

# DESIGNING TRANSITIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES: ADAPTING TO CROSS-CULTURAL LIVING



Asylum seekers and migrants descend from a large fishing vessel used to transport them from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos, October 11, 2015. © 2015 Zalmai for Human Rights Watch

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# OUTLINE

## Abstract

- Introduction
- Understanding the Refugee
  - Defining Refugee
  - Understanding Cultures and World Views
  - Understanding the State of the User's Health
  - Understanding refugee's rights
- Current Operations within the United States of America
  - Involvement of Government & Independent Organizations
  - Refugee process into the USA
  - Integration into Education
- Application of Design in Built Environment
  - Transitional Center
- Methodology
- Cognitive Appraisal Theory
- Conclusion


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# ABSTRACT

Many refugees are forced to migrate to a different country or location due to factors such as violence, war, discrimination, and persecution. These refugees do not have a choice on where they will resettle or take refuge, and this is when the United Nations (UN) and other organizations come into play. The UN and other organizations work hard in making sure the refugees are going to be safe in their new future home, as well as getting the treatment they need whether it's medical or respect. According to Office of Refugee Resettlement, current federal support for refugees resettling in the United States covers health care, financial subsidies, case management services, English as a Second Language classes, and employment/job readiness services (Office of Refugee Resettlement, 2016). The importance of these services provided to refugees and the spaces where these services are conducted are crucial to their growth and learning opportunity. Interior design involves understanding the users' needs and how the users perceive and interact with the environment around them as Design Research and Behavioral Health Facilities article stated, "the environment is important to their social interaction and overall experience" (Shepley & Pasha, 2013). The transitional center for refugees focuses on improving their overall health and educating new experiences and culture through design and services. Interior design allows services to be provided to refugees effectively by considering their mental and physical conditions, this can help refugees feel welcomed and cared for.

# INTRODUCTION

Around the world many people have been displaced from their homes due to factors such as violence, war, discrimination, and persecution. These people seek refuge in various locations, many of which are cross cultural. The United Nations and other organizations step in to help place these refugees in various countries. Some may be placed in the United States of America although some may not have experienced different cultures or language prior to displacement. This can be overwhelming considering refugees' past and trauma in their lives. Interior design can have an important role in helping their overall experience, health, and well-being while they seek safety in the United States. Homes are one of the environments that symbolizes safety and comfort. When refugees are placed in the United States many will start in a temporary living space until more permanent spaces can be found. The Transitional Center for refugees is focused on incorporating the extent of interior design to improving refugees' mental and physical health through experiences and design, providing freedom to manipulate their living space, and promoting diversity and healthy relationships. However, for an interior design to be effective the designer must first understand the users' needs and conditions. Therefore, this research will first define the term "refugee" to narrow the focus of who the design is intended for. Then examine how a refugee's past experiences has affected their lives, as well as how the new cross-cultural environment could have an impact on their overall well-being. In addition, an interview with a refugee placement worker provides valuable insight into the needs of refugees and how the current system of placement works. Lastly, combining this information to provide an interior design that will help meet the mental and physical needs of refugees transitioning from their homes to the United States of America.



Syrian internally displaced people walk in the Atme camp, along the Turkish border in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib, on March 19, 2013. The conflict in Syria between rebel forces and pro-government troops has killed at least 70,000 people, and forced more than one million Syrians to seek refuge abroad. AFP PHOTO/BULENT KILIC (Photo credit should read BULENT KILIC/AFP/Getty Images)

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# UNDERSTANDING THE REFUGEES

## DEFINING REFUGEES

In order to clarify who the design will be for, we will define a refugee in accordance to the United States of America Refugee Acts of which says,

“The term 'refugee' means (A) any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, or (B) in such special circumstances as the President after appropriate consultation (as defined in section 207(e) of this Act) may specify, any person who is within the country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, within the country in which such person is habitually residing, and who is persecuted or who has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The term 'refugee' does not include any person who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”

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# UNDERSTANDING CULTURE AND PERCEPTION

