POU44251: Politics of Forced Migration
Department of Political Science
Lecturer: Oguzhan Turkoglu
Meeting Schedule: Wednesdays 9:00-10:30 (Online/Edmund Burke in Arts)
Office Hours: by appointment only
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This module aims to introduce students to past and current research on the politics of forced migration. The course can be divided into three sub-sections: causes of displacement, effects of displacement flows on the destination, and how hosts respond to flows. It will start by introducing the main concepts and historical and legal developments. Then, it will explore the causes of forced migration movements with an emphasis on politics, conflict, and the environment. The cases of Syria, Nepal, and Bangladesh will be employed to illustrate theoretical explanations. Later, it will move on to where people flee and investigate how forced migration flows affect the security and economy of host communities. A special emphasis will be paid to Rwandan refugees in DRC to illuminate security effects and to the Mariel Boatlift (Cuban migration to the US) for economic effects. Afterward, the module will focus on how destination countries govern forced migration flows and how people in the host countries react. Developed countries (e.g., Germany) as well as developing countries (e.g., Jordan) will be investigated. Finally, it will also cover under which circumstances displaced people move back to their home and the effects of this return on society.

Learning Outcomes

On the successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- critically assess the theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of causes of forced migration;
- explore if and how forced migration flows impact the security and economy of host societies;
- evaluate different responses of governments to displacement flows and how their policies affect forced migrants;
- discuss the underlying mechanisms of variation in attitudes towards refugees both in developed and developing countries;
- identify possible issues with existing studies and avenues for future research.
Assessment

This course is examined entirely by continuous assessment. The assessment consists of an essay assignment (40%) and a final research proposal project (60%).

Essay assignment: Students must write an academic essay worth 40%. The essay is due at 11.59 pm on Monday, November 16, 2020 (Monday of Week 8). The essay should not exceed 2,000 words. The essay questions are below and students are required to answer ONLY ONE question:

- Is the relationship between conflict and displacement endogenous?
- Are host countries passive actors in the displacement process? In other words, do they only accept people who came to their soils or do they affect displacement flows?
- Is forced migration used as a strategic tool only by the source governments to win a war?

Research proposal: Students must write a research proposal worth 60%. The proposal is due at 11:59 pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. The proposal should not exceed 3,000 words. In this assignment, students are expected to provide a critical literature review identifying a gap, provide a theoretical argument to fill the gap, and elaborate on how they can test their argument. Students can pick focus on any major theme from the course. Students are required to discuss their proposed topic with the lecturer as soon as possible and by the end of week 10 at the latest.

Submission: The essay and the research proposal must be submitted through the Assessments folder on Blackboard, which allows for direct submission through Turnitin.

Academic integrity: Please do not plagiarize, do not present someone else’s work as if your own work, and properly cite the resources that you use in your assignments. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter with severe consequences and please take it seriously. For the University policies, please check pp. 47-49 [the College Calendar](https://www.tcd.ie), visit [https://libguides.tcd.ie/plagiarism](https://libguides.tcd.ie/plagiarism) for general guidelines, and you can also check [the Department undergraduate handbook](https://www.tcd.ie).

Late submissions: For both assignments, all late work, unless excused in advance by the course lecturer, or justified by medical certificate or tutors note, will be penalized at a rate of five percent per day. It is critical to let the lecturer know as soon as possible if there will be an issue in submitting the paper on time as Department policy does not allow for extensions to be granted retrospectively after the deadline.

Word count: The word count in both assignments is inclusive of EVERYTHING in the document. One point will be subtracted from the overall grade for every 100 words over the specified word count.
Citations: In both assignments, you can use in-text or footnote citation style as long as it is consistent throughout the text. For details please see the Style Manual for Political Science, revised edition (2018). Also, at the end of the bibliography list, please indicate the percentage of female scholars cited. This will not be assessed but aims to raise awareness about the gender gap in citations and encourage you to read and cite more female scholars.

Supplemental assessment: Supplemental assessment is by assessment component. This requires students undertaking supplemental assessment to complete and be reassessed on each component of the assessment that they are deemed to have failed.

