



LERRN

MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

Comparative study on politics and processes of refugee leadership in Uganda, Kenya, Chile, and Colombia.

Collaboration with R-Seat on Geneva Advocacy Training Program for Refugees.

LERRN CELEBRATES THE 7TH YEAR OF ACTION

The stories featured in this newsletter showcase how LERRN's partners have contributed to critical conversations on forced migration at local, national, and global levels. By amplifying the voices of those most affected by displacement, LERRN has helped advance broader efforts to shift the balance of power in refugee and forced migration research and policy discussions. While we celebrate the remarkable work of our partners, we also recognize that much remains to be done.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

JAMES MILNER
PROJECT DIRECTOR, LERRN

It was in late 2015 that the idea first emerged for a seven-year collaboration between academics and community partners to understand and enhance the role of civil society in the functioning of the global refugee regime. At the time, the world was witnessing the failure of European states to collectively respond to the needs of some 1 million people seeking asylum. Looking back on the past decade, we see how much has changed while so much stays the same. Collective action to realize protection and solutions, both with and for refugees, is arguably harder than ever, but there is a deeper understanding of the inequalities and power asymmetries and frustrate these efforts. While progress is slow, there is a deeper appreciation of the role that refugee participation, diverse forms of knowledge and shifting power must play in the process of change.

LERRN has played an important role in broader collective efforts to encourage this process of change. Through research, training, mentorship, knowledge mobilization and policy engagement, LERRN has demonstrated the benefits that come from being guided by the priorities of those most affected by displacement. This approach has led to new questions, new perspectives, and new possibilities. As the stories in this newsletter make clear, our seventh year has been one of our busiest.

But we aren't done yet. Stay tuned for exciting details on what comes next for LERRN...

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LERRN WRAP-UP

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS' MEETINGS



Representatives from LERRN's East Africa Working Groups meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2025

LERRN organized a series of events in April and May 2025 to bring partners together to reflect on our achievements, areas of impact and challenges over the past seven years.

East Africa Working Group partners had the opportunity to meet in person on 25 April 2025 on the margins of a regional conference hosted by the IDRC Research Chair on Forced Displacement at Addis Ababa University. Canadian partners met at Carleton University on 12 May 2025 to reflect on LERRN's journey, while the Centre for Lebanese Studies hosted a similar reflection exercise on the morning of 13 May 2025.

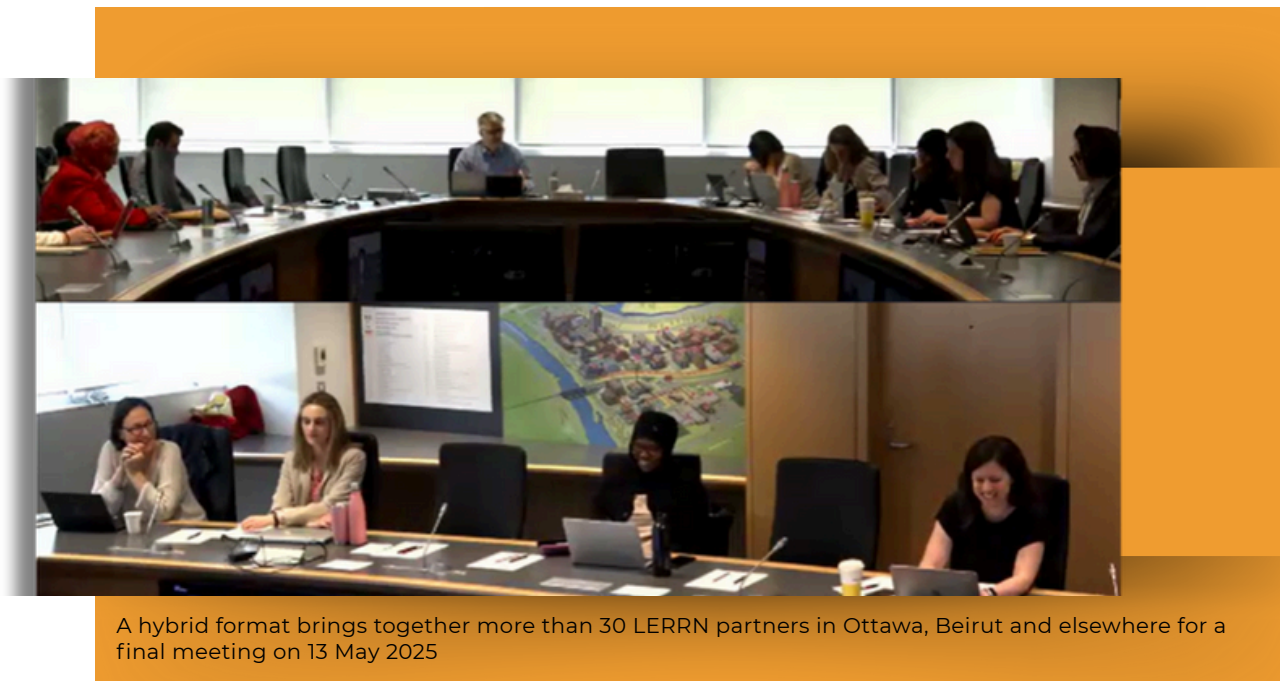
All partners were then invited to join a hybrid final meeting on 13 May to reflect on the past seven years and to share research results. More than 30 partners participated in these reflection meetings.

