



CFD

CENTER ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Annual Report
2022-2023

Contents

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS	3
ABOUT THE CENTER	5
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	6
EVENTS AND INITIATIVES	12
ART AND MEDIA	21
AFFILIATE FACULTY PUBLICATIONS	22
FUNDRAISING	24
ADVISORY BOARD AND AFFILIATE FACULTY	25
APPENDIX	27



Photograph courtesy of Shandra Back

Letter from the Directors



Dear Friends,

Across the world, well over a hundred million persons are displaced due to armed conflict, climate change, persecution, economic collapse, and more. Some were forced to flee a few days ago; others have been in a perpetual state of statelessness for over seven decades. The conditions endured by many forcibly displaced communities are challenging, complex, and hazardous. Refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless communities face xenophobia, racism, and apathy at international borders, in cities across the world, and in our own midst. Ensuring their safety, dignity, and well-being is one of the crucial moral imperatives of our time. In addition to immediate humanitarian support, we need to think deeply about the historical causes of forced migration, systemic barriers to accessing essential services, and the roles individuals, institutions, and communities can take to protect and support forced migrants. We also need to respect the knowledge and resilience of displaced persons, ask questions about our own apathy, and support the creativity and artistry that compel us to create a world where human dignity is protected for all.

The Center on Forced Displacement (CFD) at Boston University fosters rigorous, ethical, contextual research that brings together scholars, practitioners, and students of all fields, from arts, humanities, and social sciences to public health and engineering. CFD was launched in July 2022, and our initiatives and activities have brought together students and scholars from across the campus and around the world to create new knowledge, constructively critique existing approaches, and engage in rigorous research that improves lives. Our first annual conference featured Abdulrazak Gurnah, the 2021 Nobel Laureate in literature, and one of the most distinguished thinkers and writers of our time who has discussed refugees with profound moral clarity. We also hosted an artist in residence, renowned Palestinian playwright, Ismail Khalidi. We have worked on projects to develop new technologies for disease surveillance and established a national effort to include issues of forced displacement in the undergraduate engineering curriculum. Our research examines the relationships between climate change and migration and develops new scholarship on border externalization.

We have focused on communities of stateless Biharis in Bangladesh, South American migrants detained in the Rio Grande Valley, and migrants and host communities along the so-called Balkan route to Europe. Guiding all our efforts is a commitment to creating new ways of understanding forced displacement that exceed disciplinary boundaries and academic domains.

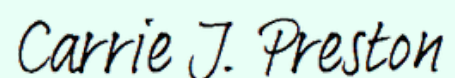
Throughout our first year, summarized in this annual report, we were humbled by the extraordinary interest of students, faculty, staff, and the research community from across campus and beyond. From students in their first semester just arriving on campus to staff members who have historically not engaged with research centers, we heard a passionate desire to support our work. We would not have been able to do our work without the generous financial support of individuals and institutions that believed in our mission. Support from the university administration and leadership in various schools and colleges made it possible for us to create new programs, bring visionary leaders to campus, and engage in cutting-edge research. Our advisory board helped us sharpen our focus and guided us in our pursuits. None of our work at CFD, however, would have been possible without our extraordinary team working tirelessly throughout the year to build a dynamic, vibrant, and inclusive center. They translated an idea and a dream into reality.

Since the launch of the CFD last year, existing challenges have become more acute, and new conflicts have displaced millions more. We recognize that much needs to be done. At the same time, we are incredibly honored and privileged to lead a research center that will create new knowledge relating to ethical and tangible solutions to the pressing issues faced by displaced communities. We invite you to join us, and your support, advice, and critique will be instrumental in making our center an inclusive, dynamic, and ethically grounded institution for meaningful research on forced displacement.

We look forward to your continued engagement,



Muhammad H. Zaman
Director,
Center on Forced Displacement



Carrie J. Preston
Associate Director,
Center on Forced Displacement

About CFD

Mission

The displacement of tens of millions of people who have fled their homes due to war, persecution, climate change, and other disasters, is one of the great global challenges and ethical imperatives of our time. With the continued conflict in many parts of the world, inequality, disease, and climate change, this number is likely to go up significantly in the months and years to come. The Boston University Center on Forced Displacement supports new ideas, technologies, scholarship, awareness, and solution identification that will improve the human condition of vulnerable persons who are forced to leave their homes. The center supports research and engagement with forced displacement and humanitarian emergencies that is truly interdisciplinary and of the highest scholarly and ethical standards.

Vision

CFD serves as a platform for educators, students, researchers, activists, and policymakers to engage in interdisciplinary research, discussion, and education about forced displacement. Through interdisciplinary, international collaboration, we identify, research, and work to resolve the challenges of forced displacement. By connecting with local communities in Boston and the USA, as well as our partners in Uganda, Colombia, Lebanon, Turkey, and the Western Balkans, CFD learns directly from and with the communities grappling with the challenges of forced displacement and creates venues for new ways of thinking, research, and program and project design.

Research Activities

Sawyer Seminar Series: Border Externalization



Supported by a grant from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CFD launched an interdisciplinary Sawyer Seminar series in 2023 titled "US and EU Border Externalization Regimes: Ethics, Identities, and Impacts." As part of this series, CFD organizes one seminar each month focusing on border regimes and policies. Our Seminar provides an interdisciplinary and accessible exploration of the EU-Western Balkans and US-Mexico border regimes. We examine the landscapes, economies, protests, and forms of creativity that emerge within these border spaces and amongst the displaced communities and their hosts. All seminars are held in hybrid format allowing attendees to join in person or via zoom.



Our first seminar in February 2023 presented the work of Boston University faculty: Professors Kaija Schilde and Noora Lori (Pardee), Isabella Trombetta (Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center on Forced Displacement), Professor Susan Akram (Law), Former Ambassador and Pardee School Professor Mark Storella, and Professor Jeffrey Rubin (History). The aim of this inaugural seminar was to connect faculty across the disciplines already at work on border regimes, establish a baseline of shared definitions and understandings of externalization, share current projects, and discuss future collaborations.

Our second Sawyer Seminar, "The US-Mexico Border Regime: Trauma, Hospitality, Art, and Protest," was held at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley as a collaboration between Boston University CFD and UTRGV Schools of Social Work, Departments of Political Science and Literature and Cultural Studies, and the UTRGV Office of Global Engagement/International Programs and Partnerships. This event brought together stakeholders from academia, NGOs, legal fields, activism, and art, from the US and Mexico, for a memorable cross-sector and cross-border conversation.



