

Symposium
“Serious International Crimes, Human Rights, and Forced Migration”
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Abstract and bio – Fannie Lafontaine

Abstract

“Come Together: Can Immigration/Refugee Law and Criminal Justice Work Hand in Hand in the Fight against Impunity for International Crimes?”

Mass displacement and the violent nature of the conflicts underlying it bring to the fore the sometimes contradictory, sometimes complementary duties of states to punish the perpetrators of international crimes and to exclude them from the protection of international refugee law. This paper will discuss the yet lacking, but evolving and necessary interaction between immigration and refugee law; mutual legal assistance and extradition; and extraterritorial prosecutions in the fight against impunity for international crimes. It will discuss promising developments in the international normative system providing for states' obligations to investigate, prosecute or extradite international crimes, which at current is out-dated and insufficient and does not foster effective 'horizontal' cooperation between states. It will discuss the necessary cooperation between immigration authorities and war crimes units and it will analyse how and whether immigration law can positively address accountability for atrocities without being instrumentalized in a way that simultaneously undermines justice for mass atrocity.

Short bio

Fannie Lafontaine [LL.B. (Laval University); LL.M. (University of Cambridge); Ph.D. (National University of Ireland Galway)] is a lawyer, full professor at the Faculty of Law at Université Laval and holder of the Canada Research Chair on International Criminal Justice and Human Rights. She is the Project Director of the SSHRC-funded Canadian Partnership for International Justice and founder and co-director of the International Criminal and Humanitarian Law Clinic, recipient of the "Tribute to social innovations" prize at Laval University. She is the author of the book *Prosecuting Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes in Canadian Courts* (Toronto: Carswell, 2012) and of many other publications in Canadian and international law and relations. She is the recipient of the 2016 Laval University Prize for Excellence in Teaching and has joined the 2017 cohort of the College of New Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada. Before joining Laval University, she worked at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, at the Supreme Court of Canada and in NGOs and a law firm. She continues to act as expert for human

rights organizations and since 2015, she acts as independent civilian auditor of a criminal investigation into criminal acts alleged to have been committed by members of different police forces against members of First Nations in Quebec.