

Refugee Rights in Records Symposium

Budapest, January 10, 2018

Summary Report and Research and Development Questions Arising

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Introduction

In late 2016 the United Nations (UN) estimated that the numbers of forcibly displaced persons had exceeded more than 65.6 million people worldwide. Of these, 22.5 million were refugees, 10 million were stateless people, and 189,300 had resettled that year. Displacement crises raise complex interacting issues about nation-states, laws, borders, human rights, citizenship and identity, security, resource allocation and information and communication technologies (ICT). Integral to this complexity, documentation and particularly official records are pervasive and fundamental yet somehow rarely conspicuous. Much attention has been focused on official verification of identities and citizenship of displaced persons, vetting them for security risks, reunifying families, and determining whether or not they qualify for asylum and resettlement. However the issues which refugees and other displaced persons confront in accessing, carrying and producing the kinds of authoritative documentation required for these processes remain under-addressed.

This one-day [symposium](#) (was sponsored by the [Center for Information as Evidence](#), University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of Liverpool [Centre for Archive Studies](#) (LUCAS), and the Vera and Donald [Blinken Open Society Archives](#) at Central European University in Budapest. Held at the Blinken Open Society Archives on January 10, 2018, it brought together speakers and other attendees from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, NGOs working with refugees as well as watchdog agencies engaged in documenting human rights abuses, archives and academic institutions. Participants spoke to ways in which documentation (including official bureaucratic and bio-based identity records), NGO records and data, archives and their holdings, personal testimonies and eye witness and other community accounts, as well as other more 'irregular' forms and uses of official records play crucial roles in the lives of displaced people as they travel across state boundaries, interact with governments and aid agencies, and eventually resettle into new countries and interface with their bureaucratic systems or return/are returned to their places of origin.

The initial aims of the symposium were threefold:

1. to make visible and understand the role of records in the lives of refugees, historically and contemporarily;
2. to identify potential mechanisms for helping refugees and their advocates to locate, access and present trustworthy records on their own behalf; and
3. to work towards a platform of refugee rights in records.

The following is a summary of the main themes emerging from the presentations and discussions at the symposium, together with some of the questions arising, and several areas for further research, development and education that were identified.

The role and responsibilities of the United Nation's High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR's mandate is the international protection of, and finding permanent solutions for, refugees. International protection means all actions that the UNHCR takes to ensure equal access to and the enjoyment of rights by all refugees. It begins from the moment people cross into a country seeking asylum and ensures that their fundamental rights are respected and that they aren't forcibly returned to a country where their lives are in danger.

Who falls under UNHCR's mandate?

- Refugees who are outside their country of origin and are unwilling or unable to go back to their country of origin because they fear persecution due to individualized threats or because of generalized violence or indiscriminate threats to their lives (e.g., civil war).
- Asylum-seekers who are seeking international protection go through a refugee status determination procedure to confirm their refugee status in a country different from their own.
- Stateless people who are not considered to be nationals of any state and so have no effective protection of any state, e.g., legal identity on birth, access to healthcare or work, and ability to enter into a recognized marriage or perhaps even to be issued a death certificate or given a burial. Stateless status can persist across generations.
- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have fled for the same reasons as refugees but did not cross an international border.
- Returnees who can return in safety and dignity to their own places of origin, whether spontaneously or in an organized manner.

Refugees' rights are derived from the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and in general from international human rights and humanitarian law. The cornerstone of international protection for refugees, and for persons in all other categories of concern, is the immediate right not to be returned to a country where one's life or freedom is in danger (non-refoulement, article 33).

The role of records and other documentation in refugees' lives

The ability of a person to thrive and enjoy rights is dependent not only upon that person's physical survival and welfare, but also upon the robustness of their juridical presence. Records and other materials that document,¹ for example, a person's

¹ The term 'document' (verb or noun) may refer to official documents that are created or issued through UN, government or other organizational processes such as passports, birth certificates, and identity 'papers'; as well as additional types of bureaucratic records such as educational or property records. In

identity, family, rights, attainments and property are needed by displaced persons (refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons) across time, space and generations, but for many reasons they may be inaccessible or unavailable to them, removed from them or discarded by them. In the most immediate circumstances, displaced persons who cannot produce the appropriate documents² may not even be able to obtain food in transit spaces. Article 27 of the 1951 Refugee Convention states the right of refugees to be provided with identity papers. Most individual EU states take responsibility for registering refugees and must issue identity papers to any refugee in their territory who does not possess a valid travel document. In some countries, especially those without viable government bureaucracies, the UN must undertake the registration and provide identity documents. This may include the creation of DNA-based identity documents, which can also help with family reunification but may not always support keeping together or reunifying non-biologically-based family units. Identity documents issued under Article 27 protect against refoulement, arbitrary arrest and detention and facilitate freedom of movement and access to benefits as well as family reunification.

