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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

ASYLUM REGIMES, BORDERING PRACTICES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS' EXPERIENCES: GENDERING VIOLENCE AND PRECARITY IN FORCED MIGRATION

Organised by the WASEM Project¹ and
Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence at Dalhousie University

May 5-6, 2022

Atrium Building (Room 340), Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada

¹ "Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration: Asylum Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean" (WASEM) is a SSHRC-funded Insight Development Grant

OVERVIEW

Building on research into regulatory frameworks on gender and asylum seekers' protection from gender-based violence, as well as empirical research on gender-based violence experienced by female asylum seekers arriving in Greece, the workshop will examine wider policy issues of relevance in the EU and in a comparative way with, especially, Canada.

This international workshop will explore:

- Evolution and workings of EU refugee protection.
- Bordering practices and refugee politics.
- Asylum seeker experiences, agency and organization; civil society mobilization around asylum issues.
- Asylum-seeker vulnerability and protection from gender-based violence as it intersects with various group memberships and identities. How does refugee agency and civil society mobilization work to provide or reinforce protective mechanisms?

Academics from various disciplines, government policy makers, NGOS and the broader community will be participating in this two-day event. The workshop is being planned as an in-person one. Registration is free but required. Please be advised that masks must be worn at all times when indoors, in accordance with the University's current Covid policy.

Anticipated Impacts:

1. Greater awareness of current human rights issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers in the EU, particularly women.
2. Comparisons with Canada – lessons for Canada
3. Increased knowledge regarding regulatory frameworks and constraints in EU states
4. Increased knowledge around political processes impacting on asylum and GBV protection at national and international levels
5. Open discussion in search of relevant and effective ways to deal with capacity constraints and to address geo-political challenges in refugee protection
6. Strengthened partnerships through academic and professional networking between EU and Canadian scholars.
7. Research findings strengthened by community organizations and policy makers' feedback.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MAY 5

12:00 – 12:45 Opening, Greetings, Lunch

12:45 – 1:00 **Evie Tastsoglou**, *Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration: Asylum Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean (WASEM): Introduction to Project*

1:00 – 2:45 **Panel 1 - Asylum Regimes, Political Processes and the Evolution of Refugee Governance in the EU: Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration**

Moderator: Dimitri Conostas

- Jane Freedman, *The Hidden Violence of Asylum: How European Asylum Systems create Gendered and Racialized Forms of Violence against Women* (25 min.)
- Ruben Zaiotti, *Pushing Asylum-Seekers out: on the Externalization of Border Controls in the European Union* (25 min.)
- Lyubov Zhyznomirska, *Fleeing the Russia-Ukraine War of 2022: Gender-Based Analysis of Forced Displacement* (25 min.)

Q & A Session / Discussion (30 min.)

2:45 – 3:00 Health Break

3:00 – 4:45 **Panel 2 - The Forced Migration Journey and Gender-Based Violence**

Moderator: Catherine Bryan

- Evie Tastsoglou, *Gender and the Continuum of Violence in Forced Migration: Asylum-Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean* (25 min.)
- Tatjana Takseva, *Intersectional approaches to addressing multilevel vulnerability and protection in survivors of sexualized and gender-based violence* (25 min.)
- Catherine Bruce, *A Ray of Hope in an Inhospitable Sea: Regulation, Policy and the Resettlement of Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence from Greece to Canada* (25 min.)

Q & A Session / Discussion (30 min.)

4:45 – 5.15 Break

5:15 – 6.15 Dinner (catered at SMU)

6:15 – 7:45 **Film:** <https://tracedocumentary.com/> (Atrium Building, Room 101)
Discussion Moderators: Raluca Bejan and Ioan Cocan (co-directors)

FRIDAY MAY 6

8:30 – 9:00 Coffee / Tea

9:00 – 10:45 **Panel 3 - Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration: Bordering Practices**

Moderator: Morgan Poteet

- Sandy Petrinioti, *“Everyone wants to protect their borders. Us refugees, where are we supposed to go?” Negotiating forced migration between overlapping asylum and border regimes: Women asylum seekers in the Eastern Mediterranean* (25 min.)
- Mohita Bhatia, *Performative Practices: Nations, Borders and Refugees* (25 min.)
- Saja Al Zoubi, *The Impact of Covid 19 on Precarious Livelihoods and Gender-Based Violence: Syrian Refugee Women in Lebanon* (25 min.)