The mirror of the seminar in Texas was held in Belgrade, Serbia in July of 2023 with a focus on the Balkan States and Migration to the EU. This event was held in conjunction with the 2023 Summer School on Forced Displacement organized by CFD and local partner institutions (for more details on the summer school see page 14). Researchers, practitioners, faculty, and politicians discussed the history and policies related to migration through Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as case studies for how migration patterns shifted before and after the EU started enforcing border externalization policies. The EU has demanded strict policies of confinement that prevent migrants and asylum seekers from reaching the EU, and if they do reach the border, violence is often used to deter them from crossing. The non-governmental organizations that care for migrants have focused on the trauma migrants often experience at departure, throughout the journey, during confinement and detention, as a result of family separation, and more. We also considered how activists, artists, and other community organizers battle the worst effects of border externalization and work to build and support border cultures, natural environments, and ethics of hospitality.



As we begin the second year of our Sawyer Seminars, we continue to foster comparative research on border externalization, considering historical, cultural, and political sources of US and EU border regimes. Upcoming seminars will focus on issues of technology, faith and human rights, and gendered and racialized aspects of border externalization among others. We grapple with the great ethical question of how we receive, but also perceive and share, the suffering of the stranger, the newcomer, and the other.

As part of this project, CFD researchers will be publishing an edited volume on border regimes titled *US and EU Border Externalization Regimes: The Lines They Draw* (edited by Carrie Preston, Marina Lazetic, and Muhammad Zaman and published by Anthem Press, USA).



Ecology of a Refugee Camp

Refugee health has historically been studied using siloed academic structures and frameworks, focusing largely on individual (mostly communicable) diseases, while ignoring broader issues of disease dynamics, the changing and degrading environment, politics, demographics and other infrastructural aspects of a camp. The reality, however, is far more complex where environmental factors, human interactions, access to services, disease dynamics and temporal growth of the camp influence health outcomes in myriad and complex ways. This research project, led by CFD Director Muhammad Zaman, envisions the refugee camp (or an urban informal settlement) as a multi-component dynamic and complex ecosystem that alters, and is altered by, spatial and temporal human, political and environmental factors. This project brings together researchers and scholars from engineering, basic sciences, epidemiology, public health, history and ecology to develop a richer framework for understanding health and health outcomes in refugee camps and urban informal settlements, with the ultimate goal of developing ethical approaches to provide quality health services to those who are forced to displace.

Training to be a Humanitarian

This research project identifies best practices in the training and support of humanitarian workers. What skills are needed to engage ethically and successfully with displaced people around the world, and how are these skills best studied and developed? What does successful leadership look like in NGOs and aid organizations? We examine how institutions currently train and support their employees, interns, and volunteers working in humanitarian settings. We study training materials and educational programs and identify gaps between the training and the skills needed. Ultimately we will develop and share curricula that will help aid workers and others who care for displaced people be successful, safe, and healthy as they engage in their crucial work.

Theater Therapies in Refugee Contexts

Through this project, our Associate Director Carrie Preston examines efforts to use theater therapy in refugee settlements, particularly to address sex and gender-based violence. She considers projects often grouped under the term “applied theater” that seek to bring refugees, as creators and performers, alongside professional actors. These projects, often funded by state institutions and NGOs, are adamantly well-intentioned, but they are often rooted in Euro-American understandings of theater and therapy traditions (like the unique tradition that it is good to talk about something). These traditions can be irrelevant, or worse, dangerous, in refugee settings. Because of the troubling lack of collaboration between the artists, therapists and health professionals, funders, and experts in culture, gender, and race, money is wasted, art becomes a missed opportunity, and people are hurt.

Climate-Related Displacement and Narratives

Academic research, large international organization reports, and popular media discourse have been increasingly focusing on the impact of climate-related events on migration and displacement. The predominant narrative that emerges from this recent academic scholarship and NGO and policy reporting is the one predicting movements of large numbers of people across national borders as a result of climate change. However, more recent research demonstrates that most people choose to stay or are unable to move after large natural disasters. To interrogate this narrative, we established partnerships with practitioners working with impacted populations in Pakistan, including crucial collaborator, Themrise Khan. Together, we analyze the climate-migration narrative in three different areas: academic research and discourse, large multilateral organization reports, and media discourse. We then look at these narratives and their analysis in the context of the most recent flooding events in Pakistan to understand what their impact is on policy and the most at-risk populations themselves. Through this case study we provide a critical analysis of definitions and understandings of forced displacement, mobility and immobility, border regimes, and climate displacement related policies and their outcomes.



Medical Supply Chains in a Refugee Camp



Forcibly displaced communities are housed in some of the most fragile health systems with inadequate capacity to diagnose, manage and treat life-threatening illnesses. Supply of essential items, including quality-assured medicines, has been difficult to maintain in refugee settlements. Consequences of this include disrupted treatments and driving patients to unauthorized sellers which may sell poor quality medicines. Specifically, this project aims to study the supply chain of antibiotics in refugee settlements. This includes how antibiotics are procured and distributed, including in emergency situations and what happens when there are new emergencies or new outbreaks of drug resistant infections. This project aims to investigate the potential health consequences of inadequate or irrational antibiotic supply and current procurement strategies. The research focuses on antibiotics as they are essential and life-saving medicines, and misuse can drive antimicrobial resistance. This project analyzes available data from international humanitarian organizations and governments on supply and procurement, as well as partners with local health professionals to analyze epidemiological data and current treatment guidelines in a changing political and natural climate. Procurement and supply of medicines for displaced populations is complex, with environments and situations constantly evolving. This project seeks to rigorously map the antibiotic supply chain in refugee settlements and identify specific interventions to ensure supply of quality antibiotics, reduce irrational antibiotic consumption and ultimately identify strategies to reduce the threat of outbreaks of multi-drug resistant infections.