Additional official records and other documentation (such as intelligence information) is often required or used as part of increasingly stringent security vetting by many countries to which asylum seekers and those granted refugee status wish to travel. Official records and other documentation are also needed once a person has achieved asylum and/or after settlement, e.g., to prove educational attainment, occupation and employment experience, military service, medical history, hereditary claims to citizenship in other states, sell property, pursue reparations; or by a person who has returned to their place of origin and needs to (re)claim property, benefits and other rights.

Some countries such as Yugoslavia have ceased to exist, however, while others are considered to be "failed states" or no longer have functioning bureaucracies, such as Somalia, and it might be necessary to go back to the records of prior political and colonial administrations to find relevant documentation, if any even exists.

Speakers noted that displaced persons may use official records, out of necessity or personal safety considerations, to prove, conceal and forge identities and so all aspects associated with these activities and forms of records should be considered.

- What kinds of documents are needed, at what points and for which kinds of processes?
- What conditions are set by different authorities for the production and validation of those documents?
- What happens if a refugee cannot produce the needed documents? Or a satisfactory copy of a document? Or when data points in different records do not correlate?

archival terminology, all such official documents are usually referred to as 'records.' However, authorities in different countries of agencies may also consider or request other kinds of supporting or corroborating 'documentation' such as personal testimonies, family photographs or video footage that might be used to support claims of actual or potential persecution, to reunite families, find missing loved ones, and so forth,

- What difficulties do refugees experience and what assistance is available to help them with identifying, understanding, obtaining and producing records? Could "records advocates" help them with this?
- How can bodies of displaced persons lacking any documentation be identified?
- What recourse does someone claiming asylum have if documents used in turning down their claim are classified (e.g., they were created by a government as part of its counter-terrorism activities)?
- How does one prove a marriage is valid if it has been executed through an oral contract that did not require a written record to be created (e.g., some Muslim marriages)?
- What kind of digital and bio-based records are being created, by whom and where? How are they being validated, used and kept? How will they be used and kept in the future? By whom?
- How might digital technologies be employed to help refugees to duplicate, carry or access reliable copies records about themselves? Given that every jurisdiction has different and shifting requirements, processes and discretion regarding the production and acceptability of records that are shaped by the politics and expectations of stakeholders within their nations, would such an approach even be feasible?
 - One strategy might be to focus first on understanding and then addressing the records requirements for refugee adjudication in those countries where refugees are first registered, e.g., Greece, Malta, Italy, Croatia, Spain and Turkey.

The role of archives worldwide in addressing refugee crises

Participants noted that the interests of refugees and refugee communities in records and archives may span generations and are not likely to be the same as those of the state and its citizenry, or of historians or other scholars that tend to be primary constituencies for official and historical/collecting archives. Indeed, practices such as appraisal, description and digitization that are designed with such constituencies in mind may fail refugees in critical ways. There was a strong sentiment that refugee needs and problems with regard to records could not be adequately addressed by the UNHCR and existing NGOs but needed to be a concern for national archives and state records agencies worldwide.

a. Responsibilities and roles of different types of archives

It was pointed out that at least four different kinds of archives bear responsibility at different points for different aspects of these problems:

1. Archives and public records offices holding official records pertaining to individuals and their rights as well as to refugee processes, events and movements. While the major entities might be state and local government institutions such as state and national archives, this category also includes other institutional archives holding records relating to educational achievement, medical history and patient care, employment and so forth (e.g., university archives, medical records centres, personnel records departments in organizations);
2. Historical/collecting archives that build collections documenting both retrospectively and 'in the moment,' human rights concerns, refugee experiences, etc. (e.g., the UNHCR Archives, the Blinken Open Society Archives), and that may also receive materials donated by relevant individuals;
3. Corporate archives of businesses and contractors to which governments and NGOs outsource particular activities; and
4. Community-based archives that are often the most activist-oriented form of archives and are initiated, built and managed by and primarily in the interests of refugee communities themselves. Although projects such as the Syrian Archive, which is gathering evidence and documenting incidents on the ground,³ or Witness, which trains and otherwise help individuals to document human rights abuses safely and to "use footage effectively to create positive change in their communities,"⁴ many community archives simply do not have the capacity to document crises 'in the moment,' however, and tend to form after refugees have settled and are increasingly implementing new media to bring together communities and community experiences in diaspora.

