

Institution: University of Bedfordshire		
Unit of Assessment: UoA 20: Social Work & Social Policy		
Title of case study: Forced migration: Addressing the needs and capabilities of people who are asylum seekers, refugees, and trafficked		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2010 to present		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g., job title)	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
1. Cody, C	Senior Research Fellow	11.2013 to present
2. Connolly, H	Senior Lecturer in Sociology	07.2011 to present
3. Evans, C	Research Fellow	04.2020 to 03.2021
4. Hutchinson, A	Research Fellow	05.2012 to 02.2020
5. Hynes, P	Reader in Forced Migration	03.2012 to present
6. Kohli, RKS	Professor of Child Welfare	09.2006 to present
7. Opferman, L	Lecturer in Applied Social Studies	09.2019 to present
8. Wroe, L	Research Fellow	09.2018 to present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 01.08 2013 to present		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? No		
1. Summary of the impact Our research has shaped the understanding and implementation of national and international laws and policies protecting asylum-seeking and trafficked children and adults. It has ensured the development of Guardianship schemes for all trafficked children in England and Wales, and in addition for unaccompanied minors in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It has also helped to reverse government policy, ensuring that unaccompanied asylum seeking-children would regain access to legal aid. The research has extended public and professional understanding of Modern Slavery and its impact on trafficked people; it has changed narratives about refugees, highlighting their contributions to their new societies across Europe; and has improved practices for those who work with people who are vulnerable through forced migration.		
2. Underpinning research Every year people engage in <i>forced migration</i> when they move from their homelands because of war, poverty or natural disaster. While their reasons for moving extend beyond the definitions of the 1951 Refugee Convention and allied protocol, understanding the experiences of those forced to migrate is vital to supporting them in their new countries. In shaping the meanings of support for forced migrants, our empirical enquiries encompass their needs and vulnerabilities as well as their capabilities within countries of sanctuary. In line with this latter focus, our work adds a distinctive new thread to the empirical literature, using arts-based methodologies. These contributions define and refine the ways refugees are understood as help seekers and as bridge builders within new societies. Together, these engagements exemplify our approach to refugees as talented creators and curators of their lives. Our underpinning research has focussed on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This work laid a foundation for understanding how they sought (and sometimes found) safety, belonging and success in new countries. Our work tracked young asylum seekers' experiences of keeping silence and secrets, and managing time, transitions and waiting, as well as foster care and food pathways. Cody's work from 2013, as one example, focussed on the meaning of 'reintegration' for unaccompanied (including trafficked) children [3.1]. Since that time our work has broadened to include adults who are trafficked, as well as forced migrants displaced through natural disasters and poverty. On the basis of our range of work, we were commissioned by the Home		

Office to evaluate the provision of independent Guardianship for unaccompanied minors and other children subject to trafficking in England and Wales. [3.5].

Consolidating this focus, our research has examined other issues facing forced migrants. In 2015, Connolly authored the first of two research reports (an update was published in 2017) on separated migrant children's access to legal aid in partnership with the Children's Society [3.2]. Between 2017 and 2019, Hynes led a four country study on human trafficking across Albania, Viet Nam, Nigeria and the UK in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and funded by the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund (MSIF) [3.3]. Funded by the British Academy, Hutchinson worked across several research projects in partnership with *Terre des Hommes - Lausanne* (Tdh) on child protection in refugee communities [3.4]. This work, examining early marriage as a tactic of survival for young women in the context of forced migration, has built a framework within which risk and protective factors can be understood by practitioners and policy makers in nuanced, context specific ways. It demonstrated the efficacy of a tool used to assess hope and resilience [the Hope tool] among migrant children, paving the way for better more targeted support.

In 2016, Wroe founded the charity '*Social Work without Borders*'. The charity takes a social justice approach to its work. It provides pro-bono expert social work reports for people enduring asylum and immigration decisions. In 2019 Wroe's reference book [3.6], linked to the charity's values and commitments, brought together academics, asylum seekers, practitioners and activists to define and promote social justice based approaches to working with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK and internationally.

The ESRC funded 'separated child migrants' care relationships and caring practices' project [2019-2023], on which Kohli is Co-I, has begun to describe how children care for one another in contexts of forced migration. In 2020 Kohli as PI received funding from NordForsk for a 4 year project on *Relational Wellbeing in the lives of young [adult] refugees in Finland, Norway and the UK*. It was one of seven projects funded by NordForsk out of 220 applications by international research teams.

3. References to the research

3.1 Cody, C. (2016) 'We can't collect comprehensive information on all of these changes': The challenges of monitoring and evaluating reintegration efforts for separated children. In: Malloch, M. and Rigby, P. (eds.) *Human Trafficking: The Complexities of Exploitation*. Edinburgh University Press

3.2 Connolly, H. (2015) *Cut off from Justice: The Impact of Excluding Separated Migrant Children from Legal Aid*. The Children's Society.

