This panel event at the University of Melbourne will explore the important issue of responsibility for refugee protection from a variety of perspectives. It will examine current international challenges, with a specific focus on the Australian and European experiences, to assess the implications of the changing narratives about responsibility, including how responsibility is exercised or avoided. It scrutinises how international obligations to provide protection to refugees are being undermined. Panelists will explore the implications of recent policy shifts about what constitutes an acceptable response to refugee protection. It will then discuss the direct impact of these shifts on the people seeking such protection and on the society in which they seek to settle.

This event will take place from 6.00pm to 7.30pm on Monday 25 November 2019. It will be followed by a Reception (7.30 – 8.15pm).

The panel will be moderated by Misha Ketchell from The Conversation Australia.

Misha Ketchell is Editor and Executive Director of the Conversation, with over 20 years’ experience as a journalist.

The panelists are:

Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, Director of research at CNRS (CERI). For 30 years she has been a researcher on international migration, from a Political Science and Public Law approach.

Claire Loughnan, Lecturer in Criminology, at the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne. Her research explores the criminalisation of refugee movement.

Michelle Foster, Professor and inaugural Director of the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at Melbourne Law School. Michelle teaches and has published widely in the field of international refugee law.

Ali Reza Yunespour, Internships subject coordinator, at the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne. His research examines the political economy of Afghanistan’s higher education and education politics in fragile contexts. Ali arrived as a refugee to Australia in 2005.

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