Healthcare, Trust and Statelessness

Statelessness and Trust in Healthcare System in Bangladesh:

Kazi Md Mukitil Islam, a graduate student in Sociology (and advised by Professor Nazli Kibria, Professor of Sociology at BU), is working on a project titled “Segregation, Trust, and Health-seeking Behavior among Biharis living in the refugee camps in Bangladesh”. Kazi conducted fieldwork in the summer of 2023 to better understand trust and health attitudes among the stigmatized and segregated minority Bihari population living in an urban environment of Dhaka, Bangladesh. This project focuses on three dimensions of trust including trust in the healthcare providers used by patients, trust in available medical services, and trust in the health information they get from the government and their networks. Through this work, the research team hopes to both get a deeper understanding of how a vulnerable and marginalized community, denied the rights enjoyed by most citizens, navigates the public health landscape in an urban environment and how a more equitable system can be created. The team also plans to use findings from this study to develop new frameworks on trust and health in displaced minority populations in urban centers in other similar environments.



Photograph courtesy of Kazi Mukitil Islam

Climate, Statelessness and Access to Healthcare in Pakistan:

Rana Hussein, a research fellow at CFD, is studying statelessness of ethnic Bengalis in Pakistan. Several hundred thousand ethnic Bengalis are denied citizenship in Pakistan.

Rana’s work in partnership with Imkaan Welfare Organization in Karachi (the only NGO providing legal, education and health services to stateless Bengalis in Pakistan) quantitatively analyzes the impact denial of healthcare is having on stateless communities in the urban informal settlements in Karachi, Pakistan. Rana’s work is analyzing medical records over the course of the last decade to better understand how climate injustice, systemic racism, and urban poverty intersect in creating adverse health outcomes among marginalized communities. Rana is building on the prior work of CFD undergraduate fellow Janki Bhatt, who showed how the national registry of citizens in Pakistan systematically excludes ethnic Bengalis and the impact that exclusion is having on health outcomes of the community.



Photograph courtesy of Ayesha Sami

Access to healthcare among migrant women in Colombia:

Jessica Barmine (a second year medical student at Boston University) in partnership with researchers at Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia, is studying the health vulnerabilities of reproductive age women forced to flee Venezuela. More than 1.8 million Venezuelan migrants have been displaced into Colombia due to the ongoing political crisis affecting their home country. About one half of this population is women of reproductive age, faced with varied challenges including housing instability, economic barriers and lack of insurance: factors which contribute to high health vulnerability. Jessica is investigating the impact of these health disparities on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance among pregnant and postpartum women in the province of Norte de Santander along the Venezuelan border. In May, she and investigator Claudia García carried out site visits to primary clinics and tertiary hospitals as well as conducted interviews with doctors and pharmacists in Villa del Rosario.

Seed Grants

In Fall 2022, the Center on Forced Displacement announced its inaugural call for proposals for seed grants. The call was open to all BU faculty and required a team of two or more faculty members (from different departments or schools) working on a topic related to the center's mission and areas of focus. After careful review, five proposals were selected for funding (on average \$20,000). The successful proposals represent an impressive breadth of research activity on campus and topics range from anthropology and law to public health and history.

The selected proposals included:

Vicarious Trauma in Hospital Interpreters: Understanding and Meeting Needs

- Resham Gellatly, PhD, Boston University School of Medicine
- Sarah Kimball, MD, Boston University School of Medicine
- Nuha Alshabani, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow at Boston Medical Center
- Eleanor P. Zambrano, MSW, LICSW, Center for Innovation in Social Work & Health

Health on the fly: Researching health needs, barriers, and perceptions of health interventions among refugees in greater Athens, Greece

- Anne Merewood, PhD, Boston Medical Center
- Shelley Brown, PhD, MPH, Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Role of resilience in coping, mental wellbeing and utilization of health services among Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

- Monica Adhiambo Onyango, PhD, Boston University School of Public Health
- Dana Janbek, PhD, Boston University, College of Communication
- Jinan Usta, PhD, Clinical Specialty Family Medicine at American University of Beirut
- Shirin Heidari, PhD, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva

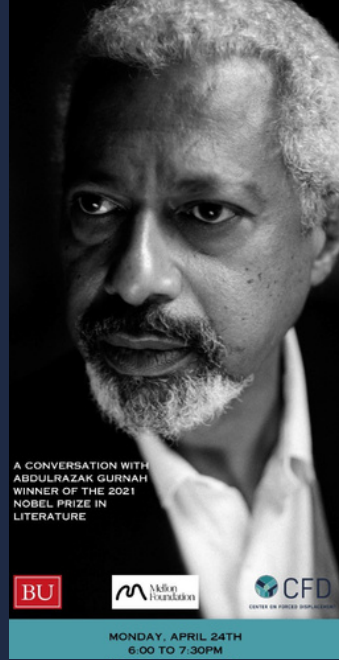
Capillary Livelihoods: Histories of Displacement and the Cultivation of Digital, Ecological, and Communal Lifeworlds on and off Istiklal Street, Istanbul

- Ayşe Parla, PhD, Department of Anthropology
- Alize Arican, PhD, Postdoctoral Scholar at the BU Society of Fellows
- Caterina Scaramelli, PhD, Departments of Earth and Environment
- Kendra Gimblet, Ph.D. student, Department of Anthropology

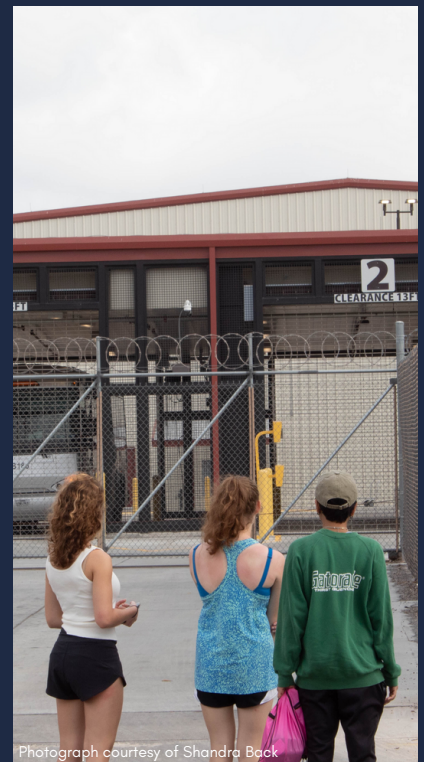
History and present of policing in Guatemala

- Rachel Nolan, PhD, Pardee School of Global Studies
- Sarah Sherman-Stokes, PhD, BU Law School

Events and Initiatives



In its first year, CFD hosted 20 events with over 1,000 people in attendance.