Disability Policy

Students who require any disability-related accommodations are encouraged to register with the Trinity Disability Service.
SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND READINGS

There are, in general, three required readings each week. Those who want further exposure can check suggested readings. All readings are available on Blackboard. In addition, there are suggested movies, documentaries, and podcasts. While some of them are freely available, for others unfortunately subscription is required. Therefore, movies, documentaries, and podcasts will not be used in the assessment. They aim to give you a broader and more general understanding of the topics.

This module is a seminar, not a lecture. Therefore, it will be taught through class discussions. After a brief introduction by the lecturer about the general theme and concepts, the readings will be discussed. Please come prepared to the seminar. When reading the papers, please pay special attention to the gap in the literature the readings aim to fill, their main argument and how they test it, and their theoretical and methodological shortcomings. Amelia Hoover Green’s post, [How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps](https://example.com), offers useful insights on how to read articles. For general issues in methods, please check EGAP’s [10 Things to Know About Reading a Regression Table](https://example.com), [10 Things to Know About Causal Inference](https://example.com), [10 Strategies for Figuring out if X Caused Y](https://example.com).

OUTLINE

Week 1 - Introduction and Concepts
Week 2 - Causes of Forced Migration: Politics and Conflict
Week 3 - Causes of Forced Migration: Environment
Week 4 - Where do People Flee?
Week 5 - Strategic Forced Migration
Week 6 - Forced Migration and Conflict
Week 7 - Reading Week
Week 8 - Forced Migration and Economy
Week 9 - Forced Migration Governance
Week 10 - Attitudes towards Refugees
Week 11 - Return of Forced Migrants
Week 12 - Conclusion
Week 1 - Introduction and Concepts

Required Readings


Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts

- Documentary: Human Flow by Ai Weiwei

Week 2 - Causes of Forced Migration: Politics and Conflict

Required Readings


Suggested Readings


Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts
• Documentary: For Sama by Waad Al-Kateab and Edward Watts (available on Channel 4)

• Movie: First They Killed My Father by Angelina Jolie (available on Netflix)

• Movie: Timbuktu by Abderrahmane Sissako (available on Mubi)

• Movie: Hotel Rwanda by Terry George

Week 3 - Causes of Forced Migration: Environment

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


**Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts**

• Podcast: Climate Change Displacement is Happening Now by Displaced

• Podcast: How Global Warming Exacerbates Conflict by Displaced
Week 4 - Where do People Flee?

Required Readings


Suggested Readings


Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts

- Documentary: *Midnight Traveler* by Hasan Fazili

Week 5 - Strategic Forced Migration

Required Readings


**Suggested Readings**


**Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts**

• Podcast: The Return of Syrian Refugees Has Begun. And it is Becoming a Tactic of War by UN Dispatch

**Week 6 - Forced Migration and Conflict**

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


**Week 7 - Reading Week**

**Week 8 - Forced Migration and Economy**

*Required Readings*


*Suggested Readings*


*Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts*

• Podcast: Starting from Scratch by Integrate That!

• Podcast: How Businesses Could Help Solve the Refugee Crisis by Center for Global Development
Week 9 - Forced Migration Governance

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


**Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts**

- TV Series: *Stateless* by Tony Ayres, Cate Blanchett, Elise McCredie (available on Netflix)

- Podcast: *Our Refugee System is Failing. Here’s How We can Fix it* by Alexander Betts

- Podcast: *Refugee Resettlement: Using Data to Improve the System* by Displaced (with J. Weinstein)
Week 10 - Attitudes towards Refugees

Required Readings


Suggested Readings


Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts

- Podcast: First Impressions by Integrate That!

- Podcast: Where do You Think You’re Going? by Integrate That!

Week 11 - Return of Forced Migrants

Required Readings


*Suggested Readings*


*Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts*

- Podcast: The Post-Conflict Politics of Migration and Refugee Return by International Security: Off the Page (with S. Schwartz)

**Week 12 - Conclusion**

*Suggested Readings*


*Suggested Documentaries/Movies/Podcasts*

- Movie: Capernaum by Nadine Labaki

- Podcast: The Path of Compassion by Awake at Night

- Podcast: Mental Health by Integrate That!

- Podcast: I am British Now, on Paper by Integrate That!

- Video: What They Took with Them by UNHCR