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Discrimination and Delegation: Explaining State Responses to Refugees
&
Reluctant Reception: Refugees, Migration and Governance in the Middle

Friday, October 15, 2021 | 12:00PM - 2:00PM

Will be held via Zoom

Author: Lamis Abdelaaty

Lamis Abdelaaty is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, and Senior Research Associate at the Campbell Public Affairs Institute. Her interests include international relations, human rights and humanitarianism, and asylum and migration. Her research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the American Philosophical Society. Abdelaaty holds a doctoral degree in politics from Princeton University.

What explains state responses to the refugees they receive? This book identifies two puzzling patterns: states open their borders to some refugee groups while blocking others (discrimination), and a number of countries have given the UN control of asylum procedures on their territory (delegation). To explain these patterns, the book develops a two-part theoretical framework in which policymakers in refugee-receiving countries weigh international and domestic concerns. The book then substantiates this argument with a three-stage research design, which combines statistical analysis of asylum admissions worldwide, country case studies of Egypt and Turkey, and content analysis of parliamentary proceedings in Kenya.

Author: Kelsey Norman

Dr. Kelsey Norman is a Fellow for the Middle East and Director of the Women's Rights, Human Rights & Refugees program at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, where she also teaches in the Master of Global Affairs program. She is the author of *Reluctant Reception: Refugees, Migration and Governance in the Middle East and North Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). An essay-length version of her book, "Asylum Can't Be Outsourced: The Danger of Politically Convenient Solutions to Migration," won the 2021 Perry World House and Foreign Affairs Emerging Scholar Policy Prize.

Why do host states treat migrants and refugees inclusively, exclusively, or without any direct engagement? Current classifications of migrant and refugee engagement in the Global South mistake the absence of formal policy and law for neglect. *Reluctant Reception* proposes the concept of "strategic indifference," whereby states proclaim to be indifferent toward migrants and refugees, thereby inviting international organizations and local NGOs to step in and provide services on the state's behalf. By allowing migrants and refugees to integrate locally into large informal economies, and by allowing organizations to provide basic services, host countries receive international credibility while only exerting minimal state resources. *Reluctant Reception* provides a highly original comparative account of the politics of asylum seeking and migration in the Middle East and North Africa and is available from Cambridge University Press.

Discussant: Michael Provence

Michael Provence is a Professor of History at the University of California, San Diego. He earned a PhD in Modern Middle Eastern History from the University of Chicago. He has lived and studied in Syria, Lebanon, Germany and France. He is the author of the books, *The Last Ottoman Generation*, published in 2017, and *The Great Syrian Revolt*, also translated and widely reviewed in Arabic and Turkish, and many articles on the late Ottoman and colonial Middle East of the early 20th century.

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