Photograph courtesy of Shandra Back

Border Studies Program

Each spring CFD hosts a Border Studies Program in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The Border Studies Program was designed by CFD's Associate Director Carrie Preston, with the goal of giving students an opportunity to meet researchers and practitioners, including service providers, who work with asylum seekers and migrants in Texas and learn about their work, experiences, and challenges first hand. CFD partners with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Rio Valley Relief Project, Team Brownsville, Catholic Charities' Humanitarian Respite Center, and other organizations. Since its inception, the Border Studies Program has hosted 22 Boston University students working on their bachelor's or master's degrees in a range of disciplines, including but not limited to international relations, social work, education, and computer science. Participants meet once a week throughout the spring semester to build contextual knowledge prior to the trip, as well as dissect what is learned following the trip and develop projects.

Following the conclusion of the program, students were asked to submit feedback to CFD. Feedback for the program has been overwhelmingly positive.



Photograph courtesy of Shandra Back

Last spring, 85.7% of respondents indicated that their learning goals had been met, and 100% of respondents indicated that the program helped them develop both personally and professionally. Further, 100% of respondents indicated that their experience in the program was positively impacted by learning with interdisciplinary peers, and would recommend the program to other students. CFD also receives qualitative feedback from students which unanimously indicates that the in-person experiential learning aspect of the program is more valuable than learning about migration contexts in a classroom setting. Our team uses the feedback from this program, as well as the Summer School on Forced Displacement held in Belgrade in July, in our ongoing research about experiential learning programs.



Photograph courtesy of Shandra Back



Photograph courtesy of Shandra Back

Interdisciplinary Summer School on Forced Displacement

From July 17 through July 29 2023, CFD held an Interdisciplinary Summer School on Forced Displacement at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, Serbia. This project was designed and spearheaded by the CFD Director of Programs, Marina Lazetic, in partnership with the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, and Sarajevo School of Science and Technology. One workshop, during the summer school was facilitated by faculty colleague Pouya Ahmadi from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). The Summer School was designed with five goals in mind:

1. Bridge the gap between academic research and practice and connect scholars with practitioners, artists and activists working in the field of forced displacement;
2. Create a hub for researchers and practitioners to meet and work on new research projects;
3. Create space for thinking about, discussing, and designing innovative solutions to current issues and challenges of forced displacement;
4. Design and use innovative pedagogical tools and approaches to interdisciplinary, critical studies of forced displacement; and
5. Educate a new generation of researchers and practitioners in forced displacement.



During the two weeks, 21 students from Serbia, Bosnia, and the United States participated in a variety of seminars, presentations, discussions and research projects run by researchers, activists, government officials, artists, and scholars from around the world. The students as well as the presenters from different disciplines and sectors came together to represent issues and discuss projects related to forced displacement and migrations. They analyzed current and past patterns of displacement and border management policies from the perspective of international relations, law, chemistry, social work, religious studies, gender studies, medicine, etc. The themes discussed included: a history of Western Balkan migration patterns; migration routes and journeys; art, activism, and representation; legal obligations and obstacles; models of care; migration through the gender lens; resilience and solidarity; critical perspectives on migration and security; and migration, positionality, and research.



Annual Conference

CFD hosted its inaugural annual conference from April 24-25, 2023. The conference opened with a keynote discussion by Abdulrazah Gurnah, winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, moderated by CFD Directors Dr. Zaman and Dr. Preston. Dr. Gurnah, who in addition to being one of the foremost creative thinkers of our time is also professor emeritus of post-colonial literature. Over 400 students, faculty, staff, and community members packed Morse Auditorium to listen to Dr. Gurnah. Dr. Gurnah was forcibly displaced in the 1960s when the oppression and persecution of citizens of Arab origin were rampant in his country. He eventually received asylum in England but could not go back to his homeland for nearly seventeen years. Gurnah's novels are rich, layered and nuanced. They regularly depict the impacts of decolonization in East Africa through an uncompromising refusal of oversimplification but tremendous compassion for his characters and their struggles.



The theme of day two of the Annual Conference was Research, Art and Activism in Forced Displacement. The event took place in Kilachand Honors College and brought together faculty, students, staff, and Boston area scholars interested and engaged in various aspects of studying forced displacement. The second day consisted of five events that ranged from a panel discussion on Gurnah's work to the role of research institutions and centers in addressing displacement-related issues. Other events during the day focused on the activism and art that border externalization can inspire, despite the suffering, international protests, and security risks for states, communities, and individuals that it produces, and helps us to imagine a world without border externalization. Students engaged in research at CFD presented their research during a poster-session during the lunch hour. The final event of the day was "Suitcase Stories" where four story tellers shared their experiences with migration, displacement, and working with refugees. The annual conference was made possible by the generous support from the BU Arts Initiative, CAS Center for the Humanities, The Kilachand Honors College and The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future.



STEM Education and Forced Displacement Workshop

On March 9-10, 2023, the Center on Forced Displacement (CFD) at Boston University and the Committee on Human Rights (CHR) of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine gathered a team of international experts in the fields of engineering, demography, human rights, innovation, migration, forced displacement, and pedagogy to explore the creation of a course and/or modules that would prepare STEM students to help address challenges associated with forced displacement. Beginning in the fall of 2022, we worked to review and consolidate the relevant literature to identify and understand gaps in existing courses and think about the questions and concepts that should guide the workshop's conversations. Following the workshop, four institutions (The Ohio-State University, University of California, Davis, Drexel University and Boston University) committed to piloting a course focused on how engineering can contribute to improving the lives of forcibly displaced communities in the coming year in multiple engineering departments. These pilots are meant to be a starting point for the project, which will ideally scale up to include additional courses in varied formats. The proposed course will focus on equipping STEM students, using a human rights framework, with the skills needed to help address challenges associated with forced displacement.

The courses offered at various institutions around the country will aim to introduce students to the issue of forced displacement and relevant historical, political, and social contexts. They will also help students understand the role of STEM in contributing to forced displacement-related challenges as well as in mitigating and addressing these challenges. We hope that these courses will prepare students to critically engage with moral and ethical issues associated with forced displacement, including through a human rights lens. Finally, we hope that the curriculum developed through this initiative will equip students with the analytical and technical tools needed to help address challenges associated with forced displacement.



