



**CCIS** | Center for Comparative  
Immigration Studies

## Why States Restrict Refugee Rights: A Cross-Country Comparison of Refugee and Asylum Policies

Monday, April 24, 2023 | 1:30PM - 3:00PM Pacific Time

In-person Event Only | ERC Conference Room 115



### Hirotaka Fujibayashi

Hirotaka Fujibayashi is a PhD candidate in International Relations and Political Science at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, Switzerland, and a Visiting Graduate Student at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies of UC San Diego (03/01/2023 - 08/31/2023). His research, at the intersection of international relations and comparative politics, is focused on the politics and political economy of immigration and refugee reception.

---

The politics of refugee reception has attracted a great deal of attention in both academic writings and policy-oriented research. Recently accumulated case-based evidence stimulates speculation about why refugee populations are treated differently in different host countries. However, existing research still lacks a systematic answer to this question. To enhance the yet limited understanding of related policy dynamics, this paper elaborates on why some states can (or cannot) offer a more welcoming/inclusive environment for refugees compared to other refugee-hosting states. The underlying argument is that if – as with regular immigration control – host states perceive extending certain rights to refugees as costly, such a perception will prompt them to curtail (some of) refugees’ post-entry rights once being involved in a large-scale refugee intake. This presumption is reflected in an anticipatedly negative relationship (i.e. trade-off) between the “number” and “rights” of refugees in a given host country. Several complementary hypotheses are proposed and tested using original data on the de facto protection of refugees’ post-entry rights in major refugee-hosting countries for the period 2004-2016. The results partially support the “number-vs.-rights” dynamics in refugee and asylum policies but also suggest that the baseline negative relationship can be alleviated or aggravated by other factors such as refugees-host government ethnic kin connections or economic incentives for host governments. In keeping with existing qualitative research in the forced migration literature, the findings lend insight into why host states restrict refugees’ rights and what factors could intervene in their decisions to do so.

---

*For more information please email [w2tam@ucsd.edu](mailto:w2tam@ucsd.edu)*