



Refugee governance as geopolitics in Syria's neighbourhood

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Thursday 28th June, 9.30-12.30

ABSTRACT:

Syria's neighbourhood hosts currently about 5.5 million displaced Syrians who have escaped the lethal conflict since its outbreak in 2011. While more than 3.4 million Syrians are registered in Turkey, around 2 million are in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. In Lebanon and Jordan, displaced Syrians constitute more than 20 percent of the population. This lecture looks at how key supranational bodies have dealt with the issue of Syria's displacement in Syria's neighbourhood with emphasis on Lebanon and Jordan. It elaborates on the key strategies that the European Union, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Arab League (LAS) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have adopted to 'govern' and 'regulate' displacement in Syria's neighbourhood. The lecture goes on to problematize how -- notwithstanding collaborative instruments and strategies-- divergent interests and perceptions have thwarted 'synergistic governance', backfiring on refugee rights and creating opportunities for governments to buttress their state-centric agendas.

Readings:

Arar, Rawan. *"The New Grand Compromise: How Syrian Refugees Changed the Stakes in the Global Refugee Assistance Regime."* Middle East Law and Governance 9, (2017): 298–312.

Dionigi, Filippo. 2017. *"Reverse Moralism and the Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis."* Middle East Institute. <http://www.mei.edu/content/map/reverse-moralism-and-response-syrian-refugee-crisis>

Fakhoury, Tamirace. *"Multi-level Governance and Migration Politics in the Arab World: The Case of Syria's Displacement."* Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. 2018. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1441609>

Zaiotti, Ruben. 2006. *"Dealing with Non-Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East: Policies and Practices in an Uncertain Environment."* International Journal of Refugee Law 18 (2): 333–353.