

Mandatory Immigration Detention in Australia

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ERC Conference Room 115



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Azadeh Dastyari is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia and a Deputy Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. Azadeh's main areas of research are international and domestic laws relating to the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees. She is particularly interested in the interception of people seeking protection at sea; offshore and extraterritorial processing; and immigration detention.

Australia introduced mandatory immigration detention of all non-citizens, without a visa or other legal right to remain in Australia, in 1992. The policy has led to irreparable harm of thousands of men, women and children including asylum seekers and refugees. As immigration detention becomes more prevalent globally, including in the US, Australia's recent history with the incarceration of migrants and refugees serves as a warning of the damaging effect of this policy. This talk will give an overview of the history, law, politics and current status of Australia's mandatory immigration detention regime and will provide some thoughts on the future of immigration detention in Australia.

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