

# ***Forced Migration and Human Flourishing***

2019 Student-Faculty Conference  
Wisconsin Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin

April 5, 2019

## Conference Schedule

**7:45AM**      **REGISTRATION OPENS**  
(Bemis International Center, St. Norbert College)

**8:30AM**      **WELCOME** (Fort Howard Theater, Bemis International Center)

Dr. Robert Pyne  
Senior Director of Community Engagement  
St. Norbert College

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Jill Drzewiecki  
International Campaign and Partnerships Officer  
Jesuit Refugee Service, Rome

**9:10AM - 10:20AM**      **BREAKOUT SESSION I**

### **I-1. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (FORT HOWARD THEATER)**

*“COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REFUGEE RESILIENCE”*

Dr. Lynne Woehrle (UW-Milwaukee), Dawn Shimura (ESOL Coordinator, Oshkosh School District) and Anastassia Christensen (UWM - MSP)

This roundtable discussion will explore community engagement as a pathway to refugee resilience and integration. Participants will thoughtfully converse about what supports refugee populations to truly thrive, considering the complex system in which refugees and those working with refugee populations find themselves in. Three roundtable participants will discuss their gathered experiences, ideas and strategies that have been used to bring refugees and community together. Roundtable participants will build on the following questions: What supports refugee populations to thrive? What choices put them at risk? How can we use a holistic and transdisciplinary lens to improve adjustment, integration and strong community bonds?

### **I-2. INTERACTIVE SIMULATION (BEMIS 220)**

*“REFUGEE FOR 50 MINUTES: FROM SYRIA TO SWEDEN”*

Dr. Khalil (Haji) Dokhanchi (UW Superior) and students, with special guests Katarina Sandvall and Lynn Nordin (Karlbergsgymnasiet, Åmål, Sweden)

This simulation experience educates participants about the refugee journey from Syria to Europe, encountering pitfalls and possibilities along the way. There will be time afterward for questions and discussion. The simulation will be offered during each of the day's breakout sessions.

### **I-3. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: US IMMIGRATION POLICY (BEMIS 114AB)**

#### *“A NEGATIVE PATH TOWARDS ANTI-RACIST IMMIGRATION POLICY”*

Alan Yohualli Chavoya (Marquette University)

This essay explores the limits of immigration policy reform for combating the racism found within the “immigration debate” in the United States. In this so-called “post-racial era,” immigration policy has shifted away from targeting groups based on overtly racial tropes towards “race-neutral” tropes of lawfulness – i.e. “illegal immigrants.” I explain how this shift in immigration policy towards “non-racist” policy is at the disservice of immigrants of color and has actually functioned as a veil for nuanced forms of racism against nonwhite immigrants. Following this critique of “non-racist” immigration policy, I turn towards non-ideal theories of justice, referred to as the “negative path towards justice,” in order to imagine immigration policy designed to combat racism in the immigration debate. This type of policy will be referred to as “anti-racist” immigration policy, a more promising path towards justice for immigrants.

#### *“ARE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS BENEFICIAL FOR THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY?”*

Maham Ali (Carthage College)

President Trump’s promises to tighten U.S borders and protect American jobs has intensified the debate over immigration’s impact on the economy. In government, the trend has shown partisan gaps across a number of political values, especially on immigration. Undocumented immigrants have been a point of argument. Undocumented immigrants, only through comprehensive legislation (whether on a state or federal level) have the potential to contribute fully to the United States economy. Ultimately, the question for immigration policy is based on an assessment of costs and benefits. Immigration moves workers from countries where they are less productive to countries where they are more productive. Convincing the American public that immigration benefits them is the challenge. By increasing public support for immigration through policy and legislation, undocumented immigrants can be a driving force in the creation of jobs, businesses, and sustainability of industries.

### **I-4. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN PEACE AND CONFLICT (BEMIS 114C)**

#### *“GENOCIDES: WARNING SIGNS AND POLITICAL WILL – CAN THEY BE PREVENTED?”*

Dr. Jacques du Plessis and Dr. Shana Poneis (UW Milwaukee)

When the world was more insular, human caused horrors, like natural disasters, were seen as undesirable but unavoidable. Examples might include the Herero massacre in Namibia, the Armenian genocide in Turkey, the Nazi genocides of Jews and the Roma and Sinti, genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, etc. As the world increases in mobile connectivity and saturated with social media, news spreads deeply into societies and the ability to hide such acts become less likely. However, does the ability to spread the news and to raise awareness change the paradigm? This paper investigates the results of failure to prevent genocide, including famine, murder rape, torture, loss of life, and a refugee crisis. The key interest will be the new possibilities to mobilize, to increase the opportunity cost for would-be perpetrators, and to stimulate and galvanize political will in prevention efforts. A survey of global conflicts will be investigated, especially conflicts in Africa.

