

FEBRUARY 2024

# LERRN Newsletter

THE LOCAL ENGAGEMENT REFUGEE  
RESEARCH NETWORK

2023-2024





## 2023-24 RESULTS

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

When LERRN began its work in 2018, we didn't even have a name, let alone a sense of how the journey would unfold. It was during our first partners meeting in 2018 that the focus on local engagement and refugee research crystalized and became our clear focus. The COVID pandemic made us re-think the principles and practice of local engagement. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, and as we are able to return to in-person meetings and international travel, it has been remarkable to see the sustained commitment from all partners to not simply return to the status quo ante, how things were before. As Oprah Winfrey once said: Know better, do better.

The stories in this newsletter highlight how LERRN's partners are not only contributing to important discussions about forced migration at the national and global levels; LERRN partners are actively working to change the parameters of those discussions.

And it is important to reflect on the fact that our efforts are being undertaken at a time when fundamental principles of human rights and academic freedom are under threat in so many places in the world.

As LERRN prepares for the last year of its current Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), we can look back on the many accomplishments of the past six years while looking ahead to much yet to be done.

Behind it all is the remarkable work of the LERRN Secretariat who support the website, publications, webinars, reports and other aspects of the platform that lets us share our work with the world. Please join me in thanking this remarkable team.



**James Milner**  
Project Director, LERRN

# Our Impact



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# OUR RESULTS

By focusing on how to amplify the perspectives of those most affected by displacement, LERRN has contributed to a wider effort to shift the balance of power within refugee and forced migration research and policy discussions.

Some of these changes are subtle. A review of LERRN's Working Paper Series shows that more than 20% of papers in this series are published by members of the Dadaab Response Association, a refugee-led research organization formed by graduates of the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees initiative at York University, many of whom continue to live and work in the Dadaab refugee camps in Northeast Kenya. Their research on refugee education raises new questions and brings important new perspectives to global discussions on education programming.

Some of these changes are more dramatic. LERRN was centrally involved in the establishment of the Refugee Advisory Network of Canada (RAN Canada) and the commitment by the Government of Canada to include Refugee Advisors in its delegations to meetings of the international refugee system.

LERRN has been proud to support R-SEAT (Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table) as it convinces other states to follow this example, to develop meaningful refugee participation mechanisms and to provide training to refugee advocates with lived experience of displacement participating in global meetings. This work contributed to some 12 countries including refugees in their delegations to the 2023 Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, up from one country in 2019.

Between these subtle and dramatic examples of change lies the incredible work of LERRN's partners to promote inclusive research, knowledge mobilization, and training activities to demonstrate the value of more localized approaches to refugee research. These efforts are also central to LERRN's support for related initiatives also seeking to shift power in refugee research, such as the IDRC Network of Research Chairs on Forced Displacement.

# GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

More than 4,000 delegates gathered in Geneva in mid-December 2023 for the 2nd Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The GRF was established by the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees as a event to be hosted every four years for a broad range of actors to gather to discuss new approaches to international cooperation and refugee responses. This year's GRF included formal sessions from 13 to 15 December 2023, in addition to linked events throughout Geneva starting on 11 December. LERRN was represented by a delegation including members of our Geographic Working Groups and partners involved in new initiatives, such as the project on refugee leadership in East Africa and Latin America, funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. LERRN contributed to an academic workshop on 11 December, a high-level linked event on 12 December, and a roundtable on 14 December. Here are some highlights of LERRN's engagement with the 2023 GRF.

## ACADEMIA AND RLOS TO ADVANCE REFUGEE-LED ADVOCACY



On the 14th of December, at the R-Space (the alternative space to the Global Refugee Forum led by Refugee-led organizations in Geneva), the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) and Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT) organized a roundtable to discuss collaboration between academia and RLOs to advance refugee-led advocacy. The discussion was centered on how to put the norms related to refugee-led advocacy into practice, the challenges of these collaborations, the benefits, the misunderstandings, and the risks involved. The panel's objective was to share tips and tricks from RLOs on how to collaborate with academia. The panel presented the new [Guidelines for Co-Produced Research with Refugees and Other People with Lived Experience of Displacement](#), which discuss the benefits of co-produced research, key principles, and the steps to co-produce research in practice. Participants emphasized the need to include refugee researchers from the beginning of projects to build relationships, find mutual objectives, and understand the needs and priorities of refugee communities.

# GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM



## EVIDENCE BASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES: WHAT ROLE FOR ACADEMIA?

On December 11, 2023, LERRN hosted a side event at the Global Refugee Forum along with the Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer (FFVT), Geneva Graduate Institute, and Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN). The workshop brought together researchers from academic networks and Refugee Led Organisations to discuss the role of academic research in advancing the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the potential importance of the multistakeholder pledge, ["Shifting Power: Advancing Localization of Research and Elevating the Voices of Host and Forcibly Displaced Communities Globally."](#) The multistakeholder pledge calls for a paradigm shift in refugee research to empower researchers from low and middle-income countries and to amplify the voices of those most affected by displacement. Academics are considered stakeholders in various sections of the Global Compact on Refugees.

