

Forced Separation Workshop

King's College London

Strand, WC2R 2LS

13TH-14TH May 2024



Entre Nosotros- Ernesto Saade El Salvador- 2021 Refugiarte UNHC

Organizers

Dr Rebekka Friedman (King's College London)
Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (Queen's University Belfast)
Dr Diana Florez (King's College London)

Concept Note

This workshop examines practices, experiences, and consequences of forced separation. Far from being a by-product of violence, we recognise forced separation as a conscious and systematic strategy to target intimate dependent relationships to enable violence and oppression. Although some scholars have examined elements of forced separation, we wish to bring into focus the family as a central theoretical concern, and the profound gendered and long-term legacies of forced separation.

Co-sponsored by King's College London; the Human Rights Centre at Queen's University Belfast School of Law; and the Gender, Justice and Security Hub, our workshop will focus on forced separation in contexts of enforced disappearances, armed conflict, slavery, migration, colonialism, and counter-insurgency. By bringing together international and interdisciplinary scholars and practitioners and by considering a variety of historical and contemporary cases, the workshop will analyse the social, economic, psychological, legal, and gendered dimensions of forced separation.

The contributions of this workshop will be highly timely considering the recent war crimes indictments by the International Criminal Court on the forcible removal of Ukrainian children from their families. We will bring the question of forced separation into global view and discuss forced separation as a crime committed by different regimes to achieve their military and political objectives.

The workshop is co-sponsored by King's College London; the Human Rights Centre at Queen's University Belfast School of Law; and the Gender, Justice and Security Hub.



Schedule

Monday, 13 May 2024

King's College London, Small Committee Room (K0.31)

Ground Floor, King's Building, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

8:45-9:15	Arrivals
9:15-10:00	Introductions and Goals of the Workshop
10:00-11:25	Session 1 - Conceptual Inroads: Reflections on Harm and the Circumstances of the Family Separation Chair: Rebekka Friedman
10:00-10:20	Rainer Huhle <i>Disappeared, Missing, Separated, Stolen</i>
10:20-10:40	Fionnuala Ní Aoláin <i>The Legal Harm of Separation through the Prism of Maternal Harms</i>
10:40-11:00	Heather Williams <i>The Struggle Continued: Post-Civil War Separation of African American Families</i>
11:00-11:25	Q & A
11:25-11:40	Coffee
11:40-13:05	Session 2 - Lived Experiences of Separation: Family, Gender, and Migration Chair: Diana Florez
11:40-12:00	Rebekka Friedman and Hanna Ketola <i>Violations of the Heart: Parental Harm</i>
12:00-12:20	Irene Tuzi <i>'Doing Family' in the Transnational Space: Syrian Households Navigating Forced Separation in Displacement</i>
12:20-12:40	Malene Jacobsen <i>'Who Do You Talk to in Syria?': War, Family, and the Right to Protection</i>
12:40-13:05	Q & A
13:05-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:25	Session 3 - Accountability: Family Separation, and Legal and Policy Responses Chair: Fionnuala Ní Aoláin
14:00-14:20	Yulia Ioffe <i>Genocide and Echoes of Empire: Forced Separation of Ukrainian Children in the Russian War against Ukraine</i>
14:20-14:40	Diane Marie Amann <i>Child-Taking</i>

14:40-15:00	Chulani Kodikara <i>Forced Disappearances as Forced Separations and the Women Next of Kin as Claimants of Justice</i>
15:00-15:25	Q & A
15:25-15:40	Coffee
15:40- 17:10	Session 4 - Psychological and Forensic Perspectives: Reunification and Living with Disappearances Chair: Nicky Armstrong
15:40-16:00	Miryam Rivera Holguín <i>Forced Separation and Family Dynamics after Human Rights Abuses: the Case of Families of the Disappeared in Perú</i>
16:00-16:20	Gameela Samarasinghe <i>Lived Experiences of Families of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka: Adapting Mental Health and Psychosocial Responses to Address Complex Psychosocial Needs, Structural Injustices, and Inequalities</i>
16:20-16:40	Elizabeth Barnert <i>Finding El Salvador's Disappeared Children: DNA, Identity, and Implications for the 'Now' Disappeared</i>
16:40-17:00	Andreas Kleiser <i>Missing and Abducted Children in Europe: The Case of Ukraine</i>
17:00-17:25	Q & A
17:25-18:00	Closing Discussion and Future Agenda
18:00-19:30	'Stolen Children' Exhibition Large Somerset Room (KCL)
19:45	Dinner at Fishworks (Covent Garden) 2-4 Catherine Street, WC2B 5JY

Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Freddie's Café and Bar

Goodenough College

Mecklenburgh Square, London, WC1N 2AB

9:00-11:30 Brainstorming Breakfast Session

- What gaps do you think there are in research and practice on forced separation?
- How do you think this group could make a contribution?
- How might interdisciplinary research be useful for this topic?
- What would you like to do with this group?

