

POLS303033 Environment, Human Security, and Conflict

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Week 6: Migration

Overture music

Hussein Rassim. 2016. *Amerli*. <https://youtu.be/DrSxShVRydU>

Songs of the Syrian Refugees. 2016. <https://youtu.be/OxyDo3rcGT4>

Woody Guthrie. 1948. Deportees. *The Greatest Songs of Woody Guthrie*.
<https://youtu.be/Ff0xnCmFAp0>

Video #1: Migration—causes and effects, an introduction

Class logistics

- Hope you are all hanging in there.
 - It is easy to be overwhelmed with the amount of assessment you have now
 - Not to mention the normal university stresses
 - And COVID-19
- I recognize that this class is not the only thing you have.
- I know that you are likely not able to spend as much time on the videos and readings this week as you would in a normal week.
- Do what you can and come back to the videos and reading when you can.
 - I have moved the deadline for lecture and workshop questions to the Sunday 20 September at 11:59pm. This is the last day of teaching break.
 - The topic we cover today is relevant for both Australia and for the central themes of this course, so I want to be sure that you do have the opportunity to cover the material before we move on to the second half of the class.

Today

- Part of the reason that covid-19 has moved so quickly is because of human globalization.
- International migration has now largely stopped.
- **Today's questions**
 - What effects does migration have on political stability?
 - After this pandemic passes, will migration (and its effects) intensify or shift towards something else?
 - The answer you reach depends on what you think drives migration (and drives their effects)
- **Today**

- Global migration patterns
- Visceral experiences of migrants
- Causes of migration
- Migration and conflict
- Environmental migration and the Syria conflict

Let's get started!

Video #2—Migration—trends & types

We are witnessing an unprecedented era of human mobility

- 232 million international migrants (IOM 2015: 2)
- 740 million internal migrants (IOM 2015: 2)
- Half of all migrants are in ten countries.
 - Australia, Canada, USA, France, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, Russia, Saudi Arabia, & UAE (IOM 2015: 2)
- 3 million people move to cities every week. (UN-Habitat 2009)

Human history is a story of migration

- World map of Y-DNA Haplogroups

Snapshot of international migrants (IOM 2020)

272 million international migrants (1 out of 30 people) (IOM 2020)

The proportion of international migrants varies significantly around the world (IOM 2020)

Top 20 sources and destinations for migrants (1 out of 30 people) (IOM 2020)

New international displacements due to conflict and disasters (IOM 2020)

Recorded migrant deaths by region (IOM 2020)

Migration routes: Mediterranean 2016 map

Migration route map: Irregular migration from W. & N. Africa to Europe

Migration—types

- Voluntary economic migration
- Involuntary refugees from conflict zones or repressive governments
- Environmental migrants

Voluntary economic migrants bilateral flow graph

Remittances versus other external financing flows

Top countries sending remittances

Top remittance receiving countries

Remittance prices-Australia-China corridor

- Globally, sending remittances costs an average of 6.67 percent

Source: World Bank Remittance Prices worldwide

<https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/en/corridor/Australia/China>

Winemaker Pascal Madevon becomes a Canadian.

Source: Schreiner, John. 2009. *Upside of economic/environmental migration?*

Where Australia's immigrants were born—Canberra map

Where Australia's immigrants were born (excluding England and NZ)

Top 10 countries of birth for Australia's overseas-born population, 1901 vs 2006

Outward migration from Australia map

- How much do we think about emigration rather than immigration?

Lecture question #1—Do you have any links (direct or indirect) to any of these three forms of international migration? If so, any information you care to share? If not, can you think of ways migration may still affect you?

Migration videos

These videos show the challenges of migration in an area you might not have heard much about. Often, we hear more about migration to Europe, along the US border, or those trying to reach Australia.

Secretary-General on World Refugee Day 2020

<https://youtu.be/keYGZjsJLIQ>

If you are really bored, you can see similar messages (and similar causes for action) from previous years.

Who is an Internally Displaced Person?

<https://youtu.be/DCzpVQkencw>

Part 1: What migrants face as they journey through the deadly Darien Gap

<https://youtu.be/XMPX1547Pss>

(some scenes are hard to watch)

Part 2: How U.S. immigration policy affects fate of migrants braving the deadly Darien Gap

<https://youtu.be/tsgaEnw7Wds>

(some tough topics are discussed)

Video #3: Forced migration—refugees & IDPs

Who is a refugee?

The *1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* defines a refugee as a person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his [or her] nationality.”

Important elements here:

1. Fear of persecution
2. Clear reason for this fear
3. Has crossed an international border
4. Non-refoulement

Durable solutions to refugees

1. Voluntary repatriation
2. Local Integration
3. Third country resettlement

The Jus Cogens Nature of Non-Refoulement

“Dozens of Refugees Flown from Australia and PNG to US Despite Coronavirus Travel Bans.”

