

## Responses to migrants, refugees and displaced persons

**Supervisors:** Dr. [Neil Graffin](#) and Dr. [Caroline Derry](#), The Open University Law School.

### **Project Description:**

The migration of people across the world is not a new phenomenon, but in recent times it has fallen into sharper focus. This is partly in response to the refugee crisis, but more widely there has been an increase in anti-immigration rhetoric in many states. States have responded to the migration of people through a variety of means – some designed to protect people, and others to socially control or exclude them from the borders of the state.

This invite asks applicants to consider how the law has responded, or how it could respond, to the migration of people in recent times. The successful candidate will develop their own, original research within this overall wide topic area. We will consider approaches from a range of different areas from this non-exhaustive list:

- Responses to the refugee crisis
- The protection of the rights of people seeking refuge
- Internationally displaced persons
- Statelessness
- The intersection between immigration law and criminal law (so called ‘cimmigration’)
- The role of the law in protecting humanitarian workers (for example, those working in search and rescue missions etc.)
- How the law can be used in surveillance, detention and exclusion of migrants
- Legal issues relating to Brexit within the field of immigration
- Supranational responses to migration and asylum
- Securitisation of borders

We will consider proposals from any range of legal research methods. For example, doctrinal approaches, social legal methods, historical or comparative methods, or approaches from critical legal studies or feminist legal theory.

The successful candidate would be expected to spend the first part of their research on familiarising themselves with the key theoretical debates and discussions in this field, before focusing on their chosen topic in depth. The successful candidate may choose to use either a desk-based or empirical approach, or a combination of both.

### **About the supervisors:**

Neil Graffin has been conducting research into immigration and asylum for four years and has published and spoken widely on a number of different issues within the wider field. Caroline Derry has previously taught gender and human rights at Masters level. Her current research interests focus on gender, sexuality and law.

### **Reference / readings:**

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