The scope of LERRN's activities since 2018 were broad and sometimes surprising. A range of research, training and knowledge activities highlighted by partners are shared in this newsletter.

Partners reflected on the importance of LERRN's policy engagement, the strength of the network, and the importance of documenting the expertise of LERRN's diverse partners.

While partners identified the challenges that have been experienced, including the demands of a global partnership and the allocation of scarce resources, all stressed the many areas of impact of LERRN's work, including:

- promoting new areas of research, especially in response to questions raised by those affected by displacement,
- the visibility that LERRN created in policy spaces for historically marginalized perspectives,
- the value of training and mentorship, especially for advocates engaging in spaces such as Geneva for the first time,
- the ability of a virtual dissemination platform to reach global audiences, and
- the validation of the substantive value of localized knowledge and refugee participation.



The LERRN Secretariat is now working to synthesize the results of these discussions for a final report of LERRN that is being prepared for release in late 2025. Keep an eye on our website and social media for details later in the year.

UPDATES FROM TANZANIA

60 YEARS OF HOSTING REFUGEES



Dignity Kwanza, in collaboration with LERRN is pleased to announce the release of a new video oral history series: **“60 Years of Hosting Refugees: A Tanzanian Narrative.”** Tanzania recently celebrated sixty years of hosting refugees fleeing conflict and instability from neighbouring countries. These refugee hosting efforts continue to date. For example, between 2005 and 2014, the Tanzanian government granted Tanzanian citizenship to 162,000 Burundian refugees and 3,000 Somali Bantus. The specifics of these efforts are often not publicized or celebrated. Nor are there significant efforts to draw lessons from these experiences to inspire the next generation of stakeholders responsible for refugee protection and the safeguarding of their rights.

In response to this gap and to preserve this critical history, a locally-inspired and directed project was developed to conduct oral history interviews with selected stakeholders in Tanzania's refugee program to document and celebrate over half a century of Tanzania's refugee protection efforts.

Through interviews with key figures, we delve into the significant phases and developments in Tanzania's approach to refugee hosting, the role of civil society organizations, and the impact of government policies.

The Tanzania Working Group also presented a paper based on this project at the conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration 2025, entitled "State Regulation, Transnational Partnerships and Local Actors: Tracing the Landscape of Tanzania's Refugee Hosting Record, 1961-2021: A Tanzanian Civil Society Narrative."

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

DIGNITY Kwanza has continued coordinating activities to build the capacity of Civil Society Organizations to advocate for refugee and migrant rights through human rights mechanisms, in particular Universal Peer Review (UPR), and to incorporate refugees in their advocacy work.

NGOs are often on the ground, monitoring human rights violations and gathering critical information about abuses. They provide firsthand accounts, data, and evidence in assessing a country's compliance with international human rights standards. A project supported by HBS, the DIGNITY Kwanza team conducted training for state actors and non-state actors on how to utilize human rights mechanisms as a powerful platform for advocating for human rights on both the national and international stages and participate in peer reviews.

UPDATES FROM KENYA

NEW CO-PRODUCED RESEARCH LED BY REFUGEE RESEARCHERS



WAITING FOR RESETTLEMENT
INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS IN KENYA

BACKGROUND

Because of a massive shortage of resettlement spaces around the world compared to the need for resettlement, thousands of refugees wait many years for resettlement, including in Kenya. Kenya has one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, with refugees from Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other countries. Most of these refugees live in two camps: Dadaab and Kakuma.

Many camp residents have spent decades living in these camps or were born in the camps, with few opportunities for repatriation, local integration, or resettlement. In this research project, we explored the impacts of this waiting time and the camp residents' experiences of resettlement.

BY THE NUMBERS

2.9 MILLION
Refugees estimated by UNHCR to need resettlement in 2025 (UNHCR 2024)

< 5%
had access to resettlement in 2023 (UNHCR 2024)

836,905
Refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya (UNHCR 2025)

30+ YEARS
Length of displacement for some refugees in Kenya

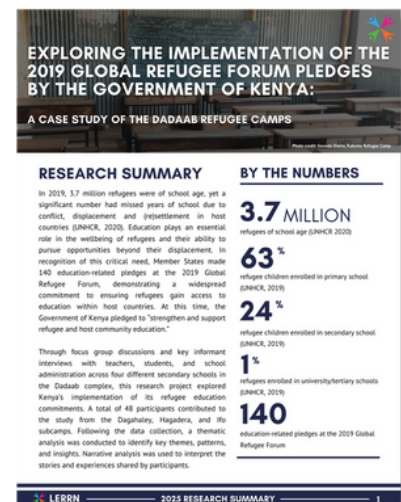
10+ YEARS
Length of the resettlement wait for some participants

READ THE STUDY RELATED POLICY BRIEF

The Dadaab Response Association Researchers (Mark Okello Oyat, Ochan Robert Leomoi, Arte Saman Dagane, and Abdikadir Bare Abikar), Pascal Zigashane from Action pour le Progrès in Kakuma, and Rachel McNally have published their LERRN-funded study **“The ‘not yet’ and ‘never’ resettled: individual and communal waiting strategies among refugees in Kenyan camps”** as an article in the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. The researchers recruited 75 residents of the Dadaab refugee camps, Kakuma Refugee Camp, and Kalobeyei settlement to participate in the study. The authors call for greater transparency and communication in the resettlement process in the related policy brief.