According to the definition from the United States of America Refugee Act, there are many reasons why they were forced to leave their countries and may not be able to return home. These reasons are vitally important to understanding the psyche of these refugees. Their perceptions and cultural differences can vary greatly from the American way of life and, therefore, requires an understanding of who they are and how they perceive their surroundings in order to design well for them. One's culture and background can even be different from another in the same country or language. Today, we have refugees from all around the world but 67% of all refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, and Myanmar (United Nations). Being persecuted could be something we have never experienced, however, we can put ourselves in their position and sympathize with something we could only imagine. Refugees' past could affect them greatly, but what could we do for them now that they are in the United States? The location refugees enter upon arrival to the United States can be crucial to their perception of America. Some refugees have never been to the United States and some have never spoken English before. These two struggles can be challenging as they transition to living in America. We can provide services, care, and other aids to help refugees adjust. However, without understanding where they are coming from, those things can be meaningless to their growth and adjustment. Interior designers don't only take their backgrounds and cultures in consideration but also their future growth. How will they thrive in this new country? How will they feel comfortable and ready to start a new job or education again?

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# UNDERSTANDING THE STATE OF REFUGEES' HEALTH



UNHCR/A. Zavallis (photographer). (n.d.). Refugees. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/refugees/>  
A volunteer life-guard helps a young girl out of the sea after the boat she used along with her family and other Afghan refugees to cross part of the Aegean from the coast of Turkey to Lesbos towards the end of 2015 crashed on a rock off the island's coast.

Since refugees became refugees not by choice, but because of traumatic events or circumstances that forced them to flee to another country for safety, they do come with traumatic backgrounds and memories. Because of that, most refugees suffer from some type of mental health illnesses which consider as threat or challenges for them to move forward. Mental health is common in the United States and other parts of the world. Mental illnesses are serious health issues not only it can have an impact on people's physical health, it can have a big impact in people's lives long terms.



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# UNDERSTANDING THE STATE OF REFUGEES' HEALTH

These two sources show how important it is to address mental health issues among refugees not only the current generation but the consequence of it for generations to come. Sangalang collected data from 327 Southeast Asian refugee mothers and children in the United States about their mental health illnesses. The result of this study shows that the Southeast Asian refugee children was affected by their mothers' maternal traumatic distress and "for foreign-born children, maternal traumatic distress was associated with diminished family functioning a year later, which was associated with increased school problems at the two-year mark (Sangalang, 2017)."

To conclude this study from Sangalang on the effect of maternal traumatic on family functioning and child mental health, the refugee parents' traumatic experiences can influence their children's mental health in the long term. Berthold wrote that these traumas included "exposure to combat, bombings, starvation, slave labor, witnessing atrocities, kidnapping and separation from family members, murder of family members and friends, brain-washing, being terrorized and other forms of torture (Berthold, 2014)." The number of Cambodian refugees suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has been elevated to 62 percent prevalence of past year.



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# REFUGEE RIGHTS

Refugees should have at least the same rights as other foreigners entering the country. They shall have “freedom of thought, of movement, and freedom from torture and degrading treatment.” They should be able to work, go to school, and seek medical help (United Nations). They should have the same basic rights, opportunities to seek a better life, and more importantly they should not live in fear of being assaulted, persecuted, or killed. According to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, “Governments normally guarantee the basic human rights and physical security of citizens. But when civilians become refugees this safety net disappears.” The help from UNHCR cannot be substituted for the government responsibility but help spread awareness and make sure the government’s obligation to protect the refugees and those who seek asylum. (United Nations) While the refugees are in another country, they are required to respect the law and regulations of where they are located. Refugees may have an opportunity to resettle which mean they will establish a new place they could safely call “home” again. There are a few countries that provide that opportunity such as the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, etc. It is still common today that refugees temporarily live in tents. While the number of refugees are growing, the accommodation option is getting smaller. (Kennedy, 2004)



RoFile:2013-02-16 - Wien - Demo Gleiche Rechte für alle (Refugee-Solidaritätsdemo) - Refugees are human beings.jpg. (2017, July 31). Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository. Retrieved 00:02, December 1, 2019 from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:2013-02-16\\_-\\_Wien\\_-\\_Demo\\_Gleiche\\_Rechte\\_f%C3%BCr\\_alle\\_\(Refugee-Solidarit%C3%A4tsdemo\)-\\_Refugees\\_are\\_human\\_beings.jpg&oldid=253722444](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:2013-02-16_-_Wien_-_Demo_Gleiche_Rechte_f%C3%BCr_alle_(Refugee-Solidarit%C3%A4tsdemo)-_Refugees_are_human_beings.jpg&oldid=253722444).

