ASYFAIR Conference Roundtable
Chair: Prof. Nick Gill (University of Exeter, UK)
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The roundtable brings together scholars active in researching refugee status determination, including asylum appeals, to discuss challenges of global refugee status determination and asylum appeal adjudication, and reflect on the themes discussed during the conference.

Some themes discussed at the roundtable:

- Reflections on themes discussed during the conference
- Theoretical or methodological insights to move conversations forward
- Looking ahead: The future(s) of global refugee status determination, asylum law and asylum adjudication (for both scholarship and practice)
- How can non-legal and socio-legal academics work most effectively with legal decision makers and system designers to have a real impact?
- In what ways can we stimulate Global North-South conversations to improve asylum adjudication?
- Global challenges of refugee status determination, asylum law and asylum adjudication

Roundtable participants
- John R Campbell (SOAS, UK)
- Cristiano D’Orsi (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)
- Tobias Eule (University of Bern, Switzerland)
- Anthony Good (University of Edinburgh, UK)
- Rebecca Hamlin (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)
- Livia Johannesson (Stockholm University, Sweden)
- Austin Kocher (Syracuse University, USA)
- Ashley B Terlouw (Radboud University, Netherlands)
- Helena Wray (University of Exeter, UK)
Dr. John Campbell is a social anthropologist who undertook his doctoral research in West Africa before teaching urban sociology at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in the early 1980s. Subsequently he taught at Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland, at the University of Swansea, Wales and at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London from where he retired in 2018. He has written two monographs about refugees and asylum, and third about the quality of justice in London’s magistrate’s courts. John has published widely and has also worked as a consultant in international development.


Dr Cristiano d’Orsi is a Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer at the South African Research Chair in International Law (SARCIL), Faculty of Law, University of Johannesburg. He holds a Laurea (BA (Hon) equivalent, International Relations, Università degli Studi di Perugia, Perugia); a Master’s Degree (Diplomatic Studies, Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI), Rome); a two-year Diplôme d’Etudes Approfondies (Master of Advanced Studies equivalent, International Law, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva); and a Ph.D. in International Law from the same institution. His research and teaching interests mainly focus on the legal protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and IDPs in Africa, on African Human Rights Law, and, more broadly, on the development of Public International Law in Africa.


Tobias Eule
University of Bern, Switzerland


Anthony Good
University of Edinburgh, UK

Anthony Good is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. His initial research in South India focused on domestic life-cycle ceremonies, especially those of puberty, marriage, and death. Subsequent field research in a Hindu temple was concerned with the ceremonial economy linking gods, priests and worshippers, as well as with daily and festival worship. He has frequently acted as an expert witness in asylum appeals involving Sri Lankans, and has carried out research on uses of expert evidence in the British asylum courts, and (with Robert Gibb, University of Glasgow) on the conversion of asylum applicants’ narratives into legal discourse in the UK and France.


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Livia Johannesson  
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Livia Johannesson is a political scientist at the Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research (Score), Stockholm University, specialized in asylum determination research, legal ethnographies and interpretive analysis. She has a background in feminist political theory and a general interest in judicialization of politics and public policy-making, most recently blame management as political phenomenon. In a current four-year research project, Johannesson studies the role of the administrative courts in the Swedish democratic system by conducting an ethnographic study of how equality before the law is practiced in asylum appeals compared to other administrative court procedures.


Austin Kocher  
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Ashley B. Terlouw  
Radboud University, Netherlands

Ashley Terlouw is professor of Sociology of Law at Radboud University (Nijmegen, Netherlands). She is chair of one of the two research centres of the Law Faculty, the Research Centres for State and Law, and is responsible for the Institute of Sociology of Law and for the Centre of Migration Law. She is also the chair of the Meijers Committee (Standing Committee of Experts in International Migration, Refugee and Criminal Law), the chair of the journal Asiel en Migratierecht, and is responsible for the Sectorplan on Conflict Resolution, for which Radboud University collaborates with the universities of Leiden and Utrecht. In the past, she has worked at the Office of the District Court of The Hague, and was the head of the Refugee Department at Amnesty International Nederland. She has also been a member of the Dutch Committee on Equal Treatment, and was a deputy judge at the District Court of Gelderland (Migration Chamber) from 2011 – 2016.


Helena Wray  
University of Exeter, UK

Dr Helena Wray is Associate Professor in Migration Law. Her research and publications focus on the impact of immigration law on families. She led teams that provided expert evidence in two test cases heard in the Supreme Court on pre-entry language testing for spouses, and the onerous financial conditions to be met by the sponsors of migrant spouses and partners and she led a team that wrote a report for the Children’s Commissioner for England on the impact of the financial requirements in the family migration rules on children. She is currently writing a book on how the UK’s Supreme Court has addressed the right to respect for family life. She is the editor of Journal of Immigration Asylum and Nationality Law.