The Researchers from the Dadaab Response Association and Goundo Diarra co-produced on a new study on **“The implementation of the 2019 Global Refugee Forum pledges by the Government of Kenya related to refugee education”**, which was presented at the conference on "Global South Perspectives on Forced Displacement," in Addis Ababa, in April 2025. Forced Migration Research Network of Kenya was launched in Nairobi in October 2024. The Network aims to foster collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and refugees. The Kenya group is also working on a forthcoming paper, based on a study supported by LERRN, about refugees' right to work and the potential benefits to the host community in Kenya.

READ THE RESEARCH SUMMARY



EXPLORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM PLEDGES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA:
A CASE STUDY OF THE DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS

RESEARCH SUMMARY

In 2019, 5.7 million refugees were of school age, yet a significant number had missed years of school due to conflict, displacement and (re)settlement. In host countries (IOM, 2020). Education plays an essential role in the wellbeing of refugees and their ability to pursue opportunities beyond their displacement. In recognition of this critical need, Member States made 140 education-related pledges at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, demonstrating a widespread commitment to ensuring refugees gain access to education within host countries. At this time, the Government of Kenya pledged to “strengthen and support refugee and host community education.”

Through focus group discussions and key informant interviews with teachers, students, and school administration across four different secondary schools in the Dadaab complex, this research project explored Kenya's implementation of its refugee education commitments. A total of 48 participants contributed to the study from the Dagahley, Hagadera, and Ro subcamps. Following the data collection, a thematic analysis was conducted to identify key themes, patterns, and insights. Narrative analysis was used to interpret the stories and experiences shared by participants.

BY THE NUMBERS

3.7 MILLION
refugees of school age (IOM, 2020)

63%
refugee children enrolled in primary school (IOM, 2019)

24%
refugee children enrolled in secondary school (IOM, 2019)

1%
refugees enrolled in university/tertiary schools (IOM, 2019)

140
education-related pledges at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum

LERRN 2025 RESEARCH SUMMARY 1

UPDATES FROM LEBANON

CLS SUMMER SCHOOL IN CAMBRIDGE



Day 1 of Summer School, Centre for Lebanese Studies, September 2024.

Between 2024 and early 2025, the Centre for Lebanese Studies conducted a summer school in Cambridge and conducted research on decolonizing knowledge production. The **Summer School** that took place between the 5th and 7th of September 2024 delved into the complexities of education in conflict zones, focusing on ethical considerations, theoretical foundations, and practical applications. Through a series of lectures, workshops, and discussions, participants explored ideologies, social justice issues, and pedagogical approaches pertinent to education amidst contexts of conflict and mass displacement.

In total, 18 participants from various countries in the global North and global South attended the three-day event. It was an opportunity to build the capacities of practitioners, students, and early career academics in the field of education, as well as a space where participants shared their experiences and developed new networks. The Summer School in Cambridge also provided a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and learning, and equipped participants with ethical frameworks and practical strategies for addressing educational challenges in conflict environments.

RESEARCH STUDY ON DECOLONIZING KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION



In 2024, CLS also conducted a [Research Study on Decolonizing Knowledge Production](#). The purpose of the project was to understand the terrain of grey literature and how it shaped discourses on the education of refugees, including policies. The project was an extension of a previous study by focusing on non-academic articles (grey literature), including reports by international and non-governmental agencies, government responses, policy briefs, conference proceedings, and graduate dissertations. To disseminate the results of the study, a [one-day workshop](#) was held in April 2024 in Cambridge, with support from CRASSH, IDRC, and LERRN.

The background for the workshop was the growing critique of the way funding for research about forced migration, education in emergencies, and humanitarian challenges more generally is channeled predominantly to researchers in the global North, while most of the situations studied are located in the global South. Despite this increasing critique of funding streams, the funding landscape is slow to change. During the workshop, we aimed to place under scrutiny the existing knowledge on research funding and the current funding systems, together with constructive dialogue on how we can change funding systems to more equity-based structures that can help to decolonize knowledge production.

DON'T MISS: A POWERFUL TAKE ON THE REALITIES OF REFUGEE EDUCATION



Why host country education for refugees isn't a magical solution

Should education policies push to include refugee children in national school programmes? What looks good on paper doesn't always work in practice.

In this blog, [Maha Shuayb](#) examines Syrian refugees' school experience in Lebanon. The blog highlights complexities and underscores the necessity of addressing multiple factors including the capacity of national education systems to effectively support refugee education. To ensure meaningful educational opportunities for refugee children, Shuayb advocates for comprehensive, inclusive strategies that go beyond mere school enrollment.

