



CONFERENCE
PROGRAMME

The Global Refugee Crisis

mobile people under state protection or exploitation?

5 & 6 January 2018

MEI Conference Room | Level 6
Block B | 29 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119620

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

The wrenching image of a three-year-old Syrian boy whose lifeless body washed up on the shores of the Mediterranean, repeatedly appearing on multiple media platforms in September 2015, shocked the world. In recent years, large numbers of people have been displaced in the Middle East and North Africa on a scale not seen since WWII, due to conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Among these are people fleeing persecution and violence, as well as others running away from instability and poverty, in search of better living conditions. Of the millions who have so far left their homes in search of protection, some have received asylum, while many others experienced discrimination and rejection, fell victim to trafficking, or perished in the course of flight. Thousands have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea. The refugee crisis has now become a global humanitarian disaster.

These mass movements demand scholarly attention not only from a humanitarian perspective, but for their impact on the global political structure and economic system as well. Western countries have been divided in their responses to the crisis, and in some societies racism and xenophobia against migrants and refugees alike have been exacerbated.

The Relational Studies on Global Crises Project, an inter-university academic project sponsored by a KAKENHI grant-in-aid in Japan since 2016, considers global phenomena such as this refugee crisis to be products of a web of interconnections. The Project focuses on the transformation of those relationships, rather than on the essential qualities of actors. The problems of refugees and migrants cannot be ascribed to these mobile persons themselves, but rather to dysfunctional relations within an increasingly global economic and political system.

The Center for Relational Studies on Global Crises (RSGC) at Chiba University, a key operations centre for the Project, is holding this conference in collaboration with the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. The conference will serve as a forum for examining and exchanging ideas on the Global Refugee Crisis. Singapore and Southeast Asia, a crossroads of Asia and the Middle East, is a particularly apt location for such a forum. The organizers hope this collaboration between two Asian research institutions, MEI and RSGC, will contribute to the development of interdisciplinary approaches to refugee and migrant problems from a new perspective focusing on networks and relationships. We hope the conference and its conclusions will foster more international approaches to the problem of refugees and migrant workers among scholars and policy makers, especially in Asia.

The Global Refugee Crisis is a 2-day international conference jointly organised by the following organisations:



Front & Back Cover Images: Clemens Bilan/Getty Images:

Art Installation by Ai Weiwei outside the Gendarmenmarkt Concert House in Berlin where the artist adorned the columns of the concert house with 14,000 life jackets previously worn by refugees trying to make it to Europe.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY 2018

08.45 - 09.15 AM

Registration & Refreshments

09.15 - 09.30 AM

Welcome Address

Professor Engseng Ho

Director, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

Professor Keiko Sakai

Head, Center for Relational Studies on Global Crises, Chiba University

9.30 - 10.30 AM

Panel 1 - Opening Roundtable

Relational Studies on Global Crises: a new approach to tackle refugee issues as a global crisis

Professor Keiko Sakai

Head, Center for Relational Studies on Global Crises, Chiba University

Professor Yasuyuki Matsunaga

Graduate School of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Professor Keiichi Kubo

School of Political Science & Economics, Waseda University

Professor Engseng Ho

Director, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

10.30 AM - 10.45 AM

Coffee Break

10.45 - 12.15 PM

Panel 2 - Displaced Syrians in Europe and the Middle East

Chair: Professor Kota Suechika, Ritsumeikan University

Assistant Professor Emel Akçali,

Swansea University, Wales, UK

The Little Aleppo: the Neighbourhood experiences of Syrian refugees in Adana, Turkey and the limits of refugee governmentality

Associate Professor Aiko Nishikida

Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Syrian refugees in Sweden: Their struggle for adaptation

Ms Laurence Vandenborre

Founder & Managing Director, The Red Pencil (International)

Fostering Rehabilitation and Integration for Children and Families - Victims of War Conflicts and Displacements

12.15 - 1.15 PM

MEI- Emirates NBD Middle East Essay Prize Ceremony

Presentation of Prize Winning Essay

Mr Peter Ooi Teik Aun

Ex-Gazans in Jordan: From Legal 'Outsiders' to Political 'Outsiders'

1.15PM - 2.15 PM

Lunch

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY 2018

2.15 - 3.45 PM

Panel 3 - Contemporary Crises and the World

Chair: Dr Alistair Cook, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies,
Nanyang Technological University

Dr Francesca Albanese

Georgetown University

Palestinian Refugees in South East Asia: Protection Considerations after 70 years of Exile

Professor Hikari Ishido

Chiba University

Rohingya in Myanmar

Ms Carla Hung

DUKE University

The Political Reverberations of an Eritrean Border from Ethiopia to Italy

3.45 - 4.00 PM

Coffee Break

4.00 - 5.30 PM

Panel 4 - Refugees and Migrants as Political "Pawns"

Chair: Associate Professor Dai Yamao, Kyushu University

Dr Victor Kattan

Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

The Persistence of the Palestinian Refugee Problem

Ms Nayereh Aligholikhamsheh

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Investigating the Causes Behind the Lack of Integration of Afghan Refugees in the Iranian Society

Dr Ayako Sasaki / Associate Professor Reiko Ogawa

Chiba University

Migrant Careworkers and Students in Japan: Trained or Exploited?

