

BECOMING ADULT

Researching young migrants' uncertain futures

CONSTRUCTING VIABLE FUTURES

Unaccompanied Migrant Young People Transitioning to 'Adulthood'

12 December 2017

St Antony's College, University of Oxford, Investcorp Building, Room 117

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.00 Registration and coffee (Location: Buttery)

SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE

9.30 Welcome and Introduction

Elaine Chase and Nando Sigona

9.45 Keynote – Unaccompanied Child Refugees: Britain's Response

Lord Alf Dubs

10.15 Undocumented Young People: Perspectives from Europe

Lilana Keith, PICUM

10.30 Young People in the Asylum System: Legal and practical issues

Kathryn Cronin, Garden Court Chambers

10.45 Q&A

11.00-11.15 Tea/ coffee (Buttery)

SESSION 2: BECOMING ADULT PROJECT: KEY FINDINGS

11.15-11.45 Subjective Wellbeing, Becoming Adult and Viable Futures

Elaine Chase, Nando Sigona, Francesca Meloni, Rachel Humphris

11.45-12.00 Q & A

12.00-12.30 Music, the Arts and Widening Participation in Research

Semhar Haile, Habib Rezaie, Yusif Tahiru, Gul Zada, Winta Teddy

12.30-12.45 Q & A

12.45- 1.30 Lunch (Dining Hall)

SESSION 3: TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD: International Perspectives

1.30- 1.50 Lives Still in Limbo: Undocumented and Navigating Uncertain Futures
Roberto G. Gonzales, Harvard University

1.50-2.10 Coming of Age in Exile - Health, Education and Employment Outcomes for Young Refugees in the Nordic Countries
Signe Smith Jervelund, University of Copenhagen

2.10- 2.30 Learning as Agency: Strategies of Survival and Becoming Among Somali Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Youth in Turkey
Eda Elif Tibet, University of Bern

2.30-2.50 Longitudinal Study on the Psychosocial Wellbeing of Unaccompanied Young People in Belgium
Ilse Derlyun, University of Ghent

2.50-3.15 Q & A

3.15-3.30 Tea/Coffee (Buttery)

SESSION 4: UNCERTAIN FUTURES

3.30-3.45 Fragmented Journeys towards Europe for Afghan Young People
Moa Nyamwathi Lønning, University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

3.45-4.00 Precarious Lives of Afghan Returnees
Nassim Majidi, Sciences Po/ Wits University (South Africa)

4.00-4.20 Transitions for Young People from Albania
Lulijeta Nuzi and Esme Madill, Shpresa Programme

4.20-4.40 Young People's Transitions through Italy
Jennifer Allsopp, University of Oxford

4.40-5.00 Q & A

SESSION 5: RESEARCH, POLICY, THE ARTS AND PARTICIPATION

5.00 -6.00 PANEL DISCUSSION

Judith Dennis (Refugee Council); Stefania Vannini (Maxxi, Rome); Roberto Gonzales (Harvard University); Elaine Chase, Nando Sigona and Semhar Haile (Becoming Adult Project)

6.00pm Drinks reception

Presenters Biographies

Jennifer Allsopp

Jennifer Allsopp is a DPhil student funded by the ESRC at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford. She has conducted research at the universities of Exeter, Birmingham, Oxford, Queen Mary's University of London and with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) including on asylum, gender, poverty and EU migration policy.

Elaine Chase

Elaine Chase is Senior Lecturer in Education, Health Promotion and International Development at UCL Institute of Education. Her research focuses on the sociological dimensions of health and wellbeing, particularly for communities likely to face marginalisation and discrimination. Elaine is Principal Investigator on the 'Becoming Adult' project; Co-Investigator on an international ESRC-DfID-funded study examining ways to reduce stigma in anti-poverty policies; Co-Investigator within the ESRC-AHRC Migration Leadership Team; Co-Investigator on the education strand of the ESRC-funded RELIEF (Refugees Education, Learning Technology, and Entrepreneurship for the Future) Centre; and Coordinator of the Education, Migration and International Development research stream for IOE's Centre for Education and International Development.

