

Migration, Justice, & the Making of Futures

June 5-6, 2026



Welcome to the 2026 Annual Oxford Migration Conference, **“Migration, Justice, and the Making of Futures.”**

The programme this year is concerned with what it means to imagine more just futures in the context of increasingly hostile governance institutions, political contexts, and cultural attitudes. Each panel considers a different aspect of just futures, asking and answering questions ranging from “whose knowledge is considered valuable?” to “how do those on the move showcase care-based alternatives to the state?” We’ve spent all year organising a conference that showcases the work of activists, artists, scholars, and practitioners from more than sixteen countries devoted futures that center justice, collaboration, and care.

We hope you’ll take this opportunity to share your insights, experiences, and think about how, together, we can build more just futures.

Sincerely,

The OMBS Team



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Migration, Justice, and the Making of Futures

Friday, June 5th Schedule

***Streamed Online**

10:00-10:45 AM Green Templeton College	Check-in and Refreshments
11:00-11:30 AM* Nissan Theatre, St. Antony's College	Introduction and Overview
11:30-12:30 PM* Nissan Theatre, St. Antony's College	Keynote Speech by Ali Ghaderi, Founder and Director of Babylon Migrants Project
12:30-1:30 PM Green Templeton College	Break for lunch
2:00-3:30 PM* Green Templeton College	Panel 1: Community Based Research Panel 2: Renegotiating Identity and Social Position through Art
5:00-6:30 PM Nissan Theatre, St. Antony's College	<i>Give and Take</i> film screening followed by Q&A with film director, Jimmy Lu
7:00-8:00 PM Green Templeton College	Drinks Reception

Migration, Justice, and the Making of Futures

Saturday, June 6th Schedule

***Streamed Online**

8:30-9:00 AM Green Templeton College	Check-in and Refreshments
9:00-10:30 AM* Green Templeton College	Panel 3: Epistemological Justice Panel 4: Alternative Infrastructures of Care and Belonging
11:00-12:30 PM* Green Templeton College	Panel 5: Indigeneity, Decoloniality, and Intersections with Migration
12:30-1:30 PM	Break for Lunch
2:00-3:30 PM* Green Templeton College	Panel 6: Beyond Environmental Determinism Panel 7: Disparate Futures
3:30-4:30 PM Green Templeton College	Refreshments Creative Programming
4:30-6:00 PM* Green Templeton College	Panel 8: How the State Disappears Migrants
6:30-7:30 PM St. Antony's College	Closing and Reflections

Note for Virtual Participants

We are excited to host a conference that is accessible to virtual participants from around the world. We are grateful to our hosts at Green Templeton and St. Antony's College for accomodating our hybrid format.

All registered virtual participants will receive a Microsoft Webinar link with access information. If you have any trouble accessing this information, please contact our team at omss@qeh.oc.ac.uk.

The programming available for virtual participants is marked in the schedule and throughout this booklet with an aesterix.*

The chat box will be available throughout the duration of the panel and monitored by members of our team. There will be an option to share comments and questions anonymously, as well.



Keynote Speaker: Ali Ghaderi

Friday, June 5th, 11:30-12:30 PM BST (GMT +1)

Nissan Lecture Theatre, St. Antony's
College and Online*

Ali Ghaderi is a London-based activist, facilitator, and the Founder and Director of Babylon Migrants Project, a CIC that runs creative workshops led by and for young people from refugee, asylum-seeking, and migrant backgrounds.

Originally from Iran, Ali brings over a decade of experience as a facilitator, delivering workshops around the world—from youth centres to international stages and policy spaces. He is a trustee for Counterpoints Arts, and has worked with organisations such as Our Second Home, the British Red Cross, and Safe Passage. In his advocacy, he challenges racism and stereotypes and pushes for safe, legal routes to sanctuary. Ali is passionate about building partnerships, empowering young people, and creating spaces where creativity and community thrive.



