



UNSW
AUSTRALIA

Forced Migration Research Network

2017 Annual Report

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

School of Social Sciences

2017



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ABOUT THE FORCED MIGRATION RESEARCH NETWORK (FMRN)

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Today, one in seven people are on the move. For some, this is a choice but for others the displacement is forced due to conflict, discrimination, persecution, extreme poverty, or environmental disasters. Mobility is a pathway for many in search of safety or better opportunities but it also involves many risks. Given the multifaceted nature of human mobility and displacement, a multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to research that engages with this phenomenon is required.

In recognition of this increasingly complex area, and the breadth of interdisciplinary work being undertaken at UNSW Arts & Social Sciences, the Forced Migration Research Network (FMRN) was initiated by scholars Associate Professor Claudia Tazreiter, Dr Linda Bartolomei, Dr Caroline Lenette and Dr Susanne Schmeidl, affiliated with the Centre for Refugee Research (CRR) based in the School of Social Sciences. This network builds on a long history of high impact work with refugee communities undertaken by the CRR, but importantly also draws together other researchers from history, philosophy, media and film studies, cultural studies, education and social psychology who are producing highly original research on various aspects of human mobility. The Network was formally launched at the inaugural Research Strategy workshop held on the 16th August 2016.

This wider network aims to foster deeper collaboration across the disciplines and Schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences to showcase the diversity of innovative work being undertaken, to leverage such collaboration in future research and funding opportunities and to identify ways in which the network and the university can support refugees and forced migrants who are also co-collaborators in much research being undertaken. This work will build on and extend all existing industry and academic partnership forged by the Centre for Refugee Research team.

ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful engagement with refugee communities and building strong partnerships with organisations in the refugee sector is central to the work of the Forced Migration Research Network (FMRN). This engagement takes a number of forms and includes: research partnerships, community education, training, consultations and advocacy.

Network members partner with government, UNHCR, NGOs, settlement service providers and refugee community groups to undertake research, training and advocacy. These activities inform policy and practice responses to asylum seekers and refugees.

The Forced Migration Research Network greatly values its wide-ranging partnerships with policy makers, governments, industry partners, and especially the community members and individuals who are so generous with their time and sharing of their knowledge and experience.

AFFILIATED STAFF

Isaac Addo, Centre for Social Research in Health

Dr Sally Baker, School of Social Sciences

[Dr Ruth Balint](#), School of Humanities & Languages

[Dr Linda Bartolomej](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Valentina Baú](#), School of Arts & Media

Charlotte Bell, School of Social Sciences

Florim Binakaj, School of Social Sciences

Kaira Zoe Canete, School of Social Sciences

[Dr Angela Dew](#), School of Social Sciences

[Geraldine Doney](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Danielle Drozdowski](#), School of Humanities & Languages

[Lisa Gilanyi](#), School of Education

Anna Ginty, School of Social Sciences

[Professor Ramaswami Harindranath](#), School of Arts & Media

[Dr Aniko Hatoss](#), School of Humanities & Languages

[Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald](#), School of Humanities & Languages

[Professor Richard Hugman](#), School of Social Sciences

Dr Jae Won Kang, [Community Migrant Resource Centre](#)

Prasheela Karan, School of Social Sciences

[Professor Ilan Katz](#), Social Policy Research Centre

[Associate Professor Jihyun Lee](#), School of Education

[Dr Jung-Sook Lee](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Caroline Lenette](#), School of Social Sciences

[Associate Professor Jane Mills](#), School of Arts & Media

[Dr Sue Ollerhead](#), School of Education

[Professor Mina Roces](#), School of Languages & Humanities

Rahim Savari, School of Social Sciences

[Dr Susanne Schmeidl](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Charlotte Smedley](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Louisa Smith](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Kim Spurway](#), School of Social Sciences

[Associate Professor Claudia Tazreiter](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Caroline Wake](#), School of Arts & Media

[Dr Kristy Ward](#), School of Social Sciences

[Dr Tim Wong](#), School of Social Sciences

[Associate Professor Mary Zournazi](#), School of Social Sciences

[Professor Anthony Zwi](#), School of Social Sciences

In 2017, the Forced Migration Research Network members have had an impact across a range of research, public engagement, policy and advocacy activities. Notable are the impacts and research collaborations that have resulted from the Academic Symposium and Conference held in February 2017. These events brought together academics from a number of disciplines alongside people from a refugee background, community organisations and policymakers. The symposium and conference leveraged significant national and international relationships and partnerships to work toward more just refugee policies in Australia and globally. From the impetus created through the symposium and conference, a number of research collaborations and grant applications were undertaken during the year in interdisciplinary projects including humanities and social sciences, fine art, built environment, law, medicine, psychology and human geography.

Some of the year's key highlights include:

- Network member Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald was appointed lead for the Grand Challenge, Refugees and Migrants in its final year from July 2017 with Professor Jane Mc Adam stepping down from the role to begin maternity leave. The network co-convenors Dr Linda Bartolomei and A/Prof Claudia Tazreiter remain on the steering committee of the Challenge.
- A new collaboration under the PlusAlliance framework with Arizona State University and King's College London began in 2017 which is expected to leverage grant opportunities for network members.
- Dr Linda Bartolomei and Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway were invited by UNHCR Geneva to conduct a formal Gender Audit of the Thematic Meetings in October, November and December, being held in Geneva as part of the drafting on the new Global Compact on Refugees. This is part of their ongoing work that seeks to ensure that the commitments to gender equality outlined in the New York Declaration are fully reflected in the Global Compact on Refugees. This includes a strong recognition of endemic nature of sexual and gender based violence in refugee settings and the barrier it represents to achieving gender-equality.