In addition to producing knowledge related to refugee situations, academics can advocate for evidence-based policies that align with the GCR. Unfortunately, much of the knowledge currently produced in academia sits on the shelves of university libraries and is not used to inform policy and programming. In many contexts, refugee issues are politically sensitive, which poses challenges for academics doing research and advocating for evidence-based policies. In addition, the voices of academics who do more critical research, who are based in the global South, or who have a lived experience of displacement are not as often heard or taken seriously in policy spaces. Collaborating and networking among academics can help strengthen the collective voice of academia and contribute meaningfully to the realization of the objectives of the GCR.

[READ EVENT REPORT](#)

# LERRN PARTNERS AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

## REFUGEE ADVISOR TO THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

Tsering Thonsur, who has lived experience as a Tibetan stateless refugee, was happy to be selected to represent the Refugee Advisory Network of Canada (RAN Canada) as the Refugee Advisor to the Canadian delegation to the GRF 2023. She shared how her experience as a Tibetan Canadian making a statement as part of the Canadian delegation and the RAN Canada was meaningful and empowering compared to past experiences as a stateless refugee advocating at the United Nations. She participated as a member of the refugee expert group, which facilitated the co-creation of the global pledge and developing country-level commitments by UN Country Teams (UNCTs). It was inspiring to see the collaborative spirit and hear about the over 1600 pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum, including \$2.2 billion financial multistakeholder pledges. The number of refugees participating in the GRF was reported as more than 300, a tenfold increase from the 2019 GRF. While her experience with the Canadian delegation involved substantive and meaningful involvement, some other refugee advisors were tokenized and unable to influence their delegations.

**“MY EXPERIENCE AS A TIBETAN CANADIAN MAKING A STATEMENT AS PART OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AND THE RAN CANADA WAS VERY DIFFERENT, MEANINGFUL, AND EMPOWERING.”**



**Tsering Norzom Thonsur**  
Advisor, RAN Canada;  
Manager, Settlement Program,  
Parkdale Intercultural  
Association

[\*\*READ TSERING'S REFLECTION\*\*](#)

# REFUGEE LEADERSHIP



## TRAINING

One of the most tangible areas of cooperation between LERRN and R-SEAT has been in the development of a training program for refugee advisors with lived experience of displacement participating in meetings of the international refugee system, primarily in Geneva. One of the critical elements of meaningful refugee participation is that it be substantial and informed, not tokenistic. While refugees may be included in delegations, their impact could be limited by a lack of information on the work of delegations and training on how to navigate the politics of the global refugee regime. In response, LERRN and R-SEAT co-designed a seven-unit, online training program through which participants benefit from a series of pre-recorded lectures, readings, activities and synchronous discussion groups to enhance their understanding of the actors involved in the global refugee regime, how to influence outcomes in global meetings, and how refugee participation can be meaningful before, during and after global meetings. More than 300 refugee advocates have benefitted from this training, with 65 receiving training in Arabic, English, French and Spanish ahead of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

## LERRN AND R-SEAT

LERRN has been a proud supporter of R-SEAT (Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table) since its launch in 2021. Specifically, LERRN has contributed research capacity to R-SEAT's engagement with countries around the world seeking to advance the practice of meaningful refugee participation in the governance of the global refugee regime. A critical analysis of this work and the emerging norm of meaningful refugee participation was published in a recent article by LERRN's Project Director, James Milner, and R-SEAT's Co-Managing Directors, Mustafa Alio and Rez Gardi.

## SUPPORTING RAN CANADA

LERRN's commitment to meaningful refugee participation also includes ongoing support to the work of the Refugee Advisory Network of Canada (RAN Canada). RAN Canada is an independent and nonpartisan group of refugee leaders selected from across Canada. Established in 2020, RAN Canada selects and support a Refugee Advisor to participate in Canadian delegations to meetings of the international refugee system. LERRN provides coordination and mentorship support to RAN Canada, which will welcome its second cohort of Advisors in 2024.



# REFUGEE LEADERSHIP

## THE POLITICS AND PRACTICE OF REFUGEE PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE GLOBAL REFUGEE REGIME

LERRN Project Director James Milner and Managing Director of R-SEAT Mustafa Alio gave a lecture titled “The Politics and Practice of Refugee Participation in the Governance of the Global Refugee Regime” at McGill University on the 16th of November. They discussed the emerging norm of meaningful refugee participation in the governance of the global refugee regime (Milner, Alio and Gardi 2022) and considered what difference refugee participation can make.