Beyond the tangible outputs of the workshop, this brief gathering also revealed the value of bringing together and fostering communities on the basis of shared interdisciplinary interests, where perspectives and ideas can be exchanged in ways that often cannot happen in siloed departments. Faculty who are interested in integrating concepts like forced displacement into their teaching and research are often faced with pressures to focus on more important outputs or stay within their field or prove the technical rigor of interdisciplinary engineering-based courses, which might force instructors to overload if they wish to pursue such courses out of passion. While a single course came out of this workshop, we hope it will be the start of a broader conversation which will pave the way for standard STEM curricula more broadly to foster interdisciplinary thinking, encourage students to grapple with complex issues and their ethical complexities and inspire them to use their technical background to make a positive impact.



Book Talks

Throughout Fall of 2022, CFD hosted a number of book talks. Through these events, CFD invited authors to discuss their works related to the complex and diverse topics in the field of migration studies. Featured works include *My Fourth Time We Drowned* by Sally Hayden, *Those We Throw Away are Diamonds* by Mondiant Dogon and Jenna Krajeski, *Refugee Cities - How Afghans Changed Urban Pakistan* by Dr. Sanaa Alimia, and *Migration and Health*, edited by Catherine K. Eastman, Sandro Galea, and Muhammad Zaman.



Works In Progress Series

CFD's Works in Progress series offers researchers a space to present and discuss their current projects. The first iteration of this event was held in December 2022, and featured the works of Dr. Kính T. Vũ, assistant professor of music at Boston University, and Shelley Brown, PhD, MPH, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences.

Partnering with Rhode Island Film Festival

In collaboration with the Rhode Island Film Festival and BU's College of Communication, CFD hosted a screening of four short films portraying four varied and complex migratory experiences. The featured films included *We Are Here*, directed by Costanza Castro, *Under The Heavens*, directed by Gustavo Milan, *Dafa Metti (Difficult)*, directed by Tal Amiran, and *Chico Virtual*, directed by Olivia de Camps. The event included refreshments and networking opportunities in addition to the four short film screenings, followed by a Q&A session with their respective directors.



Conversations with Scholars, Artists & Activists

CFD strives to bring together a diverse and interdisciplinary cohort of scholars, artists, activists, and professionals. Throughout the year, we have hosted numerous individuals whose work lies in the field of displacement studies to share their unique perspective in featured events.

- Marius Turda Talk and Exhibition: "On Eugenics and Dehumanisation"

- This event was organized in collaboration with The François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University, as part of the 11th Annual Roma Conference. Along with his talk, Dr. Turda brought to BU an exhibition titled "We Are Not Alone: Legacies of Eugenics," contributing to a global anti-eugenic movement of reckoning with the past while continuing work towards a fair and just society.



- Film Screening and Conversation with Katrina Burgess: "Waylaid in Tijuana"

- Waylaid in Tijuana is a documentary film that explores how immigration policies adopted in Washington, DC reverberate just south of the border in Tijuana, Mexico. This screening was followed by a conversation with Katrina Burgess, the filmmaker and Associate Professor of Political Economy and Director of the Henry J. Leir Institute at the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

- A Conversation With Federica Infantino, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, Migration Policy Centre, The Role of Non-state Actors in Border Enforcement and Asylum Exclusion

- Federica Infantino is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre. She has a PhD in political science from Sciences Po Paris and Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and has held postdoctoral positions at the University of Oxford and the ULB. We hosted Federica for a conversation about the role of non-state actors in border enforcement and asylum exclusion.

- Ethical Storytelling with Amanda Bailly

- Amanda Bailly has worked at the intersection of human rights advocacy and storytelling for the last 12 years. Amanda joined us to speak about the ethical dilemmas she has encountered in her work interviewing some of the most vulnerable people in the world.



CFD Summer Fellows

The Center on Forced Displacement inaugural Summer Fellows program offered four graduate students from across Boston University an opportunity to engage in intensive interdisciplinary research and writing on topics related to forced displacement. The 10-week fellowship, which ran from May 30 to August 4, 2023, included a stipend, mentorship provided by the researchers at the Center on Forced Displacement, and support and guidance throughout both the design and implementation of a research project proposed by each summer fellow.

The fellowship was designed to provide students working on promising research projects related to forced displacement the time and space to pursue those projects within a collaborative and supportive interdisciplinary environment. This year's inaugural fellows represented a range of different disciplinary backgrounds, degree stages, and project types. The four fellows were: Micah Trautmann (PhD, Philosophy, 7th year), who developed a philosophical account of hopelessness amongst asylum seekers in indefinite asylum processing facilities; Catherine Abou-Khalil (PhD, Political Science, 4th year), who worked on a dissertation prospectus that maps the differential treatment of forcibly displaced groups along racial and gender lines; Naeem Salarzai (PhD, Earth & Environment, 1st year), who began a research project investigating the impact of climate disruptions and domestic water management on internal displacement in Afghanistan; and Desiree Hartman (MSW, Social Work, 2nd year), who developed a curriculum for training social work students engaged in field work involving vulnerable migrant populations.



Photograph courtesy of Shandra Back

The program sought to provide a balanced opportunity for fellows to conduct their own independent research while also benefiting from structured engagement with colleagues and senior researchers at the Center on Forced Displacement. At the start of the program, fellows presented their proposed projects in an initial workshop with the entire CFD research community, receiving constructive feedback on the aims, scope, and implementation of their projects. This was bookended by a final presentation at the end of the program in which fellows detailed their progress, shared key findings, and were encouraged to project toward future developments of that research beyond the term of the summer fellowship itself. In between, fellows benefitted from weekly meetings with the CFD faculty, guest speakers, and other BU researchers working on forced displacement, as well as a weekly lunch with the other fellows in which they could talk about their progress, get advice on writing approaches and strategies, brainstorm ideas, and troubleshoot difficulties in a low-stakes environment.

Finally, the CFD's varied programming and structured interaction between researchers at different career stages was an important component of the program. Students engaged in conversations with both CFD and external faculty on topics that ranged from data analysis methodologies to how to write public-facing work within an academic context. The opportunity to participate remotely in the CFD's summer intensive workshop regarding migration patterns in the Balkans also allowed CFD fellows to learn from their peers at other institutions working on important research questions of mutual interest.





Cat Abou-Khalil

"I have longed for a community that embraces interdisciplinary approaches and I received exactly that at the CFD. Each time we presented our work, asked questions to the group, directors, or other fellows, without fail I always received diverse feedback and ideas that I am not sure I would have received elsewhere."



Desiree Hartman

"The multidisciplinary environment of the CFD supported me in both learning from other disciplines and seeing the value I could contribute to the greater conversation on forced displacement from my social work discipline."