Panel 1: Community-Based Research

Friday, June 5th, 2:00-3:30 PM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Natasha Treunen**

How are migrants, refugees, and displaced communities transforming institutions, producing knowledge, and creating new possibilities for collective futures? This panel showcases research that directly challenges the tendency to position displaced people as passive agents. Instead, these researchers foreground the myriad ways displaced communities engage in political struggle, institutional change, and knowledge-building. Together, these contributions invite us to rethink the scope and scale of community-based research and community-led action.

Delphine Boagey, “Belonging in Practice: Building Just Pathways for Displacement-Affected Learners in Oxfordshire”

Luena Ricardo, “What to Make of Absence? Co-Curation, Sudanese Youth, and the Futures We Build Together”

Dr. Amanda Lubit, “Imagining Just and Caring Futures: How Initiatives Led by Displaced Women Reshape Broader Society”

Leen Al Massalma, “Building the Nation, the Home and the Future: Agency of Syrians at the Displacement-Revolution Nexus”



Delphine Boagey (she/her) is a migration practitioner and researcher. At the Refugee-Led Research Hub, she leads the design, development and delivery of programmes that support displacement-affected scholars and learners in accessing pathways in research, leadership, and professional development. She focuses on strengthening partnerships across local refugee-led organisations, community groups, and academic institutions through community-centred learning and engagement. Delphine is Producer of The Migration Oxford Podcast and trained as an ethnomusicologist.

Luena Ricardo (she/her) is the Community Outreach and Learning Facilitator at MultakaOxford, where she designs and delivers community-led engagement programmes that foreground intercultural learning and shared interpretation through collections. She coordinates volunteer development and partnerships across Oxford, working closely with schools and community organisations to co-create workshops, exhibitions, and public events. Her work brings together storytelling, object-based learning, and critical reflection on how knowledge travels, helping participants explore belonging, identity, and the “hidden histories” inside museum collections.

Dr. Amanda Lubit (she/her) is an anthropologist researching women's communities of care with a focus on gender, racism and migration. She is a Marie Curie post-doctoral fellow hosted jointly by the Max Planck Institute in Germany and Dublin City University in Ireland.

Leen Al Massalma (she/her) is a Master's candidate at the University of Oxford. Leen works to promote refugee agency in the SWANA region and the global refugee regime through locally led research and international advocacy. Previously, she was an Advocacy Officer at the EU and UN levels with Syrian refugee-led organisations and other local civil society organisations in Turkey and Lebanon. She holds an MSc in Conflict and Development Studies from Ghent University and a BSc in Political Science from KU Leuven, Belgium.

Panel 2: Renegotiating Identity and Social Position through Art

Saturday, June 5th, 2:00-3:30 PM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **John Gledhill**

How do migrants, refugees, and displaced communities use art not simply to express experience, but to remake identity itself? Across theatre, song, drag, and other collaborative arts practices, this panel examines art as a living infrastructure of migration: a space where memory is carried across borders, where loss is turned into narrative, and where social positions marked by precarity are reworked into forms of dignity, care, and collective imagination.

Dr. Tunay Altay, “Remediated Identities: Drag, Queer Migration, and the Aesthetics of Postmigrant Survival”

Khadiga Mustafa, “Sudanese theatre as a cultural archive of belonging”

Mahima Sinha, “Archives and Itinerant Futures: Refugee Folklore and the Temporalities of Becoming in Northeast India”



Dr. Tunay Altay (he/him) is a postdoctoral researcher in sociology and Co-Head of the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Migration at Humboldt University of Berlin. Tunay's research focuses on migration and sexuality in Germany, Turkey, and the broader context of Europe and the Middle East. He is the co-editor of *Queer and Trans Life: Anthropological Future* (2025) and *Resisting Far-Right Politics: Queer Feminist Critiques* (2024). Tunay published in top-ranked journals, including *Sexualities*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and *European Journal of Politics and Gender*. He is the co-chair of the Gender and Sexuality Research Network at the Council for European Studies.

Khadiga Mustafa (she/her) is an experienced researcher, creative director, and social Sudanese activist. Specializing in storytelling and theater narration, her work covers displacement, conflict reporting, and using analytical journalism to archive and notate important societal events. She has recently presented a collection of photos from the theater stage. Khadiga is developing tools and techniques to reframe migration narratives as impactful, engaging, and accessible digital content.

