

and  
**DEC Migration and Remittances Unit**

**Cordially invite you to a KNOMAD Seminar**  
**Refugees Right to Work and Access to Labor Markets**

**Tuesday,  
February 28, 2017**

**12:30-2:00 PM  
Room MC C2-131**

Speakers:

**Roger Zetter**, Emeritus Professor of Refugee Studies at the University of Oxford

**Heloise Ruaudel**, Consultant, OECD-OCDE, Paris, France

Chair:

**Dilip Ratha**, Lead Economist, DEC Migration and Remittances, and Head of KNOMAD, World Bank

Discussant:

**Nadia Piffaretti**, Senior Economist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank

**Description:**

For refugees, the right to work is vital for reducing vulnerability, enhancing resilience, and securing dignity. Harnessing refugees' skills can also benefit local economic activity and national development. But there are many obstacles. Based on a sample of 20 countries hosting 70 percent of the world's refugees, this study investigates the role and impact of legal and normative provisions providing and protecting refugees' right to work within the 1951 Refugee Convention as well as from the perspective of non-signatory states. Three metrics analyze the principle determinants of the right to work and labor market access: refugee and employment law, policies and practices that facilitate or constrain the right to work, and mediating socioeconomic conditions. Overall the study finds remarkable diversity in legal provisions and constraints on refugees' right to work. A restrictive approach to the right to work prevails, and most states are reluctant to ease these restrictions. The majority of refugees work in the informal sector, but under much less satisfactory and more exploitative conditions compared with nationals. Informal labor markets are also constrained in countries with fragile economies which often host large numbers of refugees. Based on its findings, the study concludes that more national and international coordination is required, multiple actors should share in the responsibility to deliver decent work, labor market policies as well as training and education should be harnessed to support sustainable livelihoods, and refugee social capital should be more effectively engaged.

Refreshments will be served



**Roger Zetter** is Emeritus Professor of Refugee Studies at the University of Oxford, retiring as Director of the Refugee Studies Centre in September 2011. His long association with the RSC commenced in 1988 as Founding Editor of the Journal of Refugee Studies, a position held until 2001.

In an academic career spanning over 35 years and with regional expertise in sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the Middle East, his teaching, research, publications and consultancy have included all stages of the 'refugee and displacement cycle'; his work focuses on the policy and institutional dimensions of the humanitarian regime and the impacts on forcibly displaced people. He has written over 35 peer reviewed papers, six books, over 20 book chapters, 15 major research reports and numerous op. eds.

Recent research and consultancy themes include: protracted refugee situations (Norwegian MFA); environmental change and population displacement (MacArthur Foundation, UNHCR, Swiss MFA, Norwegian MFA); development-led responses to the economic costs and impacts of forced displacement (World Bank, KNOMAD, UNDP, Danish MFA, EC, ILO); protection and forced displacement (Swiss Federal Commission for Migration, Swiss MFA, and MPI); framing humanitarian principles (IOM).



**Héloïse Ruaudel** has extensive experience in the humanitarian and human rights fields in conflict, post-conflict and development environments. Her expertise on forcible displacement was built on field work experience with UN OCHA and UNHCR in countries stricken by conflict or affected by natural disasters and experiencing internal displacement and/or hosting refugees.

For 3 years she headed the Policy Programme of the Refugee Studies Center at the University of Oxford and has since published innovative research. She also held Policy analyst and project manager positions for ILO, NGOs and several government ministries. Upon completion of the KNOMAD study on 'Refugees' Rights to Work and Access to Labor Markets', with Prof. Roger Zetter, she has joined the Secretariat of the Development Assistance Committee at OECD to work with the evaluation team supporting the DAC Temporary Working Group on Refugees and Migration.

Héloïse holds Masters degrees in Public Law and International Politics.



**Nadia Piffaretti** is a Senior Economist for Fragility, Conflict and Violence at the World Bank, where she works on economic recovery and economic policy in fragile and conflict affected countries. She held the position of World Bank Senior Country Economist for Zimbabwe from 2010 to 2014. From 2004 to 2010 she was special assistant/advisor to the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank, in the Development Economics Vice-Presidency. Originally from Switzerland, from 2001 to 2004 she served as Economic Advisor to the Swiss Minister of Justice and Police. She holds a PhD in macroeconomics (2000) and Master of Arts in Public Finance (1994) from the University of Fribourg (1994).

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External Participants

Please RSVP to: [icarrasquero@worldbank.org](mailto:icarrasquero@worldbank.org)

Tel 202-473-0110

**Webex link**

Meeting number: 733 165 028

Meeting password: gVPJxQM9

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**Global call-in numbers**

Access code: 733 165 028

**Forthcoming event:**

- *Us & Them* - a satire about exile in our times by author Bahiyyih Nakhjavani – April 24, 2017; 12:30-2:00pm  
MC C2-131