Micah Trautmann

"Working at the CFD as a Summer Fellow provided me the space and time to continue working diligently on my research. Perhaps more importantly, though, it offered me an engaged and enriching interdisciplinary environment where I could exchange ideas and methods and receive generative feedback from varied academic backgrounds."



Naeem Salarzai

"This fellowship has been a big step in my academic journey. It's helped me understand more about water in Afghanistan and climate migration and set clear goals for my Ph.D. research. Collaborating with the CFD team has been eye-opening, letting me learn from diverse experts and connect with others in various fields."

Art and Media

Artist in Residence

Every year, CFD hosts an artist in residence for collaboration and support on their work in order to further the Center's interdisciplinary mission and foster relationships between research and the arts. This year's artist in residence was Ismail Khalidi. Born in Beirut to Palestinian parents and raised in Chicago, Ismail Khalidi is a playwright and director who has written, directed, performed, curated and taught internationally. CFD incorporated stagings of Khalidi's works into our events throughout the year.



Podcast

This year, CFD launched the pilot episode of our podcast, "CFD Conversations: The Center on Forced Displacement Podcast". Episodes of the podcast are released on a monthly basis, and features conversations about the complexities of forced displacement with researchers, practitioners, and artists from across the globe. "CFD Conversations" is available on all major streaming services.

Publications from CFD Affiliate Faculty

Choi, J., Juntunen, A., Brewer, H., Abbas, D., Sopper, C., Bielick, L., Ghebrehiwet, S., Flinton, K., Sarfaty, S., Jacquet, G. A., **Crosby, S.**, Piwowarczyk, L., Oleng, N., & Borba, C. P. C. (2022). Evaluating an Interprofessional Trauma-Based Education Course to Advance the Care and Health of Refugees. *Journal of immigrant and minority health*, 10.1007/s10903-022-01440-7. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-022-01440-7>

DeFries, T., Kelley, J., Martin, M., & **Kimball, S. L.** (2022). Immigration status matters: the intersectional risk of immigration vulnerability and substance use disorder. *Addiction* (Abingdon, England), 117(7), 1827-1829. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15800>

De Sherbinin, Grace, K., McDermid, S., van der Geest, K., Puma, M. J., & **Bell, A.** (2022). Migration Theory in Climate Mobility Research. *Frontiers in Climate*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2022.882343>

Gowayed, H. (2022). *Refuge: how the state shapes human potential*. Princeton University Press.

Jirmanus, L. Z., Ranker, L., Touw, S., Mahmood, R., **Kimball, S. L.**, Hanchate, A., & Lasser, K. E. (2022). Impact of United States 2017 Immigration Policy changes on missed appointments at two Massachusetts Safety-Net Hospitals. *Journal of immigrant and minority health*, 24(4), 807-818. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-022-01341-2>

Kimball, S. L., Chergui, H., Syeda, H. S., Amin, S., & Eyllon, M. (2023). Immigration-related Legal Collaboration in Primary Care: Evaluating Impact on Knowledge and Well-being. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 34(1), 246-262. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2023.0016>

Kimball, S. L., Syeda, H. S., Chergui, H., Piwowarczyk, L. A., & Gould, J. (2023). Embedding Chaplaincy Services in Primary Care for Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers: A Boston Pilot Intervention. *Journal of religion and health*, 62(1), 55-64. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-022-01568-8>

Lori, N. (2022) Citizens-in-waiting: strategic naturalization delays in the USA and UAE. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 45(6), 1075-1095. [10.1080/01419870.2021.1962937](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2021.1962937)

Lori, N. (2022). Possible Citizens: Migration Enforcement as the Performance of Citizenship in the United Arab Emirates. *International Migration Review*, 56(3), 727-753. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183211054796>

Mattar, Ipekci, B., Louis, E. F., & Taknint, J. T. (2023). Training Considerations for Providers Engaged in Refugee Mental Health Care. *International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, Consultation*, 12(1), 16-25. <https://doi.org/10.1027/2157-3891/a000057>

Nolan, Rachel. "Do Cartels Exist? A Revisionist View of the Drug Wars" *Harper's Magazine* July 2023: 79-85 essay about the extent of state violence that passes for the war on drugs in Mexico, drawing on Oswaldo Zavala, *Drug Cartels Do Not Exist: Narcotrafficking in U.S. and Mexican Culture* and Benjamin T. Smith, *The Dope: The Real History of the Mexican Drug Trade*
<https://harpers.org/archive/2023/07/do-cartels-exist-revisionist-view-of-the-drug-wars/>

Nolan, Rachel. "Always Look in the Well" *London Review of Books* Vol. 45 No. 14 review essay about forensic anthropology on Alexa Hagerty's *Still Life with Bones: Genocide, Forensics, and What Remains* and Victoria Sanford's *Textures of Terror: The Murder of Claudina Isabel Velásquez*
<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v45/n14/rachel-nolan/always-look-in-the-well>

Ching, Carly, and **Muhammad H. Zaman.** "Infectious disease burden among forcibly displaced populations: considerations for effective research." *Pathogens and global health* 117, no. 5 (2023): 435-436.

Sutradhar, Indorica, Carly Ching, Darash Desai, Zachary Heins, **Ahmad S. Khalil**, and **Muhammad H. Zaman.** "Effects of antibiotic interaction on antimicrobial resistance development in wastewater." *Scientific Reports* 13, no. 1 (2023): 7801.

Sandro Galea, Catherine K. Ettman and **Muhammad H. Zaman** Ed. *Migration and Health*. University of Chicago Press. 2022. (<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/M/bo181540563.html>)

Muhammad H. Zaman, "Engineering a Holistic Response to the Global Crisis of Forced Displacement," in *IEEE Pulse*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 22-24, Jan.-Feb. 2023, doi: 10.1109/MPULS.2023.3243319.

Mark Suprenant, Eleanie Nyankesha, Ralfh Moreno-Garcia, Valentina Buj, Ahmadu Yakubu, Fouzia Shafique, and **Muhammad H. Zaman.** "Assessing the relationship between operationally defined zero-dose communities and access to selected primary healthcare services for children and pregnant women in emergency settings." *PloS one* 18, no. 2 (2023): e0281764

Samuel Orubu Shatha Albeik, Carly Ching, Rana Hussein, Ayoub Mousa, Masako Horino, Rabie Naqa, Mohammad Elayyan, Rawan Saadeh, and **Muhammad H. Zaman.** "A Survey Assessing Antimicrobial Prescribing at United Nations Relief and Works Agency Primary Health Care Centers in Jordan." *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene* 107, no. 2 (2022): 474-483.

