

NCHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tea & coffee on arrival

09:30 - 09:45 - OPENING: Antonio De Lauri (NCHS & Chr. Michelsen Institute, CMI)

09:45 - 10:35 - KEYNOTE ADDRESS (and Q&A):
Michael Barnett (George Washington University) - *Humanitarianism in a Post-Liberal Age*

10:35 - 10:45 - TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

10:45 - 11:45 - PANEL 1: Islamic Actors in Humanitarian Negotiations

Panelists: Khaled Almezaini (Zayed University), **Ghassan Elkahlout** (Center for Conflict & Humanitarian Studies & Doha Institute) and **Altea Pericoli** (Catholic University of Milan). Moderator: **John Karlsrud** (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, NUPI)

11:45 - 12:45 - LUNCH BREAK (*light lunch served*)

12:45 - 14:15 - PANEL 2: Humanitarian Work in War

Panelists: Nell Gabiam (Iowa State University), **Kholoud Mansour** (Consultant & researcher), **Arne Strand** (CMI). Moderator: **Cindy Horst** (Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO)

14:15 - 15:20 NCHS ANNUAL LECTURE (and Q&A): Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (University College London) - *Against the Humanitarian Grain* (*introduced by Maria Gabrielsen Jumbert, NCHS & PRIO*)

15:20 - 15:25 - CLOSING: Stein Sundstøl Eriksen (NCHS & NUPI)

15:25 - 16:00 - REFRESHMENTS (*drinks and snacks served*)



Norwegian Centre for
Humanitarian Studies

Friday
4 November 2022
09:30 - 16:00

Litteraturhuset
Østre Skostredet 5
Bergen, Norway

SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: MICHAEL BARNETT

Humanitarianism in a Post-Liberal Age



Now that the world has moved out of a liberal international order, where does that leave humanitarianism? In fact, humanitarianism was already exiting the liberal international order starting at the turn of this century, as the forces of destruction shifted from a liberal peace to securitization; the forces of production from development to marketization; and the forces of compassion from human rights to bounded cosmopolitanism. Where does humanitarianism go from here?

Michael Barnett is a University Professor of International Affairs and Political Science at the George Washington University. His research interests span the Middle East, humanitarianism, global governance, global ethics, and the United Nations. Professor Barnett's published books include 'Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism' and 'Power and Global Governance' (co-edited with Raymond Duvall). More recently he also edited the collection; 'Humanitarianism and Human Rights: Worlds of Differences?'

NCHS ANNUAL LECTURE: ELENA FIDDIAN-QASMIYEH

Against the Humanitarian Grain



In this lecture, I propose moving beyond, or even against, what I conceptualise as "the humanitarian grain", including by exploring what can be gained both analytically and in practical terms by setting aside the 'humanitarian frame', and instead focusing on multi-scalar responses to displacement. Going beyond my earlier project to 'write the Other into humanitarianism' (Fiddian-Qasmiyeh and Pacitto, 2015, emphasis added), I propose that *displacing the humanitarian* (thereby setting aside questions of labelling, geopolitical hegemony and even the quest for a genealogical recognition of the plurality of humanitarianisms) provides a critical opportunity to critically 'rethink refugee response'. To do so I draw on insights from in-depth research conducted with refugee and non-refugee residents of local communities responding to displacement in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey (through the Refugee Hosts project) and with regards to 'Southern-led Responses to Displacement' (the title of a second research project also revolving around displacement from Syria).

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh is a Professor in Migration and Refugee Studies at the University College London (UCL). She is also the Co-Director of UCL's Migration Research Unit and is the Founder and Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies Refuge in a Moving World research network across UCL. Professor Fiddian-Qasmiyeh's research focuses on the intersections between gender, generation and religion in experiences of and responses to conflict-induced displacement, with a particular regional focus on the Middle East.

