

*Liliana Lyra Jubilut  
Gabriela Soldano Garcez  
Melissa Martins Casagrande  
Flávia Oliveira Ribeiro*  
(eds.)

# IASFM19

19TH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE STUDY OF FORCED  
MIGRATION CONFERENCE

- Accepted Abstracts -





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# IASFM19

## 19TH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF FORCED MIGRATION CONFERENCE

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# INTRODUCTION

## About IASFM

The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) is a non-profit organization, which “brings together academics, practitioners and decision-makers working on forced migration issues” . It was established in 1998 and had as its first International Secretariat the Refugee Studies Centre of the University of Oxford, UK, which was then moved to the Institute for the Study of International Migration of Georgetown University, US, and nowadays is hosted by the Centre for Refugee Studies of York University, Canada.

The Association has a global membership whose common interest is the study of forced migration, a topic that according to IASFM is “increasingly perceived to be global in scope” and has seen renewed attention “since the end of the Cold War” . With new developments such as environmentally induced displacement, the recurrence or development of international and non-international armed conflicts, violations of human rights and other drivers of forced migration, the topic is key in shaping the current international scenario, and Academia has a vital role to play in diagnosing, assessing and proposing solutions for the field of forced migration but also for the protection of forced migrants.

IASFM is a relevant forum in this regard, bringing together members from the Global North and Global South, from different backgrounds and career stages, and stimulating cross-cultural, thematic, and diverse dialogues.

In order to carry out its goals, IASFM has as its main initiative the realization of biannual conferences. IASFM’s biannual conference is the main space and place for sharing good practices and discussing its existing and new members’ cutting-edge research. In 2022, IASFM19 - the 19th Conference of IASFM - is being hosted by Universidade Católica de Santos (UniSantos), Brazil.

## About IASFM19

In the General Assembly of IASFM17 in July 2018, UniSantos’s bid to host IASFM19 was approved. UniSantos is a public non-governmental university established in 1951, which has over 6000 students that enjoy an offer of 30 undergraduate courses, 5 Master’s degree programs and 3 Doctoral degree programs. Moreover, the University offers Post-doctoral Fellowships, as well as several Specialization programs at graduate level.

UniSantos sees forced migration as one of its main research topics. It has research groups focused on the study of refugees and the impacts of migration on Health, offers courses on Migration, International Refugee Law and Human Rights in the graduate level, and has mainstreamed the topic on undergraduate classes.

IASFM19 bears the theme: “Global Issues, Regional Approaches – contexts, challenges, dialogues and solutions”, with a view to highlight the current forced migration scenarios, as well as to allow for the drawing and building of comparisons among regions and with the global context and of dialogues with potential to improve forced migrants’ protection in general and in particular scenarios. The dialogue between global and regional is paramount and is proposed to (i) highlight common ground and shared challenges in forced migration governance, (ii) allow for debates on global and on regional issues, (iii) contribute to survey strategies best tailored to create or reinforce protection, and, (iv) advance the promotion of best practices that can be translated elsewhere (regional to global or global to regional). The cornerstone of IASFM19 is the improvement of integral protection for forced migrants globally and regionally.

A focus on dialogues allows for new, construed, and diverse perspectives on forced migration, as well as interdisciplinary interchanges that have the potential to enhance studies in the area and contribute to the expansion of integral protection to forced migrants. IASFM19, therefore, also places emphasis on dialogues in several dimensions.

IASFM19 will take place exclusively online from August 1st to the 5th of 2022; and will be guided by the need of dialogues to enhance protection and by the dual approach outlined – highlighting regional aspects of forced migration in itself and in relation to the global scenario; with emphasis on contexts, challenges, and solutions.

IASFM19 will be structured around keynote speeches, and the presentations of papers in panels, as well as of initiatives that are not exclusively academic in a showcase of good practices.

### **About the eBook of Accepted Abstracts**

The Organizing Committee of IASFM19 has decided to undertake a novel initiative – the publication of an open access eBook (with ISBN) with all accepted abstracts. It is believed that this action will facilitate the organization of each attendee’s schedule giving them the opportunity to make informed decisions about which panels to attend, and will also produce a relevant academic product increasing the results of the Conference to the host institution.

A call for papers giving interested parts the opportunity to submit proposals to present their ongoing research through thematic panels, individual papers, or good practices ideas was launched in September 2021 . Submissions were made in English

but IASFM19 carved an exception for submissions in Portuguese or Spanish from persons with lived forced migration experience, who feel more comfortable presenting in those languages. Unfortunately, no such submissions were received. The deadline for submissions was January 31, 2022.

All received submissions were assessed by at least 2 members of IASFM19 Organizing Committee, with decisions being publicized by April 15th, 2022. All accepted abstracts were granted the opportunity to be included in the eBook, the requirement being the express consent of all authors or panellists for publication .

In an effort to respect transparency, all abstracts are being published as they were submitted for consideration for IASFM19. No reviews or changes were made. This also allows for the respect of the diverse and global membership of IASFM, considering that submissions with different levels of scholarship, language knowledge and methodologies were accepted. All accepted abstracts have been deemed to be of good academic standard for presentation at the conference.

Following the same reasoning, and due to the fact that registration for the event lasts up to the beginning of IASFM19 and there is a time needed for the editorial process, the decision was made to include all accepted abstracts, even if some might not be presented in the Conference in August 2022.

This eBook thus represents a novel initiative and a relevant academic product for IASFM19, compiling all accepted abstracts for panels, papers or good practices that were submitted for the Conference. It spans through a vast range of topics, issues, disciplines and geographies, and registers a key element of IASFM biennial conference. It also highlights the current topics being discussed and thought about in the studies of forced migration and might bring about relevant suggestions on how to further develop the field and to assist in the protection of forced migrants.

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PANELS

## Panel Title

# Digital divide, digital empowerment or digital mismatch? Exploring how refugees navigate new digital landscapes across geo-political contexts of displacement

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Giorgia Donà* (Professor of Forced Migration and co-director of the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London, UK)

*Marie Godin* (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, UK)

**Abstract:** In recent years we have seen the emergence, consolidation and conceptualisation of digital innovations globally. The emerging global digital landscape has changed the everyday lives of forced migrants, the provision of humanitarian assistance and the formation of loose, informal citizen- and migrant-led mobilising at the local, transnational and diasporic levels.

This panel aims to examine the role of digital technologies in the lives of people on the move across contexts of displacement and geo-political locations - both in the so-called 'Global North' and 'Global South'. The panel brings together research, practice and advocacy work conducted among different groups of forced migrants (Venezuelan, Congolese, Rohingya, Eritrean and Afghan individuals), different contexts of forced migration (refugee camps, urban areas and the asylum system) and across geopolitical contexts (Brazil, Kenya, Bangladesh and the UK). The panel focuses on the ways in which displaced individuals, asylum seekers and refugees navigate the new digital landscape as they interact with a variety of social and humanitarian actors (e.g. governmental and non-governmental organisations, refugee-led organisations, and local, national and international authorities) who also use digital technologies. Contributions address the ways in which digital technologies shape different dimensions of forced migrants' lives, ranging from their livelihoods and economy to social and legal protection, and integration.

In the last few years, refugees have often been labelled "smart refugees" (Dekker et al., 2018) putting forward a discourse of 'empowerment through technologies'. For instance, digital technologies have been used to enable refugees to acquire new languages in displaced contexts, gain literacy and improve their livelihoods. During the pandemic, such technologies have also been deployed to raise awareness, access medical, legal and social support, and obtain food, water and health provisions. Innovative technological platforms are particularly helpful where support from government agencies and mainstream services is lacking. However, it is important to recognize that such strategies are enacted in power-laden structural contexts, where choices to access

welfare and/or humanitarian support and to exercise rights are heavily constrained.

Authors such as Awad and Tossel (2021) argue that the utilitarian narrative about digital technologies and refugees has progressively reduced the figure of ‘the connected refugee’ to her/his vital needs justifying even more the development of techno-humanitarianism. In that respect, asylum seekers and refugees can become even more marginalised if they are at risk of being exposed to the digital divide. The digital divide often refers to refugees who do not have the technological skills to use smart-phones technologies pointing out to a lack of digital literacy (‘low-tech users’); or to those who do not have the economic capital to possess a smartphone (being ‘left-out’); or those who are lacking access due to poor digital infrastructures (‘being disconnected’). In many ways, these narratives about the digital divide and refugees tend to re-essentialise specific categories of refugees as victims in need of protection and assistance that can only be ‘empowered and controlled’ through the digital. However, refugees navigate the new digital landscape in innovative ways. The panel addresses the following question: Are digital technologies empowering, creating new forms of digital inequality, and/or producing digital mismatches between the expectations of different social actors? The contributors will address the question through an analysis of how forced migrants navigate these new digital landscapes across geo-political contexts of displacement.

## **PAPER 1: Contextualizing the biometric identity of Rohingya refugees**

*Nasreen Chowdhory, Shamna Thacham Poyil*

**Abstract:** Recently the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the assistance of the Bangladesh government issued biometric identity cards to nearly five lakhs of Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar refugee camps. The biometric credentials are expected to aid the authorities in processing the asylum claims of refugees apart from reducing the instances of arbitrary detention that arises due to lack of adequate documentation. The datafication of bodies crossing the borders using biometrics possibly would assist the asylum countries to enforce strict policing of territories and ensure targeted delivery of aid resources but correspondingly it also leads us to re-problematize the nature of liminal governance instituted in the administration of camps. At a country level, the biometric system is expected to provide a more concerted management of refugees and at the global level, it is projected to be a means for facilitating targeted aid delivery by humanitarian organizations reducing the refugee burden of the global south. The biometrics might act as an enabler for accessing aid and provisions for unrecognized stateless individuals like Rohingyas during their exile in camps.

The paper argues that biometric registration of the Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazaar camps does not provide them with an identity on par with citizenship, it merely enlists them as a documented refugee- a digital identity that affirms his/her refugee status. It also holds the potential to become a prominent surveillance tool on these “undesirable” and “maladapted” populations. The paper raises the following questions: How does the biometric registration of refugees shape their identity as stateless people in ‘exile’? Using the lens of “governmentality”, how does biometric data on refugees contest/ accentuate the power relations among multiple actors in the “hybrid sovereign” structure of camp governance?

*Dr. Nasreen Chowdhory* is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. She obtained her PhD in Political Science from McGill University, Canada, she taught at Concordia University and later joined University of Delhi. Some of her significant publications are “Displacement: A ‘state of exception’” in the International Journal of Migration and Border Studies, 2016. Refugee Watch; Refugees, Citizenship and Belonging: A Contested Terrains (Springer 2018) and edited volume on Deterritorialised Identities and Transborder Movement in South Asia with Nasir Uddin with Springer 2019. Citizenship, Nationalism and Refugeehood of Rohingyas in Southern Asia with co-edited with Biswajit Mohanty, Springer 2020, and Gender, Identity and Migration in India (Palgrave 2022) with Paula Banerjee.

*Shamna Thachampoyil* is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Delhi. Her research focuses on the narrative of statelessness of the Rohingyas and the politics of exclusion. Her recent publications include ‘National Identity and Conceptualization of Nationalism among Rohingya’ in Citizenship, Nationalism and Refugeehood of Rohingyas in Southern Asia (2020), ed. Nasreen Chowdhory & Biswajit Mohanty; ‘The Global Compact of Refugees: A viewpoint of Global South’, Refugee Watch (2020) with Dr. Nasreen Chowdhory; ‘The Idea of Protection: Norms and Practice of Refugee management in India’, Refugee watch (2019) with Dr. Nasreen Chowdhory and Meghna Kajla, ‘Transitional justice, reconciliation and reconstruction process: the case of the former LTTE female combatants in post-war Sri Lanka’ with Dr. Nasreen Chowdhory in Transitional Justice and Forced Migration ed. Nergis Canefe, Cambridge University Press 2019.

## PAPER 2: Spatial imaginaries of digital refugee livelihoods

*Amanda Alencar, Julia Camargo*

**Abstract:** Discourses around the so-called digital economy are increasingly more present in contexts of forced displacement, with digital inclusion of refugees being framed by humanitarian agencies as a fundamental human right and an

essential tool to promote access to income and skills development. While digital work can certainly bring about positive changes in forced migration settings, imaginaries around the role of the digital in refugees' economic lives reflect a broader neoliberal project that envisions a retreat of the welfare state and that places on refugees the responsibility to integrate. This article draws on spatial imaginaries frameworks to advance the theoretical understanding of power differentials that are embodied in the use of technologies to promote refugee livelihoods. A combination of participatory methods, digital ethnography and focus groups was used to examine technology adoption by Venezuelan refugees and humanitarian actors in the context of employment opportunities in the city of Boa Vista (Brazil). The analysis revealed a mismatch between digital work interventions of humanitarian actors and Venezuelans' digital livelihoods. Such a disconnect reflects the logic of humanitarian agencies to give refugees a voice and especially now, in the digital age, to give them visibility, which paradoxically constrains refugees' agency in the digital economy.

*Amanda Alencar* is a digital migration scholar specialised in the study of media and social media in Europe and Latin America, with a focus on how communication technologies are shaping refugee mobility and integration processes. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media & Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Chair of the Intercultural Communication Division within the International Communication Association (ICA). Amanda was a research fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University) and Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Amsterdam. She has recently guest edited two special issues in the (open-access) peer-reviewed journals 'International Communication Gazette (ICG)' and 'Media & Communication' on the intersections between media, communication and forced migration processes.

*Julia Camargo* is a lecturer in the Department of International Relations| Universidade Federal de Roraima, Brazil and PhD candidate in the Higher School of Advertising and Marketing (ESPM- São Paulo). She is also coordinator of the Project "Portuguese For Hosting Refugees and Immigrants from Venezuela". Julia has obtained her masters' degree in International Relations at the University of Brasilia (UnB). Her research interests focuses on immigrant integration and identity formation processes in the border Brazil-Venezuela-Guyana. Julia has authored and edited four books (in Portuguese) on issues related to international relations and migration, as well as media representation of war conflicts in Latin America and Iraq.

### **PAPER 3: YouTube channels and “digital entrepreneurship”? The case of Congolese refugees in Nairobi**

*Marie Godin, Ghislain Bahati*



**Abstract:** Digital technologies are being used by refugees in various ways but more and more digital work has been promoted as a potential pathway to socio-economic development and unemployment alleviation in both refugee and host communities (ILO, 2021). Digital labor and e-commerce platforms are often discussed in that regard as holding significant potential for creating new formal jobs especially for the youths. It is in that normative and neo-liberal context that we decided to explore the creation of you tube channels by Congolese refugees living in Nairobi as a new form of business online that generates income through digital mediation. This shift towards online activities as a way for refugees to develop their entrepreneurial skills has so far been overlooked in the literature on refugee economies that often focuses on the development of economic activities at the local level (Betts et al.2018). This type of online activity also seems to have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. For many, YouTube channels have become a way to face exclusion and discrimination at the local level while at the same time – at least potentially- making a living out of it. Grounded in a network approach, the paper examines how refugees develop their own digital economies that are both embedded into local and transnational networks despite the legal restrictions they are in.

*Marie Godin* is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow – Refugee Studies Centre

*Bahati Ghislain* is the Founder and executive director for Kintsugi Refugee led Organization. Also, the chairman for Refugee led network Kenya, and himself a Refugee from Republic democratic of Congo.

#### **PAPER 4: Navigating the tensions between the digital and the reality for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and service providers in the UK**

*Giorgia Doná, Roxanne Nanton*

**Abstract:** During the covid-19 pandemic, refugee charities in the UK rapidly adapted their face-to-face services and transitioned to digital platforms. Concerns were raised regarding the effects of the pandemic on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) as they were likely to face additional obstacles in accessing and navigating legal, social and emotional support in digital platforms due to language proficiency, IT literacy and dependence on multiple services. This research and applied project used a mixed methods approach to document how UASC and refugee service providers navigate new digital platforms. The project included an applied component, which consisted in training staff on addressing UASC's social and emotional needs online and collaborated with UASC to overcome digital inequalities. The findings of the project show that there exists a tension between the digital and the reality in navigating digital resources: digital services increase access to and for

UASC in remote areas, however building strong relationships is a challenge, as is addressing the digital divide. Digital poverty and illiteracy remain significant obstacles in empowering UASC and matching the aspirations of service providers and clients in offering digital care and protection.

*Prof Giorgia Doná* is Professor of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies and co-director of the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London (UK). She is a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and member of the Board of Directors of the Harrell-Bond Foundation. For more than three decades she has worked as a researcher, practitioner and activist with displaced and refugee populations in Central and North America, Eastern Africa, and Europe. Her research focuses on conflict and displacement; borders, migration and digital technologies; child and youth migration; psycho-social perspectives and forced migration; refugee voices and representation; and forced migration and coloniality. Her recent publications include *The Marginalised in Genocide Narratives* (2019, reprinted in 2020); *Forced Migration: Current Issues and Debates* (2019, co-edited with A. Bloch); and *Child and Youth Migration: Mobility-in-Migration in an Era of Globalisation* (2014, co-edited with A. Veale)

*Roxanne Nanton* is part-time worker at the UK Refugee Council and Early Career Researcher at the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London (UK). Her areas of research and professional expertise are asylum and socio-legal support, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, gender and forced migration. Roxanne graduated with distinction in the UEL Master in Refugee Studies with a dissertation titled “Far Away There in the Sunshine...”: A Study of the Aspirations of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Girls. Roxanne wrote the briefing document *Covid-19 & Unaccompanied Asylum- Seeking Children in the UK* (2020) and co-authored “Life is not Just Normal as Before” *Covid- 19 and Digital Service Provision in the Charity Sector: A Case Study of the Refugee Council’s Children’s Section* (2021, with G. Doná).

**Discussant:** Dr. Charles Martin-Shields (Email: Charles.Martin-Shields@die-gdi.de). He is a Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute in Bonn, Germany working on the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development-funded “Contested Mobilities” project. My research focuses on the role of technology and digitalization in migration and forced displacement, covering both developing country contexts, including work with urban migrants in Bogota, Nairobi, and Kuala Lumpur, as well as the role of digitalization in changing patterns of how high-income workers move between industrialized countries.

## Panel Title

### Discussing peace in the context of forced displacement

**PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Ulrike Krause:* Junior Professor of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies at the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) and the Institute of Social Sciences, Osnabrück University.

*Nadine Segadlo:* Researcher at the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) and the Institute of Social Sciences, Osnabrück University.

**Participants:**

*Zacharia Mohamed Odawa:* Refugee activist in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya, speaker of the Kakuma Youth Parliament and member of Kakuma Hub.

*Lydia Gitau:* Postdoctoral Fellow in the fEEL Lab - feltExperience & Empathy Lab at the UNSW School of Art and Design, Paddington, Australia.

*James Milner:* Associate Professor of Political Science at Carleton University, Canada, and Project Director of LERRN (The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network).

*Elisabeth Olivius:* Associate Professor in Political Science at Umea University, Sweden, and coordinator of the international ‘Varieties of Peace’ Research Network.

*Anila Noor:* Researcher, refugee activist and policy influencer, founder of New Women Connectors and FFVT fellow at BICC Germany.

**Abstract:** Worldwide violent conflicts contribute to people fleeing and seeking refuge in other places. The multifaceted links between violent conflicts and displacement have been extensively examined in Forced Migration Studies, and partly also in Peace and Conflict Studies. In this context, most of studies focus on various forms of violence displaced people are exposed to. But what roles does peace play here? In contrast to these studies, peace has received little attention in research debates surrounding the conflict-displacement nexus so far. If addressed at all, studies mention peace as necessary condition for return to places of origin, peace education or partly displaced people as risk to peace and security in host regions. Against this backdrop, this roundtable concentrates on peace and aims to reflect on current debates about peace in Forced Migration Studies. By bringing together activists and researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds, regional focus areas as well as lived experiences of displacement, the roundtable seeks to promote exchange about contemporary tendencies in research and especially explore avenues for placing more emphasis on peace in future research in Forced Migration Studies.

Panel Title

**Documenting Displacement: Questioning Methodological Boundaries in Forced Migration Research**

### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Katarzyna Grabska*, senior researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo – co-editor.

*Christina Clark-Kazak*, associate professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa – co-editor.

**Abstract:** Legal precarity, mobility, and the criminalization of migrants complicate the study of forced migration and exile. Traditional methodologies can obscure both the agency of displaced people and hierarchies of power between researchers and research participants. This panel critically assesses the ways in which knowledge is co-created and reproduced through narratives in spaces of displacement, advancing a creative, collective and interdisciplinary approach.

Documenting Displacement panel will explore the ethics and methods of research in diverse forced migration contexts and proposes new ways of thinking about and documenting displacement. Each contributor delves into specific ethical and methodological challenges, with particular attention to unequal power relations in the co-creation of knowledge, questions about representation and ownership, and the adaptation of methodological approaches to contexts of mobility. Contributors reflect honestly on both what has worked and what has not, providing useful points of discussion for future research by both established and emerging researchers.

Innovative in its use of arts-based methods, Documenting Displacement panel invites researchers to explore new avenues guided not only by the procedural ethics imposed by academic institutions, but also by a relational ethics that more fully considers the position of the researcher and the interests of those who have been displaced.

### **Contributors:**

1. *Anna Oda, Adnan Al Mhamied, Riham Al-Saadi, Neil Arya, Mona Awwad, Oula Hajjar, Jill Hanley, Michaela Hynie, Nicole Ives, Rabih Jamil, Mahi Khalaf, Rim Khyar, Ben C. H. Kuo, May Massijeh, Rana Mohammad, and Kathy Sherrell*

“Ethical Challenges of Conducting Longitudinal Community-Based Research with Refugees: Reflections from Peer”

2. *Dina Taha*

“Critical Reflexivity and Decolonizing Narrative: Reflections from the Field”

3. *Evropi Chatzipanagiotidou and Fiona Murphy*

“Exhibiting Displacement: Refugee Art, Methodological Dubiety, and the Responsibility (Not) to Document Loss”

4. *Jason Hart*

“Ethical and Methodological Issues When Conducting Research with Children in Situations of Forced Migration”

5. *Azza Ahmed Abdel Aziz*

“Modalities of Knowing in Difficult Circumstances: Methodological and Ethical Parameters of Engagement with Southern/South Sudanese Residing in the Capital of Sudan”

6. *Andrea Rodríguez-Sánchez and Miguel Alonso-Cambrón*

“Sound and Memory: Collaborative Reflection on Using Sound Postcards in Rebuilding Social Fabric with Victims of Forced Displacement in Colombia”

7. *Océane Uzureau, Marina Rota, Ine Lietaert, and Ilse Derluyn*

“Transient Lives and Lasting Messages: Graffiti Analysis as a Methodological Tool to Capture Migrants’ Experiences While on the Move”

8. *Marie Godin and Giorgia Donà*

“Methodological and Ethical Reflections on the Displaces Participatory Photographic Project in the “Calais Jungle”

9. *Nihal Soğancı*

“Memories, Stories, and Material Traces: Exploring Displacement through Collaging and Participatory Art Installation”

10. *Erika Frydenlund and Jose J. Padilla*

“Opportunities and Challenges of Using Computer-Based Simulation in Migration and Displacement Research: A focus on Lesbos, Greece”

11. *Susan Banki and Nicole Phillips*

“Overcoming Over-Research: The mmp Approach”

12. *Shashini Gamage and Danesh Jayatilaka*

“Life Story Narratives, Memory Maps, and Video Stories: Spatial Narratives of Urban Displacement in Sri Lanka”

13. *Erin Goheen Glanville*

“The Worn Words Project: Narrative Mobilization, Refugee Discourse, and Digital Media Production”

## Panel Title

## Forced Migration and Refugees in Brazil during the Covid-19 pandemic

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Juliz Bertino Moreira, Giuliana Redin, Militza Pérez Velasquez, Carolina Moulin.*

**Abstract:** This panel intends to discuss the policies regarding forced migrants and refugees in Brazil, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic and focusing on the Venezuelan displacement. Our proposal is to analyze this issue not only from an institutional and governmental view, but also from migrants and refugees' perspective.

## **PAPER 1: Migration and refugee policy during Bolsonaro's government**

*Carolina Moulin (UFMG), Julia Bertino (UFABC)*

This paper aims to analyze the main guidelines of migration and refugee policy adopted during Bolsonaro government (2019-2022), paying special attention to the Venezuelan migration to Brazil. It is argued that, despite some new features, the period is marked by the deepening of trends seen in the last decade. Considering the intensification of migratory movements in the country, the following main aspects of this policy are discussed:

- 1) hyper-normatization: profusion of resolutions, demarcating a regulatory excess that generates doubt for migrants and institutions, while revealing the 'ad hoc' character of this policy;
- 2) the xenophobic vision guided by selectivity on the basis of nationality both for territorial entry permits and for access to regularization in the country, exposed in the Covid-19 pandemic, with the imposition of differentiated restrictions to certain groups under health pretexts;
- 3) the consolidation of a humanitarian-security assemblage of migration governance – articulating militarization and the internationalization of assistance, especially in the process of reception and integration;
- 4) the growing connection between the migration governance and the reconfiguration of borders – beyond its physical limits, but also identifying rhizomes that modulate the circulation processes – following the example of the internalization strategy and finally;
- 5) the persistent lack of structuring, by state actors, of an integration policy for and with the migrant and refugee population in Brazil, despite the active and growing participation of civil society institutions in this process.

## **PAPER 2: Conditionality as an expression of precarious legal status: Venezuelan migrants' narratives in Brazil**

*Militza Pérez Velásquez (UFRR / UCV)*

Venezuela is experiencing unprecedented forced displacement of its population as a result of severe and widespread political, economic and social deterioration. The analysis focuses on how the dynamics of a survival mobility can be better understood from the characterization of migration processes, not necessarily reflected on the categories and management of migration regularization in Brazil. The paper proposes a brief documentary review suggesting a view of migration as an epiphenomenal event, which crosses vulnerabilities, exacerbating inequalities in the destination societies. It analyzes semi-structured interviews allowing to know the experiences of Venezuelan people in mobility in Brazil, seeking to understand migration as an integral part of development and social transformation processes. It seeks to reveal the limitations derived from the forms of regularization and that imply a transit in search of better possibilities of integration and access to social resources, as resistance or protest against the structures that reproduce inequalities. It is argued that the positioning of the Brazilian State cannot be subsumed to a response to migration management, but, on the contrary, is part of the very security logic of border control.

### **PAPER 3: Vulnerability of Forced Migrants by Brazilian Government Policy during the Covid-19 Pandemic: from xenophobia to necropolitics**

*Giuliana Redin (UFMS)*

The Migration Law, sanctioned in 2017, by recognizing humanitarian reception as a principle, alongside the Refugee Law of 1997, consolidates the Brazilian State Policy for forced migration. Despite the human rights principles – notably the promotion of regular entry and document regularization, the right to request refuge, the ban on summary deportation, in addition to equal and free access to public services and social rights – such State Policy was suspended by Government Policy, based on the state of emergency discourse decreed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ease with which a set of administrative acts of exception to fundamental rights to the most vulnerable groups was instituted brings the issue of structural xenophobia constitutive of the nation-state and the challenges regarding recognition of rights, the subject and the subject of rights. Therefore, the proposal aims to discuss the psychosocial gear of migrants and refugees' exclusion, which crosses our State Policy, such as the normative scope of the humanitarian reception and the protection system reserved to the Refugee Law, but that in times of crisis potentiate the discourse of the enemy and their vulnerability, by denying their condition as subjects. From Derrida's "conditioned hospitality", to Sayad's "permanent temporariness", which situate the constitutive xenophobia of the State, contained in the idea of order and shelter, the Brazilian Government Policy for forced migration during the pandemic shows the face of Mbembe's "necropolitics", based on the generalized instrumentalization of human existence and material destruction of human bodies and populations.



## Panel Title

# Forced migration policies and family practices: Latin American experiences

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Nuni Vieira Jorgensen, Patricia Nabuco Martuscelli, Jullyane Carvalho Ribeiro, Ana Cecília Bizon, Antonio Carlos Rodrigues de Amorim, Luís Renato Vedovato, Rosana Baeninger, Juliana dos Santos de Almeida Sampaio, Mara Tissera Luna*

**Chair:** *Nuni Jorgensen* (Queen Mary University of London)

**Discussant:** *Patricia Nabuco Martuscelli* (The University of Sheffield)

**Abstract:** Across a wide range of disciplines, most scholarly attention recognises the centrality of family networks in forced migration processes. Yet, most of the current family migration literature is centred on South-North migration, and few analyses have looked at empirical data from forced migration contexts within the Global South. In this panel, we discuss a range of studies that explore the experiences of displaced families in Brazil and Mexico. The papers include, on the one hand, analyses of how ideals of the family held by street-level bureaucrats affect the experiences of refugee mothers and unaccompanied children, and, on the other, what are some of the good practices and policy frameworks that promote the rights and integration of forcibly displaced families at national and local levels.

### PAPER 1: “For my children”: motherhood and control in the administration of women asylum seekers

*Jullyane Carvalho Ribeiro (State University of Campinas)*

Based on ethnographic research, this proposal aims to analyse the weight of family networks in decisions regarding the mobility of refugee women in São Paulo, Brazil. It also seeks to investigate the operationalization of the language of motherhood in scenarios of interaction in the buildings of the state bureaucracy. The proposal focuses on the articulation between the categories of gender, race, and national belonging and how these categories operate in the making and management of borders, addressing its importance in maternal transits that triggered moral panics in the asylum administration. In 2016, the arrival of a group of women asylum seekers from Angola catalysed a series of humanitarian and security actions by the state apparatuses. The analysis of the reactions to the Angolan women’s mobilities



concluded that, in certain mobility contexts, motherhood was used by the state administrations as an accusation category that was allegedly polluting the asylum procedures. In contrast, the category was operationalized by the asylum seekers as a motivation for the pursue of documents. Motherhood was an instrument of political and affective mobilization for women who saw in their children hope for social and moral regeneration, but also as a way of achieving a “better life”.