<https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/cut-justice-impact-excluding-separated-migrant-children-legal-aid>

3.3 Hynes, P., Burland, P., Thurnham, A., Dew, J., Gani-Yusuf, L., Lenja, V. and Hong Thi Tran with Olatunde, A. and Gaxha, A., (2019), '*Between Two Fires: Understanding Vulnerabilities and the Support Needs of People from Albania, Viet Nam and Nigeria who have experienced Human Trafficking into the UK*, University of Bedfordshire and International Organization for Migration.

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/trafficking>

3.4 O'Leary, P., Hutchinson, A., & Squire, J. (2015). Community-based Child Protection with Palestinian Refugees in South Lebanon: Engendering Hope and Safety. *International Social Work*, 58(5), 717–731. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0020872815584427>

3.5 Kohli, R.K.S, Hynes, P, Connolly, H, Thurnham, A, Westlake, D, D'Arcy, K (2015) *Evaluation of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates trial*. Research Report 86. Home Office. December 2015

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486138/icta-horr86.pdf

3.6 Wroe, L., Larkin, R. & Maglajlic, R. A. (2019). *Social Work with Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants: Theory and Skills for Practice*. Jessica Kingsley

4. Details of the impact

Our work has informed legislative design in all UK countries. It has impacted on social policy to generate supportive and sustainable futures for forced migrants. It has improved professional practices across a range of state and non-state actors internationally, as shown below.

Impact on UK legislation and social policy

Our work has led to independent Guardianship being established for all trafficked children in England and Wales, and for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The role of a Guardian is to provide reliable and trusted long term adult support for a child, and to link and bridge between welfare, immigration and criminal justice services to secure the best interests of that child. A Guardian is, to use a term coined by us in 2013, someone who is *by the child's side, and on their side*, as they navigate these complex systems. In 2010 we evaluated the first such scheme in Scotland. In 2014 we pioneered the plans for a Guardianship service in Northern Ireland. Our 2015 report [3.5] took the next steps in defining Guardianship within the terms of s48 of The Modern Slavery Act 2015. It set the foundations for a new independent service in England and Wales. Via an Independent Expert Advisory Panel on child trafficking, we advise the Home Office on the rollout of Guardianship in England and Wales.

Since 2012, Kohli has acted as an advisor to a number of Select Committees in both Houses of Parliament, the Chief Inspector of Borders and Migration, and the Children's Commissioner for England. Following our work on Guardianship, in 2018 Kohli was invited to advise and assist parliamentarians in reviewing s48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and its impact on child trafficking [5.2]. This resulted directly, *inter alia*, to the Government dispensing with the title of Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (ICTA) and replacing it with Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG) to reflect the role's scope beyond advocacy, as indicated by our empirical findings. The parliamentarians that formed the review committee [Baron Field (then Frank Field MP), Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, Maria Miller, MP] noted in February 2019 that: *We were all hugely impressed by the breadth and quality of the evidence you gathered, as well as the level of personal and professional insight you brought to your commentary and recommendations. We have studied your findings and proposals closely to inform our own recommendations to the Home Office, and I am sure you will be able to recognise your influence clearly reflected in our interim report. Your contribution to the Review on this topic has been invaluable to us.* [5.2] Kohli's underpinning empirical work on silence and secrets in the lives of unaccompanied children was chosen in 2020 by the British Journal of Social Work as among 50 outputs that are *crucial in understanding social work in the past and informing research and practice of the future*.

Connolly's 2015 research (updated by her in 2017) on the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) on separated migrant children was crucial in enabling their access to legal aid. Before 2012, about 2,500 separated migrant children per year had relied on legal aid to resolve their immigration claims. This stopped as LASPO came into force. Connolly's research was used to successfully bring separated children back into scope of legal aid in October 2019 - the only group to be brought back into scope. Through this work, scope now includes children's citizenships claims in legal aid for the first time, as well as legal aid applications for EU nationals. In a testimonial to Connolly's work the Children's Society noted in December 2020 that: *Dr Connolly ...ensured our work was of the highest standard but also worked in ways that helped us to maximise impact and retain a tight focus on the needs of unaccompanied children and the needs of our judicial review...Dr Connolly's work with us is one of the best examples of academic impact we have come across* [5.1]

International impacts

From 2013 Cody's research has yielded fresh understandings of the differences between 'reunification' (a line of connection back with family) to 'reintegration' (a circle of wellness within a community). This holistic approach led to her output [3.1] within her broader work of designing a toolkit for monitoring and evaluating reintegration for separated children. It was subsequently disseminated by the RISE Learning Network (led by the international NGO Family for Every Child) across 12 'learning partners' in sub-Saharan Africa, South Central Asia and Latin America [5.1]. The findings from this work were cited extensively by the UN Special Rapporteur in 2015 in her report on care, recovery and reintegration programmes for child victims of sale and sexual exploitation [5.7].

Through Hutchinson's pioneering evaluation of the Hope tool, building on [3.3], community-based child protection programmes have been deployed by Terre des hommes (Tdh) to build resilience amongst Palestinian refugees. The training and investment in social workers that the programme pioneered has resulted in the growth of workforce development teams in Tdh across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This can be corroborated through testimonies from Tdh country teams in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine. The results of Hutchinson's work on child marriage among Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon was published in 2020 [5.4]. Tdh is able to confirm via the sources cited under Hutchinson below, that this research has significantly influenced their programme and policy on child marriage, and informed applications to donors for funding. About 70% of their new framework of action on child marriage in the region is based on our research.

