

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second issue in Volume 4 of the Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration (OxMo), a student-run monitor publishing the work of students and recent graduates.

Immediately after the last issue of OxMo was published in May 2014, the United Nations Refugee Agency announced that the global number of displaced people has reached over 50 million for the first time since WWII. This is a result of a series of unsolved refugee and humanitarian crises, and speaks to the ongoing need to address root problems, protracted situations of displacement, and provide emergency assistance to the displaced. Such actions, however necessary, often remain politically contentious. We were disturbed by the UK Foreign Office's announcement that they will not support search and rescue operations for vulnerable migrants and refugees attempting to reach asylum across the Mediterranean. This decision was made despite the fact that these operations have saved an estimated 150,000 migrants from drowning. Such developments, as well as the ongoing Syria crisis, have led a growing set of global voices that have sought to question and critique the role and responsibility of countries in the 'Global North'. OxMo has contributed to this debate, as well.

As rich countries are urged to accept more Syrian refugees through resettlement process, questions about 'Fortress Europe' have become even more salient. In September 2014, we were pleased to host the **'Fortress Europe Project'** on the OxMo website. This blog provided a platform for the various voices from the 'border', and opened space for dialogue between Lampedusa and Brussels, migrants and border guards, and Italian and German students. We are proud that both the OxMo website and articles within this issue seek to address perceived injustices and bring to light the ongoing struggle of forced migrants around the globe.

This issue opens with an academic article exploring structures of refugee governance in Kakuma Refugee Camp through a case study and the concept of Foucauldian governmentality. Drawing on her experiences as a researcher in Kakuma, author Mandy Jam compellingly argues that local practices of refugee governance resemble colonial structures of domination. Through the concept of governmentality as well as post-colonial theory, Jam creates an acerbic and convincing argument regarding the similarities between contemporary humanitarianism and colonialism, as enacted in the refugee context.

The Policy Monitor section addresses the Syrian displacement crisis and explores future durable solutions. Author Catherine Tyson outlines the evolution of the crisis and evaluates future options for solutions. She analyses both domestic policies of neighbouring states and international policies regarding resettlement. After analysing both resettlement and local integration options, she concludes that eventual repatriation represents the most viable option for Syrian refugees. This article relays some of the complexities of the crisis as well as the challenges faced by not only refugees but policymakers and practitioners when assessing safe and durable options during situations of violence and social upheaval.

In the Law Monitor, Meltem Ineli-Ciger discusses the uncertain status of Syrians seeking refuge in Turkey and the implications of a 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection. The article argues that although the law creates a fairer and more credible asylum system for asylum seekers and refugees, the 2013 Law does not contribute much to the legal protection regime of Syrians since they are granted temporary protection status, rather than being governed under national asylum seeker or refugee processes. In the second Law Monitor article, Nathan Van Wees challenges popular public and media assumptions a recent

court case in Australia—the *Plaintiff S4* case—will have a significant legal impact on limiting the length of mandatory immigration detention in Australia. The ruling requires that the ‘purpose’ of detention must be achieved ‘as soon as reasonably practicable’; however, the article argues that this condition is inherently difficult to apply.

The Field Monitor submission in this issue visually explores the Saharawi refugee camps in the Western Sahara. Photographer and journalist Juan José Pfeifauf engages with the striking scenery of the desert camps through a short photo series from 2012, offering readers visual insights into life in the camps with informative captions from interviews with producers Alvaro Longoria and Javier Bardem of the Spanish documentary "Sons of the Clouds".

The Firsthand article of this issue offers an historical insight into the mass displacement from Pakistan to India following the Partition of Punjab in August 1947. The author, Sonali Narang, captures the day-to-day narratives of individuals who were among the millions displaced and ultimately found refuge and sought to build new lives in the city of Panipat. These accounts convey some of the successes and ongoing challenges surrounding the government’s settlement programme while also revealing the personal impacts of displacement.

This issue marks the last publication under the current editorial team. We would like to thank the team for all of their hard work this year, as well as the upcoming editorial board who served as shadow editors for this edition. It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and committed body of editors, and we have been delighted by the diverse numbers of articles and issues presented by authors who submitted articles for Volume 4 of OxMo.

As preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit continue to focus on building ‘a more inclusive and diverse humanitarian system’ through consultations and dialogue, it remains critical that the voices of students and young academics worldwide are heard. We hope that OxMo will continue to serve as a unique platform for international young academics to share research and engage in transnational dialogues on forced migration.

Evan Easton-Calabria & Nina Elizabeth Weaver
Co-Editors-in-Chief
Oxford, December 2014

The next volume of OxMo will be published by the new 2014-2015 editorial team, with the first issue to be published in Spring 2015. Please see the Call for Papers at the end of this issue for submission details.