

CONFERENCE

# CITIES OF WELCOME, CITIES OF TRANSIT

14 - 15 July 2016; Barcelona

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UNITED NATIONS  
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**UNU-GCM**

Institute on Globalization,  
Culture and Mobility

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As migration has become a major issue of debate within Europe, with divergent policies across states and major efforts by local governments to accommodate those who arrive, cities come to the fore as major actors in the reception, relocation and integration of refugees and migrants. Across Europe, political arguments and differences have arisen over migration. In such a context, transformative and cooperative models of welcome for new arrivals and people in transit become ever more important. *Cities of Welcome, Cities of Transit* is a conference that seeks to bring together academics, practitioners, policy makers and activists in order to exchange insights, extend networks and produce recommendations for the safe and orderly governance of migration in ways that foreground human dignity.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM), in collaboration with openDemocracy and the School of Law at Queen Mary University of London, is pleased to welcome you to this conference on Cities of Welcome, Cities of Transit. All participants should be aware that:

» Filming and photography will take place during the event. The photographs and videos produced may be used in the public dissemination of the work of UNU-GCM, openDemocracy and Queen Mary University of London.

» This is an academic conference. As such, the opinions expressed and discussions arising represent personal opinions and not those of UNU-GCM, openDemocracy and Queen Mary University of London. The collaborating institutions ask that all contributions be responsible and substantiated by research.

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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

14 - 15 July 2016, Barcelona

## 14 JULY

**09:00 | 09:45** Registration. Refreshments available next to the Conference Room

**09:45 | 10:30** Formal Opening

**10:30 | 11:30** Framing Addresses

**11:30 | 13:00** Session 1: Cities of Welcome

**13:00 | 13:15** Group Photo (speakers)

**13:30 | 15:00** Lunch Break

**15:00 | 17:30** Session 2: Cities of Welcome and Rejection

**17:30 | 18:00** Break. Refreshments available next to the Conference Room

**18:00 | 20:00** Film Screening: *Welcome to Italy*

## 15 JULY

**09:30 | 10:00** Refreshments available next to the Conference Room

**10:00 | 13:00** Session 3: The EU, Turkey and Human Rights

**13:00 | 13:30** Project Presentation: Refuge in the City

**13:30 | 15:00** Lunch Break

**15:00 | 16:45** Session 4: Cities of Transit

**16:45 | 17:00** Closing Remarks

14 JULY

**9:45 - 10:30****FORMAL OPENING****Parvati Nair**, Director of UNU-GCM**David Passarelli**, Chief of Staff to Dr. David M. Malone, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Rector of the United Nations University**Catherine Runciman**, Acting Chief Executive, openDemocracy**Niovi Vavoula**, Queen Mary University of London**Anna Terrón Cusí**, Chair of UNU-GCM Advisory Board**Senior Government Representatives:**

- » Barcelona City Council
- » Generalitat of Catalonia
- » Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (tbc)
- » Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (tbc)

**10:30 - 11:30****FRAMING ADDRESSES**Chair: **Valeria Bello** (UNU-GCM)

**Valeria Bello** a Political Sociologist (Ph.D. 2007, University of Florence) who has taught and published in the fields of Sociology, International Relations and Political Science, is Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) since December 2012. Previously, she was "Marie Curie" Intra-European Research Fellow at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (Spain) and Assistant Professor (2005-2009) and Assistant Coordinator at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (2003-2009) of the University of Trento (Italy). Her thematic expertise is on prejudice, xenophobia, exclusion, inclusion and the securitization of migration. All these research themes form the overarching focus of her book "International Migration and International Security. Why Prejudice is a Global Security Threat" (forthcoming with Routledge, December 2016).

**Ignasi Calbó, Director of Barcelona Refuge City Program, Barcelona City Council**

Bachelor in law and Masters in NGO and Non Profit Administration Organizations.

Before being appointed by Mayor Ada Colau as Director of the Special Program "Barcelona Refuge City", Calbó has developed his career as Humanitarian Worker in the field, as policy advisor in the Catalan Government and as a consultant for different NGOs and the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

As Country Director, he has managed missions for different humanitarian NGOs in conflict, post conflict and in emergency contexts in Mauritania, India, Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, Mozambique, South Sudan and Syria among others. He specialized in migrants and refugee programs.

He has also worked in different positions in Médecins Sans Frontières Spain Desk Office in Barcelona.

He has been Humanitarian Affairs Director for the Catalan Development Agency for seven years where he created and expanded the department and helped to develop and draft several Spanish and Catalan master plans, as well as the humanitarian policies.

