

# **Petra Molnar**

**Associate Director at Refugee Law Lab, Osgoode Hall Law School**

Toronto, ON, CA

Refugee and migration issues; technology and human rights; immigration detention; and the relationship between law, society, and culture

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## **Biography**

I am a migration researcher and lawyer in Toronto, Canada and Athens, Greece. I focus on the issues of technology and human rights; immigration detention; and the politics of refugee, immigration, and international human rights law. I am a current fellow at Harvard's Berkman Klein Center and am working on my book *Artificial Borders* (The New Press 2024). I hold a Juris Doctorate from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and an LL.M in International Law from the University of Cambridge.

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## **Availability**

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

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## **Industry Expertise**

International Affairs, Legal Services, Government Relations, Political Organization, Non-Profit/Charitable, Women, Information Technology and Services

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Technology and human rights, Anthropology of Migration, Ethnography and Ethnographic Writing, Women's Rights, Refugee and Human Rights Issues, International Law of Human Rights, Migration/Immigration

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## **Affiliations**

Canadian Association for Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), Executive Committee, Refugee Research Network - Asylum and Detention Research Cluster, Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, ESPMI Network Advisory Committee, Refugee Law Lab, Osgoode Hall Law School

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## **Sample Talks**

## **The Dangers of Discretion: Dilemmas, Developments, and Ongoing Challenges in Canada's Immigration Detention Regime**

Immigration detention falls under the framework of administrative law - the person being detained has not committed a crime under Canada's Criminal Code, but is being detained for immigration reasons. Due to the largely discretionary nature of immigration detention and the lack of oversight of Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) detention mechanisms, serious issues have been raised by migrant rights groups, lawyers, and refugee advocates about the treatment of migrants in detention. These real world barriers impede access to justice for the thousands of migrants detained in Canada every year, such as access to counsel, information, and community support as they prepare their refugee claims or gather evidence for their detention review hearings. Immigration detention also adversely affects vulnerable migrants, such as children or people with mental health issues. Canada's immigration detention regime is a costly, ineffective, and discretionary system which violates the human rights of migrants, including the right to a fair trial, the right not to be arbitrarily detained, and the right of life, liberty, and security of person.

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## **Event Appearances**

### **Architectures of Trauma: The Impacts of Immigration Detention on the Psychosocial Wellbeing of Migrants in Canada**

Structures of Protection: Rethinking Refugee Shelter Conference

### **Living on the Margins: Analyzing Security, Safety, and Precarious Migration Status in the Canadian Context**

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

### **Human Right to Health, Law, Medicine, and Advocacy**

5th Annual PGME Global Health Day

### **Economic Migrant, Temporary Foreign Worker, or a Refugee? Conceptual Failures in Canada's Protection Regime**

Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)

### **Protecting Women: Culture-Based Reasoning and Forced Marriages in Canada**

Canadian Association for the Study of Forced Migration

### **Many 'Moving' Parts: Rethinking Refugees, Relief, and Knowledge Production on Migration in the Middle East**

16th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference

### **Canada's Response to the Global Refugee Crisis: Taking Stock and Moving Forward**

CERIS and Factor-Iventash Faculty of Social Work Expert Panel

**Access to Justice in the Immigration Holding Centre: A Discussion of the Obstacles to Fair and Equal Treatment Facing Canadian Immigration Detainees**  
14th Annual Canadian Association For Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference

**Information and Communication Technologies and Refugee Resettlement: An International Comparative Approach**  
15th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference

**?Bogus Refugee: Bill C31 and the Discourses of Fraud in Canadian Immigration Policy?**  
14th Annual International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) IASFM

**"None is Too Many": Geographic and Legislative Segregation of Roma Refugee Claimants"**  
Borders, Walls, and Securities Conference

**International Refugee Law and HIV/AIDS**  
Law In Action Within School Invited Lecturer

**Health Rights, Security, and Stigma: Syrian Refugees in Turkey and Jordan**  
Invited Lecture

**Changes to Canada's Citizenship Act: A Primer**  
Toronto Tibetan Buddhist Association

**"Multiculturalism and Barriers to Citizenship,"**  
Course: 208 Immigration Policy, Prof. Roohullah Shabon, Seneca College

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## **Education**

**University of Toronto Faculty of Law**  
Juris Doctorate Law

**York University**  
Master of Arts Social Anthropology

**University of Cambridge**  
LLM International Law

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## **Accomplishments**

**John Yaremko Award in Human Rights**

John Yaremko Award in Human Rights to be awarded to an outstanding student in any year who, in the opinion of the faculty, merits special recognition for academic achievement in the area of human rights

**Ting Sum Tang Memorial Prize in Canadian or International Human Rights Law**

Ting Sum Tang Memorial Prize in Canadian or International Human Rights Law to be awarded to the student taking the highest place in a course relating to Canadian or International Human Rights Law

**University of Oxford Bob Johnson Graduate Scholarship**

Awarded by the Faculty of International Development at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

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