

The American University in Cairo

Center for Migration and Refugee Studies

Report of Activities

2007-2008

The American University in Cairo

The American University in Cairo was founded in 1919 by Americans devoted to education and community service in the Middle East. Today, AUC is the region's premier English-language university — an essential contributor to the social, political and cultural life of the Arab world. It also serves as a crossroads for the world's cultures: a vital, vibrant forum for reasoned argument, spirited debate and global understanding.

It is a vital bridge between the cultures of East and West, linking Egypt and the region to the world through scholarly research, study-abroad programs and partnerships with academic and research institutions.

AUC is an independent, nonprofit, apolitical, non-sectarian and equal-opportunity institution, fully accredited in Egypt and the United States. AUC's academic program is rooted in liberal education and focused practice. The university's rigorous core curriculum offers an intensive investigation of fundamental questions in every major discipline.

Our nearly 5,000 undergraduates come from every corner of Egypt and from one hundred countries around the world. When they graduate, they join a worldwide network of more than 30,000 AUC alumni, leaders in finance and commerce, law and engineering, politics and culture, community service and computer science.

AUC includes programs and research centers on the Middle East; American studies; forced migration and refugees; gender and women's studies; philanthropy and civic engagement; as well as specialized teaching programs on Arabic language and electronic journalism.

The university boasts the largest English-language library in Egypt, and AUC Press is the leading publisher of English-language books in the Arab world. The university's new 260-acre main campus in New Cairo represents a major investment in the future of the city, the country, and the region — a state-of-the-art facility for advanced research, innovative teaching, and civic engagement.

Center for Migration and Refugee Studies

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), previously known as the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies program (FMRS), at the American University in Cairo was first established in 2000 as a program of education, research, and outreach on refugee issues and was expanded in 2008 into a regional center that encompasses all forms of international mobility, whether voluntary or forced, economic or political, individual or collective, temporary or permanent. CMRS offers an MA in Migration and Refugee Studies (MRS) in addition to a Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies. Its research program includes a systematic and comparative inventory of the situation regarding migration and refugee movements across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), as well as in-depth studies of emerging issues in the region. Finally, CMRS' outreach includes disseminating knowledge on migration and refugee issues beyond the university's gates, as well as providing a range of educational services to refugee communities.

The following pages summarize recent developments and activities undertaken by the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies during the scholastic year 2007 - 2008.

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Message from the Director

This year, the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies program took bold new steps and laid the ground work for expanding its vision and mandate. Broadening from a focus on forced migration, it expanded into a regional center, The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS), which recognizes all forms of international mobility, whether voluntary or forced, economic or political, individual or collective, temporary or permanent.

In conjunction with the expanded mandate, the development of a full-fledged Masters of Art degree in Migration and Refugee Studies (MRS) was created. This is in addition to the Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies. In fall 2008, thirty new students entered the MRS program (18 for the new MA and 12 for the diploma), the majority of which are international. Our aim in the coming year is to attract more Egyptian students since issues of migration and refugees are crucial to the country and the region. We are proud to be the only multidisciplinary program in the world that combines both migration and refugee studies with a focus on the Middle East and Africa.

Research continues to be a focus of CMRS and this year CMRS was the recipient of significant grants for research purposes. In May 2008, a new grant from the Ford Foundation enabled us to begin to build a full-fledged research center, CMRS. This is the first regional center on Migration and Refugee Studies covering the region of the Middle East and North Eastern Africa. Engaging scholars from around the world is of vital importance to CMRS. In October 2007, CMRS hosted a three day meeting on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North-Eastern Africa, as a first step towards building a network of scholars across the region and from various disciplines in the field of migration and refugee studies. Twenty six scholars from twelve Middle Eastern and African countries were invited to write papers on topics related to migration and refugee movements in the region for the purpose of making an inventory of the current state of knowledge on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and Northeastern Africa. Also of remarkable significance was the first ever collaborative research project with the Information and Decision Support Center of the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers (IDSC). Funded by the Ford Foundation, CMRS and IDSC conducted the first survey of Iraqi refugees in Egypt. CMRS was also able through the Ford grant to offer alumni small research grants in order to conduct first-hand field work in Egypt. One research explored the root causes of violence amidst young Sudanese men in Cairo and another research project looked at the phenomenon of Egyptian irregular migration to Europe through the Mediterranean.

Other grants included a small grant from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for two research projects. The first was a profiling exercise to map the Sudanese population in Egypt and the prospects for return to Sudan among refugees from Southern Sudan as a result of the Peace Agreement in the region, and the other was a study looking at the level of awareness and vulnerability of Sudanese migrants to a possible Avian

influenza Pandemic (AHI) outbreak in Greater Cairo. Of great significance, CMRS is part of the consortium that won a tender of the European Commission in the framework of its Migration and Asylum Program. Becoming a member of the Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM), CMRS will have access to a large network of scholars and EU funded research.

In terms of outreach, CMRS continues to be a place of welcome and outreach for migrants and refugees. Among its vital components is Student Action for Refugees (STAR). This is an opportunity for AUC students to engage with refugees through volunteering and educational programs. The Cairo Community Interpreter's Project is another important aspect of outreach and capacity building among migrants and refugees. Other forms of engagement are also crucial for CMRS. The Wednesday Seminar Series continues to be a vital element of the center's engagement with the community. This is an integral platform for both raising issues critical to the refugee community as well as learning from refugees themselves. This last year the Wednesday series continued to provide important common ground and attracted Iraqi, Sudanese and other refugees to the forum. In January 2008, CMRS hosted the 11th Biennial Conference for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). The theme of the conference was "Refugees and Forced Migrants at the Crossroads: Forced Migration in a Changing World." This international gathering engaged 300 persons, including academics, practitioners, graduate students as well as members of the local refugee community in Cairo. Memorable was the key note address by UNRWA commissioner General, Karen Abou-Zayd.

Our hope in the coming years is that the center serves as a platform for developing a synergy between the Masters Program and research. We anticipate that our students will contribute to and expand the field of migration and refugee research. CMRS also aspires to reach beyond Egypt as its focal point and expand to other regions including the Horn of Africa and the Gulf region. The network will be crucial in going beyond the immediate context of Egypt and in identifying scholars in additional regions in Africa and the Middle East

Philippe Fargues

Program Developments 2007-2008

The academic year 2007/2008 constitutes an important transition for CMRS. This year witnessed the development of the program (previously known as FMRS) into a regional center on Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) that encompasses all forms of international mobility, whether voluntary or forced, economic or political, individual or collective, temporary or permanent. The development was the result of the program success in raising funds that enabled it to build a research community among affiliated researchers and scholars throughout the region of the Middle East and North Africa. On May, 14, 2008, FMRS was granted a generous grant from the Ford Foundation to support its transition into a sustainable regional research center on migration and refugee studies. (*See more under Research*) Although, more funds need to be raised for such expansion, this grant provided the building blocks for the establishment of the center.

In May 2008, the AUC senate approved CMRS' MA proposal to launch the first MA program in the world combining both migration and refugee studies with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa. The MA will be offered as of September 2008 by CMRS alongside its specialized graduate diploma in forced Migration and Refugee Studies (FMRS Diploma). (*See under the MA and diploma programs for further detailed information*). With such success, CMRS has many plans and objectives in the coming years.

The building of the center and the development of the MA are two complementing developments. On one hand, MA students will be able to benefit from the pioneering regional migration and refugee research programs that will be conducted by the center. On the other hand, the center will benefit from student's research as they will address topics and empirical data that have not been studied previously.

On a less cheerful note, this year marked the retirement of Barbara Harrell-Bond, Distinguished Adjunct Professor and Advisor for CMRS. Harrell-Bond is credited with being one of the architects of the field of forced migration studies. Since founding the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University in 1982, Harrell-Bond has been working ceaselessly in advocating for the rights and needs of refugees and forced migrants, helping to establish legal aid programs for refugees, including Africa Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) in Cairo. For the past eight years, Harrell-Bond has taught the CMRS graduate course 'Introduction to Forced Migration and Refugee Studies and Issues in Forced Migration.' More recently, she coordinated collaborative research between CMRS and Sussex University on 'Globalization, Migration and Poverty.'

With both sorrow and much admiration for her work, CMRS hosted a surprise farewell party on the evening of July 2, 2008 for Harrell-Bond. The party gathered people from different walks of life whose love and appreciation for Harrell-Bond is what brought

them together. The party included students, refugees, researchers, advocates, and faculty members. The feeling of everyone was best expressed by Barbara Ibrahim, Director of John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at AUC. She expressed the sentiments of many who have learned and benefited from Harrell-Bond's work:

“She has left an indelible mark on the pursuit of social justice, both at AUC and the Cairo community. She has worked tirelessly and given freely of her mind, heart and possessions to support the cause of refugees and displaced persons. That support was at all levels, from opening her home in the middle of the night, to teaching and networking, to lobbying powerful people for the changes to policy that will make a difference for thousands of others. She will be sorely missed as a moral force and our conscience here, but we know that she will continue her work and inspire us from wherever her location in the world.”

Other developments during 2007-08 include the newly designed course by CMRS Director, Philippe Fargues, entitled ‘Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North Africa.’ During his inaugural year, he taught the course in both the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters. Two new additional electives were also added in the fall: ‘New Diasporas,’ taught by Dr. Mulki Sharmani, and ‘Litigating Palestinian Rights,’ taught by Dr. Sondergaard,

Under the umbrella of the newly established Research Network, two senior researchers were hired: Mike Kagan and Nancy Baron. Mike Kagan, Senior Fellow in Human Rights Law at the American University in Cairo, will focus on the State-to-UN responsibility shift and the gap between law and politics in refugee policy in the Middle East. Moreover, he will conduct focused research on credibility assessment and religion, specifically on the cases of Eritrean Pentecostal refugee claims in Egypt. Nancy Baron, Director of Global Psychiatric and Psycho-Social Initiatives, will focus on the mental health and psychosocial needs of refugees and migrants

In addition, during this year, seven new research assistants were hired to contribute to the department's continued research projects.

Natalie Forcier completed ground-breaking research entitled, *“Invisible Youth: A Study of Identity and Violence among Young Sudanese Men in Cairo.”* (See under Research) Natalie holds a B.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University, an M.A. in International Human Rights Law from AUC and in 2008, she earned the FMRS diploma.

Nida Gouse and Lina Attala collaborated on the project *“Take to the Sea: Irregular Economic Migration from Egypt to the EU via the Mediterranean Sea.”* This project explored Egyptian irregular migration to Europe through the Mediterranean and what compels people to take the risk of traversing dangerous seas. (See under Research) **Lina** graduated from the American University in Cairo with a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication. She pursued a career in print and radio journalism, whereby she extensively covered political and economic issues in the Middle East for different media outlets, including the Daily Star, Cairo Times and Reuters News Agency. She is currently working on a forthcoming publication on the modern history of Egypt through the lens of

a 100-year old coffeehouse. She is also finishing a children's book comprising the art work produced during self-expressive workshops conducted with the children of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. **Nida** is a graduate of Tufts University, Boston with a B.A. in English Literature and Peace & Justice Studies. She spent her junior year at Oxford University, UK during which she also interned at the gallery of Modern Art Oxford. She has conducted post-conflict research in India and gender-violence research in Pakistan. In December 2007, she completed a diploma in FMRS at the American University in Cairo. She presented her research on local responses to Sudanese gang violence in Cairo at the International Association for the study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference in January 2008. (*See under conferences & workshops*)

Yasmine Moataz is a research assistant at the Social Research Center and has worked for CMRS on two projects commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM “*Assisted Voluntary Return of Sudanese*” and “*Pandemic Preparedness and Sudanese Migrants in Greater Cairo.*” (*See under Research*) She holds a BA in Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts from Helwan University and a MA in sociology-anthropology from the American University in Cairo. Her thesis entitled “*Egypt-New York: Journeys of Migration and Desire,*” which focuses on Egyptian migrant workers in New York City, will be published in AUC Cairo Papers for Social Science.

