

## Queer global displacement: Organized state abandonment and refugee survival in the global North and South

Ali Bhagat, Simon Fraser University

### Abstract

We are in a current moment of heightened global displacement and the rise of queer politics (and resultant violence). With the advent of a decidedly fascist turn in global politics including in Europe and North America, both queer people and migrants are seen as threats to (heteronormative) state power. This talk aims to spotlight queer refugees who are misfits in the global political economy of migration despite international human rights law which provides some room for queer acceptance. The talk will cover qualitative research over the last decade in 4 hubs: Nairobi, Cape Town, Paris, and Los Angeles exploring the netted practices of states, non-state actors, and civil society embedded in a landscape of heteronormativity and anti-migrant racism. In so doing, I emphasize queerness as a form of precarity inseparable from the overarching violence of race and class in relation to housing, work, and community belonging.

### Biography

**Ali Bhagat** is Assistant Professor and Director of the Minor in Public Policy at Simon Fraser University's Vancouver Campus. His research explores refugee/migration policy and racial equity across Europe, Africa, and North America. His book, *Governing the Displaced: Race and Ambivalence in Global Capitalism* (Cornell University Press, 2024), examines urban refugee survival in Paris and Nairobi.

An international political economist, Bhagat investigates intersections of race, class, and sexuality, with a focus on LGBTQ+ refugees. Using qualitative methods like interviews and ethnography, he has published in journals including *Review of International Political Economy* and *Antipode*. Bhagat leads the SSHRC-funded project *Mapping Queer African Refugee Lifepaths*, studying refugee mobilities and community-building in Canada and South Africa. He is co-investigator in the Re: Structure Lab and on a Worker-Driven Social Responsibility project. Previously, he held academic roles at the University of Manchester and Saint Mary's University.