**PAPER 2: A multidisciplinary approach to research forced displaced families in the context of democratic erosion**

*Ana Cecília Bizon (Institute of Language Studies/Unicamp), Antonio Carlos Rodrigues de Amorim (School of Education/Unicamp), Luís Renato Vedovato (Faculty of Applied Sciences/ Unicamp), Rosana Baeninger (Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences/ Unicamp)*

The protection of migrants, including forced displaced persons, is the greatest test of the effectiveness of the country’s legal system, as it indicates the protection of the vulnerable person. Internationally, there is a minimum set of norms that guarantee the protection of forced migrants, however, identifying how this protection is effective within countries is an important indication of democracy for the country’s national law. In this work, we will specifically address the conditions of public policies, in the field of human rights, which condition the lives of forcibly displaced families in Brazil. The discussion will be designed in a multifaceted and interdisciplinary way, with categories derived from: 1) systematization, analysis and interpretation of documental sources and legislation; 2) reflective records of teaching processes of Portuguese as a Welcoming Language in public early childhood education schools in the state of São Paulo; 3) composition of a collection of visual and audiovisual materials that represent the stories and memories of families in forced migration, comparing them with journalistic materials that narrate and propose the political discussion as an agenda.

**PAPER 3: Displaced Families’ Rights In The Making – How Workers in Humanitarian Settings Shape Brazilian Forced Migration Policy**

*Juliana dos Santos de Almeida Sampaio (London School of Economics and Political Science)*

This study examines the role of humanitarian workers and local civil servants at Operação Acolhida (Shelter Operation), established by the Brazilian State to address the flux of Venezuelan forced migrants. It aims to discuss these workers' performance as "street-level bureaucrats", as coined by Lipsky. The purpose is to reflect on the extent to which these workers' discretionary margin of action and inaction affects unaccompanied and separated children protection measures, and family reunification. The research adopts a mixed-method design and the sample includes staff from social services, judiciary bodies, international organisations and voluntary sector. Although the diversification of frontline actors in humanitarian settings has been acknowledged, there are few studies on the connections between policy, practices and subjectivities, and how they may shape the experiences of displaced families in the Latin American scenario. Considering the complexities of the forced migration legal framework and policy implementation, and the multiplicity of national and international actors at Operação Acolhida, this paper will contribute to the literature on forced migration, child, and family protection as well as street-level bureaucracy in humanitarian settings.

## Panel Title

### Intersections of labour, gender and displacement in the middle east

#### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Katharina Lenner, Caitlin Killian, Jennifer Olmsted, Zoë Jordan, Oroub El-Abed, Aida Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Al Shraa.*

**Abstract:** This panel seeks to understand the intersection of gender and displacement in lived experiences of (non)access and engagement in labour for particular groups of refugees in the MENA region, and the impacts of the proliferation of 'self-reliance' policies on refugees' labour on these dynamics.

#### PAPER 1: Marginalisation in the Labour market among Jordanians and refugees

*Oroub El Abed, Aida Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Al Shraa*

Discursive politics has been instrumental in preventing refugees' from integrating into host societies by prolonging their in limbo status. In turn, citizens, with

vulnerable conditions and limited status/power and capitals, have been made liminal subjects struggling for livelihoods within peripheral towns and governorates. This paper highlights the key role that is played by economically active refugee women with professional and vocational skills in the labour market in Maan and Zarqa of Jordan, where a paucity of research has been done neglecting the situation of refugees and citizens in such peripheral areas. It seeks to underscore the benefit they have brought to the wider society with their human and professional assets and the transformations they have instigated. The paper discusses the approaches of this action oriented research which, through dialogue with peer professionals and stakeholders and a campaign for labourers' rights, seeks to voice out concerns amongst women workers calling for better social protection and more socially inclusive approaches between nationals and citizens in Jordan.

**PAPER 2: From education to employment? Young women's transitions to employment in protracted displacement**

*Zoë Jordan*

Gender and refugee status have both been shown to be a determinant of educational access and attainment, and employability, and there is a plethora of social and humanitarian initiatives that focus on expanding young refugee women's access to both education and work. Yet, while educational enrollment of Syrian refugees in Jordan achieves near gender parity (at the primary level), employment rates among Syrian refugee women in Jordan were as low as 7% in 2020 - a significant difference from male Syrians (51%) and Jordanian women (14%). In a context of constrained access to work, exacerbated by on-going high unemployment and the effects of the pandemic, a substantial mismatch between education and employment persists and the transition to employment for young people is prolonged and fractured. This paper draws on interviews with 24 Syrian women between the ages of 15 and 29 to explore how the young women understand and navigate their intersecting gender, legal and socio-economic positions in their transitions from education to (un)employment.

**PAPER 3: Syrian Women Refugees and the Constraints of Patriarchy, Nationalism, and Capitalism**

*Caitlin Killian, Jennifer Olmsted*

Analyzing refugees provides an opportunity to problematize standard macro-economic approaches to economic well-being because refugee communities have no legitimate place within nationalist, neoliberal capitalist structures. Focusing on women refugees brings the problematic and intersectional constraints created by patriarchal, nationalist, and neoliberal institutions into sharp focus, revealing the way each plays a role in contributing to economic vulnerability. Drawing on interviews with NGO and UN employees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, we explore how the Syrian response illustrates the problematic ways that nationalism, neoliberalism and patriarchy intersect to further marginalize refugees. We explore proposed solutions that reinforce problems of economic vulnerability as well as potential solutions that radically reframe how to best serve the needs of Syrian women refugees and refugees in general.

#### **PAPER 4: Training for decent work? Cash for Work as an artificial labour market for Syrian women**

*Katharina Lenner*

This paper analyses the relevance and effects of Cash for Work (CfW) programming, which provides temporary employment in public works projects, from the perspective of policy makers as well as those of Syrian and Jordanian women participating in them. Part of the continuing appeal of this type of programming to international actors is the idea that CfW provides opportunities particularly for women to collect valuable labour market experiences in safe spaces characterised by decent work conditions, which can increase low female labour market participation. The paper contrasts this perspective with the experiences of women seeking this type of employment. It shows that indeed, many women perceive CfW opportunities as relatively safe and suitable forms of economic participation. However, rather than building bridges into the broader labour market, CfW has become a self-referential sector, which perpetuates (esp. Syrian) women's socio-economic marginality through various dynamics. Among these are the importance of *wasta* in the selection process, the limited prospects to move beyond intermittent temporary employment, as well as the predictable decrease of such opportunities in the coming years.

## Panel Title

## Knowledge and meaning-making in exile: constraints and opportunities

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Christa Kuntzelman, Mohammed Badran, Annie Zean Dunbar, Angel Escamilla Garcia, Anila Noor.*

**Abstract:** This panel brings together scholars who look broadly at the processes of how individuals impacted by forced displacement obtain and use rights-based, processual, and protection knowledge to make vital decisions throughout various stages of exile. We focus on four interconnected themes:

First, we present our diverse conceptualizations of what rights-based, processual, and protection knowledge means in the daily lives of displaced communities. We then theorize how holding this knowledge may enable non-citizen groups— chiefly, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs)— to achieve more resilient outcomes to commonly experienced shocks, risks, exploitations, and harms, including resettlement schemes and exploitations. We also theorize how this knowledge bolsters one’s capacity to achieve their rights, opportunities, and protections in vital areas of child school enrollment; pursuit of income-generating activities; and procurement of lodging, food, and basic needs.

Second, we interrogate how individuals obtain this knowledge. This includes an investigation of how individuals adjudicate knowledge’s veracity, critically including how individuals weigh “rumours” versus “truth,” as well as assess to whom displaced persons turn and trust to seek this knowledge. We additionally highlight and critically assess the roles of refugee leaders and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) to facilitate knowledge instruction. To these ends, we consider how state and non-state governance actors can partner with and support refugee-led efforts to disseminate accurate rights-based and protection knowledge to vulnerable displaced communities.

Third, we incorporate empirical evidence drawn from archival and field-based research to discuss our observations of how displaced persons use the knowledge they gather for short- and long-term decision- making. These decisions occur across a wide range of geographies and contexts. They include decision- making processes of how unaccompanied child migrants seek safe passage through Mexico to claim asylum in the U.S., as well as how refugees in Uganda leverage knowledge to secure available rights, protections, and opportunities. Across our cases, we observe the relationship of knowledge to vulnerability or resilience outcomes. Simply stated, we identify how individuals are more likely to secure their rights and protection when

they know of them. Moreover, individuals may achieve more resilient outcomes when they know the processes to claim rights, and knowledge of the state, UN, and NGO actors capable of assisting in rights and protection.

Finally, we examine the barriers for knowledge obtainment, including power asymmetries between the displaced and external governance or aid actors, as well as barriers rooted in lived experiences with racism and discrimination. Additionally, our panelists broadly discuss how persons with lived experience of displacement are historically inadequately considered as partners for knowledge creation about displacement. To wit, we contend that although scholars, governmental bureaucrats, INGO staff, and others consult displaced groups to learn from and learn about their lived experiences, they largely stop short of acknowledging these experiences as forms of knowledge in and of themselves.

Cumulatively, our expertise encompasses a wide geography and is inclusive of many displaced categories including refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and other migrants. Significantly, our panel includes individuals with lived experience of displacement.

Our discussion will provide practical and policy implications on how context-specific, relevant, and necessary rights-based and protective knowledge can be promoted to displaced populations. We underscore the need for governmental, NGO, and UN actors to partner with displaced populations to craft and implement these knowledge dissemination efforts.

**Target Audience:** We expect a diverse audience of refugees, scholars, practitioners, and advocates that are conference attendees.

**Format:** The proposed format for this 90-minute discussion is as follows:

- The Chairs will introduce the panelists and guidelines (5 minutes)
- Question & answer discussion among panelists (10 minutes)
- Questions & answer with the audience following the panel discussion (30 minutes)
- Final remarks from the Chairs (5 minutes)

**Sample questions from the Chair:**

- How can those interested in promoting rights-based and protection knowledge to vulnerable displaced communities identify the knowledge to promote? Further, how can this be done?
- How can outside actors, such as governments, NGOs, and UN agencies, develop trust-based relationships to empower displaced communities to know and claim their rights?
- How can we contextualize the stakes of current power asymmetries between displaced persons and external “experts” and governance actors? What best practices exist to create meaningful partnerships towards and participation with

displaced individuals and refugee-led organizations for knowledge production about displacement?

- What are the ways in which accountability gets diffused from institutional actors to the displaced individual, and how do the displaced understand who is responsible for their care, protection, and safety?

## Panel Title

### Lifelong Education as a global priority and the challenges of translation in national and regional contexts

#### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

**Chair:** *Linda Morrice* (University of Sussex, UK)

**Discussant:** *Mary Setrana* (University of Ghana)

**Abstract:** In 2019 the UNHCR set the goal to increase enrolment of refugees in tertiary education from the current rate of just 3% to 15% by 2030. Although lagging well behind the global average of 37% enrolment in tertiary and higher education, the ‘15by30’ goal is seen as critical to enabling refugees to thrive and establish sustainable futures for themselves and their families. It is also seen as necessary if we are to achieve SDG4’s commitment to ‘...promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’. Drawing on empirical studies from the global north and global south this panel explores and compares how this global priority is translated in national contexts. We identify common themes and challenges across contexts, opening a space for discussion and reflection on potential ways forward.

#### **PAPER 1: The Promise of lifelong learning for refugees: a critical review**

*Linda Morrice (University of Sussex, UK)*

Lifelong learning has the potential to provide the bridge between (disrupted) schooling and future aspirations of self-reliance and participation in society. For refugees the hope and desire for education that will enable them to achieve sustainable and dignified livelihoods has always been a core part of their realities. In this presentation I probe the conceptualisation and assumed purpose of lifelong education as it has emerged as a contemporary priority in global documents, and highlight the challenges posed by the normative assumptions of nation states.

## **PAPER 2: Negotiating Futures and Opportunities: Perceptions of Syrian Refugee Students in Secondary Education**

*Hiba Salem (St Anthony's College, University of Oxford, UK)*

A key obstacle to achieving the '15by30' goal is the challenging education journey faced by refugee children, who continue to be at risk of dropping out of education. Hiba's research examines the challenges facing Syrian refugee children in Jordan attending secondary education in formal double-shift schools, engaging with their aspirations and outlook towards the future. Drawing on their reflections, Hiba discusses how students begin to negotiate their opportunities and choices as they approach adulthood and make sense of their futures in forced displacement. This panel discussion provides insight into the implications of school structures and policies, and the ways in which experiences of education reinforce some of the external hardships and inequalities facing refugee communities in their surrounding spaces.

## **PAPER 3: Promises, legislative intents and practises: Alignment between international and local frameworks for the provision of refugee higher education in Ethiopia**

*Wondwosen Tamrat (St Mary's University, Ethiopia)*

Owing to the political instability and humanitarian crises in neighbouring countries, Ethiopia is host to one of the largest refugee populations.

Ethiopia's commitment to protecting refugee rights has been exhibited, as a signatory to key conventions, legal instruments and hospitality shown to refugees. The country is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides an impetus for action on refugee education. Over the last 15 years a policy environment has developed at the national and local education levels to enhance refugees' right to education. This study seeks to explore the policy and legislative alignment between international and local frameworks with a view to discovering possible lessons, challenges and implications for higher education.



## PAPER 4: Universities enacting ‘hospitality’ in the context of immigration regimes characterised by ‘hostility’: insights from the UK and Australia.

*Rebecca Murray (University of Sheffield, UK), Sally Baker (University of New South Wales, Australia)*

In spite of their geographical distance, the UK and Australia share proximity in relation to hostile immigration policies and managed migration practices, characterised by inhumanity under the guise of deterrence. People who experience forced displacement and seek sanctuary in either country, typically endure protracted temporariness, which denies them access to state resources and imposes limitations on access to opportunities to validate existing qualifications, commence or continue studies in post-compulsory education. In this presentation we will explore: i) how universities across the UK and Australia in partnership with grassroots advocates, have endeavoured to transcend barriers imposed at the national level; ii) implement initiatives grounded in hospitality at the local level; and iii) their connection or disconnection to global policy frameworks.

### Panel Title

## Localized knowledge ecosystems: Lessons from East Africa and the Middle East

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*James Milner, Kassem Kassak, Linda Oucho, Kiya Gezahegne, Dulo Nyaoro, Yara Mourad, Nadia Nameh, Maysa Baroud, Zein Soufan, Heather Alexander*

**Abstract:** An important debate within refugee and forced migration studies in recent years has examined the political economy of knowledge production, especially in the context of North-South research partnerships. Building from the work of Chimni (1998), Landau (2003; 2019), McGrath/Young (2019) and many others, his debate has considered how power asymmetries within research partnerships that cross the geographies of the global North and South can, intentionally or otherwise, be conditioned and constrained by the interests and policy paradigms of the global North. Given these dynamics, and given that 86% of the world’s forced migrants are situated within the global South, are there alternative approaches? In response, this roundtable presents the results of research that examined the functioning of localized knowledge ecosystems in East Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia) and the Middle East (Lebanon and Jordan). Understood as comprising of actors with lived experience of

displacement, researchers and practitioners who produce and use knowledge on forced migration, localized knowledge ecosystems are examples of where actors closest to the phenomenon of displacement collaborate to set the research agenda, produce new knowledge, and translate and mobilize knowledge to influence, policy, practice, action and discourse and narratives and to advance the well-being of refugees and others who have been displaced. Given the prevailing power relations in the contexts within which these ecosystems function, this roundtable will present examples of where localized knowledge ecosystems have been able to create moments of negotiated independence. Further to IASFM's focus on global South perspectives and new developments in forced migration studies, the roundtable will discuss these lessons and consider their wider application to new approaches to future research.

**Keywords:** global South perspectives; localization; knowledge ecosystems; power; East Africa; Middle East; knowledge production; new developments in forced migration studies.

## Panel Title

### Localizing refugee research: Lessons from the Dadaab Response Association

#### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*James Milner, Okello Oyat, Leomoi Okello, Arte Mohamed, Abdikadir Abikar*

**Abstract:** In response to IASMF19's focus on global South perspectives and efforts to decolonize forced migration studies, this roundtable will share the example of the Dadaab Response Association (DRA) as one effort to amplify the perspectives of those closest to the phenomenon of displacement in the study of refugee education, protracted refugee situations, and the impact of COVID-19 on refugees. The DRA was founded in 2020 by residents of the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya who were graduates of the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) program. Their goal has been to create an inclusive community where refugees and members of surrounding communities contribute in an egalitarian way to produce new forms of knowledge that can contribute to improvements, especially in the area of refugee education. The roundtable will create a space for members of the DRA to share their research on the impact of COVID-19 on refugee education and the work of refugee-led organizations in Dadaab, while also reflecting on the challenges and opportunities associated with establishing a refugee-led research organization. This reflection will contribute to broader discussions on the process of amplifying the perspectives of those closest to the phenomenon of displacement in forced migration studies.

**Keywords:** refugee-led research; COVID-19; global South perspectives; decolonizing forced migration studies; refugee education.

## Panel Title

# Migration Policies as Social Determinants of Health in the United States

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Mitra Naseh, Stacey A. Shaw, Patrick Poulin, Graeme Rodgers, Mary Held, Abha Rai, Melody Huslage, Ian Sutherland*

**Abstract:** The first- and second-generation immigrants and refugees constitute one fourth of the U.S. population. To date, scant attention has been given to impacts of migration integration policies on immigrants' and refugees' health in the U.S., while more work has been done on migration policies relevant to entering the country such as detention policies and border control. This panel explores impacts of migration integration policies on mental health of refugees and immigrants in the U.S.; more specifically, papers of this panel will discuss health outcomes among immigrants and refugees in relation to migration integration and exclusionary, policies including case management service as part of resettlement policies, migration policies and executive orders of the Trump-era, and migration integration policies impacting highly educated immigrants and refugees.

The first paper of the panel is based on a quantitative study exploring the impacts of extended case management service as part of the resettlement policy in the U.S. on health outcomes of refugees. Case management service are provided as part of the initial support for refugees after resettlement in the U.S. This study compared health outcomes of adult refugees (n=243) living in a U.S. Western state with limited case management services (3-6 months) versus refugees living in another state located in the similar geographic area with extended case management services (24 months). Using latent growth modeling, the study found better access rates to private health insurance, faster access to health care, and lower rates of emergency room visits among refugees living in the state with extended case management services compared to those living in the state with limited case management services. The study also explored the role of socio-demographic factors and found evidence for positive impact of English language proficiency and higher levels of education on improved health outcomes among resettled refugees in the U.S.

The second paper of the panel presents a quantitative study examining the mental health of immigrants and refugees in relation to migration policies as part of the Trump-era and incidents of discrimination in combination with the COVID-19

exposure. This study also explored the resilience and social support as protective factors for mental health of immigrants and refugees. Data of this study were collected via an online survey with first- and second-generation immigrant adults (n = 447). Utilizing a hierarchical linear regression model, the study found evidence to support statistically significant associations between Trump-era migration policies and discrimination with anxiety and depression among immigrants. In terms of protective factors, resilience and social support each had a significant inverse relationship with anxiety and depression scores of the surveyed sample. Implications will be presented with a specific focus on the effects of stress and resilience among forced migrants.

The third paper of the panel summarizes the findings of a qualitative study on the health implications of migration integration policies for highly-educated immigrants in the U.S. This study used a phenomenological approach and inductive reasoning to document the commonality of lived experiences of highly educated immigrants and refugees (n=32). In this study transcripts of the 30–45-minute Zoom semi-structured interviews were coded by two independent researchers using data-driven coding method. Created codes were merged through a thematic matrix. Peer-debriefing and negative case analysis were used to enhance the rigor. Emerged themes following the thematic analysis includes: prevalent anxiety and paralyzing stress, silent worry in an effort to fulfil model immigrant narratives, and limited ability to plan for the future due to unclear timeframes for processing documents and changing policies.

Findings of all three studies included in this panel affirm an association between restricted migration policies resulting in limited support and negative health outcomes among immigrants and refugees in the country. Fostering well-being and mental health of immigrants, and especially those who are forced migrants, in the U.S. is part of promoting health equity in the country. Findings of the first study suggest that comprehensive post-arrival case management services for newly resettled refugees may support positive health outcomes. These results highlight the need for federal and state policies that promote longer term holistic case management, especially for those refugees with complex needs and medical histories. Results of the second and third studies contribute to the knowledge about stringent immigration policies as health risk factors among immigrants and refugees. These findings call for advocacy for policies that foster growth and health of all, but particularly forced immigrants. Moreover, this panel encourages immigrants as stakeholders and policy advocates to engage in local and national advocacy efforts to educate policymakers and the public about the harms of exclusionary policies.

**Additional information:** Title of the Presentations and Presenters Info

**Presentation 1:** Promoting health system access through extended case management services in U.S. refugee resettlement.

**Presenter:** *Stacey A. Shaw*, Associate professor, Brigham Young University.

**Authors:** *Stacey A. Shaw* (presenting author), *Patrick Poulin*, *Graeme Rodgers*.

**Presentation 2:** Exploring the mental health of immigrants and refugees in relation to migration policies as part of the Trump-era.

**Presenter:** *Mary Held*; Associate Professor, Assistant Dean of the Nashville campus, and Nashville campus MSSW Program Director; The University of Tennessee. *Abha Rai*, Assistant professor, *Loyola University Chicago*

**Authors:** *Mary Held* (presenting author), *Abha Rai* (presenting author), *Melody Huslage*

**Presentation 3:** Health Implications of Migration Integration Policies for Highly-Educated Immigrants and Refugees in the United States

**Presenter:** *Mitra Naseh*, Assistant Professor, Washington University in St. Louis

**Authors:** *Mitra Naseh* (presenting author) and *Ian Sutherland*.

## Panel Title

### Refugees and social connections research: evidence from a relational approach to integration

#### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Helen Baillot, Arek Dakessian, Leyla Kerlaff*

**Chair:** *Marcia Vera Espinoza (IGHD QMU)*

**Abstract:** There is increasing recognition of the role of social connections in migrant and refugee integration. In this panel, we draw on different research projects conducted by the Migration, Integration and Social Connection Team at the Institute for Global Health and Development, Queen Margaret University, to discuss evidence on this relational approach to refugee integration. The presentations in this panel mobilise knowledge on different aspects of social connections research, from the conceptualisation of our approach, to the impact of social connections in the lives of refugees across different geographical contexts and temporalities, as well as reflections on the research process with practitioners. Together, the papers contribute to the in-depth understanding of the key role of social connections within debates on integration.

#### **PAPER 1: ‘Step by step’: the role of social connections in reunited refugee families’ navigation of statutory systems**

*Helen Baillot*

The existence and persistence of structural barriers to refugees' integration within a maze of statutory systems are well-documented. Even when initial barriers are overcome, further transitions may disrupt refugees' lives. One such is the arrival in the UK of their family members. This paper draws upon qualitative interviews and workshops with recently reunited refugee families to make three core contributions to the field of integration and refugee studies. Firstly, families' accounts of navigating statutory systems confirm refugees' agency and desire for independence. Secondly, the study confirms the multi-directionality of integration. Refugees' efforts to build connections cannot alone resolve systems barriers that require institutional adaptation on the part of public services. Finally, our findings critique the categorical division of social connections into bonds, bridges and links, and the assumed distinctions made between these based on ethnicity or nationality. Rather, refugees' social relationships are more appropriately seen on a fluid continuum, with their nature and purpose subject to change over time.

## **PAPER 2: Relational Approaches to Integration: from Theory to Policy and Practice**

*Arek Dakessian*

Over the past twenty years, the notion of integration has come to replace that of multiculturalism as the conceptual and policy umbrella through which migration, specifically refugeedom, is governed in the West. The deployment of the notion across a wide variety of policy contexts has been inconsistent, however, illustrated not least by the discrepancy between Berry's (1997) oft-cited definition of integration and that of the OECD's (2008). Drawing upon empirical research into the role of social connections in integration from the UK, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, this paper explores the ways in which "mid-level" relational theories of integration such as the social connections approach (Ager and Strang 2008; Strang and Ager 2010) provide a promising interface through which to reconcile operational definitions and policy commitments that inhere to 'integration'.

## **PAPER 3: The People Make the Area: Neighbourly Relations and Belonging**

*Leyla Kerlaff*

Place-based approaches to integration are gaining significant momentum in the

field of refugee and migration studies. Beginning with Spicer (2008), who theorises the role of ‘including’ and ‘excluding’ neighbourhoods in processes of refugee integration, place-specific inequalities and attitudes towards migrants, migration histories and diversities are said to shape the situated possibilities and pathways for integration (Spencer and Charsley 2016; Wessendorf and Phillimore 2018). This paper looks at the conditions which nurture or inhibit neighbourhood-level social interaction. It draws on research conducted with beneficiaries of a nationwide Family Reunion Integration Service living in localities in Glasgow and Birmingham. The findings highlight how feelings of safety and belonging are mediated by the relationships with other people in the area, and how these, in turn are mediated through the opportunities afforded to meet others and foster social connections.

## Panel Title

### Sexual and Reproductive Health of Displaced Women in Latin America

#### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Natalia Cintra* (University of Southampton)

**Discussant:** *Marcia Vera Espinoza* (Queen Margaret University)

**Abstract:** Women represent around 30% of the total of Central American migrants to Mexico, and 50% of Venezuelan migration to Brazil and Colombia. There is evidence that displaced women and adolescent girls face serious gendered health challenges in protracted displacement, as well as other risks related to poverty, stigma, discrimination inadequate access to care services at border sites, in transit and in settlement, among others. However, the specific sexual and reproductive health rights of displaced women and girls are still not well understood in the literature of migration and development, particularly in the context of displacement in Central America and Venezuela. The papers in this panel address these gaps by providing primary and secondary data analysis developed under the project Redressing Gendered Health Inequalities of Displaced Women and Girls in situations of Protracted Displacement in Central and South America.

#### PAPER 1: Characteristics of Displaced Venezuelan women and girls in Brazil

*Maria do Carmo Leal, Yammê Ramos Portella Santos, Thaiza Dutra Gomes de Carvalho, Rita Bacuri* (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil)

The paper analyses the changing demographics of migration in the corridor Venezuela-Brazil in recent years and gives context to a clear manifestation of feminisation of migration. It does so by exploring original data collected using a survey where 1,257 Venezuelan migrant women were interviewed in Boa Vista and 755 in Manaus, Brazil between July and September 2021. Women interviewed ranged from 15 to 49 years old who moved from Venezuela to Brazil in the last three years. The recruitment of migrants was carried out by the Respondent Driven Sample (RDS) method, by means of successive recruitment cycles. Data collection was carried out using a structured interview. The survey data supports new finding regarding socio-economic background, and modalities in which migration has been a determinant of sexual and reproductive health. It is also explored barriers to accessing health and other relevant services, offering new insights of gendered challenges of migration.

## **PAPER 2: What is the impact of forced displacement on health? Understanding analytical challenges and current methodological approaches**

*Cristóbal Cuadrado, Rodrigo Moreno-Serra (University of York), Matías Libuy (Universidad de Chile)*

Migration is a growing and widespread phenomenon in human societies. While there is a broad literature analysing the effects of migration on health, important knowledge gaps persist. This paper offers a comprehensive overview of the analytical challenges faced by current research, from the social and health sciences, examining the relationship between forced displacement and health, as well as of the main methodological approaches employed to potentially address those challenges. We discuss key challenges for applied research in the field, including study design and identification strategies used to disentangle the causal links between forced displacement and health. Our findings imply that, beyond the deleterious effects of increased mortality risk that can be attributed to forced displacement, most of the available empirical analyses for a wide range of health outcomes report findings that are prone to substantial bias, making it difficult to draw firm conclusions. This is due to issues referring to the selection of valid control groups and the application of credible causal inference methods in several studies. We synthesize what studies have done to address these methodological challenges and offer guidance on how current research practice in the field could be strengthened.



**PAPER 3: Photographing challenges to sexual and reproductive health: motherhood, gendered violence and access to healthcare**

*Tallulah Lines (University of York), Bruna Curcio (Independent Photographer, Brazil),  
Natalia Cintra, Pia Riggirozzi (University of Southampton)*

Using the arts-based methodology photovoice, (forcibly) displaced Indigenous and non- Indigenous Venezuelan women and adolescent girls in Brazil document and narrate through their own photographs and accompanying testimonies the challenges they have encountered to their sexual and reproductive health rights during displacement. The photographs reveal gendered struggles of love, faith, hope and survival within a continuum of gendered violence and services. These are deeply personal interpretations, which demonstrate the tangible impact of gendered political, economic and structural violence on the everyday lives of migrant women and adolescent girls. Specifically, the photographers identified challenges in regard to motherhood and care, gender-based violence, and complex and contradictory interactions with health services. The photographs and testimonies demonstrate that ‘the personal is political’ and international.

**PAPER 4: Sexual and Reproductive Health of Displaced women and girls in Mexico**

*Mónica Linares Laínez, Henry García Estrada, Marielos Rodríguez Cornejo (FLACSO  
El Salvador)*

In recent years, there has been an increase in migratory flows on the southern border of Mexico, with the caravans of Central American migrants, and more recently with the Haitian migration. In this context, this paper studies the needs and access to sexual and reproductive health services of migrant women and adolescents from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala on the migration journey. To this end, semi-structured interviews have been conducted with migrant women and adolescents from these Central American countries in Tapachula, Mexico; providers of SRH and humanitarian assistance services in the region; and returned women and adolescents. This migratory increase has caused saturation in the Tapachula public health system, which makes it difficult for migrant women and adolescents to access medical care due to the high demand for services and the request for migratory documentation. Also, many lack of economic resources to access private clinics.

## **PAPER 5: Infrastructures of protection for the right to health and dignity of women and girls in displacement**

*Pia Riggirozzi, Natalia Cintra (University of Southampton)*

Forced migration heightens all forms of gendered injustices. For women and girls, sexual and reproductive health in particular is one of the bleakest experiences of gendered harms that affect their rights, dignity, and freedoms during displacement. With a focus on South-South displacement from Venezuela to Brazil, this paper explores gendered risks and vulnerabilities during and because of migration, as well as the infrastructure of protection that exists to safeguard their right to health and wellbeing in the host country. We argue that any gender-sensitive infrastructure of protection should redress immediate violations to the health harms and vulnerabilities that female fleers face. Accordingly, we identify protection gaps revealed in the contradictions between existing normative and institutional frameworks of protection, and how those are enacted in practice. We argue protection gaps reproduce gendered forms of violence and conditions of protracted insecurity and indignity for (forced) migrant women and girls.

