Semester description:

**MA in Global Refugee Studies (GRS)**
8th semester (2nd semester of the MA)

**Information about the semester**
School: The School of Culture and Global Studies
Study Board: Board of Studies for International Affairs

**Regulations and Curriculum:**
GRS students enrolled 1st September 2022:
[https://studieordninger.aau.dk/2022/35/3522](https://studieordninger.aau.dk/2022/35/3522)

**Module:**
Topics within Mobility and Displacement, Culture, Identity and Politics

This module contains the following focus areas:

*Topical seminars within displacement, mobility and refugee studies*
*Mobility and Displacement*
*Culture, Identity and Politics*

**Description of the semester**
The purpose the 8th semester at GRS is firstly to give students an up-to-date insight into theories about the dynamics of international political economy (IPE) and a number of chosen interdisciplinary topics related to development and forced migration. The course identifies the most important actors and institutions with a critical focus on the interaction of ideology, politics and economics.

Secondly the semester explores the relationship between culture, identity and politics from the perspective of cultural studies and anthropology. We investigate these relations from four different angles (there could be many more). First, we explore what we mean by culture by relating it to concepts of place, belonging and movement. Second, we study the correlation between (cultural) identities, politicization and conflict, looking both at identity as cause of conflict and at conflict as producer of identity. Third, we scrutinize the intersections between two dimensions of identity, namely gender and generation, and explore their relation to displacement, political struggle and political identity. Finally, we take a closer look at violence and violent events and explore how we can analyse these phenomena among people on the move.

And thirdly the semester gives an insight into the relationship between forced migration (displacement), inability to move (stuckness) and conflict from different perspectives. Displacement, stuckness and conflict are not stable categories; rather they are different moments in complex historical processes. The displaced person of today might very well find it impossible to move tomorrow. What characterize both moments of stuckness and displacement are the curtailed autonomy and force acted upon the bodies of the disenfranchised by structures of power. Hence, a central element of the course
is to understand and explore the concept of ‘force’ as cutting across historical and political contexts and how people caught in such power relations navigate to survive and prosper in precarious circumstances. The course adopts a double focus in that we address structural courses for displacement, stuckness and conflict as well as the experiences and coping strategies for those affected.

**Organisation of the semester**

The semester is divided into two parts: course work (15 ECTS) and project work (15 ECTS). All information regarding objectives, content, scope, teaching and learning methods, schedule, prerequisite requirements for participation, general and specific learning objectives, assessment criteria and examination forms can be received from GRS: [https://studieordninger.aau.dk/2022/35/3522](https://studieordninger.aau.dk/2022/35/3522)

For detailed course/lecture information, reading material and teacher’s PPT documents, please refer to [https://www.moodle.aau.dk/](https://www.moodle.aau.dk/)

**Semester coordination and secretariat**

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