5.30 PM

END of Day One

SATURDAY, 6 JANUARY 2018

8.30 - 9.00 AM

Registration & Refreshments

9.00 - 10.45 AM

Panel 5 - Asian Migrant Workers in the GCC

Chair: Associate Professor Teresita del Rosario, National University of Singapore

Assistant Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu

College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

Migrant Dubai: South Asian Lives in an Arab Global City

Associate Professor Masaki Matsuo, Utsunomiya University &

Professor Masako Ishii, Rikkyo University

Neo-Plural Society and International Migration

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 6 JANUARY 2018

10.45 - 11.00 AM

Associate Professor Tomoko Fukuda

Chiba University

Transnationalism and Pakistan and Afghan Migrant Entrepreneurs Dealing Used-Cars and Car-Parts in Japan and the UAE

Coffee Break

11.00 - 12.30 PM

Panel 6 - Dealing with Anti-Refugee/Migrant Sentiments

Chair: Professor Yasuyuki Matsunaga, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Mr Theopilus Kwek

Independent Researcher

Reading Rejection: South East Asian States' Responses to the Rohingya Crisis

Associate Professor Chikako Mori

Hitotsubashi University

The Securitization of Refugees and the Rise of Anti-Refugee Attitudes in France: from a Threat to Social Inclusion to a Risk of Terrorism

Associate Professor Chong Young-hwan

Meiji Gakuin University

Included in Sanctions, Excluded from Rights: Japanese Racism and the Koreans in Japan

12.30 - 1.30 PM

Lunch

1.30 - 3.00 PM

Panel 7 - Legal Protection for Migrant Workers and Refugees

Chair: Mr Matthew Seet, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Jamie Chai Yun Liew

Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

Humanitarian, Irregular, Illegal: the Role of the Law in Refugee Protection

Assistant Professor Yumi Nakayama-Takagi

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

The Transformation of Japanese Refugee Policy and Refugee Crises: the Relational Change Between UNHCR, State Actors and Non-State Actors

Mr Alistair Boulton

UNHCR (Assistant Regional Representative)

The Return of the Mass Flight

3.00 PM

END of Conference

3.15 - 4.15 PM

Closed-Door Roundtable - Concluding Discussions

(speakers and chairs only)

Relational Studies on Global Crises: a new approach to tackle refugee issues as a global crisis

Since the beginning of the 21st Century, we have been witnessing unprecedented patterns of conflicts, clashes, cross-border social and political networks prevail, which synchronize, interact and are interrelated each other. The large numbers of displaced people from the Middle East and North Africa, mainly due to conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Libya, have not been seen since WWII. Of the millions who have so far left their homes in search for protection, some have received asylum, while many have experienced rejection and discrimination, fallen victims of trafficking, or perished during the journey. The phenomenon increasingly mirrors a humanitarian disaster. In order to tackle with this “global crisis”, we need to introduce new perspectives to analyse various factors, that is, the Relational Studies on Global Crises (RSGC). RSGC considers global phenomena as products of a web of interconnections, and focuses on the transformation of those relationships, rather than on the actors’ essential qualities. As refugee/migrant problems cannot be ascribed to the mobile people themselves, but to “subsystems of an increasingly global economic and political system,” where migration should be understood as a “collective phenomena” (Castles and Miller 2009), they mirror the intertwined and complicated situation of the contemporary globalized world. Panel I discusses the possibility of new interdisciplinary and cross-cutting academic approaches of the RSGC, combining various analytical methods in human and social sciences, for grasping the “new global crisis” expansively, and pursuing a future global society based on co-existence with diverse social/ political/ economic /cultural groups.



Professor Keiko Sakai

Dean

Center for Relational Studies, Chiba University



Professor Engseng Ho

Director

Middle East Institute

National University of Singapore



Professor Yayusuki Matsunaga

Graduate School of Global Studies

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies



Professor Keiichi Kubo

School of Political Science and
Economics

Waseda University

Displaced Syrians in Europe and the Middle East



Assistant Professor Emel Akçali **Department of Politics and International Relations** **Swansea University**

Emel Akçali is a senior lecturer at the Department of Politics and International Relations, Swansea University in Wales, UK. Prior to coming to Swansea, she was a resident fellow at the IMERA - Institute of Advanced Study of Aix Marseille University in France and an assistant professor at the International Relations Department of Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. Her teaching and research interests span the state, society, conflict and politics in the Middle East and North Africa, social movements, upheavals and (trans-)formation of collective identities in the age of globalization, the limits of neoliberal governmentality outside of the Western realm, critical realist philosophy and non-Western and alternative globalist geopolitical discourses. She has been awarded the CEU Institute of Advanced Study and Aix-Marseille University Institute for Advanced Study resident fellowships for her on-going research on the challenges of state and societal transformation in post-revolutionary Tunisia. She is the author of *Chypre: Un enjeu géopolitique actuel* (l'Harmattan, Paris, 2009) and her work has been published in *Political Geography*, *Security Dialogue*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, *Antipode*, *Annals of the American Geographers*, *Asian Journal of Social Sciences* and *Geopolitics*. She has also recently published an edited volume from Palgrave entitled *Neoliberal Governmentality and the Future of the State in the Middle East and North Africa*.

The Little Aleppo: the Neighbourhood Experiences of Syrian refugees in Adana, Turkey and the Limits of Refugee Governmentality

The current international refugee regime presents significant limitations in the ways it deals with the refugee crises. Following a discussion of such limitations, this article pieces together the daily realities of the Syrian refugees, the impact of their arrival on and interaction with the local population in Kocavezir, Şakirpaşa, Denizli and Sarıçam, the neighbourhoods of Adana, Turkey, that have hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees and have become known as the Little Aleppo. The analysis of Syrians' experiences that emerge in their new settlements sheds new light on the ways in which urban refugees are able to increase their own agency and choose the solution most appropriate to their own particular circumstances, rather than depending on the few choices offered to them by the international refugee governmentality. The locals, in return, are motivated by the newcomers' presence to re-assess their own socio-economic positions and choices in the land of nation-states, even though encounters with the refugees may at times elicit negative feelings.

