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Prospects for the governance of refugee protection: Exploring the effect of an unbalanced level of asylum recognition rates amongst European countries

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ABSTRACT

The era of globalisation has brought about the arrival of the 'jet age' refugee, lessening the distance between the world's richest and poorest countries whilst at the same time exacerbating the inequalities that directly or indirectly cause much forced movement. Whilst the vast majority of displaced people remain in their regions of origin, an increasing number are arriving at the shores of European countries seeking protection. Varying asylum recognition rates in Europe for prima facie similar arrivals suggest that situations in asylum seekers' countries of origin are not the determining factor for acceptances but that the key to protection lies with the policies and approaches of the 'asylum states'. Here, fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis is employed in order to examine the link between asylum recognition rates and countries' respect for human rights, a possible explanatory factor that is emphasised in much of the literature. After establishing whether human rights conditions can provide us with necessary or sufficient conditions for the presence of high recognition rates, this paper assesses the prospects for governance of the 'refugee regime'.

