

## Overview

This project will examine the social, cultural and political history of forced displacement in the Mediterranean between 1918 and 1943. It underlines the long history of the migrant crisis currently gripping Europe, and shows that then as today, the Mediterranean was the primary transit region – for Armenians, Russians, Italian anti-Fascists, Spanish Republicans and German Jews. The project uses the French Mediterranean coast – a region that was a node for the movement of refugees – as its entry point. This allows it to interrogate how a stable nation state responds to forced displacement, but also to move beyond the boundedness of the nation state to local and transnational levels of analysis. It seeks to understand how, as refugees passed through or settled in the region, they challenged French authorities and international humanitarian agencies; drove new social and cultural dynamics within local communities; and developed their own strategies for dealing with forced displacement, rooted in diasporic networks, thereby emerging from the experience as active agents rather than passive victims.

## Objectives

1. A transnational history of forced displacement in the Mediterranean
2. Understanding the creation of the refugee
3. Understanding the impact of forced displacement on the French Mediterranean
4. Understanding displacement from the perspective of refugees



School Children at Camp Oddo, Armenian refugee camp in Marseille, 1925

## Methodology

The project will be based upon a wide array of primary source material, including refugees' letters, diaries, petitions, newspapers, and official reports and correspondence. These will be collected from archives in France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The project will deploy social and cultural historical methods, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives from refugee studies, political science, literary studies and anthropology in order to interrogate *how refugees are controlled*; *how refugees are represented*; *how refugees experience displacement*; and *how refugees negotiate power structures*.

## Impact

- Publications (1 monograph and 2 articles)
- Research Presentations at Seminars and Conferences
- Event Organisation (a workshop and a major international conference on 'refugee regimes, experiences and voices, 1914-1945')

## Outreach Activities

- Monthly online 'research journal'
- Public lectures at Manchester and the Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris.
- Sustained engagement with policy-making circles.