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# CURRENT OPERATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States has been accepting thousands of refugees around the world every year (Krogstad, 2017). The United States is taking on a responsibility of making sure refugees are safe and meeting basic needs. "In the wake of World War II, the United States passed its first refugee legislation to manage the resettlement of some 650,000 displaced Europeans. Throughout the Cold War, the United States accepted refugees fleeing from Communist regimes, such as those in Eastern Europe, China, and Cuba" says The Council on Foreign Relations or CFR (Felter and McBride, 2018). The U.S. didn't officially have the refugee admission program until the Refugee Act had passed in 1980 (The Refugee Act, 2012). Since then, there are hundreds of thousands of people who flee to the United States and other countries around the world. Although, there are limits in accepting refugees into the U.S., the number is different every single year. The United States' presidents and the world's important events have a lot of influence in those numbers as well. For example, president George W. Bush decreased the number of refugees' admission after the 9/11 attacks (Krogstad, 2017). The numbers have fluctuated a lot since the president George W. Bush because of different events in the world. Today, the United States allows fifty-thousand refugees into the country in fiscal year of 2017 which is less than half of what President Obama set at the end of his presidency (Felter & McBride, 2018). The United States government has the influence in allowing refugees into the country not including other processes like resettlement and employment. The government and other organizations work together to meet refugees' needs such as housing, food, education, and care. However, as stated above, the number of refugees is increasing due to the unexpected/uncontrollable events around the world, but help is getting limited.

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# CURRENT OPERATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Protesters march in 2017 in New York's Times Square in solidarity with American Muslims and against the travel ban ordered by US President Donald Trump. Retrieve from <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/29/us/refugee-arrivals-us-trnd/index.html>

The refugees must establish a new settlement, they could feel safe again, raise their children or generally establish “life”. The term “refugee camp” would sound familiar to most people because most refugees needed housing that is quick to set up and temporary. According to “Building without borders”, they stated that the refugee camps can be awful because of how quick and urgent it was in times of war and disaster to build a camp up in such a short period of time (Kennedy, 2004). The lives of refugees are not guaranteed to meet basic needs at that point. Due to the urgency, other aid organizations/workers are pressed to set up the tents as quickly as possible to provide the care refugees need. It is a very serious and important process once they arrive/were put into the camp because without meeting at least one or the basic needs, lives can be lost

Building trust with refugees who have lost their family members or whatever the case may be, is critical. Moreover, refugees are parents, grandparents, children, and other roles that they play in their family. They do have decision over their children or family members who may not be able to make critical decisions by themselves. For example, an African refugee refused to receive help from an organization to offer food for his/her starving child because this refugee feared the food was poisoned. Lacking trust in helping refugees can be another problem.

“Building without Borders” addressed how medical organizations can make a huge impact on refugees (Kennedy, 2004). Doctors can be involved in a larger scale than just checking up the patients, but, monitoring community system and health support. Mental health is as important as physical health for the refugees because they may be suffering from both. “Post-Traumatic Stress syndrome, depression, apathy and boredom are the main mental health problems”, mental health issues take time to heal. Doctors can help build a community where it provides peer support group, common area where they can meet and share in their struggles. One thing to keep in mind is when refugees fled to another country, they most likely are not able to communicate with the staff in a different country. Having other refugees who share in culture, language, and struggles will make a tremendous improvement. Doctors can also help with nutritional support, most refugees were out of food for a period of time, they do not only weak in their physical health but also nutrition (Kennedy, 2004).



File:35 Vietnamese boat people.JPG.  
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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.  
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title=File:35\\_Vietnamese\\_boat\\_people.JP  
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# INTEGRATION INTO EDUCATION



Muhammed Muheisen (Photographer). (2015). Syrian Refugee Children. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/syriafreedom/20641704914/>

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a United Nation program to protect refugees. One of the ways they do to protect refugees is to support education. It is a right for refugees to receive education. UNHCR reported that there are 3.7 million refugee children who are out of school, which means they do not receive any education at the moment. This can be a problem when thinking about the next generations and their future. Education is important to refugees especially because without education can turn their lives upside down. For example, refugees who do not receive any education can be forced to join armed groups, child labor, sex exploitation and child marriage according to UNHCR. Even though, they have to move to a different location/country, education is a right that comes with being a human. It is important for interior designers to consider designated spaces for education and spaces for children to learn and play with/from other children. According to Presidents Circle article, Children Learn Thru Play, “Play is critical to the healthy growth and development of children. As children play, they learn to solve problems, get along with others and to develop the fine and gross motor skills needed to grow and learn. (UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center)” It can be easy to overlook socialization/play in children, especially when there are many aspects in their lives that need more attention.