Michael Oskin and Ted Oswald collaborated on the project “*Disability in Displaced Children: A Survey amongst Refugee Families in Ain Shams, Cairo.*” The study focuses on the prevalence of disabilities amongst the refugee minor population in Ain Shams as well as family and public perceptions of these children. Michael holds a MSED from CUNY Lehman and is currently completing a dual MA degree in Middle East Studies and Refugee and Migration Studies at AUC. Ted holds a BA from the University of California, Davis and is an FMRS student.

Sara Sadek is working on CMRS collaborative research with the Information and Decision Support Center of the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers (IDSC) on Iraqis in Egypt. (*See under Research*) Sara has an MA in refugee Studies from the University of East London (UEL) and the FMRS diploma from AUC. Sara's Master's thesis focused on the experience of selected Iraqi women in the UK. Sara has worked previously with CMRS as the local coordinator of the 11th Conference for the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration held in Cairo in January 2008.

Special Events

CMRS was honored by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan's invitation to a number of CMRS faculty and affiliated researchers for a working breakfast. CMRS faculty and affiliated researchers met with his highness on Tuesday September 11 at the four Season Hotel. It was an extremely inspiring exchange where the prince shared with CMRS stimulating and innovative thoughts about the situation of refugees and migrants in the region, and action to be taken. During the meeting, CMRS was proud to present a briefing of its research and outreach projects of which the prince was highly impressed and promised to give CMRS a visit during his next trip to Cairo. The meeting was attended by Barbara Harrell-Bond, Philippe Fargues, Ray Jureidini, Maysa Ayoub, Nancy Baron, Nazeek Nossier, Elizabeth Coker, Abdel Aziz Ez El Arab and Barbara Ibrahim

The MA & Diploma Programs

The Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, offered since 2000 by AUC, has become one of the most attractive graduate programs, attracting Egyptian as well as international students. Building on the success of the diploma, CMRS worked throughout the reporting year to prepare for the launching of a new Masters of Arts in Migration and Refugee Studies which was accepted by the AUC Senate in May 2008. In fall 2008, CMRS will offer its new MA in Migration and Refugee Studies (MRS) in addition to its Graduate Diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, forming together the only multidisciplinary program in the world that combines both migration and refugee studies with a focus on the Middle East and Africa.

The new MA program in Migration and Refugee studies is an interdisciplinary degree program that aims to provide graduates with critical knowledge, research methods and analytical skills of current theoretical, legal, political, economic, social, demographic and psychological issues in migration and refugee studies. The knowledge and skills acquired may be applied in careers within institutions such as governmental, non-governmental and international agencies, as well as universities, research organizations and private corporations dealing with the multitude of issues connected with migration and refugee movements.

The MA program requires the successful completion of 8 courses (24 credit hours), five required core courses plus three elective courses in addition to a thesis. As such, FMRS Alumni as well as students who are currently enrolled in the diploma program can develop their diploma into the MA in Migration and Refugee Studies by taking only two Master's courses and submit a thesis.

Although the MA was officially announced in May 2008, eighteen new students were accepted to join the new MA program as of fall 2008, in addition to the sixteen continued students of the diploma. We expect the number of students to continue to increase in the coming years aiming in particular to increase the number of Egyptian students whose ratio currently in relation to the international students is low. This is anticipated to take place with the launching of a new fellowship for Egyptian students through the Ford Foundation new grant.

Diploma Fellows 2007-2008

Amoding Deborah Oluka

Amoding was awarded an African Graduate Fellowship during the 2007-08. She graduated from Makerere University, Kampala with a BA in Mass Communications.

Ted Andrew Oswald

Ted was awarded a FMRS Merit Fellowship for 2007-08. He graduated from the University of California, Davis with a BA in International Relations.

Noheier Ahmed Nashaat Thabet

Noheier was awarded a University Fellowship for the 2008 Spring Semester. She graduated from the American University in Cairo with a BA in political science.

Diploma Graduates –Fall 2007 & Spring 2008

Fall 2007

Catherine Wambui Njoroge (Kenya)

Jutta Frida Gravesen (Germany)

Karin Mirna Fernandez (Canada)

Maysa Abbas Ayoub (Egypt)

Mia Gauthier (Canada)

Nida Mariam Ghose (India)

Naglaa Abdel Bary Abou Srea (Egypt)

Shereen Atef Salem (Egypt)

Spring 2008

Amoding Deborah Oluke (Uganda)

Dalia Adel Malek (Egypt)

Emilie Kristen Minnick (USA)

Mark Kerim Tschirgi (Canada)

Natalie Irene Forcier (USA)

Sarah Adel Stefanos (Egypt)

Steven Matthew Murray (USA)

Ted Andrew Oswald (USA)

Alumni News

Iman Ahmed (2002)

After earning her Diploma, Iman worked for three years with immigrants and newcomers in Canada. She was part of a research team from the University of Toronto, Culture, Community and Health Studies Department and completed The Study of Sudanese Settlement in Ontario. She then went on to work in the positions of UNHCR Public Health Officer in Tindouf, Algeria and UNHCR Health/Nutrition/HIV Officer in Liberia. The operation focused on Repatriation and Reintegration of Liberians. Currently, Iman is the UNHCR Regional Epidemic Preparedness and Response Coordinator for Middle East and North Africa, based in Cairo. She is now working towards her MA in Migration and Refugee Studies at CMRS. Iman feels that the knowledge she gained on the humanitarian challenges helped her to contribute positively while working in post-war Liberia. She also feels the experiences through CMRS have been very useful, as it has broadened her scope and enabled her to take a rights-based approach in her work with refugees, immigrants and also returnees.

Stancil Campbell (2003)

Stancil is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Performing & Visual Arts at AUC. For many years he has served on the steering committee of the St. Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo. In conjunction with AUC and St. Andrew's Refugee Services, Stancil has taught refugee drama classes. These weekly classes were held throughout the Spring 2008 semester in Howard Theatre on the AUC Main Campus.

Emily Eidenier (2006)

Emily is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill in the U.S. The work she did during her studies for the FMRS diploma helped her decide to pursue further study in public health and policy-work, including an interest in how to increase the involvement of refugees and other communities in shaping the policies that impact their lives.

Hebah H Farrag (2006)

Hebah is currently working in Los Angeles, California as the Associate Director of the Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement at the University of Southern California. She is also the Programs, Partnerships and Community Outreach Coordinator at the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Foundation. Hebah is one of 20 emerging Muslim leaders involved in the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute. She also continues to write on issues

concerning Forced Migration and hopes to return to school to continue studies in the field of migration. Hebah feels that the diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies of AUC has “without a doubt enhanced her work.”

Natalie Forcier (2008)

Natalie served as the teaching assistant for the CMRS Core course ‘Introduction to Migration and Refugee Studies.’ After earning her forced diploma in migration and refugee studies, Natalie continued with CMRS working on a ground-breaking research entitled: “*Invisible Youth: A Study of Identity and Violence among Young Sudanese Men in Cairo.*” The research explored the root causes forcing young Sudanese men to assert themselves in forge a new identity based on hip-hop culture and membership in informal social networks as well as the underlying causes for a smaller portion of the young men to engage in violent and criminal activities. After completing her research, Natalie founded a program entitled ‘The Youth LEAD Project’ which directly addresses the needs of Sudanese youth as found in her research.

Tori Hogan (2005)

After completing the diploma in FMRS, Tori continued studies at Harvard University and in June 2008, she graduated with a Masters degree in International Education Policy. In the future, she intends to start her own social enterprise. Currently, she is working as the filmmaker and producer of a unique 10-episode web-series called "Beyond Good Intentions." The series was shot in ten different countries over the course of a year, and it highlights some of the most innovate and effective approaches to aid. The project was inspired in large part by interactions at AUC, particularly through critical discussions about the realities of aid with Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond. Tori is hopeful that the series will stimulate a much-needed dialogue about aid, particularly among young people. The Beyond Good Intentions series will premiere in late February 2009 and will be available at www.beyondgoodintentions.org.

Cyrena Khoury (2005)

Cyrena is currently working as a Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She works predominantly on immigration issues, such as refugee and asylum policy, state and local enforcement of immigration law, and electronic employment eligibility verification systems. In addition, she is working on various Arab/Muslim/South Asian civil rights concerns.

Themba Lewis (2006)

After completing the diploma at AUC, Themba went on to receive a Masters degree in Forced Migration from the University of Oxford, where he wrote his dissertation on Sudanese refugees in Cairo. He is currently serving as the project manager at the Legal Clinic for Refugees and Immigrants at the Faculty of Law at Sofia University in Bulgaria. At the legal clinic, he teaches courses in refugee and human rights law and oversees the provision of free legal aid to refugees and migrants in Bulgaria. Themba also continues to pursue an avid interest in events and developments surrounding migrants and refugees in Egypt. He relays that his passion for his work is rooted in the experience he had at AUC and he credits CMRS for where he is today.

Emilie Minnick (2008)

After completing her diploma, Emilie has gone on to continue work towards an MA with CMRS. Her plans are to conduct research in Amman and Cairo on the issue of Iraqi community formation. She has already begun qualitative research on Iraqi refugees for CMRS. In addition to academics, Emilie is currently serving as the president of the Student Action for Refugees or STAR. This involves coordinating volunteers and classes that serve refugees in a variety of ways.

Mai Mahmoud (2006)

Mai is currently serving as an Assistant Protection Officer, UNHCR Cairo.

Sarah Sadek (2006)

After graduating with a diploma in refugee issues from AUC, Sarah obtained an MA from the University of East London. Her MA thesis focused on the experience of selected Iraqi women in UK. From August 2007-January 2008, she worked as the local coordinator of the 11th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration, hosted by CMRS 6-10 January 2008. From February 2008-Fall 2008, Sarah worked as a researcher for the large-scale quantitative study on Iraqis in Egypt.

Dan Stoenescu (2007)

Dan is currently a Third Secretary diplomat in the Middle East and Africa Division of the Romanian Foreign Ministry. In 2008, he finished his PhD in Political Science at the University of Bucharest. Dan feels that the experiences that came out of studies in FMRS helped him in his current diplomatic career and with his PhD research.

Sarah Stefanos (2008)

Sarah is currently working as a research assistant in the Law Department and as an editor at the Turgoman International Media Company. After graduation, she presented the paper "Climate Change, Migration and Human Rights in Small Pacific Island States: How Liberalized Migration Can Be a Human Rights 'Win-Win' for Tuvalu, Kiribati and New Zealand," at the United Nations University Environment and Human Security Division's conference "Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability" in Bonn, Germany.

Rica Terbeck (2007)

Since graduating, she worked for one year with the UNHCR in Mauritania and currently is employed by UNRWA in Jordan.

