



February 2020

Welcome to Global Refugee Studies' newsletter.

In this issue, you can read about a whole range of new GRS staff publications that grapple with topics such as religion, energy alleviation, police crackdowns on illegal hawking, and inequality. We also share our latest conference report from the GRS hosted event: "Postcoloniality and Forced Migration" .

We hope you enjoy the reading!

Sincerely,
The staff at GRS

NEWS



CONFERENCE REPORT: POSTCOLONIALITY AND FORCED MIGRATION 24.02.20

On 11 - 13 December 2019, assistant professor Martin Lemberg-Pedersen hosted a postcolonial conference with a global migration focus. The conference brought together different scholars from a variety of disciplines as an attempt to communicate across disciplines and geography and bring about a re-historicization of postcoloniality. Read the conference report [here](#), which brings a short overview of the conference presentations.



20.02.20

GRS' ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MICHAEL ALEXANDER ULFSTJERNE HAS WRITTEN AN ARTICLE IN HAU: JOURNAL OF ETHNOGRAPHIC THEORY ON IRON BUBBLES AND CHINA'S MODERN GHOST CITIES

The article "Iron bubbles: Exploring optimism in China's modern ghost cities" is based on eight months of ethnographic fieldwork in the ghost city of Ordos, where Ulfstjerne investigates Ordos collective investment optimism and construction frenzy through the concept "Iron Bubbles": an outspoken optimism among locals of moving forward at a still higher pace where prosperity is thought to bring about even more prosperity – an economic bubble unable to burst. Read more [here](#)



19.02.20

LEMBERG-PEDERSEN GIVES TALK ON POLITICAL ECONOMY OF BORDER CONTROL AT MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

Presenting new research conducted during the ADMIGOV research consortium, Dr. Lemberg-Pedersen travels to Malmö on February 13, 2020 to give a talk. Read more [here](#)



19.02.20

NEW PUBLICATION ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EU BORDER CONTROL

Martin Lemberg-Pedersen and his research assistants Johanne Rübner Hansen and Oliver Joel Halpern has published a new report entitled "The political economy of entry governance" as part of the Horizon 2020 research consortium Advancing Alternative Migration Governance (ADMIGOV). Read more [here](#)



22.01.20

NEW EMPLOYEE: MARGRETHE HOLM ANDERSEN, SENIOR ADVISER

As of 1 January 2020, Margrethe Holm Andersen is employed as senior adviser in Sydhavnen. She will be working and teaching with the Global Refugee Studies group (GRS) in Copenhagen, and will also be teaching Project Management issues at the Development and International Relations program (DIR) in Aalborg. Read more [here](#)



07.01.20

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL ALEXANDER ULFSTJERNE HAS CO-WRITTEN AN ARTICLE ALONGSIDE RACHEL MILLER ON ENERGY POWER ALLEVIATION IN UGANDA

The paper will soon be published in the journal Energy Research and Social Science. The purpose of the article is to shed light on how interventions designed to alleviate energy poverty within displacement settings may bring about adverse effects. Read more [here](#).



18.12.19

GRS PH.D. STUDENT BRIGITTE DRAGSTED HAS WRITTEN AN ARTICLE IN GEOFORUM ON POLICE CRACKDOWNS ON ILLEGAL HAWKING IN NAIROBI

The article is based on an ethnographic study in Nairobi, where Dragsted explores the relationship between police crackdowns and hawkers. Read more [here](#).



18.12.19

MARLENE SPANGER HAS CO-WRITTEN A CHAPTER IN ACTION AID'S (MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKES) NEW REPORT ON INEQUALITY ALONGSIDE TORBEN BECHSGAARD FROM THE DANISH LABOR UNION 3F

The chapter titled: "Better control must put an end social dumping and forced labour" brings together Denmark's largest labour union and researchers from Aalborg University and sheds light upon the implications of social dumping and forced labour in a Danish context. Read it [here](#).



20.11.19

STEFFEN JENSEN HAS CO-WRITTEN THE NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK: "FAITH IN THE SYSTEM? RELIGION IN THE (DANISH) ASYLUM SYSTEM" ALONGSIDE MARIE JUUL PETERSEN

What is – or should be – the role of religion in the asylum system? Among Danish politicians, asylum authorities, and in the general public, this is a question that has surfaced time and again, most often in relation to accusations of religiously motivated discrimination of Christian converts, 'fake' conversions, aggressive proselytization by outside religious groups, and radicalisation among Muslim asylum seekers. In all these cases, different as they are, religion is cast as something potentially suspicious and problematic; something to be controlled, managed and even eliminated. But the role(s) of religion, in the asylum system and for the asylum seekers, is much more complex and multifaceted than these debates have us believe. Read the entire book [here](#).

G R S in the Media



>> 27.11.19 Associate professor Marlene Spanger and Ph.D. Sif Lehman-Jensen have written an article in Information about sexual health of LGBT+ persons and cismales in Denmark. Read more [here](#)



>> **20.11.19** The European security industry benefits from the migrants crossing borders into Europe by delivering guards, weapons, technology and surveillance. Security companies such as Securitas and G4S are growing rapidly as more European countries start buying their services. Still more companies are engaged in the marketization of displacement, creating a still more prevalent market competition. Martin Lemberg-Pedersen has been interviewed by mandagmorgen on the topic. Read more [here](#)



>> **06.11.19** Mixed Migration Center (MMC), an independent analytical institute under The Danish Refugee Council, has written a report about the European migration debate, in which the institute criticizes EU heavily for its great focus on border control. Martin Lemberg-Pedersen has been interviewed by Jyllandsposten on the topic. Read more [here](#)



>> **06.11.19** In Essex, United Kingdom, 39 dead Vietnamese migrants were found in a container recently. Additionally, 12 migrants were found last week in Belgium, and 31 Pakistani migrants were found on a highway between the Italian and France border on Saturday. And two days ago, 41 migrants were found in a truck on a Greek highway. Martin Lemberg-Pedersen was interviewed by P1 on the topic - read more or listen to the interview [here](#)

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