**Coercion, Legitimacy and Democracy in the International Refugee Regime**

This paper is a first attempt to ask what is required for the international refugee regime to be legitimate. It specifically looks at whether refugees are owed democratic inclusion for legitimacy to obtain, and concludes that they are. Despite increasing international cooperation in the governance of refugees, these questions have received little attention in the normative literature. To rectify this, I discuss what is required to legitimate the international refugee regime, by analysing the nature of coercion that demands democratic legitimation. I argue that is it pervasive coercion that gives rise to such legitimacy demands, and that refugees are pervasively coerced by the refugee regime. They are therefore owed democratic inclusion. Unlike discussions of the coerciveness of borders, my discussion focuses on the refugee regime as a governance structure. I contend that the focus on borders in the case of refugees is misleading, as the coercion they are subject to by the refugee regime is more like that exercised by states over their citizens. Lastly, the paper sketches some suggestions of how to democratise the international refugee regime.

Key words: Refugees, International Governance, Legitimacy, Coercion, Democracy

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Currently holds a Leverhulme postdoc for a project on refugees and the welfare state. The project seeks to understand whether there are empirical and/or normative conflicts between solidarity with refugees and solidarity within the welfare state (www.boundedsolidarity.wordpress.com). Clara has published work on the political theory of borders, territory and refugees, as well as comparative work on nationalism, immigration and the welfare state.