THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AT PURDUE AND THE GREATER LAFAYETTE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE CONFERENCE PRESENTS:

REFUGEES CRISIS PAST AND PRESENT

1:30-3:00pm: Keynote Lecture
David Kettler, “The Unfinished Business of Displacement and Relocation”

Drawing on illustrative materials from a long-term collaborative project on the exile of political intellectuals, especially the cohort displaced from Germany in the 1930s, the aim of the presentation is to identify and explore a set of questions that may be fruitfully asked about other modes of displacement and relocation, such as those associated with terms like refugee, immigrant, diaspora, and émigré.

David Kettler is part-time Research Professor in Political Studies at Bard College in New York State. He is Professor Emeritus of Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, and spent the first 15 years of his academic career at the Ohio State University. Born in a Jewish family in Leipzig, Germany, in 1930 and arrived in the United States as a refugee in 1940, Kettler has an AB, AM and Ph.D. from Columbia University. His studies over the years have a common theme of the relations between academic intellectuals and political life. His specialized studies have concentrated on the 18th-Century moral philosopher, Adam Ferguson, the sociological thinker, Karl Mannheim, and the political and legal theorist, Franz L. Neumann. His articles on these and related topics are posted on Academia.edu.

This Symposium is funded by the CLA INNOVATE Undergraduate Education Fund.
See back for a detailed schedule, including presentation abstracts and presenters’ biographical information.

Website: https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/philosophy/index.html
Twitter: Purdue Human Rights @IHRC_at_Purdue
Facebook: “Human Rights Program at Purdue”
For More Information Contact: rkleinpe@purdue.edu
10:00-11:45am: Refugees Panel, RAWLS 2082

Max Cherem, “Immigrants, Refugees and ‘Refugee-like’ Persons: What’s the Difference and Why Does it Matter?”

Refugee law essentially yields a tripartite distinction between refugees, immigrants and refugee-like persons—sometimes referred to as “survival migrants”. While philosophers often challenge each part of this tripartite framework, I think the framework is largely correct. Here I offer reasons to accept the part that is intuitively hardest to swallow: the distinction between proper refugees and refugee-like persons. I defend the three-fold distinction on conceptual grounds, but also because any feasible reforms must be rooted in it. As it turns out, reform that can help more refugees comes from an unlikely source: a philosophical defense of the difference between refugees and refugee-like persons.

Dr. Max Gabriel Cherem is the Marlene Crandell Francis assistant professor of philosophy at Kalamazoo College. He specializes in social and political philosophy as well as ethics. His research focuses on the normative principles embodied in international institutions related to human rights and refugees. He is a former Fulbright scholar and a recent recipient of the Andrew Mellon Foundation Humanities Writ Large Visiting Faculty Fellowship at Duke University.

Natasha Duncan, “The Securitization of Refugees: How Refugees became a threat National Security”

The Syrian Refugee Crisis has shaken Western states’ commitments to human security, a concept that suggests protection of not just the nation but of humanity. Instead of providing a place of refuge, many leaders have built walls (figuratively and literally). Others have accepted refugees. What explains the variation in this reception to refugees, that is, the provision of human security of refugees? This study examines the construction of securitization of refugees as threats to national security across Western states. Two research questions follow: 1) Has leaders’ use negative framing of refugees constructed the perception of refugees as a threat? 2) Against this backdrop, does the context of the receiving country affect the prioritization of national security over the human security of refugees? The empirical analysis focuses on case studies of Canada, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, and the United States in the face of the largest refugee crisis of the 21st century. Among these cases, there is variation in their reaction to the refugees, primarily originating from the Middle East and North Africa. The period under analysis will be 2010 to earlier half of 2016—prior to and since the Syrian Refugee Crisis. Since the onset of refugee flows, the discourse about the resettlement of the refugees has reflected an antagonism between national and the human security of refugees.

Natasha T. Duncan is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Honors College and the Department of Political Science at Purdue University. She is the author of the book Immigration Policymaking in the Global Era: In Pursuit of Global Talent (Palgrave Macmillan 2012). Her work emphasizes high skilled labor migration, the political effects of emigration, and women and migration.

Maria Blumnfeld, “Central American Refugee Crisis

Unaccompanied immigration children and family units usually composed of mothers with young children from Central America entered the U.S. in unprecedented numbers in recent years. These children and families fled to the United States in search of protection from gang violence, domestic violence, exploitation, trafficking, neglect, and other dangers. Violence in Central America disproportionately impacts women and children. El Salvador and Guatemala have the highest murder rates in the world among children. In El Salvador, femicides have reached epidemic levels and Guatemala and Honduras follow at incredibly high rates. Child abuse and gang violence in Central America are at uncontrollable levels and remain serious problems. In Central America corruption is widespread and seeking police protection from criminal elements is not an option. As a result, thousands of children and families flee every year to the United States to find protection. However, once they are in the United States they face particularly steep odds as they seek to present their claims for protection.

Maria Blumenfeld graduated from Purdue University in 2010 with a bachelor's of science in business and was a member of the International Honor Society in business, management and administration. She obtained her J.D. from Valparaiso University Law School and is licensed in the state of Indiana. She is currently an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Microsoft Corporation and Reed Smith LLP at the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC). She was previously a justice AmeriCorps fellow with NIJC’s Asylum Project. Maria provides legal representation to unaccompanied immigrant children and formerly detained families in Indiana. Prior to joining NIJC, she participated in the Valparaiso Immigration Clinic where she represented asylum seekers.

11:45am-1:15pm: Catered Lunch for Presenters, HRP Faculty, Students & Affiliates, RAWLS 2077

1:30-3:00pm: Keynote Lecture, RAWLS 2082

David Kettler, “The Unfinished Business of Displacement and Relocation” (See front for more details.)