

## Report

### Refugees and Borders: Remapping the World We Think We Know

Event Name	Refugees and Borders: Remapping the World We Think We Know
Event Date	05 December 2020, 2-4 PM PST
Organizers / Planning Team	Erin Goheen Glanville (UBC) Imran Daniel (Journey Home Community) Loren Balisky (Kinbrace) Marie Ong (UBC) Saleem Spindari (MOSAIC)
Panellists	Edward Alden Efrat Arbel Carlo Handy Charles Hassan al Kontar Kristi Pinderi
Moderator	Saleem Spindari
Indigenous Welcome	Melaney Gleeson-Lyall
Budget	\$2500
Funding Sponsors	UBC Community Engagement Partnership Recognition Fund - \$1500 Vancity - \$1000
Co-Sponsors	Inasmuch Community Society DIVERSEcity WUSC - UBC Vancouver Rainbow Refugee SFU International The University of British Columbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Engagement</li> <li>• School of Public Policy and Global Affairs</li> <li>• Public Humanities</li> <li>• Centre for Migration Studies</li> </ul>
Link to Content	Hosted at <a href="https://kinbrace.ca/join-the-conversation/">https://kinbrace.ca/join-the-conversation/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Refugees and Borders Webinar Recording</a> (2 hours)</li> <li>• <a href="#">What Now? Actions you can take to to continue your remapping journey</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Borderstory – interrupted</a> (Dr. Erin Goheen Glanville's 20 minute film screened at webinar)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Promotional flyer</a></li> </ul>
# of registrants	308
# of synchronous attendees	122
# of survey responses	47 (attached)
Registration Platform	Eventbrite
Event Platform	Zoom Webinar



# Refugees and Borders

Remapping the World We Think We Know

**Borders are first imagined and then built.**

**What we think borders can do is shaped by the stories we tell.**

**What is your border story?**

This free webinar begins with a virtual screening of *Borderstory*, a Worn Words short documentary and dialogue-opener about what the word 'border' means to us. Following the film, cross-sector experts will engage questions as part of a panel discussion on the word 'border' and give concrete suggestions for policy and law.

Participants are invited to ask honest questions and participate in dialogue based on personal experience and collective curiosity. As global and country citizens, we'll imagine incremental ways our idea of 'border' can increasingly become more human-centred and benefit the safety needs of people seeking refuge while honouring the practical need for boundaries.

This event will be moderated by Saleem Spindari, Senior Manager of the Refugees and Migrant Workers Programs at MOSAIC.

**05 December 2020**  
**2–4 pm (PST)**

**REGISTER**

For more information:  
[events@kinbrace.ca](mailto:events@kinbrace.ca)

**Panellists**

Hassan Al Kontar  
Efrat Arbel  
Kristi Pinderi  
Edward Alden  
Carlo Handy Charles

*This Kinbrace inspired event is co-hosted by the University of British Columbia, MOSAIC and Journey Home Community Association, with thanks to the UBC Community Engagement Partnership Recognition Fund, Vancity, and generous co-sponsors:*



