

14th September 2015

Centro de Informação Urbana de Lisboa (CIUL)

Picoas Plaza - Rua Viriato, 13-E, Núcleo 6, 1º, LISBOA

Free entrance with registration until 10th September to [observatorioemigracao@iscte.pt](mailto:observatorioemigracao@iscte.pt)

# The Effects of Border Policies on the Strategies of Refugees from Syria

“ENCONTROS MENSAIS SOBRE EXPERIÊNCIAS MIGRATÓRIAS”

the CIES-IUL, CRIA/FCSH-UNL and ISCTE-IUL, in cooperation with the Social Rights Department from the Lisbon City Hall, invites you for an interdisciplinary event.

1118/17a- Boites aux lettres dans bidonville portugais à Champigny - 1964  
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Coordination : Raquel Matias (CIES-IUL; CES-UC); Inês Espírito Santo (Observatório da Emigração –CIES-IUL); Cristina Santinho (CRIA/ISCTE-IUL); José Mapril (CRIA/FCSH-UNL)



## Programme

14:00 - 14:30 | Opening and welcome Arqt<sup>o</sup> João Carlos Afonso | Lisbon Councilor, Social Rights Department

Chair: Cristina Santinho | CRIA/ISCTE-IUL

14:30 - 15:00 | Lama Kabbanji | IRD-CPD/INED – France; IMS/LAU, Lebanon

*Exploring the effects of border and immigration policies on the strategies of refugees from Syria*

*Resume | According to the UNHCR, Syria is the first provider of asylum seekers in 2013 in 44 industrialized countries. 56351 applications were registered in 2013, most of them in Europe, and particularly in Suede and Germany, followed by Bulgaria, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Austria. These figures are very low when compared to Syrian refugees registered at the UNHCR in neighboring countries. In april 2014, the UNHCR stated that Lebanon became the country with the highest proportion of refugees compared to the*

*national population in the world, with more than one million refugees from Syria living on its ground (a quarter of the population). Since the beginning of the war in Syria, Lebanese immigration and borders policies had constantly changed, in line with the increase and dynamics of refugee's flows from Syria. The same applies with regards to policies (formal and informal) implemented in some transit countries such as Libya or in destination countries in Europe. These changing policies affected in many ways the living conditions and strategies developed by Syrians and Palestinian Syrians. This presentation aims at exploring these effects through an examination of:*

- Borders and immigration policies of the Lebanese State and their evolution since the start of the Syrian conflict*
- The effect of these policies on the living conditions of refugees from Syria*
- The effect of these policies on the strategies developed by refugees from Syria, in particular Palestinian-Syrians, particularly mobility strategies*

*This presentation is based on an on-going research project started in early 2014 in Lebanon. It is based on multi-sited participant observations and interviews conducted in different countries/localities among a small group of Syrians and particularly Palestinian Syrians who fled Syria starting from 2012, and were followed by the researcher since early 2014.*

*Lama Kabbanji (lama.kabbanji@ird.fr) is a researcher at the French Research Institute for Development (IRD, Centre Population et Développement); a research associate at the National Institute for Demographic Studies (Ined, France); and Visiting Professor at the Institute for Migration Studies (Lebanese American University, Lebanon).*

*Check for Lama Kabbanji's work here:*

*Kabbanji, L. (2013). Towards a Global Agenda on Migration and Development? Evidence from Senegal. *Population, Space and Place*, 19(4), 415–429.*

*<http://doi.org/10.1002/psp.1782>*

*Kabbanji, L. (2014). Producing scientific knowledge on migration: perspectives on African and Arab countries. *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, 7(2), 263–282.*

*<http://doi.org/10.1080/17550912.2014.916541>*

**15:00 - 15:30 | Helena Barroco | Global Platform for Syrian Students (Portugal)**

***How to design a Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies ? Building upon the experience of the Global Platform for Syrian Students***

**15:30 - 16:00 | Susana Martins | ISCTE-IUL**

***Mobility experiences of Syrian students exiled in Portugal through a scholarship program***

***Resume | Taking into account the lack of educational responses and psychosocial support adapted to the needs of young Syrian refugees living in neighboring countries, growing speeches warn to the risks of the production of a lost generation of Syrians, that would otherwise be essential to the future of Syria and the region stability.***

***In a time when UNHCR recommends to be opened new channels of access to Europe, in parallel with the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, linked to Education, and several international reports stress the need for alternative legal channels and to expand***

*humanitarian admission regimes and temporary protection of Syrian refugees, in late 2013 there were announced 100 scholarships for Syrian students in Portuguese universities, an initiative promoted by the newly formed Global Platform for Emergency Assistance to Syrian Students.*

*At a national level, this initiative is counter-cyclical to the Portuguese asylum policy, combining a residual number of international protection applications (442 applications, of which 17 belonged to Syrian citizens in 2014) with an asylum recognition rate well below the European average.*

*Based on an ethnographic research in progress with a small number out of 70 Syrian students attending Portuguese universities since February 2014, it is intended to point out some (i)mobility experiences Syrian students have been facing since they first fled Syria, beginning in 2012, and how these experiences are affecting their lives.*

**16:00 - 17:30 | Debate**

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