WORKING GROUPS UPDATES

SOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP

The Solutions Working Group, led by Megan Bradley of McGill University, had a remarkably productive year, marked by impactful research, publications, and workshops. We're excited to highlight just a few examples of their accomplishments.

With LERRN support, Megan Bradley and Jennifer Welsh convened [a workshop](#) at McGill in December 2024 on Strengthening the Participation of Internally Displaced Persons. The workshop was co-hosted with UNHCR and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs. It involved presentations from a group of nine IDP leaders from Iraq, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Colombia, Honduras and Ukraine. The workshop resulted in a [report](#), an article submission, and a series of [videos](#) featuring IDP leaders on participation.

NEW LERRN WORKING PAPER

The Solutions Group published a LERRN working paper [In The Meantime: Gender, Race, Nationality, and "Para- Solutions" for Refugees in Amman, Jordan](#). The paper explores intersectional perspectives on how refugees in Amman navigate in the absence of access to durable solutions. The Group presented this research at the International Studies Association conference and will present at the upcoming [CARFMS conference](#), as well as at a conference in Amsterdam.

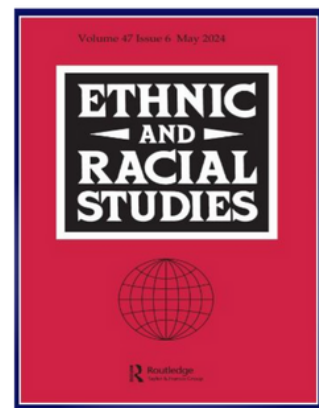


The Group also published a must-read article for those interested in global politics, refugee studies, the dynamics of power, and localization. The paper is co-authored by James Milner, Megan Bradley and Merve Erdilmen and titled “Through the Localization Looking Glass: Seeing Subaltern Power in the Refugee Regime”. This research examines how localization efforts in the refugee regime can obscure or reinforce existing power hierarchies, offering a critical perspective on subaltern agency and humanitarian governance.



SPECIAL ISSUE: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AS AN INSTITUTION

LERRN is excited to announce the publication of a new article titled **“Being “resettlement-minded”: Intersectional Dimensions of Refugee Resettlement Strategies and Refusals in Jordan”**, featured in the ERS special issue. In this compelling new study, Sarah Nandi, Oroub El-Abed, Megan Bradley, and Hamzah Qardan explore how refugees in Jordan navigate the complex terrain of resettlement. Drawing on intersectional analysis, the article explores how factors like gender, class, and legal status can shape both the desire and resistance to resettlement.



STAY TUNED: A NEW ARTICLE IS ON THE WAY

The Solutions Working Group, in collaboration with the Archives, Living Histories, and Heritage Working Group, is preparing to submit for publication the next article in the chronological series about the history of solutions for refugees. The article is tentatively titled “Diverging Paths: Universalization, Regionalization and UNHCR’s Approach to Refugee Solutions, 1959 – 1973.” The article is the result of research led by Megan Bradley, Laura Madokoro, and Rachel McNally.

ARCHIVES, LIVING HISTORIES, AND HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

The Archives, Living Histories, and Heritage Working Group has been pulling together a number of different threads for the final stages of the LERRN project. The “Elusive Voices: Preserving the Stories of Elderly Palestinian Refugees” undertaken in connection with Al-Jana in Lebanon, with support from a grant from the Modern Endangered Archives Program (UCLA) has successfully wrapped, ensuring the preservation of unique oral histories with generations of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Work is also underway on the Baytayn (Beitayn): The Lebanese in Ottawa Oral History Project, which will see the completion and preservation of ten oral history interviews at Carleton University by spring 2025. This project will highlight the historicity and complexity of the Lebanese diaspora and will help challenge and rethink conventional and rigid understandings of the global South, creating opportunities for a robust exchange on knowledge production in forced migration contexts and other contexts.

EVENT REPORT



On March 25, 2024, Prof. Laura Madokoro moderated the roundtable “Migration Research in the Age of Messy Politics,” featuring Profs. Sarah Zell, Shauna Labman, and Megan Bradley on migration, asylum, and displacement.



WELCOME HENRIQUE SCHLUMBERGER VITCHMICHEN!

LERRN is pleased to welcome Henrique Schlumberger Vitchmichen as a new Visiting Fellow, hosted by Professor Dominique Marshall. Henrique is a PhD student at the Federal University of Paraná in Brazil, specializing in human rights and humanitarian aid, particularly in relation to refugees. His research focuses on post-World War II forced displacement from Ukraine and the role of the Ukrainian Aid Committee in Curitiba, Brazil, in helping refugees emigrate and rebuild their lives. At Carleton, Henrique will explore the historical ties between Brazilian and Canadian Ukrainian communities, examining how their collaboration supported humanitarian efforts during that period. Visit his [blog](#) to learn more about his research during his time at Carleton.

PROTECTION WORKING GROUP

The Protection Working Group is working to finalize the edited collection *Canada in the Global Refugee Regime*.

The VULNER project, which received support from LERRN, has concluded with the publication of an Open Access book entitled [Between Protection and Harm: Negotiated Vulnerabilities in Asylum Laws and Bureaucracies](#). Delphine Nakache and Dagmar Soennecken co-authored two chapters on Canada. The book will be presented during the next IMISCOE conference in a panel that will include LERRN colleagues from Lebanon.

