

The background of the slide features a stylized city skyline. The skyline is composed of various geometric shapes representing buildings, rendered in a monochromatic blue color scheme. The buildings vary in height and width, creating a dense urban silhouette. The sky above the skyline is a light, solid blue, providing a high-contrast background for the white text.

URBAN HOSPITALITY IN HOSTILE NATIONS

**CITY NARRATIVES AND CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISING FOR REFUGEES IN UK AND
JAPAN**

Dr Rachel Humphris
Lecturer, Queen Mary University of London

Dr Satoko Horii
Assistant Professor, Akita International University

A stylized, light blue city skyline with various building shapes and heights, serving as a background for the top of the slide.

Overview

1. Research questions
2. Theoretical background
3. Urbanisation and migration: increasing role for the local in global migration governance?
4. Case study in UK: City of Sanctuary
5. Case study in Japan: Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan (SMJ)
6. Next steps

A stylized, light blue silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes, including some with pointed roofs and others with flat tops, set against a white background.

Research Question

What role does local actors – cities and civil society organisations – play in global migration governance?

- Logics of care, human rights, humanitarianism and neoliberal economic agenda – how do these ideas interact with each other in shaping civil society's practices, motivations and justifications?
- What relations (e.g. horizontal/vertical) do civil society actors at different levels have?
- How do the civil society practices affect the lived experiences of urban migrants and refugees?
- How do civil society practices affect the narratives of city/state migration policies?

A stylized, light blue city skyline with various building shapes and heights, serving as a background for the title.

Theoretical background

Bordering turn

‘the multi-scalar out-sourcing of border-making and border control to private businesses and ordinary citizens linking both external and internal border regimes’ (Yuval-Davis 2019)

Humanitarian reason

Humanitarianism has become the central value animating world politics: ‘action aimed at saving lives, carried out in the temporality of emergency, and driven by moral sentiment and emotion’ (Fassin 2009)

Urbanisation and migration

258 million migrants in the world in 2017 (UN World Migration Report 2017).

In 2015 migrants contributed over \$6.4 trillion, or 9.4%, to global GDP (World Economic Forum 2017).

68% of the world population is projected to live in urban areas by 2050 (UN DESA 2018).

One in seven people in the world are an internal or international migrant (UN Habitat).



THE NETWORK
OF MAJOR
EUROPEAN
CITIES

A stylized, light blue silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes and heights, serving as a background for the title.

Urban policies on migration and inclusion

Local models of migrant incorporation reflect the desired mode through which migrants adapt to host society (Alexander 2007):

- Non policy (Rome)
- Guest worker policy (Tel Aviv, Seoul)
- Assimilationist policy (Paris)
- Pluralist policy (Amsterdam, Leeds)
- Intercultural policy (Oslo, Barcelona)

A stylized, light blue silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes of different heights and widths, serving as a background for the title.

Urban narratives on migration and inclusion

‘Our mental or cognitive mapping of urban reality’ (Soja 2000 p.324).

Policies are ‘vernacularised’ (Merry 2006).

Locally specific experiences and meaning making processes make up the ‘intrinsic logic’ of cities (Low 2013).

Urban narratives serve as an orientation for defining and addressing difference (Foner 2007; Wilson 2015).

Visions of the normal and good city can be used to legitimise urban restructuring (De Koning 2015).

UK Case: City of Sanctuary

Non-profit organisation

Founded in 2005

First city of sanctuary in Sheffield

Membership organisation

100 groups and streams

‘We hold the vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.’