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# APPLICATION OF DESIGN IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

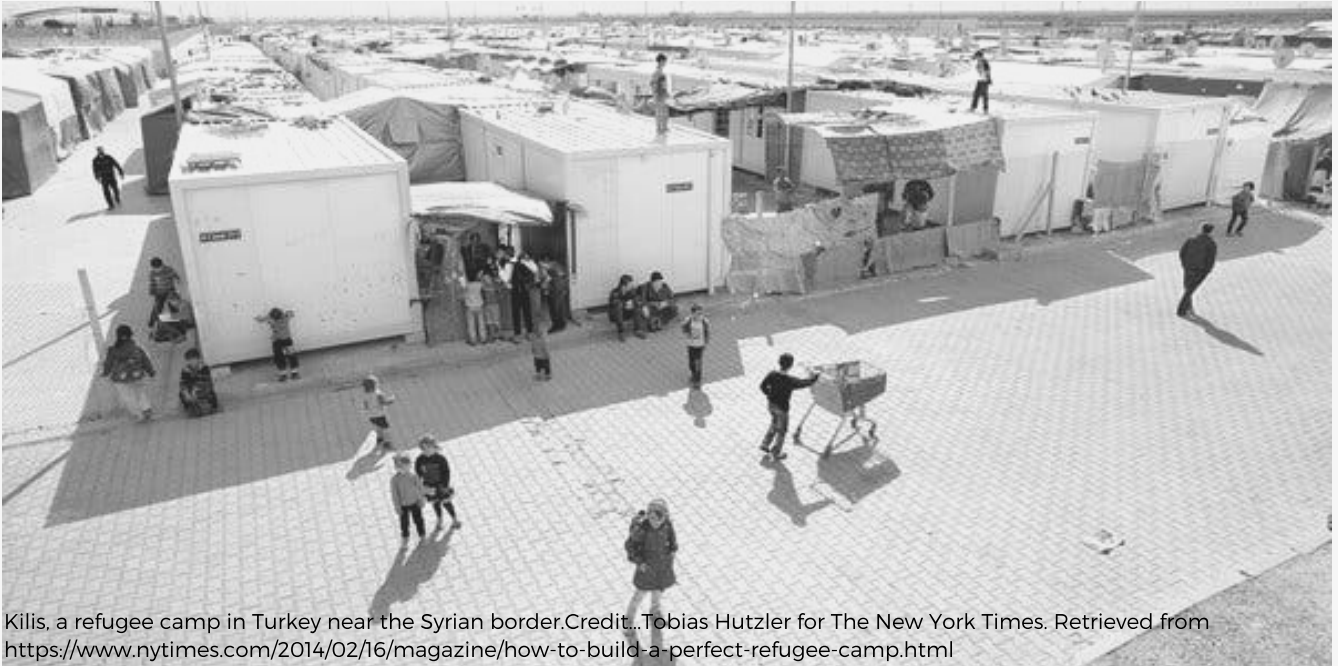
As mentioned above, “Building without Borders” addressed how establishing new communities is important for refugees who are seeking safety for their new lives in cross-cultural land. There are many organizations that will play a part in this establishment; educational agencies, medical providers, and other agencies. Transitional center can be helpful in making the transition goes more smoothly. There are many countries that adopt the way that transitional center work, helping refugees to adapt cross-cultural living, make them feel welcomed, and learn to live their new lives in the new country. As mentioned, considering everything from their past to what helps refugees recover and move forward is helpful for workers and designers to meet their needs in services and space planning/designing.