The Group is also working on a new project in collaboration with Professor Thibaut Fleury Graff (Université Paris-Panthéon Assas, Law, France), that seeks to improve political and diplomatic decision-making on legal migration pathways for refugees in both Canada and Europe.

FIELDWORK AND CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH COURSE

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The 2024 edition of LERRN's Fieldwork Training and Cross-Cultural Research Course saw a record of 49 participants enrolled from diverse academic and geographic backgrounds, including global South scholars and some scholars with lived experience of displacement. Of these participants, 37 participants completed all course requirements. In previous years, Amanda Klassen facilitated the course in a semester format with 9 participants in 2022 and 18 participants in 2023. This year, the virtual two-week intensive course combined pre-recorded lectures from LERRN members with readings and live discussions facilitated by Rachel McNally, with other LERRN members joining some course discussions. The course covered research ethics, the politics of the global refugee regime, research methods, and knowledge mobilization. Overall, feedback from course participants was very positive. In the course survey, 90% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the course.

10 MUST- READ BLOGS

LERRN published a 10-blog series with critical reflections from the course participants:

ETHICAL, METHODOLOGICAL, AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES IN FORCED MIGRATION RESEARCH

Don't miss: a new post from a course participant:

REDEFINING REFUGEE STATUS: THE GENDER DIMENSION



My experience in this two-week intensive online training has been truly extraordinary. The program itself was highly insightful, offering deep dives into research topics and methods from various perspectives and cultural contexts [...] This training program has provided me with the knowledge and tools to approach my upcoming fieldwork with a deeper understanding of cultural nuances and the importance of building trust and rapport with participants.

- Dennis Osei Kyere, PhD
Candidate, University of Ghana,
Center for Migration Studies

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ADVOCACY TRAINING

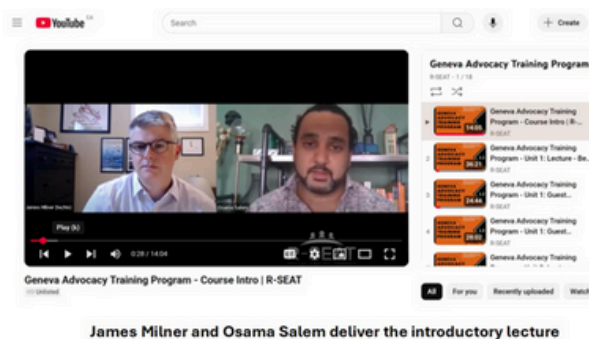
R-SEAT GENEVA ADVOCACY TRAINING

In 2022, LERRN worked closely with R-SEAT (Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table) to develop its Geneva Advocacy Training Program for Refugees. This training was designed to provide a conceptual and practical understanding of the global refugee regime and to equip refugees with practical tools to enhance their impact while participating in meetings of the global refugee regime in Geneva. While the governance of the global refugee regime remains diffuse, Geneva remains an important site for global decision-making on refugee issues and for the making of global refugee policy.

Given the core objective of increasing the meaningful participation of refugees in the governance of the global refugee regime, and given that meaningful participation involves refugees having the skills, tools and experience to effectively navigate the politics of meetings in Geneva, LERRN was delighted to support the development of this program with R-SEAT to help enhance meaningful refugee participation globally.

The training program includes weekly units on specific themes, pre-recorded lectures and talks, readings that participants can undertake at their own pace, and weekly virtual discussion groups to allow interaction between participants in similar time zones,

supported by a facilitator. The training program has now been offered seven times: ahead of meetings of UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) in 2022, 2023 and 2024, the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement in 2023, the Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways in 2024 and 2025 and the Global Refugee Forum in 2023. More than 225 refugee advocates from around the world have registered in this unique training program. With the support of the International Institute for Humanitarian Law since 2024, the R-SEAT Geneva Advocacy Training Program continues to grow in scale and impact.



To learn more on the impact of this training on refugee advocacy in Geneva, read R-SEAT assessment of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum:

<https://www.refugeesseat.org/grf-assessment>

REFUGEE LEADERSHIP

NEW STUDY ON THE POLITICS AND PROCESS OF REFUGEE LEADERSHIP

WEBINAR: THE POLITICS AND PROCESS OF REFUGEE LEADERSHIP: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONDITIONING REFUGEE LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL SOUTH

LERRN GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG



				
LUBLANC PRIETO	STEPHANIE LÓPEZ VILLAMIL	MOHAMED HASSAN	KALYANGO RONALD SEBBA	JAMES MILNER
Director, Fundación Refugiados Unidos	South America Project Lead Researcher, Colombia	Research Officer, Refugee-Led Research Hub, Kenya	East Africa Project Lead Researcher, Uganda	Project Director, LERRN

In February 2025, LERRN completed an 18-month comparative study on **The Politics and Process of Refugee Leadership: A Comparative Analysis of Factors Conditioning Refugee Leadership**, with a specific focus on South America and East Africa. The study was generously supported by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. This research is a collaboration between R-SEAT (Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table) and LERRN, with the active cooperation of the RLRH (Refugee-led Research Hub).

