

## Allocation & Integration: Institutional solutions to the European Union's refugee crisis

Akiva Weiss' thesis 'Integration and Allocation' employs a Law and Economics framework onto European refugee hosting. Part I introduces the research question and discusses how refugee law is currently at odds with many EU States' social and economic preferences. The crux of the central argument is that if the law cannot reach equilibrium with these forces then these social and economic forces will supersede the law. In turn, this will lead to derogations and amendments to international Treaties and Covenants. In order to avoid these consequences, the thesis suggests allocating refugees through a joint supranational clearinghouse mechanism between the European Union and Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This mechanism, it is argued, will lower the costs of hosting refugees so that they fall in line with EU States' respective social and economic forces. Furthermore, in order to allow for all asylum seekers determined as refugees to be hosted, an EU-wide integration mechanism is argued for. This mechanism is a mentoring program that accounts for both EU-wide and location-specific needs. The mechanism is then tested both from the refugee and host population angle.

Part Two reviews the Economics, Public Choice and Migration pertaining to institutional solutions, particularly under what conditions centralization of integration programs will reach an efficient outcome. Focus is placed on free-riding between insular EU States and those popular with refugees. The analysis then turns to how EU centralized allocation and integration programs for refugee hosting may create economies of scale, as well provide an insurance policy, particularly for insular States, in times of external shock to the asylum system.

Part Three proposes a market-based solution for EU refugee protection. The market involves both the EU and Organization of Islamic Cooperation [OIC]. Rationale for choosing OIC collaboration rather than an internal EU or world-wide market is validated through the former's superior coordination of goods, as well as providing a conduit for Global South actors to participate in refugee protection. Part IV then analyzes the legality of transferring refugees between States, both within and outside of the EU. An *ex ante* approach is taken whereby potential dignity-grounded claims against transfers is analyzed. Rather than solely explicate the judicial reasoning for cases involving refugees and dignities, the thesis takes a novel approach and looks at three domains that typically intersect and impact a refugee's path from persecuted to protected: spatial, psychological and physical identity, and balancing individual values with those of the hosting State. From these domains an *ex ante* approach is taken whereby possible challenges to refugee transfers that might preclude an efficient market mechanism are analyzed for their legality. In turn, this may reduce future transaction costs arising from legal challenges.

Part V analyzes whether an EU-wide mentoring program may be an efficient integration mechanism. An original dataset of Arabic-speaking refugees collected by Weiss in 2017 shows that mentoring has a positive impact on employment and other determinants shown in the literature to aid positive integration. Type of mentor-mentee match, duration of mentoring, and the nature of the mentoring (i.e., educational, institutional assistance) are all analyzed in the empirical analysis.

Part VI also uses an original dataset, this time a conjoint design causal inference tool testing the German population's view of whether mentoring will make refugees more likely to integrate. Here, mentoring as an integration program is placed alongside 10 indicators from the Sociology, Public Choice, and Acculturation literature shown to impact perception of a "desirable" migrant and their ability to effectively integrate. The results show that mentoring mitigates many of the prejudices against refugees. Chapter VI concludes with policy prescriptions and a discussion on how an economic framework can validate integration programs that bring the law into equilibrium with social and economic forces.