Konul Zamanova (2007)

After her return to Azerbaijan, Konul accepted a post at the UNHCR Baku office. In this post, she used the experience and knowledge obtained through her studies at FMRS. In a few months, Konul is expecting her first child and looks forward to this new adventure.

The Library

The CMRS Grey Files have grown from a Library Collection to a Departmental Library on its own supervised by Mohamed Berray, the CMRS Library Specialist. Following the move of the Main Library to AUC's new campus, the CMRS Library was relocated to Room 109 Social Science Building on the Greek campus. Since its separation from the Main Library, most of the restrictions on material acquisitions for the CMRS Library no longer exist. The CMRS Library now consists of a collection of Grey File materials, books, journals and academic review articles, audio and video tapes as they relate to the study of forced migration, and independent academic research – including theses research conducted in other universities around the world and supervised by CMRS teaching professors. This growth in the Library was also accompanied by the collection of books and research materials that makeup the syllabus of the new MA program. During the past three semesters, there was a steady increase in the use of the collection with more focused research on: Egypt, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Palestine, and Sudan, with visitors ranging from researchers within and outside of Egypt; AUC teaching professors and associated faculty; and graduate and undergraduate students at the AUC.

Acquisitions

Between September 2007 and October 2008, 480 books in the study of Psychology, Political Science, Migration and Population Movements, Forced Migration and Refugees, and International Relations were acquired – thanks to the Main Library's Acquisitions Department who helped purchase some of the books. Additionally, 98 DVDs and video tapes on migration and refugee studies, 200 Grey File Materials, Encyclopedias, Refugee Law Journals, Working Papers, Migration Research Titles, Migration Management and Policy Research for Practitioners, and International Library of the Studies on Migration Series. Book titles were determined by Mohamed Berray, the Library Specialist, and approved by Dr. Philippe Fargues, CMRS Director. Generous donations were also received from Dr. Ray Jureidini, Dr. Philippe Fargues, Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond who bequeathed her home Library to CMRS on her departure, and overseas researchers who were in Egypt for the Bi-annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) held in Cairo between January 6th and 10th 2008. Papers presented at the conference were also included in the CMRS Grey Files Collection. The CMRS Library Specialist is currently working on cataloguing these new materials into the collection. The CMRS Grey Files Collection currently contains documents in Arabic, French, German, English, and Italian, with publication dates ranging from 1948 to 2008—the majority of which were published between 1999 and 2004. In the semesters to come, enriching the Grey Files will shift from the general acquisition of academic materials to more issue-specific concepts in Migration and Refugee Studies. The Library Specialist will be tasked to identify emerging themes in the study of forced migration and refugee studies and expand the collection of materials towards those themes, in a move that is expected to raise public awareness in key undocumented issues in the study of forced migration and refugee studies. Issues currently under consideration are: the Iraqi refugee situation, and migration and refugees in the Middle East and North African region. To accommodate the expansion, the

department recently acquired new archival boxes and new cataloguing materials. The CMRS Library will continue to grow as a departmental library to meet the demands of both CMRS Diploma and MA students.

Student / Faculty Support

It is the policy of the CMRS Library Specialist to contribute to departmental research and provide guidance to students and CMRS teaching professors on research tools related to the study of migration and refugees. At the start of every semester, Mohamed Berray meets with CMRS students for an orientation session to acquaint them with the AUC Main Library, CMRS Grey Files Collection, and online databases that relate to the study of Migration and Refugees. Research statistics amongst students and faculty showed the following: 50% of visiting researchers conducted research on Sudanese Refugees in Egypt; 10% on migration and refugee flows in the Arab world, including Egypt; 10% on Ethiopian and Somali refugee flows into Egypt and Yemen; 10% on Iraqi refugees; 10% on Palestinian refugees worldwide; and the other 10% on Mozambique, Burma, and other refugee issues in Africa.

Relationship with the AUC Main Library

It has been the policy of the CMRS Library Specialist to bequest the Main Library with one hour of reference service every day. As CMRS Library Specialist, Mohamed Berray served as Reference Librarian as well as coordinating all collections development endeavors for the Main Library's Collection of academic materials on Migration and Refugee Studies. During the Spring Semester, Mohamed also taught "one-shot classes" to undergraduate students researching issues in forced migration related to their academic programs. To bolster research assistance, Mohamed Berray is also constructing a new Subject Guide on Migration and Refugee Studies on the Main Library's webpage. The subject guide is a compendium of useful resources and research guides relevant to the department's academic program. CMRS is also working with the Main Library to promote mutual Document Delivery Services to students and faculty members needing Grey Files articles and Library books on both campuses. This will ease the problems associated with the separation of both libraries.

Outreach

The CMRS Library Specialist is continuously working on creating meaningful relations with refugee studies research centers and publishing houses around the world with similar objectives as CMRS. These include "refugee-aiding" organizations and research centers in the Middle East and Africa, especially those available in Egypt assisting refugees from Africa and the Middle East. Giving the keen anxiety of CMRS to maintain working relations with "Arab-serving" organizations working with Refugees in the Middle East, it is anticipated that these coordination activities would position CMRS at the forefront of events that better serves the interests of refugees in Egypt. Mohamed has also maintained contacts with the Refugee Studies Center at Oxford through the mutual exchange of acquisitions list of recently published books on migration and refugee studies.

The CMRS Library also donates its duplicate materials to the Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) Library in Cairo, and the English and Arabic classes run for refugees by the Student Action for Refugees (STAR) at AUC.

RESEARCH

The Newly Established Research Center

During this scholastic year, CMRS secured funding from the Ford Foundation to allow its transition from a local program on Refugee Studies to a sustainable regional center on Migration and Refugee Studies in the MEA. Since the program was created in 2000, migration and refugee issues have become high priorities on the global agenda and are still gaining momentum. The Middle East and Africa (MEA) is among the largest source, transit and destination regions for migrants and refugees in the world. In spite of its strategic position, however, the MEA remains one of the regions suffering the most acute deficit of accurate knowledge with regard to international migration. To fill this knowledge gap, CMRS successfully raised funds to build a strong research, education and outreach center to cover the Middle East and Africa.

The center will consist of a coordinating unit based in Cairo, and a network of scholars based in the countries under study. The coordinating unit includes AUC faculty and staff, together with visiting scholars from other institutions, research fellows, post-docs and graduate students. The network will be made up of researchers working on the countries under study, including Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the GCC countries, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Methodologies for collecting and organizing data, and research programs, will emanate from an interaction between the coordinating unit and all the members of the network. Communication will be achieved through an annual meeting, several ancillary focused meetings, and exchange through the internet, periodical conference calls and research missions.

The center will construct a database containing systematic information on quantitative and qualitative aspects of migration and refugee movements in the MEA. Collecting comparative demographic, economic, legal, social and political information for each country of the MEA, then organizing this information into a well-structured database, and finally making this database an operational tool for a wide range of users through the web, will be a major achievement and breakthrough for the advancement of knowledge. In addition, a series of systematic country-case studies will be carried out using templates and methodologies common to all countries in order to allow cross-countries comparison and regional aggregation, as well as ad hoc research on emerging migration-related situations across the MEA. Finally, the center will work to identify young talented scholars and foster research skills in the region by opening competition for research papers.

An exploratory meeting was organized by CMRS at AUC on October 23-25, 2007. The meeting constituted the first step towards building a network of scholars from various disciplines in the field of migration and refugee studies across the region. It gathered around twenty-six scholars representing different disciplines and covering all the countries in the region. They delivered preliminary papers taking stock of the various

dimensions of migration and refugee movements in the region and presented their own views on research priorities. The papers gathered were edited by CMRS student, Christine Fandrich. Below are the titles of the papers presented at the meeting which are available on CMRS website: www.aucegypt.edu/researchatauc/rc/cmrs.

Al Sharmani, Mulki

['Contemporary Migration and Transnational Families: The Case of Somali Diaspora\(s\)'](#)

Assal, Munzoul A. M.

['Refugees From and To Sudan'](#) Center for Migration and Refugee Studies.

De Bel-Air, Françoise

['State Policies on Migration and Refugees in Jordan'](#)

De Geoffroy, Agnès

['From Internal to International Displacement in Sudan'](#)

De Regt, Marina

['Migration To and Through Yemen: The Case of Migrant Domestic Workers'](#)

Dito, Mohammed

['Migration Policies and Challenges in the Kingdom of Bahrain'](#)

Dorai, Mohamed Kamel

['Iraqi Refugees in Syria'](#)

Hilal, Jamil

['Relations between Palestinian Diaspora \(al-shatat\), Palestinian Communities in the West Bank, and Gaza Strip'](#)

Hourani, Guita

['Lebanese Diaspora and Homeland Relations'](#)

Kagan, Mike

['The Decline of Palestinian Exceptionalism' Observation of a trend and its consequences for refugee studies in the Middle East'](#)

Khalil, Asem

['Refugees, Migrants and Law in Palestine'](#)

Khoury, Riad

['Aspects of Migration and Development in Jordan'](#)

Lubbad, Ismail

['Demographic Profile of Palestinian Migration'](#)

M. Shah, Nasra

['Migration to Kuwait: Trends, Patterns and Policies'](#)

Olwan, Mohamed Y.

['The Legal Framework of Forced Migration and Refugee Movements in Jordan'](#)

Piguet, François

['Complex Development-Induced Migration in the Afar Pastoral Area \(North-East Ethiopia\)'](#)

Saad, Reem

['Egyptian Workers in Paris: An Ethnographic Account'](#)

Thiollet, Hélène

['Refugees and Migrants from Eritrea to the Arab World: The Cases of Sudan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia 1991-2007'](#)

The center continues to work on identifying important issues and commissioning more papers. At the end of this year, two additional scholars (Mike Kagan and Nancy Baron) were commissioned to do future papers. (*See under program development*)

Research Projects

The aim of CMRS is to respond to the challenges resulting from emerging migration-related situations across the Middle East and the Northeastern African region by conducting systematic research programs with a view to delivering rapid and accurate results to impact the academic community as well as policymakers, the media and other concerned stakeholders. The following research projects were undertaken by CMRS during the reporting year. Some of them are continued research, others are new.

1. A Survey on Iraqi Refugees in Egypt: A collaborative research with the Information and Decision Support Center at the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministry

In collaboration with the Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), CMRS conducted a large scale survey on the conditions of Iraqi families in Egypt. The survey, which was conducted in spring 2008, included 1004 Iraqi families, totaling 4,130 Iraqi members from different Egyptian governorates mostly from Giza, Cairo and Alexandria. The survey was conducted by the IDSC research team and CMRS researcher Sara Sadek. The project provides a profile of the Iraqi population in Egypt: their numbers, demographics and areas of residence. It also looks at their migration histories as well as their socioeconomic conditions and problems in Egypt. The main aim of the project is to understand the conditions of the understudied population of Iraqis living in Egypt in order to raise awareness of their conditions and needs. The report on the main findings of

the project is available on the CMRS website. CMRS would like to extend its gratitude to the Ford Foundation for funding this research and to IDSC for conducting the fieldwork.

In addition, CMRS is currently in the process of building on the findings through qualitative research. Some of the interesting findings that will be further studied qualitatively are: the Physical and Mental health conditions of Iraqis in Egypt, Iraqi community building, transnational social networks and integration with Egyptians, and finally the situation and needs of the most vulnerable Iraqi groups.

