

International conference

Refugee reception policy :

Continuity and change from the 20th century to the present day
in Europe, Luxembourg and the Greater Region

Schedule

8 – 9 June 2026 | Hôtel de Ville, Dudelange (Luxembourg)



Luxembourg Centre
for Contemporary
and Digital History



Centre de Documentation
sur les Migrations Humaines



DIDDELENG
VILLE DE DUDELANGE



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE LORRAINE**

Organised by:

Chair History & Migrations, Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH), University of Luxembourg

UFR Sciences humaines et sociales, CREAT, Université de Lorraine

Documentation Centre for Human Migration (CDMH), Dudelange

City of Dudelange

Design: Kirill Mitsurov, Daniel Richter

Cover image: World Refugee Conference, 12 January 1960, UN Photo/UN7694502

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF THE CONFERENCE

For more than a century, the reception of refugees has given rise to tensions between humanitarian imperatives, national sovereignty and international regulations. Migration crises resulting from armed conflicts, political persecution, decolonisation and natural catastrophes have consistently revealed contradictions between universal standards and national practices.

In the 1930s, when there was no binding legal framework for refugee protection yet, countries set their own often restrictive and arbitrary admission policies, and protection was based on political networks, charities and local initiatives. After the Second World War, the 1951 Geneva Convention laid down the notion of refugee in international law, but state sovereignty continued to play a central role. Countries could select refugees based on political or social criteria, and administrative bureaucracy became a key instrument of control. From the 1990s to the present day, the securitisation of migration policies at national, European and global level has led to radical changes in relations between refugees and states. Growing bureaucratisation, the introduction of temporary statuses or “half-statuses”, and the reversal of the burden of proof have radically altered administrative practices and the actual rights of refugees. These developments raise questions as to the ability of international legal frameworks to provide effective protection for refugees in a context dominated by national sovereignty and security-based rationales.

The aim of the conference is to explore continuity and change in reception policies in Europe through comparative and transnational analyses that combine history, sociology, political science and law.

Organising committee :

Tiago Flores, CDMH, Dudelange

Piero-D. Galloro, UFR Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Université de Lorraine

Heidi Martins, CDMH, Dudelange

Antoinette Reuter, CDMH, Dudelange

Daniel Richter, C²DH, University of Luxembourg

Denis Scuto, Chaire Histoire & Migrations, C²DH, University of Luxembourg

Sarah Maya Vercruysse, C²DH, University of Luxembourg

MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2026

08:30 - 09:00

Welcome

Coffee and breakfast

09:00 - 09:30

Opening of the conference

Denis Scuto

Holder of the Chair in History & Migrations, C2DH, University of Luxembourg

Tiago Flores

President of Documentation Centre for Human Migration (CDMH)

Dan Biancalana

Member of the Chamber of Deputies and Mayor of Dudelange

09:30 - 10:30

Morning Keynote

The International Geneva Convention of 1951 and 75 years refugee policy in Europe

Frank Caestecker, University of Ghent

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:15

Prior to the Geneva Convention

Refugees and Nansen-Passport holders in Luxembourg in the interwar time: Migration, Legal Status, and Everyday Life

Inna Ganschow, C²DH, University of Luxembourg

Directives nationales et pratiques locales : l'accueil des réfugiés espagnols en France à travers le cas du Puy-de-Dôme (1937-1940)

Olivia Salmon Monviola, Université Clermont-Auvergne

Derrière la promesse de Pierre Dupong : la réalité du retour des Juifs étrangers au Luxembourg en 1944-1945

Blandine Landau / Denis Scuto, C²DH, University of Luxembourg

12:15 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 15:15

Administrative policies and practices surrounding asylum

La rationalisation du récit d'exil : de la co-rédaction d'une histoire de vie à la requête juridique.

Khadija Noura, independent

D'un « pays d'émigration » vers un « pays d'immigration » : la « crise des migrants » et les politiques migratoires bulgares

Radoslav Gruev, Université de Lorraine

Luxembourg, Arrival Country? The Built Environment of Refugee Reception

Mohammed Zanboa, Municipality 101

15:15 - 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 - 16:30

Perspectives reception practices in France

L'impact du Pacte européen sur l'office du juge du droit d'asile

Elodie Derdaele, Université de Lorraine

Interactions des normes nationales, européennes et internationales en matière d'accès aux droits liés à la protection internationale : le cas de la réunification familiale des mineurs non-accompagnés (MNA) en France.

Cloé Furdyna / Jade Rondelez, Université de Lorraine

16:30 - 16:45

Coffee break

16:45

Afternoon Keynote

Le droit international et les réfugiés : retour sur un siècle de pratique juridique

Michel Erpelding, Max-Planck-Institut, Frankfurt/Main

17:45

Drinks reception

19:30

Conference dinner

Restaurant Garibaldi

59, Rue Gaffelt | L-3480 Dudelange

TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2026

09:00 - 09:30

Welcome

Coffee and breakfast

09:30 - 10:45

The evolution of asylum rights in Luxembourg

Le droit d'asile au Luxembourg de la fin du 19e siècle jusqu'au projet de loi 8684

Adolfo Sommaribas, European Migration Network (EMN), Luxembourg

L'asile en chiffres sur les dernières décennies

Sylvain Besch, Centre for Studies and Intercultural and Social Training (CEFIS)

Le rôle du European Migration Network au niveau national et au niveau européen et général

Zane Rozenberga, European Migration Network (EMN), Luxembourg

10:45 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:00

States and ongoing issues

The Migration Crisis as a Weapon. A Comparative Analysis of Stalin's Use of Refugee Flows to Destabilize Europe (1945-1948) and Putin in Contemporary Conflicts

Alexander Gogun, Free University of Berlin

Qui doit assumer la responsabilité des « réfugiés climatiques » ?

