



Remembering Refuge

Between Sanctuary and Solidarity

What are Provocations?

Provocations are the questions that lie at the heart of conversations about migration and borders, but that often are not made explicit. The provocations emerged from the overarching themes that developed out of the team's engagement with the oral histories. They are points of entry that both inform and are informed by the oral histories and are meant to provoke critical thinking and engagement.

Provocation: Why is migration framed as a crisis?

Some movements of people are quickly labelled as crises, while others are not. This provocation encourages you to think about who decides when migration becomes a crisis and why they are presented as such.

- Think of some examples of movements of people that have been labelled as a crisis and others that have not.
- What does it mean to call migration a 'crisis'? In what ways does this label influence how states and other actors respond?
- What work does the term crisis do? What would it mean to ask the related question, a crisis for whom?





From the Remembering Refuge Archive

At rememberingrefuge.com/oral-histories, you can explore a collection of oral histories where individuals share their experiences of crossing the Canada-US border to seek refuge, along with accounts from advocates in border communities. The following excerpts have been chosen for their relevance to the provocation “Why is migration framed as a crisis?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Key moments from the oral histories:

Bridges Not Borders 01:36:55 - 01:42:15

Santiago 01:23:10 - 01:28:20

Juliana 00:54:54 - 00:56:18

Roberto 00:48:18 - 00:50:42

To access the key moments, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Oral histories”.
3. Scroll to find the oral history you’re looking for, and click on it.
 - a. Note: Some oral histories may include a trigger warning. Click the play button to continue.
4. Inside the story, click “Explore X’s story” located at the top of the page to view a list of Key Moments from the oral history.
5. Scroll through the Key Moments to find the timestamp you’re looking for and click on it. This will take you to that moment in the audio.
6. To play the story, click on the play button in the bottom-left corner of the page.



Education Resource

At rememberingrefuge.com/education, you can find education resources designed to activate the counter-archive by encouraging learners to engage with the stories meaningfully and consider how the knowledge can be applied beyond the classroom. The following materials were selected for their relevance to the provocation “Why is migration framed as a crisis?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Education Resource:

Criminalization of Aid

To access the education resources, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Education”.
3. Scroll to find the education resource you’re looking for, and click on it.
4. Once inside you can view the online version or download the PDF.



What have other people said about this question?

Neske Baerwaldt, *The European Refugee Crisis: Crisis for whom?*, 2018

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2018/03/european-refugee>

Rebecca Gordon, *The Current Migrant Crisis Was Created by US Foreign Policy, Not Trump*, 2019

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/central-america-migrant-crisis-foreign-policy-trump/>

Dara Lind, *The border is in crisis: Here's how it got this bad*, 2019

<https://www.vox.com/2019/4/11/18290677/border-immigration-illegal-asylum-central-america-mexico-trump>

Nick Perre, Myrthe De Vries, Hannah Richards, *Refugee Crisis: Three Perspectives on the Makings of a Crisis*, 2018

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2018/06/refugee-crisis>

Want to learn more about the project? Visit rememberingrefuge.com

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