The study seeks to inform research, policy and practice on the conditions that enable or constrain refugees from demonstrating leadership in Uganda, Kenya, Chile, and Colombia. It explored how refugees navigate local, national and regional power structures to influence the development and implementation of policy and programmes intended to affect the daily lives of refugees.



PROJECT WEBPAGE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

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TECHNICAL BRIEFING ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE REGIME TO UN IN NEW YORK



On April 1, LERRN's James Milner and R-SEAT's Rez Gardi, in collaboration with Leah Zamore from the Zolberg Institute, delivered a technical briefing on the global refugee regime to representatives from over 30 Member States at Canada's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. The briefing emphasized the importance of meaningful refugee participation in global discussions to shape more effective responses to displacement. The session

aimed to inform preparations for the upcoming ECOSOC Special Meeting on Forced Displacement and Refugee Protection, scheduled for April 24, 2025.

HLOM: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE GRF ON MEANINGFUL REFUGEE PARTICIPATION

HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS MEETING: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE GRF ON MEANINGFUL REFUGEE PARTICIPATION





MODERATOR



James Milner
Project Director,
LERRN



Ryan Figueiredo
Founder and Executive Director
for Equal Asia Foundation



Rez Gardi
Co-Managing Director,
R-SEAT



John Jal Dak
Director, Youth Social
Advocacy Team (YSAT)



Ana Valle
Asociacion de
Nicaraguenses en Mexico



Njira Sumic
Senior National Field Manager,
We Are All America;
Advisor, United States Refugee
Advisory Board

On April 03, 2025, LERRN co-hosted a webinar with Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (**R-SEAT**) to present and discuss findings from the R-SEAT Assessment Report titled, **"We Were Seen, But Were We Heard? Meaningful Refugee Participation at the Global Refugee Forum 2023."** Watch the full conversation and read the event report [here](#).

LERRN - IDRC RESEARCH CHAIRS NETWORK COLLABORATION

NEW WEBINAR SERIES



The IDRC Research Chairs Network on Forced Displacement is a community of twelve scholars, based at universities in countries experiencing mass displacement, who are reframing the narrative of forced displacement and transforming the field of forced migration studies to mainstream global South perspectives. In collaboration with LERRN, the Network has hosted a webinar series bringing together the perspectives of various Research Chairs and guest speakers with the aim of bringing evidence-based knowledge from the global South and engaging with global policy spaces.

The first webinar delved into the 2024 UNHCR-proposed “routes-based approach” to advancing protection and solutions. The second webinar addressed the impact of climate change on dynamics of forced displacement. The third webinar reflected on some of the work priorities, methods and challenges presented in the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, specifically in the current geo-political context. The fourth and final webinar brought in contemporary and diverse policy perspectives to the highly debated issues of gender in these challenging times in relation to forced displacement.



THE IDRC RESEARCH CHAIRS NETWORK WEBSITE

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PUBLICATIONS

MQUP REFUGEES AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES SERIES

The McGill-Queen's University Press Refugees and Forced Migration Studies Series, co-edited by Megan Bradley and James Milner, now has 23 published and forthcoming titles. The Series aims to advance in-depth, interdisciplinary research on the diverse experiences and dimensions of displacement. Drawing on fields such as law, politics, sociology, and history, the series spotlights critical, cross-disciplinary conversations - particularly from global South researchers - to illuminate the dynamics surrounding forced migration in global, national, and local contexts.

LERRN support has made it possible for more titles in the series to be published [Open Access](#) for readers, scholars, and students located in the Global South who may not otherwise have access to these books.



FOR THE FULL LIST OF TITLES PLEASE SEE THE MQUP WEBSITE

In October 2024, LERRN [hosted a book launch](#) for a title in the series: the open access *Forced Migration in/to Canada: From Colonization to Refugee Resettlement*, edited by Christina R. Clark-Kazak. A French edition of the book is coming soon.



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BOOK LAUNCH: MEET THE AUTHOR



On May 5, 2025, the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) hosted a webinar to celebrate the launch of Dr. Ola El-Taliawi's book, **"The Politics of Refugee Policy in the Global South."**

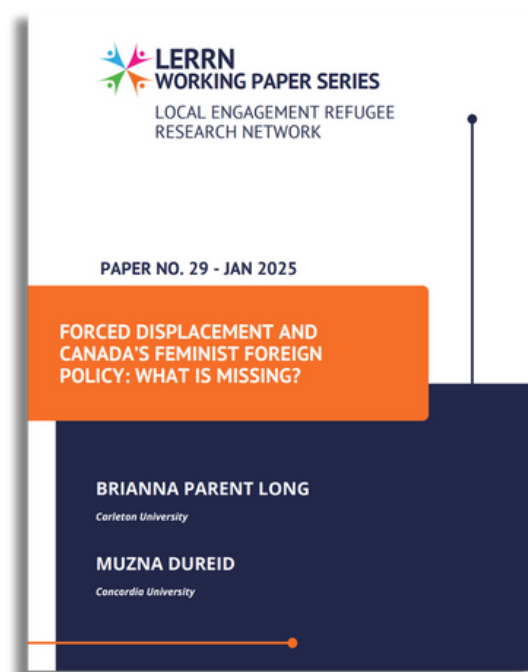
Shifting the focus from sensationalist rhetoric about mass migration to the North, *The Politics of Refugee Policy in the Global South* provides a comparative analysis of Lebanon's and Jordan's responses to the Syrian refugee movement, one of the largest displacements in modern history.

