



Through the eye of the needle

How Norway resettles refugees

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Norwegian resettlement model

- Continuous program
- Annual quota set by Parliament
- Legal requirements + resettlement policy
- Cooperation with UNHCR
- Norwegian immigration authorities reassess candidates

Data and methods

Three types of data:

- Policy documents, legal regulations, PMQs, etc
- Interviews and participant observation focused on practices related to screening and selection of refugees
- UDI case files and personal information registered by IMDi for a selection of 95 cases from three missions

Analytical approach

Identify *institutional logics* in Norwegian resettlement policies and practices

How they combine to define eligibility for resettlement



The humanitarian logic

- Part of the humanitarian toolbox
- But: 'freedom in scope and design'
- Political definition of scope (quota size)
- UNHCR influential on design (whom to resettle, from where)
- Political influence on "profile"

Photo: Colourbox.com





Legal reasoning

- Access to protection is legally codified
- Assessment should mirror asylum
- Imperative to protect + prevent system abuse
- Discretionary reasoning related to protection needs, identity, and credibility

Photo: Colourbox.com





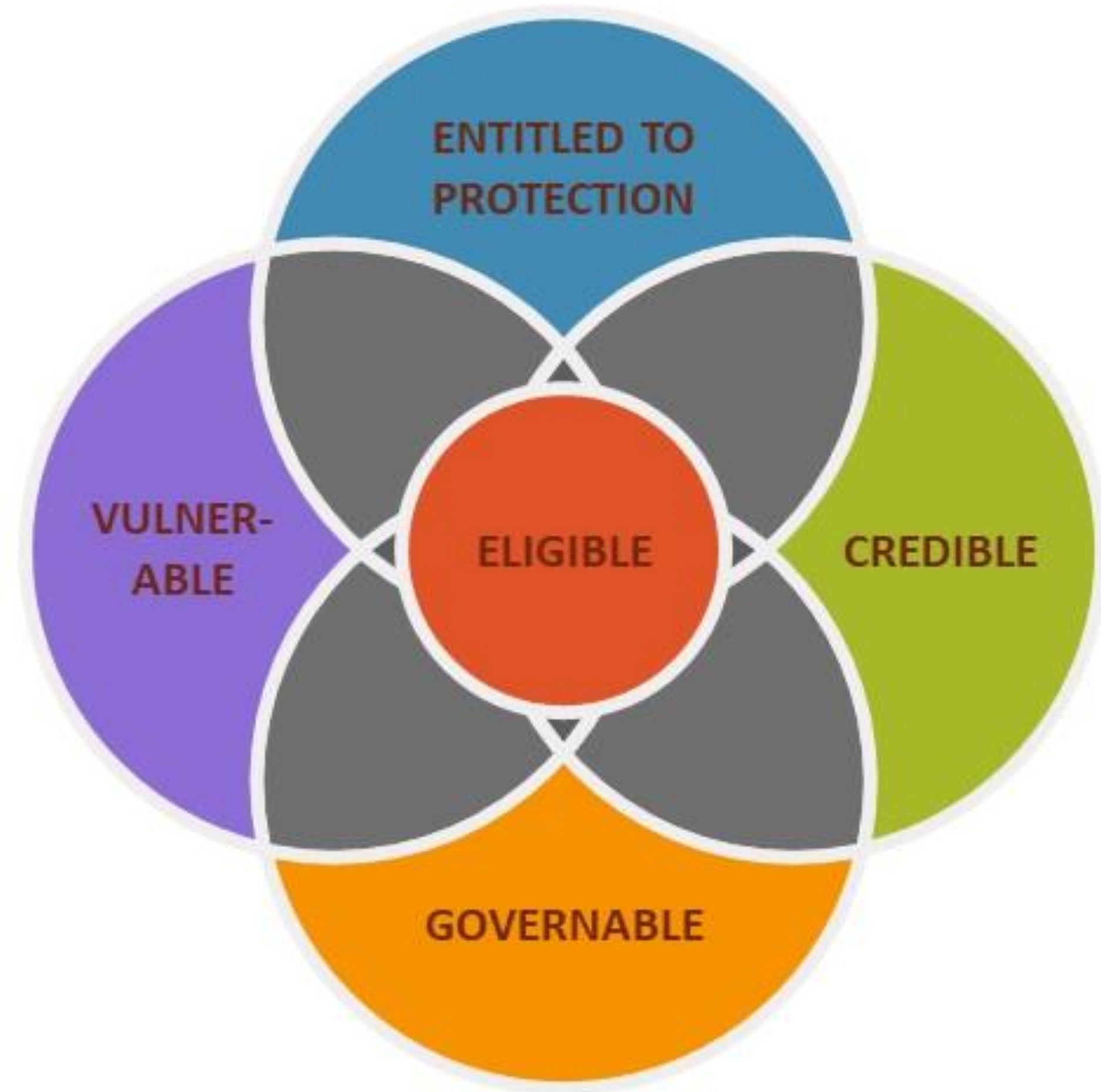
Bordering logics

Institutional demands produce multiple exclusion mechanisms:

- Identification of fraud
- Screening of security concerns
- Assessments of family and gender-related norms and values
- Optimization of available resources and concern for system overload

Photo: Colourbox.com





“The eye of the needle”

- Four (analytical) criteria combine to define eligibility for resettlement to Norway
- Assessment of reach requires discretionary reasoning, by different actors
- Not arbitrary, but complex – and shaped by national interests as well as humanitarian priorities