#### *“HORIZONTAL INEQUALITIES AS A DRIVER OF THE ISRAELI PALESTINIAN CONFLICT”*

Noa Shapira (Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver)

What is missing from the discourse surrounding the Israeli Palestinian conflict, debated for decades by scholars and pundits alike, is a nuanced discussion of how Israel itself is a deeply divided society. This paper argues that the key to understanding the current stagnation of the conflict, and to perhaps design future policies that could promote future solutions in the region, lies in first understanding the three dimensions of division in the land between the Jordan River and the sea present in-country. Through applying the literature of deeply divided societies, scholars and service providers alike can better position solutions to a conflict that has long been deemed intractable.

#### **I-5. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: CATHOLIC TEACHINGS ON PEACE (BEMIS 114D)**

##### *“THE PROPHETIC VOICE OF THE NOT-SO-DISTANT PAST: ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL AND THE US’S RESPONSIBILITY TO IMMIGRANTS”*

Dr. Michelle Gilgannon (Cardinal Stritch University)

The 1986 document, *Economic Justice for All*, is a landmark of Catholic Social Teaching. In this document, the US Catholic Bishops address a number of considerations for faithful Catholics and for political leaders of all stripes. By reaffirming the moral call to love, respect and care for others, the Bishops make plain the way US foreign policy, often under the guise of national security, hurts the poor of all nations. Freedom to immigrate, even and especially for economic reasons, is a basic human right. Even though this document was written in the recent past, the points made are all the more relevant in our current national, international and political climate. An exploration of the teachings on immigration in this document, and in other documents of Catholic Social Teaching, as well as information on current immigration and foreign policy matters, will provide a preliminary sketch of the Catholic response to the necessary reality of human migration.

##### *“THE ROLE OF THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI IN A PEACEMAKING COMMUNITY”*

Dr. Janice E. Jones and Dr. Mette L. Baran (Cardinal Stritch University)

This paper addresses through a series of in-depth interviews the role that the Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi have played in the leadership and development of a caring community and peaceful society within Cardinal Stritch University (CSU) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. CSU is a private Catholic, Franciscan University that espouses the Franciscan values of creating a caring community, showing compassion, reverencing creation and making peace.

#### **I-6. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE (Bemis 20AB)**

##### *“REFUGEE AS BARE LIFE: MISCONCEPTIONS AND ROOTS IN HOLOCAUST”*

Seyfullah Ozkurt (Marquette University)

Agamben’s concept of homo sacer and his interpretation of biopolitics, the camp, and state of exception has become prominent in the literature on forced migration. Yet often superficial applications of Agamben’s approach tend to obscure more than they clarify. There is also an emerging criticism of his “negative” portrayal of the refugees as bare lives and his pessimistic vision of the political potential. However, these critiques seem to be missing the core of the Agamben’s argument: His novel interpretation of life and potentiality (and human dignity). Drawing on an analysis of the accounts of Holocaust survivors, I argue that we need a deeper comprehension of the debate of the loss of human dignity. And I contend that a more in-depth comparison between the lived experiences of Holocaust survivors and refugees would provide valuable insights to better understand the forced migration and the potential of human flourishing.

##### *“A NEW COSMOPOLITANISM: FORCED MIGRANTS AND THE GLOBAL SPACE”*

Justice Hagan (Marquette University)

Narratives of refugees, exiles, transnational adoptees, and the stateless depict experiences that, though they are each distinguished in their own ways, are more connected than not. While studying novels and films such as *The Terminal Man* and *Somewhere Between* show readers the lived experiences that can lead to forced migration in different circumstances, they also identify a zone of habitation that is both unrecognizable and vital to the perpetuation of the nation-state framework: the interstitial space between recognized borders. Simply through the act of existing in this space, forced migrants present a unique challenge to the idea that global citizenship and cosmopolitanism are distinctions reserved for the mobile elite. This is not to say that this existence is an easy or desirable one—indeed, it is quite the opposite—but it demonstrates to the rest of the world not only the fragility of the nation-state framework, but a global level of consideration that calls into question whether human rights are indeed as “inalienable” as we claim.

