

CARFMS 2016 CONFERENCE

Freedom of Movement

Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA



MAY 11-14, 2016

It was my pleasure to chair the 9th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), hosted by Menno Simons College, a College of Canadian Mennonite University, located at the University of Winnipeg.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 13) states that everyone has a right to freedom of movement within and across borders. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that war, conflict, and persecution have displaced an unprecedented 60+ million people worldwide. The conference theme, “**Freedom of Movement: Exploring a Path from Armed Conflict, Persecution, and Forced Migration to Conflict Resolution, Human Rights, and Development**,” encouraged academics, researchers, students, government officials, lawmakers, community organizations, practitioners, and former refugees to examine these topics.

The four keynote speakers were: **Elsbeth Guild**, Jean Monnet Professor ad personam at Radboud University in Nijmegen (Netherlands) and Professor of Law at Queen Mary University London; **Christopher Mitchell**, Emeritus Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University; **Arthur DeFehr**, CEO of Palliser Furniture, Humanitarian and former head of UNHCR in Somalia; and **Francisco Rico-Martinez**, former President of the Canadian Council for Refugees and Co-Director of the FCJ Refugee Centre (see above photos).



Honourable Janice Filmon, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, gave a welcome at the opening ceremony on May 11th.



Special Plenary Panel: The War Refugee in International Refugee and Humanitarian Law (International Association of Refugee Law Judges)

Exhibits & Course on Refugees

This conference included various exhibits for the first time:

- Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Emergency Clinic Tents & MSF Sea Rescues Photo Exhibit
- Bitter Oranges: African Migrant Workers in Calabria by D. Reiner, G. Reckinger & C. Reckinger
- Making Place for Refugees (Landscape Architecture) by R. Perron & S. Irvine

Also, a course, *Practitioner Perspectives on Forced Migration: Roots, Causes, and Intersectionality*, was developed for Conflict Resolution Studies and Human Rights departments, and invited students to attend the conference.



Special Guests

Brian Bowman, Mayor of City of Winnipeg (left); Robert-Falcon Ouellette, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Central (below); Cheryl Pauls, President of Canadian Mennonite University; and Annette Trimbee, President of University of Winnipeg all gave special welcome to conference attendees.



Further Dialogue & Discussion

With 350+ people, from over 20 countries around the world in attendance over the 3.5 days of the conference, it is our hope that there will be continuing discussion on this important topic and how to effectively address these issues as we continue to face the challenges of an increasing number of forced migrants in our world.

Stephanie Stobbe, Chair of CARFMS 2016 & Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies



Freedom of Movement:

Exploring a Path from Armed Conflict, Persecution, and Forced Migration to Conflict Resolution, Human Rights, and Development

9th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)

For more information, please go to www.carfms.org or contact Dr. Stephanie Stobbe, Chair of CARFMS 2016 (s.stobbe@winnipeg.ca)

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