PANEL TWO

Displaced Syrians in Europe and the Middle East



Associate Professor Aiko Nishikida Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia & Africa Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Aiko Nishikida is Associate Professor (Ph. D) of Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Her major is Middle Eastern studies, political science, and anthropology. Her publications include "Repeated Migration of Refugees from the Middle East : Dynamics and Perception of Arab Migrants-refugees to the Nordic Countries," *Hiroshima Peace Research Journal*, 4, 13-33, 2017 (in Japanese); *Citizenship for Migrants and Refugees: A Comparative Study of Institutions and Practices of Inclusion and Exclusion from Nation-States*, Tokyo: Yushindo-Kobunsha, 2016 (in Japanese); Nishikida, Aiko and Shingo Hamanaka "Palestinian Migration under the Occupation: Influence of Israeli democracy and Stratified citizenship," *Sociology Study*, 3 (4), 247-260, 2013; *Palestinians in Diaspora: Watan and their national identity*, Tokyo: Yushindo-Kobunsha, 2010.

Syrian Refugees in Sweden: Their struggle for adaptation

For the refugees resulting from conflicts in the Middle East, European countries have been attractive places for migration over decades. The recent wave of the Syrians in 2015 was one of the pivotal case of the migration. Due to the kind acceptance policy and stable economy, Germany followed by Sweden was chosen as their main destination. This paper deals with the cases of the Syrian refugees in Sweden and investigate their daily struggle for adaptation. Why did they choose to come to Sweden? What kind of problems do they face after their arrival? How do they feel about their life after migration? Based on the field survey in Sweden, these questions will be clarified. After the continuous terror attacks by the Islamic State, however, the kind acceptance policy in most of the European countries were affected and changed. Sweden was not an exception, and the influence will be also covered in the presentation.

Displaced Syrians in Europe and the Middle East



Ms Laurence Vandendorre Founder and Managing Director The Red Pencil (International)

Laurence Vandendorre is a Registered Arts Therapist, with a background of professional Counseling who first practiced arts therapy at Raffles Hospital before opening her own private practice. She has also 15-year experience of working with inmates, male and female, from Changi Prison. She is the Founder and Managing Director of “The Red Pencil”, an International Arts Therapy Humanitarian Foundation whose mission is to bring the benefits of arts therapy to children, adults and families on their pathway to well-being, with a particular attention to those facing overwhelming situations for which they have no words, yet whose sufferings need attention, expression, relief, release and ultimately healing. As of today, The Red Pencil has been intervening in 28 countries and works in partnership with major humanitarian organizations to be their psychosocial force to support children and families in peril towards long-term recovery.

Fostering Rehabilitation and Integration for Children and Families - Victims of War Conflicts and Displacements

This paper will focus on the art therapeutic work done by The Red Pencil in Lebanon for children in Refugee camps, in Kurdistan to bring a Train the Trainer for counselors and psychologists working with the children and in Belgium for the asylum seekers to support their harmonious integration in their country of adoption. The Red Pencil is a pioneer international humanitarian organization (a registered charity with an Institute of Public Character status, in Singapore and in Geneva, and a registered NPO in UAE) whose expertise is to bring the benefits of arts therapy to vulnerable children and families who are victims of overwhelming life circumstances such as political conflicts, natural disasters, abuse or long-term hospitalizations, for which they have no words. The creative process of drawing (music and/or movement/dance) allows them to express the unspeakable, to experience release and relief, to find new resources, gain self-confidence and feel empowered to move on towards a more hopeful and happier life. The Red Pencil is dedicated to the resilience and long term recovery of the most vulnerable from all walks of life, to allow them to grow and become healthy and happy human beings for the world of tomorrow.

Displaced Syrians in Europe and the Middle East**Associate Professor Namie Tsujigami (*not present*)
Centre for Middle Eastern Studies
University of Tokyo**

Namie Tsujigami is Project Associate Professor at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, the University of Tokyo and Professor of Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies. As Visiting Researcher at the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, she has conducted fieldwork research on women's movement, network, agency and transnational migration in Saudi Arabia. Among her publications, she has published two single-authored books on gender in the Middle East; *Gender and Power in Contemporary Saudi Arabia: A Discourse Analysis from the Perspective of Foucauldian Theory of Power*. Akashi Shuppan, 2011 (in Japanese) with a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), an award provided to creative and pioneering research, as well as *Gender Order in Muslim World: Women's Struggle after the 'Arab Spring'*. Akashi Shuppan, 2014 (in Japanese). Her most recent publication includes "Higher Education and Changing Aspirations of Women in Saudi Arabia", In Dale Eickelman and Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf eds., *Higher Education Investment in the Arab States of the Gulf: Strategies for Excellence and Diversity*. Gerlach Press, 2017.