## **I-7. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: PREDICTING HUMAN FLOURISHING (Bemis 20C)**

### *“WHAT FACILITATES HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE?”*

Becca Andraschko (UW-Stevens Point)

The purpose of this research is to determine the factors that drive human rights performance. The existing literature offers three possible explanations for what facilitates human rights performance, namely a country's dominant religion, a country's GDP per capita, and the number of human rights treaties ratified at the domestic level. In order to evaluate the explanatory power of these three factors, data concerning each variable is analyzed through the use of statistical testing. The quantitative analyses show that a country's dominant religion, GDP per capita, and the total number of human rights treaties ratified are all statistically significant, meaning that each variable has power in explicating a country's level of human rights performance. More specifically, the statistical tests show that a country with Christianity as its dominant religion, a country with a higher GDP per capita, and a country that has ratified more human rights treaties will display higher levels of human rights performance. The conclusion to this research addresses the strengths and shortcomings of the methodologies utilized and the related findings as well as suggesting pathways for future research.

### *“FERTILITY TRANSITIONS AND THE ABOLITION OF MASS VIOLENCE”*

Dr. Max Kummerow (Curtin University)

France and Germany fought four wars in 150 years, including some of the bloodiest battles in history. But for the past 75 years, they've been at peace and even share a common currency, with little prospect of renewed fighting. What changed? Many things changed, of course. But one important factor to consider is demographic transitions to below replacement fertility rates. Growing populations' competition for scarce resources provide a fundamental motive for violence. Over the past half century demographic transitions to below replacement fertility rates in over 90 countries offer a natural experiment with clear results. Stable or shrinking populations help enable lasting peace. Family planning and empowering women should therefore be emphasized and funded in economic development programs, peacekeeping and mediation processes, peace treaties, international trade agreements, humanitarian relief efforts and immigration policies. Lower fertility rates also reduce infant and maternal mortality, increase life expectancy, save ecosystems and foster prosperity.

**10:20AM - 10:30AM**

**BREAK**

**10:30AM - 11:40AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSION II**

## **II-1. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (FORT HOWARD THEATER)**

### *“CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM”*

Monika Lynn Ganguly-Kiefner, Katherine Riebe, Linda Xiong (UW-Milwaukee, MSP)

Today in our global world, borders are often crossed multiple times and in various ways. The immigrant experience in the US is varied and complex. Speaking from personal experiences as children of immigrants, we examine the dynamics of living with and within various cultures and how these dynamics impact our lives and allow us to flourish and thrive in an ever-changing world. An important part of this discussion is interaction with the audience. We welcome questions and reflection about what we share.

## **II-2. INTERACTIVE SIMULATION (BEMIS 220)**

### *“REFUGEE FOR 50 MINUTES: FROM SYRIA TO SWEDEN”*

Dr. Khalil (Haji) Dokhanchi (UW Superior) and students, with special guests Katarina Sandvall and Lynn Nordin (Karlbergsgymnasiet, Åmål, Sweden)

This simulation experience educates participants about the refugee journey from Syria to Europe, encountering pitfalls and possibilities along the way. There will be time afterward for questions and discussion. The simulation will be offered during each of the day's breakout sessions.

### **II-3. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS (BEMIS 114AB)**

#### *“RESPONDING ETHICALLY TO FORCED MIGRATION”*

Dr. Eric Kraemer (UW-La Crosse)

Forced Migration adds challenging complexity to an already vexed topic. As many of the world’s 68 million displaced people are forced migrants, it is not a topic we dare ignore. While determination of appropriate immediate aid measures for forced migrants is an important practical first step, a long-range solution requires considering the relevant ethical features of the world’s migration and immigration situation and establishing a morally defensible theoretical framework to address migration crises. To further this goal, I propose a social-contract based approach to immigration which appears to accommodate many criticisms faced by those who advocate for increased immigration. I then demonstrate how the issue of forced migration raises special problems for supporters of the social contract view, problems that seem to require recourse to utilitarian principles. I conclude by defending this combined social contract and utilitarian approach against likely objections.

