



universität
wien

Department of
Contemporary History



Funded by
the European Union



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Book Launch: Refugee Voices in Modern Global History

By Peter Gatrell, Katarzyna Nowak, Lauren Banko
and Anindita Ghoshal



FWF Österreichischer
Wissenschaftsfonds

GLOPE Global
Resettlement Regimes
ERC Research Group



Book launch 25 May 2025, 18 h, Hotel Regina, Salon Franz Joseph

**P. Gatrell, K. Nowak, A. Ghoshal, and L. Banko,
Reckoning with Refugeedom Refugee Voices in Global History,
Oxford University Press 2025.**

Panel discussion between authors Peter Gatrell and Katarzyna Nowak, and questions from the audience.

Abstract:

Across modern history, refugees have articulated their experiences and wishes against the backdrop of mass displacement brought about by world wars, civil war, revolution, population exchange, decolonisation, and state formation. Men and women displaced in different sites, from different backgrounds, and at different times have played for high stakes: they deliberated about what to say and to whom, and they sought, expected, and effected a response.

Refugee Voices in Modern Global History places refugees at the centre of modern history. It demonstrates how ordinary refugees understood their experiences of displacement and engaged with institutions that sought 'solutions' to their predicament. Ranging widely across global contexts to establish what refugees had to say and to whom, it shows them to have consistently been purposeful actors, making it possible to transcend conventional and hackneyed depictions of 'crisis'.

By adopting the term 'refugeedom' the authors show how the voices and perspectives of refugees can be incorporated alongside the power dynamics associated with the multiple incarnations of the refugee regime that 'managed' refugees and articulated 'solutions' to their predicament. Extensive archival research across three continents makes it possible to explain in comparative terms the significance attached to the encounters between refugees and officials in modern Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. The result is an original and in-depth study of the contrasting responses of refugees to displacement and to the arrangements made on their behalf at a series of critical junctures in the past.

Authors:

Peter Gatrell, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Manchester,

Katarzyna Nowak, MSCA Fellow, University of Vienna,

Lauren Banko, Wellcome Trust Research Fellow, University of Manchester,

Anindita Ghoshal, Associate Professor of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University.