



Sts. Cyril and Methodius
Faculty of Theology

Genius loci...

Palacky University Olomouc HUMANITARIAN STUDIES SECTION



REPORT - INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN REFUGEE LAW AND RIGHTS Olomouc, 10-19 of August 2018

About the school

The International summer school in refugee law and rights organised during August 10-19, 2018 by the Humanitarian studies section team of KKS at CMTF, springs from a tradition founded in Sarajevo, 2012 by Dr. Selma Porobić and late OBE Prof. Emerita Barbara Harrell-Bond from the University of Oxford. This school is modelled according to international summer schools from Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, initiated by Prof. Emerita Barbara Harrell-Bond in 1980s as a pioneering academic refugee law training for the humanitarians. From the very start the summer schools in Sarajevo gathered scholars and professionals from all over the world and earned respectful international reputation. Number of previous reports and archived documentation can be found at <http://www.rppp-efm.net/cesi/category/activities/>

This was the 5th international summer school with the 10-days programme entirely dedicated to refugee legal protection with the European regional focus on the asylum right. The previous schools were co-organised and implemented with late Professor Harrell-Bond. This year's school was not to be an exception. 85-year's old, Professor Harrell-Bond was included in the organisational support and was planned to join the school program per Skype on the closing day of the ceremony, 19th of August.

Professor Barbara passed away on 11th of July in her home in Oxford, and this school was fully dedicated to honour her life and work. She has been a driving force behind refugee rights across the world since 1980s, and instead of the closing session she aimed to deliver on the 19th of August, we screened the specially commissioned film: 'Barbara Harrell-Bond: A life not Ordinary ' with permission of the director, Dr. Katarzyna Grabska. After the screening, Dr. Porobić and Dr. Maschovich shared their experiences of long-term work and friendship with late Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond.

School aim

From its start the schools' primary aim has been to bring together the leading academics and the practitioners in providing the students with a blend of theoretical and practical considerations, illustrating the ever growing importance of this field in Europe and globally, and focusing the multiple aspects how they can proactively contribute to the refugee protection in their own countries through their future carriers in academia, UN, governmental and nongovernmental organisations, media and other.

School program

During the ten-days-program led by Dr. Selma Porobić and Dr. Marko Szilveszter Maschovich, the participants were introduced to the selected aspects of this complex socio-legal area especially in consideration of the recent migration phenomenon evolving in Europe. As Innovation Officer at the Global Protection Cluster, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, Dr. Macskovich aims to harness the phenomenon of innovation to enhance the protection delivery practices and policy towards war-displaced persons globally. His experience and competence from the field was invaluable to this year's school. He covered wide area of topics: from who refugees are, and what are the cornerstones enshrined in the 1951 Convention, to focusing on the "particular social group" ground of the Convention and discussing the challenges and specifics of refugee claims based thereon. Putting the theory into context, he also provided selected insights on the past and present dynamics of the shrinking asylums space in Hungary. Although the school's main focus was on refugees, he also incorporated a lecture on Internally displaced persons and the protection mechanism available for them.

Another two core lecturers of this year's school were Professor Dr. Iris Goldner Lang, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law and UNESCO Chair on Free Movement of People, Migration and Inter-Cultural Dialogue, from Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, and Mgr. Radostina Pavlova, Juris Doctor, Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto, Expert and Advocacy Officer at the Center for Legal Aid - Voice in Bulgaria (CLA).

During the two-day intense distance teaching per Skype, Professor Lang provided a critical approach to EU Asylum Law and its current challenges, focusing on the figures and political narrative in regards to incoming refugee flows, legal framework for EU migration and asylum policy, legal effects of refugee inflows on Dublin Regulation, as well as the national asylum standards and practices and those of Schengen Regulation. In a much appreciated interactive manner she brought students closer to the EU refugee responses and the changing paradigm

of EU law focusing also on the role of Court of Justice of the European Union and the effects of the Western Balkan Route.

Dr. Pavlova's teaching evolved over three intense days when she covered the complementary protection instruments such as the Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law but also Internal relocation and credibility issues in asylum claims, as well as detention of refugees in international law and in the EU directives. She also provided the excellent country specific focus on the Asylum system in Bulgaria and human rights violations though push backs that take place there.

A number of dedicated local contributors, such as Kristýna Andrlová, from UNHCR Office in Prague, Stanislava Sládeková, from OPU in Brno and Tomáš Jungwirth from the Czech Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations, provided an in-depth overview of protection practices in the Czech Republic. They both focused on the key aspects of the capacities for protection and used the redacted case-studies from the asylum procedures to engage the students in critical understanding of the current system procedural aspects at work. In the round table debate that we organised with these participants the issues of media, failed refugee reallocation scheme to Czech Republic and widely spread anti-migrant sentiments were discussed as well.

Together with these outstanding contributors bringing the passion and excellence of their work as experienced scholars, NGO legal advisers, law practitioners and policy advocates into the classroom, the Humanitarian studies section's lecturers and organisers of the international summer school 2018, were able to address the core building blocks of international refugee protection within the context of current EU asylum law - one of most challenging and charged topics of the contemporary humanitarian studies field.

The one-day simulation exercise adapted from Angolan refugee crisis, co-organised with Fire Rescue Service of the Olomouc Region and lead by Veronika Šťastná drawing from her mission for People in Need, was an excellent closure of the school program bringing us back to the field and providing hands-on experience of the response in the refugee influx situation.

The program covered following modules:

I - General part

- Assessment of 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol
- The Relevance of International Human Rights Law to Flight from Persecution
- UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection: "Membership of a particular social group" within the context of Article 1A (2).
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: Unaccompanied Minor/Separated Children
- UNHCR Guidance Note on Refugee Claims Relating to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- The ethics of Refugee Law
- Psycho-Social Issues: Medical Evidence in Asylum and Human Rights Appeals
- Use of Country of origin Information assessment
- Credibility Assessment in Asylum Procedures

II - Regional focus / Central and Southeastern Europe

- EU Asylum law and current challenges
- Transit migration/'Corridor response' and restricting practices of accessing asylum, including the push backs and detention practices
- Asylum system and Refugee Status Determination procedures: country-specific focus on functionality and challenges
- EU Refugee Relocation Scheme: country-specific focus and analysis

III - Simulation exercise of a refugee crisis

Special Evening events:

The official program had been supported with additional program that included 5 *Special thematical evening events* with Film screenings and discussions and the Olomouc Welcome City Tour.

Evening Events:

- Olomouc Welcome city tour (Andrea Trenta, Historian)
- Durable solution for refugees in focus – rights based return to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Selma Porobić)
- Iraq –experiences from the mission (Veronika Sta'stna)
- Rohingya refugees plight in focus (Marko Szilveszter Macskovich)
- Global Refugee/Migrant Compact (Tomaš Jungwirth)

Educational film screenings and discussions:

- Chasing Freedom (Dr. Selma Porobić+ Dr. Marko Szilveszter Macskovich)
- Best Practices Film: Introductions | First Client Interview Preparations|First Client Interview | Master Calendar |Hearing | Sixt Client Interview|Immigration Court Hearing Preparation | Clients Testimony at the Court | Cross-examination (Dr. Selma Porobić + Dr. Marko Szilveszter Macskovich)
- Best practice film: Mental Health Experts Testimony | Cross-examination | Closing arguments | Post-hearing comments (Dr. Selma Porobić)

Detailed overview of the teaching staff and teaching slots

Core lecturers:

- Dr Marko Szilveszter Macskovich, Global Protection Cluster, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva

Classes: Who is a Refugee? Who 'is not' a Refugee?; Membership in a Particular Social Group; UNHCR Guidance Note on Refugee Claims Relating to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; The Exclusion Clauses; The Ethics of Refugee Law; Hungary: Acces to asylum | Restriction\Wall, rejection and transiting of refugees; Rohingya refugees' plight in focus

- Prof. Dr Iris Goldner Lang, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law, UNESCO Chair on Free Movement of People, Migration and Inter-Cultural Dialogue, Faculty of Law - University of Zagreb

Classes: EU asylum law and current challenges; Explanation and Implementation of Dublin Regulation; Impact of the Courts on Migration and Asylum Law in EU: The Court of Justice of the European Union; Croatia and Balkan Corridor Response to Syrian refugee crisis 2015/2016

- Dr Selma Porobić, Head of the Humanitarian studies section, Assistant Professor in International Humanitarian and Social Work, CMTF, Palacký University Olomouc

Classes: Psycho-Social Issues; Taking Testimonies: Use of Country of origin Information and Experts' Witness Statements; Western Balkans: From refugee producing to refugee receiving countries: Croatia, Serbia and BiH; Durable solutions for refugees in focus – 'Rights-based' return to Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Mgr Radostina Pavlova, Juris Doctor, Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto, Expert and Advocacy Officer at the Center for Legal Aid - Voice in Bulgaria (CLA)

Classes: The Relevance of International Human Rights Law to Flight from Persecution; Credibility; Internal Relocation; Detention; The Asylum system in Bulgaria; Pushbacks, rejection of asylum and violation of human rights of asylum seekers in Bulgaria

Other contributors:

- Mgr Veronika Šťastná, Assistant Professor in International Humanitarian and Social Work, CMTF, Palacký University Olomouc

Class: Simulation of a refugee crisis: humanitarian aid and provision of protection