Kathryn Cronin

Kathryn is a barrister in Garden Court Chambers with extensive experience in the representation of children. Her practice involves immigration, asylum, child trafficking and nationality issues as well as children's issues arising in international family law. Kathryn is ranked in legal directories at the highest level for her immigration and asylum work. She is known for her representation of vulnerable clients, in particular asylum and human rights cases involving women and children. She has considerable experience in cross-over areas where family or childcare cases involve associated issues on immigration status, or concerning immigration cases where there are family and childcare law and practice considerations. She is the joint author of the Law Centres Network's detailed report on their representation of some 100 asylum seeker children, *Put Yourself in Our Shoes; Considering Children's Best Interests in the Asylum System*. She is currently writing a text on Child Migration which addresses the intersecting family, community care, asylum and immigration laws engaged in child movement.

Judith Dennis

Judith Dennis is Policy Manager at the British Refugee Council, one of the leading charities working with asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. For the first ten years there Judith focused on policy relating to unaccompanied children; she now leads all the policy work but retains a keen interest in the asylum process and care for separated children. Her particular interests include age disputes, turning 18, legal advice and family unity in the asylum system. Prior to joining the Refugee Council in 2000, Judith worked in social work in two central London local authorities.

Ilse Derluyn

Ilse Derluyn obtained her PhD in Educational Sciences at Ghent University (Belgium) and is currently affiliated as lecturer to the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy (Ghent University), where she teaches courses in migration and refugee studies. Ilse's main research topics concern the psychosocial wellbeing of unaccompanied refugee minors, migrant and refugee children, war-affected children, victims of trafficking and child soldiers. She is also actively involved in supporting refugees and practitioners working with refugees and migrants, in policy research and policy-influence. Ilse published over 50 international publications and several books, is holder of an ERC Starting Grant and coordinator of a large EU H2020 project. Prof. Derluyn is heading the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR) and is co-director of the Centre for Children in Vulnerable Situations (CCVS)

Lord Alf Dubs

Alf Dubs was born in Prague, arriving in the UK in 1939 on a Kindertransport train at the age of six. He was an elected Member of Parliament from 1979-87. During his time in the House of Commons he was a frontbencher on Home Affairs. After losing his parliamentary seat, he became CEO of the Refugee Council and in 1994 was appointed to the House of Lords as a Labour Peer. He has served on a number of parliamentary committees, including the Joint Committee on Human Rights and is a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly where he is the UK representative on the Migration Committee. He has successfully campaigned to allow unaccompanied child refugees to enter the UK.

Roberto G. Gonzales

Roberto G. Gonzales is Professor of Education at Harvard University. His research centres on contemporary processes of immigration and social inequality, and stem from theoretical interests at the intersection of race and ethnicity, immigration, and policy. His book, *Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America* (University of California Press), is based on an in-depth study that followed 150 undocumented young adults in Los Angeles for twelve years. To date, *Lives in Limbo* has won seven major book awards, including the Society for the Study of Social Problems C. Wright Mills Award.

Semhar Haile

Semhar Haile is a research assistant on the ESRC funded Becoming Adult project, and currently working at the OECD, Development Centre in Paris. She has experiences of working in research ranging from migration to gender studies and climate change. She has recently completed a Master's degree from SOAS, University of London, in Globalisation and Multinational Corporations. Semhar is interested in researching how participatory research methodologies can be used to effectively influence migration policies and shape narratives around forced migration.

Rachel Humphris

Rachel Humphris is a Lecturer in the School of Social Policy, University of Birmingham; a Postdoctoral associate in the School of Anthropology, University of Oxford and a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow.

Lilana Keith

Lilana Keith is PICUM's Advocacy Officer on Children's Rights and Labour Rights. She leads PICUM's work to advance the rights and inclusion of undocumented children, young people and families. Lilana also leads PICUM's work to advance the rights of all workers, regardless of status. Lilana joined PICUM in 2011. She has been involved in work to advance migrants' rights since 2009, including through community development and funding. She has an academic background in international and European migration law and policy and social anthropology.

Esme Madill

Esme Madill began her career as a social worker working with those affected by HIV and AIDS. Since 1998 she has offered consultancy services to the not-for-profit sector. Her clients have included Comic Relief, The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust and Adfam, as well as grassroots refugee community groups. She is the co-founder of Refugee Action York, which is now the lead local support organisation for refugees and asylum seekers in North Yorkshire, and was co-founder and coordinator of the award winning campaign group End Child Detention Now. She works with Shpresa Programme supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children from Albania.

Nassim Majidi

Nassim Majidi, PhD is an Affiliate Researcher at Sciences Po's Centre for International Studies (France) and Research Associate at the African Centre for Migration and Society at Wits University (South Africa). As the co-founder of Samuel Hall, a think-tank of the Global South, she leads evidence-based research and policy development on migration and displacement.

