CHALLENGING MIGRANT DETENTION: HUMAN RIGHTS, ADVOCACY AND MENTAL HEALTH

JUNE 19-21 • 2018
MONTREAL, CANADA
As forcible displacement increases, notions of the unwanted “Other”, the “illegal” migrant, and the “bogus” refugee are increasingly prominent in public discourse of destination countries, lending support to stringent border control policies whereby States incarcerate asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and other foreign nationals in immigration detention centres, prisons and camps. This structural violence primarily targets racialized populations from the Global South, including children.

This international conference brings together researchers, advocates, lawyers, clinicians, decision-makers and migrants to explore global trends and avenues for change in immigration detention. Drawing on experiences of detention and resistance in multiple countries, we will discuss strategies to challenge migrant detention, including research, litigation and community mobilization.

- UNHCR
- McGill University Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law
- University of Toronto International Human Rights Program
- University of Oxford Border Criminologies
- Association québécoise des avocats et avocates en droit de l’immigration
Advanced Study Institute (ASI) Pre-conference  9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Advance registration required*

Laurence Kirmayer: Opening remarks
Andriani Fili: Detention in Greece
Daniela DeBono: Hotspots at the EU’s Mediterranean border
Kyli Hedrick: Self-harm among asylum seekers detained in Australia
Blerina Kellezi: Barriers to use of mental health services in UK Immigration Removal Centres
Mary Bosworth: Emotional and ethical challenges of immigration detention research
Hanna Gros et Samer Muscati: Advocacy strategies in Canada
Francesca Esposito: Organizing to defend the rights of migrant women in Italian detention centres
Robyn Sampson: Overview of global advocacy campaigns
Mike Flynn: The Global Immigration Detention Observatory

*The Advanced Study Institute Workshop is intended for researchers, practitioners and advocates working on immigration detention issues. Spaces are limited. If you are interested in taking part in the workshop, please contact Marie-Eve Paré, coordinator, with a brief description of your interests regarding immigration detention at marie-eve.pare.ccomtlessss.gouv.qc.ca
Opening plenary - Child Detention  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Open to public on registration

Cécile Rousseau: Opening remarks
Jacqueline Bhabha: Migration and detention of unaccompanied children
Sarah Mares: Detention of children in Australia and harm to mental health
Michael Bochenek: Immigration detention of children and families in the U.S.
Rachel Kronick: Recent developments regarding child detention in Canada
Conference program

JUNE 20
New Residence Hall
3625 Park Avenue
Montreal

Plenary: Detention in the context of broader migration policies
8:30 am - 10:00 am

François Crépeau: Detention in the context of broader migration policies
Eleanor Acer: U.S. immigration policies on detention and deportation
Former detainee: (TBD)

Block A: Concurrent Workshop
10:15 am - 12:15 pm

DETENTION OF CHILDREN
Maciej Fagasinski: Alternatives to detention of children in Southeast Asia
Stephen Phillips: Mental health impact of immigration detention on child asylum seekers and the enabling role of international human rights law
Sarah Mares: Fifteen years of detaining children and families who seek asylum in Australia
Delphine Nakache, Hanna Gros & Stephanie Silverman: Is your government doing its best to protect migrant children? Canada’s scorecard

RACIALIZATION AND OTHERING AS JUSTIFICATIONS FOR DETENTION
Maayan Ravid: Israel as a case study of ethnic-exclusionary logic
Lizzy Wilmington: Resistance to the UK hostile environment to people with insecure immigration status
Bahar Banaei: Corporeal punishment and Canadian liberalism: an examination of Ebrahim Toure’s and Alvin Brown’s detentions

EXPERIENCES OF DETENTION AND RESISTANCE IN EUROPE
Oria Gargano: Upholding women’s rights in immigration detention centers: a feminist approach
Francesca Esposito: Immigration detention in Italy: data from the field
Andriani Fili: The maze of the Greek immigration detention system

Lunch: Provided on-site
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm
Block B: Concurrent Workshop

1:15 pm - 3:15 pm

IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF SECURITISATION OF MIGRATION
Philippe Bourdeau: Immigration detention and securitisation of migration
Colin Grey: The legal and moral justification of immigration detention
Molly Joeck: Use of detention as a tool of deterrence and coercion
Sherrie Kossoudji: Different country, different context, same detention

ACTIVISM AND RESISTANCE TO MIGRANT DETENTION AND DEPORTATION IN ISRAEL
Demoz Dawit: First-hand account of organizing in asylum-seeking communities, resettlement and continued activism in Canada
Laurie Tikue: Experience of international activists in promoting women's rights in detention
Maayan Ravid: Fighting alongside asylum seeking communities to resist one's own government policies on detention and migration penalization
Noa Galili: Advocacy in Israel against deportation of migrant children

ETHNOGRAPHIES OF DETENTION IN AFRICA AND ASIA
Kazue Takamura: Visualizing human rights of detained foreigners: the emerging role of detainee support groups in Japan
Cristiano d'Orsi: Detention and deportation of undocumented migrants in South Africa: breaching human rights?
Joyce Acquah: Violence in Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana: Forms, sources and consequences