### [VIEW THE EVENT REPORT](#)

## MEANINGFUL REFUGEE PARTICIPATION



The Refugee Advisory Network of Canada (RAN Canada) organized its inaugural webinar titled “Meaningful Refugee Participation: Taking Stock and Charting the Way Forward” in celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20, 2023. Representatives from four refugee-led organizations explored the concept of meaningful refugee participation and discussed its significance in improving the lives of refugees.

### [VIEW THE EVENT REPORT](#)

# REFUGEE LEADERSHIP

## VOICES RISING: REFUGEE-LED SOLUTIONS

This webinar on February 9, 2024, served as an illuminating recap of the Voices Rising: Refugee-Led Solutions Conference 2023, a landmark event hosted in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Organized by refugees themselves, this conference convened stakeholders to explore sustainable solutions for displaced populations.

**VOICES RISING:  
REFUGEE-LED SOLUTIONS**

ORGANIZED BY: VOICES RISING CONSORTIUM

**Moderator**

**Amin Balle**  
Founder & Executive Director  
of Humanity Hands

**Edith Ingutia**  
Economic Inclusion & Livelihood Officer,  
UNHCR/Kakuma

**Raf Friedman**  
Supporter of the Voices Rising  
Conference, Founder & CEO of  
Global Rights Defenders

**Delina Fumins**  
Operations and Partnerships Lead  
of Solidarity Initiative for Refugees

**Paul Zigenhorst**  
Executive Director, Action  
Pour le Progrès

**Geoffrey Okello**  
National Programme  
Coordinator (ILO Kenya)

HOSTED BY: LERRN

EVENT REGISTRATION

**Date & Time: February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM**  
**Location: Online - Zoom**

[READ CONFERENCE REPORT](#)

# LERRN-SUPPORTED PUBLICATIONS

## MQUP REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES SERIES - NOW OPEN ACCESS FOR GLOBAL SOUTH/NON-PROFIT READERS

E-books published in the McGill-Queen's Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Series have been made available by [McGill-Queen's University Press](#) and LERRN with the assistance of Carleton University Library. The intent is to make these publications available to readers, scholars, and students located in the Global South, where the majority of forced migration unfolds, whose institutions lack the resources to purchase access to these books, as well as to those in other regions who are part of non-profit or community organizations concerned with displacement and who lack alternate forms of access to the book, or the resources needed to purchase these publications. These readers can [download the e-books in the series from the Carleton Library Repository](#).

## FORGING THE PATH TO MEANINGFUL REFUGEE PARTICIPATION: INTERDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS OF POWER, AGENCY, AND PARTICIPATION

This working [paper](#) by Beenish Khan considers how marginalized refugee communities assert their agency and the best practices for meaningful participation that emerge from these expressions of agency.

## CO-PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE IN FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE EMERGENCE OF BEST PRACTICES

This working [paper](#) by Parin Mistry demonstrates how understandings of the temporal, spatial, and embodied aspects of displacement and forced migration may be enhanced through a renewed approach to research that excavates hidden agency and power hierarchies. It explores the challenges and limitations of diverse methods of knowledge production. It conducts an interdisciplinary analysis of knowledge production, drawing on the theoretical insights of development studies, feminist studies, and Indigenous studies to make visible structures of power and oppressive practices within forced migration research. It examines best practices for forced migration research.

## NEW BLOG POST: REFUGEE RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE: SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[In this blog post](#), LERRN Co-Investigator Dr. Jeff Crisp answers questions about refugee research outside of traditional academic spheres and the impact it can have on humanitarian agencies.

# UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

## THE CENTRE FOR LEBANESE STUDIES

The Centre for Lebanese Studies, in collaboration with LERRN, organized their first summer school under the title: "Unpacking the industry of refugee education and research: towards equitable theory and practice." This summer school was a three-day residential training that was hosted in Beirut between the 6th and 9th of June, 2023. Twenty-four academics from different countries, including Tanzania and Kenya, attended the event. The main themes that were covered in the summer schools were: Education, policy and humanitarianism; Equitable partnerships; and Theorizing and Knowledge Production.