"Queens of Syria": Refugee Women's Experiment of Theatre Play and Its Therapy

Following the turmoil that resulted from the "Arab Spring", the number of refugees and displaced people from Syria has increased rapidly. This sudden influx of people to Arab and European countries that received refugees and displaced people, and the resulting economic and financial effects have caused political and cultural frictions. Nevertheless, circumstances of individual refugees are hard to be seen from the macro point of view. Particularly, there has been a noticeable gender-related violence and a decline in women's social status. According to the Global Gender Gap Report published annually by the World Economic Forum, Syria was ranked 142 out of 144 countries in gender equality in 2016. Previously, Syria was considered high in terms of the status of women compared to other Arab countries. But as a consequence of the prolonged conflict, Syrian women now are in an extremely unequal status in political and economic participation. Therefore, this paper investigates the migration experience of those who had to escape the country. In this study, we focus on a theatre screenplay and participant experience of Syrian refugee and displaced women in Jordan to examine the experience of migrating Syrian women refugees which has not been explained from a micro point of view.

Contemporary Refugee Crises and the World



Dr Francesca Albanese **Institute for the Study of International Migration** **Georgetown University**

Francesca Albanese is an international lawyer with twelve years of experience in the field of human rights, including with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and more recently with the UN Agency for Relief and Work of Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Since 2015, Francesca has turned into a full time researcher and writer of a new, revisited edition of Lex Takkenberg's seminal work on *The Status of Palestinian Refugees in International Law* (OUP 1998). The new manuscript, co-authored with Takkenberg – provisional title *A Tale of Fragmentation and Opportunity: the Status of Palestinian Refugees in International Law* – is expected to be published by OUP in 2018. Francesca's research is affiliated to the Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University. Francesca has an LL.B (Hons.) from Pisa University and an LL.M from SOAS University. Over the years, she has written various articles and op-ed on Palestinian refugees and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (most recent "Palestinian Refugees in South East Asia: the new frontiers of a seventy year exile", *Palestinian Yearbook of International Law*, forthcoming).

Palestinian Refugees in South East Asia: Protection Considerations after 70 years of Exile

Despite the general lack of asylum frameworks in the region, in recent years the number of refugees and asylum seekers's arrivals in South East Asian has been on the rise. One unprecedented trend is the arrival of Palestinian refugees, whose exile – as a people – has lasted 70 years and known various waves of displacement. The paper discusses this new phenomenon and the available data on Palestinian refugees in South East Asia, particularly Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, where sizable numbers are reported and relatively reliable information exists. It then explores the legal status and general treatment (e.g. enjoyment of basic rights) afforded to Palestinian refugees in these countries and the extent to which they can be 'differentiated' from other refugee groups. Eventually the papers offers some observations on current protection and legal status needs and priorities for these refugees and reflects on whether the situation of Palestinian refugees offers an opportunity for comparison with other refugee situations

PANEL THREE

Contemporary Refugee Crises and the World



Professor Hikari Ishido **International Economics** **Chiba University**

Hikari Ishido is Professor of International Economics at Chiba University. He was born in 1969, graduated from the University of Tokyo (with degrees in engineering and economics) and the University of London (with MSc and PhD in economics). He formerly served as Programme Officer at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and as Research Fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) within Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). He has given lectures at various international organizations including the United Nations, and has published various journal articles as well as books on the theory and empirics of international trade and investment.

Rohingya in Myanmar

One of the fundamental factors in the current Rohingya problem is that people who are regarded as “Rohingya” in the province of Rakhine originally came from the “West” (or South Asia, especially the neighboring country of Bangladesh, as among the world’s poorest countries); they were brought in during the British colonial policy. When Burma (Myanmar) later became independent from the UK, however, there was a “transformation” in the nature of the conflict, so we see terms such as “illegal refugees” in the country and the government of Myanmar that controls it. Also, since Myanmar and Bangladesh in neighboring countries have also implemented the “sovereign state system” in the Western sense, after gaining independence those without “nationality” are not protected by the sovereign nations, or are excluded by the law enacted by the states.

The idea of integrating Burma (Myanmar) after independence is what is called “Burmese Way to Socialism.” It is said that the government hoped to modify mainly Soviet Union’s Marxism (socialism as a purely ideal form) into a “Burmese Way” which places an expectation for the construction of the nation to have Buddhism as its main policy axis. From the rebellion against the British (a Christian nation) and their colonial rule, there seems to have arisen the idea of Burma’s original integration as a Buddhist nation. This philosophy is also the cause of the preferential policies for the Burmese people and the “Rohingya problem” (non-Buddhists). This problem serves as a centrifugal force against Myanmar’s national integration.

Contemporary Refugee Crises and the World



Ms Carla Hung
PhD Candidate
Duke University

Carla Hung is a doctoral candidate in Cultural Anthropology and a graduate certificate student in Women's Studies at Duke University. She is currently in the throes of ethnographic field research on the conceptual and functional role of Catholic charity in Italy's political asylum process looking specifically at how Eritrean asylum seekers navigate through and/or apart from these care networks. Her work investigates how Catholic charities in the Italian context utilize unique resources (infrastructure in voluntary labor, financial aid partially derived from state taxes through the 'otto-per-mille' program, overseas and return missions, etc.) that allow them to respond to mobile populations in ways that sometimes mimic state services, sometimes supplement state resources, and sometimes undermine state policies. Her work attempts to understand how certain care practices come to be considered humanitarian and why others are denied that designation.