Several issues and questions were raised about how different kinds of archives, and archival activities, working separately and in coordination, might contribute to addressing refugee crises:

- The transnational nature of the refugee crisis and all the involved parties and concerns requires transnational strategies and solutions. Records offices, archives and recordkeeping, however, remain largely bound by the structures, interests and priorities of individual institutions, organizations, jurisdictions and nations and are not incentivized to work collaboratively. How can such transnational strategies and solutions be pursued and implemented?
- Archivists responsible for creating, managing and preserving records operate under many political and economic pressures in countries that are engaged in conflicts, or have a record of human rights abuses and/or of oppressing particular communities. How can the global archival community help those archives to protect their records from destruction and/or political interference and to make copies available (together with attestations as to the authenticity of the copy) to former citizens now residing outside the country?

³ <https://exposingtheinvisible.org/films/group/syrian-archive/>.

⁴ <https://witness.org/our-work/>.

- How can different types of archives: official, historical/collecting, corporate, and community-based, work in closer and more strategic coordination to address refugee needs for records and to document refugee experiences? How can archivists be more closely and safely engaged in documenting the conditions that lead to refugee crises?
- Relevant records, e.g., high school records, tax records, driving licence records, are often not deemed historically valuable and retained by archives, or if retained, may not be indexed at the level of the individual. How might archives and other records offices be resourced to retain, index and digitize such records? More generally, how might archives be resourced to process their holdings more rapidly so that they could better address immediate as well as future needs for records?
- It would be inappropriate of archives and other records offices to issue assurances as to the admissibility of records that they hold, or copies that they provide, although certainly they do make value judgments as part of records appraisal and many also certify copies that they make of their own records. Could they, however, provide expert testimony as to the circumstances behind the production of the record or record copy and their expert opinion as to its trustworthiness or status as the best available evidence?
- Could archives in countries of asylum or settlement act on behalf of refugees in issuing requests for certified copies of relevant records held about them (e.g., birth certificates, marriage records, diplomas) in archives or records offices of their countries of origin? If the latter archives or records offices were unable or unwilling to produce such copies, could the requesting archives provide the refugee with an affidavit or testify in a hearing to that effect?

b. A platform of rights in records for refugees

Further questions were raised specifically about what rights might/should refugees have in access to, management and retention, and future use of official records created about them and their families (physical, digital, bio) in either their home countries or in any other jurisdiction through which they pass or settle as refugees?

- Could a platform of rights in records for refugees be identified and promoted? e.g., full, free and informed consent for data collection and limitations on future use of data; preservation of relevant records held in place of birth and any subsequent locations; guaranteed safe and low-cost access to relevant records about oneself; a right to know about classified data about oneself that might impede obtaining asylum; a right to a records advocate upon request; a right to a secure way to preserve one's own copies of one's records; a right of input regarding how and where records are managed, preserved and made available; rights in relevant records of family members for descendants of refugees.

c. Documenting refugees and the refugee crisis

Creating and preserving documentation is key to ensuring the preservation and transmission of the memory and experiences of refugees, their families and communities; supporting the infrastructure/operations of NGOs; and holding governments and other official entities accountable. Just as there is a need to continue to support the records needs of refugees and their descendants after they have been granted asylum, there is a need to document (but not monitor or surveil) their experiences, both for their own memory and community purposes, and to support wider knowledge about those experiences, where refugees end up, how they far, and so forth. In addition to the totality of UNHCR Records and Archives work in capturing and providing access to its records, the UNHCR web archive has captured the stories of individual refugees, arguing that personal stories play an important role in increasing public understanding of the plight of refugees. Blinken OSA have proposed creating digital storytelling platforms for publishing individual/collective refugee experiences of students (refugees and asylum seekers themselves) enrolled in CEU's [Open Learning Initiative Program](#). These human stories may have an impact on social environments that are hostile towards refugees.

- In what ways, at what points, and for which purposes can or should refugee experiences be documented, and by whom?
- How best should such documentation be made available, and to whom?