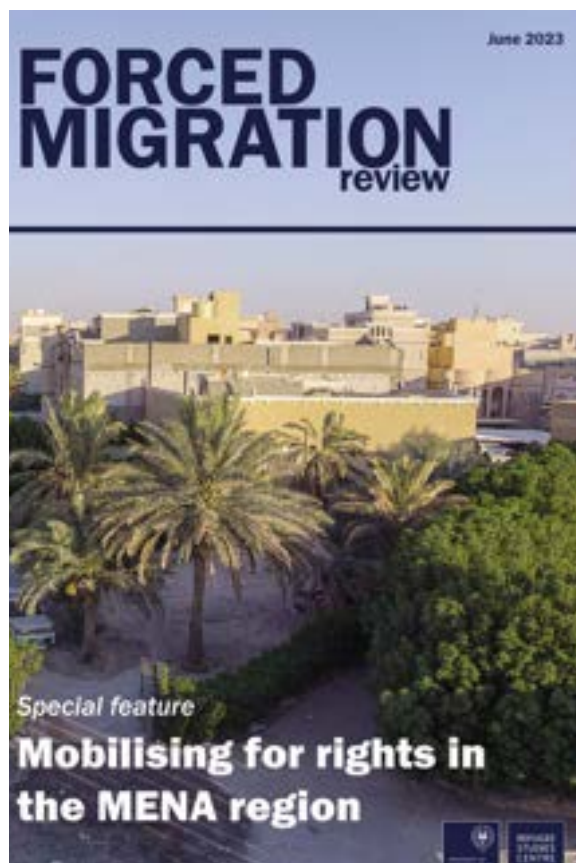
The Centre for Lebanese Studies (in Lebanon and at the University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education), in collaboration with LERRN, organized a retreat titled "Theorising in PhD research" in Cambridge. The retreat was intended for PhD candidates based in the United Kingdom (UK) but working on the Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region focusing mainly on education but also on inter-disciplinary fields in social sciences and humanities (such as gender, disabilities, refugees). Twenty-two participants attended the retreat, which took place at the Department of Education, University of Cambridge. We also invited external speakers to discuss theoretical concepts relevant to the attendees' research areas, such as research ethics and methodologies. These speakers not only provided valuable insights, but also offered mentorship and reviewed the candidates' work. Following this retreat and others organized by CLS, we've established a network called "the CLS Scholars' Network" comprising PhD candidates, researchers, and practitioners globally.



# SPOTLIGHT: CLS PUBLICATIONS

## NEW ARTICLE: REFUGEE MOBILIZATION TO SUPPORT REFUGEE RIGHTS IN JORDAN, LEBANON AND TURKEY

The Lead Researchers of the [RLO Evaluation: Middle East Project](#) have published a new article in the June 2023 Special Issue of *Forced Migration Review*, titled "Refugee mobilisation to support refugee rights in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey." The article delves into the findings of the 18-month study evaluating refugee-led organizations in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey and their impact in the MENA region. The article is available in [English](#), [French](#), or [Arabic](#).



## PATTERNS OF REFUGEES' ORGANIZATION AMID PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT: AN UNDERSTANDING FROM JORDAN, LEBANON, AND TURKEY

Oroub El-Abed, Watfa Najdi, and Mustafa Hoshmand from the Centre for Lebanese Studies recently published an article in *The Journal on Migration and Human Security* titled "Patterns of Refugees' Organization Amid Protracted Displacement: An Understanding From Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey." The study emphasizes the need to extend refugee-led organizations' activities to meet community needs and encourages policymakers, funders, and practitioners to leverage these insights for more informed engagement with RLOs. The study findings were presented in a webinar titled "Refugee Communities Mobilising in the Middle East."



# SPOTLIGHT: ACADEMIC FREEDOM



**21 MAR  
2024**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM & ETHICAL SCHOLARSHIP IN TIMES OF PRECARITY & GENOCIDE

Academic freedom is under threat now more than ever. During genocide, academics are targeted and killed, and their voices are being silenced. This symposium raises for discussion threats to academic freedom and the need for ethical scholarship as key to tackling injustices.



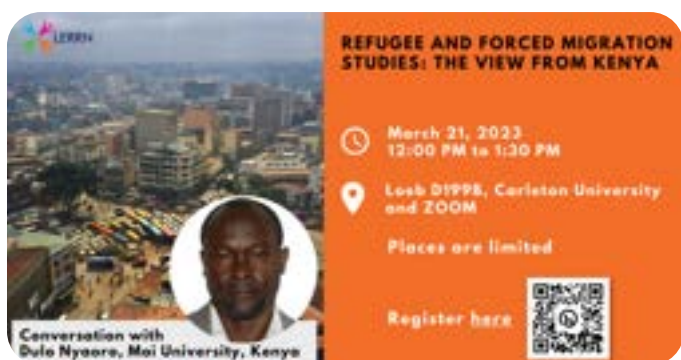
**05 MAR  
2024**

## SILENCE OF UNIVERSITIES & ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS DURING TIMES OF GENOCIDE

What is the responsibility of universities, professional associations, academics and students to speak out against genocidal atrocities occurring in Palestine and in other contexts? In this webinar, speakers will reflect on the silence and complicity of academia during times of genocide, and together, we will discuss practical measures to mobilise against such atrocities.

# UPDATES FROM KENYA WORKING GROUP

## MARCH 21, 2023 EVENT: REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES: THE VIEW FROM KENYA



The field of refugee and forced migration studies has experienced significant growth in recent decades. [Dulo Nyaoro](#) gave an informative talk on how the field is currently understood in Kenya, one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world on March 21, at Carleton University. Dulo Nyaoro's talk on the past, present, and future of refugee studies in Kenya provided a crucial context for the [2024 International Association for the Study of Forced Migration conference](#).