The Political Reverberations of an Eritrean Border from Ethiopia to Italy

This paper seeks to understand the political climate of Eritrean asylum seekers migrating to Italy by investigating the lasting effects of the Eritrean-Ethiopian borders conflict in the Badame region which has extended from the Eritrean-Ethiopian War of 1998-2000 to the most recent 2016 Tserona clashes. The failure of the governing entities of both Eritrea and Ethiopia, in addition to the negligence on the part of the international community, to respect and implement the rulings of the 2002 boundary commission (EEBC) following the 2000 Algiers peace agreement has been leveraged by the current Eritrean political party in power to delay the implementation of the constitution post-independence and enact dictatorial and militaristic policies from which Eritreans have been conscripted to seek political asylum elsewhere. I argue that the absence of an agreed upon delineation of the Eritrean-Ethiopian border has led to the proliferation of border crossings and contestations of political authorities competent to advocate for the rights of Eritrean nationals. For the past two decades, the conflict over a border that was originally delineated by Italian colonists in 1902 has reverberated throughout the political deliberations of Eritreans becoming a cipher through which to articulate claims to and contestations of sovereignty. This paper focuses on the impact this border dispute has had on the physical presence and political disputes of the Eritrean diasporic community in Rome, Italy.

Refugees and Migrants as Political “Pawns”**Dr Victor Kattan
Middle East Institute
National University of Singapore**

Victor Kattan is Senior Research Fellow at the Middle East Institute where he is the convener of the legal research cluster. He is also an Associate Fellow at NUS Law. Victor moved to Singapore from Jerusalem where he had been working as a legal advisor to the Negotiations Affairs Department in Ramallah. In 2017, he was the winner of the inaugural Asian Society of International Law Young Scholar Prize. His scholarly publications have appeared in the Asian Journal of International Law, the Leiden Journal of International Law, the Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law, the Nordic Journal of International Law, the Hastings International and Comparative Law Review, the Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, the Journal of the History of International Law, the Journal on the Use of Force and International Law, the Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, the Journal of Palestine Studies, and the Palestine Yearbook of International Law.

The Persistence of the Palestinian Refugee Problem

The Palestinian refugee problem differs to all other refugee problems in the world because the refugees cannot return to their homes since their country ceased to exist in 1948. The use of the word “refugee” is therefore an anomaly since this is usually understood to refer to a person fleeing his/her place of origin due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion or nationality and who is unable or unwilling to return to their place of origin through fear of persecution. This definition is not appropriate to describe the predicament of the Palestinian refugees who would have liked to have returned to their homes in the immediate aftermath of their flight in 1948 but who have been prevented from doing so. Given the length of time since their flight, Palestinian refugees and their descendants have become political pawns in the longstanding dispute between Israel and the Arab states, a dispute which remains unresolved to this day. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees continues to provide relief to these refugees, but is unable to provide protection.

Refugees and Migrants as Political “Pawns”**Ms Nayereh Aligholikhamsheh**
PhD Student
Tokyo of University of Foreign Affairs

Nayereh Aligholikhamsheh is a Ph.D. student at Graduate School of Global Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. She obtained her M.A. in 2016 from the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, after completing her thesis “The Policy of Iranian Government Toward Afghan Refugees.”

Investigating the Causes Behind the Lack of Integration of Afghan Refugees in the Iranian Society

During their more-than-three-decades-long presence in Iran, Afghan refugees have gone through two opposite experiences of “being accepted as honorable guests” and of “being rejected as unwanted burdens”. Those same Afghans who migrated to Iran around 1979—in search of a secure place and a better life—and found themselves welcomed by a host country are now being portrayed as dangerous criminals whose presence in the country is unwanted and burdensome. Now the second generation is suffering from identity crisis without having any sense of attachment and belonging to their host community. In what is their lack of connection to and affinity with the Iranian nation rooted? After roughly one decade of integration, did Afghan refugees lose their social base in the Iranian society which brought to the surface various kinds of discriminations and prejudices? The answer may be found in part in the Iranian refugee policy changes whose shift from its generous stance of open-door policy to the closed-door policy was concomitant with dramatic perversions in various laws concerning refugees’ rights. On the societal level, however, the lack of integration remains extremely puzzling—considering significant shared cultural boundaries including language and religion which seems to facilitate integration process. This paper attempts to identify the hidden barriers to the integration of Afghan refugees and migrants as well as the causes behind the lack of their integration at both institutional and societal level, where institutional refers to whatever takes place inside the realm of the state or government—from policy to laws and economy—and societal covers other factors in the realm including cultural, ideological and historical background as well as collective memory.

Refugees and Migrants as Political “Pawns”



Dr Ayako Sasaki
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Chiba University

Lecturer at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chiba University. Earned master’s degree in Social Work at State University at Albany (U.S.), and Ph.D. in Sociology at Hitotsubashi University (Japan). Research interest includes migrate workers, human trafficking, and building civil society. Current publications in English include; Sasaki, A. (2016) Career Plan of Indonesian EPA Care Workers in Japan, *ASEAN Social Work Journal*, pp.1-19.; Sasaki, A. (2012) Human trafficking and Slavery: Current Anti-Trafficking Efforts in Japan, In Montiel, H. C. (Ed.) “Globalization: Approaches to Diversity”, pp.237-260, In Tech: Croatia.



Associate Professor Reiko Ogawa
Graduate School of Social Sciences
Chiba University

Reiko Ogawa is an Associate Professor, Graduate School of Social Sciences at Chiba University. Her research interest is migration, gender, civil society and globalization of care work. Some of her recent publications are, *Gender, Care and Migration in East Asia*, Palgrave Macmillan (co-edited, 2018, forthcoming), Guest Editor of the Special Issue on “Migration and Care” for *Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development*, Routledge (forthcoming), book chapters and papers in English are; “Intersectionality and Differentiated Citizenship: Migrant Care Workers in Japan” (2017), “Japan: From Social Reproduction to Gender Equality” (2017), “Demographic Change and Migration of Care Workers: State, Care Facilities and Migrants” (2016), “Configuration of Migration and Long-Term Care in East Asia” (2014). “Globalization and Transformation of Care in Japan” (2014) etc.