Source: Armbruster, Stefan. 2020. “Dozens of Refugees Flown from Australia and PNG to US Despite Coronavirus Travel Bans.” SBS. 21/05/20.

Figures at a glance

Top refugee hosts (2020)

Developing countries host 12.4 million refugees (2015)

Least-developed countries (LDCs) host 3.6 million (25% in 2015)

Country	# of refugees hosted
Turkey	3.6 million
Colombia	1.8 million
Pakistan	1.4 million

Uganda	1.4 million
Germany	1.1 million

Source: UNHCR

Top origin states

- In 2019 two-thirds of all refugees come from just five countries.

Country	# of refugees
Syria	6.6 million
Venezuela	3.7 million
Afghanistan	2.7 million
S. Sudan	2.2 million
Myanmar	1.11 million

Source: UNHCR

Refugees as a share of world population graph

Worldwide refugee and asylum flows graph

Data source: UNHCR Statistics (http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/time_series)

Refugees in Australia over time graph

Number of refugees by top 5 countries of origin, 2018 graph

Number of refugees by top 5 host countries, 2018 graph

In 2015, 1,046,599 people traveled to Europe through various transit routes across Africa, Asia or the Middle East.

Recorded deaths by month, 2014-2019

Recorded migrant deaths by region, 2014-9

First-time EU asylum applicant, 2008-18

Distribution of first instance decisions on (non-EU) asylum applications, 2018

- Compare the rejection rates in Ireland and Switzerland to Czech Republic and Spain.

In 2014 Bulgaria built a 30km border fence along its Greek and Turkish borders

Map of Bulgaria

Who is an IDP?

Internally displaced people or IDPs “stay within their own country and remain under the protection of its government, even if that government is the reason for their displacement. They often move to areas where it is difficult for us to deliver humanitarian assistance and as a result, these people are among the most vulnerable in the world.”

Source: UNHCR (<https://www.unhcr.org/internally-displaced-people.html>)

IDPs in last six months map

Over 45 million IDPs

“At the end of 2019, some 45.7 million people were internally displaced due to armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations, according to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).”

Source: UNHCR (<https://www.unhcr.org/internally-displaced-people.html>)

Table of largest IDP host countries because of conflict or violence in 2019

Table of top 10 disaster-related new displacements by event

Video #4: Forced migration—environmental refugees

Environmental refugees—a definition

“[T]hose people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a marked environmental disruption (natural and/or triggered by people) that jeopardised their existence and/or seriously affected their quality of life,” (El-Hinnawi 1985 quoted in Swain 1996: 964-5).

Important elements here:

1. Left their homes
2. Environmental disruption due to nature or people
3. This disruption risked life or quality of life.

1951 Refugee Convention does not recognize environmental factors as criteria to define a refugee.

Ways people can cope with a challenge (Hirschman 1970/Reuveny 2007)

- **Do nothing** and accept costs (Loyalty)
- **Stay** and mitigate changes (Voice)
- **Leave** (Exit)

Do nothing and accept costs

Stay and mitigate changes

Photo of house in Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans

Leave

IOM migrant routes map

World fire map (25 August 2020)

Source: Fire Information for Resource Management System

World fire map (1 January 2020)

Video #5: Causal processes behind migration

Push factors

- Limited **job opportunities** reduce opportunity costs and up expected utility for moving
- **Colonialism** and **slavery**
- Lack of **safety** or **services**
- Political **repression** or limited **voice**
- **Environmental** uncertainty/damage
- Swain argues that push factors dominate environmental migrants' decision to leave.

Photo of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008)

- A Russian novelist and political prisoner (1945-1953).
- Wrote One day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich (1962) and The Gulag Archipelago (1973)
- Won 1970 Nobel Prize for Literature
- Lost Soviet citizenship in 1974
- Russian citizenship restored in 1990

Pull factors

- Economic **opportunity** including employment
- Political **openness** and **stability**
- Better **services** and **security**
- Less environmental **instability**

Network effects

- Cultural, linguistic, or legal ties due to historical movements as a result of path dependency or policy.

Examples of network effects

- **Armenian-Americans** ~483,366 people in 2010
 - 166,498 in Los Angeles area
 - Crucial in US Congress fight to recognise Armenian genocide
- **Tamil-Canadians** ~145,000 up from 2,000 in 1983
 - Focused in Toronto area
 - Crucial in funding long-running civil conflict

Map of Lewiston, Maine

Newsweek headline: Lewiston, Maine, revived by Somali immigrants

In one town, how Mainers and new immigrants learned to coexist-until Trump

Lecture question #2—Is there a topic you would want me to make a brief video about? If so, what would it be?