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# APPLICATION OF DESIGN IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## TRANSITIONAL CENTER



Kilis, a refugee camp in Turkey near the Syrian border. Credit: Tobias Hutzler for The New York Times. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/magazine/how-to-build-a-perfect-refugee-camp.html>

Each major city that welcomes or accepts refugees should consider the design of their living spaces and how they function. Refugees relocate to a different country, cultures that don't align with their own, or languages they have never spoken before. Design can help refugees in adjusting and adapting cross-cultural living in so many ways such as providing signs that is in their languages or design a space that promotes diversity and community building. In Vancouver, there is a transitional center for refugees called "the welcome house". The Welcome House was opened in 2014 to welcome refugees from all around the globe. This is a multifunctional building that helps refugees from settling in to getting a job. In other words, they provide full-service for everything that refugees will need to know and do under their organization called "Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia". ISS of BC has been supporting refugees since 1972 through providing services because they believe that "starting a new life in another country can be very hard, especially when you're unfamiliar with the culture, language and laws (Programs and Services)."



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# APPLICATION OF DESIGN IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## TRANSITIONAL CENTER

Interior designer's main focus should be the function of the spaces. In this transitional center, the environment should be welcoming to people of all ages, nationality, and abilities. There should be spaces for family to stay for a short period of time, educational spaces for training of languages, laws, and culture, and multifunctional spaces. According to Shepley's article, she found that "comparing patients' rooms ranging from singles to 12-bed dormitories, they concluded that the higher the number of occupants, the higher the percentage of isolated passive behaviors" which will help guide what transitional center needs to accommodate families and what the study shows to support the research (Shepley, 2013). Shepley suggested that furniture arrangement can support socialization within the community as important as the layout of the space itself. The study conducted an experiment of children in small clusters within a space and watch their behavior, the result shows that children have improved their behavior toward each other and the space. Children's behavior results significantly improved in the new facilities because there are less corridors, private rooms, and visual access to the outside (Shepley, 2013).

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# METHODOLOGY

## INTERVIEW

Qualitative Method is chosen for this research because this topic is a specific and sensitive to an individual and their family, country of origin, or culture. Learning about refugees' lives without being able to ask the refugees themselves directly is challenging to understand the trauma events they have been through. Interview is one of the best ways to learn and understand from people who have experienced the specific problem related to the topic.

Refugees are placed in different nations around the world by the involvement of governments and organizations. In this research, interview is being used to collect specific data and the insight from an employee of an organization. Learning from a worker and their experience with refugees, help interior designers know what are the areas that need attention most and what a worker finds important to refugees. At the same time, interior designers may not be able to work closely with the refugees but they could gain some knowledge from the people who spend the most time helping the refugees, the workers.

### Questions

- What is the process for refugees to be placed in the United States?
- Do most refugees come with their families? by themselves?
- What nationality are the refugees?
- What would you say their struggles are?
- Are refugees involved some kinds of programs to help their transition goes a little bit smoother?
- What type of jobs do the refugees do when they choose to work in the U.S.?
- Where do refugees live when they get here? What about later on?
- What do you think interior designers could do to assist refugees?

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# THEORY

## COGNITIVE APPRAISAL THEORY

Stress appraisal theory focuses on how one perceives things or gives value to different elements within the environment. According to Peacock and Wong, “there are six dimensions of primary and secondary appraisal were identified: threat, challenge, centrality, controllable-by-self, controllable-by-others, and uncontrollable-by-anyone. (Peacock and Wong, 1990)” The factors in the stress appraisal theory will affect people in different ways based on personality, backgrounds, and other factors in one’s life.

Refugees are unique groups of people and sensitive to their past or experiences. This theory is used to build a framework as we evaluate and research about how interior design could have a big impact on refugees’ lives. There are many challenges and stress factors that refugees are forced to go through. One refugee can perceive one particular moment/element in the environment as a threat, but others may not think the same. As we study refugees’ health issues, one of the biggest problems is mental illnesses. Cognitive appraisal theory expands more on how refugees will interact with the environment and how they will cope with their stress.

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# CONCLUSION

To conclude the research, interior design will have an impact on refugee's lives through design and consideration of their challenges. Understanding the people groups that fled to the United States helped in designing and supporting those people. Refugees traveled to the U.S. under traumatic circumstances. They don't only need physical support: housing and medical care, but also mental support: PTSD and other mental illnesses. Using the studies from different sources is helpful in finding out the proper ways of providing and promoting refugee's health and wellness. Transitional center is going to be the one-stop full-service provider for refugees and other immigrants using interior design studies in cooperating with the organization. While designers or agency workers may never be able to remove their traumatic experiences and memories from their lives, they can have influences in helping them transition from their past to the new opportunities and overcoming their struggles through services and design.

