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**FORCED  
MIGRATION**  
review

 **digest**  
Issue 61

# the **ETHICS** issue

*exploring ethical questions  
that confront us in our work*

**plus a special tribute to our  
founder, Barbara Harrell-Bond**

**Forced Migration Review digest – for easy online access to all FMR articles**

The digest complements the full-length magazine. Both the digest and the magazine of FMR issue 61 are available online and in print.



[www.fmreview.org/ethics](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics)



REFUGEE  
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# The ETHICS issue

We each live according to our own personal code of **ethics** but what moral principles guide our work? The 19 feature theme articles in this issue debate many of the ethical questions that confront us in programming, research, safeguarding and volunteering, and in our use of data, new technologies, messaging and images. Prepare to be enlightened, unsettled and challenged.

This issue is being published in tribute to **Barbara Harrell-Bond**, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre and FMR, who died in July 2018. In a special collection of articles, authors discuss her legacy – the impact she had and its relevance for our work today.

The full issue is available at [www.fmreview.org/ethics](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics).



## **Big data, little ethics: confidentiality and consent**

Nicole Behnam and Kristy Crabtree (International Rescue Committee)

Donors' thirst for data is increasingly undermining security and confidentiality, putting both survivors of violence and staff at risk.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/behnam-crabtree](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/behnam-crabtree)



## **New technologies in migration: human rights impacts**

Petra Molnar (University of Toronto)

States are keen to explore the use of new technologies in migration management, yet greater oversight and accountability mechanisms are needed in order to safeguard fundamental rights.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/molnar](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/molnar)



## **Social media screening: Norway's asylum system**

Jan-Paul Brekke and Anne Balke Staver (Institute for Social Research / Oslo Metropolitan University)

The growing use of data gathered from social media in asylum claim assessments raises critical yet underexplored ethical questions.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/brekke-balkestaver](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/brekke-balkestaver)



## **Developing ethical guidelines for research**

Christina Clark-Kazak (University of Ottawa)

The IASFM has agreed an international code of ethics to guide research with displaced people. Challenges that arose during its development merit continued discussion.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/clarkkazak](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/clarkkazak)



## **'Over-researched' and 'under-researched' refugees**

Naohiko Omata (University of Oxford)

A number of ethical issues emerge from working with 'over-researched' and 'under-researched' refugee groups.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/omata](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/omata)



## **Research fatigue among Rwandan refugees in Uganda**

Cleophas Karooma (Mbarara University of Science and Technology)

Refugees in Nakivale refugee settlement demonstrate research fatigue, yet a return visit by one particular researcher reveals an interesting twist to the tale.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/karooma](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/karooma)



## **Over-researching migration ‘hotspots’? Ethical issues from the Carteret Islands**

Johannes M Luetz (Christian Heritage College/UNSW Sydney)

The situation of the Carteret Islanders, often characterised as the first ‘climate change refugees’, has attracted much research interest. What is the impact of such interest? And are standard ethics compliance processes appropriate?

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/luetz](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/luetz)



## **Ethics and accountability in researching sexual violence against men and boys**

Sarah Chynoweth and Sarah Martin (Women’s Refugee Commission / independent)

Researching sexual violence against men and boys in humanitarian settings requires navigating multiple ethics- and accountability-related tensions.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/chynoweth-martin](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/chynoweth-martin)



## **Ethics and consent in settlement service delivery**

Carla Nayton and Sally Baker (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre / UNSW Sydney)

Service providers working in settlement contexts could draw more on research principles in order to better enable new arrivals to understand questions of rights and consent.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/nayton-baker](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/nayton-baker)



## **Ethical primary research by humanitarian actors**

Prisca Benelli and Tamara Low (Save the Children UK)

As humanitarian agencies increasingly follow the example of academia in establishing ethics review committees, one such agency reflects on the benefits and drawbacks.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/benelli-low](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/benelli-low)



## **EU migration strategy: compromising principled humanitarian action**

Anaïs Faure Atger (Red Cross EU Office)

EU migration policies are undermining basic humanitarian principles and making it more difficult for humanitarian actors to uphold their ethical commitments.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/faureatger](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/faureatger)



## **A humanitarian approach to travel medicine?**

Marta Aleksandra Balinska (Médecins Sans Frontières, Switzerland)

When MSF recently piloted travel medicine services for people travelling along migration routes in Greece, various ethical challenges and moral dilemmas emerged.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/balinska](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/balinska)



## **Principled humanitarian assistance and non-State armed groups**

Ruta Nimkar, Viren Falcao, Matthew Tebbutt and Emily Savage (Meraki Labs)

The humanitarian community needs to develop a better shared understanding of how to provide principled assistance in areas controlled by proscribed groups.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/nimkar-falcao-tebbutt-savage](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/nimkar-falcao-tebbutt-savage)



## **Ethical dilemmas posed by unethical behaviour by persons of concern**

Anna Turus (Transparency International)

What ethical dilemmas affect humanitarian agencies’ responses to fraudulent behaviour by persons of concern? And how might refugee community structures be more involved in defining responses?

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/turus](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/turus)



MSF staff taking care of children in the vaccination site in Elliniko.



### **Ethical quandaries in volunteering**

Ashley Witcher (University of Amsterdam)

Volunteers in Greece who are filling gaps in service provision can encounter complex ethical situations for which they may be insufficiently trained and supported.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/witcher](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/witcher)



### **The ethical use of images and messaging**

Dualta Roughneen (Plan International Ireland)

NGOs, international organisations and donors alike must consider the impact of the images and messaging they use in seeking to raise funds for humanitarian assistance.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/roughneen](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/roughneen)



### **Representing refugees in advocacy campaigns**

Natalie Slade (Massey University)

The representations of refugees created by advocacy and solidarity groups must be devised in partnership with those whose stories are being told.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/slade](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/slade)

**New to QR codes?** Download any QR code reader app (QR = Quick Response) and scan the square code next to an article – it will take you straight to the article online.