Participant Biographies

Andreas Kleiser has worked in the field of international cooperation since 1995, initially as an executive officer in the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe. He advised ICMP in 2001 on the establishment of the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina and joined the organization as Senior Advisor in 2003. He led ICMP's first disaster response operation, at the request of the Council of the European Union, to help the authorities in Thailand account for those who went missing in the 2004 South East Asian tsunami. Andreas has negotiated numerous cooperation and other agreements between ICMP and intergovernmental and other organizations, as well as with governments of states where ICMP works, and he oversees ICMP's assistance to domestic and international justice institutions, including, during its mandate, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Chulani Kodikara is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Law, Queen's University, Belfast and a member of the editorial collective of *Polity*, the magazine of the Social Scientists' Association, Sri Lanka. She recently received her Ph.D from the University of Edinburgh after many years of work as a feminist researcher and activist in Sri Lanka.

Diana Florez is a dedicated feminist and experienced legal professional with over fifteen years of experience. She has seamlessly combined her expertise in UN agencies, grassroots organizational work, and academic research. Diana's academic focus is on gender, transitional justice, development, and peacebuilding, with a particular emphasis on women's priorities in post-conflict justice agendas. Her projects have focused on enhancing women's political participation, promoting peace, and advancing gender equality. With extensive field experience in Colombia and Honduras, Diana currently serves as a Research Associate for the 'Legacies of the Disappeared' project within the UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice, and Security Hub. Her contributions aim to broaden conceptions of harm in transitional justice.

Diane Marie Amann is Regents' Professor, Emily & Ernest Woodruff Chair in International Law, and Faculty Co-Director of the Dean Rusk International Law Center at the University of Georgia School of Law. She served as International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's Special Adviser on Children in & affected by Armed Conflict (2012-2021). Her scholarship includes "Child-Taking," forthcoming in the *Michigan Journal of International Law*. Amann has held leadership posts in both the American and the European societies of international law. This autumn she will be a Research Visitor at the Oxford University Faculty of Law's Bonavero Institute of Human Rights.

Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH, MS is a paediatrician who provides clinical care in youth carceral facilities and an associate professor of paediatrics at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research, grounded in human rights and social action, examines children affected by violence, family separation, and incarceration. Dr. Barnert is author of the ethnographic book, *Reunion: Finding the Disappeared Children of El Salvador*.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin is currently a Professor of Law at Queen's University Belfast. In 2017, she was appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and served until 2023. Her teaching and research interests are in the fields of international law, human rights law, national security law, transitional justice, and feminist legal theory. She has published widely in the fields of emergency powers, conflict regulation, transitional justice, and sex-based violence in times of war and continues to write extensively on theoretical aspects of transition. She was elected to the International Commission of Jurists in 2023, and as Honorary King's Counsel (K.C. (Hons)) in 2024.

Gameela Samarasinghe is a Clinical Psychologist and an Associate Professor in Psychology in the Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was a member of the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms, appointed in 2016, and co-authored the chapter in the report titled Support for Affected Individuals and Communities: Psychosocial Considerations and Security. She has been the recipient of awards and research grants including the Fulbright-Hays Senior Research Scholar Award (2004-2005) at Boston University and the Fulbright Advanced Research Award 2013 – 2014 at Columbia University. She holds a BA degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology both from the Université Rene Descartes, Paris V, Sorbonne in France and a Doctorate in Psychology from the Université de Bretagne Occidentale in Brest, France.

Hanna Ketola is a Lecturer in the Politics of Gender at Newcastle University. Her research explores the politics of, war, peace and militarism and is grounded in feminist theory and ethnographic methods. She is interested in questions of agency, familial ties, affect and emotions, and subaltern politics. Hanna has regional expertise in South Asia, specifically Nepal where she has done extensive field research. Prior to joining Newcastle Hanna was engaged in several postdoctoral projects, including through her ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at King's College London, the UKRI-funded Civil War Paths project at University of York, and the Legacies of the Disappeared project with the GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub. She completed her PhD from KCL, where her thesis focused on women's political agency in the context of peacebuilding in post-conflict Nepal.

Heather A. Williams is Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom* (UNC, 2005), and *Help Me to Find My People: The African American Search for Family Lost in Slavery* (UNC, 2012), as well as *American Slavery: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2014). She is currently writing a book about violence in the antebellum South. She is also a filmmaker who has directed and produced *Jamaican Journeys*, a 5-part documentary film about Jamaicans who migrated to the United States in the 1950s and 60s. She teaches courses on African American History.

Irene Tuzi is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Bielefeld University. She holds a double PhD in social sciences from Humboldt University of Berlin and Sapienza University of Rome. Her research focuses on the impact of forced migration on gender roles and relations, with a particular focus on the Middle East, the Mediterranean region and Europe. Irene Tuzi works mainly with qualitative methods. Her work draws on critical refugee studies and explores the exercise of agency in refugeehood, and she is currently investigating the 'embedding' and 'integration' of transnational families in a mediatized social world.