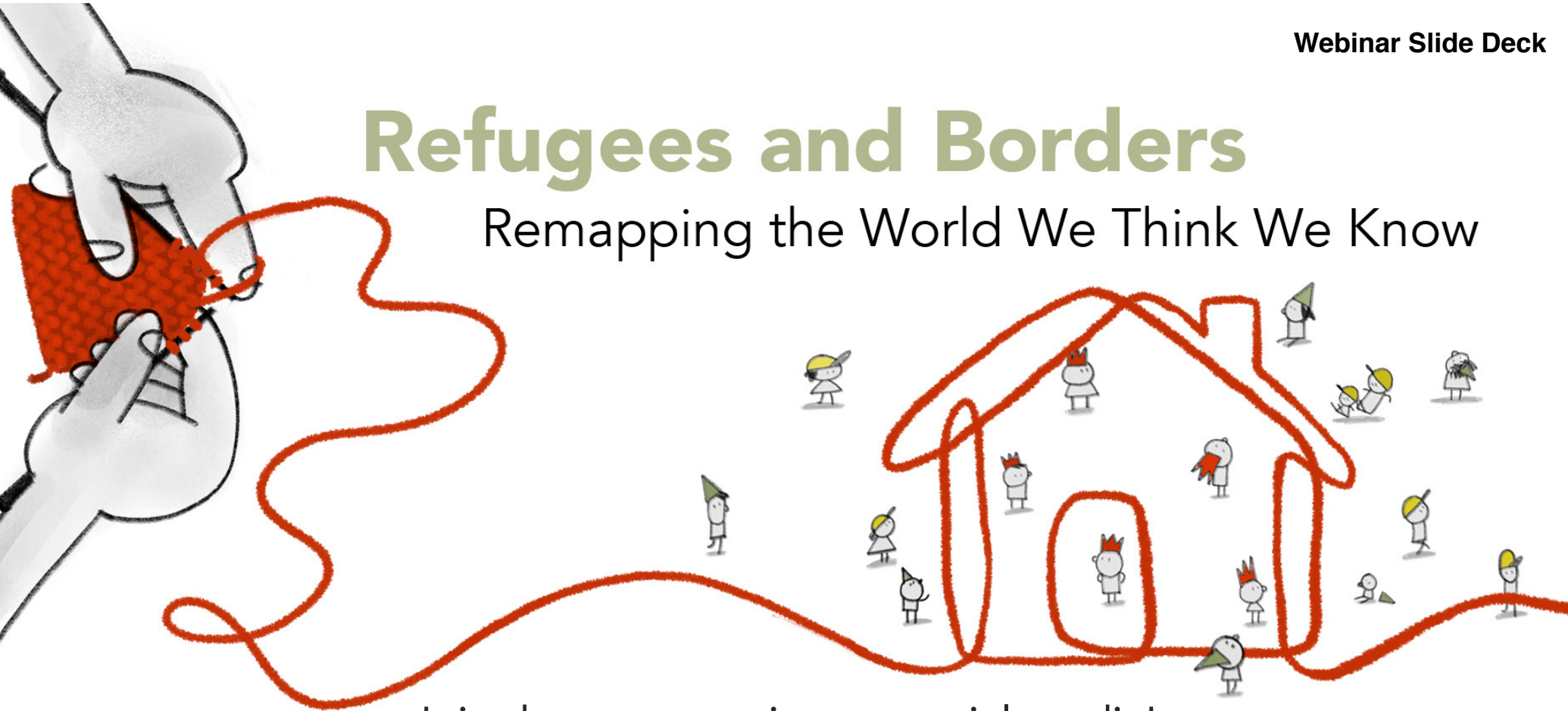
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Community Engagement  
School of Public Policy and Global Affairs  
Public Humanities



# Refugees and Borders

Remapping the World We Think We Know



Join the conversation on social media!  
#RefugeesandBorders #Borderstory



## SALEEM SPINDARI

*Moderator*

Senior manager, Refugees and Migrant Workers  
Program at MOSAIC



## MELANEY GLEESON-LYALL

Musqueam and Snaw-naw-as, Coast Salish  
artist, author, and designer

# border story



## Erin Goheen Glanville

Borderstory is part of the Worn Words listening research project and was produced with funding from SSHRC and Dragonfire Foundation funds held at the Vancouver Foundation.

Learn more at: [eringoheenglanville.com](http://eringoheenglanville.com)



# Our Panellists



HASSAN AL  
KONTAR



EFRAT  
ARBEL



KRISTI  
PINDERI



TED  
ALDEN



CARLO  
HANDY  
CHARLES

# Thank you to our hosts and co-sponsors!



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Community Engagement  
School of Public Policy and Global Affairs  
Public Humanities  
Centre for Migration Studies



