



Brown Bag Seminars of POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Refugees and Political Theorists: The Problem of Complicity

Phil Cole

University of the West of England

Chair

Francesca Miccoli

NASP - University of Milan

Discussant

Gloria Zuccarelli

NASP - University of Milan

3 May 2022

h. 11.00-13.00

Room A - NASP Graduate School
and on ZOOM

This paper examines the role of Political Theory in framing the forcibly displaced in a way that confines their political and theoretical agency. This confinement is caused by the way in which Political Theory is structured around the nation-state system of membership, such that the displaced have no context within which to exercise political agency, as they are, by definition, displaced outside of that system. It is also caused by the nature of Political Theory as a discourse of power, in which the displaced are constituted as objects of study, with no recognition that they can be agents of theory. This paper applies Postcolonial Theory to arrive at a framework with focusses on the political agency of the forcibly displaced and their ability to contribute solutions to their own challenges, and which recognises their capacity to be agents of theory, providing essential theoretical insights based upon their experiences.

For information, please contact brownbagseminars.bbs@gmail.com