### **Panel Title**

## **The European and American externalization of borders and its impact on southern countries and on the curtailment of rights of people on the move: crossed perspectives**

### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Daniela Lo Coco, Eloísa González Hidalgo, Wooldy Edson Louidor, Camila Espitia Fonseca, Cristina Churruca Muguruza*

**Abstract:** This panel that our IASFM working group “knowledge’s co-production in forced migration” is proposing for the 19th Conference of IASFM follows up on our participation in the previous conference that took place at the University of Ghana from July 26 to 30, 2021. In this sense, we start from the same main idea upon which the proposal of the previous panel is based. Therefore, we continue stating that the global COVID-19 crisis has entrenched restrictions on international movement and the curtailment of rights of people on the move. The health crisis has facilitated the intensification of policies to contain the movement of refugees and migrants across borders. At the global level, the health emergency

has legitimized the militarization of borders, as well as the legitimization of detention and deportations. Additionally, the intensification of contention measures within a context of the pandemic are exacerbating already existing high levels of xenophobia, racism and stigmatization of racialized people and migrants themselves giving rise to attacks against refugees and migrants. However, in this panel we will focus, specifically, on the restrictive practices of governance of forced migration that have spread through namely the externalization of borders. Throughout four case studies (Morocco, Mexico, Spanish southern border, and Colombia), the panel will analyze how, in the context of Covid-19, Europe and the United States of America have been externalizing their borders, as well as the impacts of this restrictive policy on African and Latin American countries, and on the human rights of forced migrants. The objective of these crossed perspectives is to identify, between both European and American contexts, the common grounds and shared challenges in forced migration governance in terms of improvement of the integral protection for forced migrants regionally and globally.

In this context, the aim of this roundtable is to discuss the following questions: In which way has the COVID-19 crisis entrenched restrictions on international movement and the curtailment of rights of people on the move, in particular, the externalization of the borders? Which are the similarities and differences in the European and American externalization practices, in response to the pandemic in European and Latin American borders? Which has been the impact on these interventions on refugees and migrants protection? Which are the shared challenges in forced migration governance in order to improve the international migration for forced migrants, in particular, in a context of the pandemic-19?

## **PAPER 1: The case of Morocco**

*Daniela Lo Coco, Eloísa González Hidalgo*

The European Union's border externalisation policies have driven the simultaneous creation in third countries of frameworks to protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and other policies on control, detention transfer and deportation. Thus, in Morocco, Law 02-03 legalises deportation, while the new National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum establishes a framework for protection. This article examines the case of Morocco and specifically the practices of arbitrary detention in informal centres, forced displacement and the deportation of people from West and Central Africa between 2019 and 2021 based on primary and secondary sources and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **PAPER 2: The case of Mexico**

*Woody Edson Louidor*

The growing externalization of borders in the United States of America, since the administration of Donald Trump and its continuation with that of Joe Biden, has generated restrictive immigration policies throughout Latin America, in particular, at the borders of two countries that have become a funnel: Mexico, and Colombia. This paper focuses on Mexico as a case study, and the way in which, since 2019, this country has been tightening its migratory measures against the so-called caravans and, in particular, Haitian forced migrants who constitute one of the most important population groups. The paper reconstructs the trajectory of these Caribbean migrants who, since 2016, have been re-emigrating from Brazil and later from Chile to the United States; however, since July 2019, after an agreement between the US government of Trump and the Mexican government of Manuel López Obrador to contain migratory flows from the South, they have faced, on the one hand, hostile practices of arbitrary detention and deportation, in particular, on the southern Mexican-Guatemalan border (for example, in the Tapachula detention center) and, on the other, violations of their right to seek asylum in the United States, in particular, on the northern border of Mexico, since the reactivation of the Mexican-American agreement known as MPP (Migrant Protection Protocols).

## **PAPER 3: The case of Colombia**

*Camila Espitia Fonseca*

The externalization of the borders of the United States to Colombia, analyzed not from the perspective of neighbors standing up between a border line, but from a broad geographical and economic strategic perspective, can be analyzed in six areas: 1. The concentration of the allocation of economic resources in Colombia and certain areas; 2. The limited response in terms of the recognition of refugee status; 3. The weak commitment to strengthen a state public policy and an unequal response to other migratory flows; 4. The inaction against migrants in transit despite the humanitarian tragedy they face 5. The diplomatic agreements regarding the reception in Colombia of Venezuelans deported from the United States. Colombia is the host country of the largest number of Venezuelan population that today occupies the second largest migration in the world, as well as a transit country that migrants of different nationalities have to cross on the south-north route to the United States. Colombia approved in 2021 a migratory regula-

rization measure for the Venezuelan population, the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants-ETPV-which benefits approximately 2 million people; however, ETPV does not constitute an international protection measure within the framework of refugee rights, despite the profile of the population in need of protection. The magnitude of the population and the ETPV has implied multiple challenges in terms of migratory public policy in many sectors and for the coordination between the nation (Bogotá) and the local territories. One of these challenges is the real construction of a migratory public policy that should not be centralized in a migratory profile (in this case the Venezuelan population), but that responds to the humanitarian and migration needs of other profiles such as migration in transit (for example, in the case of Haitian, Cuban and extra-continental migrants), insofar as the institutional response to those migrations is precarious, almost null, devoid of any protection mechanism and exposed to one of the worst migratory routes, the inhospitable Darién jungle. Part of the unequal institutional response on migration issues stems from the national and international policy focused on Venezuelan migration and dependent on resources from the United States and the United Nations.

#### **PAPER 4: The case of the Spanish southern border**

*Cristina Churruca Muguruza*

This paper focuses on the emergence of the humanitarian border as part of the restrictive practices of the governance of forced migration, which has spread through the externalization of borders. Humanitarian discourses and practices have become a key component of governmental migration and border management. The prevention of migrant deaths has long been used to justify restrictive migration and border policies creating a false dichotomy between securitization and humanitarianism. Governmental humanitarianism contributes to the process of depoliticization of migration by ignoring the political character of migration and border regimes. Measures of migration control have transformed border crossing into 'a matter of life and death.' The Spanish southern border offers in microcosm an example of the complex intersection of a politics of alienation with a politics of care, and a tactic of objection and one of reception that are found at humanitarian borders. While Melilla exhibits some unique features, it also contains many elements that are being repeated at other sites and on other scales. Melilla and other similar territories (Ceuta, Canary Islands, Lampedusa, Lesbos, Valletta) into bridgeheads that must face the social, administrative and humanitarian challenges of migratory flows on their own. Places that the rest of the European Union has chosen to ignore. Melilla, as is the case with other border cities inside and outside Europe, is both an epitome of the global model of migration management and a laboratory for the externalization policies which are now being implemented throughout the Union.

## Panel Title

# The rights of refugees and border closers during the COVID-19: An analysis from Latinamerica

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Helena Carbonell, Paola Coelho Gersztein, Isabel Berganza Setién*

**Chair:** *María José Marcogliese (U de Valencia)*

**Abstract:** LAREF Network (Red Académica Latinoamericana sobre Derecho e Integración de las Personas Refugiadas), which was promoted by the RELATE Initiative, is a regional academic network with more than 40 members from different countries of Latin America. This panel is the result of the joint work and analysis of some members of the network

### PAPER1: Forced migration, a consequence of externalisation policies

*Helena Carbonell*

Border control has been one of the main concerns of the traditional liberal State. Uncontrolled migration is a boogeyman used by governments to create a “culture of fear” against the “other” characterised by mistrust and a sense of threat. The discourse is binary and hierarchical, plagued with value judgments: it is “us” vs “them”, “positive” vs “negative” migration.

The “evil foreigner” is a popular myth used especially during economic, social, political crises. Social groups tend to attribute such crises to those who are not “us”, who are “them” and, as such, deserve less or no protection from the State. Creating this hate discourse is especially important in migration contexts related to the exercise of human rights by those who are discriminated against.

During crises States tend to adopt extreme measures to safeguard their integrity and the rights of its citizens. One of the latest and more shocking disasters has been caused by the COVID- 19 epidemic. Quarantines, lootings, deaths, pani were all too common. This strange and unexpected calamity was followed by a huge economic and social crisis.

To face these challenging times, States adopted a “closed border” policy aimed at controlling the spread of the virus. But also other policies that intended to control migration. One example are measures qualified as externalisations. An externalisation can be defined as a set of institutions, processes, and tools that aim to control

migration designed by one State and implemented by another.

In this presentation, I will discuss the impact of these policies on the responsibility of the State for internationally wrongful acts, focused on the rights of migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **PAPER 2: Brazil's showcase is broken: in times of covid, "Acolhida" does not respect the hierarchy of norms**

*Paola Coelho Gersztejn*

In Brazil, since March 2020, approximately four dozen decrees placing restrictions on entry into the country have been published. The first decrees restricted the entry of people of specific nationalities, from countries that share a border with Brazil. Moreover, all the decrees determine as a consequence of non-compliance: I) the suspension of asylum requests, II) immediate deportation or repatriation and III) administrative, civil and criminal liability of migrants.

Summary deportation is not provided for by Brazilian law, and it also infringes due legal process and violates the principle of non-criminalization of migration, as provided in the Brazilian Migration Law. The impossibility of migratory regularisation and the threat of deportation deprived thousands of people of access to the most basic rights in the middle of the pandemic, which affected not only Venezuelan, but also people of other nationalities, such as the Haitians.

Although the Brazilian refugee policy is used as propaganda by this extreme right government abroad, especially with Operação Acolhida in Roraima, the truth is in the time of greatest need to apply international protection to people even during the deadliest pandemic of the last century, the borders are closed and the laws – considered as good practices – are replaced by acts of the Executive Power, which Giorgio Agamben considers one of the central characteristics of the state of exception.

## **PAPER 3: The restrictions on access to territories in Peru during the pandemic and the rights of refugees.**

*Isabel Berganza Setién*

Peru, since 2017, has a Migration Law that is based in Human Rights. Also has in its legislation a broad definition of refugee. However, practice is often contradictory to these legal principles.

At the beginning of the pandemic caused by COVID-19, Peru, like other countries, closed borders. It also established different measures that prevented refugees from requesting refuge at the border. This meant that it was practically impossible to access the refuge system, in addition to increasing income through irregular borders. This presentation will analyse the closure and militarization of the borders imposed by the Peruvian government in recent years, especially during the Covid 19 health crisis, as well as the consequences that this has entailed for the refugees and their integration processes in the country

## Panel Title

### The weakening of refugee protection in Latin America, before and during the pandemic

#### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Gisela P. Zapata, Marcia Vera Espinosa, Luciana Gandini, Victoria Prieto Rosas*

**Abstract:** By exploring the cases of Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, this panel analyses the weakening of refugee protection in Latin America. While the region has been praised by having a progressive protection framework, the four cases discussed in this panel show an accelerated weakening of refugee protection, which has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with growing mixed flows, the region's refugee framework has either been used as an ad hoc regularization mechanism or not been broadly used. Also, some of the pandemic mitigation measures taken by countries of the region - including militarization and border closures -, have further weakened access to asylum (Zapata et al, forthcoming). The papers in this panel explore how some of these regressive practices are having an impact on the region's widely praised refugee governance. Each paper takes a country case approach to discuss different technical-legal measures and political-institutional structures and responses that, in practice, may limit the right to asylum both before and during the pandemic. The empirical comparative analysis across these countries contributes to a situated understanding of these practices, while collectively building on the conceptualisation of the weakening of asylum in Latin America. The presentations in this panel draw from research conducted as part of the Research Group "Comparative Analysis on International Migration and Displacement in the Americas" (CAMINAR).

#### PAPER 1: Policies and practices to weaken refugee protection in Brazil during the pandemic



*Gisela P. Zapata (Department of Demography, Centre for Regional Development and Planning - CEDEPLAR, Federal University of Minas Gerais -UFMG, Brazil)*

Although Brazil has a long tradition regarding refugee law and protection, the pandemic signified a radical change in refugee governance in the country. This presentation explores the ways in which the pandemic has been used to increase mobility controls and limit access to asylum, particularly for Venezuelan nationals. More broadly, it reflects on the instrumentalization of the refugee system in recent years and the contradictions of these policy changes vis-à-vis the country's progressive mobility framework. The presentation draws on documentary evidence and 11 semi structured interviews with key actors conducted between June and July 2020.

### **PAPER 2: The (re)bordering of asylum and refugee protection in Chile**

*Marcia Vera Espinoza (Institute for Global Health and Development, Queen Margaret University, Scotland)*

Refugee protection in Chile was already in a challenging state before the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, with barriers to submit asylum applications, increasing waiting times and high rejection rates already well documented (CRG, 2020; Vargas Rivas and Nazar Ortiz, 2021). Drawing on 11 interviews conducted in July and August 2020 with key informants in Chile, this presentation explores how the pandemic exacerbated some of these issues, particularly in a context of border closures and sanitary measures that have paved the way for further restrictions for people seeking international protection in Chile.

### **PAPER 3: The guarantee of refuge in Mexico: the tension between formal and informal governance**

*Luciana Gandini (Institute of Legal Studies, National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM)*

Mexico was the first country, and one of the few Latin American nations, to systematically apply the Cartagena definition to Venezuelan citizens since 2016, showing commitment to its historical tradition to refugee law and protection. Although the Mexican government never closed its borders during the pandemic and the right to seek and enjoy asylum was formally guaranteed, a set of previous

legal-technical measures and political and institutional decisions, strengthened and reinforced during the pandemic, hampered the effective access to asylum. This presentation draws on evidence from 19 interviews with key actors conducted in 2020.

#### **PAPER 4: Refugee protection in Uruguay during the pandemic: The one standing against the weakening wave?**

*Victoria Prieto Rosas (Population Program, University of the Republic - UDELAR, Uruguay)*

Uruguay was the only country in the South American region to keep its borders open to asylum seekers during the pandemic. However, Uruguay is no exception to the emergence of practices that weaken the full enforcement of asylum. Based on evidence from interviews with key stakeholders in Uruguay conducted from August to September 2020 and an analysis of refugee recognition rates, this paper presentation examines the coexistence of practices embedding instrumental uses of asylum and good practices that were observed before and during the pandemic.

#### Panel Title

### **Understanding the impact of refugee-led organizations: Early lessons from East Africa and the Middle East**

#### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*James Milner*

**Abstract:** An important development in refugee and forced migration research, policy and practice in recent years has been the increased recognition of the presence and impact of refugee-led organizations (RLOs).

While it is increasingly claimed that RLOs may sometimes be more effective, efficient and legitimate in their responses to the needs of displaced and other communities, there is very limited understanding of the factors that condition the work of RLOs and the various forms RLOs can take. In response, a team of researchers, many of whom themselves have lived experience of displacement, have been undertaking comparative research on the impact of RLOs in four countries in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey). The focus of the work has been to better understand the nature

and scope of RLO activity across the two regions and to better understand what factors determine the impact of RLOs and explain variation. This roundtable will serve as an exciting opportunity to bring the early results of this research from both regions into conversation, to discuss the major trends identified, and to discuss the implications of the approach of this research and the lessons it suggests about future engagement with RLOs. In particular, the roundtable will consider what factors explain variation in RLO effectiveness within communities, as well as reflections on the role of researchers' positionality plays in shaping research. The roundtable further contributes to broader discussions on regional and global South perspectives on an issue that is of growing prominence on the policy agenda of the global refugee regime.

**Speakers:**

*Pauline Vidal, Mary Gitahi, Uwezo Ramazani, Andhira Kara, Abis Getachew, Okello Oyat, Leomoi Okello, Arte Mohamed, Abdikadir Abikar, Oroub EL-ABED, Watfa Najdi, Mustafa Hoshmand, Osama Okour*

**Panel Title**

**Voices of Refugees: Coping with vulnerabilities through counseling, sensitization and empowerment in Cameroonian refugee communities in Nigeria**

**PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Ngozi Louis Uzomah* (Department of Geography, University of Nigeria Panel)

**Speakers:**

- *Cheng Laban Ndoh* (Director of Great Steps Initiatives)
- *Stephanie Obi* (GBV Ambassador; Volunteered for Caritas etc.)
- *Lawrence Agbor* (Chairman Crisis Management Committee of Refugees in Ogoja)
- *Mbei Abuno* (Trainer at Amba Farmers' Voice in Ikom)
- *Sydonie Asah* (Child friendly space animator at Save the Children International)

**Abstract:** The high number of vulnerable Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria calls for awareness of the challenges and obstacles they face daily. Recent trend indicates that researchers have begun to show interest in increasing the amount of work they do on refugee vulnerabilities. It is vital that we begin discussing and investigating how the vulnerabilities are making refugees susceptible to psychosocial trauma, sexual abuse, human trafficking, early marriage and labour exploitation and how they are

coped through interventions by refugee owned NGOs to ensure such refugees attain good health and sustainable socioeconomic wellbeing. This will guarantee human security of the refugees in their respective communities. This panel will explore the following:

- Specific vulnerabilities that refugees in their respective communities face;
- Extent to which NGOs have been managing these vulnerabilities;
- Strategies and innovations employed to handle these vulnerabilities;
- Innovative strategies employed to cure trauma and train refugees on self-reliance;
- Innovative approaches taken to increase sensitization on child abuse and SGBV;
- Specific challenges refugee NGOs face with other stakeholders in the practice; and
- Changes that stakeholders should be ready to commit to reduce the vulnerabilities of refugees.

There are 6 people in the panel. Apart from the PhD researcher who is a former asylee in Germany about 3 decades ago, other panelists are Cameroonian refugees who live in Nigeria. They are 2 females and 3 males with diverse backgrounds in their ethnicity, age and ability of which 4 are aid workers and 1 is a leader in the refugee community. The panelists intend to examine innovative practices in decreasing refugee vulnerabilities in their communities, operationalise these practices in other refugee communities and share successful practices with stakeholders, as a follow-up after the event.

Several questions will be asked to facilitate the discussion during the session. The questions are grouped into four related themes that are discussed in the literature – influence of vulnerabilities on refugee migration aspirations, spatial aspect of vulnerabilities, politics of scale in the management of vulnerabilities and integrating empowerment programmes in the policies of humanitarian protection.

The panel will begin with a brief introduction of the panelists, followed by the moderator posing questions for the panelists to reflect upon. There will be opportunity for the audience to ask questions to the panelists in between presentations and when the session ends. All panelists have accepted to participate, if this proposal is successful.

The session will inform planning processes and influence resource allocation and prioritisation of activities by stakeholders including UNHCR, IOM, governments, SEMAs, humanitarian and development actors, financial institutions, researchers and regional bodies to engage in their respective capacity, mandates, roles and expertise as appropriate to ensure that practices and measures which encourage refugee human security are facilitated.

At the conclusion of this session, participants will generate a list of issues and

innovative strategies and techniques that will contribute to a better understanding of refugee vulnerabilities based on their own point of views and experiences. During the panel, participants are expected to reflect on related efforts, if any, at refugee locations they know. This will further enhance the understanding of the diverse perspectives of refugee vulnerabilities and coping strategies as well as ways to empowerment refugees.

**Keywords:** Refugee vulnerabilities, NGOs, refugee communities, psychosocial trauma, SGBV.

## Panel Title

### West African Approaches to Human Mobility in a Changing Climate

#### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Tamara Wood*

**Abstract:** Across the globe, human mobility dynamics are increasingly shaped by environmental and climatic changes, including changing rainfall patterns, land degradation and extreme weather events. While there is no single comprehensive solution to addressing the predicament and needs of those who move in a changing climate, a range of law and policy frameworks can be used to help affected communities stay safely at home when they desire, and access safety and protection if they move.

In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its Member States have adopted a range of regional laws, policies and programmes that provide opportunities for addressing both internal and cross-border climate mobility. In this panel, four members of the newly established Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN) will present critical research that could support the advancement of effective law and policy responses to climate mobility in West Africa. These span a range of fields, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, migration and free movement of persons agreements, and refugee resettlement.

#### PAPER 1: Integration of environmental migration and disaster displacement in regional frameworks in West Africa

*Christina Daszkiewicz (International Organization for Migration)*

Political and strategic responses developed at the regional level are key to finding

solutions for both people who choose to stay and those on the move in contexts of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation. Strong regional dialogue and governance can facilitate policy coherence at the regional and national levels, in that States can identify their shared interests, taking into consideration the specific factors unique to their region. As most movements take place within the region, States can converge towards specific priorities more easily at this level. At the same time, human mobility in contexts of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation is a cross-cutting issue and therefore requires an integrated policy approach across different fields (such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, migration, humanitarian). This paper presents an overview of policy frameworks and strategies at regional level relevant to human mobility in contexts of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

## **PAPER 2: Regional Climate Change Framework and National Adaptation Plans**

*Oluwatoyin Adejonwo (Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Nigeria)*

Climate-related disasters force millions of people to flee their homes each year. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) latest report on the physical basis for the climate emergency provides compelling evidence of increasing trends in extreme weather and other climatic disruptions, exacerbating displacement risks faced by vulnerable populations who lack the means to adapt and prepare for these changes.

National Adaptation Plans aim to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience and facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner.

Regionally-adapted measures and national adaptation plans for dealing with disaster displacement and migration are essential for the survival of affected populations. For this reason, this study will thus seek to provide an overview of the development of national climate change action and adaptation plans among West African states.

## **PAPER 3: Climate Mobility and the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol: Opportunities and Limitations**

*Tamara Wood (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales, Australia)*

Regional agreements for the free movement of persons between states could address climate-related displacement and migration by permitting lawful travel, livelihood opportunities and access to assistance for affected communities. In West Africa, ECOWAS free movement arrangements allow for lawful entry and 90-day stays between Member States for all ECOWAS citizens. However, restrictive domestic migration laws, and onerous procedural and financial requirements may prevent climate change-affected communities from accessing free movement in practice.

This paper explores the opportunities and limitations within ECOWAS free movement arrangements for addressing the three main protection needs of people moving in the context of climate change, namely: 1) access to territory, 2) status and rights during stay, and 3) opportunities for lasting solutions.

#### **PAPER 4: When displacement becomes an opportunity: Refugee preference for third country resettlement revisited**

*Samuel Agblorti (Centre for Mixed Migration and Diaspora Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana)*

This paper situates refugees' preference for third country resettlement within their migration history and the popular migration narrative in West Africa and argues that refugees opting for third country resettlement as the only preferred solution could be attempting to achieve what they failed to achieve at a time they were not refugees. The paper draws on qualitative data generated through in-depth interviews and explores how previous migration experience has shaped the refugees' preference for third country resettlement as the only durable solution.

This paper challenges the migration binary of 'forced' and 'voluntary', and examines the implications of this preference for third country resettlement in the face of limited resettlement spaces for a truly durable solution to many of the protracted refugee situations in West Africa.

## Panel Title

### Contestations of knowledge for refugees rights in Asia

#### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Alice M. Nah* (University of York, UK)

**Abstract:** This interdisciplinary panel examines the positionality and perspectives of refugees, academics, artists, and other civil society actors as they produce, circulate, and contest different types of knowledge to shape popular imaginations of who forced migrants are and how they should be treated by domestic institutions, policies and practices. Focusing on South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia, these papers examine how efforts to protect the rights of forced migrants in Asia create socio-political (dis)orders and disruption even as they seek to create inclusive spaces and practices for those hidden and marginalized by state conceptualisations of forced migrants.

#### PAPER 1: South Korea's Refugee Act and post-enactment norm-competition

*Won Geun Choi* (Kyung Hee University, South Korea)

How is the internalization of international norms completed? Does successful institutionalization, including the ratification of international law and the legislation of domestic legal framework, mean the completion of internalization? This paper argues that domestic legislation is not the completion of the internalization, but can be the beginning of norm competition, especially where the gap between the institutionalization and implementation of norms critically matters. After successfully ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention, South Korea legislated its domestic Refugee Act in 2011. This has been praised as a great achievement, as the internalization of international refugee protection norms, especially initiated by its local civil society. However, the government has easily manipulated this legal framework to strengthen the state-centric securitization of refugee policy.

Therefore, civil society fiercely engages in norm competition, especially against arbitrary detention, deportation, and interpretations of fraud during refugee status determination procedures.



**PAPER 2: The challenge of fulfilling the basic rights of forced migrants in Indonesia**

*Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti (National Research and Innovation Agency/ BRIN, Indonesia)*

Indonesia affirms its global commitment by ratifying various UN human rights conventions, which, in practice, are enforced without exception. One progress is that there is a special arrangement, namely the Presidential Regulation number 125 of 2016, but it seems that it is no longer able to accommodate the complex problems that arise in the handling of forced migration in Indonesia, especially in efforts to manage the fulfillment of these rights. On the one hand, Indonesia is a transit country, but on the other hand, it has a protracted refugee situation. This paper analyzes the practice of domestic global commitments through the problems that arise, and the challenges of change for the fulfillment of the basic rights of forced migrants with regards health, education and livelihood.

**PAPER 3: Heritage and resistance: Artist portrayals of Rohingyas and the Panglima La'ôt in Aceh, Indonesia**

*Alice M. Nah and Martin Jones (University of York, UK); Rika Syarief (Yayasan Geutanyoe Indonesia), Lilianne Fan (Geutanyoe Malaysia)*

Cultural and legal heritage matter in the rescue of Rohingyas in Aceh. The centuries-old institution, Panglima La'ôt (Commanders of the Sea), continues to enforce Hukôm Adat La'ôt, customary maritime law, obliging fishermen to rescue all life at sea. The rescues of Rohingyas express this law as well as the cultural practice of Pemulia Jamee, the welcoming of guests, but have brought fishermen into direct confrontation with the police and immigration authorities, with some prosecuted for their rescues. This paper explores how artists use theatre, film, dance, and poetry to convey these contestations.

**PAPER 4: Vaccination coverage and barriers to vaccination experienced by urban refugee children in a refugee school in Malaysia**

*Sharuna Verghis, Yap Kwong Hsia, Siti Noraida Bt Mohamad Habibullah, Yatinesh,*

*Kumari Singh (Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia)*

Conflict and displacement interrupt routine vaccination delivery making refugee children more susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases. Urban refugees in Malaysia do not receive any kind of systematic assistance from the government or the international community; humanitarian aid is limited. The high cost of treatment, language barriers, and fear of being detected, often limit access to healthcare for refugees. This mixed-methods study assesses the vaccination status of refugee children, exploring factors that promote and hinder the uptake of vaccination. It highlights the urgent need to renew surveillance and vaccination efforts in these hard-to-reach and disadvantaged communities which must include community engagement to ensure sustainable coverage.

### **PAPER 5: The curious case of protection by restriction**

*Susan Banki (University of Sydney, Australia)*

Advocacy centered on migration governance is generally characterized by calls for reducing restrictions on entrance and stay. Yet in the case of Myanmar advocates in Australia, migrant and refugee advocacy has bifurcated along political and social lines, with one set of advocates following the traditional route – asking for greater protection through increased resettlement spaces and extended visas – and another set of advocates following the path of what I call “protection by restriction,” placing pressure on the government to cancel the visas of people associated with Myanmar’s military. By noting these two opposing advocacy forces, I add to the literature on migration as a foreign policy tool, and demonstrate that pressure points can work at individual, local and regional levels.

### **Panel Title**

### **Venezuelan migration to Goiás: a first approach**

#### **PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Carolina Soares Hissa, Felipe Aquino Domiciano, João Roriz, Rômulo Sousa, Suzete Bessa*

**Abstract:** This research is an early analysis of Venezuelan migration to Goiás,

a Brazilian state located in the Center-West region. In a context of scarce information and defective public policies regarding migration flows to Brazil, the presence of Venezuelans in the streets is visibly burgeoning. No governmental data is available regarding their demographic profile, characteristics, social networks, and migration patterns. The first part of this research aims to establish a database with 227 in-depth semi-structured interviews with Venezuelan migrants in Goiás. We have been conducting interviews in the metropolitan region of Goiânia since 2021. The interviewees are Venezuelans who are refugees, asylum seekers, carriers of the ‘humanitarian visa’, and others. The questionnaire is structured in the following way: (i) identification; (ii) general characteristics; (iii) migration; (iv) social networks; (v) integration. The research is part of the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair at the Federal University of Goiás. We will present the partial results from 79 questionnaires.

**Keywords:** forced migration; Venezuela; Brazil; Goiás

## Panel Title

### Kolkata Declaration 2021: A Post-Colonial Engagement

#### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Samata Biswas*

**Abstract:** The “Kolkata Declaration on the Need for a Coherent Protection Policy and Justice for Refugees and Migrants of Afghanistan” (henceforth, Kolkata Declaration 2021) was put forward as a call to the community of nations, international organisations like the UNHCR and the IOM, as well as other human rights and international humanitarian agencies. The appeal was adopted on November 20, 2021, the final day of Calcutta Research Group’s workshop and conference on “Global Protection System for Migrants and Refugees”, by more than a hundred jurists, academics, media persons, activists and humanitarian functionaries. The Kolkata Declaration 2021 comes in the aftermath of the August 2021 political transition in Afghanistan, amid widespread reporting of violence, imminent and forced displacement, human rights violation, hunger and public health disaster. Kolkata Declaration 2021 stressed the importance of safeguarding the principle of non-refoulement, to ensure the prevention of pushback and forced return, as well as to respect international refugee conventions and international human rights laws. Central to the Kolkata Declaration 2021 is the human rights and rights to protection of refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers. The proposed panel discussion is structured around the central concerns flagged by the Kolkata Declaration 2021. It takes into account the postcolonial reality of South Asia and the colonial legacy of conflict that

Afghanistan has been bequeathed. Decolonial and transitional justice therefore inform the Kolkata Declaration 2021, and the proposed discussion. The panellists will reflect upon the aftermath of August 2021 for Afghan citizens, refugees and asylum seekers—the response of neighbouring and host countries and the popular cultural renditions of the Afghan crisis. It will engage with the postcolonial reality of statelessness in South Asia, a recognition of which informs the Kolkata Declaration 2021. The Kolkata Declaration 2021 is housed at [http://www.mcrq.ac.in/RLS\\_Migration\\_2021/Kolkata\\_Appeal\\_Afghanistan-2021.pdf](http://www.mcrq.ac.in/RLS_Migration_2021/Kolkata_Appeal_Afghanistan-2021.pdf) Keywords: Afghanistan, South Asia, statelessness, transitional justice, decolonisation, regional dialogue, internormative dialogue, interdisciplinary dialogue.

**Bio notes:**

*Paula Banerjee* is former President, IASFM and a Professor at the Department of South and South East Asian Studies, Calcutta University. She is best known for her books *Women in Indian Borderlands*, *Statelessness in South Asia* and *Unstable Populations, Anxious States*. She will chair the roundtable discussion.

*Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury* is the Honorary Director of Calcutta Research Group and a Professor of Political Science at Rabindra Bharati University. He is currently engaged in decolonial study of forced migration, especially in the context of South Asia and Central Asia. He has been writing and speaking on the situation in Afghanistan consistently in Bengal, in various news channels and newspapers--and has been part of the drafting committee of Kolkata Declaration 2021.

*Liza Schuster* teaches at City, University of London. She has spent most of the past decade conducting fieldwork in Afghanistan, where she was based at the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust (2012 - 2013), she has studied the consequences of deportation for Afghans, their families and communities. Her most recent work, funded by the ESRC (2016-2018), and in collaboration with Afghan colleagues at ACKU, included an examination of representations of migration in Afghan Oral Culture, a study of the Hopes, Plans and Fears of Afghan Families, and an exploration of the influence of the EU on the development of Afghan Migration Policy.

*Nasreen Chowdhury* is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Delhi University. She's the author of *Refugees, Citizenship, and Belonging in South Asia: Contested Terrains*. She is also the former Vice President of IASFM.

*Samata Biswas* teaches English at the Sanskrit College and University, with a special emphasis on literatures of migration. She runs the forced migration blog *Refugee Watch Online* and writes on related areas. Samata is coordinating this roundtable.

## Panel Title

## Re-Thinking Resettlement and Integration: Creating Cultural-Based Trauma-Informed Intervention

### PANEL ORGANISERS:

*Nimo Bokore*

**Abstract:** The start of a new decade brings opportunities for rethinking humanitarian interventions by focusing on the ultimate saving and well-being of survivors of war. The ever-increasing rate of conflicts and survivors' need for lasting interventions during resettlement requires evaluating current intervention models. This "Re-thinking Resettlement and Integration: Creating Cultural- Based Trauma-Informed Intervention" project is based on based Participatory Research (CBPR) and responds to current community needs for localized/culturally-based intervention. It is timely and responds to the diverse needs of Canadian communities, especially those who are impacted by war-related trauma. This project, funded by the SSHRC PEG grant, is designed to fill the gap in scholarly research on the localization of knowledge, including the development of culture-specific practice models.

Ultimately, the goal of this study is to promote the well-being and integration of resettled refugee families and other marginalized groups. As a survivor of wars, forced migration, and resettlement challenges here in Canada, refugee issues always go beyond the simple humanitarian response of saving lives. It includes giving people a chance to rebuild their lives by providing them with the supports they need to achieve integration more efficiently and to make them feel truly "at home." It means as Dr. Jennifer Hyndman of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University puts it, "if refugee' resettlement is protection plus according to UNHCRs, 2009 report, then integration is settlement plus" (2011, p. v).

In this presentation, I will be introducing the model "Trauma-Informed Culturally Based Intervention (TICBI), we developed after completing the study. This model will improve the current service model used in refugee resettlement services and others working with survivors of wars. This TICBI model received excellent feedback when presented to service providers working at our collaborating community agency.

### The Research Team:

#### Principal-Investigator:

*Dr. Nimo Bokore*

#### Co-investigators:

*James Milner, Susan McGrath, Michaela Hynie, Patricia D. McGuire, Regine U. King*

**Collaborating Community Agency:**

The Somali Center For Family Services of Ottawa, Ontario

**Panel Title**

**Dialogues on Integrating Challenges and Solutions for African Refugees in the Diaspora**

**PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Dorian Brown Crosby*

**Abstract:** This panel proposal includes four scholars whose research covers East Africa, South Africa, the United States, and Canada. Their presentations elucidate various aspects of integrating challenges displaced people from Africa face.

**PAPER 1: Stressors on Migrant Host Communities: An exploration of civil society response to integration challenges**

*Erika Frydenlund, Zacheous Abang*

Refugee and other migrants receiving communities often struggle with increased demands on their infrastructure, governance and policymaking, and other social integration efforts. These stressors lead to in-group/out-group tensions, marked by xenophobic sentiments and actions. In particular, communities that already lack access to reliable water, food, healthcare, education, and personal safety find themselves in competition with incoming refugees and migrants for increasingly scarce resources. While the COVID-19 pandemic put pressures on individuals and communities across all socio-economic and political strata globally, host communities competing for scarce resources before the pandemic were put under exceptional stress. We draw on interviews with migrant-run and migrant-serving civil society organizations living and working in Khayelitsha Township outside of Cape Town South Africa, as well as policy documents and local and regional newspaper articles. The data suggest an emergent, grass-roots response in the absence of government intervention. The research also surfaces an important dialogue about research methodologies that were made very evident by the pandemic. Given travel restrictions, half of the interviews were carried out remotely via WhatsApp and Zoom in order to hear the experiences of civil society groups and government representatives managing integration or

service-delivery efforts during the pandemic. This required relying on loose research partnerships and finding ways to build and strengthen trust between these partners remotely to carry out the research during this unusual time. The discussion centers both on the challenges faced by civil society when addressing integration beyond the reach of government and other traditional NGO actors, while also reflecting on the ways that the pandemic brought to light research practices and thinking about ethical and equitable ways to move forward.

## **PAPER 2: African Refugees Resettled in the United States: The Racial Dilemma**

*Janita H. Bah*

The lived experiences of African refugees resettled in the United States often intersect with the lived experiences of Black Americans. African refugees are considered Black and subject to discrimination like their American counterparts based on racial prejudice primarily stemming from the color of their skin. Consequently, African refugees must reconcile their reason for being resettled in the United States with the socially constructed racial categorization of Black.

Therefore, it is important to consider the continuous challenges African Americans contest when analyzing the integration difficulties many African refugees resettled in the United States may face. Some public and private programs and policies promote integration for resettled refugees. However, systemic racism can cause those programs and policies to falter as they relate to the experiences of African refugees and hinder them reaching the U.S. mandate of economic self-sufficiency. This discussion focuses on some of those challenges, such as transcending low-income predominately minority neighborhoods, inaccessibility to sustainable employment, the complicated juxtaposition of ethnicity and skin color, and inescapable systemic racism.

## **PAPER 3: Regional Security Orders in the Horn of Africa: The Influence of Ethiopia in Migration Governance**

*Abdiassis Issa*

This paper critically examines the regionalization of conflict intervention that has become a key feature of the international peace and security architecture. This paper

argues that the promise of regional interventions is not without faults and contain unintended consequences that have not been fully explored. This paper suggests that amongst the overlooked unintended consequences include the development of regional security orders and structures that are dominated by regional hegemonies and the subsequent power contestations that are created. In applying this argument to Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa, this paper offers two theoretical approaches to understanding the relationship between regional hegemonies and regional security orders. First, regional hegemonies have a significant influence on formal region building projects and the development of regional organizations. This influence can either detract from these projects due to misalignment and or be instrumental in their facilitation. Second, hegemonic, and broader regional interests can at times be characterized as either confrontational or co-operative, with regional security governance being shaped by both. Elements of confrontation and co-operation can be found in existing migration governance frameworks and initiatives. Ethiopia has been instrumental in crafting policy responses related to managing migrants and refugees fleeing violent conflict and insecurity in the region. Ethiopia's involvement in these policies is complicated by the long-standing adversarial relations it has with its neighbours and due to its strategic partnership with the United Nations and African Union. Ethiopia as a hegemonic power serves as a linchpin to the regional security governance of migration and refugees in the region. As such, this paper concludes by calling into question what regional interventions discursively tell us about the exigent power disparities emerging in sites of multifaceted insecurity, how divergent interests lead to contestations, and ultimately, how these dynamics present complex challenges to the regional security governance, more broadly.

## **PAPER 1: South Korea's Refugee Act and post-enactment norm-competition**

*Won Geun Choi (Kyung Hee University, South Korea)*

How is the internalization of international norms completed? Does successful institutionalization, including the ratification of international law and the legislation of domestic legal framework, mean the completion of internalization? This paper argues that domestic legislation is not the completion of the internalization, but can be the beginning of norm competition, especially where the gap between the institutionalization and implementation of norms critically matters. After successfully ratifying the 1951 Refugee

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nment has easily manipulated this legal framework to strengthen the state-centric securitization of refugee policy.

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Cultural and legal heritage matter in the rescue of Rohingyas in Aceh. The centuries-old institution, Panglima La'ôt (Commanders of the Sea), continues to enforce Hukôm Adat La'ôt, customary maritime law, obliging fishermen to rescue all life at sea. The rescues of Rohingyas express this law as well as the cultural practice of Pemulia Jamee, the welcoming of guests, but have brought fishermen into direct confrontation with the police and immigration authorities, with some prosecuted for their rescues. This paper explores how artists use theatre, film, dance, and poetry to convey these contestations.

#### **PAPER 4: Vaccination coverage and barriers to vaccination experienced by urban refugee children in a refugee school in Malaysia**

*Sharuna Verghis, Yap Kwong Hsia, Siti Noraida Bt Mohamad Habibullah, Yatinesh Kumari Singh (Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia)*

Conflict and displacement interrupt routine vaccination delivery making refugee children more susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases. Urban refugees in Malaysia do not receive any kind of systematic assistance from the government or the international community; humanitarian aid is limited. The high cost of treatment, language barriers, and fear of being detected, often limit access to healthcare for refugees. This mixed-methods study assesses the vaccination status of refugee children, exploring factors that promote and hinder the uptake of vaccination. It highlights the urgent need to renew surveillance and vaccination efforts in these hard-to-reach and disadvantaged communities which must include community engagement to ensure sustainable coverage.

#### **PAPER 5: The curious case of protection by restriction**

*Susan Banki (University of Sydney, Australia)*

Advocacy centered on migration governance is generally characterized by calls for reducing restrictions on entrance and stay. Yet in the case of Myanmar advocacy in Australia, migrant and refugee advocacy has bifurcated along political and social lines, with one set of advocates following the traditional route – asking for greater protection through increased resettlement spaces and extended visas – and another set of advocates following the path of what I call “protection by restriction,” placing pressure on the government to cancel the visas of people associated with Myanmar’s military. By noting these two opposing advocacy forces, I add to the literature on migration as a foreign policy tool, and demonstrate that pressure points can work at individual, local and regional levels.

#### **Panel Title**

#### **Reception and settlement of Venezuelan newcomer population in Brazil and Canada**

**PANEL ORGANISERS:**

*Svetlana Ruseishvili* (Adjunct Professor in the Sociology Department at the Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil)

*Fabio Martinez Serrano Pucci* (State University of Piauí, a postdoctoral researcher at PUC-SP)

**Abstract:** Over the last years, more than 5.6 million people left Venezuela. Latin American and Caribbean countries host around 80% of Venezuelans. Although most migrants cross the land border on foot, many settle in towns far from the Venezuelan border. This happens spontaneously or in an organised way, as in the case of the Interiorização (“Interiorization” or “Regionalization”) process implemented by the Brazilian government.

From a comparative perspective, this panel addresses the challenges faced by community, diasporic, faith-based and international organisations working with Venezuelan migrants in non-gateway cities in North and South America. The panel also analyses Venezuelans’ spatial dynamics of settlement in different regions of Brazil, like Rio de Janeiro, Manaus and São Carlos, compared to non-traditional immigrant towns in Canada, like Calgary, Edmonton, and Quebec City. Finally, the panel will focus on how Venezuelans’ motivation to stay or move to another destination reflects the size of the city.

**PAPER 1: Venezuelan immigration and the impact of interiorisation through ‘Reception Operation’ in the city of Rio de Janeiro: limits and perspectives**

*Ângela Magalhães Vasconcelos* (Adjunct Professor at the School of Social Work at the Fluminense Federal University, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

The study deals with the governance of Venezuelan immigration in Brazil through Operation Welcome with a focus on the interiorisation process. It analyses the intervention of international organisations on migratory dynamics as well as the effectiveness of local public policies, especially the National Policy for Social Assistance (PNAS) through the Unified Social Assistance System (SUAS) through its equipment, programs, services and benefits in the protection and integration of these immigrants. The investigation starts from the Humanitarian Shelters in Boa Vista, Roraima, northern Brazil, with an emphasis on the humanitarian policy developed by partner organizations and institutions in these territories. It focuses on the internalization (deconcentration) of Venezuelans to the city of Rio de Janeiro, which impacts the lives of the migrant and refugee population, regarding the need for

housing and intervention by militias in the daily life of the host community.

## **PAPER 2: Faith-based communities and incorporation of Venezuelan migrants in a mid-sized non- gateway city in São Paulo, Brazil**

*Svetlana Ruseishvili (Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil)*

This paper aims to analyse pathways of incorporation of Venezuelan migrants in São Carlos, a medium- sized city in the state of São Paulo. The data discussed derive from an ongoing research project since December 2021. Semi-structured interviews are being conducted with Venezuelans and representatives of community organisations that played a leading role in the reception of migrants from Roraima through the governmental Interiorização (resettlement) program. Among the latter are the faith-based communities, especially of the neo-Christian current. The study aims to contribute to the analytical debates about the incorporation of migrants by bringing empirical data about cities that are neither central, large, nor gateways for international migrants. We also discuss the crucial role of community organisations in the primary accumulation of network capital for newly arrived migrants that favours labour, social, and linguistic incorporation.

## **PAPER 3: Without Casa Miga, I would be dead”: The Significance of Local Responses to LGBT Venezuelan Asylum Seekers in Brazil**

*Yvonne Su (Assistant Professor in the Department of Equity Studies at York University)*

Venezuelan LGBT refugees are one of the most vulnerable and overlooked groups in the Venezuelan Refugee Crisis. Protection gaps, poor funding as well as socio-political tensions in host countries like Brazil mean LGBT folks face unprecedented levels of homophobia, xenophobia, extreme violence, and exploitation in their place of refuge. In the middle of the Amazon, in the city of Manaus is Casa Miga, Brazil's only LGBT refugee centre. Here, Venezuelan LGBT refugees can find a protective shelter where they can feel free to express their sexual and gender identity. The aim of this study is to bring attention to the important work that local organizations do, the different types and significance of peer- to-peer support for Venezuelan LGBT refugees in Brazil and how these networks interact with broader regimes of care at the national and international level.

**PAPER 4: Venezuelan Newcomers and Diasporic Organizations in Canada's  
Non-Traditional Immigrant Population**

*Berti Olinto, Anna Triandafyllidou (CERC Migration and Integration, Ryerson  
University, Canada)*

Since 2016, the Venezuelan newcomer population in Canada has significantly increased in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Other cities such as Calgary, Edmonton, and Quebec City have also attracted a new wave of Venezuelan migrants, prompting the need to create new community organizations or to strengthen existing ones that promote Venezuelans' socioeconomic and cultural integration. This paper explores how these organizations promote integration services for Venezuelans in second-tier or non-traditional destination cities in the Canadian context. It argues that the Venezuelan migration crisis has created a new diasporic and settlement dynamic in which sense of belonging, economic integration, and even political participation are key to understanding how Venezuelan migrants are adapting to traditional and non-traditional destinations in North America.

PAPERS

# “BRAZIL, LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT”: MIGRATION IN THE ANTIDEMOCRATIC CONTEXT OF THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP (1964- 1985) AND THE RISE OF THE RADICAL RIGHT (2013-2021)

*Luiza Bossi Santana, Duval Fernandes, Rodrigo Corrêa Teixeira*

## - ABSTRACT -

After the election of the current Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro, headlines on political dissidents fleeing from the country, due to attacks and death threats directed at them, have become increasingly regular in media outlets. This situation evokes the process of political migration that occurred during the Brazilian Military Dictatorship, between 1964 and 1985. Giving this context, the role of democracy in migration becomes an important research agenda. Therefore, the purpose of this work is to analyze the Brazilian international political migrations motivated by the degradation of democracy resulting from both the dictatorial period, between the mid-1960s and 1985, and the most recent rise of the Radical Right, between the years 2013 and 2021. The present study relies on the existing literature to discuss the contexts and migration processes of these different historical moments. Then, it presents a brief discussion of the interrelation between territorialization and power relations, in which the rise of the Armed Forces and the Radical Right appears intertwined with the regression of Human Rights in the country. To identify and compare international migration patterns related to political reasons in both periods, their respective characteristics are mapped out, including their flows, profiles and periods obtained from accounts and reports on the topic. In addition to this analysis, the Refugee Data Finder Statistics/UNHCR provides elements to discuss the current situation of refugees and asylum seekers from Brazilian origin.

## “LIFE ON HOLD”. WAITING, UNCERTAINTY AND POWERLESSNESS IN THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF WOMEN IN ASYLUM CENTRES IN NORWAY

*Zubia Willmann-Robleda (Centre for Intercultural Communication - SIK, VID Specialized University, Stavanger, Norway)*

### - ABSTRACT -

During the aftermath of the European so-called “refugee crisis” the length of time that asylum seekers had to wait for an answer to their asylum application increased significantly in various countries, including Norway. The article takes this as a starting point together with the increasing “measures to tighten its asylum system to make it less attractive to seek asylum” that Norway and other European countries, began to implement in the aftermath of the 2015 “refugee crisis”. It draws on ethnographic fieldwork conducted during approximately one year (2017-2018) with nine women –of different nationalities, ages, and backgrounds – living in asylum centres in Norway. From this, this article seeks to add nuance to the experience of waiting in asylum contexts. In particular, it identifies the main elements of the highly structured Norwegian asylum and reception system that significantly shape the experiences of the women while they wait. It uses the discussion of waiting as an exercise of power (Bourdieu 2000; Turnbull 2016) as well as the concept of existential immobility (Hage 2009) as a lens to understand the women’s experiences.

The analysis shows four main elements of the Norwegian asylum and reception system that result in the main challenges that the women deal with during their wait in the asylum centres. These elements are the uncertainty around their asylum application coupled with the inability to influence their circumstances, limitations to engage in meaningful activities as well as the financial and mobility limitations imposed by the Norwegian authorities. The interconnections of these four elements I argue, lead to the women feeling powerless, unable to influence their circumstances and feeling stuck in the present, unable to plan their future, thus, experiencing existential immobility (Hage 2009).



## A COLLECTIVE DEEP MAP REPRESENTATION TOOL TO PRODUCE KNOWLEDGE ON INTELLECTUAL EXILE

*Maïssam Nimer, Pascale Laborier, Duygu Tasalp*

### - ABSTRACT -

At the intersection of several disciplines, namely anthropology, sociology, political science, history and geography, the collective project entitled *Géo-récits* funded by the Institut Convergences Migrations (ICM) aims to produce knowledge about so-called “qualified” migrations by representing migration trajectories and narratives of exiled intellectuals and artists through deep maps. They (maps) are accessible on a user-friendly interface in order to disseminate the products of scientific research to society. These can be in the form of illustrated geographical trajectories that interweave with other biographical representations, memories, interview quotations as well as images, videos and sounds which are displayed chronologically. Deep maps are representations that go beyond the two-dimensional traditional map.

This project proposes to elaborate an extensive collaborative tool, using these deep maps as a starting point, with the goal of collecting data by several research groups on different geographical areas (Middle East, North Africa, East Europe, Balkan countries, Latin America) and historical periods. The idea is to represent movement through these maps to be able to explore trajectories, identifications and strategies of inclusion into the labour market. The collective deep map representation tool will allow us to show these trajectories and filter them according to predetermined research variables such as gender, languages, passage points, pathways, year of exile, country of origin, among others. With the help of this tool, we can explore the data of several projects collectively to bring light to new emerging research questions relating to knowledge production in exile across different geographical and historical frames. The purpose is also to raise awareness within the general public on the questions of migration and particularly qualified migration.

We will thus present our deep mapping tool, which is currently under development, and engage with the audience about this innovative way of representing migration through data visualisation with the goal of engaging in a collaborative research project and answering different research questions.

As part of this presentation, we will also engage in a reflection on the ethical and methodological considerations in terms of collection and representation of data about migration, namely looking at the difficulties faced in terms of linking individual and collective trajectories in representations. Indeed, the data collection through

interviews can expose individuals to relive the trauma related to their forced migration experience, and representing these trajectories can put individuals at risk. As such, we reflect on the possibility of involving interviewees (highly qualified forced migrants) to actively take part in the research process through the co-creation of these deep maps to allow individuals to auto-narrate and represent their own trajectories especially taking into consideration possible reluctance among this population to being considered as ‘research objects’.

**Bios:**

*Maïssam Nimer* is a sociologist working in the fields of migration and education. She is currently involved as a postdoc in a project about intellectual exile at Paris Nanterre University.

Prior to that, she carried out work at Koç University, and as a Mercator IPC fellow at Sabanci University to explore experiences of Syrian refugees in Turkey. She obtained her PhD at Paris Saclay University in 2016. Her work was published in journals including *Gender and Education*, *Critical Sociology*, *Migration Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Sociological Research Online*, *International Studies in Sociology of Education*, *Multilingua* among others.

*Pascale Laborier* is professor of political science at Paris Nanterre University within the Institut des Sciences Sociales du Politique (ISP). She has published and edited several books in the fields of cameral sciences, comparative public policies, and since 2018 on the socio- historical aspects of forced exile. She is a Fellow of the Institut Convergences Migrations. As part of her personal research and three joint research projects (namely *Libérade*, *Mémovives* and *Géorécits*) she produced numerous interviews and videos deposited at the La Contemporaine archive centre and an artistic exhibition about portraits of exiled scientists which is currently touring Europe.

*Duygu Tasalp* is a historian specialising in contemporary Turkey. She works on the memorial discourses that follow mass violence, and is particularly interested in the effects of migration on the remembrance, forgetting or denial of past collective crimes. She defended her PhD at INALCO Paris in 2018. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the ISP (Paris Nanterre University). She is a member of the Centre d'Études Turques Ottomanes Balkaniques et d'Asie Centrale (CETOBAC/EHESS).

## A DISPLACEMENT-BASED ANALYSIS OF CANADA'S SKILLED IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS

*Dana Wagner*

### - ABSTRACT -

Intentionally opening skilled immigration as a complementary pathway to humanitarian protection for people living in refugee or displaced circumstances is being piloted by several countries globally including Canada. Access to skilled immigration pathways can be a significant new mobility option, and one with immense potential to scale, for people who can and want to use their skills as a solution to their displacement. Innovative policy and operational work has been undertaken in Canada in recent years to understand barriers facing skilled candidates in displacement in the Middle East, East Africa, Latin America, and beyond, leading to the development of Canada's Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) which removes some of these administrative and financial barriers. However, significant barriers to access remain for people with in-demand skills but expired passports, no legal residence, no access to original transcripts, and other displacement-related disadvantages.

A comprehensive displacement-based analysis can help to identify the nature and magnitude of the barriers facing displaced applicants across Canada's skilled immigration pathways. Borrowing from principles in gender-based analysis, the displacement-based analysis framework for skilled immigration aims to support policy makers to recognize likely barriers, understand the impacts on displaced applicants, and consider alternative requirements that facilitate access while meeting policy goals. The framework identifies the primary disadvantages facing displaced applicants and the related visa criteria that becomes a barrier across more than 70 of Canada's skilled immigration pathways, shaping our understanding of how current visa rules disproportionately exclude displaced applicants compared to others.

Understanding the impacts of skilled visa criteria on displaced applicants can support the development of more equitable immigration policies that better include and attract applicants with in-demand skills from refugee or displaced circumstances. While the framework is developed for the Canadian context, its principles and some elements are replicable to other jurisdictions seeking to expand complementary pathways to protection.

**Keywords:** Forced migration, refugees, asylum seekers, displacement, complementary pathways, skilled immigration, Canada, Latin America.

## A RECONSIDERATION OF SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST REFUGEES IN CAMPS VIS A VIS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE 1951 UN REFUGEE CONVENTION

*Oghenerioborue Esther Eberechi*

### - ABSTRACT -

Refugees in various camps suffer different forms of sexual violence in camps, including urban areas. However, when they experience this violence, they may refuse to report for fear of re- victimization or not being taken seriously. Sometimes, the court may acquit perpetrators for want of evidence, despite the provisions of article 16 of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, which provides access to courts in host countries. Studies of five years decided cases in 2018 in South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda confirms this problem. Trajectory to this study, the author, will re- evaluate the state of implementing Article 16 of these countries through a retrospective analysis of decided court cases of sexual offences in these countries. To ascertain if refugees in these countries who suffer these violations like the citizens of host states do have access to courts, Considering the prevailing situation, the author will proffer appropriate recommendations concerning its outcome.

**Keywords:** sexual violence, refugees, access to courts and host countries.

# AFGHANS IN AMERICA - AN INSTITUTIONAL AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

*Barbara Franz*

## - ABSTRACT -

The United States is currently resettling only Afghan refugees; the Biden administration halted the resettlement of all other refugees until 2022. The goal is that, within 6 months, the approximately 56,000 Afghan evacuees who are currently living on 6 military installations, should be living in American towns, cities, and suburbs nearly self-sufficiently. This massive resettlement has particular challenges, one of which is the dismantlement of the Refugee Resettlement Program during the past four years, which has resulted in its being barely functional. There were few proactive federal efforts by the Biden administration to prepare and expand system capacity for the significant increases in refugee resettlement. Instead, partnerships with local non-profit organizations are aiding in ramping up resettlement capacities. In addition, the Biden administration announced on October 25, 2021, a new program that would allow private US citizens to sponsor Afghan refugees. Resettlement has proceeded slowly; In December 2021, the vast majority of Afghans who arrived in the US were still living at military facilities, e.g., 11,000 at Fort Dix, NJ. Despite this, Fort Dix officials reiterated that they hoped that all 11,000 would be resettled by February 2022. This paper provides a first analysis of this operation: both an institutional analysis, tracking the newly formed cooperation of federal agencies with local grassroots organizations and individuals, and a first look at the experience of Afghans arriving in American towns through a set of qualitative interviews, conducted in Morris and Summit counties, NJ.

## **BORDERIZATION PRACTICES AT THE GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY LINE (ABL) : THEIR IMPACT ON THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS LIVING IN BORDERING AREAS**

*Philomène Franssen*

### **- ABSTRACT -**

In our state-centric world, international borders unsurprisingly remain a predominant object of study of the field of forced migration. Border-crossing being the sole indicator against which policy categories are defined and ‘refugee’ or ‘IDP’ labels ascribed, it also serves to assess and measure the vulnerability of forcibly displaced persons. Largely understood as being more vulnerable on account of their alienage, refugees therefore tend to predominantly feature in scholarly debates about the impact and lived experiences of borders. However, in the literature the border is too seldom construed as anything other than a static sovereign line to be crossed and consequently, only rarely apprehended outside of the common dichotomy national/international. Drawing on seminal literature from the field of Critical Border Studies, this paper argues that such a statist approach fails to acknowledge the existence and significant importance of contested (internal) borders, such as those of the post-Soviet space, for IDPs who live near or across them in bordering areas. Using the Georgian-Abkhaz internal border (ABL) as a case study, I draw on 10 qualitative expert interviews to offer an analysis of the complex, multi-faceted, pervasive and lingering impact of this seemingly invisible border on the daily lives of IDPs displaced within and from the de facto state of Abkhazia, who have been living in protracted displacement for nearly 30 years in Georgia. Noting that through “borderization practices”, this internal border increasingly takes on the traits of an international border, I conclude that borders need not be international(ly recognised) in order to be visible and relevant to the people who experience them in their everyday life.

Abstract of MA thesis by Philomène Franssen, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MA degree in Refugee Protection & Forced Migration Studies at the University of London (graduated in December 2021).

## BROADENING THE PROTECTION MANDATE THROUGH EXPANDING THE DEFINITION

*Madhusmita Jena*

### - ABSTRACT -

The 1951 Convention has a very restricted definition of a refugee: limiting the privilege of refugee status to only those who flee their country of origin owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and thereby excluding large groups of people who have fled their home and hearth on account of a host of new drivers of displacement. Unfortunately, despite persistent and pressing need for adaptation of the Convention definition with its obsession with political 'persecution', the definition still continues unchanged. Meeting the elements of legal definition enables one to acquire refugee status and thereby makes him or her avail the legal entitlements and privileges as a refugee. With emergence of new drivers of displacement, we have now economic refugees/migrants, environmental refugees, climate refugees and internally displaced persons. However, they do not come under the Convention definition. Governments in both developed and developing countries are faced with a choice: to adopt the Convention definition as it now exists which is extremely restrictive and narrow or a broader definition with larger range of categories of people entitled to privileges of legal protection. The broader the definition of refugee, the larger is the number of beneficiaries and the more is the consequential burden on the host state. Against this backdrop, the present paper attempts to expand the very scope of the refugee definition by including economic and environmental refugees with the classic definition of a refugee. The empirical focus of the paper is India's response to the economic refugees and the Chakmas from Bangladesh and how India may adopt a wider 'refugee' definition which would include economic immigrants and environmentally displaced people. Consequently, this group would be entitled to the privileges associated with the accordance of refugee status, which India needs to provide.

**Keywords:** Refugee, 1951 UN Convention Definition, India.

## **BUILDING HOST SPACES AND VISIBILITY: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VENEZUELAN MIGRATORY EXPERIENCE IN THE METROPOLITAN REGION OF RECIFE (BRAZIL)**

*Antônio Fagner da Silva Bastos, Camila da Silva Lucena, Daniela Florêncio da Silva, David Ramos, Eloah Maria Martins Vieira*

### **- ABSTRACT -**

The current Venezuelan migration process brings more light in the complexity of forced migrations, challenging the definitions then established and the structures of reception and humanitarian protection. This dialogue in Brazil focuses, mainly, on aspects of social inclusion. In the urban spaces of the metropolitan region of Recife, the context of forced migrations gained relevant visibility through Venezuelan migration, boosting not only its reception and protection structure for migrants and refugees in this metropolitan region, as well as throughout the State of Pernambuco. The reception space is analyzed in this research, not only in its institutional form, as well as through an informality developed by Venezuelan migrants and refugees in their daily lives, understanding these spaces as sensitive to time, fluid and changeable (BARNES, 2009), building a direction for the establishment of a space for public policies (ARENDR, 2021). This research has been under development since 2019 with a methodological approach outlined by the literature review, by the documental analysis of the research carried out by Cáritas Brasileira Regional NE2, which follows this process since leaving Venezuela through the journey experiences (BENEZER; ZETTER, 2015) to the social insertion in the metropolitan region of Recife, in addition to experiences with Venezuelans during activities at the same Institution, both in remote and in-person form. Field research was also carried out in the state of Roraima, in the years 2019 and 2021, helping to deepen the understanding of this migration in Brazil and their convergences in the urban spaces researched.