#### *“CITIZENSHIP AS COMMODITY”*

Fr. Philip Sutherland, S.J. (Marquette University)

“Birthright citizenship” is unjust because it contributes to a mis-valuing of citizenship by tying its value to one’s birth rather than to one’s commitment to the political community. Citizenship shares many of the same characteristics as other legally accepted definitions of intangible property such as race. Additionally, its “owners” have the right to its exclusive use, and it is that restrictiveness that gives citizenship much of its value. Once I have established that citizen is a valuable property that can be traded in a market, I will then show why we should resist this commodification of citizenship as a good whose value is not reducible to the price it can get in a market. I will then conclude by suggesting that a framework of citizenship based upon active political participation can aid in resisting this commodification by transforming citizenship from unearned property to an earned privilege.

### **II-4. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IN REFUGEE EXPERIENCE (BEMIS 114C)**

#### *“LOVE IN A TIME OF CONFLICT: FAILED COUPLINGS IN DAVE EGGERS’ WHAT IS THE WHAT”*

Dr. Lena Khor (Lawrence University)

My paper highlights the absence of happy couples in human rights novels, an absence that I argue underscores not just the obvious lack of human rights protection for love to flourish but the less obvious intimate cost of fighting for human rights. I will analyze two failed couplings in Dave Eggers’ *What Is the What* (2006): (1) The story of Norikayi Takamura (a Japanese aid worker at Deng’s Kakuma refugee camp) and his fiancée, Wakana; and (2) the story of Deng and his beloved, Tabitha (one of *The Lost Girls of Sudan*). Attending to this absence of happy couples is vital as it illustrates not just how hard it is to love someone in a time of conflict and thereafter, but also how much one needs to love someone and be loved in return because of conflict and its aftermath.

#### *“SPORT AND THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS: IMPLICATIONS OF THE CLOSURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE”*

Dr. Alexandra N. Fairchild (Cardinal Stritch University)

There are currently 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, which includes 40 million internally displaced people, 25.4 million refugees, and 3.1 million asylum-seekers. Historically, sport has been used as a platform to raise awareness about and engage in advocacy for the global refugee crisis as well as include and support refugees in the process of resettlement. The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace that was formally introduced by Kofi Annan in 2001, to promote international support for the use of sport as a tool for peace and development worldwide through advocacy and partnership facilitation, closed in May of 2017 leaving many contemplating the future of the sport for development and peace sector. This research briefly highlights the connection between sport and the global refugee crisis and offers potential implications of the closure of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

## II-5. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: STRATEGIES FOR HUMAN FLOURISHING (BEMIS 114D)

### *“MICROLOANS; AN OVERLOOKED TOOL TO INCREASING REFUGEE SUCCESS”*

Liam Michael Thomas Barnes (UW-Eau Claire)

At a time in the world where there are more than 28.5 million refugee and asylum seekers, the question of how to help refugees to become self-sufficient is increasingly crucial (UNHCR). Microloans have the potential to help refugees achieve success with their status and also with the process of repatriation, if it comes to that. In the early 2000s the American Refugee Committee ran two microloan programs for Sierra Leone refugees, one was implemented in refugee camps and the other was for when the refugees began the repatriation and reintegration process. The programs were successful in conjunction with business advisors to help the recipients to start businesses and increase their income, with an arrears rate 3% for the camp-based program and 1% for the repatriation program (Nourse). Why after this success have microloans not become a more common tool for providing relief to refugees? What are the problems with using microloans to help refugees? How should microloan programs be implemented in the future? These are the questions my research seeks to investigate.

### *“REFUGEE GIRLS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION”*

Lia Rulli (Marquette University)

Women and refugee girls are denied access to education, subject to gender based violence and have a myriad of health issues due to lack of resources, time and energy spent on this marginalized group of the refugee population. Refugee women and girls are subject to sexual and gender-based violence, often are pressured into marriages, have many reproductive and health issues or risks and often are denied the right to education. The solution to these human rights violations includes creation of safe spaces and access to education. A safe space where an adolescent girl has the ability to be a young girl again, away from sexual exploitation and early childhood marriages and pregnancy, is critical. Education is how we can stop the cycles of violence, abuse and denials of basic human rights. Allowing refugee girls to receive their rightful education not only benefits them, but their families, their neighbors and society as a whole.