Muhammad H. Zaman, Tahera Hasan and Janki Bhatt. Invisible people, visible barriers. *The Statelessness & Citizenship Review*, 2022 Vol 4 pages 286-292.

Carly Ching, and **Muhammad H. Zaman.** "Refugee Crisis: Why Scientists and Scholars Need to Step Up." *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene* 107, no. 1 (2022): 12-13.

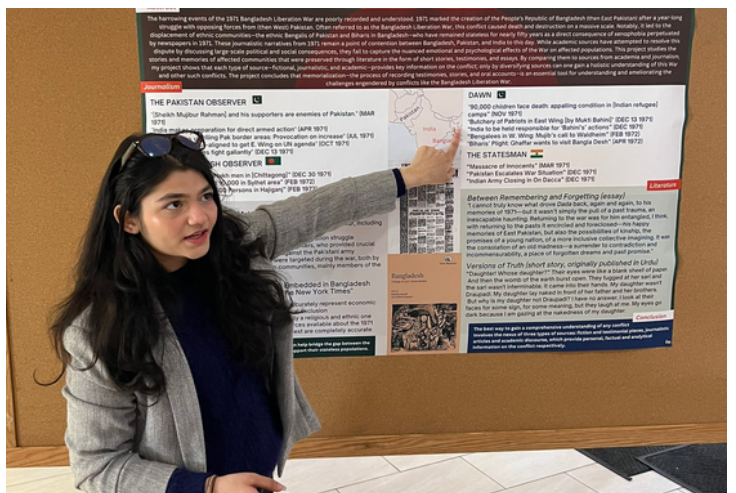
Muhammad H. Zaman "Designing Devices for Vulnerable Populations: What Needs to Change?." *IEEE Pulse* 14, no. 3 (2023): 24-26.

Zhang, M., Payton, C., Gurung, A., Anglewicz, P., Subedi, P., Ali, A., Ibrahim, A., Haider, M., Hamidi, N., Atem, J., Thang, J., Wang, S., Kim, C., **Kimball, S. L.**, Karaki, F., Nazhat, N., Abouagila, M., & Yun, K. (2022). COVID-19 Infection and Contact Tracing Among Refugees in the United States, 2020-2021. *Journal of immigrant and minority health*, 1-7. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-022-01441-6>

Fundraising

In our inaugural year, the Center received more than 2.6 million dollars in direct funds from philanthropists, external partners and funding agencies to support various research efforts and scholarly activities. These included generous gifts from Richard and Feyza Shipley, Jim and Eileen Rullo, and an anonymous donor, as well as grants from the Mellon Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

These generous resources will allow the Center to develop an in-depth understanding of the myriad of challenges faced by communities displaced globally due to conflict, climate change and persecution. Funds will be used to create new interdisciplinary research and experiential learning initiatives encompassing engineering, natural and social sciences, arts and humanities, and will provide resources to BU faculty, students and staff to conduct rigorous research that can improve the lives of vulnerable communities displaced from their homes.



Research Advisory Board



IBRAHIM AWAD
American University of Cairo



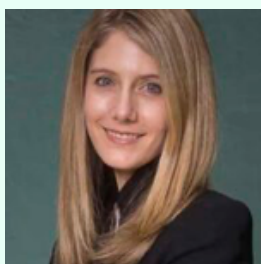
JORGE DURAND
University of Guadalajara



LARISSA FAST
University of Manchester



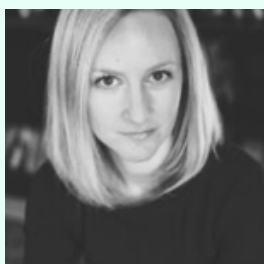
MARGARETA MATACHE
Harvard University



JANE MCADAM
UNSW Sydney



DEB NIEMEIER
University of Maryland



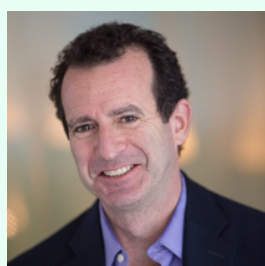
LAURA ROBSON
Penn State University



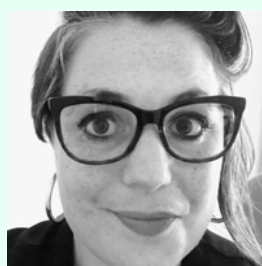
PETER ROSENBLUM
Bard College



MARY BOATEMAA SETRANA
University of Ghana



PAUL SPIEGEL
Johns Hopkins University



JO VEARY
University of the Witwatersrand

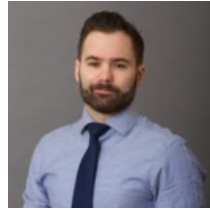
Affiliate Faculty



Allison McDonald



Ahmad (Mo) Khalil



Andrew Bell



Anne Merewood



Ayşe Parla



Benjamin Sovacool



Bria Dunham



Christopher Gill



Dana Janbek



David Hamer



Heba Gowayed



Jacqueline Lauer



Joelle Taos Taknint



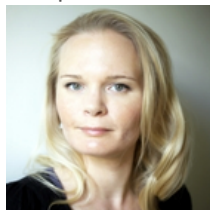
Joseph Harris



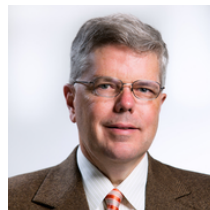
Joshua Pederson



Julie Dahlstrom



Kaija Schilde



Kevin Outterson



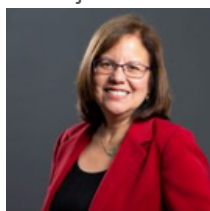
Kính T. Vū



Lance Laird



Lindsey Locks



Luz Lopez



Monica Onyango



Nazli Kibria



Noora Lori



Parker Shipton



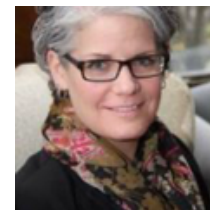
Rachel Brule



Rachel Nolan



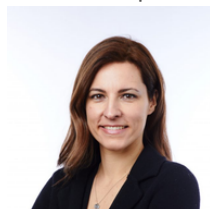
Rady Roldán-Figueroa



Sandra McEvoy



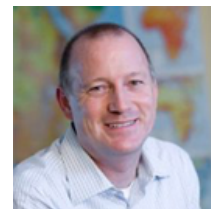
Sarah Kimball



Shelley M. Brown



Sondra S. Crosby



Timothy P. Longman



Veronika Wirtz



Vesko Garcevic



Ioannis Paschalidis

Appendix

Annual Conference Program

Boston University Center on Forced Displacement

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**RESEARCH, ART,
AND ACTIVISM**