Q & A Session / Discussion (30 min.)

10:45 – 11:00 Health Break

11:00 – 12:45 **Panel 4 - Gendering Violence and Precarity in Forced Migration: Voices, Agency and Mobilization**

Moderator: Shiva Nourpanah

- Chara Karagiannopoulou, *Intersectional Discriminations and ‘Lessened’ Citizenship: Experiences of Asylum-Seeking Women in a European Borderland* (25 min.)
- Christina Clark-Kazak, *“Why Care Now” in Forced Migration Research? The Transformation Potential of a Radical Feminist Ethics of Care* (25 min.)
- Julie Chamagne, *Gender-based Programming and Service Provision to Refugees* (15 min.)
- Kathryn Bates-Khan, *A GBV Settlement Sector Strategy – Working Together Across Canada* (10 min.)

Q & A Session / Discussion (30 min.)

12:45 – 1:45 Lunch

SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

SAJA AL ZOUBI

The Impact of COVID-19 on Precarious Livelihoods and Gender-Based Violence: Syrian Refugee Women in Lebanon

This research is based on individual interviews conducted in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic through WhatsApp with twenty-five households for the male and female heads of each household in Bekaa Valley camps in Lebanon.

This research argues that Covid-19 policies that the government and civil communities follow have had serious negative consequences for Syrian refugees and led to a deterioration of living standards. While discussing issues of poverty and vulnerability, this research mainly focuses on gender-based violence and domestic violence within refugee households. We explore the roots of this violence against women at all levels, from the Lebanese measures that restrict Syrian livelihoods to their consequent effects, such as residency visa and labour market restrictions. The research examines how harsh economic circumstances, illegal curfews, aid shortage and female unemployment induce violence and illegal practices against women and girls.

The research highlights the urgent need to protect women and their children from domestic violence and support them to ensure a better and safer future for both refugee and host communities.

Saja Al Zoubi is a Development Economist – Postdoctoral Fellow in International Development Studies at Saint Mary’s University. She is a livelihood and gender expert for the EU delegation to Syria. Dr. Al Zoubi worked as Gender and Forced Migration, and Middle East Politics lecturer at the University of Oxford, Researcher at Oxford Department for International Development, and a visiting scholar at Glasgow university. She has conducted comprehensive studies in Syria and Lebanon in addition to Jordan whereby the results have been published and considered by varied prestigious journals.

Her research has focused on broadly on issues of gender and rural development, including issues of women’s empowerment. Currently she has been researching ways to improve the livelihoods and food security of affected households (IDPs and refugees), especially women-headed households. She examines the host country responses through its policies and politics that reshape refugee livelihoods. Dr. Al Zoubi is a steering committee member of “Science in Exile” initiative, and a co- leader of Global Young Academy (GYA) – At Risk scholars initiative.

Dr. Al Zoubi is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships from international and regional universities and foundations.

KATHRYN BATES-KHAN

A GBV Settlement Sector Strategy – Working Together Across Canada

With funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) four organizations from the anti-violence and settlement sectors partnered to begin to develop the GBV Settlement Sector Strategy. The four organizations are: (i) The Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance –Alliance canadienne du secteur de l'établissement des immigrants (CISSA-ACSEI), (ii) Ending Violence Association of Canada (EVA CAN), (iii) Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), and (iv) YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth. Building on current expertise and existing resources, the National Strategy aims to develop a shared base of knowledge between the settlement and anti-violence sectors so that we can increase our ability to respond.

Kathryn Bates-Khan, BA (Hons), B.Ed is Manager Gender Based Violence Prevention Project. Kathryn is an educator and lifelong learner committed to social justice and human rights. Working and volunteering both locally and overseas has encouraged her to appreciate diversity and intercultural communication. During her career at YMCA, Kathryn has led International Development programming – in supporting our partnership with the sister location in Bogotá. She has also led multiple programs over the last 20 years for immigrant children and youth, particularly priority youth. She is currently leading the YMCA's Gender-Based Violence Prevention Project and is part of a national team, leading strategy development with anti-violence and settlement sector partners.

RALUCA BEJAN

Raluca Bejan is Assistant Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Canada. She has a BA in Political Sciences from Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania, and a MSW and PhD degrees from the University of Toronto. Raluca was a Visiting Academic at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, UK, in 2016 and 2018. She is currently the Book Review Editor for “Refuge: Canada’s Journal on Refugees”.

MOHITA BHATIA

Performative Practices: Nations, Borders and Refugees

Focusing on the South Asian borders, this paper departs from the conceptualization of nations and borders as static spatial categories and instead examines them as processes that are constantly being materialized. Various state and non-state actors partake in these reiterative materializations and nation-making practices. The nation-state engages in these processes through various violent and non-violent performances. It is through these performances that it violently defines borders, disciplines its people as well as produces the imagery of the refugee as

an ‘outsider’, ‘vulnerable’ and ‘undesirable’ body. Yet, these symbolic and overtly violent practices are not passively accepted by the refugees who respond creatively by themselves performing in the bordering and nation-shaping processes. Their performative practices simultaneously contest and reinforce the nation-state.

This paper argues that by understanding borders as ‘being’ and ‘becoming’, it becomes possible to delink them from the nation-state’s hegemonic ideas of sovereignty and instead explore them as spaces that are also constantly performed and shaped by various non-state actors such as refugees and other marginal actors. It also helps to transform the image of the refugee - moving away from passivity towards the idea of refugees as political and performative subjects.

Mohita Bhatia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Saint Mary’s University. Previously she was a Fulbright postdoctoral scholar and a visiting fellow at the Centre for South Asia, Stanford University. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cambridge, UK where she was the recipient of a 4-year Gates Cambridge scholarship. Her research interests encompass the ethnography of ethno-national conflicts; refugees, citizenship practices, everyday nationalism and border-making. Apart from publishing in journals such as *Asian Survey* and *Sociological Bulletin*, she has contributed book chapters as well as co-edited books. She is also the author of *Rethinking Conflict at the Margins: Dalits and Borderland Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

CATHERINE BRUCE

A Ray of Hope in an Inhospitable Sea: Regulation, Policy and the Resettlement of Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence from Greece to Canada

Over the past few years, thousands of refugees who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have been trapped in Greece. European Union policies have essentially forced Greece to shoulder the responsibility of caring for these survivors alone. Yet Greece’s challenging economic circumstances have rendered the country incapable of providing a durable solution for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, who are facing exceptional vulnerabilities. Acting on the principle that all countries have a collective responsibility to respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable in our society and that proximity should not define responsibility, this presentation will examine how a group of civil society actors was able to leverage regulatory frameworks and engage the political will of powerful government actors to carve out a pathway for resettlement from Greece to Canada. This presentation will also examine the implementation of the resulting public policy and its impact on the lives of the women who have been resettled to Canada.

Catherine Bruce has worked as refugee lawyer for more than twenty years, assisting survivors of persecution from around the world to obtain refugee protection in Canada. She has a particular interest in representing survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence. A former Director of the Refugee Law Office of Legal Aid Ontario, Catherine has represented clients from the tribunal level through to the Supreme Court of Canada. She became involved in the overseas resettlement of refugees after witnessing horrific conditions working as a volunteer lawyer in the refugee camps on the Greek Islands in 2016. She is currently employed as Canadian Legal Director of *Lamp Lifeboat Ladder*, a refugee resettlement project designed to implement two Canadian public policies resettling survivors of torture and gender-based violence to Canada. Catherine is an executive member of the Canadian Council for Refugees, she sits on its Legal Affairs Committee, and she is a Board Member of the Private Sponsorship Network (Ontario). Catherine is a recipient of two community awards for her work with refugees. She holds a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the London School of Economics.

CATHERINE BRYAN

Catherine Bryan is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work, Dalhousie University, where she completed her PhD in Social Anthropology. Her research focuses on social reproduction and the long arm of capitalist political economy in relation to multiple forms of migration. Most recently, her work has focused on temporary foreign workers in food production; the integration of young professionals in hospitality and retail sectors; and health care access for refugee claimants.

JULIE CHAMAGNE

Gender-based Programming and Service Provision to Refugees

Halifax Refugee Clinic is a grassroots non-profit providing pro bono legal and settlement services and supports to refugees and refugee claimants across the Atlantic region. Throughout the years, they have gained direct experience of the importance of providing gender-based programming for their wide and varied clientele base. While over a third of their clients have an element of sexual and gender-based violence in their refugee claim, according to earlier studies, such programming has proven beneficial to both families and individuals who arrive in Canada as refugees and subsequently need to navigate the refugee protection system.

