CHANGING THE STRUCTURES OF FORCED MIGRATION RESEARCH

LERRN

Refugee Research Network

Webinar Series
Ethics in Forced Migration Research

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March 31, 2022

**9:00-10:30 AM EDT
2:00-3:30 PM BST
4:00-5:30 PM EEST
4:00-5:30 PM EAT**

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Public Zoom Webinar

Register on our website!

Audience

Scholars and emerging scholars in various regions of the world.

Objectives

- Build a community of practice dedicated to supporting ethical and relevant research on forced migration
- Share best practices on designing and conducting research for (emerging) scholars
- Offer practical guidance to researchers who are designing research projects

Description
Of this webinar

The final webinar in the LERRN-RRN series plans to engage with how the structures of research and research funding may be changed. While some changes can be brought-about by individual researchers, we recognize that some of the challenges are deeper and more structural, like unequal access to research funding. Some donors are piloting innovative initiatives, like the Canadian International Development Research Centre establishing research chairs on forced displacement with direct funding to scholars in various regions of the global South to pursue their own independent research agendas. What is the role of donors in addressing the issues raised in this series? What would it take to get more donors on board with initiatives like direct funding to local researchers? What structures need to change and what is the path forward?

CONTEXT

From Landau's (2012) article critiquing research partnerships to more recent discussions and initiatives, there is a growing understanding in the field of forced migration that it is important to do research differently. Scholars and practitioners have been reimagining the field of forced migration, continuing the critical conversation that Chimni started in 1998 and 2009. As part of the turn to decolonizing research, these efforts have recently questioned the shortcomings of forced migration research, the political economy of knowledge production, the politics underlying localization of aid, the dangers of remote research, the politics of aid and philanthropism, and the importance of including refugees in research design. At the same time, various organizations have recently developed ethical guidelines for research, including the 2018 IASFM Code of Ethics. The 2019 book by members of the RRN reflected on the ethical and practical challenges in building a global forced migration research network, while LERRN's research has highlighted the challenges of research partnerships and the overrepresentation of scholars in the Global North in academic publications. Recent webinars have discussed 'Localising' Refugee Research and Practice (Oxford Refugee Studies Centre series), localizing knowledge production (LERRN & RRN), building localized knowledge ecosystems (LERRN and IDRC), publishing in academic journals (LERRN), establishing a refugee research agenda in Dadaab (RRN), mobilizing knowledge in an ethical way (RRN), and applying the IASFM Code of Ethics.

Building on these discussions, LERRN and RRN propose a webinar series for the 2021-2022 academic year on the ethics of forced migration research at various stages of the research process. Webinars will feature 3-4 speakers, ensuring representation in the series from different regions of the world and from people with lived experience of forced migration. In addition to monthly webinars from October to March, LERRN and RRN will facilitate opportunities for participants to communicate between webinars to continue to discuss these important themes. Together, the webinars and platforms for discussion will contribute toward building a community of practice – a group "of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly" – which can hopefully be sustained beyond the webinar series.

LERRN is a team of researchers and practitioners committed to promoting protection and solutions with and for refugees. The goal is to ensure that refugee research, policy and practice are shaped by a more inclusive, equitable and informed collective engagement of civil society.

RRN has been created to mobilize and sustain a Canadian and international network of researchers and research centres committed to the study of refugee and forced migration issues and to engaging policy makers and practitioners in finding solutions to the plight of refugees and displaced persons.