FMRN MANAGEMENT

CO-CONVENERS

Dr Linda Bartolomei

Associate Professor Claudia Tazreiter

STEERING GROUP

Dr Linda Bartolomei

Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald

Dr Caroline Lenette

Dr Susanne Schmeidl

Dr Charlotte Smedley

Associate Professor Claudia Tazreiter

HONORARY ASSOCIATE

Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Charlotte Bell

Rahim Savari

VISITING FELLOW

Dr Victoria Jack

FMRN AFFILIATIONS

- **UNSW Grand Challenges for Refugees and Migrants-** the Grand Challenges Program was established to facilitate critical discussions, and in the process, raise awareness of the ground-breaking research and excellent initiatives undertaken by UNSW academics, staff and students. The FMRN and Grand Challenges for Refugees and Migrants have collaborated on a number of events throughout 2017. Steering Committee member Professor Stephanie Hemelryk-Donald is the current academic lead on the Grand Challenges for Refugees and Migrants.
- **The Refugee Education Special Interest Group (SIG)-** the SIG is a group of people from the community, higher education, vocational education and school sectors who have an interest in supporting educational opportunities for students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. The aim of the SIG email group is to share information, collaborate to achieve better outcomes for students and advocate for change. Dr Sally Baker is a co-convenor of the SIG. With Dr Caroline Lenette, Dr Baker have liaised with the SIG to host a forum on the topic of education with national and international partners at UNSW in 2018. Drs Baker and Lenette are co-guest editors on a Special Issue of the journal *Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning* on the topic of students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds and higher education, which will be published in 2019.
- **UNHCR Geneva-** Dr Linda Bartolomei and Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway were invited by UNHCR Geneva to conduct a formal Gender Audit of the Thematic Meetings in October, November and December, being held in Geneva as part of the drafting on the new Global Compact on Refugees.
- **Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)-** the FMRN continued a long- standing affiliation with RCOA by partnering for the inaugural conference Refugee Alternatives Conference: Improving policy, practice and public support
- **Visiting Scholars-** the FMRN had a number of visiting scholars affiliated in 2017 including Dr Fadma Ait Mous from University Hassan II Casablanca, Morocco, Professor Michaela Köttig from the University of Applied Sciences Frankfurt, Germany and Dr Victoria Jack, from the University of Newcastle.

EVENTS

Academic Symposium: Affective Shifts Inside and Outside the Nation and Body: Rethinking How Refugee Research is Engendered

Tuesday 21 February, 2017 UNSW Art & Design Campus, Lecture Theatre EG02, Paddington, Sydney
9:00am-5:00pm

The Forced Migration Research Network, UNSW, held an academic symposium entitled *Affective Shifts Inside and Outside the Nation and Body: Rethinking How Refugee Research is Engendered*. The symposium addressed urgent issues relating to forced migration. The symposium aimed to enable scholars and practice-based academics to rethink and evaluate research methodologies connected to and connecting with refugees and asylum seekers. Supported by the Network Steering Committee, Associate Professor Tazreiter and Stephanie Hemelryk-Donald took the lead role in coordinating and facilitating in the Academic Symposium with the active involvement of a broad range of academics from across the School and the Faculty.

The panel discussions interrogated and disrupted intersecting challenges such as access, representation, and the power hierarchies that overlay all our respective life histories. The Forced Migration Research Network is determined to take action on the strategic recommendations and emerging insights that were brought forward as a result of these debates.

Multidisciplinary research: collusion or collaboration? How might the academic community contribute to these shifts?

- The Symposium included a wide range of research fields with the intention of producing a fluid and productive collaborative spirit between diverse disciplines and approaches: evidence-based research, textual and archival enquiry, ethnography, history, education, social sciences, psychiatry, philosophy, media and ethics.
- Across the sessions, panelists shared interests as diverse as biopolitics, emotion, labour policy, and the body as symbol and metaphor. The diversity was curated with the aim of harnessing a multitude of issues across different domains and sources of knowledge.
- The interdisciplinary nature of the event marked a commitment towards cohesion and collaboration, in which researchers move away from operating in disciplinary echo chambers of discourse around refugees and forced migration, and towards collaboration and engagement around problematics and issues.
- This shift signals a transition towards not only UNSW's strategic plan of being a global university with global impact, but more broadly suggests the importance of developing relationship between research on refugees across different academic regimes of knowledge in university research.

Ruth Balint (History, UNSW) spoke of the value of history in understanding how refugees and migrants have been viewed and integrated (or not) into Australian society. She spoke in particular about the challenges faced by families with disabled children, and traced how these challenges are embedded in Australian law, to the detriment of human rights. This example indicted how historical research can enable contemporary social science and policy studies.

Educational quality and intent: what ethical considerations come into play when researching, studying, collaborating with, and benefiting from refugee and asylum seeker lives and their stories?

- UNSW is well placed as an educational institution to take action on de-colonising curriculums so as to open up and diversify knowledge systems for both students and the wider community.
- Opportunities should be available for people from refugee backgrounds to access and thrive within educational institutions at a range of levels: undergraduate study certainly, but looking further to fellowships, postdoctoral study, and strong encouragement for subsequent participation in research and leadership roles.



Veronica Tello (Art and Design, UNSW) described her innovative strategies on denaturalising the structural limitations of acknowledging refugee qualifications and knowledge.

Responsibility as researchers: How may we reimagine the research relationships in a shift towards greater equity and what we might call a post-representational mode of knowledge?

- A range of speakers addressed the need to break down perceived boundaries of researcher and researched, to instead engender a different politics of affirmation through means of refugee co-authorship, mentorship relationships and supporting the careers of displaced or exiled people.

Sharon Pickering (Sociology, Monash University) spoke of the opportunities and challenges in seeking out spaces to do research in a deliberative and inclusive manner often coined as ‘slow scholarship’ which is often antithetical to the priorities of the neoliberal university.

Omid Tofighian (Philosophy, Sydney /Egypt) posed a series of questions to the very core of research in the academy. Who is socially enabled to undertake research as part of the epistemic environment? Who has the authority and power to change, transform, and criticise theories and concepts? How do we overcome contributory injustice in this respect?

Language: A radical re-imagining of subjectivity is required in order to reframe current debates and their toxic undercurrents:

- Audience members from refugee backgrounds thanked speakers for their new approaches in researching refugees, highlighting that the voices of refugees have always been there, but we need to keep having conversations about privileging certain voices and ignoring others.
- There was a discussion on how academics might confront and refuse the discursive social construction between “good” and “bad” refugees, noting that this dichotomy has produced a powerful and damaging division of understanding and empathy in Australia;
- There were calls for self-reflection and creative theoretical alternatives about the way we do research with people from refugee backgrounds. Speakers from the audience and on the panels

reminded all academics that people from refugee backgrounds should not be subjected to the twin burdens of representation and social debt. A person of refugee background is not simply a refugee, and his/her subjectivity will shift over time.

Mary Zournazi (Sociology, UNSW) underscored the crucial role of art in rethinking cultural practices, power relations, and even as a method of healing at a deeper level; while Jennifer Hyndman (Human Geography, York University, Canada) stressed the importance for academia not to replicate the language that depoliticizes refugees but should instead refuse to engage damaging political rhetoric.

Ethical considerations: What are the tensions and ethical dilemmas of researching, studying, collaborating with and financially benefiting from refugee and asylum seeker lives and their stories?

- The symposium produced a commitment to bringing greater ethical courage as well as deeper theoretical efforts to our work. In particular, how might we imagine the affective shifts of perspective that will help us challenge the relationship between the state and the bodies of refugees as it is played out in punitive policies and damaging political rhetoric.
- It was clear that we realized our responsibility in promoting collaborative efforts between researchers and communities as a key priority. Many speakers sought to answer what might self-determined practice look like and how might we recognise it as such?

