

Panel 43: **Migrants, Movement and Human Security: A MENA/Mediterranean Crisis**

Friday 19, 9-11.15, Aula M

Convenors: **Kenneth Christie** (Royal Roads University Victoria), **Marion Boulby** (Trent University)

Discussant: **Kenneth Christie** (Royal Roads University Victoria), **Marion Boulby** (Trent University)

This panel proposes to ask three questions surrounding the Mediterranean migration/refugee crisis.

- 1) What are the human security implications for migrants/refugees in this current crisis? How and why does this crisis differ significantly from previous migration/refugee flows in the region
- 2) What are the push/pull factors for these migrants/refugees and which are most important?
- 3) What is the relationship between conflict in the states of migrant origin and the crisis? How does this affect regional policy (European) and national policies on migration and immigration?

Paper givers:

- 1) **Marion Boulby** (Trent University), *Jordan as a Crossroad: Migrants and Mobility*

Jordan has become a home for some one million forced migrants from Syria. 80% of these live in northern urban areas, The economic and social implications of their presence in Jordan are analyzed in this paper which takes into account real and perceived labour market and gender/family issues. The role of the US and its \$3.9 billion Jordan Response Plan is also considered here, The question remains as to how long Jordan can continue to support the refugee influx, and its implications for the kingdom's stability.

- 2) **Julia Rutz** (International Organization for Migration, IOM, Country Office for Austria), *Correlations between challenges in state building efforts, migration and development cooperation*

Based on the author's extensive experience in Rule of Law state building efforts of the EU CSDP (The Common Security and Defence Policy) Mission in the Palestinian Territories, the article first provides an insight into the main challenges faced in the current struggle of the Palestinian population in creating an own state. The failure of the achievement of an own state where the rights of the Palestinians are protected represents an important push factor for this population group to migrate to other areas. In the second part, the paper looks at the consequences of the deadlock of the peace process in the Middle East, resulting in more and more people leaving the region. The author attempts to build a correlation between the difficulties faced during the state building efforts (which are strongly supported by the EU among other actors) in the country of origin and between migration. Based on this analysis, the author comes forward with the proposal to intensify efforts in promoting the Rule of Law as means of efficient and sustainable development, therewith eliminating a push factor that forces people to leave their country of origin. Herewith, the author opens a new

perspective to the current discussion on the migration crisis and provides an interesting option contributing to a long term solution of this dilemma.

- 3) **Kenneth Christie** (Royal Roads University), **Aman Haile** (Royal Roads University), *Migrants, Refugees and the crisis of Human Security: The case of Eritrean youth*

This paper deals with some of the most pressing problems in human insecurity today in the sense that it examines the movement of vulnerable people across borders. And here we specifically mean the crisis of refugees and migrants coming into the Mediterranean region, in particular Eritrea which has a disproportionate number of asylum seekers for its size. The paper also argues that although refugees and economic migrants are often perceived as contentious and seen as threats to state sovereignty, they are often the victims of oppressive national state policies which discriminate and condemn them to marginalised lives. We assess three things. 1) What this means for human security? 2) We use a case study of Eritrean youth to highlight these problems looking at the push/pull factors. 3) Lastly we assess how the European Union has responded through its policies to the unfolding crisis. In this context the paper will look at migration, refugees and the decline in human security with regards to the crisis still unfolding in the Mediterranean on the shores of Europe, using the case of Eritrea.

- 4) **Mohammad Masad** (Zayed University), *Refugees Anew: The Case of Al-Yarmouk Refugee Camp*

The migrant/refugee crisis that shocked Europe in the last few years has reached apocalyptic proportions. People fleeing turmoil, violence and poverty from MENA countries and Sub-Saharan Africa are entering Europe in unprecedented numbers and creating a massive humanitarian crises. While much attention is given to the causes and consequences of the crisis, there is little interest in analyzing the composite nature of the migrant population. My research paper will try to do that by focusing on one group of people who were forced into becoming refugees for the second time within sixty years, namely the Palestinians of Al-Yarmouk Refugee Camp. The plight of Al-Yarmouk's residents shows how the vicious "war of all against all" in Syria, plus other factors (e.g. colonialism, failed-states, global/regional power struggles, weak international humanitarian system) have conspired to force these people out of their refugee camp to risk their lives trying to go to Europe. The paper uses extensive news accounts, NGO reports, and refugees' testimonies to highlight the importance of understanding migrant groups from the perspective of their own unique circumstances, while keeping in mind the historical forces behind the crisis.

- 5) **Nur Koprulu** (Near Eastern University), *The regional and international implications of refugee crisis in the Mediterranean*

The Arab Spring has engulfed most of the Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa since 2011. After first erupting in Tunisia, the social uprisings spread to Egypt, Syria, Libya, Bahrain and Yemen. The uprisings found resonance in the Syria, so far, public protests as well as with the involvement of the external actors have divided the country into

different parts. An estimated 9 million Syrians have fled their homes since the outbreak of civil war in March 2011, taking refuge in neighboring countries or internally displaced. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 2.5 million have fled to neighbor countries; Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq and 6.5 million are internally displaced people. Moreover nearly 450 thousand Syrians have declared asylum in European countries with a small number offered resettlement by countries such as Germany and Sweden (EU, 2014). Particularly Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are hosting enormous numbers of Syrian refugees today. For instance, 23% of the Jordan's overall population consisting of refugees (Palestinians represent by far the largest group of refugees in the country); it has the highest ratio of refugees per capita of any country in the world today. As far as the Syrian refugees are considered the question of human security requires to be analyzed with the dramatic increase in the number of refugees migrating European countries. Thus, this paper aims to explore the impact of the crisis in Syria as well as its spill-over effects on neighbor countries and within this context, it aims to shed a light on the main reasons forcing Syrians to migrate toward West. Finally, the limits of the international actors such as the capability of the European Union to tackle with this humanitarian issue will be reevaluated under the severe effect of the Mediterranean crisis.

6) **Rute Baptista** (University of Minho), *The “refugee crisis” and the concept of “human security”*

Shortly after the 13th November Paris attacks, twenty-one US states announced that, for safety reasons, they would suspend the Syrian refugees' reception and placement program. Also in Europe, voices demanded for borders closure and the end of the immigrant's reception. The reason is identical: the security of citizens. For the same reason - human security - about 70,000 Syrians leave home each month and begin a long and dangerous journey to a destination that would bring their lost security. But, what concept of human security is that which legitimates the existence of these migratory flows whilst condemning them to be seen as a threat to the host countries? Focused on the individuals and their well-being, the concept of human security was defined, in 1993 by the Bonn Declaration on Human Security, as "the absence of threat to human life, lifestyles and culture through the fulfilment of basic needs". The UNDP recognized, in 1994, its universal importance, asserting that threats as unemployment, crime and terrorism, drug addiction, pollution and human rights violations are common to any country and its consequences have the potential to extend to many others. In order to protect this "human security", actions aimed at preventing such threats, regardless the country in which they appear, should be engaged by all countries. This paper seeks to analyse the concept of human security in order to assert, in this current refugee crisis, what were/are the human security implications for migrants and refugees.