2. The Prospects of Assisted Voluntary Return among the Sudanese Migrant Communities in Cairo: A collaborative research with the International Organization for Migration

Since April 2008, CMRS has been collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to conduct a profiling exercise to map the Sudanese population in Egypt. The research aims at identifying elements affecting the migration choices of the Sudanese population in Egypt, both refugees and migrants, while focusing on assisted voluntary return (AVR). It specifically tackles exploring the propensity of migrants and refugees to: stay in Egypt, return voluntarily, or resettle in a third country; identifying the number of refugees and migrants willing to return to Sudan; providing information about the returnees willing to return to Sudan with the professional background and skills, identifying potentials and challenges regarding AVR; and specific components of reinsertion/reintegration programs that would be suitable to them, in case they decided to return. The research employed both a quantitative and qualitative research methods. A face-to-face survey was administered to a sample of 300 households. And a series of in-depth interviews and focus groups were conducted with different migrants and refugees' groups/associations and major stakeholders such as high level officials in government and international organizations, representatives of community-based NGOs, religious and political leaders and refugee school principals. The field work and the data analysis have been completed and the report is being reviewed by CMRS and IOM to be published by spring 2009.

3. A Situational Analysis on Avian and Human influenza and Pandemic Preparedness Among Sudanese Urban Migrants in Cairo: A collaborative research with the International Organization for Migration

This is another collaborative research project between CMRS and IOM. This study looked at the level of awareness and vulnerability of Sudanese migrants to a possible Avian Influenza Pandemic (AHI) outbreak in Greater Cairo. This research took a multidisciplinary participatory approach using quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. With regard to the quantitative component, an English standardized questionnaire was administered to 293 Sudanese households, which included 1016 individuals. The survey was implemented in various neighborhoods of Cairo with high concentration of Sudanese migrants. Research also included a focus group conducted

with Sudanese participants and in-depth interviews with national, international and community-level stakeholders.

Findings revealed that Sudanese migrants would be vulnerable to a pandemic, not only because they do not feature in the National Pandemic Preparedness Plan of Egypt but also because they do not have sufficient level of awareness of pandemic and they are rarely mainstreamed into the work of civil society and international organizations involved in pandemic preparedness work. Though the Sudanese in Cairo do not tend to rear poultry themselves, the majority do live in overcrowded neighborhoods where poultry-rearing is common. Moreover, migrant- and refugee-based organizations are prioritizing other health concerns which, for the time being, are more urgent, such as providing access to basic health care and conducting awareness sessions on pressing health issues such as Hepatitis C and HIV-Aids.

This study concluded that intensified awareness raising efforts needs to be conducted among Sudanese migrants to guarantee that they are prepared as a community for a potential pandemic. This can best be done through using effective communication strategies which mainstream the community component throughout communication channels such as Training of Trainers, community health/social workers, communication tools such as leaflets and pamphlets and lastly the media. Ensuring that the community component is part of any communication strategy will ensure that Sudanese migrants are targeted in future pandemic preparedness efforts aimed at integration with the rest of Egyptian society in the struggle to prevent a pandemic and to lessen their vulnerability in case of a pandemic outbreak.

4. Irregular Egyptian Migration to Europe

The Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies also undertook research tackling the phenomenon of Egyptian irregular migration to Europe through the Mediterranean. Researchers were curious as to what compels people, mostly men in the case of Egypt, to take the risk of traversing such dangerous seas. They sought to configure the complexity of their reality into new-media formats. The research focuses on the whole process, through a personalized lens, by starting at the village from which the migrant originates and reaching the coast of destination. The research also sets to understand the reasons driving youth to irregular migration and to study the aftermath of migration in the villages, as manifest in economic gains and changing social and cultural values, among others.

The project's team has been tracking local and international media coverage, looking into theoretical and policy frameworks, analyzing state-level and bi-lateral government responses, alongside carrying out frequent village visits and conducting in-depth narrative work. As artists and researchers, the aim is to present this complex reality in various media forms such as sound, text, and image outputs, including a 30-minute documentary that shadows the lives of young men in villages who traveled, who plan to travel and who dream of travel and presents their stories amidst the village context that plays a central role in the venture to take to the sea. Also, an interactive multi-media map

gives a visual representation of the route, including key information about the previously frequented passages to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea via Libya (and others) and the currently used road through the northern coast of Egypt. Sound portraits capture individual stories of people who traveled, their consciousness of illegality, and its effect on their relationship with space, time and body and also focus on women experiences with irregular migration, including mothers who sent their children, abandoned wives and fiancées waiting for the return of their partners. A series of articles disseminated in various local, regional and international outlets, provide in-depth analysis of the narratives collected from the villages. The series covers the predominant social psychology of the villages exporting irregular migrants, the route taken up by irregular migrants to reach the Southern European shore and the developments in the route trends following border closures and close control and the government response to irregular migration. Finally, an animation clip demonstrates the trip and captures the different emotions as expressed and recounted by different travelers we met in several villages.

The researchers have submitted three articles for publication to IRIN, Community Times, and the Guardian. Also, text and audio portraits have been exhibited at the artHarlem exhibition on economic migration in New York in October 2008.

5. A Social Profile of Migrant Domestic Workers in Cairo

Principal researcher, Ray Jureidini, research assistant, Reem Wael and further assistance from Gafar Salim. Throughout 2007 a survey of domestic workers in Cairo was conducted, funded by the Development Research Center of the University of Sussex, England. Altogether there were 782 interviews. 633 were interviews with migrant and refugee domestic workers. This sample consisted of 116 Filipinas (15% of the sample), 62 Indonesians (8%), 125 Sudanese (16%), 129 Ethiopians (16%), 118 Eritreans (15%) and 82 Nigerians (11%). An additional 149 (19%) Egyptian domestic workers were included as a control group. The aim of the survey was to gather demographic details and ask about their work circumstances and human rights issues. A work-in progress paper was presented by Ray Jureidini: "Irregular Workers in the Labor Market: the case of trafficked migrants and refugees working as domestic workers in Egypt. 11th IASFM *International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference*, Shepherd Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, 6-9 January 2007. A more developed paper following completion of the fieldwork was "Irregular Migrant Workers in Cairo: migrant, refugee and Egyptian domestic workers" Paper presented at the *Migration and Development: Building Migration into Development Strategies*, Development Research Centre of the University of Sussex, at the Royal Society, London, 28-29 April 2008. Finally a manuscript has been submitted for publication and is currently under review: Ray Jureidini, "Irregular Workers in the Labor Market: migrants and refugees working as domestic workers in Egypt" Submitted to *International Journal of Multicultural Societies*.

6. Invisible Youth: A Study of Identity and Violence among Young Sudanese Men in Cairo

Researcher Natalie Forcier explored the root causes forcing young Sudanese men to assert themselves in a violent manner and forge a new identity for themselves based on a physical manifestation of hip-hop culture. Findings were based on three months of fieldwork (June 2008 – August 2008) consisting of approximately 300 hours of participant observation and informal interviews with over 100 young Sudanese men who identify themselves as members of either the Outlaws or the Lost Boys. In addition, interviews and lyrical analysis were conducted with four hip-hop groups who do not identify themselves as members of either group.

The work portrays both sides of the structure/agency villain/victim coin in an attempt to draw the line between structural oppression and individual action and its relationship with violence. Violence among young Sudanese men is an indicator of underlying problems. This report argues that these underlying problems are lack of access to structured activities and programs and deprivation of traditional sources of identity, respect and masculinity. The combination of these problems has caused young Sudanese men to redefine their individual identity based on a physical manifestation of hip-hop culture and create informal social support structures that provide activities, respect and masculinity (read Outlaws and Lost Boys). In addition, it has caused a smaller portion of these young men to assert themselves in a violent manner in the struggle for respect and masculinity.

As a direct response to research outcomes, Forcier founded the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative and is now serving as the director. The initiative aims to address the root causes of the violence among Sudanese refugee youth. Towards this aim, they have opened four educational centers, are providing vocational skills training, and opportunities for creative expression through Hip Hop and reliable access to sporting activities.

Forcier is currently building upon her prior ethnographic fieldwork examining the differences between the Outlaws (a more marginalized but more highly-organized network) and the Lost Boys (a less marginalized and less organized network) and how these characteristics are related to livelihood strategies, criminal activity, and their female counterparts.

7. Disability in Displaced Children: A Survey Amongst Refugee Families in Ain Shams, Cairo

This research project was implemented to explore the types and incidence of disability present in a subsection of Cairo's displaced population, namely school-aged Sudanese children in the Ain Shams neighborhood of Cairo. The research is undertaken by two

FMRS Diploma students: Michael Oskin and Ted Oswald and supervised by Professor Elizabeth Coker. The research required partnering with three local schools to provide access to the sample population, ultimately including 191 children in 21 focus group discussions. The groups involved a creative research methodology where participants were taught a short lesson on understanding and tolerating the disabilities of their peers, followed by group discussion questions and individual interviews. From these individual interviews, it was discovered a total of 6.28% of students reported some type of disability, where 3.14% of the sample have a physical disability, 2.09% have a sensory disability, and 1.05% have a mental disability. Importantly, rickets was the most commonly observed disability. The students interviewed also identified 51 additional children living in their homes with various types of disabilities. The remaining steps for the research require holding interviews with the families of children with disabilities to explore their special needs. Interviewed families will include those of children who were part of the sample as well as other children in the community identified by the participants, community leaders and the headmasters of each of the schools. The information gathered will be compiled in a final report with recommendations for the each of the participating school administrations and the local NGO community, and will be presented to families in the community.

8. Phase Two of the collaborative project on Globalization, Migration and Poverty with Sussex University

The second phase of CMRS/Sussex collaboration started as of April 2006 and continued through 2007-08. It is coordinated by Professor Barbara Harrell-Bond. The main aim of phase two of DRC-CMRS collaboration is to find ways of effective translation of research into improving policies on forced migrants and their well-being and inform policy-makers on the links between rights of forced migrants and potential for development (especially as it relates to rights of education, work, health and protection).

The following activities were undertaken during the reporting period:

A. Translation of the following research reports into Arabic:

1. "Living on the Margins: The Analysis of the Livelihood Strategies of Sudanese Refugees with Closed Files in Egypt," by Katarzyna Grabska.
2. "Protests Against UNHCR to Achieve Rights: Some Reflections," by Barbara Harrell-Bond. This is a chapter from the book, *Forced Displacement: Why Rights Matter*, by Katarzyna Grabska and Lyla Mehta, published in October 2008 by Palgrave.
3. "Who asked them (refugees) anyway? Rights, Policies and Wellbeing of Refugees in Egypt," by Katarzyna Grabska.
4. "Whose Needs are Right? Refugees, Oustees and the Challenges of Rights-Based Approaches in Forced Migration," by Lyla Mehta and Jaideep Gupte.

B. Conducting a course on the rights-based approach to development for Refugees and Migrants in the Arabic language to local Egyptian NGOs

Under the umbrella of the DRC Phase II, in collaboration with the [Sussex Centre for Migration and Research \(SCMR\) at the University of Sussex](#), CMRS conducted a ten day advanced course entitled “Refugees and Migrants, and a Rights-based Approach to Development” in Arabic for Arabic-speaking participants targeting local and regional organizations.

