

NEW FRONTIERS

The Future Narratives of Refugee Crises

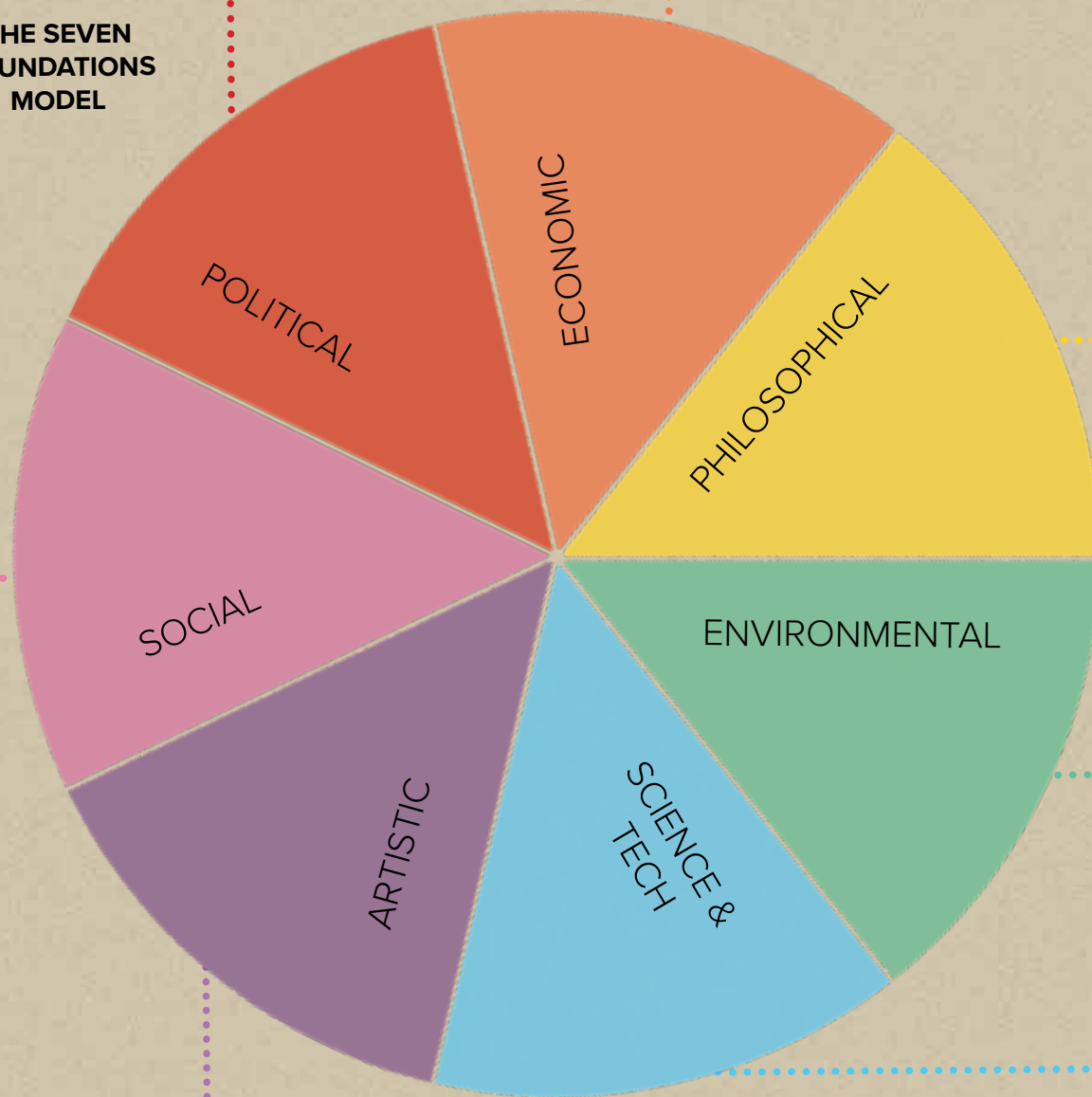
A SYSTEM OF STORIES

Much of what we consider reality is a story – a construct that we have created for ourselves. Constructs can be deconstructed and reconstructed.

The following deconstruction looks at the systems of narratives surrounding refugees and the emerging realities of those systems. By using the Seven Foundations model and applying a worldbuilding lens to parse data, we may identify overlooked aspects of the refugee experience and the components of a given crisis.