# Intermission



SARI ALESH

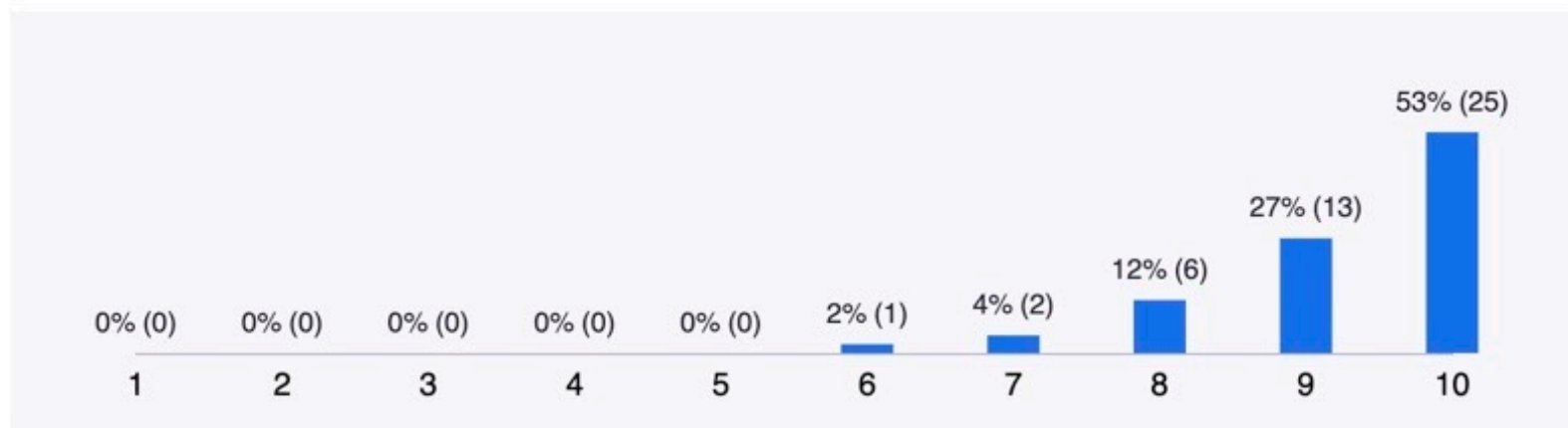
A cover of Christina Perri's "A  
Thousand Years" (in honour of World  
Refugee Day 2020)



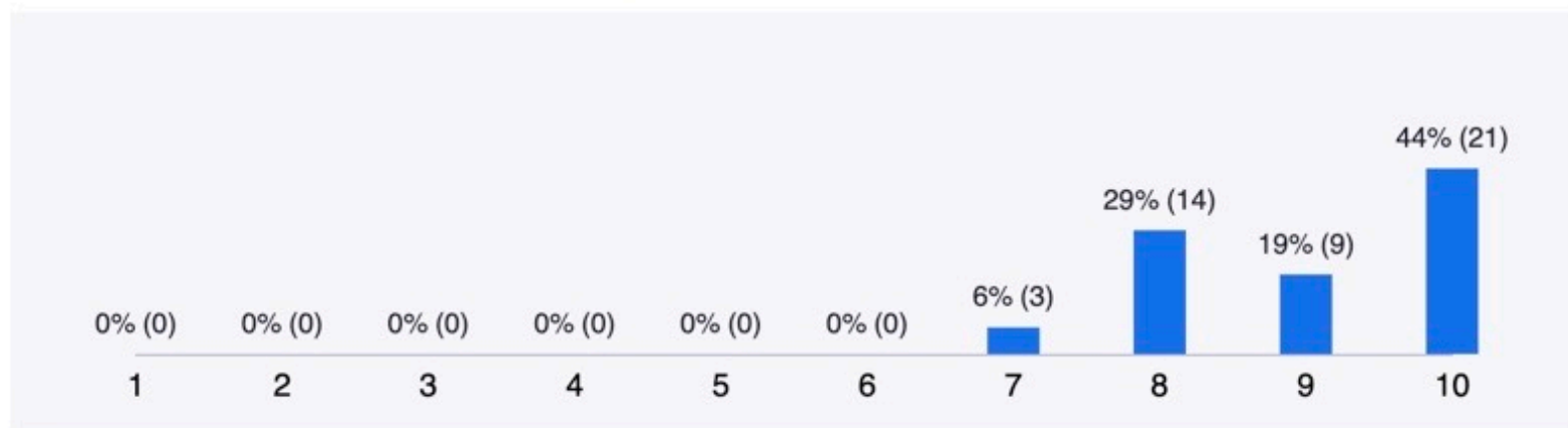
### Refugees and Borders: Remapping the World We Think We Know

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#### 1. This webinar met my expectations.