Migrant Careworkers in Japan: Trained or Exploited?

Japan started to accept migrant care workers under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. EPA came out as a compromise among political stakeholders in both countries, but has been tailor made to fit Japan’s immigration policy which is lenient to highly skilled migrants but restrictive to “unskilled” migrants. Responding to population aging and chronicle labor shortage in care workforce, in 2017, at least two new models of employment has been opened, which are the Technical Internship Program (TITP) and international student track. While deregulating the labor market for long term care, Japanese government attempts to export well-established Japanese style of long-term care (Kaigo) to those countries which have already sent EPA workers, TITP workers, and international students to Japan. The presentation will explore some cases which might be called “exploitation” or “political utilization” under the name of training and education, and how they can also meet the shortage of human resources and labors at care work field in Japan, as well as be a foothold to expand Japanese care work businesses outside the country.

Asian Migrant Workers in the GCC**Associate Professor Laavanya Kathiravelu
College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University**

Laavanya Kathiravelu is Assistant Professor at the Division of Sociology, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Her interests lie in the intersections between migration, urban studies, and race and ethnicity. Her first book is 'Migrant Dubai: low wage workers and the construction of a Global City' (Palgrave Macmillan 2016). She has also published in the 'Journal of Intercultural Studies' and 'Urban Studies' as well as numerous book chapters. She was Fung Global Fellow at Princeton University between 2015-2016 and prior to joining NTU, was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity.

Migrant Dubai: South Asian lives in an Arab Global City

The Gulf emirate of Dubai is highly dependent on migrant labor, with 85 per cent of its population non-citizen foreigners. The overwhelming majority are men from South India who labor in low-waged jobs in the booming construction and hospitality industries. They are integral to Dubai's recent efforts to become a 'global city', but are simultaneously excluded from its economic successes. Most existing research on low waged migrants in the Gulf emphasizes the conditions of structural violence under which they work, and their physical and social exclusion within the metropolitan contexts in which they live and labor. This talk interrogates these uni-dimensional narratives of victimhood through two interrelated questions. Despite knowledge of discrimination and the violence of debt bondage, why do these men continue to move? And, how do migrants come to terms with living as marginalized urban residents within a space that is portrayed as uncaring and extremely unequal? Through unpacking these puzzles, this talk distills key insights from my recent book *Migrant Dubai* (Palgrave Macmillan 2016). And in doing so, it extends understandings of contemporary Asian-Arab migrations, urban subaltern subjectivities within an unconventional global city, and the informal and latent social networks that make such a space thrive.

Asian Migrant Workers in the GCC

Associate Professor Masaki Matsuo
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Masaki Matsuo did his Ph.D. (International Culture) at Tohoku University in 2004. He is now an associate professor of Utsunomiya University specializing in political economy of the Middle East. His areas of interests are (1) political and social effects of resource based economy in the Arab Gulf States, (2) the international migration and migrant society in the Arab Gulf States. His significant publications include *Migrants in the Middle East and Asia: Responses to Inclusion and Exclusion*, Springer (2010) and *The Oil producing states of the Arab Gulf*, Kodansha:Tokyo (in Japanese).



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Masako Ishii is Professor at College of Intercultural Communication, Rikkyo University, Tokyo. She obtained her Ph.D. in International Relations from Sophia University. Her main research interest is Area Studies on Muslim society in the Philippines focusing on gender, migration and peace process. Her recent publications on migration are: *Protection for Filipina Domestic Workers in the Arab Gulf States*, in Naomi Hosoda, ed. *Migrant Workers in the Arab Gulf States: Growing Foreign Population and Their Lives*, 122-146 (Akashi Shoten, 2014, in Japanese); *Muslim Filipino Women Working in the Middle East: Changing Norm and Migrant Women*, in Hiroshi Kato, ed. *Sexuality and Cultures in Islam*, 185-210 (Tokyo University Press, 2005, in Japanese).

Neo-Plural Society and International Migration

How do we evaluate immigration policies that vary considerably between states? How do we grasp experiences of each migrants who have so different cultural background that we cannot assume simple context to apply to understand various migrant societies? As the size of international migration grows Asia becomes its central region, however, main indices of international migration do not include major immigrants absorbing countries in Asia, especially the Arab Gulf States (AGS: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates). In this presentation, we would like to introduce a new concept to understand and describe various international migration societies, that is Neo-Plural Society (NPS). This is a concept of our research team which proceeds global comparison of migration societies in Asia.

The plurality derives from un-connectedness of citizens and immigrants. In AGS, the social and economic divide between citizens and migrants, and sometimes, between migrants too, is the main characteristic of the migration society. Such segmented society is a target of criticism from the view point of migrants right, however, we would like to extract a model of international migration of Asia. Furthermore, we try to apply the new model, NPS, to globally.

Asian Migrant Workers in the GCC**Associate Professor Tomoko Fukuda
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
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Tomoko Fukuda is an associate professor of sociology at Chiba university, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She has been teaching migration studies as a faculty member. Her specialty is global / transnational sociology and migration studies, concerning South Asian Muslim and Latin American migrants in Japan. Her recent research focuses on Pakistani and Afghan migrant entrepreneurs dealing used cars and car parts, and their transnational networks or communities spreading all over the world. She published a book in 2012 entitled "Social World of Transnational Pakistani Migrants: From Migrant Workers to Migrant Entrepreneurs," Fukumura Shuppan (in Japanese). Recently, she published a book with her colleagues in 2017 entitled "Reuse of Automobiles and Global Markets: International Trade of Used Cars and Car Parts," Seizando Shoten (in Japanese).

