

## Seeking Refuge:

### **caught between bureaucracy, lawyers and public indifference?**

April 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London

Funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council and hosted by the Centre of African Studies, University of London.

What is the situation confronting 'refugees' and immigrants who enter Europe and North America? While this issue has received considerable attention in the press there has been too little in-depth research examining the issues which confront those who seek asylum. This conference seeks to remedy that gap by bringing together innovative new research – by anthropologists, sociologists, lawyers, historians, social scientists, asylum/immigrant advocates and human rights activists – in the form of cutting-edge case studies of the political institutions, bureaucratic obstacles, legal issues and socio-political process that asylum seekers confront.

Case studies are invited on:

- The impact of national and regional immigration controls – including regional cooperation pacts e.g. linking the EU and North Africa, the US and Canada – on individuals seeking asylum. How do individuals enter? Do these barriers force asylum seekers to enter illegally and if so at what cost? How does illegal entry affect an individual's ability to claim asylum?
- The experience of individuals who are or have sought asylum. How do individuals navigate asylum procedures? What if any is the key to obtaining recognition? What are the barriers?
- Lawyers, lawyering and immigration-related litigation?
- The use made of expert reports in immigration-related litigation in the UK and elsewhere.
- The importance of language, culture, gender, religion or class in the outcome of asylum appeals?
- The impact of asylum and immigration policies on the rights of asylum applicants?
- The role of key institutions – e.g. the national immigration authorities, courts and judges (e.g. judicial decision-making), police, NGOs, community groups, political parties/groups – on refugees and asylum decisions?
- The impact of 9/11 and terrorist legislation on the ability of individuals to seek and obtain asylum?

To register and for updates (e.g. information on hotels, key note speakers, CPD credit etc) see: [www.nomadit.co.uk/refuge](http://www.nomadit.co.uk/refuge).

Paper abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted online by November 1st 2008. Individuals will receive notification of acceptance by November 15th. Complete papers should be submitted for circulation by March 15, 2009.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the conference convener Dr. John R. Campbell at: [jc58@soas.ac.uk](mailto:jc58@soas.ac.uk)

**Conference fees:**

	<b>One day*</b>	<b>Both days</b>
<b>Academics</b>	L40.00	L60.00
<b>Post Graduate students</b>	L15.00	L20.00
<b>NGOs/human rights activists</b>	L25.00	L40.00
<b>Lawyers/barristers**</b>	L100.00	L150.00

\*(If you book for one day please specify whether it is for April 17<sup>th</sup> **OR** April 18<sup>th</sup>)

\*\*Intended CPD accreditation (Law Society and Bar Council: 1.5 hours)

The registration fee includes tea/coffee & biscuits and lunch. There will be a conference dinner on the evening of Thursday April 16 (further information will be announced at the conference and individuals are expected to pay for their own food and drink).

Participants will need to pay for their own expenses including travel, hotel and food.