Malene H. Jacobsen is a NUAcT Fellow in Geography at Newcastle University. Grounded in feminist political geography, Malene's work focuses on war, displacement, and refuge. Over the years, her research has been supported by the US National Science Foundation, the US Social Science Research Council, the Irish Research Council, and the European Commission. Malene has published articles and book chapters on issues related to the geographies of war and refuge, families' struggles to end forced separation, the politics of dispossession and refusal, the legal re-writing of refugee protection as well as feminist methodologies.

Miryam Rivera Holguín is an Associate Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. She has developed her research and practice in the fields of Community Psychology, focusing on human rights and community mental health public policies and vulnerable contexts. She is a member of the Editorial Board of INTERVENTION, the Journal of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict Affected Areas. She holds a PhD in Psychology from the University of Leuven, Belgium.

Rainer Huhle holds a PhD in Political Science. From 1997-1999, he was a founding expert team member of the OHCHR office in Colombia. From 2011-2019, he served as a member and 2015-2019, as vice-president of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, where he was a rapporteur drafting the

“Guiding Principles for the search for disappeared persons” adopted in April 2019. He teaches Transitional Justice at the Master of Human Rights program at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and belongs to the Center of Human Rights (CHREN) of that University.

Rebekka Friedman is an Associate Professor in International Relations in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. Her research and teaching focus on transitional justice, peacebuilding, memory, reconciliation, gender, and understanding harm. She has carried out field research on formal and informal mechanisms of justice and recovery in Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, and Peru. Rebekka has produced an eighty-minute documentary film, entitled, 'Hidden Voices', which examines women's experiences of loss and recovery in Northeastern Sri Lanka. She has an interest in the use of visual methods in ethnographic research. She is currently leading the 'Legacies of the Disappeared' project, which is part of the UKRI GCRF Gender, Justice and Security Hub.

Yulia Ioffe is a Lecturer in Law at University College London (UCL) and an expert on child rights and migration, which was also the topic of her doctoral research at the University of Oxford. Previously, she clerked for H.E. Judge James R. Crawford at the International Court of Justice and worked at the UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the UNHCR Regional Representation for Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.

Locations

Workshop

King's College London, Ground Floor, King's Building, Small Committee Room (K0.31).
Strand London, WC2R 2LS.



Please register at the reception of the Strand Building (see the photo below). A member of the workshop team will be available at the reception to assist you. Once inside the building, proceed to your right-hand side and continue down the long corridor until you reach the Small Committee Room (K0.31) on the Ground Floor, which will be located on your right-hand side.



Hotel

Goodenough Hotel
23 Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1N 2AF
Telephone: [+44 \(0\)20 7837 8831](tel:+442078378831)

Goodenough hotel looks like this from the street:



Breakfast (14 May 2024)

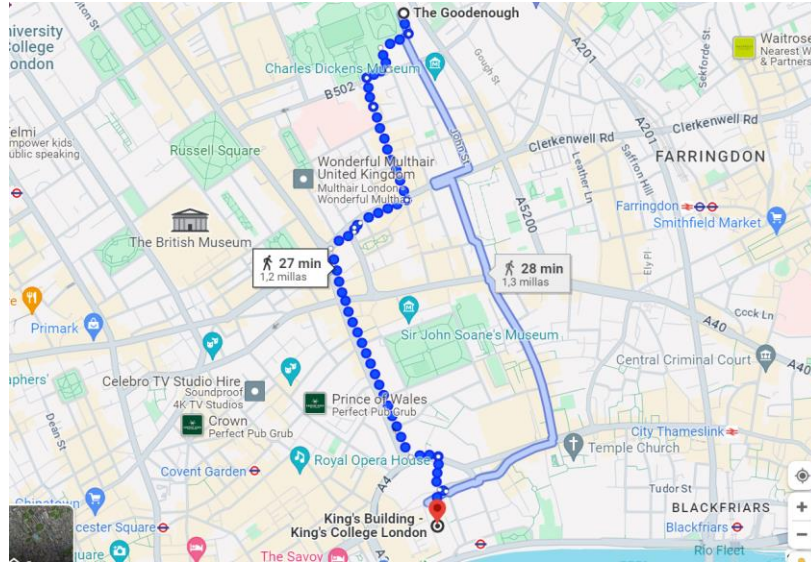
Freddie's Café and Bar
Mecklenburgh Square, London WC1N 2AB

The Bar is situated within the confines of Goodenough College, just a two-minute walk from the hotel. Goodenough College looks like this from the street:



Additional Information

Goodenough Hotel is relatively close to the King's Building of King's College London (25 minutes by foot). However, if you prefer, you can catch a bus (number 243 from the Red Lion Street Stop A). While there are train stations nearby, there are no stations that directly serve KCL and you would need to make line changes.



For transportation from the airport to the hotel, we recommend using the Transport for London journey planner (<https://tfl.gov.uk>) or the 'Citymapper' phone app.

Kindly note that transportation between the airport and the hotel, as well as internal transportation, will not be covered. We request that each participant arranges their own transportation.

If you need help, please contact:

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