Both of these questions have obvious relationships to the prior points raised regarding a platform of rights in records for refugees.

Recordkeeping and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

In the JIU/REP/2013/2 'Records and Archives Management in the United Nations' UNHCR Records and Archives were singled out in the UN system for its excellence in records management.⁵ The UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) also stated that by acquiring a Digital Repository system it would match its excellence with e-SAFE and provide a total solution for the protection of UNHCR digital archive. With the procurement of its Digital Preservation System in 2017. UNHCR is currently on its way to meeting the report's recommendations.

Raising the awareness of NGOs working with refugees and human rights watchdog groups of the need to have robust recordkeeping is also a major priority. Creating and maintaining detailed, well-organized and reliable records according to best recordkeeping practices contributes to organizational self-knowledge, ability to access and compile information necessary for reports and funding applications, tracking impact and outcomes of NGO activities, security and reliability of digital records and data, and bureaucratic cost-effectiveness. It also contributes to organizational transparency and accountability, and thus externally perceived trustworthiness. Currently little data on long-term outcomes of refugee experiences and programs is available. More, and more trusted, data on outcomes might provide one mechanism for pushing back against the kinds of hate speech against refugees that is being promoted by certain governments, political parties, and social media voices.

⁵ https://www.unjiu.org/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU_REP_2013_2_English.pdf.

- Who should be responsible for NGO recordkeeping and archiving, and at what point(s)?
 - Ideally NGOs would proactively design recordkeeping processes, workflows and systems to ensure the above benefits. However, NGOs may be reluctant or simply cannot afford to direct tight resources to undertaking such strategic development or hiring a dedicated recordkeeping professional. Moreover, some recordkeeping best practices may not be feasible to implement give the immediacy of many of the issues and interventions in the field with which NGOs are engaged.
 - NGOs may instead prefer to hand their records off to an archives of their choice once they no longer need those records, in order to ensure that they are preserved for future research. Those archives would likely preserve NGO records in accordance with their own institutional mission and expected users (different types of archives having different missions and user bases), however, and so would not necessarily accept all records that the NGO might need in the future for their own purposes. While this option would certainly support historical research, it would also not directly improve active recordkeeping in support of the daily operational needs of NGOs.
 - Could recordkeeping be outsourced? And what is currently being captured about NGOs in the systems of businesses to which other NGO activities are outsourced?
- Can a risk-based approach to recordkeeping be promoted, similar to that promoted within the UN and other international and national governance agencies during the 1990s regarding electronic recordkeeping?
 - Funders could encourage these agencies as well as NGOs to pay more attention to recordkeeping by insisting on data preservation and access management plans as part of funding proposals (as many government research funders currently require), and conducting periodic records and data audits.

Digital concerns

Digital devices such as mobile phones carried by refugees and containing their own digital documentation may be seized, searched or destroyed by border or hostile authorities or social groups opposing refugee movements, or damaged in outbreaks of violence between police and those waiting to be granted asylum. Other sources of concern include communications security, malware, digital interception and terrorist content being transmitted as part of larger digital content. These tactics are being employed by governments persecuting individuals, communities and NGOs and human rights watchdog agencies--even those that are outside their countries--as well as by terrorist organizations and others seeking to disrupt, intimidate or inflict damage. Digital content such as digital video that has been collected to document

human rights abuses may be erased, cannot be found, cannot be verified, or may not be searchable, although there is some precedent for introducing it as evidence in human rights and war crimes cases. These concerns may also affect archives, museums and data repositories in other places in the world that have offered physical and digital storage space and preservation services as "sanctuary archives" or "data havens" for archives, official records, and documentation created by individuals and organizations that are deemed to be at risk due to conflicts or are targets of human rights abuses in their country of origin.

- How can techniques developed for analyzing digital content to detect evidence of human rights abuses and the perpetration of war crimes be made less labour-intensive and faster? Are they scalable? What corroborating evidence can support their introduction in legal proceedings?
- What best practices should be used/are feasible to use when archival physical content is digitized, often under less than ideal circumstances, and transmitted either to sanctuary archives or data havens for preservation purposes, or provided to those who are preparing to flee or who are already displaced, to ensure and certify the most reliable possible copies of the original material?
- If multiple digital copies exist of the same material, when and how should these be compared to identify any differences, damage, alteration, etc. in content?
- How should sanctuary archives and data havens, beyond meeting Trusted Digital Repository requirements, best inform themselves about and protect themselves and their holdings against digital threats?
- What laws (e.g., transborder export of cultural treasures, anti-terrorist legislation) might have an impact upon sanctuary archives and data haven activities?
- Will emerging digital standards and biometrically-encoded documents actually provide more consensus across countries and jurisdictions about the admissibility and validity of documents than was the case with physical documents?