In September 2015 he was appointed by Mayor of Barcelona Ada Colau as Director of the Barcelona Refuge City Program. The program was created to assist and provide with the necessary services and rights to all refugees arriving in the city of Barcelona. The objective is ambitious: provide a comprehensive, permanent and holistic model for the city of Barcelona.

He has written several articles for Spanish and international newspapers and specialized journals and magazines.

**Ramon Sanahuja, Director of Migrants Attention and Hosting, Barcelona City Council**

Ramon Sanahuja has been recently appointed as director of Migrants Attention and Hosting of the city of Barcelona.

He has long experience in the local administration in the social field. He has been responsible for immigration and intercultural policies as well as international cooperation of the city of Barcelona.

He has been working for many years in the field of intercultural policies.

He has been the Chairman of the Integration and Migrations working group of Eurocities from 2009 to 2013.

He was also Director of Social Innovation in the municipality of Barcelona. He is responsible, among other projects, for implementing Vincles Project winner of the 2014 Mayor's award of the Bloomberg Philanthropies.

He has done many presentations in many forums and conferences all over the world like the Eurocities Integrating Conference, the World Bank or Compas Oxford.

Ramon holds an economics degree at the University of Barcelona, a Master Degree in Public Management from Barcelona Autonomous University and completed post degree studies from Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

**11:30 - 13:00**

## **SESSION 1: CITIES OF WELCOME**

Organisers: UNU-GCM

This session will adopt the format of a roundtable discussion with questions to the panel members by the moderator and the conference attendees.

Facing the need to provide for their newest residents, cities are actively developing their own strategies to welcome migrants and to share best practices amongst themselves. The diverse responses of cities to recent migrant arrivals illustrate how cities are redefining themselves as influential policy actors.

### **PANEL**

Moderator: **Megha Amrith** (UNU-GCM)

**Megha Amrith** is a Research Fellow at the United Nations University, Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). She holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge. Her research interests are at the intersection of urban anthropology and migration studies, and she works on themes such as cultural diversity, citizenship, gender and migrant labour, and the role of urban civil society movements in processes of migrant inclusion. She is interested in interdisciplinary and transregional approaches to the study of migration and has conducted fieldwork in Singapore, Manila, São Paulo, Mumbai and Barcelona.

**Susanne Asche, City of Karlsruhe**, Germany. Dr. Asche has graduated in German literature, history and political sciences. She is head of the cultural department of the City of Karlsruhe including the libraries, archives, museums, art galleries and festivals. The cultural department is also responsible for human rights, tolerance and cultural diversity in Karlsruhe. Before assuming her current position, she worked as a lecturer at the universities of Hamburg and Karlsruhe and as a historian and chief of the museum of cultural history. Since 2008 she is a member of the steering committee of ECCAR.

**Thomas Jézéquel, EURO CITIES**, is the policy advisor for migration & integration at EURO CITIES, which he joined in 2012 as project coordinator. He is leading EURO CITIES work on migrants and refugees and takes part in the Urban Partnership on Migrant Integration launched by the European Commission in 2016. Thomas coordinated from 2012 to 2014 the Implementing project on "city-to-city support on migrant integration", a pilot peer mentoring project involving 15 cities across Europe on issues of civic and political participation of migrants, public perception of diversity and management of diversity in a city's administration. Before joining EURO CITIES, Thomas worked for Caritas International Belgium on voluntary return policies, and for the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the Turkish Helsinki Citizen Assembly on support to asylum seekers.

**Cécile Riallant, Joint Migration & Development Initiative**, is a migration and development expert with 18 years of experience in this line of work. She is currently managing the Joint Migration

and Development Initiative (JMDI), a global UN/IOM inter-agency programme administered by UNDP focused on reinforcing the role and positioning of local authorities, including cities, in linking migration and development. She joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2000, after three years of working as a researcher. She has managed for IOM numerous programmes and projects in the field of migration with geographical scope in the Great Lakes (Africa), Afghanistan, the Balkans and Europe. From 2005 to 2008, she was Deputy Chief of Mission of the IOM Mission in Indonesia, working to support populations internally displaced by the 2004 tsunami in North Sumatra. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Migration Policy Practice, of the International Steering Committee of Metropolis, of the International Steering Committee of the civil society component of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and a contributor to the 2015 World Migration Report on Migrants and Cities. She holds a Bachelor degree in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Science Po), a Master of Science in European Studies from the University of Strasbourg and a Master of Science in Social Policies from the London School of Economics.