#### 2. This webinar broadened my capacity to dialogue about refugees and borders.



**The most interesting thing I learned was...**

The meaning of the word refugee and borders

I loved the movie - and all the conversatoin.

Not sure

The difference between borders (political barriers) and boundaries (as connections)

Through the movie and what the panelists said, to hear about the many complex layers of what is so often simplified in the news and other media.

The pandemic has been a leveler and possibly a way to soften the hearts of Canadians to be more generous in receiving refugees,

Boundaries not boarders and I really enjoyed the video

I enjoyed learning about individual experiences.

I found it all interesting especially since I sometimes work with the population.

different interpretation about the meaning of border

We need to think of borders not just as lines on paper but as systemic boundaries and "in peoples' faces."

Understanding the relationship between boundaries and borders, as well as potential next steps we can take to address the issues related to borders.

so many new ways to conceptualize borders!

How many first nations there are in BC.

how border boundaries can operate inside the border of a country/state

The openness and welcome of First Nations to new settlers.

The notion that the system itself (inland, for example) is also a barrier.

Need to think and work in terms that it is ideas, not people that is where the danger is. Technology has changed so

I missed the video at the beginning due to time difference but I was captivated by the ensuing discussions particularly on how borders are represented not just at airports, but in concession and PR cards, medicare, even questions posed by officials.

Exclusionary social media messaging crosses borders with ease - this the real danger.

That it generated as much viewership as it did. I figured most people just didn't care.

Oh, wow...there was so much...but eye opening for me was when Hassan and Carlo both shared about their interpretation/meaning of borders...not just physical border...but social borders.

That Kinbrace exists and how it operates. I am not from Canada so had not heard of Kinbrace earlier.

...the complexity of resolving refugee issues/needs...both within and without our borders.

I am grateful that there are those who are seeking legal ways of promoting the rights of refugees in Canada. I would be interested in learning more about that.

	A practical step I will take after this webinar is...
	Not sure
	Continue volunteering for Journey Home, and follow the continuing thread of #refugeesandborders
	reaching out to organizations such as Mosaic to effect positive change
	Read more
	Engage with people in my life in conversation.
	Write on my blog about these issues.
	Reading more and reflecting on my position
	I will reach out to some of the speakers. I have taught courses on borders and boundaries for the past 17 years and recently moved to this region. I would love to be able to connect.
	I will utilize what I've learned in future interactions.
	see clients differently with more comopassion
	I would like to know more about Indigenous views on borders.
	Attend more webinars related to refugee resettlement and write to the government related to these issues.
	make firmer connections with and commitments to refugee-supporting orgs in my community
	Continue taking small steps in the right direction.
	connect with more likeminded people
	I have asked a board member who is also a member of CARL to bring the letter re. CBSA & essental services for our organization to sign. Also recommended the video to our national coalition.

	Donating monthly to a new and local NGO (Refugee Voices) that is run by and for refugees so it privileges their all-important perspectives
	Watch the recording to absorb more!
	Learn more
	Not sure, probably keep participating in this sort of thing so people can feel like they are heard.
	Perspectives and education...my immediate thoughts go to how can I understand more, and enable others to be educated for deeper understanding...the answer to my question to what feeling does border elicit from me...Adventure. Not so for so many...the poll questions were enlightening in that way, as well. I'd like to take the conversations from this webinar and expand its audience, but also with next steps...(I believe Erin mentioned that they were working on 'next steps'...)
	use the ideas in class, have students discuss borders and their existence, border inclusion and exclusion, belonging.
	Sharing the Borderstory film with my colleagues. It is an example of counternarrative which is an important tool for us as social justice educators.
	I think I need to learn more...always more and to be open to possibilities of engagement in new ways.

