Introducing the Leverhulme Research Network

We are pleased to announce that the Border Crossing Observatory has joined Border Criminologies, at Oxford University and Crime Control in the Borderlands of Europe, at the University of Oslo under the Leverhulme International Network on External Border Control. The purpose of this new research network is to bring together these international criminological research centres that host research on the important issues of irregular migration and border control.

Encompassing cross-national activities, publications, and online resources, this interdisciplinary Network will support early career scholars and engage with practitioners while broadening methods, knowledge, and theory in relation to borders research. Learn more about the network here.

Did you know? Fluid Security in the Asia-Pacific

...Australia’s foreign born workforce makes up 26.9% of the total workforce. A further, 15.9% of persons aged 20-24 at international students. Both figures are the highest in the OECD. Read more here.

...Australia accounts for 50% of working holidaymakers in the OECD. In 2009, Australia hosted 228,000 international students, 188,000 people on a working holiday and 127,000 other temporary workers. Read more here.

...Temporary visas include the Special Category Visa (SCV) granted to New Zealand passport holders on arrival in Australia. This visa came into effect in 1994 with further restrictions added in 2001. These restrictions affect access to a range of benefits and social services and results in economic, cultural, social and legal insecurity for visa holders. Read more here and here.

BOb Focus Project: Fluid Security in the Asia Pacific

Understanding the Asia Pacific in relation to security and mobility is at the focus of BOb’s Fluid Security in the Asia Pacific Project. In order to better understand mobility in the region, and its relation to Australian policy, this project utilises case studies of mobile populations from China, Indonesia, Samoa, and Tonga who reside in Australia on a temporary basis for work or study.

Mobility, in our globalising world, can no longer be restrained to an examination of countries or regions in isolation. Instead the project looks at questions around cross-border mobility in relation to border securitization, how security domains interact with populations, examining policies that enhance the human security of temporary non-citizen who engage in circular rather than one-way migrations.
The experiences of Samoans living in Sydney as temporary migrants were the most recent outcomes of this project. The search for financial security was identified as one key driver of migration for Samoans. BOB researchers have also found that cultural difference and a lack of legal status affected emotional and physical wellbeing of migrants, complicated by long work hours and low wages Samoans experienced.

**Fluid Security in the Asia Pacific: mobility, national security and human rights**

BOB’s Helen McKernan writes on the conduct and outcomes of the Fluid Security in the Asia Pacific project, hosted by the Border Crossing Observatory. Investigating the interaction of mobilities with human security for four groups from the Asia Pacific; Tongans, Samoans, Chinese and Indonesians, the study posits new conceptions of human security in relation to mobility in the region, including to Australia. Read the full article on the project here.

**Researcher profile: Dr Claudia Tazreiter**

Dr Claudia Tazreiter is researcher with the Border Crossing Observatory and is working on the Fluid Security in the Asia Pacific research project as well as the ANU and Department of Immigration and Border Protection collaborative research project titled ‘Information Consumption and Decision Making of Irregular Maritime Arrivals’. She is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of New South Wales.

Claudia’s research focuses on forced and irregular migration, human rights, the role of non-governmental organizations and civil society in social change as well as gender in migration. She is the author of Asylum Seekers and the State: The Politics of Protection in a Security-Conscious World (Ashgate 2004, 2006), and editor of Globalization and Social Transformation in the Asia Pacific (Palgrave 2013). She is managing editor of The Australian Journal of Human Rights and is an associate of the Australian Human Rights Centre.

**Higher degree student profile: Bodean Hedwards**

Bodean Hedwards completed her undergraduate studies at Deakin University in 2011, and moved across to Monash University to undertake her PhD in Criminology in 2012. Her research examines how border control practices at the Tibet-Nepal border contribute to the criminalisation of Tibetans fleeing Tibet into Nepal and India. She recently spent two weeks in India documenting the border-crossing experiences of Tibetan men, women, nuns and ex-political prisoners. Read more about Bo’s fieldwork here.

In addition to her study, Bodean is a researcher at the Walk Free Foundation, where she is responsible for examining government responses to modern slavery in Asia, and is involved in the methodological development of the Government Response Index. Prior to this, Bodean was at the Australian Institute of Criminology where she was involved in research into Indigenous justice programs, human trafficking and violent extremism.
Graduate news

Our postgraduate students are as busy as ever! Sirakul Suwinthawong has recently achieved confirmation of her PhD research. Brandy Cochrane is currently preparing for field work and international conference presentations whilst blogging and tweeting about her research experiences to share. Julie Ham continues to present and publish her research on Asian sex workers in Australia and Canada. Read more about what our postgraduates have been up to here.

Events


Annual Fay Gale Lecture, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia presented by BOB’s Professor Jacqui True, ‘Winning the war on war but losing the battle: A feminist perspective on global violence’ Tuesday, 3 June 2014 Melbourne and Tuesday, 17 June Adelaide
Bookings essential. More information and RSVP here.

The Annual Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Conference
Friday 25 July 2014, Deakin Edge, Federation Square, Corner Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne, Conference information and registration here.


The Border Crossing Observatory ‘International and national migration conference list’

Have you always wanted a list of migration conferences throughout the world at your fingertips? Look no further! BOB’s migration conference list is now available and updated monthly. Access the conference list here.

Featured publications

Books


Special Issue Journal

Special Issue of the Australian Journal of Human Rights, ‘Human mobility and human rights: the intersections’ Volume 19 Issue 3, 2013, guest editor, Claudia Tazreiter, including the following articles from BOB researchers:


Claudia Tazreiter, C. ‘Emergence, crisis politics, and future horizons in irregular migration: mobility, stasis and invisibility’ p. 121.

**Journal articles**


**NGO news**

**VisionFirst**

In the past three months Vision First supported the newly formed [Refugee Union](#) in their fight against refugees’ immiseration and subjugation in Hong Kong. Day after day the refugee struggle has gained attention and legitimacy. Newcomers are instructed in resistance tactics by three-month veterans, as the union only started in February 2014. The Refugee Union is a powerful demonstration of refugee agency as opposed to stereotyped perceptions of refugees as powerless individuals. In fact, Vision First provides the ideological framework and connections, while refugees dictate the line of attack against a system that aims to render them voiceless, despite their demanding social participation.

**Urban Refugees**

As if registering for the NGO Global Consultation of UNHCR in June and participating around the issue of urban refugees’ Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the last few months wasn’t enough, Urban Refugees has also joined the [Urban Refugee Task Team](#) (URT). This URTT was established by UNHCR as a working group dedicated to identifying, validating, disseminating and promoting the adoption of good practices in relation to forced displacement in urban settings. Urban Refugees has also launched their premiere crowd funding campaign online to launch a global advocacy campaign for urban refugees and IDPs to raise their voices and their concerns!

**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 ‘Policing non-citizens’. If you wish to contribute, please contact us by emailing bcrossingobservatory@gmail.com.