Mahima Sinha is a graduate in Gender and Development studies. Mahima runs a project called AYAG, which engages and documents oral traditions of the Bishnupriya Manipuri, an endangered community called in Northeast India.

Give and Take Film Screening

Friday, June 5th, 5:00-6:00 PM

Nissan Lecture Theatre, St. Antony's College

Canada | 2025 | Colour | 60' | In Cantonese with
Chinese and English Subtitles

Director: Jimmy Lo

Co-Producer: Helena Wu



Amid the post-2019 Hong Kong exodus, a schoolteacher and an artist embark on a three-year immigration journey to Canada, where they grapple with unforeseen psychological challenges, putting their decision, identity, and relationship to the test in a relentless search for a place to call home.

Q&A with Director Jimmy Lo

Friday, June 5th, 6:00-6:30 PM

Jimmy Lo is a Hong Kong-born, Canada-based filmmaker and film educator. His award-winning film *Stories of Pang Jai* (2024) won the Best Feature Film and Best Cinematography awards at Vancouver Asian Film Festival and was nominated for Human Rights Award at South Taiwan Film Festival. *Give and Take* (2025) is his second feature documentary film, which explores the lives of the recent Hong Kong immigrants in Canada. His films have screened internationally. Jimmy's an assistant professor at MacEwan University, where he teaches film production.



Panel 3: Epistemological Justice and Decolonizing Knowledge

Saturday, June 6th, 9:00-10:30 AM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Erin Lowe**

What does future-making look like within studies of migration and forced displacement? How can the field evolve in ways that foreground the lived experiences of those who have experienced displacement and the traditional ways of knowing from communities throughout the migration spectrum? This panel questions how knowledge about migration is constructed and what institutions and individuals have the power to shape it. By conceptualising migration studies in this way, we can not only better understand why the academic space understands migration the way it does, but also recover buried histories, address epistemic injustices, and protect vulnerable knowledge systems.

Babatunde-Tribe Akande, “This Land Was Always Ours: Queerness, Colonial Homophobia, and the Forced Migration of LGBTQ+ Africans”

Israa Elkhailil, “Who Speaks for Forced Migration? Epistemic Justice, Power and the Politics of Knowledge Production”

Nizni Hans, “Beyond Relocation: Climate Mobility, Indigenous Knowledge and Gendered Pathways to Just Futures”



Mx. Babatunde-Tribe Akande (they/them), is a queer nonbinary multidisciplinary artist, minority rights activist, researcher, and experimental documentary filmmaker based in Lagos, Nigeria. Their work explores themes of intersectionality, decolonization, unity, identity, spirituality and human connectivity, they are committed to using art as a tool for social change. Babatunde-Tribe is a 2025 Bertha Foundation Artist and the 2023 OHCHR United Nations laureate artist, having received the prestigious "International Art Contest for Minority Artists" award. In 2024, Babatunde-Tribe served as a jury member for the logo contest to create a new visual identity for the Permanent Forum of Afro- descendants of the United Nations in 2024. Their work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Centre des Arts, Genève, Switzerland, Escape in/out, Follow Art Fair, Milan, Windsor Gallery, Abuja "Ommemorative" exhibition, the +234 Art Fair and NAHOUS "On the wings of Icarus" in 2025.

Israa Elkhail (she/her) is a humanitarian and policy practitioner working at the intersection of conflict, displacement, and civic engagement. She has experience across humanitarian coordination, policy analysis, and advocacy. Her work also examines how structural systems, including mobility regimes and global governance frameworks, shape access, participation, and protection. Informed by both professional and contextual experience across African contexts, she contributes to advancing locally grounded approaches to inclusive governance.

Nizni Hans (she her) is a development practitioner with a grounding in public policy and governance. With over two decades of experience, she has worked across international organizations, academia, and government systems to design and implement inclusive, equity-driven initiatives. Her work focuses on gender equity and social inclusion, Indigenous rights, climate resilience, displacement and inclusive governance. She currently serves as Director of Projects and Research at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Odisha where she leads multi-stakeholder initiatives aligned with global development goals. A Chevening Gurukul Fellow at the University of Oxford and a US State Department Professional Fellow, Nizni is listed with the UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab and the Academic Council of the United Nations System. She has worked in different capacities with UNDP, UN Women, ADB and other multilateral agencies and regularly presents her work at leading platforms.