## Putting safeguarding commitments into practice

Agnes Olusese and Catherine Hingley (IOM South Sudan)

Aid organisations have to go further if they are to meet commitments to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, listen to survivors, and remove barriers to reporting.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/olusese-hingley](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/olusese-hingley)



## Safeguarding in conflict and crisis

Sarah Blakemore and Rosa Freedman (Keeping Children Safe / University of Reading)

Robust, comprehensive safeguarding measures, including those used in crisis- and conflict-affected contexts, need to take appropriate account of local contexts in order to adhere to the highest international standards, including in safeguarding children.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/blakemore-freedman](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/blakemore-freedman)



Aboulnakim Al Anisi/NRC

NRC staff in the Middle East

### Would you consider making a gift to help continue the crucial initiative – FMR – that Barbara Harrell-Bond started?

Your donation will support the free, accessible sharing of experience and expertise, lessons and recommendations – which is essential for improving programmes, policies and approaches worldwide.

#### How your donation will help

- ▶ £30 will get print copies to five refugee camps, local NGOs or researchers
- ▶ £45 will send three issues a year to eight national libraries
- ▶ £80 will send copies for sharing at a coordination meeting in Nigeria
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To make a donation, please visit [www.fmreview.org/online-giving](http://www.fmreview.org/online-giving)

*If Barbara's work or FMR has helped you over the years,  
please support our appeal.*



# Tribute to Barbara Harrell-Bond

Barbara Harrell-Bond, founder of the RSC and FMR, died in July 2018. Barbara fought throughout her life for refugee rights, to keep refugees at the centre of humanitarian interventions and to give refugees voice and thus agency. These are issues which resonate even more deeply now, in an age in which safe havens for refugees are increasingly being eroded and violations of human rights are on the rise. In a special collection of articles, authors discuss her legacy – the impact she had and its relevance for our work today.



## **A Life Not Ordinary: our colleague Barbara Harrell-Bond**

Matthew Gibney, Dawn Chatty and Roger Zetter (University of Oxford)

The RSC's current and two of its former directors pay tribute to their colleague's relentless energy and lifelong fight for refugee rights.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/gibney-chatty-zetter](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/gibney-chatty-zetter)



## **A lifelong commitment to justice**

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan

Barbara Harrell-Bond's work had a radical impact on the lives of the uprooted and on people's attitudes towards them.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/bintalal](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/bintalal)



## **A refugee-centred perspective**

Anita H Fábos (Clark University)

Part of Barbara Harrell-Bond's legacy is the example she set of a refugee-centred approach to forced migration and refugee studies.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/fabos](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/fabos)



## **Building expert witness reports: Barbara's legacy**

Maja Grundler (Queen Mary University of London)

The importance of rigour and detail in preparing expert witness reports cannot be overstated.

[www.fmreview.org/ethics/grundler](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/grundler)



This image of Barbara was displayed on a billboard near Oxford train station as part of the Oxford Festival of the Arts. Written across the image were these words: *Thank you for helping me escape FGM in Nigeria.*



## The helpfulness of *Imposing Aid*: a tribute from the Refugee Law Project

Chris Dolan (Refugee Law Project)

Twenty years after Barbara Harrell-Bond co-founded the Refugee Law Project in Uganda, its current director considers the continuing legacy of the principles that run through her book.  
[www.fmreview.org/ethics/dolan](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/dolan)



## Barbara's ethics of antagonism

Joshua Craze (writer)

Barbara Harrell-Bond's approach stemmed from her core belief that we are all adults, all equal, all responsible.  
[www.fmreview.org/ethics/craze](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/craze)



## AMERA: delivering a refugee-centred approach to protection

Sarah Elliott and Megan Denise Smith (UNHCR / IOM)

Former AMERA staff and advisers reflect on the impact this NGO had in advancing refugee protection and how it embodied Barbara Harrell-Bond's philosophy.  
[www.fmreview.org/ethics/elliott-smith](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/elliott-smith)



## From a critique of camps to better forms of aid

Alyoscia D'Onofrio (International Rescue Committee)

What insights can the pre-eminent critic of camp-based aid provision, Barbara Harrell-Bond, offer contemporary practitioners?  
[www.fmreview.org/ethics/donofrio](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/donofrio)



## Resist injustice

Olivier Rukundo

The assistance that I, as a refugee, received from Barbara Harrell-Bond shows that her defence of refugees went far beyond the preparation of asylum applications.  
[www.fmreview.org/ethics/rukundo](http://www.fmreview.org/ethics/rukundo)



To access all FMR podcasts (arranged by issue), go to <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series> and search for 'forced migration review'.



**Forthcoming feature themes**

- Return (October 2019, submissions now closed)
- Cities and towns (February 2020)
- Climate crisis (June 2020)
- Recognising refugees (October 2020)

Details at [www.fmreview.org/forthcoming](http://www.fmreview.org/forthcoming).

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**Cover image**

Finding an image to illustrate Ethics was never going to be easy, so we opted for something abstract. What metaphors does the dark, deep, swirling water conjure up? Reflection, hidden depths, tidal changes... or perhaps other things come to mind for you? Let us know ([fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk)) and we'll put a selection of your ideas on our Behind the images page.

Clément Chéné (CC BY 2.0)



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