Contributors

Hafsa Afailal holds a PhD from Rovira i Virgili University (Tarragona, Spain) and is a Visiting Researcher at Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey. Her dissertation concerns migration and human rights in the Mediterranean region. She has also served as a technical advisor for many NGOs in Morocco and is Programme Coordinator at the Rabat-based NGO Le Médiateur pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l’Homme. In this capacity she coordinates a project financed and managed by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), Jeunes pour la Démocratie. She has publications in Arabic, French and Spanish.

Ruba Al Akash is a Visiting Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University. She is a former researcher and lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Design and Department of Humanities at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Al Akash completed her PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Kent in Canterbury and also holds a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication and an MA in Social Anthropology from Yarmouk University in Jordan. As a social anthropologist with an interest in the Middle East, urban studies and forced migration as well as religion and politics, her research is highly interdisciplinary, particularly at the intersection between social, political and urban anthropology. Al Akash’s doctoral thesis (University of Kent) explores the way in which migrants and minority groups constitute selves and persons, relationships and realities in their daily interactions, with an emphasis on local and regional factors. More recently, she has been investigating the impact of forced migration on Syrian refugees inside and outside camps in Jordan. Her current research focuses on the experiences of Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Claire Beaugrand joined the Institut français du Proche-Orient (IFPO) in June 2013 after working as a Senior Gulf Analyst for the International Crisis Group (ICG), primarily covering Bahrain.
received her PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics, for which she studied the emergence and persistence of statelessness in Kuwait. Her research interests encompass issues of nationality, transnational networks, political exiles and social margins as they apply to Kuwait and Bahrain. She is currently investigating the new wave of Bahraini exiles between legacies and innovative trajectories. Together with Vincent Geisser, also at the IFPO, she is one of the core researchers for the WAFAW (When Authoritarianism Fails in the Arab World) project funded by the European Research Council, and both coordinate the programme The Role of Diasporas, Migrants and Exiles in the Arab Revolutions and Transitions.

Karen Boswall is a filmmaker and visual anthropologist. She lived and worked in Mozambique as a journalist and documentary filmmaker between 1990 and 2007, focusing in particular on issues of conflict-driven migration and internal displacement and post-conflict reconciliation, resettlement and reintegration. Her award-winning films and BBC radio documentaries explore the spiritual, cultural and environmental worlds of individuals, families and communities both during and after the war in Mozambique. Upon returning to the UK in 2007 she taught Visual Anthropology and Film and Television at the University of Kent (2008–2009) and Canterbury Christ Church University (2010–2014). She began investigating the impact of forced migration on Syrian refugees inside and outside camps in Jordan in November 2013, gathering testimonials from the women and young girls living outside of the camps in the northern town of Irbid. Her documentary on the private and public world of these women and girls is currently in production. She is a CHASE scholar, at the University of Sussex.

Chiara Denaro is a Social and Legal Assistant with several years’ experience working in the field of immigration in Rome. She is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Applied Social Sciences at the Sapienza University of Rome and in Sociology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, with a degree in the Conception and Management of Social Policies and Services. Her work primarily focuses on forced migration in the Mediterranean Sea, the evaluation of reception systems established in southern European countries and migratory policies. She is currently researching the reconfiguration of migration routes after the conflict in Syria,
analysing the coping strategies used by Syrian asylum seekers in the pursuit of their migration projects.

Kamel Doraï is a Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in France currently working with MIGRINTER at the University of Poitiers and the IFPO in Amman, Jordan. The primary focus of his work is asylum and refugees, new migrations and geopolitical reorganization and migration in the Middle East and transnational practices within the Palestinian diaspora. He recently researched Iraqis in Syria and the urbanization process of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. His comparative study between refugees residing inside and outside camps and the analysis of their migration experiences and spatial practices reveal the refugees’ socio-spatial dynamics in exile and the relationships between camp refugees and their urban environment.

Vincent Geisser is a Political Scientist and Research Fellow at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in France based at the Institut de Recherches et d’Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman (IREMAM) in Aix-en-Provence. He is President of the Centre of Information and Studies on International Migrations (CIEMI, Paris) and Editor of the journal Migrations Société. He is also a member of the editorial committee of L’Année du Maghreb (CNRS Editions). He has authored more than 50 articles and papers on a wide range of subjects dealing with ethnicity, Muslim migrations in France and Europe, Islamophobia, the Tunisian political system and authoritarianism in the Arab world. He is a core-researcher for the WAFW (When Authoritarianism Fails in The Arab World) project funded by the European Research Council.

Lorenzo Navone holds a PhD in Sociology (University of Genoa, Italy), whose dissertation concerns the operation of the ‘triangular’ border between Egypt, the Gaza Strip and Israel: Walls and Tunnels: An Ethnography of the Border between Egypt, Israel and the Gaza Strip. He is currently collaborating with the Laboratorio di Sociologia Visuale at the University of Genoa, various NGOs and other research institutes.

Natalia Ribas-Mateos is a Visiting Scholar at Philipps-Universität Marburg, Reconfigurations Network, and affiliated with the Centre d’Estudis i Recerca sobre Àsia Oriental CERAO (Autonomous University of Barcelona). She was the conference co-coordinator of Contributors

Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Committee on Global Thought (Columbia University) (<http://www.saskiasassen.com>). Her new book is Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy (Harvard University Press 2014). Her recent books include Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages (Princeton University Press 2008), A Sociology of Globalization (W.W. Norton 2007) and the fourth fully updated edition of Cities in a World Economy (Sage 2012). Her older books include The Global City (Princeton University Press 1991/2001) and Guests and Aliens (New Press 1999). Her books have been translated into over 20 languages. She has received diverse awards, from a large number of doctors honoris causa to being chosen as one of the top global thinkers on several lists. Most recently Sassen was awarded the Principe de Asturias Prize for the Social Sciences in 2013 and was made a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Susanne Schmelter is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of Göttingen (Germany). Her research focuses on humanitarian actors and logic in the governance of the Syrian refugee crisis. In 2014 she held a scholarship from the Orient Institut Beirut and conducted field research in Lebanon. Schmelter has an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany) focusing on the empirical study of the urban displacement of Iraqi refugees in Damascus and Beirut. She also works in cooperation with the German refugee rights organization Pro Asyl, which produces reports on the situation of refugees in Turkey and on illegal refoulement at the Greek-Turkish border.

Christoph H. Schwarz is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS), Reconfigurations Network at Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany), where
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