Zanny Begg (Art and Design, UNSW) expressed and abjured the all too common imperative placed on people from refugee backgrounds to tell “good enough” stories, even at the risk of reproducing refugees as silent spectacles, defined only by their stories of displacement. From her role as a clinical neuroscientist working with refugee trauma recovery, Belinda Liddell (School of Psychiatry, UNSW) offered insights into the social, medical, ethical and legal benefits consequences of using brain imaging studies to quantify and respond to torture and trauma.

Acknowledgment and Thanks

The Forced Migration Research Network would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all speakers, organisers and volunteers that made the Academic Symposium such a success. Including: Nayana Bibile, Haya Saboor, Florim Binakaj, Charlotte Bell, Victoria Jack, Renee McCarthy, Daman Sethi, Dannielle Stevens, Shelvy Chandra Tjing, Tanya Fenwick, Toby Shabtay and Mercedes Marbach.

Symposium Side Event: Special Viewing at UNSW Galleries

Tuesday 21 February, 2017 | 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Following the Academic Symposium, a special viewing of the [EXIT Installation](#) was held at the UNSW Galleries and a live performance by Vietnamese/Australian artist and UNSW Art & Design PhD candidate James Nguyen.

UNSW Galleries was proud to present the Australian premiere of a major new installation which holds a dramatic mirror to some of the immense challenges confronting the world today. *EXIT* is a picture of a planet in trouble.

Through his work, James Nguyen explores the difficulties faced by many migrant communities in their adopted countries. For this performance, Nguyen continues his collaboration with family members to reconstruct the story of his aunt’s failed attempt to flee post-war Vietnam. The performance navigates gender politics within the family as each member retells the story from memory.

EXIT is a 360 degree immersive video installation that visually correlates global human migratory trends with urgent social and economic issues: increasing urbanisation, economic displacement, political disruption, climate change, natural disasters, and deforestation. Data gathered from over one hundred sources is geocoded, processed through a programming language, and presented visually by a rotating globe that translates statistics into maps, texts, and trajectories as it orbits the space.

Recently updated, EXIT was universally acclaimed when it was first exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo to coincide with the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Commissioned by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris based on an idea by Paul Virilio created by Diller Scofidio + Renfro with Laura Kurgan, Mark Hansen, Ben Rubin in collaboration with Robert Gerard Pietrusko, Stewart Smith.

Refugee Alternatives Conference: Improving policy, practice and public support

FRMN Steering Committee staff, Drs' Linda Bartolomei, Caroline Lenette, Susanne Schmeidl and Professor Stephanie Hemelryk- Donald all played lead roles in the Refugee Alternatives Conference. They coordinated multidisciplinary panel presentations involving academics and practitioners on a broad range of key aspects. In several cases this resulted in the development of new networks which have led to expanded opportunities for collaborative research and publications.

The [Refugee Alternatives Conference](#) brought together a broad range of expertise covering topics of displacement; protection; cooperation; wellbeing; resilience; education; advocacy; and unity from across the country and across the globe. The highlight was the extensive and complimentary expertise brought to the Conference discussions, notably and vitally, that of lived experience. The Conference gave an opportunity to discuss, share, learn and contribute to new understandings. With the central focus on 'alternatives', the space provided supported new ideas and partnerships that were both inspirational and hopeful, as well as providing a platform for concrete recommendations for action. Over the course of 22- 23 February 2017, more than 350 people from refugee backgrounds, academia, service provision, advocacy, policymaking, government and engaged individuals came together to collaborate and discuss policy and practice. The broad range of expertise made for riveting, purposeful engagement on a range of themes including good practice in resettlement; innovation within education; mental health and resilience; youth issues, deconstructing the drivers of forced migration, refugee women's fight for justice, refugee authorship in creative industries. From these sessions, a range of clear crosscutting priorities, strategic outcomes and platforms for action emerged.

The Outcomes Report from the Refugee Alternatives Conference is [available here](#) plus the Supplementary Report is [available here](#).

Spotlight: Panelists from the Forced Migration Research Network, UNSW

Plenary and Keynote Session

Dr Linda Bartolomei (Co-Convenor of the Forced Migration Research Network) gave the audience a positive reminder of UNSW's impactful and active history in collaboration with the sector, and cutting-edge research on refugees and migration. The Conference is an opportunity in creating pathways for these ideas to feed into well-reasoned, evidence-based policy.



Following the New York Summit and the United Nations New York Declaration, governments will adopt two Global Compacts in 2018¹: one on refugee and the other on safe, orderly and regular migration. The Conference presented a major policy opportunity for the emerging discussions and deliberations to contribute to the development of

the 2018 UN Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration. The Conference involved many individuals and organisations who offer their input into the development of this document, on issues ranging from an end to child detention, to the protection of women and girls. In addition, on regional and local levels, many Conference participants will be focused on seeking to enhance and improve Australian policies and service provision.

When push comes to shove: deconstructing drivers of forced migration

Dr Susanne Schmeidl (Forced Migration Research Network; UNSW) moderated the session of speakers that consisted of research associates, artists and South Sudanese community members.

The session involved deconstructing the drivers of forced migration. In the current political climate, we often forget why people leave, focusing on the “pull” factors rather than the “push” factors, the fact that many people don't want to leave their homes but are forced out by danger and difficulty. The session delved into displacement drivers linked to poor governance, violence and conflict, as well as the hidden, often multiple internal displacements which occur before settlement. Understanding the displacement-chain-effect that occurs for people who flee first to neighbouring countries until absorption-capacity is reached or harassment forces them onwards. With focus on the protracted conflict in South Sudan and the generalised violence that still occurs in Afghanistan, the session improved understanding of the varying and complex reasons that compel people to leave their country, and investigated the viable alternatives for people to have protection.

Refugee women fight for justice: advocacy from the grassroots to the UN

Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway (Honorary Associate of the Forced Migration Research Network; UNSW) moderated the session with diverse speakers working on women's right advocacy. Speakers included: **Tenneh Kpaka**, Deputy chair for Women at Risk Working Group; Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), **Bintu Kamara**, Settlement Services International (SSI), **Velvy Holden**, Co-Founder and Executive Director; Australian

National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW), **Melika Sheikh-Eldin**, Manager of Settlement Support Services; AMES Australia, **Linda Bartolomei**, Former Director; Centre for Refugee Research UNSW Sydney

The session explored pressing issues: Why are the needs of women from refugee backgrounds particularly important, and why do they remain unmet? How can women from refugee backgrounds learn to advocate for their own rights, and continue to do so despite the slow progress? The purpose of the session was to ensure the voices of women from refugee backgrounds were understood, recorded and highlighted, to learn from best practice lessons and challenges, those issues and solutions will be used to advocate for better services, policy and practice. The session explored the gendered nature of the refugee experience with a brief history of law and policy developed to improve the protection of refugee women from the ongoing risks of rape, sexual abuse and discrimination; from flight to settlement. The richness of the panel was reflected in the diverse lived experiences of refugee women, tireless advocates and the struggles of being a woman from a refugee background living in Australia. Panelists shared their experiences of passion and perseverance in their united fight for the recognition of rape, gender-related violence and discrimination in conflict and post-conflict situations and their struggles for protection and justice for all refugee and displaced women and girls. Research and international advocacy work are recurrently underway to strengthen the gendered language in the UN Global Compact greater commitment for protection for women, leadership and against gendered violence.

