GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS: ROME AND PALERMO

ITALY: PALERMO AND ROME

Against the backdrop of tightened border control and rise of anti-immigrant regimes in Europe, we will explore how cities of refuge, like Palermo in Sicily, take on innovative socio-spatial roles and political agency in rescuing and accommodating refugees. The main goal of the Dialogue is to achieve a clear understanding of the challenges that the global refugee crisis presents to the border/port cities of the EU. Palermo is a city with an impressive history and rich culture that brought many civilizations together. The city is currently going through a new "Renaissance" giving birth to a vibrant urban life. It also showcases how mixing between different races, ethnicities and religions occur in migrant neighborhoods in the middle of a cosmopolitan city center. Students will conduct hands-on research exploring how host cities cope with refugee crisis. We will talk to locals, policymakers, activists, journalists, government officials and NGOs to learn about their experiences in accommodating refugees. Our broader agenda is to develop ideas and to explore possible solutions to the refugee crisis with the goal of reforming and amending policies that respect human rights of refugees.
**COURSES**

- **INTL 3200 - Cities in a Global Context**: One of the main ironies of our times is that we are feeling less safe and more fearful in a world that is increasingly securitized. In the aftermath of the break of Syrian civil war, Europe fell into a major "security crisis," owing to the first mass influx of refugees from outside of Europe in history. Against the backdrop of tightened border control and rise of anti-immigrant regimes in Europe since 2016, this seminar demonstrates how cities of refuge take on innovative socio-spatial roles and political agency. In the context of massive refugee flow, we will explore the ways in which cities of refuge, such as Athens and Palermo, shape the perception and experience of safety and fear. As these cities resist to and negotiate with anti-immigration policies and securitization in Europe, they carve out safe places and generate urban practices of inclusion and protection. Unlike "secured" places detectable by the politics of fear and exclusion, safe places in this project are distinguished by inclusion and protection. Unsurprisingly, the safety of the most vulnerable category of our times, Muslim refugees and asylum seekers, falls to the center of analysis in the post 9/11 context of rising Islamophobia. The broader implication of this seminar is to question the interplay between security states and the cities that receive and accommodate large numbers of refugees. We will explore how security states and cities of refuge are the two sides of the same coin. Together, they constitute the Zeitgeist: While security states and their harsher border control generate the politics of fear and exclusion, cities of refuge are increasingly charged with creating safe havens of inclusion for vulnerable refugee populations.

- **INTL 4944 - Dialogue of Civilizations; Regional Engagement**: Engages students with the cultures, societies, and peoples of particular countries and localities in one primary geographic region. Offers students an in-depth and on-site experience and an opportunity to learn about various aspects of the region, which may include politics, sociology, law, history, philosophy, culture, music, arts, literature, theatre, economics, and/or business. Students may connect with their peers in each locality and across societies, therein to gain an international experience designed to enhance their academic studies on campus in Boston. Culminating projects may include a research paper, an artistic expression piece (i.e. film or photos), or other assignment as determined by the professor. May be repeated without limit.

**COST**

- **Northeastern Tuition and DOC Fee Includes**: Eight Northeastern credits, international roundtrip airfare from Boston, accommodations for program duration, international security and emergency support, and program related expenses (local transportation, field trips, excursions and some group meals).

Visit the website* for additional information about program fees.

**CONTACTS**

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*northeastern.edu/geo/opportunity