Aziz Sadik, Université Mohammed 5, Rabat

12:15 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 16:30

Round Table

Retour sur l'histoire de l'accueil et de la défense des droits des réfugiés au Luxembourg (1970s to 2000s)

Introduction by:

Annabelle Laborier-Saffran

Equal Opportunities Officer, City of Dudelange

Round Table:

Serge Kollwelter, first president of the Support Association for Immigrant Workers (ASTI)

Agnès Rausch, former head of the Caritas Luxembourg refugee service

Guy Thomas, lawyer and member of the Committee for the Protection of Refugees and Against Forced Returns

Christiane Welter, former head of refugee reception at the Immigration Service (Luxembourg)

Moderated by: **Stefan Kunzmann** (journalist at the Tageblatt)

16:30

Closing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CHAIR 'HISTORY & MIGRATIONS'

Given the significance of international migration in European history and society, particularly in Luxembourg, the Chair's mission is to deepen understanding of the migratory flows that shaped Luxembourg and the Greater Region in the 19th and 20th centuries, and to highlight the history and memory of immigration and emigration in the region. The 'History and Migrations' Chair aims to mediate academic knowledge in connection with civil society and socio-economic and cultural stakeholders. It promotes knowledge transmission and the dissemination of high-quality research.

The 'History & Migrations' Chair, born from the cooperation between the University of Luxembourg/Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) and the City of Dudelange, in partnership with Documentation Centre for Human Migration (CDMH).

More : <https://www.uni.lu/c2dh-en/chairs/history-and-migrations/>

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR HUMAN MIGRATION (CDMH)

The CDMH is dedicated to the study of migration in Luxembourg and the Greater Region. Focusing on the diversity of Luxembourgish society, it acts as an intermediary between heritage institutions, the associative world, the research community and the general public. The centre gathers archives related to migration, manages a specialized library, initiates and supports research projects, contributes to the dissemination of academic knowledge and hosts exhibitions. Since 1996, the CDMH has been based at the Gare-Usines in Dudelange.

The CDMH is run by a non-profit association of the same name, established in 1993 and funded by the City of Dudelange and the Ministry of Culture. The association initially brought together civil society initiatives that had been active in Dudelange since the late 1980s.

More: www.cdmh.lu

CITY OF DUDELANGE

Dudelange, once known as the 'Forge of the South', is an industrial city with a turbulent history, marked by many ups and downs. With over 21,000 inhabitants in 2021 (the fourth largest town in the country), a foreign population accounting for over 40% of the local population and residents from over 100 different nationalities, the city is a prime example of a multicultural society.

Thanks to its commitment and policies promoting equality and diversity as a valuable resource, Dudelange joined the Council of Europe's international network of Intercultural Cities (ICC) in 2019 and has been a member of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) since 2009.

More: www.dudelange.lu

UFR SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES METZ (CREAT, UNIVERSITÉ DE LORRAINE)

The Centre for Research on Expertise, the Arts and Transitions (CREAT) is a research unit at the University of Lorraine. As a multidisciplinary research group, CREAT is organised into two branches, each bringing together different disciplines, research areas and subjects. The ARTS strand thus brings together film and theatre historians and specialists in aesthetics (CNU Section 18), as well as sociologists and philosophers interested in issues relating to the arts, aesthetics or cultural consumption. On the other hand, whilst the Humanities and Social Sciences (SHS) strand is predominantly made up of sociologists (CNU Section 19), it also includes geographers, philosophers and economists who share an interest in political, ethical, social and environmental issues.

Within CREAT, the strands are not conceived as separate, rigidly defined areas but rather as two possible entry points for discussing the issue of expertise and transitions, between which individuals can move freely.

More : <https://creat.univ-lorraine.fr>

HOTELS :

Cottage Dudelange – Restaurateur Hôte

10, rue Auguste Liesch | L-3474 Dudelange

Tel. +352 52 05 91- 400

E-mail : contact@cottageluxembourg.com

La Charbonnade – Hôtel Restaurant Brasserie

10, rue du commerce | L-3450 Dudelange

Tel. +352 27 28 04 34

E-mail : contact@hotel-restaurant-lacharbonnade.lu

VENUE:

Hôtel de Ville Dudelange (Town Hall of Dudelange)

Room « Nic. Birtz » (1st floor)

4 Pl. de l'Hôtel de Ville | L-3590 Dudelange

RESTAURANT:

Restaurant Garibaldi

59, Rue Gaffelt | L-3480 Dudelange

TRANSPORT

All public transport (trains, trams and buses) is free of charge in Luxembourg.

We recommend downloading the Mobiliteit.lu app to plan your journeys.

CONTACT:

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