Australia's future: the professional necessity for migrant and refugee authorship in creative industries

Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (Forced Migration Research Network; UNSW Sydney) moderated the session of the following speakers: **Behrouz Boochani**, Journalist; reporting on the human rights abuses within Australian immigration detention; **Omid Tafighian**, Lecturer and community advocate; University of Sydney; **James Cogswell**, Producer; Cast; from the Storm; **Robin de Crespigny**, Writer and filmmaker; **Lena Nahlous**, Executive Director; Diversity Arts Australia.

This panel premised on the understanding that Australia's creative economy will stand or fall on its diversity and global relevance. This capacity can only be realized if the nation extends its will to reach across and through the entire population for talent, for stories and for skills. Indigenous Australians have experience of ongoing deracination, forced mobility, marginalisation, and silencing, but they have worked hard to counteract those challenges with a strong creative voice. Panelists brought their creative knowledge to identify practical, doable interventions, with people from refugee or asylum seeking background to ensure that talent is identified and nourished, and that storytelling is prioritised as a national commitment to cohesion. The input of the panel brought emerging perspectives to light, specifically in regard to new creative voices in the Australian media and creative industries. The session also spoke of the added complexity due to the internally competitive nature of the creative industries in Australia between the states (due to different regulations and local taxes for production houses), taxes on premises and training costs. The overriding consensus of the panel is that it is essential for film, theatre and literature to become established in history; foundational work for people to experience the history of Australia.

Futuring Education for a Changing World: Challenges, Innovation and Opportunities

The session was moderated by Forced Migration Research Network members Dr **Caroline Lenette** and Verónica **Tello**. Speakers included: **Muzafar Ali**, Founder; Cisarua Learning Centre; **Sally Baker**, Research Associate at the Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education; University of Newcastle; **Michael Smith**, International Education Coordinator; Jesuit Refugee Service.

The session underpinned the importance of recognising experience and diversity in higher education, the need for greater flexibility in the system to accommodate resettlement and optimistically discussed the critical role that education can play in allowing people with refugee experience to thrive. From speaker's experiences as higher education scholars, academics, refugee student and now educator, provided a wide breadth of perspectives on the access and equity challenges experienced by refugees in both domestic and international educational contexts. Despite these challenges, the session drew upon optimism and offered tangible actions for change. Panelists powerfully discussed the limitations of Australia's current education system to adequately cater to the needs of refugee students beyond the political agenda, as well as current gaps in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. Opening access to higher education is not enough. There needs to be commensurate attention paid to supporting students from refugee backgrounds once they are 'in', and assistance for transitioning out to further study and careers. Homogeneity in higher education needs to be proactively challenged to allow diverse experienced students to thrive. A collaborative plan needs to be established to ensure that education issues are at the forefront of discussions relating to forced migration issues. By sharing best-practice approaches across diverse educational settings, and showcasing innovative examples of initiatives that draw on and foreground the academic expertise and knowledge of refugees and asylum seekers, the session highlighted viable alternatives.



Plenary 3: Towards the Global Compact

Dr Linda Bartolomei moderated the final session of the conference with rapporteurs: **Arif Hazara**, Youth delegate; Global Refugee Youth Consultations and UNHCR-NGO consultations; **Atem Atem**, Community Advocate and Recipient; John Gibson Refugee Community Leadership Grant 2017; **Lilianne Fan**, International Director and Co-Founder; Geutanyoë Foundation; **Najeeba Wazefadost**, CEO; Hazara Women of Australia.

The vibrant final session brought together knowledge, experience and diversity, lending itself to rich discussions, and tangible local, regional and international recommendations moving forward. The Conference itself marked a great platform to bring civil society, NGOs, INGOS together to talk about issues and bring effective alternatives.

Currently, in too many places across the world peace, stability and sustainable growth remains elusive. Brutal and seemingly intractable have devastated the lives of millions of people and consequently threatened the future of generations. There is frustration amongst men, women, young people and children in crisis, who feel that their voices are not being heard, their capabilities are not being recognised, their needs are not being met, or their hope for peaceful, self-sufficient future are not being realised. The absence of political solutions has led to more protracted crisis and displacement. Importantly, panelists reiterated that we cannot find solutions without the active contributions. People with lived experience have a role to play in driving outcomes, and should not be omitted from decision-making process. Ultimately the desire for lasting, sustainable change was resounding. The Conference came to a close with all audience members standing together to embrace the uplifting song by Ajak, marking a moment of solidarity.

Launch of Human Rights Training Package

The Conference launched the training materials developed from the ARC Funded Linkage Project - *The Meaning of Rights in Refugee Settlement* in which researchers Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway, Dr Linda Bartolomei and Professor Richard Hugman from the UNSW Centre for Refugee Research worked with partner agencies and refugee communities to explore how understandings of human rights influence refugee settlement in Australia and to develop policy and service responses. These materials were developed in response to the frustration reported by many refugee communities in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria who find the laws and rights relating to family life in Australia confusing and challenging. The



The materials form a training package designed to assist newly arrived refugees understand how the human rights conventions are applied in Australia and what it means to family life. There is also a film version of the booklet which discusses family rights. The booklets and film have been translated into eight community languages: Arabic, Burmese, Dari, Farsi, Hazaragi, Karen, Kiswahili and Tamil. The materials including a train the Trainer Manual can be accessed here: (<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/research/forced-migration-research-network/resources/human-rights-training-package/>)

Film Festivals

The Conference screened a number of shorts, screen artworks, and feature-length films that address the conditions, hope, issues and challenges of forced migration in the twenty-first century. Many have been made by people who are themselves refugees, or who have first-hand experience of a difficult migration. Others are by artists and filmmakers who engage with the centrality of forced migration to the human condition. Films address the reasons people may (or may not) leave their homes, the enormous hopes and struggles that such journeys entail, and the real dangers that national and supra-national border controls present. Works also explored the results of displacement, being out of place can produce loneliness, uncertainty and a sense of missing out on a life well lived, of waiting to start again but not knowing how or when. Curated by Forced Migration Research Network member, Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald, the films ran across the course of the two days of the Conference in a special screening room, many film-makers were invited to introduce the works shown. Due to the success of the screenings, UNSW and RCOA plan to explore further creative pathways for film festivals and community involvement.

