

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 11th conference of the
International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

Cairo, January 6th – 10th 2008

REFUGEES AND FORCED MIGRANTS AT THE CROSSROADS: FORCED MIGRATION IN A CHANGING WORLD

DEADLINE: 30 JUNE 2007

We are pleased to announce the 11th Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). The conference will be hosted by the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program of the American University in Cairo from the 6th to the 10th of January 2008.

The image of the crossroads is apt for the phenomenon of forced migration and, increasingly, for the field of study itself. The conference will examine the various locales and moments, both physically and metaphorically, which present crossroads for forced migrants and those interested in the study of their movement. Cairo, with its unique location at the crossroad of Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, will provide an inviting location for dialogue and debate.

We invite submissions of proposals relating to forced migration, and in particular those that touch on the following sub-themes of the conference.

1 PLACES AT THE CROSSROADS

North Africa's location at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Middle East raises a number of questions that go well beyond the region itself. The conference will examine, for example, issues related to transit migration; the return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons; and, refugee resettlement. While of contemporary relevance, these issues also have historical roots. Particular attention will be paid to the movement of people across the Mediterranean, Sahara and the Eastern Atlantic and its impact on European-African relations and African-Middle Eastern relations. The conference will emphasize an inter-regional and international comparative approach to better understand how the experiences of one place can inform the debates in other locations.

2 PEOPLE AT THE CROSSROADS

Forced migrants, at both the individual and group level, often find themselves standing at the crossroads of culture, identity, and nationality. The paths they take at these different crossroads give rise to internal inconsistencies, conflicts, and contradictions as well as commonalities and resonances among groups and individuals. This conference will examine the paths forced migrants take, both in traveling from and at times back to their countries of origin (including through deportation) and how they handle the resulting adversity, ambiguity, and uncertainty in their lives.

3 POLICIES AT THE CROSSROADS

The conference will examine issues facing policy makers and practitioners in the 21st century, including challenges to the concept of asylum; threats to the protection of forced migrants; statelessness and citizenship; the civil and economic rights of different groups of displaced people; the criminalization and detention of forced migrants; the transition from relief to development; the integration/reintegration of forced migrants; and, the linkage of development to forced migration as both a cause and remedy. We are also interested in work examining policies beyond those in Europe, Africa and the Middle East – including work looking at policies in Asia, the Americas and Oceania.

4 A FIELD AT THE CROSSROADS

Within the field of forced migration studies are many topics that require a fuller understanding of the relationships among important areas of study. These include, but are not limited to, the asylum-migration nexus; the categories of urban, camp and self-settled refugees; the different categories of forced migrants, including refugees and internally displaced persons; the phenomenon of trafficking; the linkage between poverty, development and displacement; the study of transnational and exilic identity; refugees and the labour market; the economic and social conditions in countries of resettlement; and, 'environmental refugees'. Each of these topics bring into play several disciplines and competing underlying approaches. The exploration of these topics raises important questions about the nature and consequences of the field's inter- and multi- disciplinary.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

We invite submissions of abstracts of 250 words to be presented at the conference from academics, graduate students, practitioners, policy makers, individuals working with forced migrants and forced migrants themselves. Submissions from all disciplines are welcome. We wish to encourage practice-based presentations and other non-traditional means of exploring forced migration and its study, including film screenings, installations and exhibitions.

Submissions may be of two types: (i) individual paper presentations, (ii) proposals to organize a panel of up to four individuals on a particular theme or topic.

The submission deadline for abstracts is **30 JUNE 2007**. Submissions will be reviewed by the Program Committee. Presenters should expect to receive confirmation within eight weeks if their submissions have been accepted.

Conference participants are responsible for their own expenses for attendance at the conference. Some financial assistance may be available to assist those who might be otherwise unable to attend the conference. Priority will be given to graduate students and individuals from the Global South. Financial assistance will generally only be available to individuals presenting at the conference. Details of this assistance will be posted on the IASFM website in the second half of 2007. Further details about the conference and the online submission form can be found on the IASFM website:

www.iasfm.org

Requests for further information can be made to the following email address:

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