**Transnationalism and Pakistani and Afghan Migrant
Entrepreneurs dealing Used Cars and Car Parts in Japan and
the UAE**

One of the world's wealthiest countries, Japan accepted just 28 refugees in 2016 out of the 8,193 applications. And 97 people were granted residency for humanitarian reasons, not recognized as refugees though. It means only 1.5% of applicants permitted to stay in Japan through this way. Foreign residents in Japan have known these severe policies very well. Pakistani and Afghan people, who seems to apply 'refugee' conditions, have sought other strategies to get visa. One of the leading strategies is to become entrepreneur. In the 1980s, Pakistani migrants came to Japan to become workers, but soon they turned to become entrepreneurs. They gradually concentrated to the used car trading businesses and spread their family networks world widely, including the UAE used car markets. Afghan migrants also came to Japan in the 1980s, but increased in the 2000s after the Afghan War. They also started their own businesses in used car parts trading, because Afghan already have had their car parts markets in the UAE since the 1970s. In the UAE markets, Hazara and Pashtun are two dominant ethnic groups, same as in Japan markets. There are some complexities of their religions, languages and nationalities among Afghan nationals. They formed their own communities separately in the UAE, as well as in Japan.

The goal of this paper is to understand how Pakistani and Afghan migrants form their own networks, and, in addition, what roles these ties have either in the formation of transnational communities.

Dealing with Anti-Refugee/Migrant Sentiments



Mr Theophilus Kwek Independent Researcher

Theophilus Kwek has recently completed an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and is now based in Singapore as a writer and researcher. He previously served as Publications Director of OxPolicy and Vice-President of the Oxford Students' Oxfam Group. He has written on refugee and migrant issues for IRIN, The Diplomat, OpenMigration, The Middle Ground and the Singapore Policy Journal, and more widely on issues of representation and empathy for Asymptote, The Philosophical Salon and The Lonely Crowd. Most recently, he has had the privilege of editing *Stranger to Myself: Diary of a Bangladeshi in Singapore* (Landmark Books, 2017) by MD Sharif Uddin, the first book-length, first-hand account of a migrant worker published here.

Reading Rejection: Southeast Asian States' Responses to the Rohingya Crisis

Following political changes in Myanmar, and the flight of Rohingya refugees from that country by sea and land between 2012 and 2015, Southeast Asian states have had to confront questions of asylum, humanitarian aid, and complicated political relations with a fellow member of ASEAN. Invariably, they have pursued policies of rejection and exclusion, justified on logistical, political, and normative grounds.

This paper will first explore how Southeast Asia's current legal, political, and social context produces a unique and under-studied question for the field of refugee studies. It contends that studying rhetorical practices in Southeast Asian diplomacy, and statements made by Southeast Asian governments and their representatives, provide a promising way to understand how Southeast Asian states represent themselves to the international community. These strategies can tell us a lot regional conceptions of immigration and asylum, and ASEAN's self-perception in international affairs.

Based on this framework of public rhetoric, the paper goes on to show how the ASEAN countries' responses to the present crisis are governed by three key narratives: containment, securitization, and exceptionalism. All three go beyond individual nations' conceptions of their own interests, and find resonance across the region. These narratives, however, are not determinative: the paper concludes by looking at two recent exceptions, and considers what it means for national leaders to defy regional conceptions.

Dealing with Anti-Refugee/Migrant Sentiments



Associate Professor Chikako Mori **Sociology** **Hitotsubashi University**

Chikako Mori is an associate professor at Hitotsubashi University, she earned her Ph.D in Sociology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (France). Her research focuses on international migration, urban segregation, race and housing discrimination, urban poverty and gentrification. Selected publication: « Esquisse d'une sociologie des banlieues au Japon : les cités HLM à forte population étrangère » Hommes et migrations, N°1302, 2013, « Forced Spatial Flexibility: the Transformation of Public Housing Policy in Japan and its Impacts on Urban Areas », Paul Watt and Peer Smets (ed.) Urban Renewal and Social Housing: A Cross-National Perspective, Emerald (forthcoming, 2017)

The Securitization of Refugees and the Rise of Anti-Refugee Attitudes in France: from a threat to social inclusion to a risk of terrorism

This paper discusses how refugees and asylum seekers have become a matter of security in France. It demonstrates how refugees have become securitized in France over the past few years, and argue that refugee issues have shifted from a perceived threat to societal security and cultural security to a physical threat to security, and more recently to a source of terrorism. By focusing on the case of the La Chapelle-Pajol neighbourhood in Paris, the paper argues that the Refugee crisis and several terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016 have shifted the image of refugees in France, and more specifically that of Muslim population. It explores how stigmatizing refugees and minority populations as potential terrorists threat have negative implications for these minority communities and contributed to anti-refugee sentiments.

Dealing with Anti-Refugee/Migrant Sentiments



Associate Professor Chong Young-hwan Center for Liberal Arts Meiji Gakuin University

Chong Young-hwan has been an associate professor of the Center for Liberal Arts at Meijigakuin University since 2010. His main area of study is the modern/contemporary history of Korea and Japan, including the history of Koreans in Japan. His Ph.D thesis from Hitotsubashi University was about the social history of Koreans in Japan after liberation of Korea was published in 2013 entitled *The Precipitous Road to Independence: Five Years of History of Koreans in Japan After the Colonial Liberation*. His other significant publication was book published in 2016 entitled *Japan's Military Sexual Slavery, Reconciliation for Whom: Comfort Women of the Empire as Invented History*.