## UPDATES FROM KENYA WORKING GROUP

The Peace Centre is happy to report that through LERRN we have undertaken several activities with financial and logistical support, the lead of the Kenya working group Dulo Nyaoro was able to attend and make a presentation during the international Studies Association conference in Montreal Canada between March, (14th-18th) 2023.

The visit also enabled Mr. Nyaoro to make a presentation to IDRC staff in Ottawa on Localized Knowledge Ecosystems on Forced Migration in East Africa and the Middle East. The discussion also included what ways the institutions in the global South can be enabled to enhance their capacity on research and training on forced migration.

Student support and training remain active; so far one of our students, Mr. Serge Hounton has successfully defended his MA thesis entitled; "Economic contribution of urban refugees in the host country , Kenya" . Another one Ms. Celestine Moshong is working on "Socio-economic impact of refugees' integration among the host community in Kalobeyei settlements in Turkana west sub-county Kenya" while another Mr. Emmanuel Malual is analyzing discursive security threats in Kakuma refugee camp The students are at advanced stages of their studies and can complete by the end of the year.

## **PARTNERING TO RESEARCH THE IMPACTS OF RESETTLEMENT IN KENYA**

The Dadaab Response Association and Pascal Zigashane completed focus groups and interviews with 50 refugee community members in the Dadaab camps and 25 refugee community members in Kakuma Camp/Kalobeyei Settlement about the impacts of refugee resettlement on those remaining in Kenyan camps. Refugees living in the Kenyan camps often benefit from remittances from resettled refugees abroad and use these remittances to purchase food and other necessities, to send children to school, and to start businesses. However, resettlement also has negative impacts for refugees who are waiting for years for their cases to be processed with little or no communication about the status of their cases, or for refugees who are rejected for resettlement. Resettlement is still a dream of many refugees in Kenya in a context of protracted displacement with few opportunities for integration or repatriation. Stay tuned for more results from this project in 2024!

## **UPDATES FROM TANZANIA WORKING GROUP**

### **RESEARCH ON SOCIAL COHESION IN DISPLACEMENT**

In 2023, DIGNITY Kwanza, in partnership with the Humanitarian Policy Group of the Overseas Development Institute, conducted research to explore the aspects of social cohesion that matter to those affected by displacement. The research considered the factors that drive or undermine social cohesion between and within refugee and host communities. It examined the relative importance of aid in shaping social cohesion and how aid actors might contribute to better social cohesion outcomes. The research was conducted in refugee camps, refugee settlements, refugee villages and urban areas. It determined different factors that strengthen and weaken the relationship between the two communities and how they benefit socially, economically, and psychologically. The findings of the research proved that the national policy responses and institutional aid have a profound effect on social cohesion in Tanzania.





In response to the long-time concern of research participants that they are rarely involved beyond providing the data needed by researchers, in September 2023 in the Kigoma region, DIGNITY Kwanza conducted a validation workshop on this research. It involved government officials from different institutions, local government leaders, UNHCR, members of CSOs working in forced displacement, newly naturalized Tanzanians, and host community members who were the stakeholders engaged during data collection to review and validate the report's findings. The validation workshop aimed to get the participants' feedback before the report went public.

All participants appreciated the opportunity and effectively responded to the findings. The workshop also served as a dialogue between various actors who participated on various issues raised during the research.

## ADVOCATING FOR LOCALIZATION IN TANZANIA

LERRN Tanzania Working Group has continued to create platforms for discussing how to realize localization in Tanzania, as localization has been one of the group's priorities since 2019. With the additional support of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Horn of Africa, DIGNITY Kwanza continued to advocate for the realization of localization in Tanzania. In August 2023, DIGNITY Kwanza organized a workshop with a range of actors from government institutions, registrar of NGOs, National and International NGOs, and donors to chart a way forward towards realizing localization in Tanzania.



# PROTECTION WORKING GROUP

The Migrant Vulnerabilities in the Canadian Protection System Workshop convened practitioners, community partners, civil servants, and members of the VULNER project research team including Benson, Milner, Nakache, and Soennecken at the University of Ottawa on March 15, 2023. This gathering aimed to delve into research findings from the VULNER project, particularly focusing on defining and addressing vulnerabilities among migrants within the Canadian protection system. The workshop comprised two sessions: a morning session with 23 participants discussing migrant vulnerabilities and recommendations, and an afternoon session with 36 participants, emphasizing common themes such as a trauma-informed approach and the need for regularization programs. The workshop sought to provide insights to policymakers and stakeholders to better understand and address migrant vulnerabilities both domestically and in cases of overseas resettlement. Additionally, throughout the VULNER project, the Canadian team conducted interviews and research to comprehend how vulnerabilities are defined, understood, and addressed in Canadian legislation, case law, and policy documents, culminating in two research reports and policy briefs with key recommendations.