Find the complete article at www.unhcr.org/innovation/unsung

THE SEVEN FOUNDATIONS MODEL



POLITICAL

- [Growing calls for overdue reckoning of colonial crimes](#)
- [Historic halt to global mobility, stricter border control](#)
- [Legal versus illegal; legitimate versus illegitimate](#)
- [Two thirds of refugees come from five countries](#)
- [Democracies, distributed problems in decline](#)
- [Estonia's Digital Nomad Visa and E-Residency programs: citizenship hedging](#)
- [Jordan vaccinates refugees](#)
- [Speculation of Turkey exchanging Uighur Muslims for Chinese vaccines](#)
- [UN ruling: governments cannot return people to countries where their lives might be threatened by climate change](#)
- [Record number of refugees turned away](#)

ECONOMIC

- [Migrants as essential workers in low and high income jobs](#)
- [Worldwide universal basic income](#)
- [Low and middle income countries host the majority of refugees](#)
- [World's poorest won't recover from Covid for a decade](#)
- [Ethical/moral obligation \(Western saviours\)](#)
- [Labour and skills shortages in the West](#)
- [Refugees seen as economic burden versus refugee dividends](#)
- [Refugees do dirty, difficult, dangerous and dull \(4D\) jobs](#)
- [Refugee crisis cost Germany over €20 billion in 2016](#)
- [Fuel shadow, informal, and gig economy?](#)

PHILOSOPHICAL

- [Identity of refugee versus guest](#)
- [Meaningful informed consent for tech](#)
- [Responsibility as "burden sharing"; perception of refugees as burden](#)
- [Perception of humanitarian aid dependency](#)
- ["Alien", other, and threat perceptions](#)
- [Lack of distinction between refugees and migrants](#)
- [Polarized perceptions, with overestimation of migrant numbers](#)
- [Protecting the persecuted](#)
- [Moral deservingness of help](#)
- [Perpetuation of fear: war on terror, crime epidemic](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL

- [Disasters continue to trigger the majority of new displacements worldwide.](#)
- [Environmental disasters driving internal displacements](#)
- [Voluntary climate migrants: pre-emptive, and not necessarily forced](#)
- [Preventative measures versus inevitable climate crisis](#)
- [143+ million people to be displaced by 2050](#)
- [Climate change exacerbates disease](#)
- [Sustainable innovation opportunities related to SDGs](#)
- [Climate refugee status could be problematic](#)
- [Settlement, mobility, and deforestation](#)
- [Resuability of plastic waste](#)

SOCIAL

- [Escalation of migration triggered violence](#)
- [Community building: Canada's Group of Five initiative](#)
- [Social resentment, economic competitions between locals and refugees](#)
- [Social cohesion, inclusion need to be actively fostered](#)
- [More responsibility, reduced clarity and safety for women](#)
- [Cross-cultural interaction as a way to reduce stigma](#)
- [Half of refugees are under 18](#)
- [Aging populations in the West can only be offset with immigration](#)
- ["Good refugees" integrate](#)
- [Racism, xenophobia: perceptions of economic contributions and humanitarian need](#)

ARTISTIC

- ["High quality" migrant narratives](#)
- [Crisis of narratives about refugees: before the crisis narratives needed](#)
- [Incomplete hero's journey: lack of narratives about triumphant "Return"](#)
- [Longitudinal narratives: time displacement \(refugees after 10, 20 years?\)](#)
- ["One-way ticket"](#)
- [Alan Kurdi, Boy on the Beach photograph](#)
- [Walls as deadly symbols: physical borders increase death, but don't deter migration](#)
- [Creativity spurred by diversity](#)
- [Art as public education, therapy, social change accelerator](#)
- [VR and tech to capture digital heritage, enhance empathy](#)

SCIENCE & TECH

- [Migrants as innovators: BioNTech founded by Turkish migrants](#)
- [Migrants as founders: 50% of Silicon Valley are immigrants](#)
- [Acceleration of surveillance tech: dystopian smart border technology](#)
- [Biometric, personal data tracking of migrants](#)
- [Digital litter: wasted investments in unhelpful tech solutions](#)
- [Mobile phones: reliable connection to internet and people](#)
- [Refugees as innovators/makers](#)
- [Sanitation issues may create hotbeds for disease](#)
- [Tech startups tackle jobs, youth, and NGOs](#)
- [No one is tracking displaced, refugee researchers and scientists](#)