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## **Designing transitional center for refugees in the United States: adapting to cross-cultural living**

### **Doctoral Dissertation**

- Anderson, T., McInturf, Michael, & Kanekar, Aarati. (2019). Transitional Refugee Housing: Exploring the Architectural Integration of Resettlement, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses.

This dissertation addressed how architects and designers can help refugees who are forcibly dislocated. Most of the refugees were placed at inadequate apartments or unwelcoming neighborhood. They studied the transitional housing clusters in Cincinnati, Ohio that will be more than just shelters to refugees but homes.

### **Electronic version of print book**

- Geltman, P. (2017). Refugee health in the US: From international policies to the affordable care act. In Health and Freedom in the Balance: Exploring the Tensions among Public Health, Individual Liberty, and Governmental Authority (pp.183-216). Nova Science.

Dr. Geltman gave a lecture about refugee's health especially in children as he is a pediatrician. He worked with a group of refugees from Sudan, as known as the Lost Boys of Sudan. He introduced the Affordable Care Act and the health issues the children were facing as well as how we might have failed the children in the process of refugees resettlement

Key words: children, refugees, the Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan, Affordable Care Act, resettlement

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- Kennedy, J., & Builders Without Borders. (2004). Building Without Borders : Sustainable construction for the global village (Canadian electronic library. Books collection). Gabriola, B.C.: New Society.

This book addressed reasons why some people are lacking decent housing/shelter. One of the reasons was war. There are not a lot of solution to this issues yet beside temporary housing. This book also laid out different issues such as sustainable construction, building energy, etc. They mentioned more about the housing situation around the world concerning sustainabiliy than refugees' housing in specific.

- Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. (1983). Refugees in the U.S Background and Current Policy. S.I]: [publisher not identified].

This book addressed the differences between refugees who fled their country because of the safety reasons rather than immigrants who voluntarily left their country for economical reasons. This book mentioned the Refugee Act of 1980 and other Acts related to the resettlement topic

- Mazurkiewicz, A. (2009). "The voice of the silenced peoples": The assembly of captive European nations. In Anti-Communist Minorities in the U.S.: Political Activism of Ethnic Refugees (pp. 167-185). Palgrave Macmillan.

From the 1960s the communist regime entered into Southeast Asian countries that left conflict between the Hmong people located in the regions. These conflicts between political parties that sided between communism and republics lead to persecution of the Hmong people. Those who sided with the USA in the communal culture of the Hmong the majority of the Hmong refugees migrated to California, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The initial refugees were still concerned with the conflicts in Laos. However, after two generations in the USA the Hmong Americans are more concerned with the American dream than the conflict in Laos that originally forced them to move to the USA.



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## Journal Article with DOI

- Berthold, S., Kong, M., Mollica, S., Kuoch, R., Scully, F., & Franke, T. (2014). Comorbid Mental and Physical Health and Health Access in Cambodian Refugees in the US. *Journal of Community Health*, 39(6), 1045-1052. Retrieved from <https://link-springer-com.er.lib.k-state.edu/article/10.1007/s10900-014-9861-7>

This article researched the health of Cambodian refugees in the U.S. They took the relationship between physical and mental health of the Cambodian refugees as their main focus. They found that the Cambodian refugees have physical and/or mental health issues and part of that was because they don't have any access to healthcare. They identified that the lack of transportation was one of the reasons they do not have access to health care.

- Daher, E., Kubicki, S., & Guerriero, A. (2017). Data-driven development in the smart city: Generative design for refugee camps in Luxembourg. *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues*, 4(3), 364-379.

This article addressed refugee camps as villages, how to create a smart village. They are taking space planning and spatial design into account when designing refugee camps.

- Febles, C., Nies, M., Fanning, A., & Tavernier, K. (2017). Challenges and Strategies in Providing Home Based Primary Care for Refugees in the US. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 19(6), 1498-1505.

This article addressed refugees especially from the Middle East. The most immediate care they need was health care upon their arrival to the United States or the U.K. The research shows that refugees often feel lonely, confused, frustrated, and mistrust in the bureaucratic systems of their home country which leads to mental health and other emotional issues related.

