



# North Africa in Transition: Mobility, Forced Migration and Humanitarian Crises

6 May 2011 (13h00-18h00)

Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford  
3 Mansfield Road, Oxford, OX1 3TB

## Background and aims of workshop:

From the end of 2010, a series of unexpected popular uprisings have spread across North Africa and the Middle East. The dramatic unfolding of events has disrupted the ever changing patterns of mobility in the region in new and disturbing ways, including uprooting people, transforming existing migrants into refugees and constraining the movement of mobile populations. Some events, as in Egypt and Tunisia, have been largely peaceful, with political transitions under the mediation of the army. Other events have been brutal, with a witnessing of force of arms and violent suppression of the opposition in Libya, for example.

These diverse crises have resulted in ‘mixed’ migration flows: economic migrants becoming forced migrants and forced migrants entering irregular migration channels in the search for survival, while other migrants have become ‘involuntarily immobile’, such as migrant workers stuck inside Libya.

This workshop will provide a space for interested academics, practitioners and policy makers to critically engage with the evolving contemporary crises in North Africa, focusing in particular on the challenges surrounding the displacement of people in their wake, including: migrant workers from across the African continent, internally displaced nationals, and Sub-Saharan African and Middle Eastern asylum-seekers and refugees who had formerly sought refuge within countries including Libya and Egypt. Organized around two panels with presentations by leading academics and practitioners working on the region, this interactive workshop will explore two intersecting questions:

1. How have these crises influenced different forms of population displacement?
2. What are the key protection and legal challenges faced by the international community in light of the internal and international displacement of populations as a consequence of the contemporary popular uprisings in North Africa?



*12h00 – 13h00 Registration and coffee*

**13h00- 15h00 Session 1 – Mobility, displacement and immobility in the context of the North African popular uprisings**

Chair: **Dawn Chatty, RSC**

4 panelists to each speak for 20 minutes. 40 minutes Q and A

Speakers

**Julien Brachet**

**Elena Fiddian Qasmiyeh**

**Philip Marfleet**

**Discussant: Hein de Haas**

*15h00- 15h30 Tea/Coffee break (sandwiches will be provided)*

**15h30-17h30 Session 2 – The key protection and legal challenges faced by the international community in light of these large-scale displacements of people?**

Chair: **Oliver Bakewell**

4 panelists to each speak for 20 minutes. 40 minutes Q and A

Speakers

**Michael Willis** Middle East Centre, University of Oxford

**Marc Petzoldt** International Organisation for Migration (tbc)

**Ivan Gayton** Médecins Sans Frontières (tbc)

**Elizabeth Eyster** United Nations High Commission for Refugees

**17h30-18h00 Session 3- What lies ahead? Wrap-up and closing comments**

Chair: **Hein de Haas**

A closing examination of the key dilemmas faced by the international community as they assess humanitarian, political, and military ‘realities’; and a critical evaluation of the protection challenges emerging from North Africa and the Middle East

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