Panel 4: Alternative Infrastructures of Care and Belonging

Saturday, June 6th, 9:00-10:30 AM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Siyu Tang**

People on the move are often subjected to state-sponsored regulation and control in exchange for recognition and aid. Although this assistance is often articulated as a form of ‘care’, this kind of framing reinforces stereotypes that position migrants as vulnerable recipients of aid, rather than agentic actors taking an active role in supporting their communities. This panel showcases the ways that community and kinship foster relational approaches to protection advocacy, identity-formation, and collective knowledge production. Each of the panelists highlights how migrant communities create alternative infrastructures of care and belonging in pursuit of solidarity and justice.

Nidhi Menon, “Digital Sisterhoods: Social Media Care Networks and Prefigurative Justice Among Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore”

Yasmynn Chowdhury, “Who Speaks for Forced Migration? Epistemic Justice, Power and the Politics of Knowledge Production”

Imamudin Hamdard, “Diaspora as Agents of Justice: Exploring how Afghan diaspora networks in Europe contribute to protection advocacy, misinformation prevention, and community-based justice mechanisms”

Dr. Claudio Concas, “Connected Exile and Diasporic Justice: Digital Public Spheres and Future-Making in the Hazara Transnational Community”



Nidhi Menon (she/her) is a policy researcher with 4.5 years of experience working in India's migration ecosystem, studying internal migration, international migration flows, skill development and refugee movements in South Asia. Her focus has been on international migrant flows, migration decisions, integration challenges and the role of diaspora and transnational networks in shaping migration experiences. Currently, she is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and hopes to explore the interlinkages between migration and climate change.

Yasmynn Chowdhury (she/her), is a PhD student at the University of Oxford with a background in medical anthropology, global health, public health, and microbiology. She is currently working with Rohingya communities to co-explore how their wellbeing and lived experiences are co-constituted with global and local systems of refugee governance and protection, and how Rohingya pursue and enact counter-hegemonic social projects that imagine and potentiate new modalities of recognition of suffering, belonging and identity, and care.

Imamudin Hamdard (he/him) is the Founder and Chairman of the Afghanistan Studies & Cooperation Center e.V. (ASCC), a Germany-based non-profit organization supporting refugees and migrant communities through education, integration, advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives. He previously worked for nearly ten years with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Afghanistan, coordinating programs focused on youth leadership, peacebuilding, labor rights, and civic engagement. During his time with FES, he also served as an International Advisor to the National Union of Afghanistan Workers & Employees (NUAWE) and held the position of Secretary of the Afghanistan Policy Group (APG).

Dr. Claudio Concas (he/him) is a historian and ethnohistorian whose research focuses on the long-term persecution, marginalisation, and diasporic experiences of the Hazaras of Afghanistan. He recently completed his PhD at the University of Milano-Bicocca, where his dissertation examined Hazara persecution through historical analysis, oral history, and ethnohistorical methods. His current work explores exile, digital public spheres, diasporic memory, and transnational forms of advocacy and justice among Hazara communities. He is also the author of *Voci dall'Hazaristan* (Mimesis, 2022).

Panel 5: Indigeneity, Decoloniality, and Intersections with Migration

Saturday, June 6th, 11:00-12:30 PM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Laura Rival**

Indigeneity is synonymous with *place*: its people, its culture, and its land. It invokes a much older history than that of nation-states, and, in many places, continues to challenge many of the borders that the contemporary world takes for granted. The superimposition of two world orders over one another creates experiences of movement that are difficult to define within typical lexicons of migration. This panel centers indigenous experiences of colonisation and the ways in which the connection to territory that defines indigeneity in these settings conceptually broadens frameworks of displacement and dislocation.

