Middle Eastern Studies: Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North
CMEN19

Course Content

This course focuses on refugees understood as forced-displaced people. It discusses those social structures, organizations and institutions that affect the lives of people seeking asylum not only in Sweden but in the Global North more broadly. With the course’s point of departure being the Swedish asylum system, we will start with tracing the historical roots of the international refugee regime. Thereupon the course explores asylum systems in other Global Northern countries such as the US, Canada, EU-countries such as France and Germany, but also Australia and New Zealand, and assesses empirical research that investigates how Middle Eastern refugees interact with these different administrations of asylum. The student will read this literature critically, problematizing the seeking of asylum as relational to citizenship, gender and sexuality, class, race/ethnicity, geopolitics, among other intersecting axis of power that mark (and are being marked by) the lives of Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North. To address these complex power relations, the self-organized refugee rights activism that has emerged recently in different Global Northern contexts will be an important empirical reference point. Thus, the course examines contentious politics in interaction with the social structures, organizations and institutions that affect the lives of people seeking asylum in the Global North.