

INTRODUCTION

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The present issue of *Refuge* exemplifies the analytical diversity of the research and advocacy communities that make up the journal's readership. While the idea of a refugee-focused periodical based in Canada's most diverse city originated in the wake of the Indochinese boat people crisis, the journal today attracts local and international commentary on a variety of challenges relating to the wider subject area of forced migration. The current issue pays tribute to the journal's origins by exploring basic refugee challenges that in many ways have continued to pose problems for academics and advocates over the last decades.

The issue opens with Jennifer Hyndman's article that deals with certain geopolitical considerations related to refugee crises which are often ignored by analysts. The focus is on Somali refugees, while the analytical lessons suggest a wider application. The next article is authored by Dale Buscher who explores a topic that is attracting increasing attention from practitioners and academics over the last few years: urban refugee livelihoods. Louise Kinlen then explores the difference in treatment accorded to resettled refugees and persons who apply for protection via an asylum process. Her study relates specifically to Ireland's refugee policy, but the same dichotomous treatment characterizes other western liberal democracies.

The featured articles are followed by three sections that are devoted to refugee protection questions. The first section is a policy debate between David Matas and James Bissett who explore Canada's recent responses to the arrival of asylum seekers on the country's western shores. Their opposing views help readers understand the contentious nature of the questions raised by the arrival of boat people. The second section is devoted to a regional power that has become one of the most important asylum countries: South Africa. The section is introduced by Tal Schreier, who also contributes an analytical paper along with papers authored by her colleagues Fatima Khan and Justin de Jager. Finally, the issue closes with a section devoted to the last annual conference organized by the Canadian Association for the Study of Refugees and Forced Migration. The section opens with the keynote address that was delivered by UNHCR's Director of International Protection, Dr. Volker Turk. David Murray follows with a study focusing on the challenges faced by sexual minority refugees living in Toronto.