

Panel Proposal for EuroSEAS Conference 2021

Rohingya Refugees from Myanmar: New Perspectives on Identity and Belonging

Convenors/organisers

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ABSTRACT

Since August 2017, Bangladesh has hosted 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in the mega-camps of Cox's bazaar along its restive borderlands with Myanmar. This mass influx has created a 'city within a city', profoundly impacting the lives of the local population. For the Rohingyas in the camps, struggles for securing better living condition persist and voluntary repatriation process is still uncertain as longstanding issues of citizenship and belonging remain unresolved. With this panel, we aim to present some of the latest research on southeast Asia's most persecuted minority group – the Muslim Rohingyas from Myanmar's northern Rakhine state.

As the Rohingya refugee situation enters its fourth year in a pandemic-battered world, this panel aims to bring together researchers working on different aspects of Rohingya identity and everyday living experiences, both within and beyond the refugee camps in Bangladesh. In doing so the panel explores the ambiguities and complexities of 'living as a Rohingya', delving into diverse subjects ranging from gendered experience of displacement to irregular movements to impact of violence on Rohingya identity formation. The research contributions included in the panel covers multiple social sciences disciplines including law, sociology, political science and anthropology and use in-depth ethnographic research conducted among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

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