Such programming involves a range of activities such as social events for women, men, and children alongside family-friendly supports and resources. Given the particular stigmas and sensitivities which surround gender and sexual based violence, the provision of services in a manner which is alert and aware of such sensitivities is further recommended.

Julie Chamagne is the current Executive Director of the Halifax Refugee Clinic and has been for over a decade, Julie received legal training in France and in the UK and previously worked in asylum law overseas, including in Paris with Amnesty International. Julie has been an advocate for migrant and refugee rights for the past 20 years. Helping the HRC be a place of sanctuary and welcome for people who are fearing persecution and leading through a feminist, non-hierarchical structure is of paramount importance to Julie who, like all core staff members in a small not-for-profit, fills many roles and in the course of a day may give a media interview, meet a client for legal advice or make tea for newly arrived clients.

CHRISTINA CLARK-KAZAK

“Why care now” in forced migration research? The transformation potential of a radical feminist ethics of care

This talk lays out the ethical, epistemological, and methodological rationale for radical care ethics in research in forced migration. Drawing on a growing body of literature and recent initiatives to codify ethics in forced migration studies, I highlight the transformational potential of a radical feminist care approach to the “ethical turn” in the field. I suggest that radical care ethics re-centers reciprocal human relationships in forced migration research to address specific ethical challenges posed by the criminalization of migration, extreme power asymmetries, precarities in migration status and politicization of migration policies. Drawing on my empirical work on age discrimination in migration policies, I demonstrate how we can build on examples of radical care ethics in forced migration studies to imagine an “otherwise” (Povinelli 2012b).

Christina Clark-Kazak is Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa and Past President, International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. She has previously served as Editor-in-chief of *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, acting Director of York University's Centre for Refugee Studies and President, Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. Her research focuses on age discrimination in migration law and policy, political participation of refugee young people, and ethics and methods in interdisciplinary, cross-border research.

IOAN COCAN

Ioan Cocan works in media arts and graphic design. He obtained his BA from the University of Fine Arts, Bucharest, Romania. Ioan has a Master's in Fine Arts, Interactive Media and Environments, from Frank Mohr Institute for Graduate Art Studies and Research in the Arts and Emerging Media, Hanzehogeschool University, Groningen, The Netherlands.

DIMITRI CONSTAS

Dimitri Conostas has a BA from Panteion University, an LLB from the School of Law, University of Thessaloniki, an M.A. in International Affairs from Carleton University and a M.A., MALD and Ph.D from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston. He was a Professor of International Relations and the Founding Director (1989-2005) of the Institute of International Relations, Panteion University, Athens, Greece. He was a Noted Scholar and Visiting Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, a Senior Fulbright Scholar at Princeton University, a Visiting Scholar at the Center of European Studies, Harvard University and a Guest Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C. He has also served as Ambassador of Greece to the Council of Europe, Member of the Venice Commission for Democracy through Law and Representative of Greece to the High Council of the European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

Currently he is a Fellow at the Jean Monet European Union Centre of Excellence, Dalhousie University.

JANE FREEDMAN

The Hidden Violence of Asylum: How European asylum systems create gendered and racialised forms of violence against women

The current influx of Ukrainian refugees into the European Union has brought the issue of asylum and refugee protection into the spotlight again. The reaction of European governments and media calling for solidarity and unconditional welcome for Ukrainians has been in sharp contrast to much previous discourse on asylum seekers and refugees arriving in the EU. In this presentation I will examine the ways in which European asylum and refugee policies create gendered and racialized forms of violence against those seeking protection. Taking a feminist intersectional approach to these policies I will ask how and why women become vulnerable to violence, and why they are so often denied protection. How does state action or inaction create situations of slow violence or neglect for these women?

Jane Freedman is Professor of Sociology at the Université Paris 8 and Director of the Paris Centre for Sociological and Political Research (CRESPPA). She has researched and published widely on issues of gender, migration and violence. Currently she is PI on an international project financed under the EU GenderNet Plus Fund, “Violence against women migrants and refugees: analysing causes and effective policy response” (<https://gbvmigration.cnrs.fr/>). Her latest book, *Gender - Based Violence in Migration: Interdisciplinary, Feminist and Intersectional Approaches*, edited with Nina Sahraoui and Evangelia Tastsoglou, will be published this year by Palgrave Macmillan.

