



Centre for International Development/Geography Seminar

Gender, (im)mobility and citizenship in a refugee women's driving programme in Aotearoa New Zealand

Former refugee women around the world often lack the knowledge and skills necessary for them to be mobile upon resettlement. Driving programmes can address this gap, but may be time-bound and lacking in gender-awareness. Drawing on mixed method evaluation research with Changemakers' Refugee Forum's Turning the Curve refugee women's driving programme, this paper explores the programme's unique approach to increasing women's mobility. By calling attention to different stakeholders' assessments of what constituted 'success' within the programme, we argue that Turning the Curve's commitment to the quiet activism of waiting provides a powerful feminist model of expanded social citizenship. This form of citizenship privileges relationships, emotions and the messy, embodied realities of women's everyday lives, rather than the linear outcomes of service delivery favoured by government agencies. We propose that, if adapted into other areas of resettlement, this model could significantly enhance rights-based outcomes for resettling former refugees around the world.

Presenters: Amber Kale and Sara Kindon, School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Amber Kale is a PhD candidate in Human Geography. Her research uses participatory multisensory methodologies to explore experiences of displacement, place-attachment, and holistic wellbeing in refugee resettlement. She has volunteered for various organisations in the Wellington refugee resettlement sector since 2013, and currently volunteers for the Royal Commonwealth Society as the Pacific Regional Youth Coordinator.

Sara Kindon is Associate Professor of Human Geography and Development Studies. She has published widely, theorising a range of participatory and visual approaches to research in a number of contexts in the global south and New Zealand. Currently her work focuses on rethinking 'place' within NZ's refugee resettlement strategy, and exploring relationships between migration, home and belonging using a textile-based methodology with Latin American women in Wellington. In 2016, she was a Lillian Robinson Scholar at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, a University Research Fellow at the University of Newcastle, and Inaugural Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University. Sara is originally from the West Midlands, but migrated to NZ in 1994 and now considers Wellington to be home.

Venue: Squires Building 211 Time: 19th September 2018, 3—5pm

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