The FMRN co-hosted 8 seminars in 2017 on the following topics:

1. **Research Cluster on Imperial, Colonial and Transnational Histories**, Dr. Ruth Balint and Associate Professor Claudia Tazreiter
2. **Supporting refugee students in Higher Education**, Dr Sally Baker
3. **Workshop on qualitative (interpretative) social research methodology and methods for research students**, distinguished visiting scholar Professor Michaela Köttig
Michaela also gave a seminar on her research on far-right nationalist movements in Germany
4. **Women claiming justice: Rights to land. The Soulaliyate Movement and the collective lands in Morocco**, Dr Fadma Ait Mous
5. **Feminism and Women's Political Activism in North Africa: challenges and perspectives**, distinguished visiting scholar Dr Fadma Ait Mous
6. **Story-telling, diaspora identities, trauma and memory roundtable with playwrights and filmmakers**, Associate Professor Claudia Tazreiter
7. **Roundtable Discussion on Refugee Education Initiatives on Chios Island, Greece**, chaired by Dr Ruth Balint with visiting guest Nicholas Millet
8. **Debt, Opportunity and the Modern Refugee**, Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald and Rahim Savari

Refugees, a Workshop organised by the Research Cluster on Imperial, Colonial and Transnational Histories, School of Humanities & Languages UNSW

Wednesday 19 April, 2017 | Morven Brown Building, Room 209, UNSW | 10:00am - 3:15pm

A Workshop Sponsored by the Research Cluster on Imperial, Colonial and Transnational Histories, with Distinguished Speaker Greg Burgess, Deakin University and Panel Chair Mina Roces. The workshop featured sessions by FMRN members Claudia Tazreiter, "Reconsidering Lifeboat Politics Through the Lens of Crisis Migration" and Ruth Balint, "The "Unaccompanied child" in postwar Europe". This conference examined the contexts in which this 'crisis of asylum' took shape and how it affected the nature of refugee protection, the conception of refugee rights, and the role of the state as the guarantor of these rights. From the mid-1980s, French writers - social scientists, journalists, senior figures in the bureaucracy - began writing about a disjuncture between the principles and traditions of rights in French political culture as they applied to refugees, and the increasingly exclusionary tendencies in policies of admission and protection. These years marked what was generally called a 'crisis of asylum', because neither state policies nor the institutions created for the protection of refugees could assure the human rights promised in the post-war refugee regime. Refugees were increasingly classified as 'asylum-seekers', 'economic refugees', or simply illegal immigrants, new classifications, in other words, that denied the legitimacy of their claims to protection and their 'right of asylum' as refugees.

Supporting refugee students in Higher Education

Monday 1 May, 2017 | Morven Brown Building, Room 310, UNSW | 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Dr Sally Baker, then Research Associate, Centre of Excellence of Equity in Higher Education, University of Newcastle, researches equity, language, literacies, culture and transition in educational contexts in the Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education (CEEHE) at the University of Newcastle. After 14 years working with students from refugee backgrounds in English classrooms in the UK and Australia, she has sought to build on and from her practitioner insights to build much-needed empirical rich description to the challenges that students, teachers and institutions face and construct with regard to higher education for refugee students. She is currently undertaking an Australian Government funded longitudinal ethnographic

exploration of the lived experiences of students from refugee backgrounds entering and participating in higher education. She has published on the topics of academic literacies, transitions into higher education and student from refugee backgrounds, and has recently co-authored an article in *Teaching in Higher Education* (forthcoming) that seeks to unpack the support offered to students from refugee backgrounds by 'trusted' people working in 'warm' institutional but familiar) roles within higher education settings, examining not only students' experiences with seeking support for their studies but also the affective and invisible nature of this 'work'. Dr Sally Baker also spoke at the inaugural Refugee Alternatives Conference on the panel "Futuring Education for a Changing World: Challenges, Innovation and Opportunities".

Workshop on qualitative (interpretative) social research methodology and methods for research students

Thursday 29 June, 2017 | Morven Brown Building, Room 310, UNSW | 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Professor Michaela Köttig is a distinguished Visiting Professor in the School of Social Sciences, and a professor of communication, communication techniques, and conflict management at the University of Applied Sciences Frankfurt, Germany. Her research concerns female right-wing extremism, (forced) migration and radicalization in Germany. She also focuses on political socialization, family sociology, and family history as well as the influence of these factors on peer interactions. Furthermore, she is interested in young people's transition from school to work and the construction of belongings in transnational families. Here, she focuses on the constellations of families with very different political opinions and patterns of actions. In her research, she employs biographical, intergenerational, and ethnographical methods. In this Workshop hosted by the Forced Migration Research Network, Professor Köttig introduced the basic principles of the interpretive research paradigm. The methods of data collection and data analysis connected with this approach will be discussed in contrast to those used in qualitative (content-analysis) and quantitative social research. As an example of the interpretive research approach, the focus will be on the field of family history and biographical research. In the second part of the Workshop, Masters and PhD research students had an opportunity to discuss their own research approach and to engage in discussion.

Women claiming justice: Rights to land. The Soulaliyate Movement and the collective lands in Morocco

Thursday 31 August | Goodsell Building, Rooms 221 UNSW - 5pm (reception) | 5.30pm-6.30pm

Dr Fadma Ait Mous from Ain Chock Faculty of Letters and Humanities -University Hassan II of Casablanca and Distinguished Visitor to School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW Sydney, discussed the social movement that calls for the right of women to receive compensations for land. This presentation focused on the Soulaliyate movement that has recently emerged in Morocco. This social movement is calling for the right of women to receive compensations for land transferred from their tribe to real estate companies; a right which until recently was reserved to men. The name "soulaliyate" came from the "soulala" - the genealogy linking the protesters to their respective communities.

Feminism and Women's Political Activism in North Africa: challenges and perspectives

Distinguished visiting scholar Dr Fadma Ait Mous was the main speaker at a panel in the Sydney Ideas Panel on "Feminism and Women's Political Activism in North Africa: challenges and perspectives". The Panel was co-organized with the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures, University of Sydney and the School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW. It was chaired by Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald and the discussion included Dr. Lucia Sorbera, Head, Department of Arabic Language and Cultures, University of Sydney. The panel was focused on the women's roles and position in Morocco and Egypt, the key issues facing women in

both countries before and after 2011. The questions also tackled different types of feminisms, their meanings and links to activism. The historical and contemporary political experience of women in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco shows, on one side, the necessity to go beyond generalisation such as 'Arab women', 'Muslim women' and 'North African women', and to shed light on the differences alongside continuities emerging in different contexts. The panel also discussed the main challenges and the perspectives addressed by feminist activist today in the countries under discussion.