Included in Sanctions, Excluded from Rights: Japanese racism and the Koreans in Japan

Of the 500,000 registered Koreans residing in Japan today, approximately 30,000 are categorized as Chosen-seki-sha, or a “person with nationality of (unified) Korea” under the Japanese Alien Registration system. Those who hold Chosen-seki are rendered virtually stateless as no existing nation-state, DPRK, ROK or Japan, grants them citizenship. This paper traces a history of this ambiguous political category of Chosen-seki and examines the ways in which the Chosen-seki Koreans have been subject to sanctions against DPRK enacted by Japanese government in recent years. Although Japanese government [or Japanese Ministry of Justice] defines Chosen-seki as a mere indication of one’s or her/his ancestors’ country of origin, it simultaneously conflates Chosen-seki with “North Korean.” This has furthered marginalization and deprivation of rights and privileges of Chosen-seki Koreans in post-WWII Japan. The paper focuses its analysis on Japan’s Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and its 2010 amendments, as well as the issue of re-entry for stateless Chosen-seki Koreans in order to better understand why and how some Koreans are forcefully included in sanctions, while their rights and privileges are exclusively limited and violated.

Legal Protection for Migrant Workers and Refugees



Associate Professor Jamie Chai Yun Liew **Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa**

Jamie Liew is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa (Canada) and an immigration and refugee lawyer called to the Law Society of Ontario (Canada). She has appeared at the Supreme Court of Canada, Federal Court of Appeal, Federal Court of Canada and the Immigration and Refugee Board as well as the Standing Committees in the Parliament and the Senate in Canada. Jamie is the co-author of the book, "Immigration Law" (with Donald Galloway) published by Irwin Law. Her research focuses on how immigration, refugee and citizenship law marginalizes migrants, often turning to critical legal, race and feminist theories. More recently she is interested in policy efforts to eliminate statelessness.

Humanitarian, Irregular, Illegal: The Role of the Law in Refugee Protection

The paper explores the layers of laws that refugees, refugee claimants and resettled refugees encounter when obtaining or attempting to obtain protection, particularly in the context of Canadian refugee law. The paper argues that the law focuses on the border and its crossing rather than the core humanitarian purpose of protection.

Legal Protection for Migrant Workers and Refugees



Assistant Professor Yumi Nakayama-Takagi **Centre of African Studies** **Tokyo University of Foreign Studies**

Yumi Nakayama-Takagi is a lecturer at the Centre of African Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. She was previously Assistant Professor of Graduate School of Law at Kyoto University. Having received PhD from Kyoto University, her current academic interests include global and regional governance of refugees and migrants. Her latest researches are "Inter-regionalism in the Migration Governance: Analysis of the Regional Consultative Processes between Africa and Europe" (International Relations 190, Forthcoming), Global Governance of Refugee Problem (Toshindo, 2014).

The Transformation of Japanese Refugee policy and Refugee Crises: the Relational Change between UNHCR, State-Actors and Non-State Actors

Japan has been criticized for its low acceptance of refugees, however, Japanese refugee policy has been transformed concurrently with refugee crises. This presentation will examine the relational change among UNHCR, state-actors and non-state actors affecting Japanese policy transformation by analyzing three refugee crises; the Indochina refugee crisis, the post-Cold War refugee crisis and the Syrian refugee crisis.

The Indochina refugee crisis provided a discussion about refugee problem in Japan. Until Japan's accession of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a Japanese international law scholar played a role as a mediator between Japan and UNHCR and UNHCR gave legal advice in accordance with Japanese government.

During the post-Cold War refugee crisis, Japan showed both financial and operational contribution to UNHCR under Sadako Ogata, the first Japanese high commissioner.

In contrast, continuing closed-door asylum policies, Japanese government have been criticized by other governments, non-state actors, and even by UNHCR itself. In consequence, Japanese government decided to reform its procedure for recognition of refugee status in 2015, immediately after the announcement of Germany to accept refugees staying in Hungary and EU repeated discussion of burden-sharing of 160, 000 refugees among member states.

Legal Protection for Migrant Workers and Refugees



Mr Alistair Boulton **Assistant Regional Representative** **UNCHR**

Alistair Boulton is the Assistant Regional Representative for UNHCR in Bangkok. He is a lawyer by training and was formerly very active with the Canadian Council for Refugees. He joined UNHCR in 2003. Alistair has served in duty stations in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America. He was the Special Assistant and speechwriter for former High Commissioner (now Secretary General) António Guterres between 2008 and 2011. Immediately prior to his assignment in Bangkok he was the coordinator Human Rights up Front unit in the Executive Office of the (previous) Secretary-General in New York.

Southeast Asia - The Return of Mass Flight

For three decades, South East Asia had been free of the mass displacements of other regions, its states quietly transforming themselves into middle or high income ones. The countries of the region did not generally transform themselves into signatories of the 1951 Refugee Convention but with some exceptions they respected the customary international legal principle of non-refoulement. With the emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and their prescription of targets for everyone on a state's territory, it became possible to wonder if the substance of the Refugee Convention could be achieved without it actually being ratified. But then came the return of history, as Jennifer Welsh put it in her 2016 book. The return of Cold War, of inequality, of barbarism, of mass flight. Three decades of quiet in South East Asia was replaced by three months of monumental movement, with more than 650,000 Rohingya fleeing Myanmar's northern Rakhine State for Bangladesh.

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