**Patrick Taran, Global Migration Policy Associates**, President, has 35 years professional experience in international migration, immigration, refugee resettlement and discrimination/integration work at local, national and global levels. From 2000 to 2011 he was Senior Migration Specialist at the International Labour Office (ILO). He was Secretary for Migration at the World Council of Churches (1990-1998); in 1994 he co-founded Migrants Rights Interna-

tional (MRI) and was program officer for the IOM-ILO-UNFPA-UNITAR International Migration Policy Programme (1998-2001). He established and directed the South American Refugee Program in Seattle (1976-1980) and was programme executive at the Immigration and Refugee Program of the National Council of Churches USA (1980-1990.) His degree majors were social work and Latin America studies at Friends World College/State University of New York. He currently teaches at Geneva School of Diplomacy and the ILO International Training Centre, Turin.

**Emilia Sáiz, United Cities and Local Governments**. Emilia Sáiz studied European Studies and Law specializing in international law with a master's degree in local governance in the information society. She has worked in the founding organization of UCLG, IULA, since 1997. She has lead programmes dedicated to institutional capacity building, women empowerment and decentralized cooperation. She is currently Deputy Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Co-Chair of the Gender Programme of Cities Alliance. She also facilitates the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III and inputs of the constituency to the UN process.

**15:00- 17:30**

## **SESSION 2: CITIES OF WELCOME & REJECTION**

Organisers: openDemocracy

Across Europe, state policies do not always facilitate integration. Despite this, citizens, activists and local governments are coming together to create a 'culture of welcome' for refugees. However, civil society organisations and emergent movements can have very different organisational cultures and modes of communication. How do various players on the ground interact? What could ensure a better welcome, and enable more citizens to get involved?

### **PANEL**

Chair: **Antonis Vradis** is a geographer based in Durham University's Geography department. He is part of the Transcapes research collective.

#### ***Cities against the EU supra-state: how local action defies, subverts and cancels out the EU border filtering regime***

Our research collective, Transcapes, studies the migrant crisis playing out in the Mediterranean by looking at the ways in which the EU "supra-state" tries to filter the newly arrived populations. I want to outline the way in which the grassroots - local activist groups together with the newly arrived populations - try to alleviate and to cancel out this filtering. Through self-organised accommodation projects in the city of Athens, they forge everyday links of solidarity directly in defiance of the EU supra-state border filtering regime.

**Katerina Anastasiou** is the coordinator of the platform change4all. She is active in various grassroots groups in Austria and Europe and has organised several transnational coordination groups and meetings.

#### ***Solidarity beyond borders***

During the long summer of migration 2015, refugees and migrants self-organizing "Marches of Hope" triggered in Europe an immense wave of solidarity. The hope for a better life in dignity and safety, carried by the newcomers from borderline to borderline, mirrored the picture of the Europe we want. Activists and volunteers managed to set up transnational networks of practical support to the newcomers all through the Balkan route within days. Goods, infrastructure, activists, volunteers, refugees and migrants, but also ideas and actions of resistance, defied all physical obstacles and traveled through countries, reaching the further ends of Europe. This vast and immediate grass root organization of solidarity defied physical, political and linguistic borders. Today's European reality of fences and militarization does not reflect the optimism of the solidarity movement, yet using the experiences of this never-ending struggle and examining these organizational processes could bring us closer to a common vision for Europe's future and a wide transnational movement with strong reflexes.

**Fanny Müller-Uri** is an Austrian researcher and activist around migration. She lectures at the University of Vienna and works in political education with a focus on anti-racism. She is involved in WatchTheMed, Alarmophone, and the Idomeni camp. Arrested by the Macedonian police during the events of March 14, she has much to contribute on the border situation along the "Balkan route".

Currently she is part of the political project Moving Europe which emerged as a joint initiative of bordermonitoring.eu, welcome2europe and Forschungsgesellschaft Flucht&Migration in September 2015.

#### ***The challenge for society***

This paper explores how migration movements challenge our societies to focus on the most basic social questions. It makes its case using examples from the current situation in Greece, but also other countries on the so-called 'Balkan route', including Austria, Macedonia, and Bulgaria.

**Manuela Zechner** is a researcher, facilitator and cultural worker. Coordinating the Future Archive and Radical Collective Care Practices projects, her work focuses on migration and social movements, group facilitation and micropolitics. Currently a post-doctoral research fellow at the Berlin Institute for Migration Research (BIM) she works with Barcelona en Comú and Murmuræ.

**Bue Rübner Hansen** is a postdoctoral fellow based between Aarhus and Barcelona, researching the emergence of ideas of the good life in common, as well as questions of class composition, migration and economic crisis. He is an editor of Viewpoint magazine, and a participant in the refugee city group of Barcelona en Comú.