MENTAL HEALTH OF DETAINED MIGRANTS
Kyli Hedrick: Kept at harm's length? A mixed methods study of the incidence and characteristics of self-harm in the Australian-funded asylum seeker population
Eric G. Jarvis: Negotiating space for institutional empathy toward detained asylum seekers with mental health problems
Alice Gerlach: Women in UK immigration detention: justice, privacy, individuality and autonomy

Conference program

JUNE 20
New Residence Hall
3625 Park Avenue
Montreal

Challenging Migrant Detention: Human Rights, Advocacy and Mental Health
Conference program

Block C: Concurrent Workshop

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

EXPERIENCES AND RESISTANCE TO IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN CANADA

Closed to government and media
People who have been held in immigration detention in Canada talk about their experience of detention and resistance (details to follow)

CHALLENGING THE LEGALITY OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN CANADA

Efrat Arbel, Delphine Nakache & Ian Davis: Indefinite immigration detention in Canada: legality and reforms
Jenny Jeanes: Rights-free zones in a country of Charter rights and freedoms
Merin Valiyaparampi: Questioning integrity: challenging Canada’s assessment of immigration detainees’ credibility

PRECARITY, DEPORTABILITY AND DETENTION

Annika Lindberg: The lesser of two evils? ‘Humanitarian’ detention, destitution, and the plight of detainability in Sweden
Sarah Marshall: Contesting conceptions of “illegality”: activist movements in Toronto’s Sanctuary City policy
Stephanie Silverman: Marginalization from the Community of Value: Immigrant and Indigenous Incarceration, and the Meanings of Detainability in Canada and Australia

Beyond detention campaign

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Jean-Nicolas Beuze, UNHCR representative

Reception for World Refugee Day
Co-organized with UNHCR and AQAADI

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Conference program

JUNE 21
New Residence Hall
3625 Park Avenue
Montreal

Roundtable: Discussion on reforming detention in Canada
8:30 am - 10:00 am

Leah Campbell, Acting Director, Detention transformation and program management division, CBSA
Jared Will, Jared Will & Ass.
Hanna Gros, International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto

Block D: Concurrent Workshop
10:15 am - 12:00 pm

LITIGATION AS A TOOL FOR POLICY AND SOCIAL CHANGE
Jared Will: Litigation as a tool for exposing the realities of migrant detention and giving voice to detainees
Joshua Blum: Innovative judicial remedies for immigration detention, from habeas corpus to Charter damages
Dorothy Estrada-Tanck: Legal basis for civil disobedience against immigration detention

FORTRESS EUROPE: FROM THE BALKANS ROUTE TO MEDITERRANEAN HOTSPOTS
Olivia Johnson: Policing bodies in transit: borders, detention and migrant narratives along the Balkan Route
Nadia El-Shaarawi and Maple Razsa: Protagonists of mobility: refugees’ and activists’ strategies to resist confinement along the Balkan Route
Daniela DeBono: The Dark Resurgence: Immigration detention at the EU’s Mediterranean border

FROM LATIN AMERICA TO THE U.S. BORDER: MIGRANTS’ EXPERIENCES
Maria Temores: An approach to the political subjectivity of people who resisted detention centers in the United States and cartography of «the Gray Zone»: fieldwork findings in Tijuana, Mexico
Derick Abrigu & Maria Silva: Los desechables: Exploring the lived realities of vulnerable migrant populations caught along the northern Mexican border
Cristina Yepez: Detention and deportation in Ecuador, “the country of universal citizenship”

Lunch: not provided
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Plenary: Detention in Libya: IOM psychosocial intervention programs  
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Guglielmo Schinina, IOM  
Andrea Paiato, IOM

Block E: Concurrent Workshop  
2:00 pm - 3:45 pm

EXTERNALISATION OF BORDER CONTROL AND NON-REFOULEMENT

Jenny Poon: Cooperation with States using offshore detention is complicity with breach of non-refoulement

Sahizer Samuk: Problematic responses to problematic situations: borders, refugees and detention centres in the light of EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement

Brook Kebede: European policy concerning deportation of Africans and the risk of human rights violation in Africa

ISSUES IN THE INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT OF IMMIGRANT DETENTION

Dominic Aitken: Preventing and responding to deaths in custody

Paul St-Clair: Death of a migrant during detention and CBSA response: a case study

Laura Rezzonico: Experiences of prison officers in a context of crimmigration: a case study from Switzerland

Andrew Crosby: Risk management in Belgian detention centres: constrution of institutional knowledge

ADVOCACY AGAINST DETENTION IN CANADA

Closed to government and media

Salina Abji: Alternatives to detention: Abolitionist perspectives

Vanessa Wachuku: Role of advocacy in immigration detention policy changes in Canada

Michaela Beder & Katrina Hui: Collaboration between health and legal professionals in advocacy against immigration detention in Canada
Plenary: Next steps in advocacy on immigration detention, in Canada and internationally

Closed to government and media

Michaela Beder
Syed Hussan
Robyn Sampson
Closing remarks: Janet Cleveland