# INTERSECTIONALITY AND DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

## YORK UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR REFUGEE STUDIES

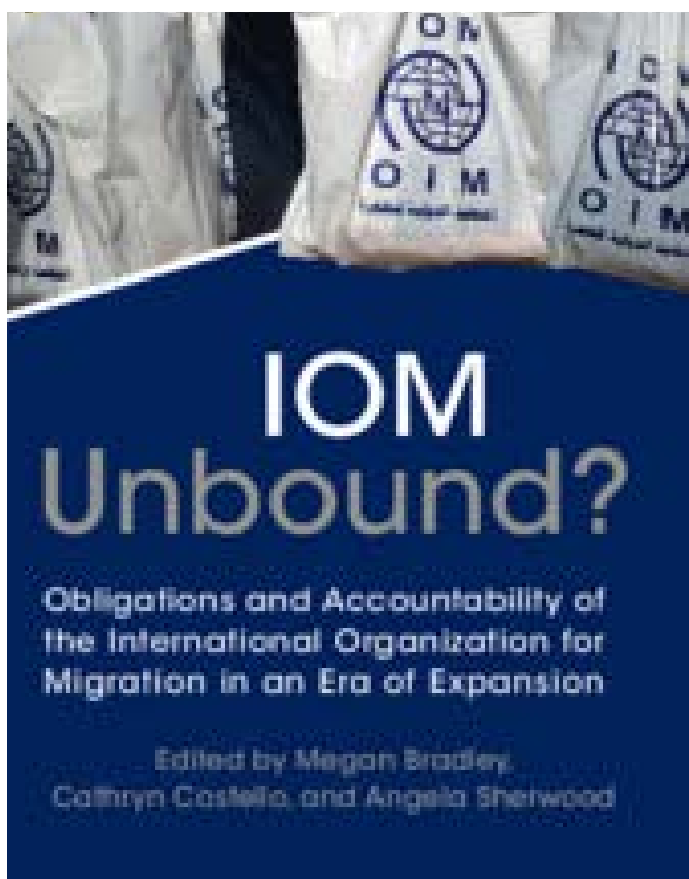
### SUMMER COURSE

The 2024 [CRS Summer Course](#), organized by York University's Centre for Refugee Studies in collaboration with Osgoode Hall Law School's Refugee Law Laboratory, will take place from June 3rd to June 7th, 2024, both in person at York University and in a hybrid format allowing remote participation. This year's course will focus on exploring the intersections between forced migration and technology, addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by new technologies in refugee status determination systems, human rights advocacy, border management, and the experiences of displaced persons. The interdisciplinary course will feature interactive discussions, breakout sessions, and presentations involving policy makers, adjudicators, researchers, refugees, and NGO actors, aiming to develop ideas about how technology, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, can enhance fairness, protect rights, and address forced migration at scale. Upon completion, participants will receive a York University Centre for Refugee Studies Summer Course Certificate. Interested individuals can register and [find more information on the CRS website](#), and those wishing to stay updated about CRS activities can join the listserv by contacting Michele Millard at [mmillard@yorku.ca](mailto:mmillard@yorku.ca)

## 10.SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP

Our recent study, titled "In the Meantime: Gender, race, nationality, and 'para-solutions' for refugees in Amman, Jordan" examines how different refugee communities craft and imagine their own solutions given the shortcomings of the three traditional durable solutions of resettlement, repatriation, and local integration. The study involves Sarah Nandi, Oroub El Abed, Megan Bradley, and Hamzah Qardan. Drawing from 46 interviews and two focus groups with refugees and humanitarian actors in Amman, Jordan, we explore the concept of "para-solutions" and the subsidiary categories of "para-residency" and "para-mobility" wherein refugees create parallel pathways for themselves to access some of the benefits associated with residency rights or life outside of Jordan. We examined both the tangible practices that refugees use in solutions-making in the present as well as the future hope attached to different strategies. Our study adds to existing research on durable solutions by showing that para-solutions vary considerably based on intersectional identities, emphasizing the importance of attention to combinations of race, nationality, and gender. We also illuminate how refugees craft their own belonging and preserve hope for their future in the face of enormous risk and constraints.

# SPOTLIGHT: NEW PUBLICATION



Megan Bradley, Cathryn Costello and Angela Sherwood have edited a new book on the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was published open access by Cambridge University Press in June 2023. [IOM Unbound? Obligations and Accountability of the International Organization for Migration in an Era of Expansion](#) brings together leading experts in international law and international relations to examine the dynamics and implications of IOM's expansion.

