

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The 12th conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration, hosted by the University of Cyprus, June 28 to July 2, 2009

### **Transforming Boundaries**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 15 October 2008

We are pleased to announce the 12th conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). The conference will be hosted by the University of Cyprus from 28 June to 2 July 2009. This is the first time in more than a decade that the conference has been held in Europe.

The theme of boundaries encompasses a range of connections, links and exchanges that are essential to exploring, debating, understanding and creating policies that respond to forced migration.

Borders play a prominent role in forced migration today; definitions of categories of forced migrants such as refugees and IDPs, policies of interdiction and extra-territorial processing, and metaphors of "fortresses" and free-movement all rely upon the notion of a border.

Geographically at the border between Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, the island of Cyprus possesses its own particular historical experience of forced migration and borders, making it a unique and appropriate location for those working in the field.

The conference invites papers that fall within the broad theme of the conference and forced migration more generally. We particularly encourage proposals of organized panels. We solicit proposals that touch on the following sub-themes of the conference:

#### **1. Transforming the Boundaries of Identity**

The causes and consequences of forced movement frequently relate to struggles over identity.

Movement, settlement and return all raise questions about individual and group identity. How does the experience of violence and displacement change identity? How do the displaced and host communities interact? In exile, how do forced migrants define their nationality and ethnicity? How do notions of gender and generation shape the experience of exile? Upon return, how are perceptions of identity negotiated and changed? What impact do the perceptions of identity have on policy issues such as post-conflict repatriation, peacebuilding and reconstruction?

#### **2 Transforming the Boundaries of Community**

Movement challenges the assumption that the world divides neatly into static communities. It creates new sources of division and unity, and brings into existence new forms of collective organisation. How do refugees, IDPs and other groups of forced migrants and our approaches to them challenge existing notions of community? How are 'old' and 'new' communities being transformed and created? How is forced migration being addressed on a regional basis through, for example, the European Union or the African Union's new framework on IDPs? How are transnational communities and networks being formed through processes of forced migration? On a local level, how do exile and return create new forms of community structure? Finally, how do ethical concerns about the boundaries of community shape consideration of humanitarian intervention and debates involving the responsibility to protect?

#### **3. Transforming the Boundaries of Policy Areas**

Recently, ideas such as the 'asylum-migration nexus' and the 'migration-development nexus' have hinted at the blurring of boundaries across policy fields. There has also been acknowledgment of the need to close the 'gap' between humanitarianism and development. Meanwhile, the notion of 'complementary protection' highlights the relevance of human rights law for refugees. The limitations of policies of states, regional actors and intergovernmental agencies have also become apparent.

Forced migration challenges the extent of policies and the boundaries between policy fields. How should states and international organisations develop a more coordinated response across agencies and policy fields? How do the politics of other issue-areas affect responses to forced migration? How can we both conceptualise and operationalize the relationships between forced migration and other policy areas?

## **SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

We invite submissions of abstracts of 250 words 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, (iii) work-in-progress papers.

The submission deadline for abstracts is 15 October 2008. Submissions will be reviewed by the Programme Committee. Presenters should expect to receive confirmation by 31 December 2008 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 2008. Further details about the conference and the online submission form can be found on the IASFM website:

[www.iasfm.org](http://www.iasfm.org)

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

[iasfm12@iasfm.org](mailto:iasfm12@iasfm.org)