The course was directed by Dr. Barbara E. Harrell-Bond with Joseph Schechla, as senior tutor, assisted by seven other lecturers: Ayman Halasa, Amany Ibrahim, Amin Mekki Medani, Hossam Bahgat, Abdul Hamid Qutb, Khair Smadi, Lana Baydas, Michael Kagan, Moataz al-Fugeiry, Martin Jones and Natalie Forcier-Beville. The course was attended by 33 diverse regional expert practitioners in the field from 12 MENA countries and included human rights activists, lawyers, program managers, donors, government policy makers and implementers, academics, international refugee agency officials, law enforcement officials, and refugees. The course ended with its participants’ unanimous commitment to continue cooperation to develop further the practice of applying and further developing the rights-based development framework for R/M/D.

The participants explored the practical implications and challenges of applying the much-touted human rights approach to policy making in real situations. The course was both theoretical and practical, drawing on the wealth of lessons arising from trial and error, to determine the best-possible development outcomes for hosts, refugees, and migrants. Participants learned new skills and techniques to apply in their own context.

C. DRC Research Fellowships and Internships

Enhancing the skills of young researchers and scholars in the region is an important component of DRC phase II. This is accomplished through research fellowships and internship.

C.1 Research Fellowships

Two research fellowships per year are offered by CMRS to young academics or those interested in pursuing research on refugee studies. During this academic year, the following three fellows were awarded CMRS/DRC fellowships:

Marie Genevieve Nightingale

Nightingale conducted a qualitative research on the situation of separated refugee children in Cairo entitled “Education Prospects for Unaccompanied Minors in Egypt.” The research was based on in-depth interviews with the children themselves as well as with the organizations concerned with these children to identify the services available and the resources needed by this group.

Todd Lester and Jakob I. Myschetzky

The two fellows, Todd Lester and Jakob Myschetzky, worked jointly on a new project entitled “Living Together: CAIRO.” 'Living Together: CAIRO' is intended to bring Egyptians and refugees of all nationalities together to work for mutual benefits. The project aims at building the capacity of the community organizations working with refugees through training workshops.

During spring 2008 a five weeks **Training of Trainers (TOT)** was offered to 20 representatives from multicultural community based organizations, equally dispersed across gender, ethnicity, religion, and organizational backgrounds. The TOT provided the trainers with concrete tools, e.g. making presentations in a professional setting; writing a project concept statement; convening a meeting & managing group dynamics; conducting a publicity campaign as well as various other tools to create awareness on issues of coexistence in Cairo.

At the end of the training the participants **received a diploma qualifying them as ‘Living Together Ambassadors,’** while being encouraged to pass on the experience and knowledge to their organizations, and continuing to participate to the project.



The project also included a press conference/film screening presented at one of CMRS **Wednesday Seminar** on March 19, 2008 where four representatives of refugee communities in Cairo were at the centre of a panel debate.



A first practical implementation of the new tools, coordinated by the Living Together Ambassadors, was hosting a major event on the International Night for Dialogue, May 22, 2008. The event **‘Celebrating Diversity’** was a great success attracting 700 participants, creating a diverse and constructive atmosphere. The program

included poetry reading, global food, theatre, fashion, crafts, NGO information/networking tables, and a concert. This activity was funded by the initiative 1001 actions for dialogue, under the Anna Lindh Foundation.



Currently the project is in the process of being handed over to the Living Together Ambassadors, who will continue to provide mechanisms for bringing Egyptians and refugees together to work for common benefits. The Ambassadors successfully planned a Ramadan Night at the British Council on September 19, 2008, and more initiatives are underway.

About the Fellows

Todd Lester is the founder and Executive Director of Free Dimensional, a global network of community arts spaces that provides services for human rights defenders during periods of distress. Todd is a Young Scholar with the Organization of American States (OAS), a Project Leader with the World Policy Institute, a fellow of the 21st Century Trust and a member of Think Tank 30 of the Club of Rome. Jakob I. Myschetzky is the founder and Managing Director of the NGO Inklusion, working to promote diversity as a resource, in and between Denmark and the Middle East. Jakob is researching on the Brain Drain and Development, and was previously project leader at the Danish Red Cross.

C.2. DRC Internships

During this year, Barbara Harrell-Bond, DRC Project coordinator, had over 10 interns who helped her in organizing a legal aid program for Iraqi refugees. Through legal research and writing accompanying the testimonies of refugees, the team created legal argument templates that will be invaluable for future interns and most importantly make a real difference in the lives of Iraqi refugees. The experience had a profound effect on the interns as expressed by some of them.

“I will also be reminded of my seven clients, who are merely numbers in the refugee world, but who will forever stand out in my mind as the toughest, most resilient people I will ever meet. Their stories will be forever engrained in my mind, and remind me just how hard some people have to fight to be able to live a normal life, and how those of us who have the ability, must help them in any way we can.”

Joe Stefanelli, law student at Seton Hall University School of Law, summer 2008.

“The sixteen Iraqis clients whom I worked with over the course of the two months, were exceedingly thankful for the work we were doing and happy to have any chance to improve their odds at being resettled. Before coming to Cairo, I had several years experience taking testimonies about police misconduct, but it was impossible to prepare for the stories of persecution in Iraq. The stories were often violent, traumatic and heartbreaking. Together with the other interns, we began to build detailed legal argument templates to expedite the process of preparing arguments. It was a remarkable experience to witness Dr. Barbara Harrell-Bond’s incredible commitment, caring, and determination as she built a fully functioning legal aid office that operated out of her living room and was funded largely out of her own pocket.”

Stephen Poellot, law student at Yale Law School, summer 2008.

Out of such successful experience, The Iraqi Information Office (the only Iraqi community centre) was established. Some of the interns who worked with Harrell-Bond providing legal aid for Iraqi refugees decided to go further and established the Iraqi Information office now operating from St. Andrew Church. The office provides legal aid, case advocacy, psycho-social referrals, and information regarding the resources available to this particular asylum-seeking population. It also aims to extend its services to help in the community-development process.

D. Social Profile and Analysis of Migrant Domestic Employees in Cairo

This research project under the umbrella of DRC was completed this year and presented at a CMRS seminar entitled "Migrants, Refugees, and Egyptian Domestic Workers in Cairo" on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at the JC Auditorium at AUC. The data has also been included in an article: "Irregular Workers in the Labour Market: migrants and refugees working as domestic workers in Egypt," submitted to the International Journal of Multicultural Societies.

CMRS Publications

During the reporting period, the following publications were printed in hard copy:

Baraka, Hoda

['Palestinians in Lebanon: Chains of Misery \(Bound by the Law and the Market\)'](#) The Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program Working Paper No.9, The American University in Cairo.

Ainsworth, Peroline

'Refugee Diet in a context of Urban Displacement.' The Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program Working Paper N0.8, The American University in Cairo.

The rest of the research papers are available on line at CMRS website

CMRS Affiliates

During this academic year, the center hosted **Olivia Moseley**. Olivia was affiliated with CMRS during her field work focusing on the concept of race and the experiences/practices of racism in Cairo. She is a MA-PhD student in Arab Studies and History at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

OUTREACH

This year, CMRS continued its active engagement with the community through its ongoing outreach activities: Winter and Summer Short courses, Weekly Wednesday Seminars, Cairo Community Interpreters Program (CCIP) as well as several conferences and workshops. Its student-led community outreach activities include the Cairo to Camps, an Arab youth solidarity project, and Student Action for Refugees (STAR), an organization that facilitates a diverse set of activities on behalf of the refugee community.

CMRS Winter & Summer Short Courses

Winter Short Course:

Refugees and Migrants: Rights-based Approach to Development

CMRS, in collaboration with the [Sussex Centre for Migration and Research \(SCMR\) at the University of Sussex](#), conducted during 2007 & 2008 a ten day advanced course entitled "Refugees and Migrants, and a Rights-based Approach to Development." The course was conducted first in January 2007 and instructed in the English language. Upon the success of the course, it was repeated January 2008 in Arabic for Arabic-speaking participants targeting local and regional organizations. (*For detailed information see under Research/Phase Two of the collaborative project on Globalization, Migration and Poverty with Sussex University*)

Summer Short Courses:

During the scholastic year 2007-08, CMRS successfully undertook three short courses attended by an average of 31 persons each. Below is a description of each.

Advanced International Refugee Law

This course was taught in June 2 –7 by Martin Jones, Research Associate, Centre for Refugee Studies at York University (Canada). The aim of the course was to highlight issues arising during the representation of refugee claimants and developing the skills required to represent these individuals. The course covered various advanced topics in international refugee law, including: the "nexus" requirement of the definition; the meaning of "persecution"; developments in the interpretation of the exclusion provisions of the Convention; the non-refoulement and expulsion provisions of the Convention; refugee rights guaranteed by the Convention; and the interaction between the Convention and other regional and complementary forms of protection. The course also covered

procedural issues raised by refugee status determination (RSD), particularly in RSD conducted by UNHCR.

Participants were grateful for the course and remarked that the instructor has “*great experience*” and that the course helped one “*to have more knowledge about refugee international law.*”

The above course was an advanced one and thus was very selective. To allow participation for those who were not selected, Martin Jones instructed two introductory one-day seminars on the basics of international refugee law. The first was held in English at AUC for different refugee groups of approximately 17 individuals. The second was held at St. Andrew Church to over 50 Iraqis in Egypt. Since the majority of Iraqis speak only Arabic, simultaneous interpretation was provided by FMRS Alumni Sara Sadek and Marwan Ali, an Iraqi translator.

Addressing the Protection of Refugee Women and Girls

This course was taught June 09-14 by Eileen Pittaway, Director of the Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. The aim of the course was to explore the impact of various forms of violence on women and girls, families and communities. The class explored ways in which persons can improve the protection of refugee women and girls at all stages of the refugee journey, and better respond to the abuse they have endured.

Participants hailed Pittaway’s course, as “*inspirational*” and relayed that it provided the tools and methodology “*to carry the message forward and hopefully bring about change.*”

Meeting the Psychosocial Needs of Refugees

This course was taught June 16-21 by Nancy Baron, Director of Global Psychiatric and Psycho-Social Initiatives (GPSI). The aim of the course was to increase participants’ understanding of the psychosocial and mental health issues of refugees and learn how to implement effective interventions. Topics included: review of international research about the psychosocial and mental health consequences of war and violence; implications for working with various cultures and contexts; skills for assessment of need; culturally sensitive interviewing skills; methods for working with translators; introduction to individual, family, group and community interventions; overview of methods for monitoring and evaluating the impact of intervention; and specific mechanisms workers and organizations can use to minimize staff burnout and maximize organizational effectiveness.

Participants noted that the course was “*excellent*” and thanked the instructor for her “*refreshing course that put ethics front and centre in the discussion of humanitarian/development work.*”

Wednesday Seminar Series

The following is a list of CMRS Wednesday Seminars that were held during the 2007-2008 scholastic year:

'Senders Turned into Receivers: Arab states and Immigration'

Philippe Fargues, CMRS Director

'The Cyprus you do not know: Division, Displacement and Dispossession'

Shahira Samy, Lecturer, Political Science Department, British University in Egypt.

'New Trends in Migration: Transit Migrants and Refugees'

Howaida Roman, Assistant Professor of Political Sciences, Misr University Network Member of CARIM.

'International Migration and Development: An Emerging Paradigm'

Mohamed Shahidul Haque, Regional Representative for the Middle East, IOM International Organization for Migration.

'Brain Drain and Development in Egypt'

Jakob I. Myschetzky, President of the Danish NGO Inclusion, promoting intercultural dialogue and development.