- Dr Kveta Princova, External lecturer, Humanitarian Studies Section, CMTF, Palacký University Olomouc and Caritas College, Olomouc

Class: Ethics and Law in migration crisis

- Dr Agnieszka Zogata-Kusz, Assistant Professor in International Humanitarian and Social Work, CMTF, Palacký University Olomouc

Class: Unaccompanied Minor/Separated Children (Best interest of the child)

- Kristýna Andrlová, Protection Associate, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Czech Republic

Class: Asylum system and functioning in the Czech Republic

- Stanislava Sládeková, OPU Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, Czech Republic

Class: Asylum procedures and access to asylum seekers rights in practice

- Tomáš Jungwirth, Policy officer, Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organizations, Czech Republic

Class: Global Refugee Compact

Certificates and closing ceremony

Formal assessment of the students' performances consisted of the in-class discussion and assignments with a final performance on the simulation exercise, based on instructions received on the first day of the school and a guided group preparation. Upon successful completion of the school the participants were awarded with 12 ECTS points and the Graduate Participant Diploma.

During the closing ceremony, the students received **the Graduate Participant Diplomas** issued by the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology. Student evaluation of the school took place by means of anonymous surveys after which the documentary ' Barbara Harrell-Bond: A life not Ordinary ' was screened and followed by Dr. Porobić and Dr. Maschovich afertalk about work and friendship with late Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond.

Head of the Department, Dr. Mutalayova joined in for the closing session and thanked all the lecturers, organisers and students for the outstanding contribution to the school, first time organised at CMTF, at the Palacky university and in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Dr. Porobić thanked her co-workers and expressed special thanks to Veronika Šťastná on behalf of the Department for her contribution to the Humanitarian studies section, wishing her good luck with the continuing career as a humanitarian worker in DRC. A group photography session by university photographer closed the school.

Participants

This ten days' course brought together 21 participant consisting of academics, activists, lawyers, students, NGO workers, humanitarians, volunteers and professionals from many different countries: India, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Belgium, Spain, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Georgia, Ukraine and Czech Republic. The school provided full scholarships to eight of the Master program students from the Danube region through CEEPUS grant (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic) fully covering their school costs, residence and travel.

School Evaluation

The students evaluated the school with final score of 98% for Excellence for all the segments, including academic content and program, special evening events, quality of lecturers, organisation, logistics, length, location.

In general, the students' inputs and a great dedication to the school involving the serious approach and informed questions, made the program itself as successful as it was!

Students comments:

Guillermo Beccaría (international relations student, Belgium)

What I experienced in Olomouc during the 10 days of the ISS was just UNBELIEVABLE. I have no words to describe it. I was expecting to learn about refugees and the laws that protect them, but instead I learned about life and its meaning. I understood the significance of the “being passionate” in a lot of aspects, and how to be it too! 😊 You have to feel it! I guess that passion of the lectures of the ISS was undoubtedly inherited from the profesor Barbara Harell-Bond. I will always be grateful for getting that feeling too, even if it was for that small amount of time.

Ana Kozina (law student, Croatia)

I came to school with just basic knowledge of the subject, and that was mostly from the EU perspective. In 10 intensive days, I learned so much from interesting, knowledgeable lecturers with expertise and experience, who, above everything, were passionate about transferring us knowledge and skills that one day we may be the ones who can use it in our respective fields of work to be of help to those who need it. Diversity of participants, who were of law, social work, anthropological or international political background, equally students and practitioners, ensured variety of ideas, views and possible solutions to a problem to be heard. One day simulation of a refugee crisis was for all of us interesting, challenging and inspiring experience. All the members of the organizational board and volunteers were open to any of our questions, helpful and friendly. I am sure that from all my comments you can guess that I wholeheartedly recommend ISS to any future participant!

Ketevan Svanadze (sociology student, Georgia)

Thank you for the amazing ten days! I have benefited and learned so much, I feel that I have a much better understanding of refugee law and this school has influenced my views and opinions about this topic. Many interests and ideas for future studies have been provoked in my mind during the summer school! Thank you very much!

Anusha Ravishankar (law student, India)

I can't thank you and Marko enough for being absolutely wonderful influences on me. Prof. Lang had a great structure to her lectures. The courses that followed her lecture complimented the areas she covered. Well, it was like milk and honey. I believe that you guys will continue to inspire more and more students along the way.

School information

- University Website www.refugees.upol.cz and <https://www.studuj.upol.cz/en/summer-schools/>
- Photo album of the school here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmrVS8M9>
- Article about the school in the UPOL University journal (Czech only): <https://www.zurnal.upol.cz/nc/zprava/clanek/mezinarodni-letni-skolu-k-pravum-uprchliku-uspesne-uzavrelo-ojedinele-simulacni-cviceni/>