

ROBERTO FORIN

Email: roberto.forin@gmail.com

Skype: roberto.forin

PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Emergency/long-term assistance and protection of migrants in transit and destination countries

Forced migration and the protection of specific vulnerable groups

Cultural and social aspects of transnational mobility and its impact on group identity and social transformation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION DEVELOPMENT (ICMPD)

May 2017 to date – Research Coordinator TRAM project- Anti-Trafficking Unit – Vienna, Austria

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the research assessment of the project “Trafficking along Migration Routes: Identification and Integration of Victims of Trafficking among Vulnerable Groups and Unaccompanied Children (TRAM)”. The project aims at supporting and enabling the identification and integration of victims of trafficking among vulnerable migrants and refugees, including separated and unaccompanied children in the context of the current migration and asylum processes in transit and destination countries along the migration route, in particular Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, FYROM, Germany, Greece, Serbia and Sweden.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

April 2016 / April 2017 - Deputy Head of Mission – Athens, Greece

- Representation of the ICRC towards a wide range of interlocutors, such as governmental, civilian and police authorities, UN agencies, NGOs and donors; secured 2 million GBP DFID contribution to 2016 budget
- Definition, planning and supervision of ICRC activities in Greece, including: dialogue with Minister of Interior and Hellenic Police on migrant detention, incl. protective custody for UAMs; support to the Hellenic Red Cross in the provision of “Restoring of Family Links” (RFL) services to migrants; forensic support to the competent Hellenic authorities

December 2015 to March 2016 – Migration delegate for Greece and Italy – Paris, Rome, Athens

- Based in the ICRC Regional office for Europe in Paris, monitored the political and humanitarian developments in Italy and in Greece with relation to migration through regular field trips and collaboration with the Italian and Greek Red Cross societies.
- Start-up of ICRC Mission in Athens, incl. programming, human resources and representation with national authorities

MEDECINS DU MONDE SUISSE (MDM)

October 2015 / November 2015 – Field Coordinator, Refugee Emergency Response – Thessaloniki, Greece

- Leadership and supervisory management of MDM Suisse operations in the country, including stewardship of resources, staff safety and security, program quality and accountability, and performance management
- Monitored the political and humanitarian situation affecting migrants and vulnerable host populations in Greece, defined the appropriate humanitarian response and developed the advocacy strategy
- Represented MDM with the Greek government, donors, international organizations, and other NGOs

HUMANITARIAN POLICY GROUP, OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ODI)

September 2015- Independent Consultant – Foggia, Italy

Project title: “Libya: Understanding the needs of civilians”

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with migrants and asylum seekers to address the following: a) mapping flows of migration across and through Libya; b) understand the needs and coping mechanisms of those flows and c) determine the role

played by key humanitarian organizations (international, regional and local) in meeting the needs of this population as well as shortcomings

MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE (EUI)

April 2015 / October 2015- Research assistant – Oxford/Florence/Foggia

Project title: ‘The Anti-Politics of Anti-Trafficking’. EU-funded research project investigating European and Italian anti-trafficking discourse and policy, using the case study of exploited migrant labourers working in the agricultural sector in Puglia

- Carried out desk research on trafficking, labour exploitation and slavery focussing on Sub-Saharan migrants in Southern Italy
- In collaboration with research manager, designed research methodology including questionnaires, interview guidelines and analysis plan.
- Conducted semi-structured interviews with national- and local-level anti-trafficking actors, farmers employing migrants and migrant workers.
- Collated and analysed findings; drafted journal articles, policy briefs and articles for public media

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) - 2008 / 2015

May 2013 / August 2014 - Deputy head of sub-delegation, Goma – North Kivu – DRC

January 2012 / January 2013 – Head of sub-delegation, El Fasher – Sudan

October 2010 / October 2011 – Head of office, Khan Younis, Gaza – Occupied Palestinian Territory

- Represented and positioned the ICRC with government authorities, military, security services and armed opposition groups. Ensured coordination and networking relationships with Red Cross movement partners, UN, other INGOs/NGOs, as well as embassy and donor representatives; secured significant SIDA contribution to North Kivu 2014 budget
- Carried out ICRC's analysis of the political and humanitarian situation in the area of responsibility on the basis of and defined the strategic orientation and subsequent humanitarian response accordingly
- Led and coordinated the implementation of ICRC's protection and assistance strategy, programmes and activities in the area of responsibility

January 2009 / May 2010 – Protection delegate – Port au Prince – Haiti

December 2007 / December 2008 – Protection delegate – Villavicencio, Meta – Colombia

