



Somali Mobilities Workshop

19 February 2026,

The British Institute in Eastern Africa
Seminar room, Laikipia Road, Nairobi

AGENDA

This event brings together scholars and practitioners to explore whether and how Somali experiences of mobility are changing. It will examine the contemporary forms and historical continuities of displacement and violence, including how Somalis are classified and treated amid heightened hostility and discrimination towards migrants and refugees and declining humanitarian support. It will also consider the agency and strategies—such as local solidarities, legal advocacy, protests and policy initiatives—through which Somali communities and their allies are responding. It will reflect upon the relationships and differences among Somalis, and how their experiences vary with attention to gender, generational, class and clan identities. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a forum for discussion to share insights from previous or ongoing research, and to foster networks and ideas to inform future research and policy agendas.

14:00 – 14:15

Group introductions

Chair: Rachel Ibreck, BIEA Director

14:15 – 14:45

Mobility (Chair: Fred Ikanda)

- What if anything is changing in the patterns of displacement for Somalis within and beyond Kenya?
- How are cuts in humanitarian aid affecting Somali communities?
- What is the impact of changing government policies towards refugees and migrants?
- How do experiences vary with attention to gender, generational, class and clan identities

14:45 – 15:15

Violence and Discrimination (Chair: Mohammed Hassan)

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- How and to what extent have Somalis been particular targets for violence discrimination and securitization historically?
- Are new threats and forms of discrimination emerging?
- How do experiences vary with attention to gender, generational, class and clan identities

15:15 – 15:30 **Tea and Coffee**

15:30 – 16:00 **Agency and Solidarity** (Chair Elia Vitturini)

- How do Somalis on the move navigate changing political and social conditions?
- What resources and relationships do they rely upon?
- What forms of support and advocacy are impactful?
- What is the role of memory and identity in these solidarities?

16:00 – 17:15

Public forum: Somali Mobilities

(Chair Mark Bradbury; discussant Mohammed Hassan)

This forum will present research on Somali mobilities with contributions from Elia Vitturini, University of Milan, Fardosa Saleh, Refugee-led Research Hub and Fred Ikanda, Maseno University.

17:15

Refreshments and networking

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