## II-6. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: MEDIA, DIVERSITY AND IDENTITY (BEMIS 20AB)

### *“INTERACTIVE MEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM AS A COUNTERFORCE TO THE “OTHERING” INFLUENCE OF NEWS MEDIA”*

Dr. Sandra Whitehead (Marquette University)

At a time when forced migration brings more people from different parts of the world into direct contact than ever before (UNHCR), educators seek ways of teaching intercultural understanding and empathy. Empathy has been identified as a requisite attitude for effective and appropriate intercultural communication. The literature indicates that empathy, to be taught, must be intentionally addressed. The emergence of interactive media presents a valuable counterforce to the “othering” of traditional news media, especially when used in an educational setting. This paper will examine research on the use of interactive media in internationally collaborative classroom experiences and as well as several case studies, including of a fully integrated, internationally collaborative blended class and several internationally collaborative class projects in which this author participated, to identify ways the use of new communication technologies in an educational setting can effectively counter “othering” from traditional news media.

### *“DIVERSITY INCLUSION IN FOOTBALL: ETHNIC IDENTITIES REPRESENTED IN MEDIA WITH SUCCESS OF PREMIER LEAGUE”*

Mallory Winkler (Marquette University)

For refugees and other forced migrants entering new societies, representation of their ethnic groups in the media is important for them to feel accepted and included in their communities. Soccer- or football as most call it- has become a global sensation by bringing communities together with its effectiveness to universally speak a language everyone understands. England’s Premier League has seen major growth in foreign-born players, increasing from 53.6 percent to 69.2 percent in the past 10 years. With millions around the world watching the Premier League every week, media coverage provides an opportunity for many forced migrants to see people who look like them respected in their adopted communities. This paper will examine studies about how diverse representation in media coverage of professional sports impacts refugees and forced migrants in their self-image and on attitudes about refugees in the host society.

## II-7. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: FORCED MIGRATION DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE (BEMIS 20C)

### *“THE FIGHT TO RECOGNIZE CLIMATE REFUGEES”*

Brinn Anderson (St. Norbert College)

In a time of many social justice issues becoming politicized, few definitions have adapted to the changing times. With an earth facing climate change, communities are finding themselves battling the effects in their agriculture, their main source of income and food. Through understanding the disproportionate contributions to climate change and their effects on the already systematically disadvantaged, there is a clear need to address this mildly recognized issue. It is time to ratify the definition of refugee to recognize climate change as a means for someone to identify as a refugee.

### *“NOW YOU SEE STATES, NOW YOU DON'T: CLIMATE REFUGEES AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE”*

Jillian (JJ) Janflone (Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver)

Due to climate change, we are experiencing a whole new dimension of state change and formation. For the first time, state lines are permanently changing with the complete dissolution of territory. As the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) lose territory, and their citizens become climate refugees, there emerges an interesting problem: can SIDS citizens truly be citizens of a state that no longer exists? Can there be a government in absentia with no ancestral homes to return to? And will these climate refugees be able to forge a new home with territory, or are they to give up their SIDS status and assimilate?

## II-8. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (BEMIS 20D)

### *“VIOLENCE AGAINST THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES”*

Lukas Thornton (St. Norbert College)

Violence against the transgender community in the United States is a forefront issue in our society that deserves to be brought to the attention of the public. The transgender community experiences insanely heightened rates of homicide, sexual assault, mental illness, and many other life-changing factors in comparison to their cisgender counterparts. In this paper, I analyze numerous factors including gun and domestic violence, race, employment, healthcare, and housing to further explain the conflict situation at hand in hopes to educate people on the topic. I firmly believe in the power of education, and hope that this work of literature will further contribute to working towards resolving the hardships faced by the transgender community in the United States by opening the minds of those within the society who may be transphobic or opposed to the LGBTQ+ community, and those who may not know much about the topic or the community and culture, in general.

## 11:50AM LUNCH (HENDRICKSON DINING ROOM, BEMIS INTERNATIONAL CENTER)

### PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

POSTER SESSION: UPPER LOUNGE (JUST OUTSIDE HENDRICKSON DINING ROOM)

## 1:00PM - 2:00PM PLENARY PRESENTATION (FORT HOWARD THEATER)

### *“MY REFUGEE JOURNEY”*

DR. MIREILLE TWAYIGIRA (JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE)

Dr. Mireille Twayigira became a refugee at age two. For six years, she traveled barefooted across Africa, in search of safety. Orphaned during her flight, she finally arrived to Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi (where she attended primary school). After completing medical school in Beijing, she is now a licensed medical doctor in Malawi and lectures internationally as the Refugee Education Advocate for Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). Her story represents well our conference theme, exemplifying both forced migration and, with opportunity, human flourishing.