**Keywords:** Venezuelan migration. Protection. Reception. Visibility. Recife Metropolitan Region (Brazil).



## CHINESE APPROACH TO REFUGEE PROTECTION

*Lili Song*

### - ABSTRACT -

The People's Republic of China (China) is an emerging destination of refugees and other displaced foreigners. This presentation discusses China's approach to refugee law and policy at national and international levels.

Although China is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, Chinese law contains no provisions governing the definition of a refugee or the determination of refugee status. In practice, although the Chinese government has generally allowed the UNHCR to process individual applications for refugee status, the Chinese government has practically performed the function of refugee status determination in large-scale influx situations through policy decisions. In these situations, the security, political, and strategic interests of China have often overshadowed China's commitment under the 1951 Convention.

In recent years, China has demonstrated interest in deepening its involvement in international humanitarian aid for refugees, especially those in Asia and Africa. This presents both opportunities and challenges for the international community working in the field of refugee protection.

This presentation recommends that (1) China should adopt a legal refugee definition in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and develop a predictable and fair national RSD mechanism, and (2) constructive dialogue and finding common grounds are key in the interaction between China and the international community in the global refugee governance.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND (IM)MOBILITY IN THE COASTAL ZONE OF GHANA

*Francis Williams Aubyn*

### - ABSTRACT -

Globally, climate change threatens economic stability, ecosystems, water resources and food security and negatively affect major sectors like agriculture, health, infrastructure and energy through rising temperatures and rainfall variability. In Africa, these effects have become austere in the coastline and continue to alter both coastal landscapes and livelihoods due to rising sea levels, competition for declining fish stock, land subsidence and low crop yield. In Ghana its impact is ongoing and more pervasive in the Coastal and Savannah zones. Its emergence is closely interwoven with structural problems linked with abject poverty and deteriorating climatic situations. Rainfall variability and rising temperatures in Ghana adversely affect agriculture livelihoods with drastic reductions in soil fertility, crop failure, drier regimes, declining fish stocks and annual floods. Women in Ghana are also more susceptible to the impacts of climate change due to cultural norms based on gender, inheritance arrangements and household duties.

Climate changes have complex links with migration, mobility and the livelihood aspirations of local people with individual decisions associated with socio-demographic and socio-economic factors. With the speed, intensity and scale of these climate events both movers and stayers face complex risks and vulnerabilities in their quest for safety and livelihood securities. Using Life Course theory in a mixed method design, data on household heads in the Ningo-Prampram district of Ghana will be collected to address two gaps on their migratory intentions and motivations: examine the cultural dimensions (place attachment) of movers and stayers and the gendered dynamics of climate induced (im)mobility in the study area. Generally, the study will examine the relationship between climate change and (im)mobility in the coastal zone of Ghana. The outcome of the study will have implications for further research, policy formulation and practice.

# CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION: A CRITICAL FEMINIST APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDERED REFUGEE NORMS

*Amanda Klassen (Carleton University)*

## - ABSTRACT -

Over the last 40 years, norms relating to the protection of refugee women and girls have emerged in the global refugee regime. While these international protection norms appear to be well-accepted by states and UNHCR, the inclusion of gendered perspectives has often been overlooked in policy-making. Likewise, even when gendered perspectives are included, the policies and commitments made at the international level often do not translate into successful implementation in programming in local contexts. This raises important questions about how we can better understand the gap between what is supposed to happen, and what actually takes place on the ground. Frameworks found in international relations scholarship on norms over the past 20 years can help to demonstrate how norms evolve over time, but remain largely focused on the role of states in this process. More recent scholarship highlights how material, ideational and structural factors can affect implementation, but more work is needed on the role of individuals who are the “supposed beneficiaries” of people-centred norms like those intended for the protection of refugee women and girls. Part of this work needs to consider the various ways that power plays out in the global refugee regime both in the paternalist approach taken by Western states in the making of “global” refugee policies, in the construction of refugees as inherently “vulnerable” and unable to speak for themselves, and in the role that power plays to condition the implementation and evaluation of policies. While both the tools found in international relations and, refugee and forced migration scholarship are useful, they can only take our understanding of implementation so far. As a contribution to the conference theme of international cooperation, this paper argues that a critical feminist approach to implementation is crucial for decentering the state, and highlighting different sites of power including the body where individuals express their agency to accept or contest specific norms.

## CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE VENEZUELAN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CRISIS: THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE LOCAL RESEARCHERS ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Rosmary D. Márquez-Lameda (Department of Applied Health Science, Indiana  
University Bloomington School of Public Health - United States)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The study of forced migration and research projects conducted with refugees and migrants in Latin America has increased in recent years, in part mainly due to the large displacement of Venezuelans across the region. For this project, I conducted 12 qualitative interviews with researchers in Peru, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic who are conducting research with Venezuelan refugees and migrants. The purpose of the study was to understand the challenges these researchers in the Global South face when publishing, receiving funding and getting their research recognized across different forums, including conferences, policy meetings and other spaces. During my presentation, I will also draw out some recommendations and good practices the researchers discussed during the interviews.

## CONSTRUCTING 'IDENTITY': VOICES OF ROHINGYA WOMEN FROM INDIA

*Roshni Sharma*

### - ABSTRACT -

The notion of identity stands central within the refugee study discourse in the 21st century. Over a period of time, the identity of a refugee has undergone mutations, making it more complicated. No longer refugee identities are formed only by ethnic and cultural traditions, but it also shaped by the resettlement process, the political and social conditions of the country in which they seek refuge (Hein 1993, Soguk 1999, Holt 2007). In an age of increasing number of forced migrants, it can be said that identity is not something that is inherited rather it is the status that one 'maintains' in any given space and time as against the other - the 'stranger' (Jenkins 2014).

It is common for refugees to experience a crisis of identity, of being unable to locate their world. For refugee women the challenges are multilayered. Not only do they suffer violence and marginalisation at the hands of the state but are equally prone to similar situations of violence within the private space, thus getting least recognition to the dual problems that these women engage with, producing an uncertain and unstable image of oneself.

This paper is an attempt to understand the notion of identity through a gendered lens; what it means to refugee women who are doubly marginalised and how they choose to respond to the new identity of 'refugee' in the host country. The paper will be based on both secondary and primary data. It will be centered around the narratives of Rohingya refugee women in India, with primary data being collected from two urban settlements in Bengaluru city, Karnataka, India.

## CONTESTED EU EXTERNALISATION POLICIES: PERSPECTIVES AND STRATEGIES OF TUNISIA AND TURKEY

*Marcus Engler (DeZIM-Institute), Aurelia Streit (DeZIM-Institute)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Against the backdrop of unresolved intra-European cooperation problems combined with a right shift in political discourse and political majority structures in many EU states, European decision-makers are increasingly looking for externalizing migration and refugee policy solutions. This paper analyzes how governments attempt to use migration or refugee policies strategically for their own purposes, specifically taking the example of the political negotiation processes between the EU and Tunisia/Turkey. According to the work of Tsourapas, governments of receiving states see refugees as a strategic resource (“Refugee Rent Seeking”) to obtain concessions in other policy areas or financial compensation payments from potential target states. In doing so, states employ different strategies “(blackmailing” or “backscratching”) depending on their relational or geographic positioning in the migration system and the size of the refugee population. Initial criticism of the migration diplomacy approach motivates this paper at further developing this critique and broadening our understanding of what migration diplomacy is. A central element of our critique and starting point for our analysis is that states in the European periphery always respond in their strategic actions to the externalization policies of the EU and the European states. Taking a comparative perspective, we are looking at Turkey and Tunisia, both countries are of central importance for European migration policies. Document analysis and expert interviews in both countries with a variety of stakeholders are used to gain insights into these negotiation processes. We argue that while the EU cannot impose externalization policies on neighbouring states, the opposite claim that those states could blackmail the EU is also flawed. Rather complex and dynamic negotiation processes can be observed, taking place against the backdrop of a fundamental asymmetry of power between the EU and the transit states. Patterns of conflict and cooperation between the countries under consideration and the EU differ considerably.

## CROSS-CULTURAL REFLECTIONS ON FACILITATING RESEARCH IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ETHICS

*Neil Bilotta, Hadijah Mwenyango*

### - ABSTRACT -

While the exploration of research ethics with forcibly displaced communities (FDC) in the Global South has been given scholarly attention, much less focuses on how researchers' intersecting personal and professional identities impact the research relationship between research participants and researchers. From the perspectives of two social work researchers, one Black female from Uganda and one white male from the United States, this paper unpacks the implications of facilitating research with refugees in East Africa, based upon our unique identities. Rooted in critical self-reflections of our qualitative research projects completed at two sites (Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda and Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya), this paper demonstrates the intersection between sociopolitical context, power, privilege, colonialism, culture, identity, and research participants' expectations as they relate to relational research ethics. We individually and collectively examine the subtle and overt expectations of research participants formed of us (as a Black woman from the Global South and a white man from the Global North) aligned with and deviated based upon our personal and professional identities.

Framing our paper in decolonial and Black feminist theoretical prisms, we argue that researchers' critical self-exploration of individual and professional identities is pertinent in research with FDC.. However, we maintain that researchers must move beyond individual self-reflexive processes and engage in participatory and collaborative approaches with research participants to facilitate more equitable, culturally-sensitive, and less oppressive research relationships. Without proper ethical engagement with research participants research practices between FDC and researchers may perpetuate the inherent hierarchal imbalance. In addition to providing insight for seasoned and burgeoning qualitative researchers in humantrean settings in the Global South, this paper is also relevant for programme designers and funding bodies interested in anti-oppressive programming and practices with refugee communities.

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS, DATA AND IA: PROMISING TOOLS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION?

*Victor Augusto Mendes*

### - ABSTRACT -

Human Activity generates a large amount of data and this is especially true with the onset of the popularization of smartphones and access to the internet. Whereas digitalization - the act of registering data in digital repositories - associated with international migrations has been occurring since the 1990s, Artificial Intelligence in migration and mobility, including studies about these topics are only now receiving renewed attention after the surge in demand for digital solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Large amounts of data are a product of increased efficiency in bureaucratic procedures, and they bring an issue with them; they are often unstructured and hard to manage. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often defined as the ability of a machine to perform tasks that would normally be done by humans - such as the classification and “data chewing” of large repositories. As AI tools become more accessible and sophisticated, their potential uses associated with border management and international migrations become expanded. Although in use for more than two decades, state of the art research argues that AI solutions for migration data are unregulated, opaque and have limited accountability.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, further research also argues that Migrants - as producers of data and migration scholars and experts are found today in very limited positions to monitor how governments and private corporations - as suppliers of services and tech solutions - collect and use such data.<sup>2</sup> Can there be a fair balance between protecting migrants’ right to privacy, human rights and the betterment of AI capabilities to support migration management and border security and control?<sup>3</sup> If in the design and testing of algorithmic tools migrants are often portrayed as a security threat, how can experts and other actors make contributions in such securitized matters?<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dialani, Priya. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MIGRATION: ITS POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS. Analytics Insight. April 26, 2021. Available at: <https://www.analyticsinsight.net/artificial-intelligence-in-migration-its-positive-and-negative-implications/>

<sup>2</sup> Bircan, T., Korkmaz, E.E. Big data for whose sake? Governing migration through artificial intelligence. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 8, 241 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-021-00910-x>

<sup>3</sup> McAuliffe, M., Blower, J., Beduschi, A. Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence in Migration and Mobility: Transnational Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Societies* 11, 135 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc11040135>

<sup>4</sup> Bircan, T., Korkmaz, E.E. Big data for whose sake? Governing migration through artificial intelligence. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 8, 241 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-021-00910-x>



## DISPLACED VENEZUELANAS AND THE POLITICS OF ASYLUM: THE CASE OF BRAZIL'S GROUP RECOGNITION POLICY

*Luiz F. Leomil (Carleton University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Latin America is often referred to as a particularly successful case in refugee protection where, through the 1984 Cartagena Declaration, States have established a tradition of openness, solidarity, and humanitarianism. Nevertheless, in practice, the instrument has been unevenly implemented in the region. This has posed consequences to the protection of displaced Venezuelans, who are now the second largest displaced population in the world and often live with precarious statuses. Applying process tracing as a methodology, this paper analyses the case of Brazil, one of the few countries granting asylum to this population, and identifies the drivers which influenced its response. The paper elucidates how Brazil's group recognition policy for Venezuelans has not been based on *stricto sensu* humanitarian considerations or the relatively lower number of refugees hosted in the country. Rather, this research points to several factors which, when in interaction, have corroborated with the country's decision to apply the Cartagena refugee definition *en masse*. Amongst them are international relations, foreign policy considerations, domestic politics, bureaucratic processes, and the role of key individuals from within and outside the government. Finally, although this research analyses the specific context of Brazil and some of its findings may not be generalisable, it ultimately aims to serve as a stepping stone for further studies looking to understand the politics of asylum in Latin America and the region's implementation gap *vis-à-vis* the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

**Keywords:** refugees; politics; process tracing; displaced Venezuelans; Brazil.

## DISPLACED YESTERDAY, HOSTING TODAY: THE POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY OF OPEN DOOR DISCOURSE IN PERU AND RWANDA

*Nicolas Parent (McGill University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

In an age where 'open door' refugee policies are increasingly scarce, the rationales and logics that undergird these hosting contexts remain an important area of inquiry. In contrast to abundant scholarship centering on border build up and securitisation in the Global North, a fewer number of scholars have sought to understand why some host countries in the Global South have adopted more humanitarian and rights-based policy approaches than their northern counterpart. Current research has pointed to several explanatory factors, such as overall migration policy liberalization, solidarities forged through regional political economy, and expansive protection instruments such as the 1984 Cartagena Declaration or 1969 OAU Convention. In this paper, these factors are expanded to include the role of displacement histories on present day refugee policies. Exploring this through the cases of Peru and Rwanda, it is argued that both countries' own history of forced displacement and their citizens' experience as hostees have played an important role in defining how they treat and host refugees in their respective regions. In the case of Peru, I show how international mixed migration in the second half of the 20th Century resulting from dictatorship and internal conflict is constitutive of the discursive frame that currently underpins its open door policy towards Venezuelans. In the case of Rwanda, it is the exodus of Rwandans across the Great Lakes region following the 1994 genocide that has shaped its welcoming asylum context for displaced persons from Central and East Africa and beyond. Discursive analysis reveals that political actors in both Peru and Rwanda recall on their countries' own experience of displacement to underline the importance of being good neighbors towards those who flee violence and persecution, and relatedly, the need to 'pay it forward.' Through comparative political psychology, this paper examines how direct experience with displacement plays a role in responsibilising states towards refugees.

**Keywords:** refugee hosting; displacement history; responsibility; political psychology; comparative migration studies; Peru; Rwanda.

# EFFECTS OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND MIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ON REFUGEES IN PROTRACTED SETTLEMENT PROCESSES IN MEXICO

*Susanne Willers*

## - ABSTRACT -

Over the last decade, more people than ever before have requested asylum at the Southern U.S.- border and in Mexico. And Mexico as country of transit has been turning into a territory of settlement and immobility for refugees and migrants who fail to enter the United States due to increasing migration and asylum enforcement. Even though the majority of people has been arriving from three Central American countries –El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—, citizens from many countries and different continents cross Mexico each year. Yet, contrary to the declared aim of ongoing migration enforcement pushed forward by the US- administration, that intends to hinder the movement of people, migration flows have been increasing under the current conditions of economic depredation and the spread of organized crime in many Latin American countries. Additionally, disasters such as earthquakes (Haiti), hurricanes (El Salvador, Honduras) and economic crisis after the COVID 19 emergency have been important drivers for mobility over the last few years and may have been changing these patterns. Clearly, the effects of the COVID 19 Pandemic have not only been contributing to deepen already existing inequality along the lines of social differences based on “race”, class, gender and others inside the countries but also in terms of worsening the conditions for people on the move who are looking to escape violence and make a livelihood. The contribution looks to analyse gendered experiences of refugee settlement in Mexico under current conditions of the COVID 19 pandemic: limited access to health, decent labour and housing. It critically interrogates the limitations of effective refugee protection and political polarization under pandemic circumstances and solidarity as alternatives.

## ENHANCED VULNERABILITY OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

*Stephen Phillips (Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Asylum seekers are widely recognised as a particularly vulnerable group in need of special protection. In times of crisis this vulnerability is intensified, as seen during the spread of Covid-19. In the crisis context many asylum seekers experience increased and often acute isolation from legal systems, welfare systems, and community support structures due to state changes to a range of policies. For asylum seekers in transit, movement typically becomes further restricted to the point where access to asylum procedures is almost impossible. For example, the current response to Covid-19 is in practice a full suspension of territorial asylum by many states. Asylum seekers living in host communities often face exclusion from a range of welfare supports made available to citizens during crises, such as income support or other types of welfare support, even in cases where they have been living and working in the community for many years. Crisis-driven restrictions on freedom of movement also prevent many from accessing important community supports on which they rely. During crises, asylum seekers in immigration detention often face increased health risks due to crowded conditions, lack of protective equipment, limited access to healthcare, and increased isolation due to restrictions on visits.

I examine the impact of these changes from the perspective of international human rights law, and consider the extent to which considerations of vulnerability play a part in the approaches of governments to asylum seekers during the present pandemic. What emerges is a shift towards further exclusion, and a widening divide between how states approach citizens versus others, resulting in enhanced vulnerability. By looking at how states engage vulnerability, and contrasting this with the use of the concept by other community actors, I ask what role the concept of vulnerability might play in present and future responses to crisis.

## FEMINISATION OF MIGRATORY FLOWS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND REGIONAL POLICIES

*Sarahí Rueda, Mónica Linares, Pia Riggirozzi, Amos Channon*

### - ABSTRACT -

This study assesses the feminisation of migratory flows from the north triangle during displacement through Mexico in the last two decades. We identified differences by origin country (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), risk exposure, health conditions and their needs and barriers to get access health system. Mixed methods were applied (data from EMIF “south” survey from 2004-2019 and semi-structured interviews). The results shown particular settlements were women suffered from worst health status and unmet needs on health treatments, including sexual and reproductive health; particular groups of women with more vulnerability such as mothers with younger kids who experience more obstacles to get access medical attention. Situations which placed a considerable strain on health care resources in comparison to other locations where Centro American migrant population also are located . Considering these preliminary findings, we analysed public health implications and the response of local politics during the observation period

**Keywords:** Centro American Migrants, women, health status, public health implications, sexual and reproductive needs.

## FORCED MIGRATION AND COVID-19: CHALLENGES TO COOPERATIVE PUBLIC POLICIES IN TIMES OF GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS

*Gabriela Soldano Garcez<sup>1</sup>*

### - ABSTRACT -

Alongside the countless challenges for the implementation of human rights (which ultimately allow access to the dignity of the human person, by granting, at least, the minimum quality of life), the Covid-19 pandemic has intensified difficulties suffered by forced migrants, either because of the risk of contagion on the way or in the settlements in the host countries, in view of the almost complete absence of international cooperation on the matter, or even the lack (of existence and effectiveness) of prevention and precaution instruments to meet the needs of this vulnerable part of the population, which moves in search of special protection and, consequently, becomes a concern of the international community.

In this sense, the present article intends to approach (through the critical-deductive method, made through the analysis of bibliographic references), at first, the importance of International Refugee Law and International Human Rights Law for granting protection to forced migrants.

Then, it analyzes the need for international cooperation, carried out through governance, to enable humanitarian and inclusive public policies, related to the dignity of the human person, with a focus on the granting of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially with regard to a healthy environment for all (which, of course, includes the population in forced displacement).

Finally, the chapter also addresses how the Covid-19 pandemic affected or slowed down the implementation of cooperative and/or collaborative public policies on this topic, in view of any safety or social quality control (due to, for example, the lack of properly organized systems to formalize arrivals and departures at borders, among other causes), which indicates a cruel formula (of social despair and will to survive) that places them subject to all kinds of adversities.

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## FORCED MIGRATION AND MIGRATION DIPLOMACY: “STATE VS. STATE” OR “STATES VS. REFUGEES”?

*Juliette Tolay (Associate Professor of Political Science School of Public Affairs  
Penn State Harrisburg)*

### - ABSTRACT -

This paper proposes to critically evaluate the state-centrism inherent in most scholarship about migration diplomacy. Migration diplomacy has emerged in the last 10 years as a promising concept to understand the nexus between migration and foreign policies (Adamson and Tsourapas, 2019). Here, I propose to use the concept of coloniality as developed by Anibal Quijano and Walter Mignolo to revisit the global literature on migration diplomacy. Coloniality as an analytical lens pushes the analysis to render visible and question state-centrism. Many studies have denounced the instrumentalization, commodification, and weaponization of migration, in particular forced migration, that belies many migration diplomacy practices.

However, most of the scholarship still understands power inequalities and opposing interests in terms of “state” vs. “state” tensions. This paper proposes to re-center the analysis around power inequalities and opposing interest of “refugees” vs. “states”. Beyond refugees and displaced individuals, this paper also looks at power disparity and interest of home, transit, and host communities, thereby focusing attention on human agency and interests. This reconceptualization paper mostly elaborates the argument based on a systematic review of the migration diplomacy literature, with a specific focus on Syrian, Rohingya, and Venezuelan displacement.

**Keywords:** State-centrism – Migration diplomacy – Coloniality – Forced Migration.

## GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: SOUTHERN IMPORTANCE

*Fernando Rei*

### - ABSTRACT -

Actually, the international scenario has been increasingly marked by certain instability in what regards the accomplishment of results. As if we didn't have problems in the post-pandemic world and in the climate change crises, we're back to having typical concerns of the still unresolved cold war.

Such characteristic is a consequence of the nature of the international relations itself, and the complexity of the environmental issues in a setting composed of actors and matters undergoing continuous transformation and instable, which the Law, the Political Science and the Diplomacy cannot ignore.

In fact, is crucial to discuss the need for changes in attitudes, actors, and arrangements required to lay a foundation for more effective global and environmental governances. Moving on with this scenario or putting it into effect requires and delineates the pillars for a global governance model that calls for a wide discussion and cooperation between academic and political actors, as well as new institutional arrangements, incorporating diverse contributions and perspectives, including these generated in the South Hemisphere.

From a southern perception on global environmental governance, decisions should be adopted in multilateral and multilevel settings and in this way are related to the fact that they are more inclusive settings in which developing countries have more space for action than in other organizations less legitimacy.

Environmental issues as a whole can only be met with satisfactory solutions if these are negotiated and regulated also by the others international actors that discuss interests using methods more efficient than diplomatic conferences, considering the role played by the new actors in the global agendas.

Moving on with this multilateral response, less rigid and structured, involves the discussion and action by multiple actors, because for the implementation of the global environmental governance the cooperation and negotiation require wider participation to build the possible consensus, and the South Hemisphere has a peculiar, varied, different and important approach in this scenario.



## GOOD PRACTICES TO HOST AND INTEGRATE VENEZUELANs' MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN JOAO PESSOA, BRAZIL (2018-2021)

*Andrea Pacheco Pacífico (CSVM/NEPDA/UEPB/Brazil), Fabiola Faro Eloy Dunda (NEPDA/ UEPB/ Brazil), Sarah Fernanda Lemos Silva (NEPDA and PPGECsA/ UNB/Brazil)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Venezuelan crisis migration has modified regional migratory fluxes. Latin American region has faced new needs to implement public policies to host and integrate the new comers. In Brazil, the sixth country with the highest number of Venezuelan forced migrants, the situation has not been different from other countries in the region. Public policies, such as “Host Operation” (Operação Acolhida) and, within it, the Interiorisation Strategy, have sent hundreds of Venezuelan citizens to other Brazilian states. In the Northeast of Brazil, according to IOM (2021), Paraíba state is an example of Good Practice, having hosted 878 interiorised Venezuelan citizens, the highest number in the region proportionally. The city of João Pessoa, capital of the state, concentrates all state and municipal efforts to think how to host and to integrate this vulnerable population formed by refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants with humanitarian visa. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has represented new challenges to host and integrate them. Hence, this paper aims at discussing to what extent the local network of protection Venezuelan forced migrants in Paraíba state, between 2018 and 2021, has guaranteed their access to basic rights (for instance health care, education, and work) in the city of João Pessoa, by evaluating the period before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The main aim of the paper is to investigate Good Practice that has guaranteed access to basic rights to Venezuelan citizens in the city, using social networks theories. The research is basic, quali-quantitative, explanatory, bibliographic (doctrines and official documents), a case-study, and based on direct and participatory observation of the authors, who are member of the local network, in addition to being inductive, because it starts from evaluating Good Practices in the city of Joao Pessoa in order to replicate it everywhere.

## GOVERNING MIXED MIGRATION THROUGH RATIONALIZATION AND AMBIGUITY: THE CASE OF THE IOM AND THE UNHCR

*Younes Ahouga<sup>1</sup>*

### - ABSTRACT -

The UN Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees failed to address the emerging regime complex governing mixed migration. They sidestepped the issue of migrants who are not refugees but who have protection needs and avoided establishing a clearer division of labour between the IOM and the UNHCR. This generates strategic ambiguity about the latter's appropriate interactions while maintaining an epistemic ambiguity about the nature and causes of mixed migration and the tasks that should be implemented in response. This paper seeks to understand how the IOM and the UNHCR react strategically to this two-dimensional ambiguity by producing their own epistemic and strategic clarity. As ambiguity-reducing machines, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) define problems and break them down into manageable parts through practices of quantification, standardization and classification. Although these practices are central to the organizational routines of IGOs, they can fail and lead to further messiness. Moreover, IGOs can foster ambiguity to increase their autonomy and strengthen their position. The paper highlights the importance of rationalization and ambiguity in forging outcomes in regime complexity by examining documents through which the IOM and the UNHCR constitute mixed migration as a policy problem and determine their framework of cooperation.

**Keywords:** Mixed Migration, Regime Complex, Rationalization, Ambiguity, Intergovernmental Organizations.

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# HAUNTED BY THE PAST: ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF RECIPROCAL RESEARCH WITH REFUGEES FLEEING POLITICAL CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

*Paladia Ziss*

## - ABSTRACT -

Methodological discussions on research with people in situations of forced migration rightly focus on ethical research practice, centring participants' autonomy, equity, competence, partnership, diversity (IASFM 2018) and reciprocity (Mackenzie, McDowell, and Pittaway 2007). There is a growing consensus that research with refugees should challenge unequal power relationships in knowledge production, dissemination and use, countering violent and depoliticising practices of states, humanitarian agencies, and researchers embedded in colonial continuities. This paper contributes to this debate on research ethics in refugee-hosting communities by analysing dilemmas posed by the complex, unequal and ambiguous socio-political dynamics within refugee-hosting communities. In contexts of ongoing authoritarian governance and war, both refugee communities and host societies may be internally polarised along various axes of power, including class, ethnicity and religion. As a result, research participants may share present experiences of living in forced migration but might have occupied various and potentially contrary positions along the political spectrum in the past.

Drawing on primary PhD research on how the politics of time shape refugee-host relations in Germany and Turkey, the paper reflects on how principles of reciprocity and diversity may be complicated by an emerging understanding of the pasts of research participants as the study unfolds. The paper argues that researchers may need to take difficult decisions to prioritise some perspectives of some refugees over those of others. Taking seriously Malkki's (1996) critique of dehistoricisation in refugee representation, and Fabian's (1983) caution against denying coevalness to marginalised groups, researchers should take into account how the political dynamics that caused forced displacement in the past continue to haunt refugee-hosting communities in the present.

IASFM. 2018. 'Code of Ethics: Critical Reflections on Research Ethics in Situations of Forced Migration.' International Association for the Study of Forced Migration.

Mackenzie, Catriona, Christopher McDowell, and Eileen Pittaway. 2007. 'Beyond "Do No Harm": The Challenge of Constructing Ethical Relationships in Refugee Research.' *Journal of Refugee Studies* 20 (2): 299–319. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fem008>.

Bio: Paladia Ziss is a PhD candidate in Social Policy/Sociology at the Institute for Research into Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham, UK. She looks at how the politics of time shape refugee-host relations in communities in Turkey and Germany. Before returning to academia, she worked in development and humanitarian assistance in Turkey, Palestine and Germany for several years. She holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Oxford.

## HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIOR AMONG RESETTLED REFUGEES

*Mahfoudha Sid'Elemine (Old Dominion University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Various studies have examined barriers to refugees' access to social services provided by Resettlement Agencies including lack of language skills and literacy, work and family obligations, and lack of access to information. However, another obstacle to refugees' access to institutional social support that has not been explored is how demographic factors, such as social status, individual and cultural values impact refugees' willingness to use institutional social support services.

This paper examines how the demographic characteristics of resettled refugees, specifically, the socio-economic status, individual self-esteem, and cultural values around interpersonal dependency influence their willingness to participate in social services provided by resettlement agencies.

Using Nadler & Fisher 's (1986) model of Threat to self-esteem in help situations, this paper argues that refugees' attitudes towards social support services is similar to that of other groups in help-seeking situations in that their help-seeking behavior is impacted by personal characteristics, social, and cultural values. Conducting individual interviews and surveys with resettled refugees in Hampton Reads area in Virginia, US. This paper suggests that-- individual refugees coming from higher socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to perceive the assistance provided by resettlement agencies as a threat to their self-esteem. Hence, they are more likely to have limited participation in those programs.

An important aspect that this paper contributes to research on refugees is removing the conceptualization of refugees' help-seeking behavior from the framework of need and necessity to a one of choice and evaluation. It establishes that it is important to foreground that refugees themselves decide when and how to seek support based on factors that are related to their personal characteristics and their perception of the services available.

