

THE POLITICS OF DISPLACEMENT: REFUGEE RIGHTS, EDUCATION, AND GLOBAL ORDERS

18 June 2026 | 9:00 am – 6:00 pm | Homerton College, University of Cambridge

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9:00 – 9:30 am | Registration & Welcome Coffee

9:30 – 11:30 am | **Panel 1** | Opening Plenary
Fortress Nations: Displacement and the Rise of Exclusionary Politics

Welcome

- **Maha Shuayb** — Director, Centre for Lebanese Studies, University of Cambridge
- **Pauline Rose** — Director, REAL Centre, University of Cambridge
- **Mezna Qato** — Director, Centre for Southwest Asia and North Africa (CSWANA), University of Cambridge

Opening Remarks

- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (TBC)

Speakers

- **Lord Simon Woolley** — Principal of Homerton College, University of Cambridge
Framing the current anti-migrant and far-right trends in the UK and globally
- **Michelle Pace** — Professor in Global Studies, Denmark and Academic Visitor, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford
Facts, Fear, and Futures: Border Imperialism and Alternative Politics of Belonging

Discussion

- 30-minute audience discussion

Chair: **Maha Shuayb**

11:30 – 11:50 am | Coffee Break

11:50 am – 1:00 pm | **Panel 2** | Can Global Policy Frameworks Deliver Justice, or Do They Reproduce the Politics of Exclusion?

Speakers

- **Giorgia Donà** — Co-director of the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging, University of East London
The Politics of Displacement: Discourses and Lived Realities
- **Judith Herbertson** — Head of Girls' Education Department, FCDO (UK government policy perspective)
- **Faiza Hassan** — Executive Director, Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)

Chair: **Cathrine Brun** – Centre for Lebanese Studies, University of Cambridge



1:00 – 2:00 pm | Lunch

2:00 – 3:15 pm | Panel 3 | Reframing Education in Forced Displacement

Speakers

• **Maha Shuayb** and **Cathrine Brun**

Reimagining Education in Displacement: New Openings for the Future of the Field

• **Laila Kadiwal** — Associate Professor in Education and International Development, University College London (UCL)

"Culpable Subject"? Towards shared liberation in the context of genocide and ecocide

• **Ali Ahmadi** — Doctoral Researcher, Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)

Institutionalising Sanctuary: Higher Education, Displaced Students, and the Limits of Recognition in England

Chair: **Pauline Rose**

3:15 – 3:35 pm | Coffee Break

3:35 – 5:00 pm | Panel 4 | Resistance and Alternative Approaches

Speakers

• **Sharath Srinivasan** — Professor in International Politics & Director, Centre of Governance and Human Rights (CGHR), University of Cambridge

• **Zeina Al Azmeh** — Research and Teaching Associate in Political Sociology, University of Cambridge

Existence Theory and Exile: Toward a Theory of Existential Governance

• **Solava Ibrahim** — Associate Professor Anglia Ruskin University

Towards a Common Policy Framework for Refugee Empowerment: Contrasting the Voices of Ukrainian Refugees with Dominant Policy Narratives in the UK

Chair: **Laila Kadiwal**

5:00 – 6:00 pm | Closing Plenary | Building Solidarity Across Borders: Creating Space for Alternative Visions

Fireside Conversation Participants

• **Faiza Hassan** — Executive Director, Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)

• **Renata Schaeffer** — Director of Global Engagement, Global Engagement Office, University of Cambridge

• **Muna Abbas** — CEO, Asfari Foundation

• **Mezna Qato** — Director, Centre for Southwest Asia and North Africa (CSWANA), University of Cambridge

Chair: **Maha Shuayb**