#### **More than a welcome: the power of cities**

What role can and do states, the EU and cities play in producing, managing and overcoming the current political crisis, often narrated as a crisis of migration or refugees? How might networks of welcoming cities develop sustainable practices of social composition beyond the politics of identity? The role of solidarity movements in cities is key: these movements have opened space for demands and imaginaries of a different Europe open to solidarity. We ask how municipalities and locals can help break the deadlock and negative spiral of EU and national refugee policy. Based on our experiences in Barcelona we argue that the time is ripe for grassroots and government practices to be articulated critically.

**Rocio Cifuentes** is director of Ethnic Youth Support Team and the Think Project, Welsh specialist projects addressing Islamist extremism in vulnerable Muslim young people as well as far right extremism in vulnerable white young people. EYST is a leading organisation promoting community integration and community cohesion, through a proactive, preventative and education-based approach to diversity.

#### **Education as inoculation against extremism: the example and potential of the Think Project approach**

Years of involvement in conflicts in the Middle East have left us with a Britain and Europe arguably more afflicted by Islamist and far-right extremism than before the 'war on terror' began. In this context, education has a vital role to play in inoculating potentially vulnerable young people against all forms of extremism. It is the current vacuum and lack of effective education around these topics which extremist groups from all sides of the spectrum have sought to exploit. The Think Project is one example of an educational approach which combines open dialogue and experiential learning to facilitate difficult conversations and effect transformational learning.

## FORUM FOR DEBATE

**Joan Pedro** is an activist engaged in the theory and practice of social movements and political organising in Spain. He focuses on issues of war and peace, democratic participation, equality, freedom and the links between communication, education and social change.

**Simona Rentea** is a scholar and activist working with anti-austerity movements in Europe and looking in particular at the role of affect and imagination in the transversal practices of large-scale social mobilisations in Spain.

**Aurora Labio** is part of the Media, Communication Policies and Democracy research group at the University of Seville. Her work focuses on how the digital media may contribute to mobilising solidarity in favour of refugees.

**Inés Bebea** is a promoter of the project "Ondula - technology is for the people-" and is part of the social theatre collective Zero a la Izquierda. She is developing educational methodologies and resources to build a critical perspective on ICT and media, thus integrating historical, political, economic and philosophical approaches to technology.

**Jorge Saavedra Utman** works on cultural history and focuses on the role of media and social movements in Chile from the perspective of cultural and political hegemony in mainstream and grassroots landscapes. He has participated in student movements, Movimiento Pro Teatro Serrano and Tribuna Pública.

**Álvaro Ramírez** is active in conflict resolution and governance, and focuses on the culture of peace in the Basque Country, analysing the relationship among pacifist organizations, media and citizenry of such a region.



Day one will conclude with a screening of

## **WELCOME TO ITALY: Another look at Italy's welcome to migrants**

**With a discussion by filmmaker Dagmawi Yimer.**

Five shorts written, shot and directed by immigrant young people in Italy. A mosaic of micro-stories which have in common an inside approach to the migrant condition as well as a composite portrait of Italy and its system of welcome reflected in the eyes of those who arrive. *Benvenuti in Italia/ Welcome to Italy* is a documentary film in five episodes, shot by ten migrant hands, produced by the Archivio delle Memorie Migranti with the support of the *Open Society Foundations and the Fondazione lettera 27*, and the crafted editing of Aline Hervé and Lizi Gelber.

### **THE FILMMAKERS**

The authors of the film – all from very different worlds and experiences – were not chosen for their experience in the audiovisual field. Many of them had never held a videocamera before. After a short training period in Rome it was decided to set the stories in the various contexts of the migrants' arrival.

**Dagmawi Yimer** was born and grew up in Addis Ababa. He was a second year law student when he left his country, after the 2005 post-election unrest in which hundreds of young people were killed and put in jail. After a long journey across the Libyan desert and the Mediterranean, he came ashore on the island of Lampedusa on 30 July 2006. In Rome, after having participated in a video-making workshop in 2007, he co-authored the film *Il deserto e il mare* (The desert and the sea) along with five other migrants. Subsequently he was co-director with Andrea Segre and Riccardo Biadene for the 2008 pluri awarded documentary film *Come un uomo sulla terra* (Like a man on earth). He shot the documentary *C.A.R.A. ITALIA* (Dear Italy) in 2009 and *Soltanto il mare* (Nothing but the sea) in 2011, along with several other short films. In 2011 he coordinated the collective film project *Benvenuti in Italia* (Welcome to Italy), and directed one of the five episodes. *Va' pensiero walking stories* (2013) is an interwoven account of two racist attacks in Milan and Florence. *Asmat-Namer* (2015) is a short film in memory of all victims of the sea. Dagmawi is co-founder and vice president of the Archive of Migrant Memory.