# HOST-REFUGEE RELATIONSHIPS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA: SEEKING AND FINDING REFUGE AMIDST HOSTIPITALITY

*Miriam Jaehn*

## - ABSTRACT -

When talking about refugees in South and Southeast Asia, one of the first points of critique is that the main refugee receiving countries in the regions are not signatories to the 1951 International Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and that they do not provide any national or regional policies on refugee rights. This situation is formulated as a serious lack, forbidding refugees to receive recognition and protection. Instead of only framing the South and Southeast Asian countries' approaches in terms of lack, it is necessary to question its current structures in more detail. Thus, this paper uses Derrida's concept of hostipitality (Derrida 2000) to question the tensions between the regions' hostile and hospitable approaches to its many refugee populations. I argue that spaces of refuge in South and Southeast Asia are created through a variety of hosts in dialog with refugees as active agents which together define the spatial and temporal boundaries of protection. The forms of refuge offered to refugees in the region arise in dialog with the International Refugee Regime (IRR) and its standards while the countries also set their own limitations to asylum – legally, spatially, and temporally. While official boundaries drawn by the state are more rigid, NGOs have learnt to negotiate and work around these firm boundaries by providing more flexible and informal forms of sanctuary. Further, refugees themselves mobilise alternative providers of protection and support, such as religious communities, local authorities, and neighbourhoods, to create their own protection spaces. In other words, refuge in South and Southeast Asia is constituted by a complex web of hospitable connections and hostile tensions between refugees and their many hosts.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OR RADICAL POLITICS – COMPETING NOTIONS OF LAW AND REFUGEEHOOD AMONG CHURCH-LED AND RADICAL ACTIVISTS IN ADDRESSING THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CARAVANS

*Veronica Overlid*

### - ABSTRACT -

Between October 2018 and June 2019, several ‘migrant caravans’ moving from Central America towards the United States attracted vast political and media attention. Reaching an estimated 10,000 individuals in Mexico only in fall 2018, they were relatively small compared to the around 400,000 people that yearly attempt to cross the Mexico-US border (París Pombo and Montes 2020).

Yet, a range of actors reacted to the caravans, all with competing humanitarian and political interests. This encounter prompted debate about international refugee law and how to address this phenomenon (Varela Huerta&McLean 2019). Among them were the organization Pueblo Sin Fronteras (PSF) and Mexican priest and founder of a migrant shelter Alejandro Solalinde, both of whom accompanied the caravans through parts of the journey in Mexico.

Although both accompanied caravans during the past decade through the church-led Viacrucis Migrante, tension mounted in late 2018 when some church shelters and Padre Solalinde blamed PSF for “pursuing their own political objectives at the expense of migrants” (Velasco&Rafael 2021; López 2018). PSF rejected what they argued was an attempt to discredit the work they have been doing for years (Tourliere 2018). In the midst of this were the caravaneros themselves, organizing in order to move towards the United States.

International refugee law plays an important role here, but as per Thomas (2018), it is itself developed in a specific historical and political context, and is part of the problem. In this paper, I examine church-led and activist groups’ responses to and interaction with the caravans, and the mounting tension between them. I explore the role of international refugee law in structuring the responses as well as the way in which the actors themselves take up law in their work, including competing notions of law and refugeehood as these concepts intersect with humanitarian assistance and radical politics.

## IN THIS GREEN LIMBO: HAZARA AFGHAN REFUGEES IN INDONESIA AND THEIR NARRATIVES OF DESPAIR AND IMPATIENCE

*William Westerman, Hussain Shah Rezaie*

### - ABSTRACT -

Although not a signatory to the Refugee Convention or Protocol, Indonesia finds itself holding about 13,200 refugees at the behest and with the support of the Australian government. More than half of these (58%) are Afghans. Almost all Afghan refugees are from Hazara ethnic and religious minority who have been persecuted in the past and extensively by the current ruling power, the Taliban. These Hazara were held up en route to Australia to seek asylum. Those who arrived after July 2014 have been told they will never be allowed to enter Australia and must either find a third country or repatriate, while those who arrived before await resettlement in Australia. Some detained, others held in refugee centers, and still others living on their own or on the streets in tents, they have experienced depression and hopelessness leading to self-harm and high rates of suicide, with some 15 having killed themselves so far. They are scattered across the Indonesian archipelago, including Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi, and minor islands near Singapore.

Yet, through social media, they have established a network of solidarity with one another, organizing nationwide protests and international media campaigns. They report on their demonstrations and post documentation of the human rights abuses against them. Based on interviews conducted by one or more of their own researchers, this paper will outline, in their own words, the major issues they face; the reasons for the high rate of psychological distress, and the ways they continue to cope, through culture and mutual solidarity.

## INCLUDED, RELEGATED TO THE MARGINS OF THE DISCIPLINE OR METHODOLOGICALLY AND EPISTEMICALLY CONFINED? A REFLECTION ON REFUGEE RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR)

*Salma Essam El Refaei*

### - ABSTRACT -

This paper offers an analysis of how IR scholars discuss and teach about refugees. In their originative work, Betts and Loescher (2010) showcased diverse projects, where refugees are indeed the focus of research, by IR scholars who “all have their feet planted squarely in the discipline” and who represented mainstream and critical IR approaches (Abdelaaty 2012, p. 1). However, and despite the excellent contributions in their edited volume, Betts and Loescher (2010) reached the conclusion that generally, IR scholars, “bypassed the study of refugees” which suggests, that despite being ‘included’ in the field, refugees remain(ed) under-researched (RSC 2010). This paper revisits Betts and Loescher (2010)’s investigation, exploring why IR scholars turn to the field of Forced Migration to conduct refugee research and locates emerging trends in the discipline, where refugees have been relegated to the margins of the discipline, despite challenging the centrality of state sovereignty, as a concept, in IR. The paper argues that refugees’ complex subjectivities have been collapsed to fit into preconceived ethico-political projects, furthering particular ontological, and epistemological imaginations and methodological tropes in the field. My research will proceed in three steps. First, I am reviewing articles on refugees published in 15 IR journals. In this literature review, I focus on the ethics and methods used in the research. In a second step, I will investigate the rationales behind the research designs chosen by researchers by conducting extended semi-structured interviews with 15 IR scholars whose work I reviewed in the first step. The interviews will prompt these scholars to reflect on how their ethics shaped their relationship with and presentation of refugees. Informed by these insights on reflexivity, the third step of my research will be an autoethnography of the researcher-refugee relationship based on working with a refugee research partner. Through these steps, I am aiming to locate pathways to re-imagine future refugee research in the field of forced migration and in IR.



# INITIAL FINDINGS ON RETURN MIGRATION OF CAMEROONIAN REFUGEES IN NIGERIA: REFUGEE VULNERABILITIES AND COPING STRATEGIES

*Ngozi Louis Uzomah*

## - ABSTRACT -

The social, political and economic vulnerabilities of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria pose challenges for stakeholders in delivering humanitarian protection. This paper assesses the vulnerabilities of Cameroonian refugees who live in 3 different locations in Nigeria vis-à-vis refugee settlement, urban off-camp and rural host communities and their coping strategies. Lazarus and Folkman coping theory which involves generating specific solution-focused strategy, through perceived personal and social resources, to get through difficult times was employed as model. Mixed method approach using survey, interviews and FGDs as instruments for data collection was adopted. A total of 1050 refugees were randomly sampled. Based on the UNDP human security indicators, a total of 10 thematic areas including accommodation, documentation and economic, food, health, community and political security were used in this assessment. Results from descriptive analysis shows that with 82%, refugees from the rural host communities are the most economically deprived compared to those from the refugee settlement (76%) and off-camp urban (68%). A total of 64% female refugees from rural host communities return intermittently to Cameroon to harvest crops from their farms, and 76% from urban off-camp engage in table markets while 38% from the settlement rent land to farm as strategies against their economic woes. The women are investing the money and time they could have used in attending social gatherings and meeting friends as a solution-focus strategy to fight hardship and make profit. Most refugees (88%) from rural host communities as against 42% from the settlement tolerate and accommodate hosting communities by celebrating ceremonies together with them as a strategy to achieving peaceful cohesion and guide against insecurity in the community. Many young refugees from the settlement (43%) against 32% from off-camp urban, aged 18-35, sacrifice their personal resources by giving bribe to security personnel to forestall arbitrary arrest/detention and have their freedom.

**Keywords:** coping strategies, economic security, personal resources, solution-focused strategy, vulnerabilities.

## INITIAL FINDINGS ON RETURN MIGRATION OF CAMEROONIAN REFUGEES IN NIGERIA: RETURN ASPIRATION AND ABILITY

*Ngozi Louis Uzomah*

### - ABSTRACT -

The myriad issues of increasing number of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria, insufficient funding for effective emergency support and lack of local integration prospects has trapped the refugees into daily struggle for survival prompting some to return home. Those who aspire to return face human right violations and destroyed infrastructure if they return. The aim of this paper is to examine the individual characteristics of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria in relation to their return aspiration and ability. Carling aspiration/ability theory was employed as a model. Survey and interviews were used for data collection. A total of 1050 refugees were randomly sampled. Results from descriptive analysis show that most refugees (82%) aspire to return, whereas 18% will stay in Nigeria and only visit home occasionally. All (100%) of the latter group prefer staying on dependable livelihood and stable condition in Nigeria than return to joblessness and fragile peace in Cameroon. The conflict is not countywide, and therefore acts as immigration interface which puts barriers on return ability: a total of 52% of refugees aspires to return only when Ambazonia achieves independence, 12% when the conflict stops and 9 % are ready to return to any stable area in Cameroon. This means that 73% of them are involuntarily immobile in Nigeria. However, the return ability of all of those who agrees to return to any stable area is hindered by financial constraints: a total of 13% of them needs only transportation fare while 54% needs money for transportation, family up-keep, house repairs and business start-ups in Cameroon. A total of 72% of those who aspire to return when Ambazonia achieves independence agrees that their aspiration is shaped by lack of freedom of association in Nigeria while 92% of those who need only transportation fare agrees that precarity in Nigeria shapes their return aspiration.

**Keywords:** Cameroonian refugees, involuntarily immobile, Nigeria, return ability, return aspiration.

# INSIDE EUROPE'S ASYLUM APPEALS: ETHNOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL ASYLUM ADJUDICATION<sup>1</sup>

*Nicole Hoellerer, Nick Gill (ASYFAIR, University of Exeter, UK)*

## - ABSTRACT -

Drawing on our interdisciplinary, ethnographic insight into regional asylum appeal hearings, we explore three broad themes, and provide practical recommendations to improve asylum adjudication both regionally and globally. Firstly, we explore access to protection through asylum appeals, focusing on regional approaches to bringing participants together for their day at court. Here we look at preparations for appeals, the gathering of evidence, access to courts and legal advice, and the impact of long periods of waiting on asylum appellants and their claims. Secondly, we investigate the theme of participation in regional asylum court appeals, focusing on the consequences of the politics of speed, barriers to communication and participation in asylum court hearings, and the impact of technological innovations, such as virtual/remote hearings. Thirdly, we discuss regional approaches and expressions of judgecraft in asylum court appeals, exploring expertise and competence, scepticism and judicial reasoning, as well as judicial discretion and its consequences for asylum appellants and their claims.

The aims of our research, monograph and presentations are (a) to understand the practical, grounded and regional challenges of asylum appeals as an effective form of protection; (b) to examine the roles and experiences of various regional participants involved in asylum appeals, including asylum appellants; (c) to understand the regional ways laws are interpreted, implemented and negotiated on the ground; and (d) to offer realistic, bottom-up suggestions for how asylum court appeals can be improved both regionally and globally.

**Keywords:** asylum adjudication; legal fragility; regional approaches to legal practice; practical recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on our monograph on asylum appeals in several European countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the UK), our presentations explores regional asylum adjudication relevant for dialogues on refugee status determination in Europe and globally.

## **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS - BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK IN BRAZIL WHAT SHOULD BE THE FOUNDING BASES OF A NATIONAL LAW AIMING THE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN BRAZIL?**

*Luciana Laura Carvalho Costa Dias*

### **- ABSTRACT -**

With regard to forced displacement, and not only internal displacement, it is safe to say that Brazil faces not only one but multiple crises.

The 8.8 million people forcibly displaced in Brazil between 2000 and 2017 can be divided into four categories: refugees, violence, development and disasters. The vast majority of them - about 6.4 million - have had to leave their homes due to natural or man-made disasters such as fires and dam disruptions. Development projects have displaced at least 1.2 million Brazilians in the last 18 years. Violence in rural areas forced the displacement of about

1.1 million people. With regard to refugees, it was identified that Brazil welcomes only 10,022 of them.

Despite the enormous scale of internal displacement, Brazil has not yet developed an effective response to the problem. This may be due to the absence of a federal law that, in the light of human rights doctrine, establishes the rights of displaced persons and assigns specific responsibilities to different government agencies with a view to formulating and implementing public policies aimed at addressing the forced displacement crisis that ravages Brazil.

The research, therefore, is purposeful in designing, at least in general lines, an abstract, non-operational model of normative institutional designs in order to reflect and strengthen the Brazilian legal framework in the face of the risk of disasters and, in particular, one of its most frequent outcomes, forced displacement.

It is important to stress, however, that the law issue, per se, is not entirely capable of modifying realities or dictating behaviors. For the effective protection, consolidation and socioeconomic stabilization of internally displaced persons in Brazil, a real construction of social infrastructures represented in national public services and even civil society is required.

## INVESTIGATING CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION OF SUB-SAHARAN IMMIGRANTS IN MOROCCO

*Fatima Zohra ALAOUI MAHREZ<sup>1</sup>, (Mohammed 1st University, Oujda, Morocco)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Because of its geopolitical location, Morocco has always played an important role in Euro- African migration since it has been a source and transit country. However, in the last decades Morocco has moved from being only a sending and transit country to a country of destination, and Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa constitute the majority of regular and irregular migrants in the Kingdom. African migration has become a natural phenomenon in light of military coups, economic crisis, religious fragmentation and social problems. Thus, failed policies of range of political systems as well as popular revolutions have led to wars and crisis, the fact that increased displacement and peoples' migration. This reality forced the kingdom to look for new approach in dealing with this international phenomenon. Accordingly, this paper tries to investigate the extent to which sub-Saharan African migrants feel that they are integrated in the Moroccan community, and to raise the main challenges they face in host country. To do so, a qualitative analysis is conducted to 45 unstructured narrative interviews with both regular and irregular migrants. The participants targeted in this study are sub-Saharan Africans who have settled in Oujda city for undergraduate studies or work, hence, 20 of them are students and the rest are either workers or beggars. The method of analysis used is thematic analysis which focuses on the common and main themes that the interviewees have provided in their narratives. The themes raised by the participants highlight the main challenges and opportunities they encounter in the Moroccan society. The research concludes that the main challenges Sub-Saharan Africans face in Morocco are; racism, discrimination and general exclusion. On the other hand, the main opportunities they have gained are; security, intimate relationships and freedom. Consequently, this paper claims that sub-Saharan African immigrants are not fully integrated in the Moroccan community and they often experience marginalization and separation.

**Keywords:** Sub-Saharan Migration; Morocco; Cross-Cultural Adaptation; Integration, Exclusion.

<sup>1</sup> Fatima Zohra ALAOUI MAHREZ a Doctoral student in the English Department of Mohammed I university, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Oujda, Morocco specialised in Intercultural Communication. Intercultural communication studies, Migration, cultural studies, CDA, international politics and international relations constitute her major research areas. Her MA dissertation was about "Intercultural-Interfaith Discourse in Morocco's African Foreign Policy: A Critical Analysis of HM King Mohammed VI Discourses" in which she tackled the issue of Sub-Saharan Immigration in depth.

## KAREN AND KENYA: CULTIVATING HOPE INTO ACTION IN A HIGHER EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY CONTEXT

*Staci B. Martin (Portland State University, Oregon, USA), Hayso Thako (Payup University, Chiang Mai, Thailand)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The purpose of the paper is to explore the impact of hope in the context of higher education through a Karen and Asian American researcher lens. Methods: We employ mixed methods and the Speaking for Ourselves Action Research (SOAR) approach (Martin et al, 2019). We will share how each method serves different purposes that ultimately supports a more holistic view of research. The conceptual model that we will integrate in our paper will be concepts of hope, specifically critical hope (Freire, 1994; Duncan-Andrade, 2009; hooks, 2003). This concept is a place where we can have meaningful dialogues that confront our own bias and complicities and together find solutions that are just, hopeful, and local. Findings: We will discuss our positionalities that bring us to the research that ultimately supports refugee communities and beyond. Our Karen researcher will highlight the Karen refugee context in Thailand/Burma border. He will offer a background of Karen education, specifically higher education. He will explain why education is important, the challenges of implementing higher education, and the opportunities. Our Asian American will discuss how education can play an integral role in co-creating spaces to embody critical hope and critical despair. She will also focus on how higher education supports peace-building efforts in the context of Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

Significance: Our Karen researcher will apply his own story of being a doctorate student that is studying how Karen higher education impacts peacebuilding. With his own story, he shares some anecdotal evidence of how education not only contributes to strengthening knowledge but also positively contributes to society as a whole. Our Asian American will show when we co-create a place for communities to produce their own knowledge, apply their education, they can drive public policies to support their own creative and meaningful solutions.

## **LGBTQIA+ REFUGEES UNDER DIFFERENT GROUNDS: THE PATHS OF TWO WOMEN REFUGEES IN BRAZIL AND THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE STATE**

*Cleiton Luiz Dornelas Percina*

### **- ABSTRACT -**

The aim of this paper is presenting finds of empiric research based on the biography of two young refugee women, a lesbian and a trans, who arrived in Brazil under different circumstances. One of them claimed the refugee status due to a law that, at the time, criminalized same sex relations. She had her status recognized under the Refugee Convention, based on the comprehension that she belonged to a social group, understanding adopted by Brazil and other countries which recognizes LGBTQIA+ people, fleeing from persecution, as refugees. These subjects are usually called SOGI refugees by the literature. They are usually faced with the apprehension of having to prove their sexualities and identities to authorities in the country of arrival. The other refugee, the trans woman, arrived in Brazil due to the crises that collapsed Venezuela. This paper intends to demonstrate and compare the negotiations they both did with the State and the impacts of these legal frames in their daily lives. It also aims to demonstrate the practices of decision maker toward those people as well as the role of other institutions such as UNHCR and the Brazil Refugee Committee (CONARE). This paper provides an added value to IASFM19, once it reveals the vulnerabilities LGBTQIA+ people are faced throughout their forced migration paths as well as provides scientific knowledge that could create guidelines of good practices for decision makers, impacting in future public policies.

## LIVING COLONIALITY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE STRUGGLES FOR RECOGNITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIGENOUS MIGRANTS' RIGHTS IN THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT

*Gabriela Mezzanotti, Alyssa Marie Kvalvaag*

### - ABSTRACT -

During migration movements and integration processes, human rights of Indigenous Peoples have largely been neglected. One remains indigenous despite being displaced, and many situations of displacement may be connected to one's indigenous status. Indigenous status has implications for both human rights violations forcing Indigenous Peoples to flee, as well as implications after displacement, especially considering their autonomy and self-determination in contrast to assimilationist policies. Indigenous migrants are often treated without regard for their status as Indigenous Peoples, as if their migrant status would hierarchically supersede their indigenous one.

While national origin is normally a focus regarding refugee status, there is a disregard for the fact that national borders also divide nations and indigenous territories imposed by colonial power. Coloniality has resulted in indigenous suffering, a protracted situation of invisibility and a continued exodus to urban contexts throughout Latin America; while the human rights infrastructure reinforces these imposed borders which divide Peoples and may reinforce discrimination and the labelling of displaced Indigenous Peoples as refugees or migrants ends up defining their enjoyment of human rights, rather than upholding their rights as Indigenous Peoples.

This article addresses the relations between indigenous and migration human rights protection in Latin America. It questions how a human rights agenda rooted in decolonial views may help overcoming the challenges faced by the intersectional invisibility of Indigenous migrants. Utilizing the case study of Venezuelan indigenous migrants, the article analyses the human rights of indigenous migrants contextualized within coloniality/decoloniality. It offers insights and limits of current human rights frameworks in protecting Indigenous migrants. This may inform potential directions for decolonizing the human rights agenda – an emancipatory potential for human rights – as well as the law and practice of human rights in the case of indigenous migrants in Latin America.



## LOVE OR STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL? MIGRANT WOMEN IN CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGES IN TURKEY

*Emel Coskun*

### - ABSTRACT -

Changes in Turkey's migration legislation since the early 2000s amended work permits, tourist visa, citizenship and marriage regulations under the influence of its EU membership process. Although the main intention of the policy change was to prevent "illegal" migration and trafficking in women through fake marriages, current studies show that these policy changes drove migrant women into informal settings, insecure and exploitative social relationships. After these restrictions on migrants, many migrant women try to make their stay more secure and seek to change their position from undocumented to "documented" migrants. Marriage with Turkish citizens can lead to a regularization process so is attractive to migrant women seeking to overcome the restrictions on their stay especially when documents are hard to come by. Migrant women, however, might be dependent on their husbands and vulnerable to different forms of male violence in their first years of married life as getting divorced before the obligatory marriage period of 3 years will mean losing the chance of citizenship in Turkey. Migration and citizenship through marriage is especially visible among women from the former Soviet States since the early 1990s, most recently from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Existing studies point out that the main motivation for post-Soviet women's migration through marriage in Turkey is "the desire for a better life" but that women are also motivated by emotional attachment and "love". However, migrant women in marriage find themselves in several difficulties from social exclusion to domestic violence.

This paper aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the experiences of migrant women from CIS countries in cross-border marriages in the light of Turkey's policy change since the early 2000s. This paper is based on in-depth interviews with more than 30 respondents including Kyrgyz migrant women in cross-border marriages, public employees, NGO workers, lawyers from city bars in Istanbul and Antalya in Turkey between July and December 2021. It is argued that despite the expectations of "finding love" and "a better life", many migrant women find themselves in an unequal relationship where they can be exposed to different types of gendered and domestic violence in the light of restricted rights especially in the first years of their marriage. Against the perception of "fake marriage", migrant women push themselves to prove that they got married out of "love" in front of public employees, against relatives and their social environments. Giving birth becomes a proof of their "love". Being a hardworking and self-sacrificing wife

also becomes another proof, and on the contrary to expectations, even some migrant women become the breadwinner of the family. Many migrant women find themselves under the pressure of meeting their husbands requests of conservative clothing, certain ways of behaving, working and socializing. Under the threat of being inspected by officials as well as increasing control of their husbands, many migrant women become more religious, socially restricted and less mobile as their freedom of movement is restricted. This paper argues that physical, economic and psychological violence against migrant women are common gendered violence types.

However, despite the violence, migrant women are not willing to make a complaint against their husbands as they are afraid of losing their resident permits or their children's guardianship.

**Keywords:** Marriage migration, cross-border marriage, migrant women, gendered violence, migration policy.

# MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE ASYLUM WAITING PROCESS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF TURKISH AND CANADIAN CONTEXTS

*Sanam Vaghefi*

## - ABSTRACT -

While the migrant health literature suggests that forced migration and refugee status negatively affect mental health, fewer studies focus on the mental health of refugee claimants waiting to be granted asylum. In addition, despite the high numbers of refugee claimants in the Global South, fewer studies attempt to compare refugee experiences globally. This study attempts to address these gaps by focusing on the mental health of refugee claimants from Iran, which has been one of the main refugee-sending countries since the 1980s. Focusing on the Turkish and Canadian contexts, which are subsequently significant destination countries in the Global South and North, the study asks the following questions: How does the waiting process affect Iranian refugees' mental health and wellbeing? How do their lived experiences of mental health and wellbeing differ based on the country of temporary asylum? In-depth qualitative phenomenological interviews were conducted with 15 Iranian refugees who left Iran after 2009 and lived in Canada. Nine of them spent their waiting process in Turkey, and six others spent it in Canada. The interviews were transcribed and coded using Dedoose, a qualitative analysis software. The analysis results show that the waiting process is characterized by a sense of temporariness, lack of belonging, precarity, and uncertainty of the future. These features of the waiting process frequently lead to adverse mental health outcomes, particularly worry, anxiety, lack of motivation, and depressive symptoms. The lack of financial assistance and work permits were mentioned as the major challenges of spending a waiting process in Turkey, compared to Canada. Yet, a majority of participants mentioned having community support and solidarity networks in Turkey, in contrast to Canada. The research is concluded with brief suggestions for future research.

## MIGRANT UNACCOMPANIED MINORS: ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES ON AN URGENT ISSUE

*Linda María Urueña Mariño*

### - ABSTRACT -

Thousands of unaccompanied minors (UM) are migrating around the world. Previous to their migration, during it, and once at their place of destination, they are exposed to many situations that might violate their human rights. Among this group, girls and LGBTQ+ minors face increased risk. There are international and national laws and policies directed to UM's protection, but their implementation has proved insufficient as the growing numbers of violations of these kids' human rights show. Nonprofits and civil society organizations play a key role in their protection, but they face financial and logistic constraints. This situation makes evident that there is a disconnection between law and policy on the one hand, and what happens in real life on the other hand. Civil society organizations try to fill that gap, but their efforts are not enough to protect all unaccompanied migrant children's human rights. With minors transiting through most continents, it is urgent to pay attention to what is happening with this population to create better ways to protect them.

The present exercise is a literature review of previous studies about UM. One of the main findings of this review is that mainstream academic databases do not contain many investigations made in the global south. In consequence, this review references mostly research performed in the global north. The second main finding relates to the scarce allusion to the particular situations experienced by girls and LGBTQ+ minors. Hence, this literature review calls attention to the urgency of studying the situation of UM in the global South and to widen the scope of the academic view to be more inclusive in order to understand what happens with those kids during their transits, and when their countries of destination are not the traditional ones.

## MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELAN AND PERUVIANS: A SOURCE OF CONFLICT

*Nieves Fernández Rodríguez*

### - ABSTRACT -

This article analyses Peruvian's attitudes and beliefs towards Venezuelan migrants in the context of the Venezuelan exodus, specifically in Lima and Ayacucho, and how they result in processes of othering the migrants and xenophobia. Additionally, it examines Venezuelan's attitudes and beliefs towards Peruvians, including negative prejudices based on class and race. This paper argues that, unlike in South-North migration contexts, perceptions of competition over scarce resources ('realistic threats') play a greater role in shaping process of othering the migrant than perceived threats to identity ('symbolic threats'). Additionally, as a result of mutual perceptions, this article shows a bidirectional conflict between Peruvians and Venezuelans, which presents different features from the conflicts taking place in South-North migration contexts. Structural inequalities in Peru, cultural and historical similarities between the receiving and sending countries, socio-racial hierarchies in Latin America and Venezuela's historic development might explain some of these findings. The results are drawn from a research fieldwork in Peru, which includes 60 semi-structured interviews to Venezuelans and Peruvians, two focal groups, and information registered in a personal diary from October 2018 to May 2019. This data is complemented and updated with existing public opinion survey data and with 20 interviews conducted to Peruvian politicians, civil servants and experts from December 2021 to January 2022.

## **POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST LIBERIAN REFUGEES IN GHANA: THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE**

*Veronica Fynn Bruey (Assistant Professor, Athabasca University)*

### **- ABSTRACT -**

During Liberia's civil war between 1989 and 2003, approximately 250,000- 270,000 people died while 800,000-1,000,000 persons were internally and internationally displaced. Perceived as the "spoils of war," 80 percent of girls and women were sexually abused as rape became a "weapon of war" to terrorise and violate human rights. An estimated 20,000 children, mostly primary school age, were forcibly enlisted, mutilated, raped, beaten, murdered and enticed to commit egregious crimes against humanity. Already traumatised, roughly 126,000 fled to Ghana seeking refuge pursuant to the Organisation of African Unity's Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees in Africa 1969 and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 – both of which Ghana is signatory. After three decades, 12,000 Liberians remain in a protracted displacement situation at the Buduburam Refugee Settlement in Ghana. In addition to the accumulated impact of the civil war and living as refugees, the experience of Liberians living in Ghana has been dehumanising at times, to say the least. This chapter highlights specific events of police brutality against Liberian refugees in Ghana with emphasis on two human rights incidences as examples. To date, there is no known comment and/or report from the Commission on Human Rights and Administration (CHRAJ) supporting the protection of Liberians who suffered police violence in Ghana. It is against this background that this chapter questions the mission of the (CHRAJ) to protect and enforce fundamental human rights and freedom to all persons in Ghana. Adopting a (feminist) legal analytic method, the chapter assesses the efficacy of CHRAJ's ability to conduct independent investigation for the purpose of implementing international and national human rights law in Ghana.

## PROTECTION OF REFUGEES, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CHALLENGES IN THE FACE OF THE DEGLOBALIZATION PROCESS

*Angela Limongi Alvarenga Alves*

### - ABSTRACT -

International cooperation is essential for the protection of migrants, and more importantly, refugees. This is reinforced by the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). Its four main goals are to ease the pressure on host countries; enhance refugees self-reliance; expand access to third-country solutions; and support conditions in countries of origin for a safe and dignified return, with responsibility-sharing and an effective international collaborative action. However, with deglobalization and the resulting difficulties in international cooperation mechanisms, this protection becomes more difficult. The process of deglobalization can be understood from economic and international policy analyses. From an economical perspective, many studies start from the 2008 crisis to understand the pushback of globalization, the circulation of goods and people globally, and thus, less favorable socioeconomic conditions, leading to aversion to refugees and migrants in general. On the other hand, international policy analyses show that these difficulties caused by deglobalization can be explained by the failures of global governance mechanisms, in particular, in cooperation and they go back to the so-called failed wars of the post-9/11 context, the fracturing of international law and the human rights violations that followed, indicating a process of (re)nationalization of politics and law, despite the international cooperation and solidarity advocated by the GCR and the necessary implementation and development of humanitarian spaces of protection, according with international refugee law.

## PROTECTION, VENEZUELAN CONVERTS, AND THE JEWISH IDENTITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

*Danni Reches (Migration Studies Haifa Center for German and European Studies - HCGES, University of Haifa, Israel Faculty of Social Science and Philosophy Leipzig University, Germany)*

### - ABSTRACT -

This study analyzes the unique Law of Return (LOR) of the State of Israel. The LOR is aimed at enabling the immigration of all Jews to Israel, in order to protect them from discrimination as a minority in other countries. Therefore, the LOR can be categorized as facilitating a form of forced migration. The law can be viewed as an expression of Israel's ethno-religious self-definition and any debate involving the LOR can thus be highly sensitive. Moreover, this paper introduces a under-researched case study; the case of Venezuelan converts to Judaism.

In 2011, between 9,500-14,000 Jews lived in Venezuela – which was a 50% decline of the community since the 1990s. This so-called mass exodus is caused by Jews feeling unsafe following a rise in anti-Semitism since Chávez took power. In addition to anti-Semitism, Jews experienced hardship like any other Venezuelan due to the economic crisis of 2014. While most Jews who left went to the U.S., 683 Venezuelans moved to Israel between 2013-2019 through the Law of Return. The Jewish Agency has recognized the dire situation of Venezuelan Jews, but nevertheless declined the application for LOR of nine Venezuelan Jewish converts. This case ended up at an Israeli parliament committee and provided these persons with another form of protection; a humanitarian visa instead of a LOR visa.

