

REFUGEE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN KENYA

The [Local Engagement Refugee Research Network](http://www.carleton.ca/lerrn) (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 from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](http://www.sshrc.gc.ca) (SSHRC), we have funding to finance 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.

We are now accepting applications for research placements in Kenya. Registered post-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 and Kakuma, Kenya
DATES OF FIELDWORK:	4 weeks (mid- July and mid-August 2020)
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS	
<p>“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, due to be 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. This has been documented in the East African context, especially through the 2002 collection <i>Eroding Local Capacity</i>. 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.</p>	

As a follow-up to the first phase of this research conducted in 2019, 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. Key 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

The fieldwork schedule will be developed in consultation with the Kenya Working Group, but is expected to last for a 4-week period between mid- July and mid-August 2020.

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 costs and a stipend for meals for a maximum of six 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 in Nairobi
- 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 facilitating necessary travel and logistical arrangements

PARTNER STUDENT

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

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply, candidates must:

- Be a registered post-graduate student at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa and York University, until 31 December 2020

Preference will be given to candidates with research and/or practical background in issues relating to localization and refugee policy in Kenya.

PARTICIPANT OBLIGATIONS

Students selected for a Research Placement will commit to:

- Attend mandatory training in Ottawa prior to departure (costs supported by LERRN)
- Use the LERRN Template Ethics Protocol to secure necessary ethics clearance from their university by 30 April 2020
- Complete the following background preparation by May 2020:
 - Readings on theoretical and methodological foundations (to be provided)
 - Preliminary desk research on case study and issue area
 - Prepare a short presentation on their research to be presented during the training sessions in Ottawa
- Participate in a post-fieldwork self-evaluation and debrief session by 31 October 2020
- Comply with permit and insurance requirements and sign code of conduct
- Contribute to knowledge mobilization through:
 - Submitting a blog posting during fieldwork
 - Giving a presentation to local partners at the end of fieldwork
 - Uploading fieldwork notes and data prior to the end of fieldwork
 - Co-authoring a working paper with a member of the Lebanon Working Group by 31 December 2020
 - Being available to present research findings at the LERRN Annual Meeting the following year (typically in May)
- Obtain required visa and vaccinations
- Having a 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 24 February 2020
(reference: '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

- Name of a faculty supervisor who can confirm the applicant is registered in a post-graduate program at Carleton University, McGill University, the University of Ottawa or York University
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to provide a letter of reference from their faculty supervisor, which speaks to the candidate's suitability for the placement and confirming that the candidate will be supported to complete the above participant obligations

Interviews will be conducted by Skype or at your home university in early-March 2020.

Successful candidates will be notified by 31 March 2020