**Do you have any other comments or feedback?**

Thank you so much!

Enjoyed te video

I will be teaching a course on migrations and borders and may invite some of the speakers to present . I loved the music in the intermission. Look forward to Hassan's book.

All in all, it was fantastic. Thank you

This was a wonderful initiative. Thank you

Deep felt thanks to everyone. Well done.

Thank you Erin for your work on this documentary. Very thought provoking. We need to continue to share how our lives are continually enriched by the newcomer families we have met and get to have as part of our community. The diversity is so rich and we are better for having met.

Really liked all the panelists, thanks so much for organizing this!

It was a wonderful discussion. The need to think of borders as processes is vital! The speakers did a great job at conveying this through their personal experiences.

Great panelist!

If workshop is during the week, it will be great.

Very positive, thought provoking and wide ranging panelists!

I think the last question was at the heart of the issue and there should have been more time given to this by all the panelists, perhaps shortening their initial time and giving some time to this before opening up to questions from the audience. Good work - thank you!

Kristi needs to write a book!

Great to hear a number of different perspectives.



I am thinking how to start a global movement - not for dismantling the nation state system but for dismantling the supreme authority these states hold over people's lives. we often say humanity before religion to protect individual human right , but then we put the state before the individual human; now is time to recognize humanity before the country

Loved the doc. Nice length, interesting graphics, great story lines, and of course wonderful provocative ideas. I hope if there are more in the series of Worn Words, we can find out about them!

Gratitude.

Had to leave early, but it was very interesting. In my personal Asylum Seeker experience the boarder has always been something to keep people in. I tried migrating to Sweden in 5774 (2014) while waiting on an Aliyah to Israel. My visa was pulled and then I got stuck in the situation of selling myself into slavery for a visa I never got. I filed for Asylum for a number of reasons and without a hearing was returned to the USA. For two years I could not leave and when I could it was only ever for a vacation and never would I be allowed to stay in any other nation. For instance when I went to Israel for the Aliyah this past year 5780 (2020 prior to Rosh Hashanah) I was instantly returned to the USA. There was a point in the discussion when talks about this or that document being needed and on the Aliyah it was exactly like that. Get us an FBI background check, do another psychological evaluation, give us your tax returns, credit check, etc. It was very traumatizing and made me feel like I was back in Sweden undergoing the Asylum process. To make the matter worse in the middle of all this neo-nazis in San Diego started murdering Jews in Synagogues and despite the President recognizing the attack, as well as the Israeli PM, on Chabad of Poway the Jewish Agency which governs the process of immigration was completely uncompassionate.

This life I have lived has led me to fee like the luxury of a US passport is more like a shackle to me although I know it has value to others. I guess perspective is everything. Those who want in cannot get here and those of us who want out cannot leave because we are property. And we are property I mean they tested the human growth hormone on my older brother in the USA giving him chronic brain damage. He was a lab rat and now I cannot even leave if I tried. I will try again no doubt to leave, but I very seriously doubt I will ever be able to.

Anyway this was nice, there are few people I can listen to or speak with that would understand this experience I had. So it was a bit healing to hear from others that shared in this life choice. Glad they made it out there are several I know who haven't and a few I would love nothing more than to see again and make sure they are okay. Friends made get lost through the inhumanity of this process.

Thank you to everyone involved, learned a lot!

The panelists were fantastic! And Saleem (I may be misspelling--apologies) facilitating was remarkable, and I'm certainly a fan of Erin's work. Her concluding statements really helped frame it and close the time together, as well. Honestly, I was pleasantly surprised at how the zoom presentation was set up and flowed. Having the intermission with the music of a refugee was just so lovely, and wise to give folks a bit of a quick break. I was just so amazed and enlightened by all of the panelists engagement/response to the Border Story and to the questions.

I appreciate that persons with experience as refugees, several kinds of borders, and perspectives of indigenous people were included.

Thank you for inviting me into this dialogue.