**Aluk Amiri**, an Afghan refugee who arrived in Italy at fifteen, tells the story of the eighteenth birthday of his alter-ego, Nasir, in an unaccompanied minors' home in Venice.

**Zakaria Mohamed Ali**, who was forced to leave Mogadishu after the assassination of his teacher of journalism, gives his voice to the dreams of glory of Dadir, a well-known football champion in his country who now has to travel from Milan to Rome without a railway ticket to play with the 'Somali national team of Rome'.

**Hevi Dilara**, a Kurdish refugee woman activist, provides the portrait of a young refugee couple who have been living for one month in a refugee receiving center in Herculaneum, near Naples.

**Hamed Dera**, from Burkina Faso, films the activity and guests of the pension "chez Margherita", a reference point for the Burkina Faso community in Naples before its imminent closing.

### **The Archivio delle Memorie Migranti (AMM)**

The scope of the Archive of Migrant Memories (AMM) is to leave traces of the on-going immigration process in Italy and promote the inclusion of 'other' memories in the collective patrimony of national and transnational memory in the country. The AMM is composed of a group of volunteers, researchers, archivists, film directors and operators in the field, both migrant and not, who are active in two closely related areas: the archival research group, which deals with collecting and archiving written and oral testimonies; and the audiovisual group, engaged in the shared production of video-documentaries.

**10:00- 13:00****SESSION 3:  
THE EU, TURKEY AND  
THE BIGGER PICTURE  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS***Organisers: Valsamis Mitsilegas and Niovi Vavoula, School of Law at QMUL*

How does the increased delegation of border controls to Frontex and the militarisation of the border via the deployment of NATO forces impact on international and European human rights and refugee law? Is the European Union's proposed partnership with Turkey, with Turkey receiving a considerable number of refugees from the European Union, a solution to the failure thus far of EU refugee relocation initiatives? NGOs and the UNHCR have already raised serious concerns regarding the legality of this move and its compatibility with international and European human rights and refugee law. What is the common ground for a European law of welcome?

**PANEL**Chair: **Niovi Vavoula** (QMUL)

**Valsamis Mitsilegas (via Skype)** is Professor of European Criminal Law, Director of the Criminal Justice Centre and, since 2012, Head of the Department of Law at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). From 2001 to 2005 he served as legal adviser to the House of Lords European Union Committee. He is the author of six monographs and over 100 articles and chapters in academic volumes. His latest books are *The Criminalisation of Migration in Europe* (Springer, 2015) and *EU Criminal Law After Lisbon* (Hart, 2016).

***Solidarity beyond the state: towards a refugee-centered paradigm of solidarity***

This contribution will examine the current legal articulation of the principle of solidarity in the CEAS, by examining both primary and secondary EU law, and in particular the TFEU and the Dublin Regulation and related case-law. It will be demonstrated that the concept of solidarity is centered on the state and that this paradigm places considerable limits in developing effective and human-rights compliant responses to refugee flows. An alternative paradigm of solidarity is put forward, focusing on the rights and needs of asylum seekers and refugees. This presentation will explore a number of avenues towards achieving this aim, ranging from the application of the principle of mutual recognition of positive asylum decisions to steps towards greater centralisation in the CEAS, with the ultimate aim of achieving constitutional provision for a uniform refugee status.

**Sergio Carrera** is Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Justice and Home Affairs Programme at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). He has worked at CEPS in Brussels since 2002, where he coordinates the Justice and Home Affairs Research Programme. Carrera is also Associate Professor/Senior Researcher at the Department of European Law in the Faculty of Law of the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands. He holds a Ph.D. on European Law at the University of Maastricht (the Netherlands) and has published widely on EU justice and home affairs law and policies. He has co-edited several volumes and authored numerous academic articles in recognized national and international scientific (peer-reviewed) journals and books. His main research interests are on EU justice and home affairs (JHA) law and policy, with particular focus on migration, citizenship and borders policies, and the role of the various EU institutional actors in shaping justice and home affairs priorities and outputs. Carrera is an external expert and has written numerous studies for the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Committee of the Regions.