Francesca Meloni

Francesca Meloni is Research Officer at UCL, Institute of Education. She is an anthropologist working on questions of migration, age, illegality and non-citizenship. She is particularly interested in the interface between precarious legal status, young migrants, and social belonging. She has more than ten years' experience of conducting ethnographic research with migrants with precarious status in international contexts such as the UK, Canada, Italy and Ireland. She completed her PhD at McGill University, and lectured at Humboldt University, Berlin before joining the Becoming Adult project in 2015.

Luljeta Nuzi

Luljeta Nuzi is the founder and Project Director at Shpresa Programme, an award winning user-led refugee community group supporting many hundreds of vulnerable young people including those who have been trafficked and those fleeing blood feuds and 'honour' based violence. She received an Honorary Award as Migrant and Refugee Woman of the year in 2012, the David Crystal Award from the Chartered Institute of Linguists in 2014 in recognition of her work with Shpresa Programme fostering the study of community languages and the Ambassador For Peace Award from the Universal Peace Federation in December 2016.

Moa Nyamwathi Lønning

Moa Nyamwathi Lønning is a PhD candidate in Social Work at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. Her doctoral research is on the experiences of the journeys of Afghan young people in Greece and Norway. Moa holds an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from the University of Oxford

Habib Rezaie

Habib Rezaie is currently completing an MSc in Data Analytics at De Montfort University, Leicester. He works as a project assistant for The Becoming Adult Project and The Education of Unaccompanied Asylum-seeker Child project. He is also a deputy door supervisor for the Revolution club in Leicester.

Signe Smith Jervelund

Signe Smith Jervelund (MSc, PhD) is Associate Professor at Section for Health Services Research, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, and is Director of Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health (MESU) as well as Danish Editor of Scandinavian Journal of Public Health. Jervelund's scientific main interest lies within the field of health services research with a particular focus on access to, use and effects of healthcare by different population groups, including social and ethnic inequalities in health, asylum-seeking children's mental health and refugee youth's trajectories, and health policy in both a national and international comparative perspective.

Nando Sigona

Nando sigona is Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Institute of Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham. His research interests include: statelessness, diasporas and the state; Romani politics and anti-Gypsyism; 'illegality' and the everyday experiences of undocumented migrant children and young people; crisis, governance and governmentality of forced migration in the EU; Mediterranean boat migration; and unaccompanied youth migration. His work has appeared in range of international journals and he is author and/or editor of a number of important works including *Unravelling Europe's 'Migration Crisis'* (with Crawley, Duvell, Jones and McMahon, 2017); *Within and Beyond Citizenship* (With Gonzales, 2017); and *The Oxford Handbook on Refugee and Forced Migration Studies* (with Fiddian Qasmiyeh, Loescher and Long, 2014) . Nando is also Associate Editor of the journal *Migration Studies*.

Yusif T. Tahiru

Yusif Tahiru is a musician with the Piccola Orchestra di tor pignatarra based in Rome and is project assistant with the *Becoming Adult* project.

Eda Elif Tibet

Eda Elif Tibet is a PhD Candidate on Social Anthropology, University of Bern & Research Assistant at PH Bern-Pädagogische Hochschule . This chapter is part of an ongoing doctoral dissertation, a joint collaboration between the University of Bern's Social Anthropology department and PH Bern. Our research project is called: "Transnational Biographies of Education: Young Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and their Navigation through Shifting Social Realities in Switzerland and Turkey and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. It is coordinated and supervised by: Professor Kathrin Oester & Professor Sabine Strasser.

Stefania Vannini

Stefania Vannini is Head of Public Engagement at Maxxi (National Museum of Arts of the 21st Century) in Rome, Italy with a specific focus on people who live on the fringes of society. She has coordinated an extensive range of arts-related activities engaging with and giving voice to migrant young people around the themes of conflict, forced migration and journeys.

Gul Zada

Gul Zada works as a Service Coordinator for the British Red Cross in Leicester and is a Project Assistant on the *Becoming Adult* Project. He is also a Community Support Volunteer for Leicestershire police and has worked extensively as an interpreter for people going through the asylum process. He speaks six languages, other than English, including Dari, Pashto, Farsi, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi. Gul plays cricket currently for Leicester City and previously for Lancashire County.