

November 2009

Welcome to the latest edition of ICAR's bi-monthly newsletter, highlighting our most recent work and website resources

## Cost of Quality Legal Advice Research: Interim Findings

Interim findings of ICAR's 'Cost of quality legal advice' research have been published by the Council of Social Action in their report: [Time well-spent: The importance of the one-to-one relationship between advice workers and their clients](#). ICAR has been commissioned by Refugee and Migrant Justice to conduct this research. For further information contact ICAR's Research and Consultancy Officer, [Dr. Adeline Trude](#)

## Upcoming research: Asylum seekers' experiences of surveillance

A City University Research and Development 'pump priming' grant has been awarded to Dr Gavin Smith in the Department of Sociology, City University to work in collaboration with ICAR on an exploratory study of the interconnections between the emergent surveillance society in the UK and the everyday lived experiences of asylum seekers. This group, it is argued, a disempowered group of 'secondary citizens', are disproportionately subject to intense regimes of monitoring and control during the status determination process.

This collective endeavour with the School of Social Sciences at City University is an extension of ICAR's developing work on forced labour, the re-documentation of foreign nationals without identity papers, issues of irregularity and illegality, and also builds on our existing research on integration, cohesion and citizenship. For further information contact ICAR's Director [Neil Amas](#)

## ICAR 'Focus On': DNA Testing for Asylum Seekers

In this month's [ICAR Focus on](#), ICAR intern Adam Alagiah looks at the UKBA's proposed Human Provenance project, which plans to use DNA testing to evaluate the nationality of asylum seekers as part of the decision making process of asylum application. He argues that these government plans raise misconceptions about nationality and ethnicity more akin to the politics of the far right.



If you wish to receive our newsletter regularly please [register here](#)

ICAR is an independent information and research organisation based in the School of Social Sciences at City University in London.

ICAR's mission is to increase public understanding of asylum issues in the UK, and inform policy and practice through applied research and impartial policy evaluation.

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## New ICAR Publication: 'Uncovered'

[Uncovered: assessing media and communications needs and capacity of marginalised communities](#) written for ICAR by Sarah Eldridge, Jonathan Price and Helen Davis. This project sought to examine the ability of marginalised groups to deal with and influence the media, and assess what might be done to increase their capacity to do so.

## ICAR Research Directory: Latest Additions

A selection of the latest research on asylum and refugees in the UK are highlighted here. See ICAR's Research Directory for more reports.

['Even among asylum seekers we are the lowest', Life on Section 4 Support](#) by Mulvey, Gareth. Scottish Refugee Council (SRC).

[No home from home: homelessness for people with no or limited access to public funds](#) by Devlin, Roisin; McKenna, Sorcha. Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC)

[Refugees' Experiences of Home Office Interviews: A Qualitative Study on the Disclosure of Sensitive Personal Information](#) by Bögner, Diana; Brewin, Chris; Herlihy, Jane. Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, first published on 03 November 2009.

[Refugees living in Wales: A survey of skills, experiences and barriers to inclusion](#) by Crawley, Heaven and Crimes, Tina. Centre for Migration Policy Research (CMPR), Swansea University.

[Social Work and Migration: Immigrant and Refugee Settlement and Integration](#) by Valtonen, Kathleen. British Journal of Social Work, Vol 39, No 7.

[The integration and onward migration of refugees in Scotland: a review of the evidence](#) by Stewart, Emma. UNHCR: New Issues in Refugee Research series.



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[The mental and physical health difficulties of children held within a British immigration detention centre: a pilot study](#) by Lorek, Ann et al. Child Abuse and Neglect, the International Journal.

[The politics of knowledge: an examination of the use of country information in the asylum determination process](#) by Tsangarides, Natasha. London: Immigration Advisory Service

[The Public Thermostat, Political Responsiveness and Error-Correction: Border Control and Asylum in Britain, 1994-2007](#) by Jennings, W. British Journal of Political Science, Vol 39, No 4.



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## Gathering Evidence Effectively: ICAR Seminar Series 2009-10

December 8th 2009, 4 - 5.30pm  
Social Sciences Building, City University

The first seminar of our 2009-10 Series, [Gathering Evidence Effectively](#), will involve a demonstration of a number of key web resources and how to get the best from them, including ICAR, the Home Office, Office for National Statistics and others. For bookings e mail us at [icar@city.ac.uk](mailto:icar@city.ac.uk)

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## Researching Asylum in London (RAL) database

[Researching Asylum in London](#) (RAL) is an online, easy-to-access database with over 400 current entries of all research on refugee and asylum issues relevant to London published since 2000. Each report has been summarised in a concise, user-friendly format by the ICAR team.

*RAL Update* is a bi-monthly bulletin sent to your email account to keep you informed of the latest research. [Subscribe to RAL update](#)

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