PANELS

PANEL 1: ISLAMIC ACTORS IN HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATIONS

The growing number of protracted crises, especially in Muslim majority countries, and the highly politicised and fragmented contexts in which humanitarian actors have increasingly found themselves in the last decades, have intensified efforts in the protection of conflict-affected communities. Islamic actors are emerging as key figures in humanitarian diplomacy and relief interventions (Qatar, Turkey, and the UAE but also NGOs such as Islamic Relief). To what extent does the Islamic nature of these actors influence their ability to access conflict areas and negotiate humanitarian assistance in Muslim communities? This panel will compare the approach of states, in particular Qatar and the UAE, to humanitarian diplomacy and explore the role of Muslim NGOs and regional organisations such as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank in dealing with humanitarian interventions and assistance during crises.



Khaled Almezaini

'Qatar and UAE humanitarian aid: Competing interests, ideas and diplomacy'

Khaled Almezaini is an Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at Zayed University. He completed his PhD at the University of Exeter. Prior to joining Zayed University, he taught at many different universities, including the University of Cambridge, the University of Exeter and the University of Edinburgh. His teaching and research interests include politics and international relations, with a focus on the Middle East in general and the Gulf in particular. He is interested in the politics of the Gulf, foreign policy, foreign aid and development in the Middle East.



Ghassan ElKahlout

'Islamic NGOs in humanitarian diplomacy: A focus on Islamic Relief, Qatar Charity and the Qatar Red Crescent Society'

Ghassan ElKahlout is the Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies and Associate Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies where he currently serves as Head of the MA Program in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action. Dr. ElKahlout received his PhD in post-war reconstruction and development studies from the University of York. Prior to joining the Doha Institute, Dr. ElKahlout worked for various international organisations, including the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Crescent Societies and Islamic Relief Worldwide. He has also served in a wide range of emergency humanitarian response teams and has extensive field experience in conflict and disaster-affected contexts.

PANELS



Altea Pericoli

'The regional dimension of humanitarian diplomacy: Organisation of OIC and IsDB in the Muslim World'

Altea Pericoli is a PhD candidate in Institutions and Policies and Teaching Assistant in History and Institutions of the Muslim World at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (UCSC) in Milan. She conducted visiting periods at Vienna University, Department of Near Eastern studies and Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance (Durham University Business School). She took part in the project "Humanitarian Diplomacy" at the Chr. Michelsen Institute and has carried out field research at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, regarding the role of Qatar in financing humanitarian and development aid. Her research interest concerns humanitarian and development aid implemented by Islamic actors and the Gulf States in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, especially in the Syrian reconstruction.

PANEL 2: HUMANITARIAN WORK IN WAR

Humanitarian work often takes place in contexts of protracted emergency and war. The unfolding of humanitarian relief is therefore affected by the logic of war in all its different aspects, from the targeting of civilians to the destruction of infrastructure, and from negotiations with armed groups to all forms of abuse and exploitation that emerge in war contexts. This panel will address, from both practitioners and scholarly perspectives, the main challenges and implications of humanitarianism in war.



Nell Gabiam

'Care and survival during the war in Syria: The limits of Institutionalised humanitarianism'

Nell Gabiam is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Political Science at Iowa State University. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2008. She is the author of *The Politics of Suffering: Syria's Palestinian Refugee Camps*, published in 2016 by Indiana University Press. While her earlier research focused on the politics of humanitarianism and development in Palestinian refugee camps, her more recent research focuses on Palestinians displaced by the ongoing Syrian war. Her work has taken her to Jordan, Lebanon, the UAE, Turkey, France, Sweden and Germany.

PANELS



Kholoud Mansour

'Reflections on a decade of humanitarian aid in Syria'

Kholoud Mansour is a researcher and consultant. Her research focuses on humanitarian and development response, refugees and migration, civil society, peacebuilding, gender and women's political participation. She has published and worked for leading think tanks, UN agencies, and international organisations.



Arne Strand

Arne Strand is a Senior Researcher and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI). Strand has a PhD in Post-war Recovery Studies where he studied coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies. His research focuses on aid coordination, forced migration and reintegration, peace-building and security sector reform and humanitarian and development assistance. Strand has been team leader of several evaluations and research programmes in and on Afghanistan. He has extensive management experience from NGOs and research institutes, and has also been involved in developing management and professional capacities of Afghan NGOs and peacebuilding organisations. Strand was also the Director of the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre from 2016 to 2021.



Norwegian Centre for
Humanitarian Studies

The NCHS is a collaboration between the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

www.humanitarianstudies.no