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- Forrest, T., & Brown, L. (2014). Organization-Led Migration, Individual Choice, and Refugee Resettlement in The U.S.: Seeking Regularities. *Geographical Review*, 104(1), 10-32.

This research studied how the American agencies/organizations place the refugees especially the Somalis in the United States during 2000-2010. They also studied how these refugees were assisted in migration by these organizations.

- Jamil, Hikmet, Nassar-Mcmillan, Sylvia C, Salman, Wisam A, Tahar, Makki, & Jamil, Laith H. (2006). Iraqi Gulf War Veteran Refugees in the U.S: PTSD and Physical Symptoms. *Social Work in Health Care*, 43(4), 85-98.

Iraqi Gulf War Veteran refugees have suffered from post-war illnesses such as chronic fatigue, post-trauma stressed disorder, etc. When comes to getting help, most veterans seek physical health service more than mental health service especially Arab American veterans. Arab Americans felt discriminated and were afraid to talk about the discrimination and the relationship between the U.S. and the Middle East. Cultural sensitivity is required when trying to minimize discriminated comments/issues.

- Keaton, Sarah, Krzyzanowski, Stanislaw, Arnetz, Judy, Hikmet, Jamil, Dhalimi, Abir, Stemmer, Paul, . . . Brundin, Lena. (2017). 469. IL-10 is Associated with Increased Energy in Newly Arrived Traumatized Middle Eastern Refugees in the US. *Biological Psychiatry*, 81(10), S191.

This article addressed post-traumatic stress disorder in refugees and the Gulf War veterans. Their method was to examine female refugees from Syria by first interviewing and then examining physical health and other clinical method to diagnose if they have PTSD after fleeing to the U.S.

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- Lipson, J., & Omidian, P. (1997). Afghan Refugee Issues in the U.S. Social Environment. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 19(1), 110-126.

This article focuses on the Afghan refugees in the San Francisco Bay area. The afghan refugees are experiencing mental health, and other physical health symptoms that are resulted from the stress from traumatic events.

- Ostrander, J., Melville, A., & Berthold, S. (2017). Working With Refugees in the U.S.: Trauma-Informed and Structurally Competent Social Work Approaches. *Advances in Social Work*, 18(1), 66-79.

This article addressed the importance of role that the government worker, social workers, and other organization can play in helping the refugees fleeing from persecution. Social workers are in a unique position because they are to promote and advocate for diversity as well as care. This article also talked about how the practitioners should be educated about the refugees' traumatic experiences in order to create policies, training, and clinical practice.

## **Journal Article without DOI**

- Macekura, S. (2011). "For Fear of Persecution": Displaced Salvadorans and U.S. Refugee Policy in the 1980s. *Journal of Policy History*, 23(3), 357-380.

This article discussed helping refugees is a human right as well as the definition of who would be described as refugees. This article mentioned how refugees were given a different meaning than someone who is fleeing from their communist country or war but instead someone who is fleeing from fear of persecution or non-communist nation.

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# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Reiss Kuczera. (2017). U.S. Refugee Policy in the Era of Homeland Security: A Comparative Government Analysis. Homeland Security Affairs, Homeland Security Affairs, Dec 2017.

This article tells how refugees have an impact on American economy long term. This article claims that refugees can actually help the economy over time as well as other immigrants. At the same time, U.S. policy on allowing refugees to enter the country has been inconsistent and this may be caused by the current world events.

- Sangalang, C., Jager, J., & Harachi, T. (2017). Effects of maternal traumatic distress on family functioning and child mental health: An examination of Southeast Asian refugee families in the U.S. Social Science & Medicine, 184, 178.

This research was conducted focused on the mental health in Southeast Asian children, born of the refugees' parents. This study shows how the maternal traumatic distress on family functioning can adversely affect inter-generational children's mental health.

## **Nonperiodical Web Report**

- Felter, C., & McBride, J. (2018, October 10). How Does the U.S. Refugee System Work? Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/how-does-us-refugee-system-work>.

This website provides history, process, systems, and other information on how refugee system works in America.

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# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Krogstad, J. (January 27, 2017) Pew Research Center. Key facts about refugees to the U.S. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/30/key-facts-about-refugees-to-the-u-s/>

Krogstad analyzed the reasons why the number of refugees entering the U.S. has dropped over the past couple years. The research shows that during the president Trump's presidency, the number of refugees' admission has been set a lot lower than a few years combined. Krogstad also found that some U.S. citizens think it is not the U.S. responsibility to accept refugees into the country, however, some think otherwise. This article also touched on the influence of religious beliefs on selection of refugees' admission to the U.S.