Working with the French charity *Apprentis D'Auteuil*, Kohli's research was used to create innovative social work practices across four European States (France, Italy, Germany and Greece) [5.3]. These are aimed at protecting and enhancing the everyday wellbeing of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. A key output of this project was the production of online training via subscription to a Digital Notebook for those working directly with these children in Germany, Italy, France and Greece. This was launched in Paris in October 2020. The notebook currently has 1000 practitioner subscribers across Europe, with the aim of securing 3000 by the end of 2021, once the German, Italian and Greek versions of the Digital Notebook are launched. In appraising Kohli's impact on the project, *Apprentis D'Auteuil* observed in April 2020: *Today, I can say without a doubt that inviting [Kohli] to join our project's team was certainly one of the most crucial decisions we have made for our project's success. Our fruitful common collaboration will most certainly have a significant impact on the field social work, when it comes to providing better care to unaccompanied minors in our countries in Europe. We are very grateful for the time and passion Professor Kohli brought to our project, and we hope that this only marks the beginning of our collaboration in the years to come...*

Opfermann's and Evans' research studies in South Africa and Scotland respectively (submitted as outputs, not listed here) using theatre and visual arts, precedes Kohli's work using visual art methodologies in the NordForsk project. Turning the lives of young refugees into theatre based performance art or visual arts exemplifies our approach to refugees as talented curators of their lives. Moving beyond narratives of refugees as needy, these contributions define and refine ways these young people are understood as builders and creators within their new societies.

Hynes' study of trafficked people [3.3] resulted in expanded and enhanced networking amongst counter-trafficking professionals across Viet Nam, Albania, Nigeria and the UK [5.5]. The research report by Hynes is currently a key reference in the latest Country of Origin reports used by asylum decision makers at the Home Office [5.5 shows the COI for Albania as an example]. The study directly informed IOM's approach and practice around social stigma in Indonesia and Ethiopia. IOM have confirmed the impact of this work across Viet Nam, Albania and Nigeria, particularly in relation to understanding prevention, the provision of services for men, boys and atypical 'victims' of human trafficking and mental health needs. In a testimony to the University in December 2020, IOM in Viet Nam wrote: *Dr Hynes's knowledge and expertise in the field of migration and human trafficking and lead on the research led to a successful analysis and research report. It helped IOM Viet Nam successfully secured a UK funded trafficking project*

entitled *Tackling Modern Slavery in Viet Nam (TMSV)*. This research resulted in wide recognition of the issue of trafficking and vulnerability of Vietnamese migrants in the UK, and need to improve the evidence-base, through further research and evidence to support the operational work of IOM and other agency's work to counter trafficking in Viet Nam. In October 2020, this study achieved two A+ grades within the Home Office's evaluation of the effectiveness of the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund [5.5].

5. Sources [S] to corroborate the impact

5.1 Related to legal aid changes (Connolly 3.2) quoted above

Children's Society contact information supplied

- The impact of the research is noted by the Ministry of Justice on p13 in the report https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777036/legal-support-the-way-ahead.pdf

5.2 Related to the Modern Slavery Act 2015, s48 (Kohli) quoted above

House of Lords, London DW1A 0AA contact information supplied

- The Review of the Modern Slavery Act https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803406/Independent_review_of_the_Modern_Slavery_Act_-_final_report.pdf

5.3 Related to social work with unaccompanied minors in Europe (Kohli) quoted above

Apprentis D'Auteuil - contact information supplied

- A short film on the European project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtBi21PbmOA>
- The Digital Notebook https://www.apprentis-auteuil.com/digital_notebooks_for_social_work.html
- *Children Caring on the Move* project <https://www.ccomstudy.com/>
- *Relational Wellbeing in the lives of young refugees in Finland, Norway and the UK* <https://www.drawingtogetherproject.org/>

5.4 Related to the international collaborations (Hutchinson)

INGO co-chair of the RAF (also based in Tdh) - contact information supplied

- Impact on child marriage <https://www.tdh.ch/en/media-library/documents/research-child-marriage>

5.5 Related to the study of trafficking from Viet Nam, Albania, and Nigeria (Hynes)

- IOM country offices - Viet Nam quoted above
- Home Office assessment of the study by Hynes https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927246/MSIF_ETR_Public_Draft_15.10.20_.pdf
- Albania Country of Origin Report, Home Office. Cited as *Uni of Beds/IOM*. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963909/Albania_-_Trafficking_-_CPIN_-_v10.0_FEBRUARY_2021_.pdf

5.6 Related to Social Work with Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (Wroe)

Chair, British Association of Social Workers - contact information supplied

5.7 Related to 'reintegration' of separated and trafficked children (Cody)

- UN General Assembly Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/222
- Findings from the pilot of the M&E toolkit with professionals. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17450128.2019.1672910>