Video #6: Environmental migration and conflict

Environmental stress, migration, and conflict

- Path diagram from Gleditsch et al. 2007

State vs. state conflicts

- **El Salvador —> Honduras** (1969 Football War/Soccer War, 100 Hour war)
- 300,000 Salvadorian migrants living in Honduras in 1969
- 1962-1967 Honduras passed land reform law including redistributing land lived on by Salvadorian migrants
- 8 June—26 June, three World Cup qualifier matches led to growing violence between fans
- 14 July—El Salvador launched offensive
- 20 July—Ceasefire began, brokered by the OAS

State vs. group conflict

- Rwandan refugees in DRC
- Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone
- Kosovar refugees in Macedonia
- PLO in Jordan and Lebanon

Group vs. group conflict

- Often native vs. migrant population
- Competition for scarce resources
- Ethnic tensions
- Distrust

Environmental migration episodes table from Reuveny (2007)

Speed of change

- Faster change can make absorbing migrants more threatening to existing population.

Map of migrants in UK

Map of Brexit vote

- Notice any overlap?

Now I want to move to a different case study. Syria.

- A conflict I added as central component of POLS1005 when I taught it.

The first video includes video on the ground in a refugee camp and over the border

The second video provides a more theoretical approach.

The third video shows a recent pipeline explosion in Syria that led to widespread blackouts. You are probably more likely to have heard about the recent Beirut explosions but not this.

There are a bunch of explainer videos on YouTube of varying quality and age from the likes of *BBC News*, *The Guardian*, and *Vox* if you are interested.

Videos about Syria conflict and climate change

'Climate Wars - Syria' with Thomas Friedman. 2017. <https://youtu.be/i31v1z--3Z8>

Adelphi, Berlin. 2015. "Climate Change and the Syrian Civil War (ECC Factbook Conflict Analysis)." <https://youtu.be/ZJWbxUU4ME>.

Al Jazeera. 2020. "Syria blackout after suspected pipeline attack." https://youtu.be/FNuv_ZQXsEI

Video #7—Syria—Is it a case of climate-change induced conflict?

The world is forgetting about Syria, Haaretz article

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates 384,000-586,000 have been killed.

Actors in Syrian conflict

Civilians

- 23 Million (2011)

- UN estimated 6.6 million internally displaced and 4.7 million refugees
- 125,000 killed

Armed non-state groups (up to 1,000)

- Free Syrian Army
- Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS)
- Kurdish YPG (People's Protection Units)
- Jabot al-Nusra
- Hezbollah

Government, military, and political representatives

International actors

- US, UK, France, Turkey
- Russia, Iran, Hezbollah

Iraqi refugees in Syria

- Following the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Iraqi refugees in Syria were offered **protection** by the Assad government.
- By the end of 2003 70,000-100,000 Iraqis were living in Syria.
- By 2009, the Government of Syria estimated the Iraqi refugee population in Syria at **1.1 million people**.
- Given the current Syrian conflict many view Iraqi refugee populations as **potential supporters of the Assad** regime, and they have therefore been subject to targeted attacks and discrimination.

Syria, 2018-2020

2017—peace talks in Kazakhstan lead to Russia, Iran, and Turkey enforce ceasefire between government and non-Islamist rebels.

2018 January - Turkey launches an assault on northern Syria to oust Kurdish rebels controlling the area around Afrin.

2018 July - Syrian army recaptures almost all of the south of the country, up to the borders with Jordan and Israeli-held territory.

2018 Sept-Dec- Kurdish-led SDF launch offensive that reduces ISIS territory to a tiny enclave on Iraqi border.

2019 January - After announcing plan to withdraw US troops from Syria, President Trump warns Turkey of punitive economic measures if it goes ahead with plan to attack US Kurdish allies in northern Syria.

2019 October - US withdraws from N. Syria; Turkey attacks Kurdish forces

In Syria, Putin seizing on window of opportunity before U.S. election (2016 article)

Maps of Syrian Areas of influence, 2017, 2020 from CRS

Researchers link Syrian conflict to a drought made worse by climate change (2015 article)

First page of Kelley et al. PNAS article

2016 study examining tree rings found that the Levant drought was worst in 900 years

Map of tree-ring chronologies

Source: Benjamin I. Cook, Kevin J. Anchukaitis, Ramzi Touchan, David M. Meko, Edward R. Cook. 2016. "Spatiotemporal drought variability in the Mediterranean over the last 900 years. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 121(5): 2060-2074.

Spatiotemporal drought variability in the Mediterranean over the last 900 years

Drought measures since 1100CE in three regions

Two more recent articles on Syria's drought-conflict links in *Political Geography*.

Lecture question #3: What are the policymaking implications of deciding that the drought did (or did not) contribute to the Syrian civil war's onset?

Exeunt music

M.I.A. 2015. Borders. *AIM*. <https://youtu.be/r-Nw7HbaeWY>

K'NAAN. Immigrants (We Get the Job Done). *The Hamilton Mixtape*.
https://youtu.be/6_35a7sn6ds

Diamond, Neil. 1981. America. *The Jazz Singer*. <https://youtu.be/9ttDUGM-1mU>