The analysis of the Venezuelan case shows what criteria apply to Israeli policy when it comes to protection, and the split between protection offered for Jews and offered to any person. Differences in treatment are a result of terms such as 'Jew' and 'Jewish convert' being subjective (Weber's theory on ethnicity) and the terms having been given different meanings by Jewish religious law, the Supreme Court, and the legislative power.



# QUEER MIGRATION, REFUGEE PROTECTION, AND NECROPOLITICS IN AND FROM THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

*Austin Bryan*

## - ABSTRACT -

States around the world regularly grant a handful of cases refugee protection on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to those fleeing the necropolitics of compulsory heterosexuality in the Republic of Uganda. While there remains little literature directly on the experiences of refugee protection, there is even less that analyzes the trends in these experiences in relation to the trends in experiences of queer migrants from DRC and Burundi seeking protection in the Republic of Uganda or in the experiences of those who have been deported back to the Republic of Uganda despite Uganda's necropolitics. This paper analyzes the experience of queer Ugandan migrants across three cohorts whose migration experiences span from 2010-2022. First, a cohort of Ugandans who migrated to the European Union, Australia, Canada, the USA, and Kenya because of persecution in Uganda due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Second, a cohort of Ugandans who were deported back to Uganda after seeking refugee protection. And third, a cohort of sexual and gender minorities who migrated from Democratic of Congo and Burundi to Uganda to seek refugee protection.

This is paired with analysis of 16 media articles (2015-2022) reporting the narratives of sexual and gender minorities from Uganda in community newspapers around the world, a review of the recent scholarship on queer migration, and observations from working at a queer indigenous NGO in Kampala, Uganda that assisted in supporting Ugandans with letters for asylum applications when abroad or social support when in the country. Findings will be presented in the conference paper.

## REAL-WORLD LABORATORIES AS A TRANSDISCIPLINARY AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH. DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

*Stefan Thomas, Annette Korntheuer, Judith Bucher*

### - ABSTRACT -

The paper presents the methodological approach of the transdisciplinary research and development project laeneAs (Ländliche Bildungsumwelten junger Geflüchteter in der beruflichen Ausbildung/The Rural Educational Environments of Young Refugees in Vocational Training”). The project aims at developing innovative solutions to support migrants and refugees in vocational education and training. Vocational education and training (VET) can make an important contribution to overcome educational barriers and gain participation in society. Recently rural areas have faced particular new challenges in establishing effective support systems for young apprentices with forced migration experience. This participatory research project seeks to identify educational barriers and to promote successful educational pathways for young refugees in vocational training. In four distinct rural areas in Germany, stakeholders in formal, non-formal and informal learning environments and young refugees will be brought together in real-world laboratories. We aim to open space for a co-constructive knowledge production process between scientific and political stakeholders, educational practitioners, and refugee youth. Their lifeworld expertise will be used for a contextual condition analysis of structural, societal, and individual barriers to education as well as for developing best practice models for transfer. Our contribution will focus on a critical reflection of the methodological approach of the study focussing on how social innovations can be developed and implemented together with the stakeholders in the field. With this paper we contribute to the conference theme by addressing global issues in regional contexts to strengthen social integration and educational chances of migrants and refugees.

## REFUGEE HOST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA: APPROACHES AND CHALLENGES

*Gordon Ochieng' Ogutu (School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies -  
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### - ABSTRACT -

Implementing development programs aimed at improving the livelihoods of the refugee host communities remain a major challenge to better migration management in the global South despite being a pathway to a peaceful and efficient refugee integration process. While the integration efforts can be argued to have fairly worked well in developed nations, in the South, a lot of countries are still struggling to with ensuring the smooth relationship between refugees and the host communities even as they grapple with development projects to counter the impacts of displacement in the communities. The long-term effect of poor migration management in Kenya includes; tensions, conflicts, poverty and marginalization, which exist between and amongst settled refugees, camped refugees, and the host communities.

In migration research especially refugee studies in Sub-Saharan Africa, more focus and attention has been paid to the impacts of the refugees to communities than on how the governments should respond in terms of development and policy frameworks. The few studies have only made recommendations for the governments but have not examined specific development responses in terms of the projects and policies that specifically target the host communities and have been or are being implemented by the governments. In Kenya, for example, the government and non- governmental organizations' responses focus on refugees living in camps and amongst the host communities which in effect has sidelined the host communities' socio-economic needs and, in some instances, led to tensions between the refugees and the communities. In some towns like Nakuru, Kajiado, Kakuma and Dadaab which host refugees, the host communities have been neglected by the government's and NGOs' interventions resulting in issues such as rising land rates, rents, dwindling business enterprises, and increased crime have been witnessed amongst the host communities.

This paper, therefore, evaluates the interventions carried out by actors in major refugee-hosting counties of Turkana and Garissa, the challenges involved and recommends that there is need for stronger collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors in host communities, allocation of more funds, and having in place stronger systems for effective implementation of development programs.

**Keywords:** Refugees, Host-Community, Kenya.

## REFUGEE-LED ENTITIES : THE SPACE TO ACT

*Oroub El-Abed, Osama Okour, Watfa Najdi, Mustafa Hoshmand*

### - ABSTRACT -

It is remarkable in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to see few bodies, only few, that are led by refugees and are able to work and serve their communities. A closer look into these active bodies, reveals the legal, administrative and politics intricacies about their legality, activities and funding. Since 2016's WHS's Grand Bargain, a wider space has been given to the refugee participation, with promises to support those bodies which are closer to the crisis zone as a way to ensure effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. This paper intends to analyse the "space" available for refugees in the Middle East to engage in the civil society as main actors able to organise themselves as an institutional entity, not as a social network. The governance of the institutionalised refugees' action to serve their communities is studied to highlight the impact of this empowered role and the way it affects the served community whether in a selective and exclusionary manner or in an empowering and effective approach.

Our work is based on physical mapping and field research in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey seeking to understand the dynamics of governance in these refugee led bodies and the opportunities and constraints that impact their action to represent their refugee community members and to serve them at several levels. Our joint paper shall address issues of management and accountability of funding as a way to situate these entities with their various structures in the wider field of civil society bodies.

## REFUGEES AS EMBLACED EXPERTS: THE MYANMAR DIASPORA IN AUSTRALIA

*Susan Banki*<sup>1</sup>

### - ABSTRACT -

Following a coup in Myanmar in February 2021, campaigns to protest the military takeover could be found globally, both within Myanmar and in the diaspora. In Australia, diaspora actors engaged in a number of activities that fall into the category of homeland activism or homeland politics. Despite a range of practices and perspectives, diaspora actors are often represented by their hosts through the simplistic constructions of victim, celebrity, or troublemaker. Yet the case of Myanmar's diaspora in Australia reveals a fourth overlooked possibility: that of expert.

Examining three moments carried out by Australia's Myanmar community, I demonstrate that the role of expert is a fitting one for diaspora actors. Further, the case of Australia demonstrates that diaspora actors can be co-constructed as emplaced experts.

**Keywords:** Diaspora, homeland activism, Myanmar, homeland politics.

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## REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND PROTECTION OF REFUGEES' RIGHTS: THE CASE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) IN THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

*Leander Kandilige (Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana), Linda Adhiambo Oucho (African Migration and Development Policy Centre)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Regional integration is the process of creating a sense of community between member states with the aim of developing a centralised system where decisions are made jointly. Strategic steps must be taken by members within a bloc to strengthen engagement by establishing a trading area, customs union, common market, economic union, and finally political union within the bloc. These arrangements are predominantly for mutual economic gain. But how are the rights of people who are forcibly displaced from their country of origin protected within regional integration regimes?

Both the EAC and the IGAD have been on the pathway towards regional integration and its integration is essential for creating a foundation where free movement of goods, services, people, labour, and capital can take place. Both the EAC's and the IGAD's focus on regional integration are ambitious covering a range of commitments. When the EAC came into force in 2000, it aimed to promote and strengthen sustainable economic, social, political, and cultural integration among Partner States especially with regards to its Common Market Protocol's (CMP) four pillars – a customs union, common market, monetary union and political federation. While in the IGAD, regional integration was framed in 1996 when Member states explored peaceful solutions in the region at a time where there was civil unrest and environmental disasters that led to large displacements and humanitarian concerns in countries such as Somalia, Sudan, and Ethiopia. The paper addresses two fundamental questions a) what are the differential mechanisms for refugee protection in the EHOA? b) what opportunities exist for refugee protection within Regional Economic Communities (RECs)?

## RESEARCHING HOME THROUGH THE NARRATIVES OF DISPLACED PEOPLE: ETHICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

*Luis Eduardo Pérez Murcia*

### - ABSTRACT -

Qualitative research methods, notably life histories, have been extensively used for doing research on migration and home. They have shown significant potential to unveil both the material and symbolic dimensions of home. With some exceptions, however, the ethical dilemmas and methodological challenges of using those methods for investigating home amongst people who fled conflict are still under researched. This paper looks at the ethical and methodological challenges of using life histories for investigating the conflict-displacement-home nexus. Drawing on fieldwork with internally displaced people in Colombia, the chapter argues that a narrative approach can contribute to unveil the ways in which conflict and displacement disrupt people's experiences of home when the analysis differentiates the events that triggered displacement and the ways participants experience and narrate them. The paper shows that by disentangling the different aspects of people's narratives we can better capture the more symbolic, spiritual and existential dimensions of home and how they are shaped by displacement. The paper concludes by providing new insights on the broader ethical and methodological debates of researching home in contexts of mobility and migration and by discussing the value of life histories to unpack the multiple dimensions of home.

## RETHINKING VULNERABILITY: SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES IN ISRAEL, UGANDA, AND GREECE TARGETING REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN

*Tatiana Morais (NOVA Law School)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Drawing from fieldwork in Israel, Uganda, and Greece, this paper intends to adopt a socio-legal approach to emphasise the discrepancy between international obligations and the daily practice in the field. Sometimes such discrepancy results in failures in the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers who survivor multiple forms of violence, including, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Thus, this discrepancy may create and / or reinforce refugees' and asylum seekers' vulnerability to the State (European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decision *M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece*, application no. 30696/09, judgement 21 January 2011). Therefore, and drawing from fieldwork, based on the analysis of fifty-eight conversational interviews, in Greece (August- October 2017), Uganda (September 2018) and Israel (October 2018-July 2019), this paper argues that such vulnerability to the State is, partially, based on the State's legal framework, and on the ineffectiveness or ill-implementation of the State's legal framework and policies. Utterly, this vulnerability to the State, aggravates refugees' and asylum-seekers' risk of experiencing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, causing a social-legal-economic environment that favours the occurrence of such violence. Consequently, the vulnerability to the State, which is the root cause for the aggravated risk of refugees and asylum seekers to survive or become victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, results from and reveals a structural and a systemic symptom in the State favourable to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence incidents to take place. Thus, this paper argues that it is crucial to rethink the concept of vulnerability and how such socio-legal concept is being applied, to properly prevent and address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence targeting refugees and asylum seekers, in particularly, women and children.

**Keywords:** Vulnerability; Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, refugees, asylum-seekers, women.



## REVISITING IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN: PALESTINIANS AND JORDANIANS IN A CHANGING REGIONAL CONTEXT

*Nur Köprülü*

### - ABSTRACT -

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan offers one of the intricate cases in the Middle East region, where Palestinians and the Palestinian identity have enormous impact in re/structuring the processes of nation and state-building. Given the historical ties that have bound both Palestine and Jordan as well as the preamble boundaries of the region, the processes of both nation and state- building in Jordan would then be overlapped with Palestinian struggle for liberation and influx of Palestinian refugees. The huge Palestinian exodus in the post-1949 Arab-Israeli War swiftly altered the demographic structure in Jordan, where Palestinian descents (Palestinian-Jordanian citizens) began to numerically outnumber the overall population. The River Jordan has, then, been considered as the principal indication of ‘the ethnic dividing line/ border’ within Jordanian politics. The influx of Palestinians across Jordan has then paved the way for social, economic and political cross-cutting cleavages between Jordanians and Palestinians. It is imperative to state here that, Jordan has been the only country granting Palestinians right to citizenship –which has been in practice until early 1980s. The Kingdom’s response to the Arab protests that has also engulfed Jordan (at least partially) would have a potential to offer to understand the relationship between the regime and the citizens.

This research paper will, therefore, examine specifically the ways in which the co-existence of Palestinian and Jordanian identities gave the rise to an ‘East Bank Jordanian’ identity – Jordan comes first. Within this framework, this paper also aims to explore the paradoxical policies of inclusion/ exclusion of various citizens and identities in Jordan by referring to the question of how nationalism and citizenship interact in the case of Kingdom of Jordan. Finally, the paper will address the need for a democratic transition for stimulating further debates on “post-national citizenship” in the post- Arab Uprisings era.

**Keywords:** Jordan, citizenship, identity, Palestinian-Jordanians, East Bank identity, democratization, Arab Uprisings.

## **SOCIAL DIMENSION OF TEMPORARY DISPLACEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH DISASTERS: FROM THE FRAGMENTATION OF SOCIAL IDENTITIES TO THE PRODUCTION OF A LIMINAL SOCIAL CONDITION. CASE STUDY OF THE EXPERIENCE OF DISPLACEMENT OF THE INHABITANTS OF CAMPO DE LA CRUZ FOLLOWING THE 2010-2011 OLA INVERNAL IN COLOMBIA.**

*Clara de La Hoz del Real*

### **- ABSTRACT -**

Every year millions of people around the world are internally displaced as a result of so-called « natural » disasters. Often considered as short-term and short-distance migrations involving the return of populations, dominant academic and political analysis focus their attention on material factors associated with survival of the displaced and pay little attention to the way in which these movements impact the social life of the people concerned during the displacement. This research proposes studying this phenomenon from a different angle and questions how temporary displacement impacts social interactions, relations and positions and how this affects the experience of displacement. It takes as a starting point a sociological perspective of social identities to examine the concrete experience of displacement of the population of the Campo de la Cruz village in Colombia, affected by a massive flooding in 2010. The analysis shows that displacement, in a short term configuration, is a process that involves an alteration of social identities of the new « displaced ». The flood not only destroys material assets but also together with displacement, causes the fragmentation of social roles and positions within their groups of reference. The newly displaced populations arrive in the destination territories in the greatest material and social deprivation, which forces them to be inserted into a system of dependence on aid for survival. In this context, new interactions emerge between aid and assistance organizations, the displaced and the residents of the reception areas. The research focus in particular on the way in which this new configuration of relations participates in the construction of « stigmatic categories » with regard to the displaced and how this generates social separation between groups that reflects the nature of power relationships in the new hierarchy of survival and the « liminal » social condition of the displaced. In this panorama, the social identities of the displaced are fragmented, new identification mechanisms are imposed to them and social recompositions, unfavorable to the displaced, arise from the confrontation between the informal and

the institutional logics of organizing survival. Finally, the research calls to overcome the classic « humanitarian » and political vision which conceives the survival of people displaced by a disaster through a materialist perspective to adopt a « humanist » approach that protects human dignity and guarantee human rights, far beyond the satisfaction of basic material needs.

## STATE-BASED INTERVENTIONS FACILITATING FORMAL EMPLOYMENT FOR FORCED MIGRANTS CURRENT INTERVENTIONS IN TURKEY, BANGLADESH, AND COLOMBIA

*Gabriella Chamberland*

### - ABSTRACT -

Formal labor market access (FLMA) is not a silver bullet solution to the economic challenges to migrants and hosts alike during protracted displacement contexts. None the less, forced migrants across the spectrum deserve to have their right to formal economic participation to be protected under both international customary law and through domestic legislation.

Historically speaking however, Nations are often weary potential economic consequences for host nation citizens that may occur if full FLMA were to be provided to forced migrants.

This paper zeroes in on the pathways to FLMA that forced migrants are (or should be) provided in host countries and their impact on the local community through a review of policies and practices in Turkey (Syrian Refugees), Columbia (Venezuelans displaced abroad), and Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees). By understanding national level policies put forth by the state, along with the evolving guidance from think-tanks and international governmental organizations (IGOs) such as the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), the international community can gain clarity on what works best and how countries can better prepare for future for mass-migration contexts.

This paper will contribute to the conversation by doing the following: (1) grounding the research in existing international guidance on economic integration of forced migrants (including refugees); (2 ) reviewing national-level policies regarding FLMA access to refugees in each respective host country (Turkey, Columbia, and Bangladesh); (3) assessing why or why not forced migrants (Syrian, Venezuelan, and the Rohingya) access the formal labor market if/when opportunities are provided; and (4) exploring the impact of these forced migrant FLMA integration/exclusion strategies on low-income citizens of host countries.

**Keywords:** Refugee Entrepreneurship, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Formal Labor Market Access (FLMA).

## TEACHER MANAGEMENT AS A BARRIER TO INCLUSION IN REFUGEE EDUCATION? INSIGHTS FROM THE TURKISH CASE

*Asli Ikizoglu Erensu (Assistant Professor Sabanci University, Istanbul)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The United Nations Refugee Agency promotes the inclusion of refugee children into national education systems in countries of first asylum. Heeding global policy advice, the Turkish Ministry of National Education has been running a project titled Promoting the Integration of Syrian Kids into the Turkish Education System (PIKTES) since 2016; funding provided by the European Union. Instead of utilizing the Ministry's existing teaching staff, who are by law permanently appointed civil servants, the project has hired around 5000 instructors, who are considered under law "temporary public workers". PIKTES instructors do not have job security and do not qualify for personnel rights granted to civil servants. What does a symptomatic reading of the Ministry's teacher management in its flagship educational inclusion project reveal about refugee education in Turkey? I will argue the employment status of PIKTES instructors reinforces the understanding that refugee education is outside the norm of national education and allows the Ministry to distance and separate refugee education from national education. Based on interviews with PIKTES instructors and union representatives, I will further probe into this policy's effects on instructor subjectivization. I will show that instructors believe they are disposable, not as valuable as other kinds of teachers, and secondary. While they fight for more rights through unionization and campaign for permanent appointment as PIKTES instructors, more often they continue to prepare for civil service exams and dream for permanent appointment outside of PIKTES. Just as they are viewed as secondary teachers, they view refugee education as "just an experience" but not the real stuff of their profession. PIKTES instructors share with Syrian students (who are under temporary protection) the angst of temporariness, however, the shared insecurity causes them not to grow closer but to want to move away from the experience.

## TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RETURN TURN IN ASYLUM IN EUROPE: THE CASE STUDY OF TEMPORAL GOVERNANCE OF ASYLUM IN THE UK

*Esra S. Kaytaz (Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University)*  
*Jessica Schultz (University of Bergen/Chr Michelsen Institute)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Temporary protection is associated with situations of generalized violence or mass human rights violations, which result in large-scale displacement. In Europe, a temporary protection status was extended by states in the 1990s to people escaping civil war in the Balkans, on the assumption that return within a short period of time would be viable. By contrast, today many of these states have adopted asylum policies and practices that place time limits on protection for refugees even in the absence of sustainable return prospects.

Refugees with temporary residence need to justify their continued need for protection without the guarantee of securing permanent residence. These policies and practices are embedded in broader policies of deterrence which also include strengthened measures for deportation, safe third country practices and extraterritorial processing (the 'return turn').

Drawing on ongoing research as part of the project 'Temporary Protection as a Durable Solution? The 'return turn' in asylum policies in Europe' this paper examines temporary protection in the UK in the context of the 'return turn' in Europe. The introduction of measures such as safe return reviews and time-limited status has rendered refugee protection in the UK less secure. In addition, the government have recently proposed a new temporary protection status for refugees who arrive using unauthorised channels. We first argue that the emphasis on how people claim asylum rather than why they claim asylum as a reason for temporary residence distinguishes the UK from other Northern European countries. We then expand on the conceptualisation of temporary protection by demonstrating how refugees may experience temporariness as a consequence of policies emanating from outside of the asylum system, such as 'hostile environment' policies aimed at irregularised migrants. Finally, we reflect on theoretical and methodological challenges of researching 'categories of international protection' through the conceptual lens of temporary protection.

## THE CONCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACCORDING TO THE REPORT OF VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS WHO RESIDENT IN THE CITIES OF GOIÂNIA AND/OR APARECIDA DE GOIÂNIA

*Felipe Aquino Domiciano<sup>1</sup>, Carolina Soares Hissa<sup>2</sup>*

### - ABSTRACT -

**INTRODUCTION:** The United Nations - UN understands that human rights are rights that are intrinsically linked to human beings by the fact of being human. Human rights are celebrated through international treaties, conventions, and/or legislation, with the nation-state and the UN as parties, whose materialization is shown in the signature of these documents and, later, incorporated into the domestic legislation of each nation-state. In the Venezuelan context, it is known that, for example, the right to life and health, are constantly violated by the nation-state itself, resulting in mass international migration. **OBJECTIVE:** To present the conception of Venezuelans residing in the cities of Goiânia and/or Aparecida de Goiânia about the term “human rights”. **METHODOLOGY:** Through qualitative and descriptive field research, ten Venezuelans living in Goiânia and/or Aparecida de Goiânia were interviewed, five men and five women; nine temporary visa holders and one refugee; with the guiding question ‘in your perception, what are human rights?’. **RESULTS:** The answers reveal that human rights are associated with the rights to life, health, protection, and freedom, in addition to demonstrating the existence of Venezuelans who do not know the meaning of the term. It also shows that the health crisis can be one of the frequent causes of international migration. **CONCLUSION:** We suggest the dissemination of the concept of human rights among Venezuelan migrants, whether at the borders or on Brazilian soil, as a means of refuting the lack of knowledge and/or improving the concept, to guarantee the application of such a concept in situations that mitigate the application of human rights.

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## THE IDENTIFICATION OF STATELESS ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EUROPE: INSIGHTS FROM THE CASE OF ITALY

*Cecilia Manzotti (School of Law, Politics and Sociology, University of Sussex)*

### - ABSTRACT -

In line with the Refugee Convention, the EU recast Qualification Directive foresees the possibility of beneficiaries of international protection being stateless. Nevertheless, the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) does not provide any guidance on how to determine applicants' nationality status, and statelessness determination is not regulated in EU law more broadly. In the absence of any regional guidance, EU member states adopt different approaches and methods to ascertain the nationality status of asylum applicants, and research suggests that the statelessness of asylum-seekers often remains unidentified. This paper explores the case of Italy and examines whether and how stateless persons are identified within the asylum procedure, what role their statelessness plays, if any, in the adjudication of their asylum claims, and whether it is eventually formally determined through the existing statelessness determination procedures (SDPs). Relying on primary and secondary sources, as well as semi-structured interviews with different actors involved in asylum and statelessness determination procedures, it shows that several shortcomings in law and practice hinder the identification of stateless asylum-seekers and/or the formal determination of their statelessness. Asylum authorities, lawyers and asylum-seekers themselves appear to have little awareness about the nexus between statelessness and forced displacement and the benefits of recognising both statuses, i.e. refugee status and stateless person status, if relevant. Lacking clear criteria and standards on nationality status determination, asylum decision-makers often rely on dubious methods and misconceptions about nationality. Moreover, although Italy is one of the few European countries to have dedicated SDPs, there is no coordination mechanism between these and the asylum procedure. The case of Italy provides valuable insights into the complexity of statelessness identification in asylum procedures, and offers the opportunity to reflect on the desirability of EU-level guidance on nationality status determination in the context of asylum procedures and statelessness determination.



# THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE UNITED KINGDOM'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION SYSTEM

*Ayesha Riaz*

## - ABSTRACT -

Unlike most European countries, the United Kingdom (UK) has not legislated a statutory upper time limit on the period that an individual can be held in immigration detention. There is a presumption against the use of immigration detention, which must comply with the statutory powers contained in the Immigration Act 1971 and the Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. As per these Acts of Parliament, detention is allowed in the interests of maintaining effective immigration control, for example, to effect removal; to establish a person's identity or the basis of their immigration claim; or where there is reason to believe that the person will fail to comply with any conditions attached to a grant of immigration bail. COVID-19 has placed the spotlight on the arbitrary nature of the Home Office's approach to detention which is both cruel and unnecessary. Immigration detainees have had a 95 percent success rate in bail applications since the COVID-19 lock down was implemented. The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant and widespread effects on immigration detention. In the case of *Detention Action and Mikhail Ravin v Secretary of State for the Home Department (CO/1101/2020)*, it was decided that nationals of certain countries could only be detained if they were foreign national offenders. In this very case, the High Court held that the Home Secretary had taken sufficient steps to ensure that detainees were able to self-isolate and socially distance in detention, even though the scientific evidence suggested that up to 60 percent of the detainees could contract COVID-19. This article/presentation will examine the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the UK's immigration detention system and will argue that alternatives to detention should be given serious consideration.

## THE INTER-AMERICAN PROTECTION APPROACH: INTERSECTIONS AND INTERACTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE LAW, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW IN THE JURISPRUDENCE OF THE INTER- AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*Melissa Martins Casagrande (CSVM/UFPR), Flávia Oliveira Ribeiro (UNESP), Derek Assenço Creuz (UFPR)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The objective of this research paper is to present an analysis, both from a quantitative and from a qualitative perspective, of the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) highlighting and critically assessing the intersections and interactions of International Refugee Law (IRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) in context of the protection of forced migrants. The 84 IACtHR documents identified and surveyed include 79 Court decisions and 5 advisory opinions. The documents were identified by mentions of migration, refuge, forced displacement and statelessness (and variations of these terms) in the full records of the Court decisions. The analysis is undertaken on the basis of three hypotheses. First, a constant and perceived increase in the use of protection formulas usually associated with transborder forced migration towards the protection of persons internally displaced, stateless persons and other forced migrants that do not fall within the 1951 Convention nor the 1984 Cartagena Declaration definition of refugee (e.g. non-refoulement) as evidenced in the IACtHR jurisprudence. The second hypothesis is a growing tendency in the Region to blur the lines between forced and voluntary migration - considering most migration movements in the Region entail some form of coercion - as evidenced by guidelines and reports issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (ICHR). The third hypothesis is that an increase in the intersections and interactions between IRL, IHL and IHRL towards the protection of all forced migrants in the Region is coherent with the prevalence of the pro persona principle in IACtHR decisions - as this modus operandi focuses on the person being protected rather than the State responsible to ensure the (international) protection required. The analysis is presented through descriptive text of the qualitative analysis and figures that demonstrate the quantitative analysis.

# THE LESSONS THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE TO TEACH THE WORLD

*Camila Marques Gilberto*

## - ABSTRACT -

This paper aims to reflect on the violations of rights suffered by indigenous people(s), in this case, the indigenous population in Brazil. More than addressing the issue inherent in land demarcation, it is necessary to recognize the characteristics that surround ancestral people and which tools are presented by the human rights architecture to safeguard their rights. The protection of the indigenous population permeates multiple issues of Public International Law, involving International Human Rights Law and International Environmental Law. From the recognition that these are ancestral peoples, notable minorities and vulnerable groups in need of protection; to the fact that many of the human rights violations suffered enter the field of third-dimensional rights, e.g. invasion and demarcation of land, environmental degradation, exploitation of natural resources and even the COVID-19 pandemic, put at risk the survival of these peoples. A pressing issue that involves this theme revolves around the role played by national and international courts for the protection of ancestral peoples. At the regional level, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has been promoting, in recent years, a greater scope of protection. This is due to the fact that, apparently, the Court has become accustomed to establishing bridges between rights where there are insufficient safeguards in the instruments in force. Moreover, this is already a trend of the Inter-American Court on other issues, such as the case of refugee protection. The strategy must be celebrated, considering that, what is sought, is to provide the greatest possible protection to those who have had their rights violated. In this sense, the paper seeks to demonstrate that the protection of the environment also necessarily stems from the protection of the original peoples and this, without a doubt, meets the most pressing needs of preservation of life on Earth.

**Keywords:** International Human Rights Law, Indigenous People, COVID-19.

## THE POLITICS OF RESISTANCE AND EVERYDAY NEGOTIATIONS: A CASE STUDY OF ROHINGYA COMMUNITY IN INDIA

*Madhusree Jana*

### - ABSTRACT -

Most South Asian countries lack a legal framework for refugee management, and India is no exception. Despite experiencing refugee influxes over the past several decades, the Indian government has maintained an ad-hoc approach in dealing with asylum seekers. Moreover, the lack of cooperation between the State and non-state actors often leaves the refugee communities in a socio-legal vacuum. As a result, the refugee communities are faced with discriminatory practices in accessing the job market, education, and healthcare. Focusing on the Rohingya refugee community in India, this paper aims to shed light on the everyday negotiations and practices the refugees perform to create spaces for a secure livelihood, both inside and outside the community. This study is based on a field survey undertaken in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the state of Haryana during September 2020 and March 2021. Relying on demographic and socioeconomic information collected via in-depth interviews (n=210), this paper investigates how the lack of state assistance serves as an impetus for the refugees to carve out personal protection spaces and devise livelihood mechanisms. While the regressive citizenship policies (the Citizenship Amendment Act, for instance) of the current Indian State have attributed to further suffering of the stateless Rohingya population and failed to address the legal vacuum for refugees, the livelihood strategies developed by the refugee population nonetheless are important markers of resistance and self-reliance; and have the potential to contribute to the dialogue of refugee protection.

**Keywords:** Refugee, Rohingya, displacement, livelihood.

## THE RESILIENCE OF FORMER REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

*Rumiko Murao (Research Institute of Humanity and Nature)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Zambia in southern Africa that has hosted Angolan refugees from neighboring countries since independence. After cessation clause for Angolan refugees was declared in 2012, many Angolans remained in Zambia after organized repatriation. Because these refugees refused to return to their country of origin, the Zambian government implemented local integration projects supported by the budget especially for burden sharing such as CRRF from donors.

Through my fieldwork, though the Angolans were given the land to live and cultivate through the projects, they have had to set up their lives autonomously, because the projects were not well organized. As the results, they lived separately both in refugee settlement and resettlement scheme where the project implemented.