***The EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement: the blurring of sovereignty, solidarity and refugee rights***

The EU concluded a Readmission Agreement with Turkey back in 2014. One of the key components of the recent 2016 EU-Turkey deal has been advancing the personal scope of application of the agreement to cover the readmission of third country nationals and stateless from October to June this year. The assumption behind this decision, and more generally of EU

Readmission Agreements (EURAs), is that they will ease and increase the expulsion (enforced removal orders) rates of irregular immigrants in the EU. Yet at what costs from the perspective of inter-state sovereignty, solidarity and refugee rights? This paper examines this question by taking the EURA with Turkey as a case study. EURAs have been framed as a vital tool in the wider EU return policy and the EU external migration policy. This paper examines the practical and legal obstacles which may affect these agreements, and the logic of 'readmission', once they are concluded. It assesses the challenges characterizing the implementation dynamics of EU readmission policy - and the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement - from the perspective of inter-state relations as well as inter-personal solidarity and rights.

**Meltem Ineli-Ciger** is Lecturer at the Suleyman Demirel University, Faculty of Law in Turkey. She holds an LL.M degree in international law and Ph.D. degree from the University of Bristol. Her doctoral research focused on temporary protection in international law and state practice. Meltem has worked as a legal expert in 'Study on Temporary Protection Directive' commissioned by the European Commission in 2015. She also co-edited the book *Seeking Asylum in the European Union* (Martinus Nijhoff/Brill 2015). She is a doctoral affiliate of Refugee Law Initiative, University of London. Her current research relates to temporary protection, protection of Syrians in Turkey and EU-Turkey cooperation in the field of migration.

**Looking ahead. How can cooperation between the EU and Turkey in the field of migration be enhanced to develop a comprehensive and humane response to the asylum crisis?**

Turkey currently hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, the vast majority of whom are fleeing conflict and instability in neighbouring Syria. Many have gone on to seek protection in Europe, a mass movement of persons that has resulted in significant challenges to the asylum frameworks and reception capacity of both the European Union (EU) and Turkey, and raised humanitarian concerns regarding the safety and humane treatment of those seeking international protection. The controversial March 2016 EU-Turkey agreement to end irregular migration is the most recent manifestation of the desire to manage mass migratory flows and prevent irregular migration to Europe. Yet, serious concerns have been raised regarding the legality of this agreement and respect for the human rights of those transferred back to Turkey pursuant to it. This paper reviews EU-Turkey cooperation in the field of migration in particular 2016 March EU-Turkey agreement as well as the protection of Syrians in Turkey with a view to examining how cooperation between the EU and Turkey in the field of migration can be enhanced to develop a comprehensive and humane response to the asylum crisis. The paper also seeks to identify ways that Europe can support Turkey in strengthening its capacity to host refugees and ensure humane treatment for refugees and migrants alike.

**Aikaterini Drakopoulou** is a Greek Attorney at Law and Member of the Athens Bar Association since 2009. She graduated from the Law Department of Democritus University of Thrace in 2006. Two years later she received her LL.M from the Queen Mary University of London. In 2011 she received a second LL.M from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Due to her strong urge to promote the rights of immigrants and refugees arriving and living in Greece, her professional expertise focuses in the field of Human Rights Law. Since the beginning of 2011 she is a member of the Legal Department of Greek Council for Refugees - one of the most significant Greek NGOs on the field of refugees' protection - providing individualized legal aid and counseling, conducting legal research, reporting and monitoring both in Athens and the eastern Aegean Greek islands. She has been invited speaker in several conferences. She also supports on a voluntarily basis other actors aiming at the protection and integration of immigrants and refugees and fighting against xenophobia and racism. She lives in Athens, Greece.

**Providing international protection vs. controlling exceptional flows to Europe: balance struck? The case of Greece**

The current refugee crisis has been characterized by immense refugee flows. Up until recently Greece has been serving as the main entry point to Europe and a transit country. As a response to such exceptional flows, the EU institutions proposed the adoption of the Hotspot approach and the intra-EU relocation scheme. However, the de facto failure of these remedies to control the flows, led to the EU-Turkey Agreement, which poses serious legality concerns. This presentation aims to give a brief over-

view of the developments with regard to the refugee crisis in Greece, which has been marked by staggering and ongoing changes. Moreover, it will examine the actual capacity of Greece to provide protection to all the persons in need arriving or "trapped" in its territory after the closure of the Balkan route. Finally, it will attempt to assess whether the implementation of any policy driven agreement shall justify the underestimation of the obligations of the Greek State under the international, European and national law.

