

Petra Molnar

Lawyer and Researcher at International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto

Toronto , ON, CA

Refugee and migration issues; technology and human rights; immigration detention; and the relationship between law, society, and culture

Biography

I am a migration researcher and lawyer in Toronto, Canada. Since 2008, I have worked on migration and human rights issues as a settlement worker, interpreter, researcher, and lawyer in Canada and internationally. I regularly share my work at conferences and through publications, most recently focusing on the issues of technology and human rights; immigration detention; and the politics of refugee, immigration, and international human rights law.

I hold a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and a Master of Arts in Social Anthropology with a diploma in Refugee Studies from York University. I am currently an LL.M Candidate at the University of Cambridge.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

Industry Expertise

International Affairs, Legal Services, Government Relations, Political Organization, Non-Profit/Charitable, Women, Information Technology and Services

Areas of Expertise

Technology and human rights, Anthropology of Migration, Ethnography and Ethnographic Writing, Women's Rights, Refugee and Human Rights Issues, International Law of Human Rights, Migration/Immigration

Affiliations

International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Canadian Association for Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), Executive Committee, Refugee Research Network - Asylum and Detention Research Cluster, Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, ESPMI Network Advisory Committee

Sample Talks

The Dangers of Discretion: Dilemmas, Developments, and Ongoing Challenges in Canada's Immigration Detention Regime

Immigration detention falls under the framework of administrative law - the person being detained has not committed a crime under Canada's Criminal Code, but is being detained for immigration reasons. Due to the largely discretionary nature of immigration detention and the lack of oversight of Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) detention mechanisms, serious issues have been raised by migrant rights groups, lawyers, and refugee advocates about the treatment of migrants in detention. These real world barriers impede access to justice for the thousands of migrants detained in Canada every year, such as access to counsel, information, and community support as they prepare their refugee claims or gather evidence for their detention review hearings. Immigration detention also adversely affects vulnerable migrants, such as children or people with mental health issues. Canada's immigration detention regime is a costly, ineffective, and discretionary system which violates the human rights of migrants, including the right to a fair trial, the right not to be arbitrarily detained, and the right of life, liberty, and security of person.

Event Appearances

Architectures of Trauma: The Impacts of Immigration Detention on the Psychosocial Wellbeing of Migrants in Canada

Structures of Protection: Rethinking Refugee Shelter Conference

Living on the Margins: Analyzing Security, Safety, and Precarious Migration Status in the Canadian Context

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

Human Right to Health, Law, Medicine, and Advocacy

5th Annual PGME Global Health Day

Economic Migrant, Temporary Foreign Worker, or a Refugee? Conceptual Failures in Canada's Protection Regime

Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)

Protecting Women: Culture-Based Reasoning and Forced Marriages in Canada

Canadian Association for the Study of Forced Migration

Many "Moving" Parts: Rethinking Refugees, Relief, and Knowledge Production on Migration in the Middle East

16th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference

Canada's Response to the Global Refugee Crisis: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

CERIS and Factor-Iventash Faculty of Social Work Expert Panel

Access to Justice in the Immigration Holding Centre: A Discussion of the Obstacles to Fair and Equal Treatment Facing Canadian Immigration Detainees

14th Annual Canadian Association For Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference

Information and Communication Technologies and Refugee Resettlement: An International Comparative Approach

15th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference

“Bogus Refugee: Bill C31 and the Discourses of Fraud in Canadian Immigration Policy”

14th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) IASFM

"None is Too Many": Geographic and Legislative Segregation of Roma Refugee Claimants"

Borders, Walls, and Securities Conference

International Refugee Law and HIV/AIDS

Law In Action Within School Invited Lecturer

Health Rights, Security, and Stigma: Syrian Refugees in Turkey and Jordan

Invited Lecture

Changes to Canada's Citizenship Act: A Primer

Toronto Tibetan Buddhist Association

"Multiculturalism and Barriers to Citizenship,"

Course: 208 Immigration Policy, Prof. Roohullah Shabon, Seneca College

Education

University of Toronto Faculty of Law

Juris Doctorate Law

York University

Master of Arts Social Anthropology

Accomplishments

John Yaremko Award in Human Rights

John Yaremko Award in Human Rights to be awarded to an outstanding student in any year who, in the opinion of the faculty, merits special recognition for academic achievement in the area of human rights

Ting Sum Tang Memorial Prize in Canadian or International Human Rights Law

Ting Sum Tang Memorial Prize in Canadian or International Human Rights Law to be awarded to the student taking the highest place in a course relating to Canadian or International Human Rights Law

University of Oxford Bob Johnson Graduate Scholarship

Awarded by the Faculty of International Development at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

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