This publication is available as an open-access publication and can also be purchased on the [McGill-Queen's University Press website](#) as part of the [MQUP Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Series](#).

Read the [event report](#) to find out more.

LERRN WORKING PAPER SERIES

In 2024, LERRN published 6 working papers, contributing to **a total of 27 published papers since 2019**. Quality education in camps, gendered solutions, and refugee learners with disabilities were key topics in last year's working papers, all of which invaluable contributed to the growing body of literature produced by and with refugee researchers. With contributors from the Dadaab Response Association (DRA), York University's Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) Program, and other partnered institutions, LERRN is proud to provide a platform for refugee researchers to share their work on the global stage.



We are committed to recognizing the expertise that local researchers offer in developing solutions to refugees' plight, and will continue to promote the creation of inclusive spaces for sharing this knowledge.

LERRN is excited to announce that the working papers are now published in a new format! Check out our publications page to see the newly incorporated visuals and text highlights that increase the readability of the research papers.

Special thanks to Rachel McNally and Lilly Neang for their support in the editing process of the LERRN Working Paper Series.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

DISCUSSION WITH UNHCR'S MADELINE GARLICK: CRITICAL THEMES IN GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION POLICY TODAY



Dr. Madeline Garlick speaks on global forced migration policy at a hybrid event hosted by Carleton University's Migration and Diaspora Studies Department, UNHCR, and LERRN (November 25, 2024).

On November 25, 2024, LERRN, in partnership with UNHCR, and Carleton University's Migration and Diaspora Studies program, hosted a hybrid discussion on global forced migration policy featuring Dr. Madeline Garlick, Chief of Protection Policy and Legal Advice at UNHCR. The event explored key themes in global forced migration policy including the relevance of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the need to uphold international humanitarian principles amid rising global displacement.

Dr. Garlick highlighted UNHCR's routes-based approach to migration, focusing on six pillars: protection-sensitive entry, strengthened asylum systems, immediate humanitarian assistance, host country support, safe migration pathways, and dignified returns.

She emphasized the growing role of refugee leadership in shaping policy and research, stressing the importance of including lived experiences in migration discourse. To listen to the event discussion, follow the [link](#).

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



OTTAWA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CHAIR

BRAVO DELPHINE NAKACHE!

Congratulations to Professor Delphine Nakache, who was awarded the University Research Chair in Migrant Protection and International Law. In this new role, she will explore the links between Canada's domestic and international actions toward temporary migrants and asylum seekers.

Learn more about this incredible **achievement** by Professor Delphine Nakache.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES MILNER!

James Milner was **awarded** the prestigious Carleton University Outstanding Faculty Graduate Mentor Award for 2024/25! This award recognizes exceptional faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding mentorship to graduate students and highlights the significant contributions James has made to the student academic journeys at Carleton University.



CARFMS-LERRN LIVED EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACEMENT ESSAY AWARD

The Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), in collaboration with the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) and the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project, is pleased to **announce the results** of the 2024 CARFMS/LERRN Lived Experiences of Displacement Award. The two winning papers were:

- “Living in a World of Ambivalence: Dilemmas Facing Academics in Exile” by Oudai Tozan, and
- “Writing Refugee Lives” by Sena Taha.

Read more about these winning papers on the [CARFMS website](#).

STUDENT SUCCESS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DEO MWAPINGA!



We proudly congratulate Deo Mwapinga on successfully defending his PhD dissertation, **“The Politics of Citizenship as a Durable Solution for Refugees in Tanzania: A Comparative Case Study of Naturalization of Rwandese and Burundian Refugees”**.



Dr. Mwapinga completed his doctoral studies in Political Science at Carleton University under the supervision of Dr. James Milner and has been a key contributor to LERRN's Tanzania working group. His research offers vital insights into refugee naturalization and introduces the concept of “quasi-citizenship” to better understand local integration. To learn more about **his work and reflections** visit LERRN's website.

We look forward to the impact of his work on the future of refugee policy and research!

CELEBRATING GRADUATE SUCCESS AT MOI UNIVERSITY, KENYA!

In December 2024, two LERRN-supported students at Moi University graduated with a Master's degree in Forced Migration Studies. Mr. Polycarp Opiyo focused his research on the economic integration of refugees in Eldoret Town, while Mr. Serge Houghton explored the economic contributions of refugees to host communities in Nairobi. We extend our warm congratulations to both graduates on their academic achievements and important contributions to the field of forced migration.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BEATRICE VILLAGELGADO!

We're proud to celebrate Beatrice Villadelgado on earning her Bachelor's degree in Media Production and Design! Over the past four years, Beatrice has been an integral part of LERRN as our Digital Communications & Multimedia Project Coordinator, leading knowledge mobilization and producing impactful videos. She now brings her talents to the Ottawa Jazz Festival as a Videographer. We're so proud of her achievements and excited for what's next!