I examine the features of the autonomous reconstruction process of Angolans' lives as the cotemporally resilience of former refugees in rural Zambia. To achieve above, I focus on the socio-economic relationship between the former refugees who lives in refugee settlement and those who lives in resettlement schemes.

## THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES CRISIS: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF HEALTH STATUS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN BANGLADESH

*Minati Kalo (Independent Researcher New Delhi, India)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, the migrant and refugee population has faced numerous challenges including loss of livelihoods, evictions and stigmatization. Bangladesh is a developing country in South Asia with a high density of population. The Rohingya refugee crisis is neither new nor a sudden problem for Bangladesh. About a million Rohingya have fled due to the ethnic cleansing in Myanmar and sought refuge in Bangladesh. The refugees are located in temporary settlements on hilly areas of Cox's Bazar. As countries close their borders and ask their citizens to stay home to prevent the spread of the Corona virus, aid organizations warn that the impact of the virus on the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh "could be enormous". Given the vulnerabilities, since reporting of the first case of COVID-19 from Bangladesh on 8th March 2020, there has been heightened global concern around the potential impact of the pandemic within the Rohingya refugee camps. A rapid transmission of the pandemic within the refugee camps would result in hundreds of deaths and quickly exhaust the limited capacity of the health care system within the camps. According to the WHO, as of 2 August 2020, a total of 2,205 tests were conducted at the refugee camps and 87 dwellers tested positive of them, seven have died.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected the country and devastating impacts on the Rohingya refugees. So, it is important to know their current health status because, without this information, equal and equitable health service provision is not possible. The outcomes will also provide useful information on both national and international NGOs who are working in refugee camps. By adopting a case study approach under qualitative research design, this proposal aims to explore and analyze the risks that make the Rohingya refugees vulnerable to COVID-19, the ways the pandemic increases their socioeconomic vulnerabilities, the preventive and protective steps and preparedness taken to protect the refugees, and the challenges the humanitarian workers face.

**Keywords:** Rohingya Refugee, COVID-19, Health Care, Bangladesh, Vulnerability.

## UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN IN COLOMBIA: A STALEMATE THAT NEEDS A PROPER AND URGENT RESPONSE

*Gracy Pelacani*

### - ABSTRACT -

The announcement in March this year of the creation of a Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants by the Colombian Government was welcomed globally as a fundamental advancement for Venezuelan migrants' rights, and a particularly important step for Venezuelan children, who make up 23% of Venezuelans nationals in Colombia, according to official data. The latter is particularly true since it is believed that almost half of Venezuelan children in Colombia are undocumented, according to a recent study. The newly created Statute incorporates a children rights approach and promises to give Venezuelan children access to a regular migratory status for the next ten years. Even undocumented children will be able to access the Statute, while undocumented adults are excluded from it. Though the implementation challenges of this measure are enormous, the Statute is a breakthrough.

However, several concerns persist regarding Venezuelan unaccompanied children. On the one side, because the search for their parents or for a responsible adult is made extremely difficult by their country of nationality situation and side-effects of human mobility. Therefore, reunification with their families is often impossible. On the other, because their risk to live in institutions and shelters until they reach the age of majority and even after that, since they cannot be adopted by a Colombian family. The aim of this paper is to discuss how Colombian authorities are dealing with this situation and what are the possible and feasible solutions to this impasse. Research in this field is mostly absent and, at the same time, needed, since Colombia is the destination of nearly 2 million Venezuelans so far.

## UNDOCUMENTED FORCED IMMIGRANTS: REFLECTIONS ON THE REGULARIZATION OF RESIDENCE AS A FORM OF PROTECTION IN BRAZIL

*Rosilandy Carina Candido Lapa*

### - ABSTRACT -

Complementary protection is granted at the discretion of States to forced immigrants who are not covered by the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 (1967 protocol). In general, migrants are granted permission to reside in the host State for a certain period, without the same rights as refugees, and with the possibility of revocation of residency status depending on local socio-political directions. Several Countries have adopted forms of complementary protection as a result of the growing increase in migration flows, as in the case of Brazil, which offers a residence permit under humanitarian grounds for the reception of Haitians, for example. However, the request to receive such a visa depends on the presentation of an identity document by the applicants, a criterion that makes it difficult to regularize those who cannot prove their origin. The objective of this abstract is to reflect on possible ways to regularize forced undocumented immigrants, in order to guarantee access to public services, social benefits and the labour market, which would result in protecting them from exploitation and discouraging the use of the refuge request as the only way to remain in Brazil with a regular status while the refuge analysis process is being analysed by the National Committee for Refugees-CONARE.



## URBAN REFUGEES ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN BENIN: AN ECONOMIC OUTCOME EVALUATION

*Serge B. Hounton (Moi University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

Refugees have hopes for the future through most uncertain and dire situation; they represent the chance for sustainable economic livelihoods for their families and the possibilities of a stable political and social leadership for their countries. However, most of these refugees are denied opportunities to pursue the type of higher education that would help them to cultivate the skills and knowledge needed for them to live up to these expectations and even become self-dependent in the host country. Nevertheless, the government of Benin through its refugee's law of 1975, allows the refugees to have access to higher education and even benefit from scholarship. The main objective of this study is to estimate the proportion of refugee who acquired higher education in Benin and to evaluate the impact of that degree acquired on their economic outcome. The study investigated and collected data on a sample of 74 Central African Republic Refugees who reside in urban area of Benin in Cotonou by using Respondent-Driven Sampling technique. Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) can be thought of as a group of snowballs, each rolling down a hill in their own random direction. In addition to the Respondent-Driven Sampling, while conducting the survey this study has collected quantitative data by using survey questionnaire in combination with an inductive and comprehensive approach to collect qualitative data for a mixed method analysis. The findings of this study suggest that majority of the highly educated refugees have acquired their degree in Benin either in private universities or public universities. The data also reviewed that 27% of refugees are bachelor's degree holders, 22% are master's degree holders and 1.4% is PhD holders. The study also found out that even though the refugees in Benin are highly educated, most of them work in the security industries. Most importantly, the regression of this research reviewed that there is positive and significant correlation between higher education level and the refugees' income. Moreover, there is positive correlation between higher education and the common language (French spoken by Benin and Central Africa Republic). The results found from this research show that higher education is essential for refugees in the host country and it empowers them for the job market and it is one of their self-empowerment tactics. Thus, access to higher education for refugees enhances their economic outcome in the host country.

**Keywords:** Urban Refugee, Central Africa Republic, Higher Education, Access, Economic Outcome, Benin.

## VENEZUELAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN PERU: A QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW STUDY

*Rosmary D. Márquez-Lamedá (Department of Applied Health Science, Indiana University Bloomington School of Public Health United States)*

### - ABSTRACT -

**Background:** As of June 2021, over 5 million Venezuelans had left their country. In 2021, most Venezuelans migrants and refugees were residing in Colombia, Peru, and Chile. Peru hosts over 1 million Venezuelans, which are considered the largest group of immigrants in the country. Access and utilization of sexual and reproductive health care services (SRHS), particularly modern forms of contraception, is concernedly low among Venezuelan migrant and refugee women residing in Peru. To this date, research to understand how Venezuelan migrant and refugee women access these services in Peru continues to be limited.

**Methods:** I conducted 20 in-depth interviews over the phone in Venezuelan Spanish with Venezuelan women of reproductive age who had relocated to Peru after 2016 and were seeking to use or using contraception. A qualitative thematic analytical approach was used for this study **Results:** Venezuelan women delayed seeking SRHS early in the resettlement due to lack of financial resources and limited understanding of the healthcare system in the country. Women normally accessed modern contraceptives through the pharmacy, which they paid out of pocket. Mistrust in the medical system, mistreatment by healthcare providers, deficit of information regarding access to SRHS and other infrastructural limitations of the Peruvian healthcare system were among the barriers to access these services. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, maternal health and family planning services were severely limited.

**Conclusions:** Venezuelan refugee and migrant women do not have their sexual and reproductive health needs met. Issues of mistrust in the medical system, healthcare access disinformation and xenophobia should be addressed as we aim to guarantee this population's right to receive healthcare services that are adequate and humane.

**Keywords:** Migrants, Refugees, Sexual and Reproductive Health, COVID-19, Venezuelan migration.

## VULNERABILITIES OF BEGGING NIGERIEN WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN IN GHANA

*Owusua Eshia*

### - ABSTRACT -

Begging as a phenomenon has become a matter of media and public concern over the years. The practice has become even worse in the last few years as a result of the increasing number of beggars on the streets of Accra. Irrespective of the illegal nature of their activities and the criminalization of the act itself in Ghana, the practice continues to persist and has reached higher proportions in recent times. There is a growing perception that immigrant beggars are forced into the act of begging by migration agents who facilitate the bringing of these migrants from mainly Niger and other West African countries for their economic value.

The purpose of this paper is to assess the social and environmental vulnerabilities confronting immigrant beggars working on the street to secure their livelihood. Though studies abound in looking at the phenomenon of begging, little research has been focused on the contemporary forms of begging and its attendant risks. The Social and Environmental Vulnerability Perspective underpin the study. This paper seeks to add to the limited body of knowledge on the phenomenon of begging among immigrant beggar in Ghana. The paper employs a qualitative methodology in an exploratory research and uses in-depth interview and qualitative observation techniques as the data collection methods. In all, a sample of 7 key informants and 5 immigrants participants were interviewed. Thematic Network Analytical tool was used to analyse the data. The researcher argues that begging behaviour is learned and can therefore be unlearned in order to find a solution to the problem. The findings show a clear division of views in the involvement of migration agents in the activities of migrants. The key informant group, is on the view that, migration agents recruit, smuggle and exploit immigrants for economic gains; on the other hand the immigrant group discounted any involvement of migration agents in their activities. Finally majority of expresses the view that the huge financial obligation that saddles the beggars forces them to over work exposing themselves to all kinds of human rights abuses on the street.

## DANGEROUS CIRCULATIONS: CLASSIFICATION AND CONTAINMENT AT THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN BORDER IN PANDEMIC TIMES

*Jacopo Anderlini (University of Genoa)*

### - ABSTRACT -

In the European Union, security discourses on human trafficking have accompanied and reinforced the increasingly restrictive and exclusionary policies of border control, particularly following the 2015 “migration crisis” (Hess and Kasperek 2017). This trend has been strengthened further with the upsurge of the Covid-19 pandemic, where the violence of push-backs and of devices to filter and contain human mobility at the border has erupted (PRAB 2021), pairing with an emerging social stigma which label migrants as a “contagious agent” for the national population.

Grounded on the ethnographical work I conducted since 2016 on the Sicilian border zone, focused on the hotspot sites of Pozzallo and Lampedusa which I visited in March 2021, the article explores the recent mundane developments of the European border regime. The implementation of new border procedures and practices, and specifically the introduction of the quarantine ships as dispositif that strengthen the isolation and multiply the classifications of captured migrants, increased the role of the medical/hygienic dimension, which already characterised border practices (Anderlini 2020). Unauthorized migrant circulations are hence labelled in practices of bordering as dangerous and contagious in an overlap between discourses on human trafficking (protection of) and on “irregular migrants” (protection from). A mechanism that produces even more vulnerable subjects, exposed to rising exploitation in the gig economy and agricultural industry.

**Keywords:** European border regime, hotspots, quarantine ships, labelling, human mobility.

# DANGEROUS LIAISONS: WHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT FAILS REFUGEES

*Francesca Romana Partipilo*

## - ABSTRACT -

The outbreak of the “Arab Spring” strongly influenced recent EU migration policies, resulting in an increasing recourse to international cooperation to tackle forced displacement. In particular, the EU stipulated several technical and political agreements with third States for the joint control of its borders. Since 2011, in fact, the EU Commission noted that “the events occurred in the Southern Mediterranean have induced significant movements of people”, and manifested the intention to strengthen its external migration policy by stipulating “mutually beneficial” partnerships with third countries, the “Dialogues on Migration, Mobility and Security”.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the New Pact for Migration and Asylum, presented by the Commission in 2020, considers enhanced partnerships with third countries as a fundamental pillar of a new European approach to migration.<sup>2</sup>

Regrettably, EU’s relations with its periphery are primarily guided by the necessity to protect the Union’s external borders.<sup>3</sup> In fact, the EU conceals its security interests behind normative claims stressing the need to protect migrants’ rights and counteract the smuggling of people. My paper addresses EU’s externalisation strategies, highlighting how regional and international cooperation in the field of forced displacement may serve the security interests of Western countries, while disregarding and violating migrants’ human rights. It then purports to propose an alternative paradigm for international cooperation in the field of migration.

## EXPLORING THE MENTAL HEALTH BELIEFS AND HELP-SEEKING OF CONGOLESE AND SOMALI MIGRANTS IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

*Dostin Lakika, Tackson Makandwa; Tinyiko Sithole, Jo Vearey, Rebecca Walker  
(African Centre for Migration & Society -ACMS, Wits University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

This paper explores the beliefs and understanding migrants hold about mental health problems and the various forms of informal support they use to deal with their circumstances in Johannesburg, South Africa. In a context in which the biomedical model of mental illness in relation to forced migrants and has received considerable attention, less focus has been directed at the subjective understanding of mental distress from migrants themselves. In particular, there is a need to better understand cultural knowledge and lived experiences in relation to context. Drawing from extensive fieldwork conducted with Congolese and Somali migrants, who fled their home countries mainly because of political unrest and prolonged periods of violence, and currently living in Johannesburg, this paper will show how migrant communities often draw on cultural resources and environmental circumstances to understand, explain and respond to, the mental health problems impacting them. The findings reveal that those who have experienced mental health challenges are often viewed by their communities and networks as ‘rule-breakers’ or having flouted certain principles that regulate the conduct of their wider society. This leads to heightened discrimination and isolation. In exploring migrants’ beliefs and perceptions of mental health as well as their past and present experiences – including the impact of Covid-19 – the paper argues for new insights into experiences and engagement with mental health for migrants. This includes supporting strategies and networks that can lead to more inclusive and community-centred approaches to mental health in South Africa that responds to context, cultural and crisis.

**Keywords:** Mental health, Cultural knowledge, Help seeking, Congolese, Somalis, South Africa.

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS AND COVID-19: HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION PRACTICES WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENTS.

*Cristóbal Abarca Brown*<sup>1</sup>, *Denise Martin*<sup>2</sup>

## - ABSTRACT -

The pandemic context forced Primary Health Care to modify its promotion, prevention and health surveillance practices in the neighborhoods. With the uncertainty about the effects of the virus and the fear of contagion, Community Health Workers [ACS] began to use the tools available to them, such as video calls and instant messaging, to provide care and attention. For their part, migrant communities had to face limits to their mobility along with the precariousness of their legal status due to the closure of immigration services. This paper aims to present the ways in which the technicians of the Family Health Strategy [ESF] acted in favor of the migrant population living in ethnic neighborhoods in the city of São Paulo. In addition, the proposal reflects on the practices of self-care and community care carried out by the international migrant communities in the neighborhoods where they live. In methodological terms, the same data collection techniques, instant messaging and video calls, are used to contact and interview Community Health Workers working in the Basic Health Units [UBS] of the Unified Health System [SUS]. By way of discussion, the capacities of health technicians to act in contexts of adversity are evidenced. In contrast to the recommendations of Global Health, the local strategies of the community health centers themselves and the commitment of their staff to care for their neighbors and migrants who are registered in the Basic Health Units are recognised, despite the adversities of the pandemic. Finally, it highlights the resilience with which migrant communities act to face a generalized crisis, not only of a health, but also economic and social nature, despite the levels of structural vulnerability in which they find themselves.

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## UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA AND ITS EFFECTS ON REFUGEE YOUTH NEWCOMERS: A COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO RESEARCH

*Mehmoona Moosa-Mitha*

### - ABSTRACT -

Decolonial models, based on Indigenous and post-colonial thinkers, take a sociogenic approach to understanding trauma that foregrounds the social contexts/identities of individual or collective lived experiences of trauma. Primarily they understand the context of colonization as being traumatic, affecting the psychic and affective domains including the subjectivities of the colonized. This paper will present an analysis of a community based participatory action research study, based in Victoria B.C., Canada, with high school students, and parents from refugee newcomer backgrounds as well as their teachers, that is currently underway. The project is guided and implemented by a coalition of partners from the community that includes representatives from parents of refugee newcomers, school, ministry of children and family development, refugee newcomer parent organisation, settlement agency and researchers from the university. The objectives of the study are: (a) Undertaking community knowledge translational processes through a community based participatory research action approach to research; (b) developing a decolonial analysis of trauma as a condition and effect of social marginalisation;

(c) Proposing a school-based intervention model that is culturally suitable and holistic; (d) Undertaking community-based social action that aims to reduce disparities in accessing appropriate services and improving resettlement outcomes. The paper will present findings of possible solutions to addressing trauma in refugee newcomer youth that is school based, includes the voices of the community and addresses barriers to services through community based social action.



## WHO IS A REFUGEE? NAVIGATING THE REFUGEE IDENTITY IN GERMANY

*Irene Tuzi (Sapienza University, Humboldt University)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The definition of “refugee” has taken different connotations in political and media representations, in academia or the humanitarian sphere. The most commonly accepted definition is given by the 1951 Refugee Convention. Nevertheless, displaced people are often granted different forms of humanitarian protection, which do not offer the same benefits as the full refugee status (e.g. the subsidiary protection). In this sense, the debate has been characterized by terminological and ontological ambiguities and has raised important questions: Who is a refugee? Can refugees be considered as a group of subjects united by a shared social identity and common practices of social action? If yes, which traits characterize their identity and which factors define their social action? In an endeavor to answer these questions, this paper investigates how Syrians in Germany navigate the “refugee identity” to come to terms with integration expectations. I argue that the refugee identity is a process of becoming and unbecoming characterized by great fluidity and complexity, which cannot be resolved by legal categories. The results of this study show that the way displaced people relate themselves with the refugee identity varies greatly. Among the participants in this study, the ideas associated with refugeehood were: loss, dissolution of family, instability, precariousness, and insecurity. Often, the refugee identity was instrumental in accessing services or claiming rights. This research is based on 12 months of fieldwork conducted in 2019 through individual semi-structured interviews and participant observation in several areas of Germany.

GOOD  
PRACTICES

# BEST PRACTICES IN SERVING SURVIVORS OF WAR, GENOCIDE AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

*Ezat Mossallanesad*

## - ABSTRACT -

Survivors of torture, war, genocide and crimes against humanity often suffer from after-effects of trauma, normally called Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Each year, hundreds of survivors with a wide range of traumatic experiences come to the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) and share their stories in search of support.

It is misleading to claim that severe traumas of the past life destroys the personality of survivors. At CCVT, we have witnessed occasions when survivors carry on with a strong passion for living and succeed at developing their own alternatives so that they may lead a normal life. However, in most cases, PTSD has had such a negative effect on the consciousness, values, feelings and relationships of the survivor that settling into a normal life may be a challenge that requires much support.

The two most widely used modes of rehabilitation are the clinical-medical approach and the holistic approach. The clinical-medical approach draws on various types of medical, psychiatric and psychological therapies while the holistic approach combines clinical care with other social and community programs such as befriending, language instruction, art therapy, housing, legal and immigration related assistance, skill building support in addition to ongoing counselling.

The goal of the holistic approach is to enhance the coping capacity of survivors and to facilitate their participation in a healthy social life. It is essential that we help them to become agents of their own rehabilitation. Partnership with the survivors's community and the community at large is of vital significance. The holistic method is interdisciplinary by considering the legal, economic, psychosocial, psychological and physical health of the clients. A care-giver should address the challenges towards implementing the holistic method: clients' withdrawal, difficulty of building mutual trust, cultural sensitivities, the problem of self-esteem, clients' reluctance to participate and empower themselves.

Based on our experience, majority of uprooted people who come to Canada, under different screens of refugee protection, have experienced the events of collective trauma. The national experiences of war, genocide, torture and massacre make rehabilitation of refugee survivors extremely challenging. Trauma remains chronic and can reproduce itself through generations as long as the causes are not addressed and

perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity.

Collective trauma can be alleviated through cohesive and joint efforts such as recognition, remembrance, solidarity, communal therapy and massive cooperation. Helping clients to explore these remedies is a component of our holistic approach. Clients need close attention and ongoing follow-up. We have tried our best to persuade our clients not to lose meaning in their lives. In the case of those who have lost the majority of all their family members, it becomes imperative to help them rebuild the kind of security network that families and friends had once provided. The CCVT helps clients to match with appropriate Canadian be-frienders. Settlement services help them to participate in social life and events in a meaningful way.

It is important for professionals assisting survivors of trauma and collective trauma to be able to continue tendering their services without becoming traumatised themselves. There is a need for a fresh outlook into the traumas resulting from forced migration and other man-made atrocities with a global and philosophical perspective. Our clients have not historically been alone, they are experiencing trauma with millions of survivors around the globe. It is important to remind them of the universality of trauma and universality of human compassion and resilience.

A large number of the CCTV clients are children. Horrible experiences such as war and forced migration leave negative impacts on the social and emotional development of children. Devastating psychological effects may appear later. Serving children survivors needs more care and delicacy. We need to use indirect methods like art therapy and work closely with child protection agencies. War and genocide affect the system of values and beliefs and destroys the normal relationship between parents and children. Parents who carry unresolved burden of fear, guilt, depression and anger cannot easily establish balanced or adequate relationships with their children. We need to work with the entire family in order to serve children effectively”

# GOOD PRACTICES ON MANAGING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT FROM EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

*Lidia Kuzemska (Lancaster University)*

## - ABSTRACT -

The aim of this presentation for marketplace of ideas is twofold. The first objective is to outline the widely agreed approaches to good practices on internal displacement that exist in current law and policy in Europe and Central Asia region. The second one is to give an overview of good practices on internal displacement that emerged from policies and experiences implemented across the region. I will summarise the range of good practices that tackle both conflict and disaster displacement by covering themes of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) data and consultations, access to documentation, housing and property, employment, livelihoods and social protection, education and culture, voting, state institutions dedicated to IDPs' issues, relocation and resettlement, and local integration. The practices originate from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Federation, and the European Union (EU). I conclude that good practices indicate that a strong political will of the state, its close cooperation with the international organisations and donors, solutions based on consultations with IDP groups and host communities supported by the participation of local civil society and IDP organisations are crucial for success. The presentation is based on working paper published by Researching Internal Displacement Program in 2021 (see <https://researchinginternaldisplacement.org/working-papers/what-works-for-idps-mapping-good-practices-on-internal-displacement-management-in-europe-and-central-asia-region/>) with updates relevant as of time of the IASFM conference.

### **Bionote**

Lidia Kuzemska holds PhD in Sociology from Lancaster University. Her work focuses on forced internal displacement in Ukraine, in particular, on issues of state social policies, citizenship practices of the displaced and problems of othering people on the move. She is also a co-managing editor of Refugee Review journal and a tutor in social policy at the University of Central Lancashire. Lidia Kuzemska is a member of the UN Network on Migration and an affiliate researcher at Researching Internal Displacement Programme.

## HIGHER EDUCATION AND FORCED MOBILITY: THE EXPERIENCE OF IMPLEMENTING SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO ACADEMIC CHAIR AT UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE JUIZ DE FORA (UFJF) AND THE PROFILE OF THE ATTENDED PUBLIC

*Cleiton Luis Dornelas Pereira, Eliza Feres, Rodrigo Christofoletti*

### - ABSTRACT -

The aim of this paper is to present and reflect the experience of implementing Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chair at Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF), located in Juiz de Fora, a medium size city in the Southeast of Brazil. After the socio-economic crises in Venezuela, which led to more than 6 million people to flee their country, Brazil has been receiving a considerable number and has recognized this population as refugees since 2019. Since then, more than 250.000 people have entered the country. Due to this scenario, the above- mentioned Academic Chair, composed by public and private universities, aims to develop learning projects, research, and extension courses about and for the refugee population. Juiz de Fora has been the first city of the Southeast region to be added in the Interiorization Strategy of the Federal Government, a plan that promotes the relocation of Venezuelan refugees who arrive in the North of the country and has received about three thousand refugees so far. This paper is based on good practices adopted to integrate them, between 2020 to 2022, evolving: compiling data about the population profile, public consultant of their needs, social management; internationalization; teaching strategies; research and extension under the perspectives of the Latin-American universities. As a primary result, we highlight the university institutions in the inclusion and protection of refugees. This presentation provides an added value to this conference, besides contributing to the studies of University Institutions, as well as, Refugee Studies, once they are broadening emergent and relevant themes, among the current social global challenges of university management around the world.

## TEACHING DISPLACEMENT IN AN UNDERGRADUATE SETTING IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES: INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES AROUND DISPLACEMENT AND THE MEANING OF HOME

*Natalia Taylor Bowdoin (Associate Professor / Library Collections Coordinator  
University of South Carolina Aiken)*

### - ABSTRACT -

As forced displacement continues to grow in scale around the world and as rhetoric against those who are displaced becomes more incendiary, what educational efforts can be made in the global north to engage and challenge students into meaningful discussions and reflections on the causes, experiences, and outcomes of forced displacement? This presentation explores these possibilities and presents the outcome of an interdisciplinary experiment with diverse undergraduate students in a small public university in the Southern United States. The course entitled “Displacement and the Meaning of Home: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” used art, film, research from a variety of academic disciplines, and literature and testimonies by displaced individuals to engage students in reflecting on their own sense of home, safety, and belonging and to explore the ways displacement manifests in their own lives and communities as well as in communities and nations in other regions of the world. In addition to presenting the resources, activities, and outcomes of this particular course, we will examine other interdisciplinary and experiential efforts to address forced displacement in the higher education/postsecondary level in the global north and discuss what successful outcomes for educational interventions and experiences might look like.

## THE LATIN AMERICAN ACADEMIC NETWORK ON THE LAW AND INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES (LAREF)

*Laura Madrid Sartoretto (Grupo de Assessoria a Imigrantes e Refugiados do SAJU/  
UFRGS), Carolina de Abreu Batista Claro (Universidade de Brasília)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The LAREF Network is currently made up of 40+ scholars coming from a wide range of countries from Mexico to Argentina and Spain with diverse backgrounds. The LAREF Network's members provide direct assistance to asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and forced migrants; work on the elaboration and dissemination of scientific and informative materials about refugee and migration studies; seek to promote the access of these persons to education; and aim at formal and informal ways of collaboration among its members. To this end, it carries out comparative studies, joint research and publications, as well as member exchange projects.

The LAREF Network was envisaged in 2013 and established in 2014 by group of scholars, among them dr. Carolina Claro, following the proactive academic capacity and network- building activities carried out by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee with support from the UNHCR through the RELATE (Refugee Law Teaching Support) Initiative.

Since its creation, the Network has expanded and has been meeting formally once a year with the aim of improving professional exchange on the theory, practice of international protection, innovative teaching methodology, as well as to establish new forms of partnerships in the region. Moreover, the LAREF Network made a unique set of commitments through the Santiago Charter (Carta de Santiago), adopted on 30 November 2019, in Santiago de Chile, and presented as a joint pledge at the GRE. Thus, we contend that this form of cooperation between academics and professionals working in the field of refugee and forced migration law produces unique practical and academic results that benefit people of concern.



## THE RELATE INITIATIVE BY HUNGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE

*Javier Gamarro, Gábor Gyulai (Refugee Programme Hungarian Helsinki Committee)*

### - ABSTRACT -

The RELATE (Refugee Law Teaching Support) Initiative is a unique, gap-filling capacity- building project that defends refugees, stateless and forcibly displaced people globally, by stimulating the education of new generations of experts and advocates in refugee law and international protection. These new experts can then act as change-makers and educators for future generations in those fields by drafting adequate laws, correctly assessing protection needs, providing legal assistance and advocating for their rights.

The RELATE Initiative makes use of two methods:

- A multilingual, online resource platform with access to materials for developing teaching activities on international protection (launch later in 2022) → <https://relate-initiative.org/>.
- Proactive academic capacity- and network-building, including free-of-charge one- week regional courses for junior professors, focusing on knowledge and innovative teaching methods.

Since 2013, these activities reached close to 200 professors, educators and judicial trainers in Latin America, Northwest Africa, the former Soviet Union region and Southern Africa. Based on our 2019 impact assessment, 28 professors launched new courses on refugee and forced displacement law, 12 introduced new such modules into existing course programmes, 23 trained their fellow colleagues on these matters, as well as 3 new student exchange programmes and 2 refugee law clinics were established. We published a first- of-its-kind, multilingual guide on how to establish a refugee law clinic. In Latin America, we built a vibrant regional academic network (Red LAREF) of 40+ members, which made its own pledges at the 2019 GRF.

The RELATE Initiative is coordinated by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a leading human rights NGO in Central Europe and a globally renowned refugee law expert organisation, decorated with 8 prestigious international human rights awards. UNHCR has been supporting this project and its precursor since 2013.

## **List of other accepted abstracts - Title only<sup>1</sup>**

### **PANELS**

- **States and the global refugee regime: The case of Canada** - *HK Eagle, Nu-seibah Shabaitah, Oroub El-Abed*
- **Forced Migration Statistics: Methodological Challenges and Critiques** - *David Scott FitzGerald, Jeff Crisp, Petra Nahmias, Vicente Anzellini, Robert Trigwell*

### **PAPERS**

- **Making the match: Understanding the destining process of Government-Assisted Refugees in Canada** - *Sandeep Agrawal and Magdalena Perzyna*
- **Enforced double quarantine – Migrations, Sexualities and Covid-19 in South Africa** - *Verena Hucke*
- **Syrian Refugee Vetting in Canadian Newspapers: Orientalism, Humanitarianism and Moral Panics** - *Ozgun Topak and Cheery Maria Attia*
- **An analysis of journalistic articles about refugees in Brazil during the Covid** - *Isabella Ferreira Silva-*
- **The role of debt in displacement economies** - *Ali Ali, Jose Bazonzi, Michael Collyer, Priya Deshingkar, Rajith Lakshman, Noor Lekkerkerker, Rouba Mhaisen, Ceri Oeppen, Abdul Rauf, Fekadu Tufa, Tahir Zaman*

### **GOOD PRACTICES**

- **Phenomenology, Geography And A New Approach To Mental Health In Forced Displacement Contexts** - *Mariana Figueiredo Braga.*

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<sup>1</sup> Listed here are abstracts that have been accepted and that the authors have only authorized the publication of the title, without the content, or also abstracts where the necessary express consent of all authors or panellists was not obtained.



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Apoiadores

GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG

