New database of asylum seeker research!

We are very excited to announce that one of our most valuable and widely used resources – the Repository of published research about asylum seekers and border deaths – is now available in a much more usable format, as an Excel database.

The Repository is a publicly available list of academic publications which includes bibliographic details, links, and summaries. The new format makes the list easier to search for specific information. Read more here.

Did you know? Environment & migration facts

...Environmental disasters are not considered legitimate reasons for claiming asylum under the Refugee Convention. The term "environmental refugee" is legally unfounded. Read more here.

...Environmental migration is multi-causal; beyond environmental disasters, environmental migration is the result of the interaction between social, economic, environmental and political elements of a person’s life. Read more here and here.

...The Pacific Island states of Kiribati and Tuvalu frequently feature in NGO reports as ‘disappearing States’ that will be uninhabitable by 2050. 30% of the Bangladesh coastline is pitched to be underwater by 2080 as a result of climate change. Read more here.

...The International Organization of Migration (IOM) has a bibliography of research literature on environmental migration ‘People on the Move in a Changing Climate: A Bibliography’ (2012).

Environmental migration – under-researched and under-estimated

The importance of environmental migration is under-estimated in relevant policy and law. The limited research that exists has expressed concerns as to the lack of legal and policy representation by people displaced and forced to move due to the effects of climate change (see Jane McAdam, Karen McNamara and Biermann and Boas). This makes the people who are physically vulnerable to the effects of climate change also politically and legally vulnerable due to under-representation.

Read more here. Image via
BOb Focus Project: Global Cities & Illegality

Findings from this Project show that illegalization of asylum seekers effectively produces classes of individuals who are subject to levels of control that confine them to specific socioeconomic sectors. This development benefits certain strata of the legal resident population who are more likely to be negatively affected by income and occupational polarization. Thus, asylum seekers ease the social inequality created by official policy which advances the territory’s global city status. Read more [here](#).

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**Researcher profile: Dr Gabriella Sanchez**

Dr Gabriella Sanchez is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Border Crossing Observatory. An Arizona State University graduate, she is currently at Monash University in Melbourne working on a book manuscript on the social dynamics of human smuggling, based on her dissertation work among the men and women who facilitate extra-legal border crossings in the American Southwest.

Gabriella’s arrival at Monash coincided with the controversial announcement by the Australian government to resettle refugee seekers arriving by boat, and she has been interviewed on her work on human smuggling operations by local media. Read more [here](#).

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**Higher degree student profile: Eleanor Meyer**

Eleanor Meyer is a Masters by Research candidate. She is currently writing up her findings in preparation of finishing her dissertation. Eleanor’s thesis has examined the representations of people affected by environmental changes (otherwise known as ‘environmental refugees’) in policy and legal documents.

Eleanor has concluded that the representations of environmental migrants are negligible and that environmental migrants are legally and politically vulnerable due to a lack of representation in legal and policy documents. Read more [here](#).

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**Graduate news**

‘Reconciling sex workers rights within immigrant narratives’ and ‘Justifying gender violence: Demand based approaches in anti-trafficking’ were international conference presentations made recently by BOb Graduate student Julie Ham. Julie has been busy presenting her research findings at conferences in Canberra and Spain, and she is currently based in Vancouver where she has begun her Canadian fieldwork component. She has also just had a book chapter on trafficking and gender published. Read more [here](#).

Presenting findings from a media analysis on non-Westernised views of irregular migration in Bangladesh and on border deaths in Australia and the EU, BOb PhD student Brandy Cochrane been engaged in a number of national criminology conferences to promote her research findings to an academic audience. Read more [here](#).

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**Opportunities**

**BOb November-December internship applications open**

Our next 2-week internship program will be hosted from November 25-December 6 2013 at Monash University, Clayton. Applications are due on Friday, October 25. For more details about the application process and relevant forms, visit our [Opportunities website](#).
A big thank you to Stephanie Eddelbuttel and Anna Sande who recently completed our intake two internship program in July. Stephanie updated our asylum seeker Repository and created the new user-friendly database presentation for our website and Anna developed useful materials and strategies to help raise the international profile of BOB.

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**Events**

**Seminar and Conference**

Monash Asia Institute, Trans-Asia as method seminar will be held from 3-5pm, 31 October at Caulfield campus, Melbourne. BOB’s Dr Anne McNevin will be presenting a paper titled ‘Beyond Territoriality: rethinking human mobility, border security and geopolitical space from the Indonesian island of Bintan’.

The European Society of Criminology Conference in Budapest, September 2013. BOB’s Dr Sanja Milivojevic will be presenting on borders and security technologies at this conference.

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**Featured publications**

**Books**


**Book chapters**


**Journal articles**


**Research paper**

NGO news
Vision First: Advocating for refugee rights in Hong Kong

Advocating for the rights of refugees in Hong Kong, Vision First has a new public YouTube and blog based campaign, exposing the government’s maltreatment of refugees in resettlement. Further, Vision First has launched a new ‘Insight Series’ presenting empirical research on refugee issues in Hong Kong. Read more about both of these initiatives [here](#).

Why do we still have refugee camps?

‘Why do we still have refugee camps?’ is the latest post on the Urban Refugees public debate forum. The Public Forum is independent and for practitioners, policy makers, researchers, urban refugees, IDPs and any other person interested in urban displacement matters to debate key issues, share information and disseminate new ideas. Read more [here](#).

Feedback and submissions

We welcome your feedback and submissions for future newsletters, including information about relevant research, discussions or events.

Our focus for the next issue will be on [deportations](#). If you wish to contribute, please contact us by emailing [bcrossingobservatory@gmail.com](mailto:bcrossingobservatory@gmail.com).