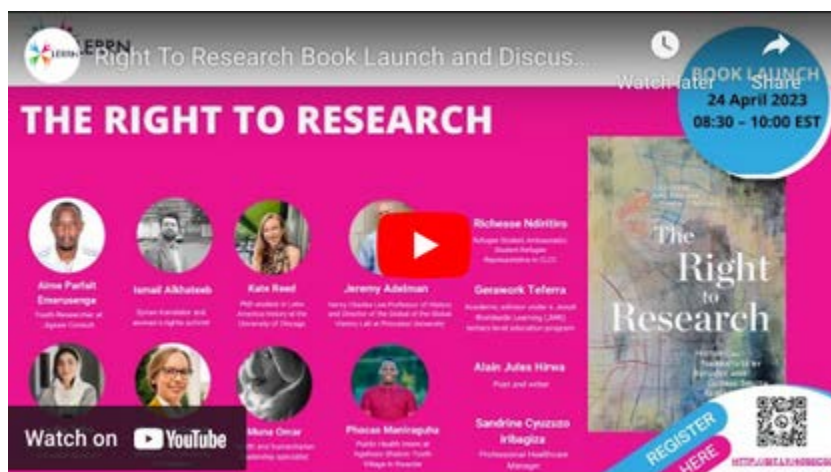
Analyzing IOM as an international organization (IO), the book illuminates the practices, obligations and accountability of this powerful but controversial actor, advancing understanding of IOM itself and broader struggles for IO accountability. The contributions explore key, yet often under-researched, IOM activities including its role in humanitarian emergencies, internal displacement, data collection, and migrant detention. The book offers recommendations for reforms rooted in empirical evidence and normative analysis.

*"IOM Unbound? is an essential guide to understanding the 'new', post-2016 IOM. In its well-chosen and well-integrated chapters, leading scholars unpack the extent of change in IOM following its entrance into the 'UN system' as a related agency. They explore the institution's experience as norm-breaker, taker and (potentially) maker in deeply researched explorations of the institution's legal obligations, accountability mechanisms, and record of expansion. This volume will be essential reading for both experts in international migration and general readers interested in exploring the dynamics of global governance."*

- Michael Doyle, Columbia University

# ARCHIVES, LIVING HISTORIES, AND HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

The group continues to work with Hicham Kaye at Lebanese NGO Al-Jana on the project [“Elusive Voices: Preserving the Stories of Elderly Palestinian Refugees”](#) which involves the preservation and digitization of oral histories with Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. The project is funded by the Modern Endangered Archives Program at the University of California.



In fall 2023, the Department of History at Carleton University used its Shannon Lecture Series to explore the theme [“Rewriting Refuge”](#) by considering histories of sanctuary via Indigenous migrations, migrant activism, borders, and transnational connections. LERRN partner Professor Laura Madokoro convened the series. The [opening panel](#) “Refugees and the Right to Research” featured a virtual discussion with Kate Reed, Marcia Schenck, and Gerawok Teferra, who highlight the contributions of refugee and host-community historians through their work in the book *The Right to Research: Historical Narratives by Refugee and Global South Researchers*. LERRN also hosted a book launch webinar in April 2023.

Professors Laura Madokoro and Megan Bradley, along with LERRN student researchers Rachel McNally and Deo Mwapinga, are continuing to analyze archival documents on the history of durable solutions that Rachel and Deo gathered during visits to the UNHCR Archive in 2023. Rachel also attended a workshop “Navigating the UNHCR Archives” in January 2024 in Oslo, Norway. She is now experimenting with software programs that she learned about at the workshop to help the LERRN team analyze the large volume of archival documents.

# SPOTLIGHT: LERRN STUDENT RESEARCH

## DEO MWAPINGA: THE POLITICS OF SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES: LESSONS FROM THE NATURALIZATION OF RWANDESE AND BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA

The first event of the 2023-2024 Migration and Diaspora Studies Speaker Series, held at Carleton University on September 25th, 2023, featured Deo Mwapinga, a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Carleton University and a LERRN researcher. Mwapinga's presentation centered on his dissertation titled "The politics of solutions for refugees: Lessons from the naturalization of Rwandese and Burundian Refugees in Tanzania," delving into the challenges and successes of naturalization processes for refugees. He highlighted the historical context of naturalization in Tanzania, particularly focusing on the experiences of Rwandese and Burundian refugees, and explored variations in their perceived success. By introducing the concept of "quasi-citizenship," Mwapinga challenged traditional notions of legal and practical citizenship, aiming to deepen the audience's understanding of the complexities of refugee solutions and the impact of citizenship on refugee communities.



## GOUNDO DIARRA: ACCESS, ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION: THE CASE OF FEMALE REFUGEE EDUCATION IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP AND KALOBYEI SETTLEMENT

The third event of the 2023-2024 Migration and Diaspora Studies Speaker Series, held at Carleton University on November 20th, 2023, featured Goundo Diarra, a graduate of the Migration and Diaspora Studies Master's program at Carleton University and a LERRN researcher. The event focused on Diarra's thesis titled "Access, Enrollment and Retention: The Case of Female Refugee Education in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyi Settlement." Diarra's research delved into the economic and socio-cultural factors influencing female refugee education, challenging preconceptions and advocating for gender-informed solutions. Contrary to her hypothesis, she found no inherent differences in access and enrollment based on parental education and employment, emphasizing the critical role of socio-cultural barriers such as early marriage, poverty, and societal norms. Diarra underscored the need for bottom-up, localized, and inclusive approaches, urging scholars to adopt intersectional, context-specific strategies in refugee education. The event prompted reflections on international policymaking and resource allocation in the context of migration, leaving the audience with a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding education in refugee camps and diaspora communities.