'Illegal Migration and International Economic (Dis)Order'

Dr. Chantal Thomas, Chair and Ibrahim Shihata Visiting Professor, Department of Law, American University in Cairo

'Migration in Bahrain: Trends and Policies'

Mr. Mohamed DITO - Head of Employment Services Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Bahrain

'Gender-Based Violence in Refugee Camps: The Case of Refugee Camps in Eastern Chad'

Ahmed Ragab, professor of reproductive health, Al-Azhar University.

'Crossing the border: Palestinian, Bedouins, and Migrants in Sinai'

Sandrine Gamblin, Associate Researcher, CEDEJ

'RESPECT Universit, Call for a better future for young refugees'

Nadia El Sherbini, Assistant Lecturer, French Department, Mansoura University

'Protection of IDPs in Darfur: Challenges and obstacles'

Assad Salih, MA (IHRL) candidate and FMRS alumnus

'Report of Activities for Cairo to Camps'
Cairo to Camps, an Arab Youth Solidarity Project

'Community Based Peace Building Initiatives'
Nancy Baron, Director, Global Psycho-Social Initiatives

'Witnessing Gaza: Testimonials from the Turbulent Border Area'
Elna Sondergaard, AUC Law Department and Maher Nasser, Director, UN Information Center
Testimonials by Nida Ghouse, FMRS alumnus and Researcher, Nora Younis, Journalist, Wissam Diab, Student

'Refugee Status for those evading military service: Alienation, Fear and International Law'
Martin Jones, Research Associate, Centre for Refugee Studies at York University (Canada).

'Filling the Protection Gap: Women & the 1951 Convention'
Natalie Forcier, FMRS Students and Research Coordinator at the Population Council

'Gaps in Protection and Services for Refugee Survivors of SGBV in Cairo'
Parastou Hassouri, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Focal Point, AMERA

'Narratives of Iraqi Women'
Sara Sadek, FMRS Researcher and Alumuni, Sawsan Al-Dawoudi, Member of the Iraqi community in Cairo, Ishraq Ahmed, Member of the Iraqi community in Cairo.

'Responsibility Shift: The Challenge of defining UN and Government roles in refugee policy in the Middle East'
Micheal Kagan, Senior Fellow in Human Rights Law, American University in Cairo

'Living Together'
CMRS in collaboration with Tadamon dedicated one of its Wednesday seminars to screen three documentary films celebrating the new initiative of Tadamon "Living Together," an initiative aiming to bring Egyptians and Refugees of all nationalities together to work for mutual benefits. (See under CMRS/DRC Fellows). During the event the following films were screened followed by a panel discussion:

Film 1

'VIP', by Mohamed Shawky

Film2

'Refugees without protection', by Ahmed Badawy and Waddah Ibn Edris

Film3

'Rightful but Rightless,' by Juliana Tafur.

'Iraqi Voices in Cairo'

Janet McGiffin & Matt Stevens

'Effective Interpretation in Cairo Refugee Community Work'

CCIP Training Team(Alice Johnson, Mariam Hashim, Amany Ahmed)

'Climate Change, Migration, Human Rights and Governance: A look at the South Pacific to see how they relate and what the problems are'

Sarah Stefanos, FMRS/IHRL Student

'Time is running out: Iraqis in Egypt'

Members of the Iraqi community in Cairo

'Community inclusion and human rights for refugees with disabilities in Cairo: Setting an agenda for research and practice'

Elizabeth M. Coker, Associate Professor, Psychology, AUC

'Fleeing the Country of Refuge; Refugees Crossing the Borders to Israel'

Ashraf Milad Ruxi, FMRS Alumni and an Asylum Lawyer

“'Unmixing' Iraq: the state and internal displacement'

Philip Marfleet, University of East London

The Cairo Community Interpreters Project: (CCIP)

The Cairo Community Interpreter Project (CCIP) had a busy academic year in 2007-2008. As previous years, CCIP's work focused on interpretation training, linguistic resource development, outreach and awareness raising, and research support.

Interpretation Training

In the fall of 2007, CCIP organized an outreach campaign to visit more than 26 refugee and community associations in Cairo, to promote awareness of CCIP educational activities. In the Winter Break, CCIP conducted its own internal Training of Trainers for the CCIP team, to continually build and enhance team skills in preparation for the Spring Community Interpretation Course. The Spring Community Interpretation Course was held over 12 weeks in the 2008 Spring Semester, with 38 students speaking English and Amharic, Arabic, Fur, Somali, and Tigrinya.

Outreach and Awareness Raising

As always, CCIP was actively engaged in CMRS activities, during this scholastic year, CCIP contributed to the following outreach activities of CMRS:

- CCIP team gave a talk in CMRS Weekly Seminar entitled “Effective Interpretation in Cairo Refugee Communities” in April 2008.
- CCIP team was a guest speaker at CMRS Summer Short Course of Advanced Refugee Law presenting on Working with Interpreters in Refugee Legal Aid Settings, June 2008
- Participated in AMERA Intern Workshop for the Unaccompanied Minors Team: Working with Interpreters and Minors in Refugee Settings, June 2008

In the fall of 2007, CCIP provided technical assistance to two refugee aid organizations in the drafting of grant proposals to develop their own local refugee interpreter training programs: the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre and the Refugee Law Project in Kampala, Uganda. Both organizations submitted grant proposals to various donors and ultimately, both received funding to implement interpretation training at the local level.

With the support of the Marden Foundation in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (HKRAC) invited one of CCIP's lead trainers to plan and implement a month-long training residency with one of the CCIP lead trainers in Hong Kong in September 2008.

Throughout the summer of 2008, CCIP worked with HKRAC to develop a curriculum and pilot program for a 40-hour training of trainers and a 35-hour introductory training for community interpreters working in Hong Kong refugee settings in the languages of Nepali, Kigali, Somali, Bengali, Thai, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, French, Tamil, Sinhalese, and Spanish. After the 75-hour training program, the interpreters will go on to form an interpreter training circle, supporting area organizations that provide services to refugee communities in Hong Kong.

Research Support

CCIP supports CMRS' research by providing researchers with access to trained interpreters for their fieldwork. During this year, CCIP provided invaluable assistance to the researchers working on the collaborative research with IOM on Southern Sudanese (*see detailed information under Research.*) Moreover, CCIP provides internship to students and young researchers interested in conducting research with interpreters. In the spring 2008 semester, CCIP welcomed a student who is doing research on Iraqis in Cairo particularly those who worked as interpreters in Iraq. The student documented the learning experience of the interpreters during the spring interpreting course while conducting his own independent research among Iraqi refugees in Cairo.

Linguistic Resource Development

CCIP maintains glossaries of refugee aid terminology specific to languages in Cairo for which few specialized lexicons are available. Over the summer 2008, as part of the general AUC website enhancement, CCIP was able to get the glossaries for Sudanese Arabic and Fur languages online on the CCIP website and available as virtual reference material for community interpreters working in these languages.

Conferences & Workshops

CMRS organized two major events this academic year. The first was a workshop on migration and refugee movements in the Middle East and North-Eastern Africa and the second was hosting the 11th Biannual of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). Below is a detailed description of the two events.

Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North-Eastern Africa

On October 23-25, 2007, CMRS hosted a three day meeting on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North-Eastern Africa. The meeting was the first step towards building a network of scholars from various disciplines in the field of migration and refugee studies across the region. Twenty six scholars were invited to write papers on topics related to migration and refugee studies in the region for the purpose of making an inventory of the current state of knowledge on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and Northeastern African (MENA) Region. The conference also identified research priorities and defined the content and methodology of the 'Middle Eastern and African Report on Migration and Refugee Movements' to be prepared by the network. (See more under Research)

The following were identified as important topics and research priorities:

- Type of movement of migrants and refugees
- Family issues
- Access to rights (education, health)
- The state of emergency as a focus of case studies in law
- History of migration in different countries
- Documenting trends in peace agreements affecting refugee issues

Another outcome of the conference was the desire to create a systematic and comparative knowledge on migration and refugee issues in the region of the Middle East and North East Africa. Towards this aim, a database will be developed that includes statistical information as well as qualitative information on specific topics related to migration and refugee movements in the region.

Hosting the 11th Biannual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM)

The International Association for the study of Forced Migration Conference (IASFM) is an international event that brings together academics, practitioners and decision-makers working on forced migration issues. Through the ages, the forced movement of people, displaced within their own countries or across borders, has been of concern to states and to humanitarians alike. Whether people have been forced to migrate due to persecution, to flee war, to escape famine, or because of a major development project, they face a need for protection and/or assistance. Since the end of the Cold War this issue has seen renewed attention. The problems seem ever greater; the solutions ever more scarce. The issue is increasingly perceived to be global in scope, while some solutions may be very local. By coming together, scholars, policy-makers, NGO advocates and those working in the field can think together and develop greater understanding of the implications of forced movement. The members of IASFM meet at biennial conferences forming a vibrant and active community. CMRS has been participating in the IASFM conferences since its initiation in 2000 and this year it was honored to host this important event in Cairo. This year CMRS hosted the 11th IASFM Biennial Conference at Sheppard Hotel, Cairo. The theme of the conference was "*Refugees and Forced Migrants at the Crossroads: Forced Migration in a changing world.*" The theme pertains to a number of crossroads, real and metaphorical. It is particularly apt for a conference taking place in Egypt, which is itself at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Holding it in Cairo is of particular importance this year when recent political developments have produced the largest waves of forced migrants ever recorded across the region

The conference was a great success which was made possible by the dedication of the program committee and the local organizing committee. The program committee was chaired by Martin Jones who was assisted by Beth Mercurio, IASFM program officer. And the local organizing committee was headed by Maysa Ayoub, CMRS Project Manager, and Sarah Sadek, the conference coordinator. A large number of dedicated groups of CMRS students and volunteers were available before and throughout the conference who provided invaluable support and assistance to the local organizing committee. Approximately 300 participants attended the conference, including academics, practitioners, graduate students as well as members of the local refugee communities in Cairo.

The conference was preceded by a Pre-Conference Workshop entitled "*Policy Makers and Academic Researchers: Bridging the Academic-Policy Divide.*" This panel explored the interactions between policy-makers and academic researchers working on forced migration. It included policy-makers and academic researchers to address ways of bridging this divide. The panel was chaired by Elizabeth Ferris (Co-Director, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement) and included Jeffrey Crisp, Anne Cubilie, Karen Jacobsen and Paula Banerjee. The Pre-conference workshop was followed by the Pre-Conference Address "*The State of Forced Migration Studies Address,*" where the paper by Chimini entitled "*The Birth of a Discipline: From Refugee to Forced Migration Studies*" was delivered by Priyanca Mathur Velath. In his paper, Chimni revisits his seminal article, "*The Geopolitics of Refugee Studies: A View from the South.*" Chimni

also addressed recent, differing opinions on the state of forced migration studies, including those presented by Hathaway in his address to the 10th IASFM at its previous conference in Toronto.

The conference included the following four plenary sessions:

1. **Irregular Migration in the Middle East and North Africa**, which was organized and led by CMRS faculty. Philippe Fargues presented a paper entitled “An emerging pattern of irregular migration in the Middle East and Northeastern Africa.” Ray Jureidini presented the result of his research on foreign domestic labor in Egypt, a research collaboration with Sussex University (*See under Research*). The title of his paper was “Irregular workers in the labor market: the case of trafficked migrants and refugees working as domestic workers in Egypt.” The third speaker in this panel was Mike Kagan who presented on “Irregular Refugees and Irregular Refugee Policy in the Middle East.” And last but not least, Barbara Harrell-Bond presented a joint paper with Gleb Bazov entitled “Irregularities in the Direct Access Resettlement Programme for Iraqi Refugees.” The panel was chaired and moderated by Nancy Baron.



