

KE

Dispossession and Displacement:
Forced migration in the Middle East and Africa

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Abstracts**

States and international agents and towards the quest for security refugees are engaged in, i.e. to reconceptualise protection through a refugee-centered approach in a context where protection is a scarce resource.

These last few years have seen an interest in the study of irregular migration, particularly the role the human smuggling industry plays in helping undocumented migrants, including refugees, bypass stringent entry regulations. On the other hand, an ever growing body of literature charts the formation of diasporas and transnational communities in the age of globalisation. Both approaches convincingly bridge between the individual level and that of intermediary sociological forms such as social networks. However, while dismissing methodological individualism by embedding migrants' strategies within social ties, these demonstrations remain more informed by the context of economic migration than that of refugee migration.

Based on an analysis of the fragmented social organisation of global exile migration from Iraq since 1990, this paper will offer to enrich the analysis by adding a more refugee-centered perspective. It will argue that, at least in the Iraqi case, the individual migration strategies of refugees and their transposition at the intermediary level of social networks need to be viewed in relation to the fact that refugees' primary quest is one for basic security where, in contexts of scarce protection, they identify the family (nuclear or extended) and not States as the primary agent of protection. Other social ties (professional, ethnic, communal, etc) and facilitators (smugglers, aid organisations, actors of the international refugee regime, national refugee regimes) are merely mobilised with the aim of regrouping with or ensuring the security of scattered family members across international borders. For Iraqi forced migrants, the family therefore appears to be simultaneously the social unit in need of security, the agent able to provide protection to its individual members, and the relevant unit to consider to understand the temporalities and geographies of global dispersal.

As a conclusion, this presentation will offer a review of current research on forced migration from Iraq and suggest further possible research directions.

Forced migration in Morocco: the legal aspect Khadija Elmadmad

Because of its geographic position, Morocco has always been a country of all kinds of migration: emigration and immigration, voluntary and forced migration, legal and illegal migration etc. Its population is a melting pot originating from Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Many of its inhabitants have migrated abroad and constitute now a genuine Diaspora. Since the 1990s and because of fortress Europe, Morocco has become a country of transit and gradually of immigration for various kinds of Sub-Saharan migrants moving illegally to Europe. Many of these Sub-Saharan are refugees and asylum seekers.

Forced migration was present throughout all the Moroccan history. For example, Moulay Driss I, the Moroccan king who built the first Moroccan dynasty in the 8th century (The Idrissit State), was a refugee who fled persecution in the Middle East and who sought asylum in the country. Moulay Idriss was welcomed by the original population of the country and was appointed as a political and religious leader. After Moulay Driss, other refugees came to Morocco from the Middle East, from Europe and from Africa and were easily integrated in the country.

At the beginning, refugees and asylum seekers were received in Morocco according to the hospitable traditions of the native African population. After the "islamisation" of the country in the 7th century and the immigration of Arabs in North Africa, refugees were then received according to the Islamic principles and rules governing forced migration and asylum or *hijra*. In the 20th Century, during the French and the Spanish occupation of Morocco, modern refugee law was introduced in the country. Morocco has adhered then to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and has become party to the 1969 OAU Convention relating to the specific problems of refugees in Africa. Morocco has also enacted legislations regulating migration and protecting refugees. In July 2007, the UNHCR office in Rabat, which was for a long time an honorary delegation, signed an agreement with the Moroccan government to represent fully UNHCR in Morocco.

Migration studies and forced migration studies are quite recent studies all over the world. This specialisation has attracted few academics. Until very recently, the legal aspect of migration has been somehow neglected by migration specialists. At present, few institutions or specialists are specialized in Migration Law or Refugee Law, while there is a real need for such a specialization in order to clarify the confusion between migrants and their rights, which is taking place notably in mixed flows.

Despite the Moroccan rich migration history (including forced migration history), migration studies and refugee studies started in the country only in the early 2000. This was due essentially to some Moroccan researchers who have specialized in migration abroad and who have decided then to start specialized migration programmes at the university.

This paper will deal with migrants and their rights in Morocco and will concentrate on forced migrants.

The Sahrawi self and other: the camps, Europe and the Middle East in the eyes of the Polisario Front Elena Fiddian

Refugees and other forcibly displaced populations are, as embodied in this conference and the debate which it intends to inform, frequently examined and analysed by external observers, be these policy-makers, governments, academics or NGO/INGO/IGO-workers. This paper is based on the case of the protracted Sahrawi

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