- Monitored adherence to International Humanitarian Law by all the parties to the conflict and promoted the protection of civilians through humanitarian dialogue with governmental authorities and armed groups
- Regularly visited detention facilities and advocated for improvement of the conditions of detention through engagement with responsible authorities
- Supervised, implemented and evaluated all humanitarian activities and programmes in the area of responsibility, including relief, livelihood and health interventions

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) – 2005/2007

October 2006 / June 2007 – Protection coordinator – Northern Bar El Gazal – Sudan

October 2005 / June 2006 – IDPs Protection officer – El Fasher – North Darfur – Sudan

- Supported and orientated IOM planning processes, to streamline protection (prevention and responsive actions) throughout spontaneous IDP returns and organized returns programming
- Organized, assisted and monitored IDP movements to ensure appropriate standards of safety and dignity during the return process and the protection of vulnerable groups
- Designed and coordinated large-scale mixed-methods assessment on voluntary return/relocation of returnees (surveys and focus group discussions)
- Liaised closely with UN agencies, relevant INGOs / NGOs and local authorities to promote a safe and dignified environment for IDP returns

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

September 2014 / July 2015 - University of Oxford, Department of International Development (ODID)

- MSc in Migration Studies (International Migration, Forced Migration, International Human Rights and Refugee Law, Globalisation and Social transformation, Methods of Social Research). Final dissertation on "Migration in countries in crisis: the case study of Libya in 2011", supervised by Prof. Hein De Haas. Final mark: 2:1 honours degree

January 2005 / January 2006 – Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy

- MA in Human Rights and Conflict Management (Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, Geopolitics, Conflict Theories). Dissertation on the monitoring and verification mechanism for IDP voluntary return in Darfur. Awarded a full scholarship by the Sant'Anna School

October 1998 / December 2002 – University of Pavia, Department of African Studies

- "Laurea" in Political Sciences (African Studies, International Relations, Contemporary History, Social Sciences). Dissertation on the root causes (history, sociology, economics) of the creation of the pro-independence armed group MFDC (Mouvement des Forces Democratiques de la Casamance) in the Senegalese region of Casamance, incl. 4 months field work and archival research

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, PRESENTATIONS

- November 2017; "The challenge of migration for Italy and Europe: how to face the risks and seize the opportunities" paper presented at the conference "La politica estera dell'Italia, le proposte del PD", Camera dei Deputati, Roma, Italy
- December 2016: "What's next for migrants in Greece? EU containment strategy and access to durable solutions" paper presented and the workshop "Migration Governance: Addressing the Challenges in Providing Protection and Human Security for the Most Vulnerable", The Hague Institute for Global Justice, La Hague, Netherland
- September 2016: "Migration in Greece: reflections from the field", talk presented at the workshop "Hope and courage" organized by the Circle of European Communicators, Athens, Greece
- June 2016: "(Un)deservingness and the crisis of the international protection system: the case study of Greece 2016", paper presented at the International Workshop, "Understanding and Managing Migration in Africa: multidimensional perspectives", University of Pavia, Italy
- May 2013: Lecture on "The protection of the civilian population during humanitarian interventions: legal framework and practices in the field", MA "Migration and Gender", University of Pavia, Italy
- June 2012: Lecture on "The protection of IDPs during return operations: the case of The Sudan", MA "Migration and Gender", University of Pavia, Italy

PUBLICATIONS

- "Stemming the flow: refugees, migrants and the EU containment strategy", Refugee Review Journal 2017, Vol. 3, (available at <https://espmnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/18-Forin.pdf>)
- "La sfida delle migrazioni per l'Italia e l'Europa: come affrontarne i rischi e coglierne le opportunità", MondoDem – Laboratorio di Politica Internazionale, November 2017, (available at <https://www.mondodem.it/policy-brief/the-challenge-of-migration-for-italy-and-europe-how-to-face-the-risks-and-seize-the-opportunities/>)
- "Pomo-d'Oro?: Migrant Workers, Caporalato, and the Politics of (In)Visibility in Italian Tomato Production" by Forin Roberto and Howard Neil. To be published in Antipode Journal

REFERENCES

- Prof Roger Zetter, Emeritus Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre (2006-2010), Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford, roger.zetter@qeh.ox.ac.uk
- Eva Svoboda, Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), e.svoboda@odi.org.uk
- Prof Andrea De Guttry, Deputy Rector & Director International Research Laboratory on Conflict, Development Global Politics, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, deguttry@sssup.it