CHARA KARAGIANNOPOULOU

Intersectional Discriminations and ‘Lessened’ Citizenship: Experiences of Asylum-Seeking Women in a European Borderland

Intersectional discriminations, which are faced by asylum-seeking women cause ‘lessened’ citizenship and the latter in turn, reproduces and consolidates reduced rights and has gendered impacts. This presentation provides a feminist analysis of the dialectic relationship of intersectionality to citizenship as depicted in the experiences of 35 asylum-seeking women survivors of gender-based violence gathered through semi-structured interviews. It shows that intersectional discriminations occurring at macro, meso and micro level create constraints to asylum-seeking women’s way to citizenship and generate particular vulnerabilities. It advances the argument that multilevel intersectional discriminations have gendered impact hindering asylum-seeking women from accessing public services and goods (health, education/ training and accommodation) and reproduce a ‘lessened citizenship’ for them in terms of social and economic participation and a sense of belonging.

Chara Karagiannopoulou, Ph.D, is Assistant Professor in the Department of International, European and Area Studies at Panteion University. She is involved in the Migration and Displacement research program of the Institute of International Relations (Panteion U.). Her main research interests are identity politics focused especially on religion and gender in International Relations and in Mediterranean migrations. Her latest publication is: "The Gender-Based Violence and Precarity Nexus: Asylum-Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean." *Front. Hum. Dyn.* (2021): 27 (co-authored with E. Tastsoglou and X. Petrinioti).

SHIVA NOURPANAH

Shiva Nourpanah is a first-generation immigrant from Iran who made the beautiful province of Nova Scotia her home in 2008.

She works for the Province, and prior to that, she worked for a community organization, the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia, for three years. She also teaches part-time at the Department of International Development Studies at Saint Mary's University, Halifax.

She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Dalhousie University (2017), and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Guelph (2021).

She has been a Board member of Halifax Refugee Clinic, a non-profit organization offering pro bono legal and settlement services to refugees in the region, since 2011.

SANDY PETRINIOTI

**“Everyone wants to protect their borders. Us refugees where are we supposed to go?” *
Negotiating forced migration between overlapping asylum and border regimes: Women
asylum seekers in the Eastern Mediterranean**

In this presentation I discuss the experiences of women, transiting through Turkey and crossing the Greek (EU external) borders. The women relate this segment of their migratory journey in narratives of sexual and gender-based violence, severe privations, and dangers but also in tales of strength, adaptability, and resourcefulness. Borders are more than lines delimiting national space and markers of the reach of state sovereignty. Asylum seekers experience them as instruments of hierarchical categorization (nationals, citizens, tourists, status refugees, asylum seekers, irregular migrants) and construction of social divisions (by gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, and age) which assign labels of “threat,” “vulnerability,” or “acceptance” to mobile bodies. I trace the precarization of the journey to practices adopted by actors engaged in a “border spectacle” (De Genova 2002) on both sides of the Greek-Turkish border, a spectacle with a “script” intended for both the national citizenry, a European audience and prospective refugees. This “border spectacle” is enacted under overlapping international asylum and border regimes, established to provide frameworks of norms and laws to govern mobilities arising from conflict and persecution. I contend that despite the “communitarisation” of the European asylum regime the persistent intergovernmentality of the EU border regime and of national border practices under rising geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean render the border a site of humanitarian crisis.

*Zeinab, Syrian asylum seeker in Greece

Sandy Petrinioti is Professor Emerita in the Department of International, European and Area Studies at Panteion University (Athens) and Adjunct Professor in the International Development Studies Program at Saint Mary’s University where she has taught, as Part-Time Instructor, Africa-EU migration. She is also involved in the Migration and Displacement research program of the Institute of International Relations (Panteion U.) Her main research interests lie in Mediterranean migrations, European Union migration policy and women’s employment and migration. Her latest publication is: "The Gender-Based Violence and Precarity Nexus: Asylum-Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean." *Frontiers in Human Dynamics* (2021): 27 (co-authored with E. Tastsoglou and C. Karagiannopoulou).

MORGAN POTEET

Morgan Poteet is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. Morgan's research and teaching interests are in the areas of Migration, Critical Border Studies, Youth, Criminalization, Racialization, Identity, and Belonging. His current research uses qualitative and arts-based approaches such as Photovoice and Digital Storytelling to explore social memory and current realities among Salvadoran youth in Canada.