Educational needs

Several new kinds of professionals, or professional roles are called for to support the above-delineated needs. These include trained records and archives professionals who could work directly with refugees, NGOs and asylum authorities as records experts; human rights lawyers who are trained in how to find, evaluate, put together, corroborate and challenge documentary evidence (such as those who have undertaken the course offered by the Blinken Open Society Archives on [Archives, Evidence and Human Rights](#)); archivists trained to work in trans-institutional and trans-national contexts to identify requirements for records, develop effective description to support diasporic access, strategies for locating, accessing, using and challenging records as

documentary evidence in human rights cases (such as those who have undertaken the course offered by UCLA on Locating and Using Records as Evidence in Human Rights Activities); and digital specialists who can work with archives and watchdog agencies to ensure the secure transmission, preservation and maintenance of their digital records, data, and observations against malicious attack, alteration or infiltration.

Appendices

PROGRAMME

Symposium on Refugee Rights in Records

10 January 2018

Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives
at Central European University
Budapest, Hungary

9:00 Registration

9:30 Welcome | István Rév, Director, Blinken OSA

9:45 Keynote, Problem Statement | Anne Gilliland, Professor, UCLA

10:00 Session 1 | Documenting Refugees' Identities, Archives as Sources

Chair: Tamara Štefanac, Independent Researcher

Iván Székely, Senior Research Fellow, Blinken OSA

Csaba Szilágyi, Head of the Human Rights Program, Blinken OSA

11:00 Coffee Break

11:10 Session 2 | Refugee Perspectives? Or Geopolitical Trends?

Chair: Csaba Szilágyi

Yolande Ditewig, Senior Regional Policy Officer, UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe (Budapest)

Boldizsár Nagy, Associate Professor, CEU

Anikó Bakonyi, Advocacy and Project Officer, Hungarian Helsinki Committee

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Session 3 | Problems of Documentation and Technology in Migration

Chair: James Lowry, Lecturer, Liverpool University

Cameran Ashraf, Assistant Professor, CEU

Patricia Sleeman, Digital Archivist, UNHCR Records and Archives (Geneva)

Hadi Al-Khatib, Founder and Director, Syrian Archive

14:45 Film Screening

15:45 Session 4 | Refugee Rights in Records Project and next steps

Anne Gilliland and James Lowry

17:00 Closing remarks | Anne Gilliland

17:30 Guided Tour of the Archives | Robert Parnica, Senior Reference Archivist,
Blinken OSA

SPEAKER BIOS

Hadi Al-Khatib has been working on collecting, verifying, and investigating citizen-generated data as evidence of human rights violations in order to expose and draw attention to human rights violations committed by all sides in the Syrian conflict, and to make sure that journalists are able to use verified data for their investigations. Hadi has previously worked with Tactical Technology Collective for the last 5 years to support journalists and news agencies in securing their data, devices and communications online, as well as a digital and informational security trainer with the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX). In addition, Hadi is part-time project leader for Middle East and North Africa investigations with Bellingcat. Hadi is also a fellow at the Centre for Internet and Human Rights. Hadi is based in Berlin, Germany.

Cameran Ashraf is Assistant Professor of new media and global communications at the CEU School of Public Policy. Prior to CEU, Cameran was a digital activist whose work with Iran led to co-founding AccessNow, one of the largest international human rights organizations dedicated to defending and extending the digital rights of users at risk around the world. In 2010, the European Parliament selected AccessNow as a finalist for the 2010 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. At CEU, Cameran teaches courses on the geopolitics of the Internet, cyberconflict, and technology and human rights.

Anikó Bakonyi has an M.A. degree in Human Rights at the Central European University. She has been working for the Refugee Programme of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee since 2010 as a project and advocacy officer. She coordinates the human rights monitoring activities of the refugee program and manages projects such as the Refugee Law Reader and regularly takes part in the advocacy activities of the program. She is also responsible for the production of information materials for asylum seekers.