CONGRATULATIONS TO YING WANG ON COMPLETING HER MBA!

We're thrilled to celebrate Ying Wang, who successfully completed her MBA at Carleton University's Sprott School of Business, in Fall 2024. As part of her program, Ying completed an internship with LERRN, fulfilling a key requirement of her degree. We are excited to share Ying's thoughtful [reflections](#) on her internship experience, and we extend our warmest congratulations on this milestone achievement.



LERRN is proud to collaborate with both the Department of Political Science and the Sprott School of Business to support enriching opportunities like this one.

LERRN STUDENT RESEARCH

CONGRATULATIONS TO RACHEL MCNALLY ON HER NEW RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS!



We can't be more proud to share new research publications authored by [Rachel McNally](#). Rachel McNally has published a book chapter entitled "(Dis)Ability and Medical Conditions in Canadian Refugee Resettlement"

in the new book [Forced Migration in/to Canada: From Colonization to Refugee Resettlement](#). Rachel also recently co-authored a chapter with Shauna Labman "Old Tensions and New Questions: The Expansion of Refugee Sponsorship" in the [Research Handbook on Asylum and Refugee Policy](#).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DEO OSMUND MWAPINGWA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF FP-ICGLR



Credit: Parliament of Tanzania (X: @bunge_tz)

LERRN proudly congratulate **Dr. Deo Osmund Mwapingwa** on his appointment as Secretary General of the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR). His appointment was confirmed during the 15th General Assembly held on April 25, 2025, in Luanda, Angola.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: GOUNDO DIARRA!



Please join us in celebrating Goundo Diara and her ongoing commitment to collaborative, equitable research that supports and transforms education for refugee communities!

Goundo recently earned her MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies from Carleton University, where she completed a compelling thesis on female refugee education in Kenya. Her dedication to refugee education continued through the recent work with the Dadaab Response Association (DRA), a community-led research group based in the Dadaab refugee complex, Kenya. In this role, she examined the Kenyan government's implementation of its refugee education commitments made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). For more information on the study's findings, see page 8 *Updates from Kenya*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LERRN PARTNERS AT THE CARFMS CONFERENCE: MAY 2025

LERRN partners and students presented their research at [Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies conference](#), May 26-29, 2025, at Toronto Metropolitan University.



James Milner presented *"The evolving politics of meaningful refugee participation: Lessons for research, policy and practice."* Megan Bradley led a panel entitled *"Protecting internally displaced persons (IDPs): Localization, participation and agency."* The VULNER project, co-led by Delphine Nakache and Dagmar Soenneken, launched their new open access book *Between Protection and Harm: Negotiated Vulnerabilities in Asylum Laws and Bureaucracies*. Rachel McNally presented *"UNHCR and the Historical Evolution of International Policies on the Resettlement of Refugees with Disabilities."* Megan Bradley and James Milner, in their roles as co-editors of the McGill-Queen's University Press (MQUP) Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Series, led a panel on *"Forced migration experiences in Canada: New research and the publishing process."* The team on LERRN's gender and solutions project (Sarah Nandi, Oroub El Abed, Megan Bradley, Hamzah Qardan) presented *"The solutions paradox: Gender, race, nationality, and "para-solutions" for refugees in Amman, Jordan."*

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OPPORTUNITIES

CENTRE FOR REFUGEE STUDIES SUMMER COURSE

The Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York is hosting the **2025 Summer Course on Refugee Issues**, which will be held from June 2 - 6, 2025 at York University. This year's theme is "Climate Migration Futures: Shaping The Research Agenda for 2050." Subsidized tuition is available for students, early career, under supported, and Global South.

Apply by May 28!

To learn more about the course visit [here](#).

CALL FOR ESSAYS: GUNN PRIZE FOR IMMIGRATION HISTORY

The Gunn Prize celebrates excellence in historical research on immigration to and settlement in Canada. Jointly offered by the Canadian Immigration Historical Society (CIHS), the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN), and the Department of History at Carleton University, this annual award recognizes outstanding academic work by senior undergraduate and graduate students across Canada. Named in honour of Al Gunn, a founding member and former Secretary of CIHS, the Gunn Prize awards \$1,000 to the best historical essay exploring the evolution of Canadian immigration policy or the historical experiences of immigrant communities, places, or events in Canada.

The deadline for submissions is fast approaching: June 30

To learn more and how to apply visit [here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

32 zoom
WEBINARS
2611 PARTICIPANTS
87 COUNTRIES

77 % ATTENDANCE RATE

WEBSITE  **20,524**
Interactions (+50%*)
 **4,442**
Visits (+50%*)

 **3677** 
FOLLOWERS (+10%*)
444 
FOLLOWERS

26,812 VIEWS
113 
VIDEOS

LinkedIn
FOLLOWERS (+23%*)

1,141 

NEWSLETTER

11239
email opens

CHECK OUT LERRN NEW VIDEO SERIES: SOCIAL MEDIA & RESEARCH



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*Summative Project Social Media Data Report (2019-2025)

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This project is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences
and Humanities Research Council



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