TATJANA TAKSEVA

Intersectional approaches to addressing multilevel vulnerability and protection in survivors of sexualized and gender-based violence

In this presentation, I will draw upon my work with vulnerable populations in Bosnia-- survivors of war related sexualized and gender-based violence-- trauma theory and motherhood studies to frame best approaches for addressing vulnerability and protection in survivors of gender-based violence as it intersects with various group memberships and identities. I will also draw upon my involvement with the Canadian research network on Women, Peace and Security to outline some of the tensions that arise in mobilizing civil society and various NGOs in providing or reinforcing protective mechanisms both at the individual and collective levels of support.

Tatjana Takševa, Ph.D., is Professor in the graduate Program in Women and Gender Studies and the Department of English Language and Literature at Saint Mary's University, where she has been a member of faculty since 2004, after completing her doctorate at the University of Toronto. Her research and teaching have been interdisciplinary for over twenty years, directly engaging intersections between the humanities and the sciences. She is the author of numerous studies on gender and violence, feminist and trauma theory, and motherhood and parenting. She was a member of a SSHRC funded research team that published numerous essays and book chapters related to a project entitled, "Children of the Enemy": Narrative Constructions of Identity Following Wartime Rape and Transgenerational Trauma in Post-WWII Germany and Post-Conflict Bosnia". With Gerakina (Arlene) Sgoutas (MSU Denver), she is the editor of *Mothers Under Fire: Mothering in Conflict Zones* (Demeter Press, 2015). Dr. Takševa is a member of the Canadian Research Network on Women, Peace and Security, and the SMU Research Lead of an interuniversity provincially funded project Culture, and Perspectives on Sexual Assault Policies (CAPSAP) in university settings, working with SMU students on developing culturally sensitive and feminist-informed approaches in such policies. She is currently working on a monograph, *Agency, Remembrance, Recovery: Voices from Contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina* (forthcoming Routledge 2023). More of her published work can be accessed via her website: <https://tatjanatakseva.academia.edu/>

EVANGELIA TASTSOGLOU

Gender and the Continuum of Violence in Forced Migration: Asylum-Seeking Women in the Eastern Mediterranean

Drawing upon interviews on the forced migration journey of women from Sub-Saharan Africa and the broader Middle-East to Greece I discuss their encounters with gender-based violence (GBV) as a continuum of violence. Synthesizing theories of (i) the “continuum of violence,” (ii) migration as a process, (iii) gender-based violence, and (iv) intersectionality, GBV in a forced migration journey is re-conceptualized as: 1. a non-linear continuum of time/place/ legal status stages; 2. a continuum of seamlessly blending and interconnected forms, some of which include normalized (and trivialized) everyday incidents in the lives of asylum-seekers; and 3. a continuum of GBV from the contextual, systemic and institutional causes of it to interpersonal occurrences. Finally, 4. GBV is understood as intersectional, i.e. affecting differently and being impacted by multiple, interacting social memberships and identities beyond gender. Although the first three understandings of GBV in forced migration are linked, it is the intersectionality framework that sheds light on the continuum in forced migration and sets apart the GBV experiences of asylum-seeking women in the context of differential but always higher vulnerabilities that the forced migration journey entails.

Evangelia (Evie) Tastsoglou, PhD, LLM, is Professor of Sociology and Global Development Studies at Saint Mary’s University. Her research engages feminist and intersectional perspectives on women, gender and various aspects of international migration; Canadian immigration and integration; violence, citizenship, transnationalism and diasporas. Her recent, co-authored and (co)edited books include: *Interrogating Gender, Violence, and the State in National and Transnational Contexts*, Current Sociology Monograph Series (Vol. 64:4, July 2016) and *Gender-Based Violence in Migration: Interdisciplinary, Feminist and Intersectional Approaches* (Palgrave-Macmillan, forthcoming in 2022). She has served as president of RC 32 (the Research Committee on Women in Society) of the ISA (2010-2014), elected member of the ISA Research Council (2014-2018), chairperson of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Saint Mary’s University (2006-2012), and International Development Studies Coordinator (2017-2021). She is the recipient of the Saint Mary’s University President’s Award for Excellence in Research (2021). <https://www.smu.ca/sociology/sc-faculty-staff-profiles-evangelia.html>