**Eleni Karageorgiou** is a doctoral candidate in Public International Law at Lund University, Sweden. She is a qualified lawyer (Athens Bar Association) practicing migration law since 2008 and holds an LL.M in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Before commencing her doctoral studies, in August 2013, she worked for the Greek Asylum Appeal Committees, representing the National Commission for Human Rights. Her doctoral thesis explores the functions and implications of the principle of solidarity and responsibility sharing for asylum within the EU.

**The EU-Turkey deal and the CEAS reforms as a response to intra-EU solidarity crisis**

EU states barely commit themselves to relocating refugees from Italy and Greece under the temporary emergency relocation scheme established last September. Instead, most states have been sealing their borders and adopting legislation, which significantly lowers asylum standards and leads to responsibility shifting. In view of this lack of intra-EU solidarity, the Union decided to invest in partnerships with third countries. This paper discusses the extent to which practices like the EU-Turkey deal,

which has heavily informed the Commission's proposals to further amend CEAS and its cornerstone, the Dublin system, are indicative of a certain trend in EU asylum policies: the commodification of people and de-solidarization of asylum through trade-like practices on the one hand and the transformation - in the name of solidarity - of refugee protection in a "protection by proxy" construction contrary to international and European law principles on the other.

**Niovi Vavoula** is Research Assistant at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), finalising her Ph.D. on EU immigration databases and privacy. She holds a Bachelor in Law from the University of Athens (2008) and an LL.M. in European Law from QMUL (2011). In 2012, she volunteered for the Greek Council for Refugees and interned for the Greek Desk of Eurojust. Her doctoral studies were funded by QMUL and the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA). Since 2015, she offers co-ordination assistance to the European Criminal Law Academic Network and editorial assistance to the New Journal of European Criminal Law.

**The tale of Eurodac: an ugly duckling growing into a swan?**

Eurodac (standing for European Dactyloscopy) is a pan-European database that currently stores the fingerprints of asylum seekers and certain categories of irregular migrants. Its original purpose was to assist the Dublin system in identifying the country responsible

for dealing with an asylum application. In 2013, the database underwent its first significant change; from a merely administrative tool, it transformed into a criminal law weapon by allowing access to asylum seekers' data for law enforcement purposes. In May 2016, the Commission proposed further changes to the system as part of the reforms to the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). According to the proposal, both the scope and the personal information collected and stored within the system are significantly widened with a view to responding more effectively to the current refugee crisis and to tackling irregular migration. In this context, the metamorphosis of Eurodac will be concluded, thus becoming a powerful immigration control tool with significant repercussions for the fundamental rights of third-country nationals. This presentation assesses these changes by focusing in particular on privacy and data protection.

### 13:00 - 13:30

Project presentation:

## REFUGE IN THE CITY

**Tatiana Diniz** is an anthropologist, specialised in Visual Anthropology, with a Masters in Social and Cultural Anthropology, a Masters in Diplomacy and Public Civil Service, and has studied auteurist photography. She is currently working on the project *Hopeful Journeys* at the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility, a project that studies the role of hope as a strategy of orientation in the context of migration in the Mediterranean region. She is interested in gender issues, migration, relocation

and feminism. Her photographs of *Refuge in the City* focus on Barcelona as a city that hosts refugees from across the world.

### *Refuge in the City*

*Refuge in the City* is a project that frames the perspective of people with refugee status, who are currently resident in Barcelona, and also depicts the city as a space of arrival and relocation. The aim of the photographs seen here is to personify and dignify citizens who are often viewed as part of a shapeless mass and who have been transformed into simple statistical numbers. It seems essential to give them space and let them speak with their own voice, so that they can reflect a small part of their present, everyday life.

### 15:00 - 16:45

## SESSION 4: CITIES OF TRANSIT

Organisers: Leonie Ansems de Vries, King's College London

From the railway stations, parks, and abandoned buildings in European cities to the 'jungle' in Calais, from the brand new 'hotspots' on Lampedusa to the Idomeni camp at the Greek-Macedonian border, formal and informal 'transit points' for refugees take centre stage in the Mediterranean migration crisis. This panel seeks to make sense of the ways in which these 'points' shape and are shaped by local/urban contexts and national and EU policies. How does this affect practices of solidarity and welcoming in a crisis too often framed in terms of threat and security? And how do these migration spaces affect the wider urban and political environment?

## PANEL

Chair: **Leonie Ansems de Vries** is a Lecturer in International Relations at King's College London. She is the co-Investigator of the ESRC-funded research project 'Documenting the Humanitarian Migration Crisis in the Mediterranean'.

