REFUGEE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN KENYA

The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) is a team of researchers and practitioners committed to promoting protection and solutions with and for refugees. Through collaborative research, training, and knowledge-sharing, we aim to improve the functioning of the global refugee regime and ensure more timely protection and rights-based solutions for refugees.

With the support of funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), we have funding to support collaborative research projects, undertaken by a graduate student from one of our partner Canadian universities (Carleton, McGill, uOttawa and York) and a student selected by our Geographic Working Groups in Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon and Tanzania.

In 2019, we expect to support a minimum of six research sub-projects. For a list of all current Research Placement Profiles (RPPs), please visit: https://carleton.ca/lerrn/

Registered graduate students at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa and York University are encouraged to apply. Please see application details below.

GEOGRAPHIC WORKING GROUP (GWG)	Kenya
GWG LEAD	Dulo Nyaoro, Moi University
AREA OF FOCUS	Localization of Humanitarian Action
LOCATION FOR RESEARCH	Nairobi, Kakuma and/or Dadaab, Kenya

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

"Localization" has become a central theme in development and humanitarian policy and practice, especially since the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. The need to engage host communities and national actors across the humanitarian and development fields is equally central to the proposed Global Compact on Refugees, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2018. Yet, in practice, the role of local and national NGOs in humanitarian work received little attention relative to the work of international NGOs and organizations. Given the change in policy at a global level, however, and the commitment of INGOs such as CARE and Oxfam to the localization of humanitarian programming, it is timely to re-examine the relationship between national and international NGOs in the context of contemporary humanitarian action in East Africa. **This research will document and critically examine the relationship between national and international NGOs in camp-based and urban programming in Kenya to:**

- define the current relationship between national and international NGOs
- identify factors that condition the roles and forms of engagement of both kinds of actors, and
- identify examples of localization that maximize the contribution of both kinds of actors in contributing to protection and solutions for refugees.

RESEARCH METHODS

1. **Stakeholder interviews** and **participant observation** to construct **ethnographies** of national and local NGOs.

2. **Process tracing** to explain outcomes in specific efforts of national NGOs to engage with planning and delivery of refugee-related projects and programs. Drawing on a combination of **document analysis, participant observation, focus groups, and elite interviews** with representatives of host and donor governments, international organizations (such as UN agencies), NGOs and other civil society actors, this approach will identify key moments in the implementation process that explains outcomes.

EXPECTED TIMELINE

Fieldwork schedule to be developed in consultation with the Kenya Working Group, but is expected to last for a 4-week period in Kenya between June and August 2019.

RESEARCH CONTEXT

For an overview of the refugee context in Kenya, see: https://www.unhcr.org/ke/

SUPPORT PROVIDED

LERRN will cover the following costs for the successful candidate:
- Economy round-trip airfare to Kenya
- Necessary domestic travel for the purposes of the project
- Modest accommodation and a stipend for meals for a maximum of four weeks
- The cost of visa, research permit and vaccinations necessary for travel to Kenya

The Kenya Working Group will provide support for:
- reception and orientation at the Nairobi Campus of Moi University
- supervision and mentorship during the fieldwork portion of the sub-project
- administrative and logistical support for the in-country process of securing research permits and making necessary travel and logistical arrangements

PARTNER STUDENT

The successful student will collaborate with a graduate student affiliated with MA in Forced Migration at Moi University to implement this sub-project. Students are expected to collaborate on all aspects of the research, from preparation, fieldwork, and writing preliminary results.

PARTICIPANT OBLIGATIONS

Students selected for a Research Placement Profile will commit to:

- Attend mandatory training (costs supported by LERRN):
    - 6-9 May 2019 in Toronto
    - 27-31 May 2019 in Ottawa
- Use the LERRN Template Ethics Protocol to secure necessary ethics clearance from their university by 30 April 2019
- Complete the following background preparation by May 2019 (with support of their supervisor)
    - Theoretical and methodological foundations (to be provided)
    - Desk research on case study and issue area
    - Prepare a short presentation on their research to be presented during the training sessions in Ottawa at the end of May
- Participate in a post-fieldwork self-evaluation and debrief session by 31 October 2019
- Comply with permit and insurance requirements and sign code of conduct
- Contribute to knowledge mobilization through:
    - Submitting a blog posting during fieldwork
    - Give a presentation to local partners at end of fieldwork
    - Upload fieldwork notes and data prior to end of fieldwork
    - Co-author a working paper with partner student by 31 December 2019
    - Be available to present research findings at the LERRN Annual Meeting the following year (typically in May)
- Obtain required visa and vaccinations
- Have passport valid for 12 months following the proposed end of fieldwork

It is **recommended** that students be certified in basic first-aid before departing for fieldwork

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Submit the following to LERRN@carleton.ca by **9am EST, Monday 4 February 2019**
(ref: **'RPP: Kenya – localization'**)

- CV
- 250 word statement on your approach to the proposed research
- 250 word statement on your suitability for the position, including a description of previous relevant experience
- Written confirmation from a faculty supervisor that you are registered in a graduate program at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa or York University and that you will be supported by your supervisor at your home university to complete the above obligations

Interviews will be conducted by Skype or at your home university the week of 11 February 2019
Successful candidates will be notified by 28 February 2019