RUBEN ZAIOTTI

Pushing Asylum-Seekers out: on the Externalization of Border Controls in the European Union

The extension of border controls beyond Europe's territory to regulate the flows of would-be asylum seekers is a popular—and highly controversial—policy approach adopted by European governments. The present presentation examines recent developments characterizing the externalization of border management in Europe, paying particular attention to the changes that have occurred during the COVID-19 global pandemic. This represents a time when mobility has been severely restricted in most of Europe (and the rest of the world). The aim is to map the impact of the pandemic on relevant “externalizing” policy instruments, and in particular the external processing of asylum claims and the offshore detention of asylum seekers, and to assess their future trajectories. The presentation shows that during the pandemic, the externalization of border controls has expanded and adapted to the new conditions. As a result, some of the key dynamics that define this policy arrangement have been recreated internally, a phenomenon referred to here as the “internalization of externalized border controls.”

Ruben Zaiotti (PhD Toronto, Mst Oxford, BA Bologna) is an associate professor in the Political Science department at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada). He is also the Jean Monnet Chair and the Director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence (JMEUCE). In 2017 he was a Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Public Diplomacy at USC's Centre for Public Diplomacy. His main areas of interest are European Politics, international security, border control, immigration policy, public diplomacy, and social media.

He is the author of books on the digital diplomacy of international organizations, migration policy, border control in Europe, language and politics. He has published articles for *Review of International Studies*, *European Security*, *Journal of European Integration*, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, *Cultures & Conflicts*.

You can find his musings about Europe and borders on the blog ‘Schengenalia’ and follow him on twitter @schengenizer and @JMChairDal. He is also the curator of Schengen Border Art, an online repository of creative performances about European borders.

LYUBOV ZHYZNOMIRSKA

Fleeing the Russia-Ukraine War of 2022: Gender-Based Analysis of Forced Displacement

The Russia-Ukraine war has been labeled the fastest growing humanitarian displacement since the World War II: over 10 million people have fled their homes as of April 18, with around 5 million of them leaving Ukraine's territory. Some of these people voluntarily crossed or were forcefully moved into the Russian territory. The majority of asylum seekers are women and children, with

more than half of the Ukrainian children displaced from their homes by war. Drawing on the concept of vulnerability and gender-based violence, my presentation will give a preliminary assessment of the vulnerability of displaced population in Ukraine and what policy and practical challenges this rapid war produced for an international system of humanitarian protection of civilian population. Did the Russian occupation produce unique categories of asylum seekers that do not fit into the existing legal framework in the EU? How do we account for the voluntary and forced displacement of Ukrainians towards the Russian territory? Does the international community have tools to ensure that Ukrainians who voluntarily or involuntarily crossed into Russia have access to human rights protection and are not used as pawns in Russia's propaganda? These questions will be answered by analyzing stories in social media (such as Facebook and Twitter) and mass media (in English, Russian, and Ukrainian) on February 24-April 25. I hypothesize that internally displaced population may experience a high degree of vulnerability, especially if they remain in the occupied territory or communities close to the active military fire, with such issues as food insecurity, lack of access to clean water and electricity, sexual violence, and overall insecurity being pronounced. The vulnerability of those crossing the border will be affected by a legal and political environment in a country in which they seek temporary protection. It has been reported that women and unaccompanied children crossing into European countries can fall victims to sex traffickers. From a reported pressure against abortion in Poland (with a conservative government in power) to a decision in Spain to criminalize such pressure are some of the examples of policy adaptation provoked by the Ukrainian asylum crisis.

Therefore, my presentation will assess what practical and policy challenges the war-induced displacement of Ukrainians create for the asylum regime in Europe and the functioning of the UNHCR in Russia. It will contribute to the discussion about geopolitical obstacles to refugee protection and geopolitical instrumentalization of asylum seekers in Europe.

Lyubov Zhyznomirska is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Saint Mary's University. She is interested in issues of migration, regional migration governance, citizenship, and democratization. She also studies the European Union's relations with its eastern neighbouring countries (primarily, with Russia and Ukraine). Lyubov has published on the externalization of the EU's migration and border management policies towards its eastern neighbouring countries, and on the EU's democracy promotion in Ukraine. Together with A. Weinar and S. Bonjour, she co-edited *The Routledge Handbook of the Politics of Migration in Europe* (2019).