### *Transit points: mobility, violence, detention and solidarity*

In the past few years, transit points have increasingly become the landmarks of transient populations seeking refuge in Europe. Yet, these sites are increasingly becoming spaces of detention, dispersal and push back rather than transit, including the eviction and destruction by governmental authorities of informal transit points. However, eviction and destruction does not stop people from moving through and staying in certain places; it merely worsens their hardship by creating an environment of violence and precarity. Despite the increasing violence at and of the border, informal transit points are also characterised by practices of autonomy and solidarity.

**Marta Welander** is the Founder and Director of the Refugee Rights Data Project (RRDP) and a research fellow for FRAME.

### *The Calais transit point - how policies of illegality have generated a polarised response*

Based on RRDP's research findings and broader observations relating to the informal camp in Calais, the paper argues that national/EU policies, little government support, and a lack of reliable data are contributing to a deep polarisation amongst European citizens in their response to the humanitarian crisis in Calais. On the one hand, current

policies have generated high levels of solidarity among some British and French citizens, and their grassroots activity works to fill the gaps created by the lack of government, UN and INGO support. On the other hand, the same policies have fed into and exacerbated demonisation of displaced people in Calais and frames them as 'illegal' whilst also delegitimising their mobility and existence in Europe.

**Penny Travlou** is a Lecturer in Cultural Geography and Theory at the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Edinburgh. She is also a core team member of the P2P Foundation and involved in Options FoodLab.

### *Refugees as catalysts of social change, solidarity and active citizenship: case study of an African collective kitchen in Athens*

Taking the case of Athens, the European city most affected by austerity policies, debt crisis and refugee/migrant influx in the last few years, the paper deploys activist work and ethnographic fieldwork to look at the role of refugees/migrants as catalysts for radical social change, solidarity and active citizenship. By collaborating in emerging networks of solidarity, local activists and refugees co-create 'urban commons': shared spaces to resist neoliberal austerity and fashion novel ways of living and working together. Taking a collective African kitchen as a promising example of refugees/migrants-residents' collaborative initiative, the paper demonstrates how the search of refugees' inclusion can be turned into a model of collaboration and sharing, and therefore, in the exploration of alternative ways of living and working together.

**Annalisa Lollo** is an Italian anthropologist living in Marseille and involved in the activities of El Manba. She previously worked with migrants in Bologna and Paris.

***El Manba: solidarity with migrant struggles in Marseille***

This contribution focuses on the experience of El Manba (Collectif soutien migrants 13) in Marseille. El Manba is one of the practical and logistical European responses to the "refugee crisis". The movement started from the choice of a lot of individuals, associations and groups with different political views to put their energy together to join and support the struggle of migrants who were stopped at the border between France and Italy and were claiming freedom of movement. This political activity is based on active solidarity towards the migrants and the Collectif engages in providing shelter, food, legal support and other social and political activities. The Collectif works with people who are travelling and passing through Marseille to join other destinations in Europe and people who decide to stay in Marseille, and claim asylum there.

**Conference ends at 17:00**

*An openDemocracy editorial team will ensure that the discussions generated by this event in this historically crucial debate are captured for our readers worldwide. Further enquiries to:*

*Rosemary.Bechler@openDemocracy.net & Alex.Sakalis@openDemocracy.net*

*UNU-GCM will produce a conference report in autumn 2016. Please visit our website for more details.*



Mediterranean journeys in hope, a partnership between UNU-GCM and openDemocracy, seeks to humanise the debates on migration and question the delineation of refugees from other migrants by taking 'hope', a basic pathway for survival in the context of human mobility, as our starting point. Our aim is to reposition human rights as legal and political priorities, and to open a space for treating human mobility as both a symptom and a feature of global and regional geopolitics.

***See more at: <https://opendemocracy.net/mediterranean-journeys-in-hope>***

# PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

**Aarhus University**  
**Archivio delle memorie migranti**  
**Barcelona City Council**  
**Berlin Institute for Migration Research**  
**Centre for European Policy Studies**  
**change4all**  
**City of Karlsruhe**  
**Durham University**  
**Ethnic Youth Support Team**  
**EUROCITIES**  
**FRAME**  
**Global Migration Policy Associates**  
**Greek Council for Refugees**  
**Joint Migration and Development Initiative**  
**King's College London**  
**Lund University**  
**openDemocracy**  
**Queen Mary University of London**  
**Refugee Rights Data Project**  
**Suleyman Demirel University**  
**The Think Project**  
**United Cities and Local Governments**  
**United Nations University**  
**United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility**  
**University of Edinburgh**  
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**CITIES OF  
WELCOME,  
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TRANSIT**

14 - 15 July 2016, Barcelona