Sarah-Kay Coulter, “Inalienable Belonging: Indigenous Citizenship and the Limits of the Contemporary State”

Ashok Kumar G, “Margins of Autonomy: Indigenous Mobility, Justice, and Future-Making among the Koraga of South India”

Nathalie Lozano Neira, “R Is Not for Refugee: Refugeetude, Resurgence, Relationality, and Return”

Lidia Garcia Berrelleza “Haitian- Manoomin Epistemology: What can we learn about inter-species kinship?”



Sarah-Kay Coulter (she/her) (Ngāti Porou, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto) is a comparative Indigenous legal scholar at the University of Melbourne whose work interrogates citizenship, sovereignty, and constitutional responsibility across settler states. Her scholarship advances Indigenous jurisprudential frameworks that reconfigure belonging beyond state conferment, centring pre-existing sovereignty, relational accountability, and intergenerational continuity. Working across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, her research bridges law, history, and Indigenous knowledge systems to illuminate how colonial citizenship regimes continue to structure displacement.

Mr. Ashok Kumar G (he/him) is a PhD scholar in Sociology–Anthropology at the Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Hyderabad. His research focuses on Indigenous/Adivasi communities in South India, particularly the Koraga community recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). His work examines questions of indigenous autonomy, marginalisation, and governance in non-scheduled tribal areas, with attention to the intersections of caste, tribe, and mobility. His research explores how indigenous communities negotiate state policies, social exclusion, and development interventions while envisioning collective futures and forms of self-determination.

Nathalie Lozano Neira (she/they) was born in Muisca territory (Colombia) and sought refuge on the lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (Vancouver) nearly two decades ago after being displaced from her hometown of Villarrica, Tolima. She has long been engaged in migrant justice and community organizing as a facilitator, youth worker, interpreter, and researcher committed to fostering meaningful relationships across Indigenous, Black, and migrant communities. Nathalie completed her MA in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. In 2022, she began her PhD in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at the University of British Columbia.

Mx. Lidia Garcia Berrelleza (she/they) is a scholar-activist, proud Immigrant and Midwesterner. Her research centers critical race studies, transnational feminism, state and legal violence, and feminist epistemologies and methodologies, focusing on undocumented peoples' experiences in the US. Building on both prior research and extensive organizing experience, her doctoral work examines the complexities and nuances of state-sanctioned violence against illegalized populations in the United States. Lidia is currently examining the connection to the Land, the narratives that build and sustain nation-states, and how Undocumented Knowledge is critical to the free movement of people.

Panel 6: Beyond Environmental Determinism: Reconceptualizing Climate (Im)Mobility

Saturday, June 6th, 2:00-3:30 PM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Nicolas Kamran**

Climate mobility is predominantly understood as a direct consequence of ecological disaster. Yet such framing obscures the legal, political, and institutional structures that determine mobility and the legitimacy of claims to protection and return. This panel challenges environmentally deterministic accounts of forced migration by examining how climate and environmental immobility are mediated through systems of law, governance, infrastructure, and power. Drawing on cases from Central India, Pakistan, the Horn of Africa, and the Sahel, these works explore diverse yet interconnected dimensions of climate (im)mobility. More broadly, this research highlights the need to move beyond crisis-based understandings of displacement and toward frameworks that address the structural conditions that produce immobility.

Amrisha Tripathi and Ananyo Mitra, “Forests at War: Ecological Persecution and the Politics of Return in Bastar”

Wesley Markus Kutte, “Spatiotemporal Analysis of Environmental Change and Population Persistence in the African Sahel”

Ritah Kemishomo, “Climate-Induced Displacement and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention: Lessons from the Horn of Africa”

Ayesha Iqbal, “After the Water Recedes: Property, Patriarchy, and the Gendered Politics of Climate Migration in Pakistan”



Ms. Amrisha Tripathi (she/her) is an assistant professor of law at the Manipal Law School, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru, India. Her research and academic interests include public international law, legal theory, law and gender, and human rights law.

Mr. Ananyo Mitra (he/him) is a legal academic, researcher, and storyteller at heart. He is currently working at Manipal Law School, Bengaluru as an Assistant Professor of Law. He holds an LL.M. in Public International Law from Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom and a BBA. LL.B. from KIIT School of Law, India. His research and publications span public international law, environmental law, criminal law, and jurisprudence.