**2:10PM - 3:20PM      BREAKOUT SESSION III**

**III-1. INTERACTIVE SIMULATION (BEMIS 220)**

“REFUGEE FOR 50 MINUTES: FROM SYRIA TO SWEDEN”

Dr. Khalil (Haji) Dokhanchi (UW Superior) and students, with special guests Katarina Sandvall and Lynn Nordin (Karlbergsgymnasiet, Åmål, Sweden)

This simulation experience educates participants about the refugee journey from Syria to Europe, encountering pitfalls and possibilities along the way. There will be time afterward for questions and discussion. The simulation will be offered during each of the day’s breakout sessions.

**III-2. PAPER PRESENTATION: REFLECTIONS ON THE REFUGEE CAMP (BEMIS 114AB)**

“CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN PROTRACTED EMERGENCIES. THE CASE STUDY OF DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP, MALAWI”

Noa Shapira (Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver)

This paper explores the tangible connection between the type of disaster and the level of access an affected population has to human rights law and other human rights mechanisms. Through focusing on the unique difficulties in the implementation of protection in protracted emergencies, specifically in the context of protracted refugee situations, I present a brief overview on how the material conditions and depictions in an emergency shape the discourse and perceptions of the victims—in a feminized or “masculinized” way. In particular, I engage with how policies that claim to be developed and chose to provide answers to these challenges are themselves shaped by these complex discourses and perceptions. The case study presented and discusses is Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi, with observations relating to the relevant mechanisms as well as the practical and discursive issues impacting protection gaps.

Response: Jill Drzewiecki (Jesuit Refugee Service)

**III-3. PAPER PRESENTATION: THE STATE AND FORCED MIGRATION IN SWEDEN (BEMIS 114C)**

“THE STATE AND THE STATE OF FORCED MIGRATION IN SWEDEN”

Dr. Ali R. Abootalebi (UW-Eau Claire)

Recent years have witnessed the flow of refugees and immigrants into European countries, ranging from Greece to Germany to the Scandinavian countries. These countries’ attempt at assimilation/integration of refugees have resulted in different outcomes. This paper investigates the Swedish government experiences in dealing with its refugee and immigrant population and will attempt to account for its successes and failures. The role of the state and its machineries, e.g., regulations, institutions, and norms and ideology are suspected as major factors explaining different outcomes for refugee/immigrant settlement across countries.

Response: Christian Bruce and Magnus Svensson Winborg (Karlbergsgymnasiet, Åmål, Sweden)

**III-4. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLOITATION (BEMIS 114D)**

“THE TRUE COST OF GOLD: HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLOITATION IN MADRE DE DIOS PERU”

Alexandria Sedar (UW-Milwaukee, MSP)

The Peruvian state of Madre de Dios at the base of the Andes is among the most biodiverse and, until recently, pristine environments in the world. This unique ecosystem where the Andean Mountains meet the Amazon Rainforest is home to two of the most important national parks in Peru, and in the Amazon region, and home to the country’s largest illegal mining industry. The area is rich in gold which attract miners, criminal organizations and thousands of individuals looking to escape Peru’s extreme poverty. Madre de Dios is one of the areas most affected by human trafficking, with third highest number of trafficking victims in the country. This analysis examines how poverty, consumerism and the propensity for human and



environment exploitation, created by societal deficits, contributes to some of the most pressing global threats- human trafficking and destruction of the Amazon rainforest.

*“MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN CANADA”*

Terri M. Piszczor (UW-Milwaukee, MSP)

Missing and Murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) is a significant humanitarian concern facing Canada today. The homicide rate for Indigenous females between 2001 and 2015 was nearly six times higher than that for non-Indigenous Canadian females. Continuing to ignore this issue negatively impacts well-being within the Canadian indigenous female community. This presentation will present a policy analysis exploring key aspects of what can be done to address the Canadian Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women issue. A Socio-Ecological System analysis will be presented that discusses the importance of Land, Community, and Spiritual and Cultural Identity. Lastly, this policy analysis will propose and evaluate educational, economic, and land policies that seek to address barriers to human flourishing within Canada's Indigenous women's population.