City of Sanctuary activities



Support



Networking



Publicity



Sheffield City of Sanctuary Overview

- 2005 City of Sanctuary organisation set up by Methodist minister Indergit Bhogal.
- 2007 Sheffield first sanctuary city in UK
Local Government votes for 'City of Sanctuary'
- 2009 'City of Sanctuary' Manifesto endorsed
Aim to 'build a culture of hospitality' through health, employment, education, children's services, housing, transport, legal advice, subsistence support if destitute and a voice in the media and local decision making'

Sheffield

Shape of sanctuary city

City's funding relationship is with the national government

City of Sanctuary shifted from movement to service provider in 2016

Antagonism between City of Sanctuary, ASSIST (due to resources) and SYMAAG (due to political differences - radical left and liberal left)





Sheffield Shape of sanctuary city

Austerity

We had 50% of our revenue support grant cut [national grant to local authorities]

So in one fell swoop, we lost 24 million pounds with a grant in one year. In 2010 the coalition government came in and it was gone

We've had other grants cut. So sure start grant, which was ring fenced to just to be spent on sure start and on early years - 5 million.

And the area based grant, which was 19 million, and that was that was just to be spent on community, youth, whatever it was.

- Opportunity costs (Children's services reporting, non-engagement with Dubs amendment, time limits on NRPF), applying for Controlling Migration Fund

Sheffield

Shape of sanctuary city

Displacement and bordering:

Policy of dispersal outside London

Privatised housing contract G4S

Right to Rent – Landlords as border guards

Border guards in charities

Housing officers as border guards

Immigration and asylum

Diane Taylor

Tue 15 Oct 2019 06:00 BST



986

Home Office 'infiltrating' safe havens to deport rough sleepers

Attendees at 'immigration surgeries' at churches and centres told it won't involve enforcement

The empty doorway: A death in Westminster



City of sanctuary? Internal bordering in hostile environment



Sheffield: Hostile Environment or City of Sanctuary?

Posted on 28th August 2019

When is a City of Sanctuary not a City of Sanctuary?

When it colludes with Immigration Compliance and Enforcement bodies by sharing information on its residents who are undocumented migrants.



SHINE A LIGHT

EXCLUSIVE: Arrests of suspected undocumented migrants soar in Sheffield, the UK's first City of Sanctuary

Since Theresa May launched the "Hostile Environment" South Yorkshire Police have arrested hundreds of Sheffielders every year on suspicion of being "illegal immigrants".

[John Grayson](#)

13 September 2019



South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group protest outside the Home Office in Sheffield | Photo by Manu



Japan: Context

- Strict refugee screening process
 - Recognition rate: **0.4%** in 2018
 - 42 out of 10,493 asylum applications
- “Little transparency” in decision-making
- Behind this there is little attention from the public



Japan “not a country of immigration”?

- Government not officially recognizing “immigration policy”
 - But foreign workers needed...
- Opened the “front door” with new visa categories in April 2019
- Social integration of immigrants left behind
 - “One-stop centre for comprehensive multicultural co-existence consultations” to be set up across Japanstill the move and action remain slow
- Heavy burdens and responsibility to local actors (e.g. cities and NGOs)

Case study

Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan (SMJ) or IJUREN (in Japanese)



SMJ Activities



Advocacy



Networking



Publicity

A stylized, light blue city skyline graphic with various building shapes of different heights and widths, spanning the top of the slide.

SMJ: research focus

- To what extent has SMJ been a platform for the cross-national city level advocacy?
- What policy influence? What influence over urban narrative or public attitudes to migration.
- What are the driving mechanisms behind these civil society organising practices?
- What are the moral/ideological perspectives of actors involved in city level organising and support for migrants?

A stylized, light blue silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes and heights, spanning the top of the slide.

Just Cities?

Transformational strategy – changes the social framework that gives rise to injustice (preferable in principle but difficult in practice).

Affirmative strategy - does not disturb the underlying social structure while trying to correct inequitable outcomes.

‘Non-reformist reforms’ - operates within existing social frameworks but ‘set in motion a trajectory of change in which more radical reforms become practicable over time’.

(Fraser 2003: 70 - 82)

The background of the slide features a stylized city skyline. The skyline is composed of various geometric shapes representing buildings, rendered in shades of blue and white. The top half of the image has a light blue gradient sky, while the bottom half shows the dark blue and white silhouettes of the city buildings.

r.humphris@qmul.ac.uk

@rachel_humphris