Story-telling, diaspora identities, trauma and memory

Monday 30 October, 2017 | Cinema 327, Robert Webster Building, UNSW Sydney | 10am - 12pm

This roundtable featured prominent playwrights and filmmakers, Samah Sabawi, Stephen Orlov, Su Goldfish, Mary Zournazi and Kate Cherry, Director and CEO of the National Institute for Dramatic Arts in discussion on the role of story-telling in exploring and communicating about the social and political narratives of rupture, trauma, and memory making. The roundtable explored the themes of diaspora identities and the making and unmaking of social life in times of crisis, austerity, conflict and social and political amnesia. [Listen to the conversation here.](#) Hosted by The Grand Challenge: Refugees and Migrants, The Forced Migration Research Network and UNSWriting.

Roundtable Discussion on Refugee Education Initiatives on Chios Island, Greece

Friday 22 September, 2017 | Morven Brown Building, Room 310, UNSW | 1:00pm - 2:30pm

The Forced Migration Research Network was pleased to host a visit from Nicholas Millet, the co-founder of Refugee Education Chios, on his brief visit to discuss the vital work he is undertaking on Chios Island, Greece. The Roundtable was chaired by Dr Ruth Balint (School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW), involving discussion on education and integration pathways for refugee children, with particular focus on the current situation on Chios Island, Greece. Refugee Education Chios is the largest voluntary run education service for refugee children and youth stuck on Chios Island, Greece. At the most basic level, Refugee Education Chios fulfils a fundamental right of children - to access education. In Chios, children are continually denied access to the formal education system run by the Greek Government and there are no immediate plans to integrate the children arriving into Europe into the local education system. For over one year, Refugee Education Chios has provided a safe space where young people can learn, develop and grow, where their innocence is restored and they can understand what it is to feel like a child or teenager again.

Debt, Opportunity and the Modern Refugee

Monday 4 December, 2017 | Scientia Building, Tyree Room, UNSW | 12:30pm - 5:00pm

An afternoon of talks and discussion to explore how debt is configuring international citizenship within and on behalf of the current economic order and how this impacts refugee arrivals and attempts at settlement. This lecture will engage with the contemporary structures of debt and their impact disadvantaged populations. This roundtable features a keynote Lecture by Professor Jeremy Gilbert, University of East London, with Respondent Tina Dixson and Chair Stephanie Hemelryk Donald, UNSW. Followed by a panel entitled *Debt Panel: What is it and are there solutions?* to discuss the practical responses available to counteract structural impasse, featuring Anna Robson, Refugee & Migrant Talent, John Cameron, The Cameron Foundation, Rahim Savari MA, Research Associate, UNSW Forced Migration Network, Om Dhungel, Consultant, Trainer and Mentor, and Chair: Kylie Valentine, UNSW. The panel comprises of those who work in the sector to develop opportunity, including those who have a refugee background and are now seeking to build new lives and careers beyond debt. Organised by the UNSW Grand Challenges on Refugees and Migrants in collaboration with the Refugee Council of Australia, and the UNSW Forced Migration Research Network.

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

The network has fostered a number of new research collaborations leading to the submission of several category one grant applications (several still under review).

These include:

1. **Bartolomei, L.**, Lead CI and CIs Pittaway, E. & Lenette, C. *Protecting refugee women and girls from sexual violence: Informing international law and policy (Global Compact on Refugees)*. ARC Linkage Project Grant 2018 (submitted July 2017).
2. Professor S. **Hemelryk Donald**, Lead CI and CI's A/Prof C. **Tazreiter**, Dr. R. **Balint**, PI Professor E. Kofman (Middlesex), Professor E. Wilson (Cambridge) 'Empathy via immersion: childhood experience in an era of human displacement', (to be submitted in 2018).
3. A/Prof C. **Tazreiter**, Lead CI, 'Representations of mobility: contested belonging through visual culture', DP 2018.
4. Newman, C., **Lenette, C.**, Boydell, K., Valentine, k., Zwi, A. & Bolt, R. *The multiple uses and values of digital stories in health and social policy*. (to be submitted in 2018).
5. PluSAlliance Collaboration and Seed Grant, UNSW, ASU, King's College. UNSW lead: A/Prof C. **Tazreiter** ASU lead: Prof Y. Saikia King's College lead: Prof. Satvinder Juss. 'Hating Refugees: Immigration Policies, Public Fear, and the Crisis of Social Justice.
6. **Roces, M.** sole CI, ARC Discovery Grant for 2017-2019, *Buying Power: A History of Women as Consumers, 1902-2015*.
7. **Lenette, C.**, Balint, R, Zwi, A., Liddell, B., Dawson, K., Thielscher, M., and S. **Hemelryk-Donald** (in progress) *Immersive visualisation and empathy in emergency responses for children with disabilities*. ARC Linkage application, to be submitted in 2018.

Successful Category 2 grant

Lenette, C. 2. Australian National Commission for UNESCO grant 2018: *Changing lives one degree at a time: Refugee students' digital narratives of higher education experiences* (\$12,000).

MAJOR ONGOING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

People Involved: Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway, Dr Linda Bartolomei, and Charlotte Bell

Research Areas: Refugee women and girls, International Law and Policy

Partners/Collaborators: The Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW), Advancing Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG) and UNHCR Geneva

About the Research: Due to continuing global concerns and political tensions over the increasing mass movement of refugees and migrants, in September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) issued the New York Declaration Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. The Declaration *Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants* was passed by consensus from all Member States. As well as reaffirming commitments to the 1951 Refugee Convention, and the 1967 Protocol, States committed to provide increased and coordinated protection for refugees and migrants. Mr Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR, described this international, high-level commitment as a “minor miracle”, indicating its nature as the most significant commitment to the protection of refugees in decades. He has invited academics, advocates, service providers, and refugees to provide input into a Program of Action (POA) to realise the commitments of the GCR.

In May 2017, the research team developed a comprehensive gender analysis of the draft GCR and POA to support advocacy for stronger commitments to the protection of refugee women and girls in these documents. This analysis has already generated significant international interest from UNHCR, the Australian Government, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, and peak bodies including International Council on Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) who have circulated the document to all their members. Volker Turk (Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR) publically acknowledged the value of the CIs’ extensive work in that respect at the opening plenary of UNHCR NGO Consultations in June 2017 in Geneva.