2. **Refugees in the Middle East:** CMRS invited UNRWA Commissioner General, Karan Abou Zayed as a keynote speaker to this session. The session was chaired by Maysa Ayoub and included as speakers Helen Young, Patricia Fagen and Shahira Samy. The latter provided an introductory note on the situation of refugees in the Middle East while Fagen discussed her research on Iraqis in Syria and Jordan and Young discussed her work in Darfur.

3. **Interregional Forced Migration:** This session was chaired by Susan Martin, IASFM President and included as speakers Aicha Belarbi, Ahmet Icduygu, Mark Schlakman, Susan Kneebone, and Jeffrey Crisp. The session was followed by a film presentation by John Nassari.

4. **The Voices of the Displaced in Forced Migration Research:** This session was chaired by Elzbieta Gozdziaik and included speakers Eftihia Voutira, Giorgia Doná, Arild Birkenes and Zachary Lomo. The session was followed by a poetry reading by Stephanos Stephanides and Mehmet Yashin

The conference also included breakout sessions on various themes related to the study of forced migration. Among the important themes presented in the breakout sessions were refugee politics and protests, refugee protection, unaccompanied minors, displacement and development, remittances, resettlement problems, the situation of particular groups of refugees in the Middle East like Palestinian and Iraqis as well as many other topics.

Student-run Organizations

In addition to their interest in developing academic and intellectual skills and pursuing various research initiatives, our students are also very active in outreach with the refugee communities in Cairo. Two of the most active student organizations at AUC were initiated and managed by CMRS students: Student Action for Refugees or STAR & Cairo to Camps.

Although both work under the auspices of CMRS and with the guidance of the CMRS Director, they have a great degree of autonomy that allows them to engage creatively in initiating new ideas and programs.

Student Action for Refugees (STAR)

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) was established in 2001 to raise awareness about refugee issues and offer students the opportunity to work with refugees in practical ways through volunteering and education. During 2007-08, there were approximately 1,000 persons enrolled in the educational component and 100 student volunteers. Following the model of the international STAR network, AUC students work to establish their own network of students and refugees here in Cairo. STAR has been as active as ever in the last year through facilitating a variety of activities for raising awareness about refugee issues and providing services for the refugee community.

Last fall 2007, STAR expanded its scope, by opening centers in both Nasr City and 6th October in an effort to make STAR classes more accessible. In Nasr City, STAR partners with the Nuba Mountains Association, and in 6th October it partners with the Sons of Sudan Charity Organization. This is in addition to the downtown classes and Ain Shams center. STAR also was actively involved in the "AUC 8" trial last year, working with a lawyer and student volunteers to raise awareness about the eight Sudanese men who were apprehended after an incident at World Refugee Day 2007. Finally, as always, STAR was involved in refugee craft bazaars and cooking classes.

In spring 2008, STAR launched its website (www.starcairo.org) in hopes of making information about STAR more accessible, especially to potential volunteer teachers, current and future STAR students, as well as potential donors.

Looking forward, STAR is unsure of the impact of AUC's move on attracting new volunteers and on logistics. Moving to the communities, however, has been an important

step for STAR and the hope is that STAR can receive more funding to ensure that teaching in the communities remains a possibility in years to come.

In the future, STAR intends to start Arabic classes for non-Arabic speakers and move the downtown center at AUC's Tahrir campus to Zamalek, where there will be fewer problems with IDs and AUC security and where many of our volunteers live. In the future, STAR hopes to expand services to Maadi and Haram and do more educational activities such as film screenings and lectures for AUC students. STAR is also actively working on recruiting more Egyptian volunteer teachers.

Out of her experiences as a STAR volunteer, Juliana Tafur independently produced and directed the documentary film, "*Rightful Yet Right-less.*" It focuses on the difficulties experienced by refugees in Egypt, with a focus on the Sudanese community. Of celebration, the film was a finalist in "The Harry Chapin Media Awards." The award, created in 1982, encourages and honors print and electronic media for outstanding coverage that "positively impacts hunger, poverty and self-reliance." The documentary aired on a PBS affiliate in the United States and is now being used as an educational tool by human rights advocates and refugee agencies in three different countries. CMRS is proud of Juliana's work.

Cairo to Camps

The Philosophy of Cairo to Camps, an Arab Youth Solidarity Project with Palestinian Refugees, is based on the belief in the power of art in self expression, and the role of workshops that goes beyond "having fun with the children." The main component of Cairo to Camps activities is their August annual trip to refugee camps in Lebanon where they work with Palestinian refugee children conducting workshops in Literature, Music, Art, Theatre, and Filmmaking. Unfortunately, during 2007-08, the war situation in Lebanon prevented the group from undertaking their usual trip. However, they continued their on campus awareness and training activities in Egypt. Below is a detailed description of such activities.

The C2C children's book, *Cairo to Camps*, was undertaken with the support of the DRC fund. The book is a compilation of artwork that came out of self-expressive workshops that young people from Egypt conducted with the children of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon in the past few years. Included are children's paintings, writings, photography work, and other artistic expressions. The book also highlights the interaction between the children and the volunteers of Cairo to Camps, most of whom are Arab volunteers. The book represents a commitment to the Palestinian refugee cause. It aims to solidify the communication and the relationship between the volunteers, children and people of the Palestinian refugee camps. *Cairo to Camps* has been translated into Arabic and is currently awaiting publishing.

An important component of Cairo to Campus activities is their awareness campaign to raise the awareness of the plight of Palestinian refugees. Their campaign targets both their new members as well as the whole AUC community.

The Shatilla Film Workshop is undertaken with the support of Cairo to Camps members throughout the year. A young filmmaker from Borj al-Barajneh Camp in Beirut has trained three young men who participated in Cairo to Camps self-expressive workshops in the past in Shatilla refugee camp. They were trained on filmmaking basics and were coached to produce their own short production, a reflection of their life in the camp and their aspiration outside its confines.

'The Chronicles of a Refugee' film series screenings are organized in cooperation with the series' directors in Lebanon, Perla Issa, Adam Shapiro and Aseel Mansour. During fall 2008, the 6-part documentary film series will be screened at the JC auditorium over six days, and looks at the global Palestinian refugee experience over the last 60 years. Through the voices of Palestinian refugees, the first three episodes recount the experiences of Palestinian refugees since 1947. They are more historical and informative, presenting an almost comprehensive review of 60 years of dispossession. Starting with 'al-Nakba' (catastrophe) in 1948 (part I) and continuing through repeated community and individual expulsions (part II) and enduring discrimination by virtue of being Palestinian (part III). The last three parts tackle three issues facing Palestinian refugees, and are meant to open up debate on contentious issues. Part IV deals with identity formation and the impact of being in diaspora. Part V looks at strategies for the Right of Return and who is doing what to achieve realization of this right. Part VI focuses on issues of leadership and representation, from the perspective of what kind of representation have Palestinians had over time and what do they want now.

Networking & Collaboration

Throughout the years, CMRS has established a strong presence both within AUC and beyond by forging important links with a variety of bodies both academic and non-academic locally, regionally and internationally.

Local Networks

A strong collaboration already exists between CMRS and AUC departments and centers since the four core courses of the forced migration diploma are offered by three departments – Sociology/Anthropology/Psychology, Political Science, and Law –and elective courses are also offered by these departments as well as the English and Comparative Literature department, the Middle East Studies and the Center Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies (IGWS). Faculty members from each of these departments and programs hold positions on the Joint Steering Committee that governs the diploma program and curriculum.

Outside AUC but still locally, CMRS continued its collaboration with Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA), a U.K.-registered charity operating in Egypt. AMERA's activities in Egypt started in 2000 as the *Refugee Legal Aid Project* within FMRS. It moved in 2001 under the umbrella of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) and finally became an independent entity as a branch office of AMERA UK in 2003. CMRS is also connected to Tadamon, The Egyptian Refugee Multicultural Council, an organization dedicated to promoting greater coordination between refugee-assisting NGOs and Egyptian NGOs, and facilitating better communication between the Egyptian host community and the refugee population in Cairo. During this year, Maysa Ayoub, CMRS Project Manager, became a board member of Tadamon. Finally, CMRS is also continuing its collaboration with *Ma'an*, the Women Action Institute and this year CMRS provided Ma'an with space to conduct their monthly meeting.

In terms of research and of remarkable significance was the first ever collaborative research project with the Information and Decision Support Center of the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers (IDSC). Funded by the Ford Foundation, CMRS and IDSC conducted the first survey of Iraqi refugees in Egypt. Last but not least, CMRS collaborated with the International Office for Migration in a research with the Sudanese Community. (*See detailed information under Research*).

Regional & International Networks

The program transition into a regional center dedicated to migration and refugee studies further enhanced its networking and collaboration with regional institutions. Prominent universities in the region like Birzeit University, Notre Dame University, Lebanese American University, the American University in Beirut, and the University of Damascus were all represented in the research meeting organized by CMRS in October 2007 (*See under Research and outreach.*) International institutions were also present; two examples are the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva and the Amsterdam School for social Science Research (ASSR).

It is expected that such networks will be consolidated in the future as well as new networks will be built. This is apparent from the encouraging support letters for the new MA in Migration and Refugee Studies that were received by CMRS from many regional and international academic and non-academic institutions. CMRS received encouraging support letters from institutions like the Department of Population and international Health at Harvard School of Public Health, School of International Relations at the University of Southern California, the International Labor Office (ILO), Birzeit University, and the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales at Sciences-Po in Paris as well as many others.

CMRS has strong relations with Oxford University. CMRS is the Middle East partner of Oxford University's Forced Migration Online (FMO) which offers up-to-the minute information and resources for practitioners, researchers and students in the field. Last year CMRS became a partner institution in the *Regional Information Networks* initiated by the Refugee Studies Center (RSC) at Oxford University and this year CMRS was invited to attend a workshop in Oxford from the 5-6 December, 2007 to meet the participants in the network in order to share understanding of the collaboration and knowledge of each others institutions and decide on future plans. Unfortunately CMRS could not make it to this meeting; however CMRS received a detailed report on the meeting. Correspondences between the two organizations are ongoing and CMRS is in the process of writing a proposal to the RSC in light of the priority areas set out during the planning meeting of December 2007.

On the other hand but also with Oxford, CMRS is building relations with the International Migration Institute (IMI) at the University of Oxford. The IMI invited CMRS to partner in the newly establish research network amongst partners across the African continent as well as Oxford to do exchange visits, workshops and joint publications on migration/displacement issues related to theory, methodology and case material.

Moreover, the proposal submitted by CMRS with York University in Canada to create a strategic knowledge cluster on refugee and forced migration research and practice has been accepted this year and the network is in place.

In terms of collaborative research, CMRS is teaming up with the Feinstein International Center, (FIC) Tufts University to study remittances to and from Sudanese in Cairo. The joint proposal to the International Development Research Center (IDRC) has been accepted and the research is underway.

Faculty, Staff & Affiliates Activities

CMRS faculty members are involved in a variety of activities in addition to teaching, including research and activism in refugee studies and other fields and disciplines.