Yolande Ditewig has been working with UNHCR since 2005. She has worked in the field of Protection in a variety of countries, including in Africa, the Middle East and more recently in Europe. Ms. Ditewig is currently working with UNHCR's Regional Representation in Budapest, where she heads the Protection Unit. Prior to joining UNHCR, Ms. Ditewig worked as a corporate lawyer in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Anne J. Gilliland is Professor and Director of the Archival Studies specialization in the Department of Information Studies, Director of the Center for Information as Evidence, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, and a faculty affiliate of the Center for Digital Humanities at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She is also the director of the Archival Education and Research Initiative (AERI), a global collaborative effort amongst academic institutions that seeks to promote state-of-the-art in scholarship in archival studies, as well as to encourage curricular and pedagogical innovation in archival and recordkeeping education locally and worldwide. Her interests relate broadly to the history, nature, human impact, and technologies associated with archives, recordkeeping and memory, particularly in translocal and international contexts. Together with James Lowry, she directs the research project, *Records and ICT at the Boundaries of the State: Refugee Needs, Rights and Uses*, <https://informationasevidence.org/refugee-rights-in-records>.

James Lowry is a lecturer in the Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies. He led the development of the UK government's commitment on records management in its Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (2013-15). James has led records and archives management projects in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia as the Deputy Director of the International Records Management Trust. He is Chair of the Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers, and Secretary to the International Council on Archives (ICA) Africa Programme. His research interests include the development of national capacities for government record-keeping (regulatory frameworks, role of national archives) and access to information (Commonwealth administrative traditions, cultures of secrecy, displaced/migrated archives, FOI, and open data).

Boldizsár Nagy read law and philosophy and received his PhD in law at the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest. He teaches international law and asylum law at the Central European University. He has acted as an expert for the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union and was a counsel for Hungary in the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Project case in front of the ICJ. Ankara, Beijing, Brussels, Geneva, Kazan, Moscow, New York, Tbilisi, Yekaterinburg and Yerevan are among his former teaching venues. He is one of the founders of the European Society of International Law and of the Refugee Law Reader. Most of his research centers on refugee law.

Robert Parnica is a Senior Reference Archivist at Blinken OSA. He graduated in history and archeology from the University of Zagreb, and completed an MA in History at Central European University, where he also earned an MPhil in Comparative History of South East Europe from the History Department. Recently, he earned an MA in International Relations from Corvinus University in Budapest. He is interested in the recent social, political, and diplomatic history of Balkans and Central Europe but is also passionate about late antique and early medieval archeology.

István Rév is Professor of History and Political Science at CEU, and Director of Blinken OSA. He was a founding member of the Danube Circle environmental organization in 1984, and winner of the Right for Livelihood award (the alternative Nobel Prize) of the Swedish Parliament. He was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and a research fellow at the Getty Center in Los Angeles and at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. In 1995, he

was the recipient of the New Europe Prize. He is a member of the Open Society Foundations Global Board. His scholarly interests include historical amnesia, memory, historical anthropology, and documentary traces of the past.

Patricia Anne Sleeman qualified as an archivist in Dublin, Ireland. She has worked in the National Archives of Ireland and the University of London - on many projects such as the - The National Digital Archive of Datasets, the project manager of the Digital Preservation Training Programme designed by the British Library and Cornell University as well as many other projects both in the UK and internationally connected to digital preservation. She has also worked with Un Ponte per..., an Italian NGO in the Middle East on the protection of cultural property (archives) with the National Library of Iraq. Since 2013 she has worked with UNHCR as a digital archivist. She is a qualified archaeologist and an artist.

Iván Székely, social informatist, C.Sc. in sociology, is an internationally known expert in the multidisciplinary fields of data protection and freedom of information. Former chief counsellor of the Hungarian Data Protection ombudsman, Székely is at present Senior Research Fellow at Blinken OSA, associate professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, and member of international research associations. His research interests and publications are focused on information autonomy, openness and secrecy, privacy, identity, surveillance and resilience, memory and forgetting, and archivistics.

Csaba Szilágyi is responsible for the human rights collections, education and programs at Blinken OSA. He co-teaches/coordinates the Archives, Evidence and Human Rights course and the Archives and Evidentiary Practices Specialization at CEU. He was also a records manager/archives consultant for the Open Society Institute and Human Rights Watch, and curator of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University in New York. He is interested in how technology informs the collection, archiving and dissemination of human rights records, and in the representation and memorialization of mass atrocities in the archival space. Csaba holds an MA in American Studies.