Reports

1. [Refugee Women and Girls in The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework \(PDF\)](#)
2. [Gender Notes on the First Thematic Discussion on the Global Compact on Refugees \(PDF\)](#)
3. [The World’s Biggest Minority?: Refugee Women and Girls in the Global Compact on Refugees](#)

THE MEANING OF RIGHTS ACROSS CULTURES: AN EXPLORATION OF THE INTERPRETATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

People Involved: Dr Linda Bartolomei, Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway, Professor Richard Hugman, Geraldine Doney, Kristy Ward, Rebecca Eckert, Rochelle Baughan, Emma Pittaway, Tashi James and Charlotte Bell

Research Areas: Refugee resettlement

Partners/Collaborators: AMES Australia, Diversitat Geelong, Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT), NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS), Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG)

About the Research: People who have had to flee their homes and live for years with violence and denial of their rights, welcome the human rights which life in Australia promises. However, resettlement in a new country is not an easy process and newly arrived refugees face many challenges as they adjust to life in a new country. One of these challenges is learning about and adapting to a different system of laws and rights. Resettlement brings an assumption that the rights of refugees previously denied them will be restored, and that they will enjoy and experience rights in similar ways to other citizens. However, preliminary research by FMRN and its partners has found that the issue of human rights in refugee settlement is far more complex. Many report that concerns over the meaning of rights, or how information about rights is presented has led to confusion and misunderstandings.

In 2013, staff from the former Centre for Refugee Research including Honorary Professor Eileen Pittaway, Centre Director Dr Linda Bartolomei and Associate Professor Richard Hugman were awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant to examine these issues. The aim of this exciting project was to contribute to positive settlement outcomes for refugees through exploring interpretations of human rights in refugee settlement, and the impact of this on settlement outcomes and service provision. As part of the project outcomes a series of comprehensive training materials were developed. During 2017, in the final year of the project these were trialled in the research sites with six different communities and a comprehensive Training of Trainers package was developed. A two-day Training of Trainer's workshop was held with at least two representatives from our five industry partners to trial the materials. The training workshop was followed by a two-day partner meeting to review the progress report, seek feedback on academic papers and to workshop the core project recommendations and agree on next steps. The training package was launched at the Refugee Alternatives conference hosted by the UNSW Grand Challenge on Refugees and Migrants in partnership with the Refugee Council of Australia, in February 2017.

This was followed by a series of launches of project training materials and advocacy meetings in each partner site during 2017.

Project Resources

Human Rights Training Package: Train the Trainer Manual, Animated Film on Human Rights in Australia, Human Rights in Australia Booklet, Women's Rights in Australia Booklet, and Children's Rights in Australia Booklet. Resources were translated into eight community languages.

Available at: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/research/forced-migration-research-network/resources/human-rights-training-package>

AFGHAN MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT TRENDS SINCE THE 2014 SECURITY AND POLITICAL TRANSITIONS

People Involved: Dr Susanne Schmeidl

Funding Agency: Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

Project Description

Aim:

The objective of the occasional paper is to provide an analysis of Afghan displacement, migration and asylum trends that have occurred following the political, security and economic transitions in Afghanistan in 2014 and to consider the broader regional and global context in which this change has occurred

Methods:

Desk-based study of published, online and grey-literature material on Afghanistan.

Potential/Sustainability:

We hope this paper will inform government policy on Afghan asylum seekers as well as be used as a resource on information about migration drivers from Afghanistan.

INFORMATION CONSUMPTION AND DECISION MAKING OF IRREGULAR MARITIME ARRIVALS

People Involved: A/Prof Claudia Tazreiter and Professor Sharon Pickering, Monash University

Partners / Collaborators: Australian National University/Department of Immigration and Border Protection (ANU/DIBP) Collaborative Research Program

This project is based on qualitative in-depth interviews with migrants in transit in Indonesia supported by a survey. The project maps decision making of migrants in transit to better understand the drivers of onward journeys. This project focuses on Iranian and Afghani asylum seekers.

Fieldwork conducted in Indonesia.

Publications

Occasional Paper: [Information consumption and decision-making of irregular maritime arrivals \(PDF\)](#)

WOMEN'S DECISION MAKING AND INFORMATION SHARING IN THE COURSE OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

People Involved: A/Prof Claudia Tazreiter

Research Areas: Refugee Women & Girls at Risk

Partners / Collaborators: Australian National University/Department of Immigration and Border Protection (ANU/DIBP) Collaborative Research Program

This project is based on a large survey and in-depth interviews with women asylum seekers and stateless persons in Malaysia.

Research team

Chief Investigators: A/Prof Claudia Tazreiter and Professor Sharon Pickering, Monash University

Publications

Draft Occasional Paper: [Women's decision-making and information sharing in the course of irregular migration \(PDF\)](#)

DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICE IN SETTLEMENT SERVICES FOR REFUGEE WOMEN-AT-RISK

People Involved: Dr Caroline Lenette, Prof Robert Schweitzer, A/Prof Mark Brough, A/Prof Ignacio Correa-Velez, Dr Kate Murray, Access Community Services

Research Areas: Refugee Women & Girls at Risk

Funding Agency: Australian Research Council

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This research aims to develop a practice framework for working with refugee women, who have entered Australia on women-at-risk visas. Underpinned by an ecological perspective of human wellbeing, the practice framework will align with the determinants of women-at-risk psychosocial wellbeing as identified in the research.

Aim:

1. Assess psychosocial wellbeing of refugee women-at-risk within six months of arrival and at 12-month follow-up;
2. Determine relative influence of factors that impact psychosocial wellbeing of this group within six months of arrival and at 12 month follow-up;
3. Gain rich understandings of social and gendered experiences of refugee women-at-risk within 18 months of arriving in Australia;
4. Work with a settlement agency to develop an assessment and practice tool, which can be used by practitioners working with refugee women-at-risk, and;

5. Develop and disseminate a best practice framework that will inform settlement services for refugee women-at-risk in Australia.

Methods:

The mixed methodology is informed by sociocultural and psychological perspectives. The research is conceptualised within an ecological framework to understand the risk and protective factors of women-at-risk within the broader context of their relationships and environments. The mixed-methods longitudinal design provides structure and flexibility to assess and illustrate the women's experience at multiple levels, in line with the ecological framework. Quantitative assessment and qualitative interviews will draw rich understandings of the women's resettlement experience, and will ascertain relationships between individual factors (psychological) and social factors (changes in community networks) during the early period of resettlement. The qualitative component enables the identified relationships to be elaborated with meaningful depth.

Potential/Sustainability:

The project will develop a framework in collaboration with our industry partner for ensuring that the complex needs of refugee women who are 'at-risk' are met as Australia's humanitarian program continues to grow.

ACCESSING THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS): VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE OF CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CALD) COMMUNITIES

People Involved: Dr Charlotte Smedley, Thushara Senaratna (Advance Diversity), Ayah Wehbe (*Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW*)

A study undertaken by UNSW and Advance Diversity Services aimed to explore the views and experiences of people from different Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in Sydney about their ability to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Voices of people with disability from CALD backgrounds are significantly underrepresented in research and in the implementation of the NDIS. The NDIS Annual Report 2015-16 shows only 4% of people from CALD communities accessed the NDIS. Many of the study's participants are from refugee backgrounds. In its first stage, language specific focus group discussions and individual interviews were conducted, attended by people with a disability and/or carers living in St George; an area where the NDIS has not yet rolled out.