Mr. Wesley Markus Kutte (he/him) is a youth development professional, peacebuilder, and researcher currently serving as Youth Engagement Strategist at Thrive360 Youth Hub, where he designs programs for young people in conflict-affected communities and IDP camps across Northeastern Nigeria. He also serves as a Youth Advisory Board Member on Migration for International Organization for Migration, where he champions youth voices in migration dialogues and advises on youth-focused programs and policies.. His work focuses on migration, displacement, peacebuilding, climate mobility, and community resilience in Northern Nigeria with particular interest in how environmental change and conflict shape population movement and persistence.

Ms. Ritah Kemishomo (she/her) is a lawyer and researcher specialising in international humanitarian law, refugee law, and climate-induced displacement in Africa. I am admitted to the Bar in Kenya and currently serve as the Founder and Lead Consultant at Humanitarians at Law (HAL), a research and consulting firm focused on humanitarian governance and protection frameworks. My work examines the African Union's expanded refugee definition, mobility governance, and the intersection of climate change and displacement in the Horn of Africa. I have presented my research at international conferences in the region.

Ayesha Iqbal (she/her) is a researcher working at the intersection of climate governance, migration, and gender in Pakistan. Her work examines how institutional structures, particularly property regimes, data systems, and post-disaster recovery frameworks, shape differentiated mobility outcomes following environmental shocks. Drawing on feminist political economy and governance theory, she investigates how climate migration is mediated through land ownership, citizenship, and administrative recognition rather than environmental exposure alone. She holds a background in linguistics and data science, and her broader research interests include digital governance, institutional legibility, and justice in low-resource contexts.

Panel 7: Disparate Futures: Differential Migratory Outcomes among Social Subgroups

Saturday, June 6th, 2:00-3:30 PM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Volodymyr Artiukh**

Migration is often viewed as a radical departure from one's previous life, a chance to start anew. Yet, scholars have increasingly identified how this monolithic view of migration ignores asymmetries within migrant communities. How do these asymmetries affect the future trajectories of different groups within migrant communities, complicating the future narratives that motivate migration in the first place? Through an examination women and daughters compared to men and sons, religious minorities compared to their majority peers, and migrants seeking emotional versus structural belonging, this panel explores how the factors that ostensibly drive migration develop differently for different groups, and how axes of power that existed within migrant communities produce disparate futures.

Harleen Gill, "Sons as Investments, Daughters as Migrants? Gender Disparities in Bidirectional Financial Flows: Evidence from India"

Agnieszka Olter-Castillo, "Anchoring and the Making of Migrant Futures: Return Considerations among Venezuelans in Peru"

rintu borah, "Suspended Legality and the Limits of Existential Mobility on Assam's Chars"

Arub Siddiqui, "Gendered Statelessness and the Right to Appear: Muslim Women at Shaheen Bagh in India"



Harleen Gill (she/her) is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Thapar School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (TSLAS), Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, India. Her work focuses on migration and development in India and examines the economic and social dimensions of international migration, particularly remittances and reverse remittance flows, with a growing emphasis on gendered migration dynamics.

Mrs. Agnieszka Olter-Castillo (she/her) is a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Warsaw. Her work bridges migration governance and policy analysis with research on migrants' lived experiences, including integration, belonging, social vulnerability, mobility pathways, and migrant-host community relations, with a geographical focus on Europe and Latin America. She has contributed to funded research projects and has authored or co-authored a monograph, journal articles, and book chapters. She has presented her work at international conferences and academic events across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Mr. rintu borah (he/him) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. His work brings together anthropology, migration studies, and phenomenology to examine rivers, displacement, borders, citizenship, and everyday encounters with the Indian state in northeastern India. His doctoral research examines migration, displacement, detention, and mobility among Miya Muslim communities living in the riverine chars of Assam. Broadly, his research interests include migration, borderlands, phenomenology, and caste in India.