- Mental Illness. (February, 2019). Retrieved from <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness.shtml>

This website gives a clear and in-depth definition and research of mental health illnesses. Mental health illness is categorized into 2 different types, Any Mental Illness (AMI) and Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

- Office of Refugee Resettlement [ORR]. (2016). Refugees. Retrieved from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/refugees>

This website shared the importance aspect of what the U.S. government is doing for the refugees in the U.S. For example, they are taking care of health care, education, and basic needs.

- Peacock, E. J., & Wong, P. T. P. (1990). The Stress Appraisal Measure (SAM): A Multidimensional Approach to Cognitive Appraisal. *Stress Medicine*, 6(227-236).

This article explained the cognitive-relational theory and showed their studies of primary and secondary appraisal.

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- Programs & Services. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://issbc.org/programs-services>.

This source is an organization website called Immigrant Services Society of BC. They are Vancouver, Canada based. They are a full-service organization in helping refugees and immigrants to get settled in, find careers, and many more. This is a good example of what this research paper is trying to illustrate to design a transitional center for

- refugees in the U.S. (n.d.). Refugees in America. Retrieved from <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/usa/>

The UN Refugee Agency shared information and statistics about refugees in America. USA has been the top country to welcome refugees since 1970s. However, the process of welcoming the refugees to the U.S. is about 12-24 months as the U.S. government required different paperwork and evidence such as medical screening. Since 1975, America has welcomed more than 3 million refugees.

- (n.d.). Restoring What's Been Lost. Retrieved from <https://refugees.org/explore-the-issues/refugees-facts/> USCRI,

U.S. committees for refugees and immigrants, shared about what they do upon the arrival of refugees and during the process of resettlement. Refugees are not just leaving their birth place/place they called "home" but they lost their normalcy of lives seeking safety. Since the number of refugees are so high, some have to live in camps. Refugees camps are not meant to replace permanent homes, unfortunately, some live in the camps for an average of 17 years. USCRI breaks down 3 different outcome for their mission, return: refugees return home, remain: refugees are forced to live as second class or in poverty in the country they are in, and resettle: some refugees have opportunities to resettle into a new country and establish their new lives.

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- Shepley, M. M., & Pasha, S. (2013, July 28). Design Research and Behavioral Health Facilities. Retrieved from [https://www.healthdesign.org/system/files/chd428\\_researchreport\\_behavioralhealth\\_1013-\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.healthdesign.org/system/files/chd428_researchreport_behavioralhealth_1013-_final_0.pdf)

This research studied the behavior of children and other groups of people in the space. They study how people use the space and how they react to the different function of the space such as windows, eliminated corridors, etc.

- South Sudan Refugee Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News: USA for UNHCR. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/south-sudan/>

This article informed about South Sudan refugees in the U.S. South Sudan is the largest refugees crisis in Africa. There are a lot of children who are traveling/escaping alone. The focus of this article is on women and children.

- Syrian Refugee Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News: USA for UNHCR. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/syria/>

This article addressed the information about the Syrian Refugees in the U.S. This article provided statistics of the number of Syrian refugees, their background, and opportunity to help these refugees.

- The Refugee Act. (2012, August 29). Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/the-refugee-act>.

This website provided the Refugee Act information and the definition of refugees.



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- UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. (n.d.). Children Learn Through Play. Retrieved from [https://presidentcircle.childcare.utah.edu/\\_documents/children-learn-thru-play.pdf](https://presidentcircle.childcare.utah.edu/_documents/children-learn-thru-play.pdf).

The website provided a quick information about children and learning. Children learn through different things they experience, and one of them is to play. As children play, they get to interact with other kids, solve problems and many more.

- United Nations. (n.d.). Protecting Refugees: questions and answers. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/publications/brochures/3b779dfe2/protecting-refugees-questions-answers.html>

This website provides a quick summary about refugee's protection and other basic information.

- Vancouver refugee centre 'first of its kind in the world' | CBC News. (2015, November 20). Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-refugee-centre-first-of-its-kind-in-the-world-1.1331083>

This news reports about the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia's welcome center.