by making them seem outside the realm of possibility. The story of Canada is so well engrained in our minds that it comes as a surprise whenever we hear an alternative telling that accounts for other actors in Canada's history. My podcast complicates our common understanding of Canada's history by deconstructing it, while telling some key stories about Black-Canadians and asking why there are not included in the over-arching, hegemonic story of Canada. Stories help us define ourselves. They have power. How are stories used to control and marginalize people, and how does that impact Black people in Canada today? These are the questions I hoped to explore in my podcast. For the colloquium, I would like to combine an oral presentation with clips from the podcast. I would begin by introducing my interest in the topic and the medium of storytelling I chose, before going into a more in-depth discussion about how Black-Canadian stories are excluded from the official Canadian narrative, and how that is problematic for our understanding of Canadian identity. Interspersed in this discussion, I would use clips from Peter Hodgins, Debbie Owusu-Akeeyah and Carmen Poole.

Emma Bider is a recent Carleton graduate with a degree in Journalism and African studies. Her research interests include the intersection of ethnic identity and conflict, post-conflict cultural identity, and modes of artistic expression used to articulate identity in Africa. She is also interested in subversive cultural practices and the role women play in re-constructing and defining ethnic identity after conflict. Emma has travelled to Burkina Faso for six weeks to intern with Farm Radio International, a Canadian NGO that disseminates farming information and best practices to rural communities in Burkina and several other countries in Africa. She has studied in the Netherlands and participated in a three-week course in Rwanda on the media's role in the 1994 genocide. She was recently one of ten students to win the inaugural Provost Scholar Award at Carleton University.