**III-5. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES (BEMIS 20AB)**

*“THE MAPUCHE AND THE ZAPATISTAS: A COMPARISON OF INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND HOW NEOLIBERAL POLICIES AFFECTED THESE MOVEMENTS”*

Jarod Karls (UW-Stevens Point)

In this paper, I explore the role of neoliberalism in two separate indigenous movements' origins, methods, and outcomes in Latin America: the Mapuche movement in Chile and the Zapatista movement in Mexico. Throughout the paper I explore the history of each of these indigenous people and examine the different factors that lead to their political movements in the 1990s, specifically the neoliberal policies. Based on the findings, the Zapatista movement was more influenced by the neoliberal policies of Mexican President Salinas than the Mapuche was by the neoliberal policies of Chilean President Pinochet, but both were affected by these policies, nonetheless. Neoliberalism affected both of the movements' origins, and outcome; both were in direct relation to each country's neoliberal policies, but there was no discernible affect on the movements' methods. The methods of the movements were seen as being a product of the style of leadership in the country's government at the time of the movement, rather than neoliberalism.

*“EXPRESSIONS OF SOFT POWER: CHINESE MIGRANTS IN DEVELOPING AFRICAN ECONOMIES AND CHINESE'S SOCIAL INFLUENCE”*

Kiana Marr (UW-Stevens Point)

In this research project, I will explore the power of the Chinese government over Chinese migrant groups in South Africa along with how China is utilizing soft power for social influence in the South African economy. Scholars from various disciplines like Political Science and Historians argue that decolonization never ended which will be explained with the notion of soft power with Chinese immigrants and Chinese policies. From diplomacy of strangers to friends within the global South, China has forged friendships with nations such as Tanzania and South Africa. From this socialization, many Chinese migrated to various African nations and settled into African communities. The multicultural interaction intertwines Chinese norms within African communities influencing how interactions and communications have been shaped by various forces like mass media; both local and international. A new era of multicultural interactions has been occurring at the local level in many African nations because of past diplomacy. Current works employ theoretical frameworks such as soft power, postcolonialism, and theories of ethnic identity to analyze global cultural issues in a local context. By exploring Chinese soft power in South Africa, I hope to illustrate a narrative which shows decolonization never truly occurred but evolved.

**III-6. PAPER PRESENTATIONS: THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE (BEMIS 20C)**

*“SECTORAL ATTITUDES OF ECUADORIANS TOWARD REFUGEES: IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING”*

Dr. Anne Dressel (UW-Milwaukee)

Ecuador is home to the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers in all of Latin America, the vast majority of whom have fled decades of civil conflict in neighboring Colombia, and more recently, Venezuela. According to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, up to 450,000 Colombian refugees are estimated to live in Ecuador, more than two-thirds of whom live in Quito and Guayaquil. Past research with refugees living in Ecuador has found that they face social and economic marginalization, which impacts their

health and well-being. In 2017, we conducted a qualitative study in Ecuador's capital, Quito, which explored attitudes toward refugees among different sectors that interact with them, including the police, teachers, healthcare providers, the press, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). We conducted fifty interviews (with ten adults from each sector), which were audio-taped, transcribed, and qualitatively analyzed in Spanish. Emergent themes will be discussed in this presentation.

*“A BAG OF MIXED FORTUNES: NARRATIVES OF REFUGEE LIVES IN THE FOX CITIES”*

Dr. Fonkem Achankeng (UW-Oshkosh)

Refugees arrive in a host country in different ways – some selected from camps and others forced to seek asylum after fleeing for their lives. Whichever way they arrive, many refugees soon discover the experience is a bag of mixed fortunes. This paper seeks to understand the experience of four refugee families using the narrative approach in qualitative research. Based on the push-pull theory of forced migration and racialized lives, I argue that initial impressions of host society dissipate rather fast as existential realities soon catch up with families. With almost no one to lean on in the individualist host society, I make a claim for a strong ethos if the refugee families must stay afloat.