In the second stage, research was undertaken in Bankstown where the NDIS has been already rolled out, to provide a comparative analysis of the experiences the different CALD communities have when preparing for the NDIS with those who are already using the NDIS. So far, focus groups have been conducted in Arabic, Auslan (Australian sign language), Cantonese, Mandarin, Nepalese and Spanish along with individual interviews with participants from a range of different community language backgrounds. Language and communication barriers, lack of computer skills, stigma towards disability and limited exposure to disability services are significant barriers highlighted by these communities in relation to their ability to access the NDIS.

Findings will provide valuable data when the voices of people with a disability who come from CALD backgrounds will be utilised to develop strategies which will better support these communities in accessing and preparing for the NDIS.

Publications: <https://www.aspc.unsw.edu.au/node/38/paper/2118>

ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL NETWORKS

Building on the important body of work from the Centre for Refugee Research, the Forced Migration Research Network has been instrumental in forming, and is an active member of, working groups and networks with peer organisations and advocacy associations, and has conducted cooperative and productive research with refugee services both locally and internationally. These key partnerships continued in 2017 and included partnerships included:

The Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW): ANCORW is a lobbying, advocacy and research group that works with and for refugee women and their families in order to bring about change in the refugee system. It has worked closely with the CRR for many years, often as a funding partner in research projects and is one of the industry partners in the ARC Linkage Project *Protecting refugee women and girls from sexual violence: Informing international law and policy (Global Compact on Refugees)*. Which is currently under review. See: <http://www.ancorw.org/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): FMRN members Adjunct Professor Pittaway and Dr Linda Bartolomei continue to be recognised in official presentations and papers of the UNHCR, the Assistant High Commissioner, and by Australian Government representatives at annual meeting of Governments with UNHCR in Geneva. The recognition recently led to them being invited to led a Gender Audit of the Thematic meetings as part of the preparation of the Global Compact on Refugees. UNSW holds an official MOU with UNHCR Geneva. This is only one of two such agreements that UNHCR has signed with universities internationally.

Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) was established in November 2008 and now comprises of a network of over 180 civil society organisations and individuals in 22 countries committed to advancing the rights of refugees in the Asia Pacific region through information sharing, mutual capacity strengthening and joint advocacy. APRRN members are service providers, human rights advocacy groups, research institutions, law firms providing pro-bono legal aid, refugee community-based organisations and refugee community organisations and individuals. CRR was a founding member of APRRN. The overall aim of APRRN is to support activities that will assist in the protection of refugees and displaced communities in the Asia-Pacific region. APRRN's advocacy in the region highlights rights violations and supports development of mechanisms and strategies to address adverse situations. APRRN advocates for countries to sign on to relevant international conventions as well as promoting the enactment of supportive national legislation. APRRN is one of the industry partners in the ARC Linkage Project *Protecting refugee women and girls from sexual violence: Informing international law and policy (Global Compact on Refugees)*. Which is currently under review. See: <http://www.aprrn.info>

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- Pittaway, E., Bell, C., & Bartolomei, L. A. (2017). *Refugee women and Girls in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework*. UNSW Sydney: Forced Migration Research Network UNSW. Retrieved from https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/CRRF_working_document_updated_June_5.pdf

OCCASIONAL AND WORKING PAPERS

- Tazreiter C, Pickering, S and Powell R (2017) 'Rohingya women in Malaysia: decision-making and information sharing in the course of irregular migration' Working Paper Series, Global Governance Programme, European University Institute.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Bartolomei, L, 2017 The Global Compact on Refugees, Opening Plenary, and Refugee women fight for justice: advocacy from the grassroots to the UN, Panel Presentation, Refugee Alternatives Conference.
- Hemelryk Donald , S. 2017. Australia's future: the professional necessity for migrant and refugee authorship in creative industries, Panel Presentation, Refugee Alternatives Conference.

- **Hemelryk Donald, S. and Balint, R.** 2017. Shifting Perspectives, Interdisciplinary Research Spaces and Transformative Agendas, Panel Presentation, Academic Symposium.
- **Lenette, C.** 2017 Futuring Education for a Changing World: Challenges, Innovation and Opportunities, Panel Presentation, Refugee Alternatives Conference.
- **Lenette, L.** 2017 Visual methods in participatory research: ethical and practical issues in working with refugees and other groups, Durham University, UK.
- **Schmeidl, S,** 2017 When push comes to shove: deconstructing drivers of forced migration, Panel Presentation, Refugee Alternatives Conference.
- **Tazreiter, C.** 2017. Researcher, Researched and partnerships with communities: ethical and methodological issues in engaged academic practice, Panel Presentation, Academic Symposium.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- **Bartolomei, L, and Pittaway E.,** Invited Presentation: Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law Annual Conference ‘The Global Compact on Refugees and Migration’, November 2017, address ‘*Refugee women and girls in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework*’.
- **Tazreiter, C.** Invited Workshop: ‘Transforming borders from below: theory and research from across the globe’ *Migration, Refugees, and Religious Perspectives Workshop* - April 27-28th 2017 Arizona State University’s Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict.
- **Tazreiter, C.** Invited Convenor: Sydney Writer’s Festival, May 2017 - Panel Convenor and moderator on: ‘Hate Politics of Immigration’ with Stephen Orlov (Canada), Samah Sabawi (Australia/Canada/Palestine), Mona Chalabi (USA), Roanna Gonsalves (Australia).
- **Tazreiter, C.** Invited address: Stephen Castles Festschrift - March 17, 2017, Sydney University ‘Crisis in migration as the spectacular in the late neoliberal era’.
- **Tazreiter, C.** Invited Workshop: Leverhulme Network Event - Melbourne, 2-3 February 2017, Monash University ‘New migration flows and the challenges of temporariness’.
- **Tazreiter, C.** Invited Workshop: Melbourne ‘The Regional Impacts of Australian Asylum Seeker Policies’ Academy of Social Sciences funded workshop - August 2016.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION MATERIALS

- **Pittaway, E., Bartolomei, L., & Pittaway, E.E.** (2017). *Human Rights in Australia an Introduction for Newly Arrived Refugee Families Train the Trainer Manual: A Training Resource Based on the Human Rights in Australia Booklet Series.* Centre for Refugee Research, UNSW Sydney.
- **Ward, K., Bartolomei, L., Pittaway, E.E., Pittaway, E., & Bell, C.** (2017). *The Human Rights based Approach to Service Provision: Train the Trainer Manual.* Centre for Refugee Research, UNSW Sydney.