



# Governing Forced Migration by Sea A Legal Perspective

Oxford, 17-18 November 2011

In the past decades, the phenomenon of “boat migration” has increasingly been perceived as a problem. In the absence of a detailed legal regime, coastal states have adopted their own regulatory approaches, challenging at times the basis of their international obligations. In light of recent developments, including the flows of refugees fleeing the war in Libya, the increasingly important role played by the EU in this context, and the expected decision by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Hirsi v Italy*, the workshop, through an extensive analysis of the legal framework, aims at detecting both the potentialities and shortcomings of the regime currently governing forced migration by sea, so that possible solutions and spaces for improvement may be identified.

The Workshop is generously funded by the Faculty of Law of the University of Oxford and is supported by All Souls College and St Hilda’s College.

The Workshop aims at creating opportunities for discussion between State representatives, NGOs, IOs and academics working in the field. There will be ample space for individual interventions and debate on key issues. On account of space constraints and to organise the necessary arrangements, please confirm your attendance to [violeta.more nolax@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk](mailto:violeta.more nolax@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk) or [irini.papanicolopulu@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:irini.papanicolopulu@law.ox.ac.uk) as soon as possible, as places are limited.



## Draft Programme

17 November 2011  
Canada Room, St Hilda's College, Oxford

17h30: Pre-Workshop meeting (speakers only)

18 November 2011  
Old Library, All Souls College, Oxford

- 9h30 Registration/Morning coffee
- 10h Welcome address by Chair Vaughan Lowe
- 10h15 Guy S Goodwin-Gill: *Introduction to Key Issues on Forced Migration by Sea*
- 10h45 Efthymios Papastavridis: *The Law of the Sea and Forced Migration*
- 11h15 Coffee Break
- 11h30 Seline Trevisanut: *Non-Refoulement at Sea*
- 12h Discussion on the morning session/ Q&A
- 13h Lunch
- 14h Violeta Moreno Lax: *Joint Operation Hermes*
- 14h30 Irini Papanicolopulu: *Hirsi v Italy*
- 15h Tullio Treves : *Conclusions - Cross-fertilization as a Potential Solution*
- 15h30 Discussion on the afternoon session/ Q&A