



## CLARE HALL CAMBRIDGE

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**Presentation:** ‘Aging in times of crisis: health inequality among older Syrian refugees in Jordan’  
With more than 640,000 registered Syrian refugees, Jordan (population: 6.3 million) hosts the second highest number of refugees per capita in the world (UNHCR, 2015). Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in 2011, the sudden demographic increase has taken a toll on Jordan’s already weak institutions—in particular its health care system. And while the ongoing public health emergency is affecting all refugees, older refugees, who make up nearly 5 percent of the population, are often overlooked by humanitarian aid and tend to suffer disproportionately (HelpAge International, 2014).

Despite age, gender and disability having a significant impact on the overall health and well-being of refugee populations, there is insufficient research on the interplay between these factors and access to health care within a context of crisis. The lack of disaggregated data on age and gender, in addition to a lack of information on the inequitable dimensions of service delivery during crises, can have long-lasting negative effects on health sector reform and reconstruction efforts (Mazurana, 2011). Furthermore, due to the often protracted nature of modern-day crises and global demographic trends, the proportion of older adults affected by crises will almost certainly continue to increase. This may soon require different approaches to service delivery (HelpAge, 2012). In this context, my research explores the particular challenges and needs that older refugees face in accessing health services in times of crisis. Within the context of complex humanitarian emergencies, my research will also explore the concepts of “vulnerability” and the role and usefulness of such categories in ensuring equitable service delivery. Lastly, my research will analyse how and to what extent inequalities based on age, gender and disability are reproduced and perpetuated within health care systems.

### **Bio**

Sigrid Lupieri is a PhD candidate at the Centre of Development Studies (University of Cambridge) focusing on health inequalities among older Syrian refugees in Jordan. Her previous experience includes working for UNESCO in New Delhi and UNDP in New York. She holds an MPhil in Modern European History from the University of Cambridge, a master’s degree in

journalism from North-western University (U.S.), and a BA (Hons.) from the University of Udine (Italy).