Discussant: Said Hassan (COMSA)

**III-7. CREATIVE PRESENTATION AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS: EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES (BEMIS 20D)**

*“INTERNAL CONFLICT, EXTERNAL REALITY”*

Mirm Hurula and Mickey Redington (UW-La Crosse)

Internalization and the deception of reality. Immigrants, children of immigrants, and those who are assumed as such are some of the most targeted population for hatred in the United States. Forced assimilation and self-hatred are among the feelings that of those who have these identities and are brought to the United States. Listen to the colorful words of those who have first-hand experience. Racism, classism, and xenophobia are all contributing factors to the constant hate of those who are seeking asylum. This short creative presentation encapsulates the stories of two different people, how they intertwine with each other, and the different ways that society contributes to the continual discrimination of those with darker skin. Participants will be able to take away a greater understanding of what it means to be a Person of Color and descendants of immigrants in this country.

*“ENGAGING HISTORICAL TRAUMA IN THE HMONG COMMUNITIES OF WI BY EXPLORING THE INTERCONNECTIONS OF THEORY, PRACTICE, AND THE ARTS”*

Dr. Mai See Thao (Medical College of Wisconsin)

During the Vietnam War, Hmong, an ethnic group from Laos, were recruited by the U.S. CIA in a clandestine operation against communism. When the U.S. withdrew all their troops from Southeast Asia in 1975, Hmong who sided with the U.S. CIA fled Laos because of the threat of persecution from the communist Pathet Lao that came into power. As the 45th year anniversary of Hmong resettlement in the U.S. approaches in 2020, Hmong scholars, activists and community members have come together to create the Wisconsin HMOOB Story. This community-based participatory exhibit showcases Hmong experiences of historical trauma and healing from the U.S.'s Secret War in Laos and resettlement in the U.S. This paper details the collaboration of these various stakeholders and the ways they intersect theory, practice, and the arts as a way for the Hmong community to name their historical trauma and promote collective healing.

*“RUDOLPH'S SEARCHING FOR SLEIGHS: EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES OF IMMIGRANTS”*

Dr. Patience Fonkem (UW-Oshkosh)

This qualitative case narrative is metaphorical inspired by the November 27, 2018 controversy over the holiday classic, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The paper aims at kindling the notion that like Rudolph, most immigrants, especially those from non-white origins are emotionally challenged not by the traumas from the horrors they experienced on their fight for survival but by the mere fact that they are different. From Baum's (1991) framework that “no matter how dreary and gray our homes are, we people of flesh and blood would rather live there than in any other country, be it ever so beautiful. There is no place like home,” the paper argues that immigrants learn to brace their fears and integrate in gainful ways in their new communities irrespective of their cultural dissonances. It makes the claim that the current controversy on immigration is related to an ego-based human dysfunction whose main intent is to untie the human thread

that interconnects the human family by creating fear and distrust among groups thereby linking immigration issues to issues of social justice and racism. Appreciating these issues and the emotional challenges attached is beneficial for social activists and other policy-makers in their quest for social justice and human flourishing.

**3:20PM - 3:30PM**

**BREAK**

**3:30PM**

**PLENARY PRESENTATION (FORT HOWARD THEATER)**

**“WELCOMING REFUGEES IN SWEDEN:  
REFLECTIONS ON OUR EXPERIENCE”**

CHRISTIAN BRUCE, LYNN NORDIN, KATARINA SANDVALL, AND MAGNUS SVENSSON WINBORG  
(KARLBERGSGYMNASIET, ÅMÅL, SWEDEN)

This presentation will include the American premiere of the documentary short film “Där finns inte jag (I am not there).” Winner of the Gothenburg Film Festival Prize in November 2018 (the largest film festival in the Nordic countries), this film tells filmmaker Lama Alshehaby’s own story of forced migration. When Lama was 20 she was forced to leave the country she grew up in. Since then, she has tried to build a life in a foreign country with a new language. She has now lived in Sweden four years and five months. This

documentary is a very personal description of Lama’s journey, both the physical journey with the changes that come with forced migration, but above all the inner journey and how her life has transformed. Lama’s former teachers in Åmål, Lynn Nordin and Katarina Sandvall, who are primarily responsible for initial language classes at Karlbergsgymnasiet, will present the documentary along with additional reflections that Lama has prepared for this conference. Together with their colleagues Christian Bruce and Magnus Svensson Winborg, they will also offer broader observations about Sweden’s experience with “new arrivals,” and they will entertain questions from the audience.



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