Ms. Arub Siddiqui (she/her) is a Research Scholar in Political Science at the University of Lucknow, where her doctoral research examines the impact of the Ladli Behna Yojana- an unconditional cash transfer scheme on women's political agency and voting behaviour. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Delhi and a Master's degree in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests lie at the intersection of gender and governance and Muslim minority politics in India. She has been published in Feminism in India, one of India's leading intersectional feminist platforms, where her work examined the Chhattisgarh High Court's rape ruling and what it reveals about how law measures harm and constructs gendered violence.

Panel 8: How the State Disappears Migrants

Saturday, June 6th, 4:30-6:00 PM BST (GMT +1)*

Moderated by **Austin Goldsmith-Lachut**

In the contemporary world, states and their recognition exercise disproportionate power over life through the regulation of access, as with asylum, welfare, and so forth. What happens when states erase the presence of migrants in their archival and documentary records, create legal black holes of status despite their territorial presence, and even ignore and reject the very terms that migrants use to define themselves? This panel explores how states disappear the historical, legal, and discursive presence of migrants, and how migrant communities respond in turn.

Akshay Kumar Roy “The Archive as Border: Classification, Power, and the Digital Governance of Migrant Lives”

Blessy Mathew, “The Document and the Void: Citizenship, Biopolitics, and the Making of Statelessness in Postcolonial South Asia”

Mst. Asma Mahmud, “From Coastal Farms to Urban Slums: Livelihood Disruption and the Legal Invisibility of Climate Migrants in Coastal Bangladesh”

Mikhael Tuma, “Beyond Neutrality: Queer Displacement, Language Justice, and the Politics of Interpretation in Migration Systems”



Mr. Akshay Kumar Roy (he/him) is a PhD scholar and Junior Research Fellow in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. His work brings together Digital Humanities, Postcolonial Studies and Migration Studies, and he maintains a broader interest in Indian Writing in English. He has edited and published several collections such as: *Liber: An Anthology of Poems* (2024), *Insulatus: An Anthology of Modern English Poetry* (2020), *Caravan* (2020), and *Aulos: An Anthology of English Poetry* (2020). He frequently presents at international conferences and has authored several articles that are currently undergoing peer review in reputable journals.

Ms. Blessy Mathew (she/her) is a doctoral researcher at the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. Her ongoing research examines the historical and political dimensions of displacement and identity among marginalised Up-Hill Tamil communities and explores questions of citizenship, belonging and statelessness in South Asia. She has presented papers at national and international conferences, including the Calcutta Research Group's Annual Workshop on Refugees and Migrants with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and was a Feminist Foreign Policy Fellow with The Asia Foundation and IMPRI. Her research interests include Statelessness and Migration in South Asia, Refugee Rights in South Asia, South Asian Politics, West Asian Politics, and India's Foreign Policy.

Mst. Asma Mahmud (she/her) is a Senior Civil Judge at the Bangladesh Judicial Service. She has also served as a Senior Judicial Magistrate, adjudicating criminal cases. She is currently an MPhil Fellow at the Institute of Bangladesh Studies, University of Rajshahi, researching judicial activism in climate litigation in Bangladesh. Her scholarship on climate litigation and justice and the rights of displaced populations has been selected for presentation at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and Columbia Law School. A regular contributor to national newspapers and legal blogs, she writes on the intersection of human rights, tort law, and climate governance. She is a member of the Bangladesh Women Judges Association and a fellow of the Institute of Bangladesh Studies

Mr. Mikhael Touma (he/they) is a Queer Syrian refugee of Arab and Assyrian descent living in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia. They are a NAATI Certified Arabic Interpreter, community organiser, and advocate working at the intersection of language justice, forced displacement, and gender equity. Mikhael is the Founder and Chairperson of the Language Justice Network (LJN) and Co-founder of Queer Arabs Australia (QAA), where they lead community-based initiatives supporting LGBTQIA+ refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

We want to take the opportunity to thank our organising committee and volunteers, as well as Green Templeton College for graciously hosting this year's Oxford Migration Conference and for the support of the Green Templeton IT Team.

We also wish to extend our gratitude to the University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) for their sponsorship and support as well as Green Templeton College and St. Antony's College.





OXFORD MIGRATION CONFERENCE 2026