# IDRC RESEARCH CHAIRS



## GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023: THE IDRC RESEARCH CHAIRS DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCALIZATION

In December 2023, the IDRC Research Chairs on Forced Displacement attended the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva. Organized by UNHCR, the goal of the GRF is to get member states to make pledges to help refugees, both within their countries and abroad. This year, the IDRC Research Chairs brought something unique: an academic perspective from the Global South, with a focus on evidence-based research and policy solutions that is often lacking within the NGO and activist communities, and a voice from the regions and countries most affected by displacement, which is often missing from academia. It was this unique combination of authenticity and rigor that really highlighted the power of localized academic networks like the IDRC Research Chairs Network on Forced Displacement. Some highlights included Tanzania Chair Opportuna Kweka making an intervention at the workshop on Evidence-based implementation of the GCR: What role for academia?, moderated by IDRC Research Chairs Abebaw Minaye and Feline Freier, where she discussed the impact that localization can have on the legitimacy and rigor of field research on forced displacement, and Thailand Chair Paula Banerjee giving remarks at the High-Level Side Event "Shifting Power," at which IDRC President Julie Delahanty also spoke.

The network is a collaborative project between thirteen research institutions around the world. This initiative is funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre and is supported by LERRN and Carleton University.

[VISIT THE NEW WEBSITE](#)

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# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2024 LERRN CROSS-CULTURAL FIELDWORK TRAINING COURSE

This free, online training program engages with the theory and practice of cross-cultural partnered fieldwork. In 2024, the course will run as an intensive course in May. Applications will be accepted until March 31st. The program is designed to equip emerging scholars with new research skills, to encourage reflection on ethical and methodological issues in refugee research, and to facilitate dialogue among participants. LERRN partners from around the world have contributed pre-recorded lectures, which are combined with readings and other materials.

Graduate students from different disciplines and contexts will engage in online discussions with each other and submit assignments. The course this year will be facilitated by Rachel McNally, a PhD Candidate at Carleton University who has worked with LERRN for the past five years and who has experience implementing interviews, focus groups, and archival research methods for refugee-related projects. The course does not qualify for a university credit, but participants will receive a certificate of completion. Participants can apply by emailing [lerrn@carleton.ca](mailto:lerrn@carleton.ca).



**THE COURSE COVERED. ALL ASPECTS OF WHAT IT IS TO DO REFUGEE RESEARCH, AND IS AN EXCELLENT, HANDS-ON PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO DO FIELDWORK OR PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO DO RESEARCH.” RODA SIAD**

# UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

### CARFMS/LERRN LIVED EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACEMENT ESSAY AWARD

LERRN, the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), and the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project are pleased to share the Call for Submissions for the CARFMS/LERRN Lived Experiences of Displacement Essay Award. The deadline for this year's competition is June 30, 2024. This joint award recognizes the outstanding scholarship produced by students and early-career researchers within the academic field of refugee and forced migration studies with a lived experience of having been forcibly displaced. Submissions may address any issue relevant to refugee and forced migration studies in Canada or elsewhere. LERRN would like to congratulate the 2023 winner of this award, Mohamad al-Ashmar, PhD, for the paper "Forced Migration and Transnationalism: Syrian Forced Diaspora, Leadership in Community Resilience and Authoritarian Resistance." The finalists will be awarded a \$500 prize for one winning research paper. More details on eligibility and submission requirements are posted on the [CARFMS website](#).

### GUNN PRIZE FOR IMMIGRATION HISTORY

LERRN collaborates with the [Canadian Immigration Historical Society \(CIHS\)](#) and the Department of History at Carleton University to jointly offer the Gunn Prize, a \$1,000 prize for a fourth-year undergraduate or graduate-level research paper on the historical evolution of Canadian immigration policy or a historical analysis of Canadian immigration related to specific places, events, or communities. The Gunn Prize for the best historical essay on migration to and settlement in Canada is an interdisciplinary prize, and will therefore consider papers from any discipline in the social sciences and humanities (e.g., history, political science, sociology, global studies, communication studies) that addresses migration to and settlement in Canada from a historical perspective. The prize is national and will accept applications from graduating fourth-year students and graduate students enrolled in Canadian universities, in either French or English, from across the country. The deadline for the annual competition is June 30 of each year. For more details, see the [Department of History website](#).

# SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

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