

Symposium on Refugees, Documentation and Archives

November 21, 2018, kl. 13.00 - 17.00



Malmö City Archives

Bergsgatan 20, Malmö, Sweden

UCLA



TALKS AND SPEAKERS:

REFUGEE RIGHTS IN RECORDS

Anne J. Gilliland, UCLA, USA

EXPERIENCES OF ADVOCATING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN REFUGE ARRIVING ALONE

Anders Roos, lawyer at Skåne Stadsmission

SEARCHING FOR IDENTITIES

Reza Hazare

MALMÖ AS A TRANSIT TOWN AND THE WORK DONE BY THE MALMÖ CITY ARCHIVES

Karin Sjöberg, archivist Malmö City Archives

Suzanne Sandberg, Head of Unit Malmö City Archives

DATA JUSTICE: TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF DIGITAL BORDERS AND DATAFIED IDENTITIES

Philippa Metcalfe, the Data Justice Lab

PARTICIPATORY ARCHIVES FOR REFUGEES: A SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT

Erik Borglund, Mid Sweden University

This one-day symposium is sponsored by the Malmö City Archives and the Refugee Rights in Records Project of the UCLA Department of Information Studies' Center for Information as Evidence and the Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies. It will address topics related to refuge, documentation and archives and bring together speakers from a range of backgrounds: people with experience of coming to Sweden as refugees, those who assist and advocate for refugees and asylum seekers; and record keepers, archivists and museum curators who manage official records or collect and (re)present documentation of displacement and diaspora.

The symposium will be the fifth in a series of workshops taking place across the globe in 2018 to highlight the issues linked to records and other documentation for refugees, asylum seekers and others forced by their circumstances to leave their homes and seek more secure lives and futures elsewhere.

To register to attend, please email Anne Gilliland at Gilliland@gseis.ucla.edu.
Registration is free.

REFUGEE RIGHTS IN RECORDS

Forced displacement and other human migration crises raise complex interacting issues about nation-states, laws, borders, human rights, citizenship and identity, security, resource allocation, and information and communication technologies (ICT). Integral to this complexity, documentation and particularly official records are pervasive and fundamental yet somehow rarely conspicuous. Much attention has been focused on official verification of identities and citizenship of displaced persons and other migrants, vetting them for security risks, reunifying families, and determining whether or not they qualify for asylum and resettlement. However, the issues that asylum seekers and other migrants confront in understanding, accessing, carrying, preserving and producing the kinds of authoritative documentation required for these as well as other bureaucratic processes in their future lives remain under-addressed.

Anne J. Gilliland is Professor and Director of the Archival Studies specialization in the Department of Information Studies, Director of the Center for Information as Evidence, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, and a faculty affiliate of the Center for Digital Humanities at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She is also the director of the Archival Education and Research Initiative (AERI), a global collaborative effort amongst academic institutions that seeks to promote state-of-the-art in scholarship in archival studies, as well as to encourage curricular and pedagogical innovation in archival and recordkeeping education locally and worldwide. Her interests relate broadly to the history, nature, human impact, and technologies associated with archives, recordkeeping and memory, particularly in translocal and international contexts.

EXPERIENCES OF ADVOCATING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN REFUGE ARRIVING ALONE

Anders Roos, lawyer at the organization Skåne Stadsmission, is working on the project "Children alone in refuge". The work within the project include amongst other things the legal questions arising when children in refugee arrive to Sweden alone, who easily end up outside society's safety net. This talk will address the importance of documentation in cases of asylum and migration, and about the struggles people in refuge experience when it comes to locating, accessing and presenting papers in order to claim their right for protection or being able to present other demands of proof that is needed. These complex problems will be highlighted with examples from the project.

SEARCHING FOR IDENTITIES

For many decades Afghanistan hasn't seen peace, war, conflict, extremism, forced many people to emigrate to other lands, during all these years refugees grew up and found a foundation to develop and being educated. New generation of refugees struggle with their lives and search for their identity, and the absence of identity and where they belong to. This speech is about the new generation of refugees, challenges, lack of identity, integration. And how they overcome with these matters.

Reza Hazare is an Afghan visual artist who lives and works in Sweden, he is graduated from Azerbaijan state academy of arts. His art is about Afghanistan social and political situation, Hazare depict the refugees' life and challenges, the relation between humans, the impact of war on humans' psyche. Reza Hazare has participated in many group and solo exhibitions in Iran, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Russia, Dubai, och France.

PARTICIPATORY ARCHIVES FOR REFUGEES: A SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT

In 2015 many refugees, primarily from Syria, came to Sweden, and it was obvious that many of them had a very long escape journey. Even though there have been many initiatives in Sweden to collect memories of their experiences, the majority of refugees will first 'appear' or be documented in the Swedish archive when they are registered as a refugee and/or get a permit to stay. This presentation will discuss our research project in which we tried to test how you could engage persons living in vulnerable situations to share their story and encourage them to create a participatory archive. We aimed to focus on participatory archives and not community archives. The research question was: "how do you engage persons so they want to participate, and create their own archive?"

Erik Borglund is an associate professor at Mid Sweden University. Erik has been affiliated with Mid Sweden University since 2004, and since the last year has been responsible for archival science education and research. Archival science research is carried out within the Forum for Digitization (FODI), which includes 30 researchers.

DATA JUSTICE: TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF DIGITAL BORDERS AND DATAFIED IDENTITIES

This presentation will give an overview of the key elements of evolving 'smart border' systems in Europe, as well as questioning the involvement of the private sector and corporate platforms in providing digital technologies. It will then consider how such developments come to form a 'new digital infrastructure' for migration, focusing on how particular aspects of datafied borders, such as increased surveillance and identification through EU wide migration databases, allow for increased discrimination, exclusion and injustice, becoming detrimental to the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and illegalised migrants in Europe today.

Philippa Metcalfe is a PhD candidate at the Data Justice Lab, as part of the ERC funded DATAJUSTICE project. She is researching how the datafication of society is affecting migrant and refugee communities in Europe, examining both the digitalization of the border as a means of increasing control over European territories – both through biometric identification and EU wide migration databases, as well as studying lived experiences and uses of digital technologies along the migration route. Her presentation will give an overview of the key elements of evolving 'smart border' systems in Europe, as well as questioning the involvement of private sector, corporate platforms that provide digital technologies and form a new digital infrastructure for migration, focusing on how these elements pose a threat to the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and illegalised migrants in Europe today.

MALMÖ AS A TRANSIT TOWN AND THE WORK DONE BY THE MALMÖ CITY ARCHIVES

In the autumn of 2015 Malmö was in the centre of the refugee wave that hit Sweden. From September to December 114 000 persons sought asylum in Sweden and most of them went through Malmö. The city of 330 000 inhabitants became a vast refugee camp. Schools, gymnasiums, exhibition halls, everywhere there where room and toilets was used to harbour people. For the children who came without adults the municipality had special responsibilities. About 14 000 children (mostly from Afghanistan) had a transit living in Malmö before giving more permanent living in different municipalities in Sweden.

Archivist **Karin Sjöberg** and Head of Unit **Suzanne Sandberg** will present how the Malmö City Archives contribute with knowledge and aid to save the memory of the autumn. Sjöbergs work has resulted in a book of memories and aid to find the records. The work of preserving the records that Sandberg has worked with, has already proven important for refugees wanting to stay in Sweden.

<https://informationasevidence.org/refugee-rights-in-records>