Barbara Harrell-Bond, CMRS Distinguished Adjunct Professor, continued her active involvement in the program, teaching in fall 2007 the core course 'Introduction to Forced Migration.' In addition to her other academic activities, she continued her advocacy-related activities world-wide. In February 2008, Barbara attended the International Council of Voluntary Agencies: The Essential Humanitarian Reforms, in Geneva, Switzerland. She also presented papers at various conferences. Along with Gleb Bazov, she presented a paper during the 11th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), "Irregularities in the Direct Access Resettlement Programme for Iraqi Refugees." At the British Academy in London, she presented the paper co-authored by Effie Voutira, "Theory and policy of Refugees in the Middle East in the 21st Century: Egypt and Beyond." In March 2008, she gave the Keynote Address at the Forced Migration Student Conference in the UK. Harrell-Bond also participated in Brussels Consultations on the Green Paper on Asylum, which addressed the future of the Common European Asylum System. She also contributed a chapter in the book *Forced Displacement: Why Rights Matter*, edited by Katarzyna Grabska and Lyla Mehta published in October 2008 by Palgrave. The chapter is entitled, "Protests Against UNHCR to Achieve Rights: Some Reflections."

Gudrun Kroner, CMRS Research Affiliate, is researcher and project coordinator at the Social Anthropology Research Unit, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Her focus of research is Palestinian refugees in Jordan. In cooperation with the Birzeit University in Palestine, she is project coordinator of an EU-funded educational project, Capacity Building in Social Science Methodology for Palestine. She lectures at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria. Her lectures include, "Life Histories in the Context of Forced Migration" and "Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, Research Methods and Ethic in Research". Throughout the year, she had the opportunity to offer lectures at several additional venues. In December 2007, she offered a lecture, Migration in the Mashriq (1850-2007) at the University of Salzburg, Austria. In January 2008 and at the 11th IASFM conference Cairo, Egypt, she presented "Is Jordan a 'Safe Haven' for Palestinian refugees? Different policies and their effect on the Palestinian community." In June 2008, she offered the paper entitled "Background information Somalia: Training for people working with refugees in Austria." In August 2008, she offered at the Biannual EASA conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia, "Although I have a Jordanian passport... memories and dreams of Palestinian refugees in Jordan."

Michael Kagan, Adjunct Faculty with the CMRS and Law Departments and Senior Fellow in Human Rights Law. He taught International Refugee Law in fall 2007 and spring 2008 as well as an interdisciplinary seminar on Palestinian Refugee Issues in

spring 2008. In October 2007, during CMRS's conference on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and Northeastern Africa, he presented a paper on "The Decline of Palestinian Exceptionalism: Observation of a Trend." In November 2007, Kagan was invited by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to make a presentation on refugee credibility assessment in Madrid at a conference co-sponsored by Spanish Ministry of the Interior. In January 2008 and at the 11th IASFM conference in Cairo, Kagan made a presentation on a plenary panel on "Irregular Refugees and Irregular Refugee Policy in the Middle East." In March 2008 and during a CMRS Seminar, Kagan gave a presentation on "Responsibility Shift: The Challenge of Defining UN and Government roles in Refugee Policy in the Middle East." In addition to his other academic and advocacy-related activities, in January 2008, Kagan spoke in favor of the Palestinian right of return at a debate organized by Nakhba60 at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. In April 2008, he attended a conference at Tel Aviv University on the development of the Israeli asylum system, where he gave presentations in favor of the Palestinian right of return and the right of Palestinians to seek asylum in Israel when they face current risks of persecution. Kagan's outreach activities were varied and numerous throughout the year. He served periodically as a legal consultant with the Palestine Liberation Organization's Negotiation Support Unit, and consulted regularly with refugee rights organizations throughout the Middle East. He served as acting country director of Africa Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) in Egypt during a management transition, and managed the website RSDWatch.org for the US-based group Asylum Access. In June 2008, Kagan represented Asylum Access at annual consultations between UNHCR and NGOs in Geneva.

Mulki Al-Sharmani, Assistant Professor at the Social Research Center. She taught CMRS Core course 'Introduction to Forced Migration and Refugee studies' and the elective course, 'New Diasporas, Transnationalism and Gender' which was offered cooperatively through the Gender and Women Studies Masters Program. On October 25, 2007 and for the CMRS Conference on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North Eastern Africa, she presented "Migration and Transnational Families: The Case of Somali Diaspora(s)." In November 2007, Professor Al-Sharmani traveled to Washington D.C. to the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association to present the paper "Family Courts in Egypt: Pathway to Women's Empowerment?" On January 9 2008, Al-Sharmani presented at the Cairo based, IASFM conference "A Transnational Way of Living: Gendering Family-based Support System in the Somali Diaspora." During the Imiscoe Conference on (Irregular) Transit Migration the European Space: Theory, Politics, and Research Methodology conference in April 2008, Professor Al-Sharmani traveled to Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey to present the paper "Refugees in Egypt: Transit Migrations?"

Philippe Fargues, PHILIPPE FARGUES, CMRS Director. During the academic year, he developed and taught the core course, Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North Africa. At the October 2007 meeting in Cairo on Migration and Refugee Movements in the Middle East and North-Eastern Africa, Fargues presented an unpublished paper which was an overview of migration and refugee movements in the MENA. In December at the European University Institute in Italy, he organized the

conference, Circular Migration: Is it relevant for the south and east of the Mediterranean? Fargues also presented a paper in Barcelona at the Mediterranean Population Forum, entitled, "Mediterranean Migration: Main Trends and Policy Challenges for Development." During the January 2008 IASFM Conference, Fargues led a plenary session on emerging patterns of irregular migration in the Middle East and Northeastern Africa. In February 27-28, 2008, Fargues attended the Middle East/North Africa regional expert's meeting in Cairo organized by the Peace, Conflict and Development program of the International Development Research Center (IDRC). He also presented a paper at the AUC forum on the Changing Arab World, "Demography: a burden or a chance?" In March 2008, Fargues was invited to deliver a paper at the conference organized jointly by the Institute for Diplomatic Studies by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM. He presented the paper, "Regional Overview: Migration Situation in the Middle East." In June, Fargues was a participant in the Venice Forum, Migration from a National, European, and Global Perspective. This drew together many participants including grassroots advocates and EU politicians. Fargues served as the round table moderator for the session, Debate on Identity, Security and Migrant's Rights. In July 2008 and through the European University Institute, Fargues organized the conference on Irregular Migration in the south and east of the Mediterranean. He presented the paper, "Work, Refuge, Transit: An Emerging Pattern of Irregular Immigration South and East of the Mediterranean." This will be published in 2009 in International Migration Review. Fargues also directed and taught at the IV Florence Summer School on Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development. With great pride, Fargues initiated and oversaw through CMRS, a collaborative research project with the Information and Decision Support Center of the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers (IDSC).

Ray Jureidini, CMRS Associate Director, Associate professor of Sociology. He taught two CMRS courses, including 'Globalization and Migration and Issues in Forced Migration.' In November 2007, Jureidini traveled to Montreal to the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference to present "Migrant Domestic Workers and the Israeli-Lebanese Conflict." During January 6-9 at the IASFM Conference in Cairo, he presented "Irregular Workers in the Labor Market: the case of trafficked migrants and refugees working as domestic workers in Egypt." In February 2008, he traveled to the University of Nicosia Cyprus to be a participant in the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, "Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation." On April 28-29, Jureidini presented his paper "Irregular Migrant Workers in Cairo: migrant, refugee and Egyptian domestic workers," through the University of Sussex's conference on "Migration and Development: Building Migration into Development Strategies." April 29-May 9, Jureidini served as a visiting scholar at the DRC University of Sussex and in May 9-11, 2008 and during the University of Warwick's Waged Domestic Work and the Making of the Modern World Conference, he presented the paper, "Perceptions of the Sexuality of Domestic Maids Living in Arab Households." In addition to his academic and advocacy-related activities, Jureidini continues to supervise ongoing research, is an advisor for the Cairo to Camps group, and advisor for the Student Action for Refugees (STAR). In addition, Jureidini serves as editor for many publications, including serving as executive editor for Labor and Industry, an Australian academic refereed journal.

Susan M. Akram, CMRS/Law Distinguished Visiting Professor at Boston University. On October 4, 2007, Akram gave a presentation to the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands, on Myths and Realities of the Palestinian Refugee Problem. In December 2007 and during the UN Conference on Asylum and Islam in Malaysia, Akram presented “Refugees in the Muslim World: Grounding Refugee Protection on Concrete Sources of Rights.” During the New England School of Law Symposium in January 2008, she offered the paper entitled “Is Sudan Committing Genocide in Darfur? Why Does it Matter?” On February 16, 2008, Akram gave a presentation on “Law as Mechanism of Violence: The Palestinian Right of Return and the Israeli Law of Return” for the “Nakba60 Conference” at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. During the UN International Conference on Palestinian Refugees, Akram presented “Palestinian Refugees as the Longest-Running Refugee Crisis: What’s Law Got to Do With It?” On May 3, 2008 and during the Immigration Law Professors Workshop in Miami, Akram participated on a panel discussion addressing Sudanese Refugees in Egypt and Israel. At the United Nations Special Meeting to Mark Sixty Years of Dispossession of Palestine Refugees, UN Headquarters, New York, she presented, “The Ongoing Palestinian Dispossession: From the 1948 Nakbato Wall-Induced Displacement.” On July 17, 2008, Akram also presented “Government Immigration and Terrorist Policies Targeting Arabs and Muslims in the US: The Pre-September 11, 2001 Historical Record” at the “Law and Disorder in Times of War: Security, Surveillance and Civil Liberties” Seminar Series at the JFK Library and UMass-Boston. In addition to her numerous academic and advocacy works, Akram was interviewed on various radio shows around the subject of the Palestinian right of return and she was interviewed on Radio Islam regarding the state of emergency in Pakistan.

Katarzyna (Kasia) Grabska, CMRS Affiliated Researcher. Since 2005, Grabska has been pursuing her doctoral degree in anthropology and refugee studies at the Institute of Development Studies, University in Sussex. After spending 2006 and 2007 conducting ethnographic fieldwork among southern Sudanese refugees in refugee camps in Kenya and following their return to Southern Sudan, she is now completing her PhD dissertation. The focus of the research is on impact of forced migration, war and displacement on gender relations in the context of refugee return. In January 2008 and during the IASFM conference in Cairo, Grabska was a panel convener for “Transnational gendered lives: displacement, rupture and rights.” She also presented a paper entitled “Lost Boys, Invisible Girls: Stories of Marriage Across the Borders.” In March 2008 and at the Gender and History Journal colloquium for Homes and Homecomings at Bristol University, she presented a paper entitled “When women become men, men become women and girls loose their freedom: stories of refugee homemaking in South Sudan.” In May 2008, Grabska also presented a paper at the DRC Migration, Globalization and Poverty Workshop, university of Sussex, UK, entitled “Myth of lost Boys: the interconnection of forced and voluntary migration.” During June 2008 and at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, Work in Progress Seminar, she presented her PhD thesis in progress “In-between: (re)negotiations of gender, identity and home in post-conflict southern Sudan.” In 2008, she also published the co-edited volume on rights, policies and refugees, which was initiated at the CMRS in a joint project with the Development Research Centre on Globalization, Migration and Poverty

in 2005.

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