**Featuring a Keynote
Address by**

**Abdulrazak
Gurnah**

**Winner of the 2021 Nobel
Prize in Literature**



APRIL 24-25, 2023



Arts Initiative



**Arts & Sciences
Center for the Humanities**



Kilachand Honors College



Pardee School of Global Studies

The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future



**Mellon
Foundation**

Annual Conference Program



CENTER ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Symposium on Research, Art and Activism

April 25
91 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215

9:30 am - 11:30 am

A Panel Discussion of Gurnah's Work, with Response by Gurnah

Carrie Preston
Professor of English and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Associate Director of the Center on Forced Displacement, Boston University

Gaurav Desai
Professor and Department Chair, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Sanjay Krishnan
Professor of English, Boston University

Xuefei (Ha) Jin
Professor of English and Creative Writing, Boston University

12:00pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch and Student Poster Presentations

Janki Bhatt
Grief Lost and Found: Diversifying Sources on the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War

Desiree Hartman
Social Work Lessons from the Border: Trauma, Resilience, and Our Collective Liberation

Rana Hussein
Stem Education & Forced Displacement: A Workshop

Baiden Wright & Shandra Back
Border Studies Reflections and EnterCambio

Gabrielle Glass
Highlighting Indigenous Strength Among Assumptions of Disparity: The Success of COVID-19 Vaccination in Navajo Nation

Mariah Banks
Health on the Fly: Assessing Health Needs of Refugees in Athens, Greece

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Panel Conversation with the CFD Advisory Board: The Role of Research Institutions/Centers in Addressing Displacement Related Issues

Mary Boatemaa Setrana
Associate Professor of Migration and Social Change; Director, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

Laura Robson
Oliver-McCourtney Professor of History, Penn State University

Peter Rosenblum
Professor of International Law and Human Rights at Bard College in New York

Margareta Matache
Lecturer on Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Director of the Roma Program, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights

Ibrahim Awad
Professor of the Practice in Global Affairs; Director, Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, American University in Cairo (AUC)

Annual Conference Program



CENTER ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Symposium on Research, Art and Activism

April 25

91 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215

3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Sawyer Seminar: Border Cultures as Spaces of Resistance, Activism, Art, and Hope

Ila N. Sheren: "Delineating a Site of Exception: Art and Infrastructure at the Border Wall"

Ila N. Sheren is an Associate Professor of Art History in the Department of Art History and Archaeology in Washington University in St. Louis, where she specializes in contemporary political art, borders, and ecology. Ila is the author of two books, *Portable Borders: Performance Art and Politics on the U.S. Frontera* since 1984 (2015) and *Border Ecology: Art and Environmental Crisis at the Margins* (2023). Recent work of hers has appeared in journals such as *GeoHumanities* and the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, and in the edited volumes *Liquid Borders* and *Expanding the Parameters of Feminist Activism*. In addition, Ila heads the collaborative mapping project *Race and Community Art on the U.S.-Mexico Border* and is a faculty lead for Washington University's *Moving Stories* initiative, cataloguing and exhibiting narratives of migration in the St. Louis region and beyond.

André de Quadros: "Hidden Words, Singing Stories: Artistic Narratives from the Southern Border"

André de Quadros is a professor of music at Boston University with affiliations in African, African American, Muslim studies, prison education, Forced Migration and Antiracist Research. As an artist, scholar, and human rights activist, he has worked in over 40 countries in the most diverse settings including professional groups, projects with prisons, psychosocial rehabilitation, refugees, and victims of sexual violence, torture, and trauma. His work crosses race and mass incarceration, peacebuilding, forced migration, and Islamic culture. In 2019, he was a Distinguished Academic Visitor at the University of Cambridge.

Ismail Khalidi: "Kanafani Would Have Been a Rapper: Cultural Resistance and the Radical Palestinian Imagination"

Ismail Khalidi is a playwright, theatre director and screenwriter. His plays, including his adaptation (with Naomi Wallace) of Ghassan Kanafani's *Returning to Haifa*, have been produced internationally. He co-edited *Inside/Out: Six Plays from Palestine and the Diaspora* (TCG). He is currently a Directing Fellow at Pangea World Theater and a Visiting Artist at BU's Center on Forced Displacement. Khalidi holds an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Marina Sartori: "Theater on the Move: a Pavilion of Exchange and Hospitality"

Marina is an architect, visual artist, and scenic designer. She recently received a Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Design from Boston University and also holds a professional Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University. Marina is a registered architect in the United Kingdom and practiced architecture in various studios in London, Paris, Italy, Germany, and Boston, MA. Most recently, her architectural work consists of designing residential spaces, interiors, and furniture. She has exhibited her work in Europe and the US with most recently a solo show of her prints at Merge Art Center in Stone Ridge, NY. In collaboration with two other artists, Marina was awarded a grant from the region of Styria, Austria to support a traveling participatory art project titled "Stories from the Edge".

Leo Eguchi: "Unaccompanied"

Leo Eguchi is on the music faculty of Boston College and is the Assistant Conductor of the MIT Symphony Orchestra. His degrees include a BM (Cello Performance) and BS (Physics) cum laude from the University of Michigan, and MM (cello performance) from Boston University, where he received the String Department Award for Excellence. Recent solo performing highlights include being a prize winner at the 2021 ProCello International Cello Competition, several GRAMMY nominated recording releases from Parma recordings, multiple concerto appearances, and an artist residency and solo performances in Kabul, Afghanistan.

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Closing Remarks by Dr. Muhammad Zaman followed by Suitcase Stories

6:00 pm

Reception

Contact Us



Website

www.bu.edu/cfd



Email Address

cfdebu.edu



Twitter

[@cfd_center](https://twitter.com/cfd_center)



Instagram

[@bu_cfd](https://www.instagram.com/bu_cfd)



CFD

CENTER ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT