



Webinar Series

Ethics in Forced Migration Research

November 3, 2021

TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE IN FORCED MIGRATION

9:30-11:00 AM EDT

1:30-3:00 PM GMT

3:30-5:00 PM EET

4:30-6:00 PM EAT

Whose voices and perspectives frame research?



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Public Zoom Webinar

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Co-moderated by

Susan McGrath, Director of the Refugee Research Network, Professor Emerita, School of
Social Work & Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto Canada.

and James Miner, Project Director, LERRN

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 “gold standard” of knowledge promoted by Western academia has been peer-reviewed journal articles in frequently cited journals. Yet this form of knowledge is not accessible to many people and communities, and it misses other forms of knowledge, like oral or artistic traditions, or knowledge in local languages. What “counts” as knowledge in forced migration? Whose voices and perspectives count? What forms of knowledge do various partners recognize as useful and influential in their sectors? What does successful research look like from a Southern perspective? How do different forms of knowledge speak to different goals and different contexts?

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.

Meet the Panelists

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh is Professor of Migration and Refugee Studies at University College London, where she is Co-Director of UCL's **Migration Research Unit**, Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies' **Refuge in a Moving World** research network across UCL (@RefugeMvingWrld), and co-Editor of the Migration and Society journal. Elena's research is interdisciplinary and participatory in nature, and draws on critical theoretical perspectives, including feminist and Southern theories and approaches. Since the early-2000s, her work has focused on better understanding experiences of and responses to displacement in and from the Middle East and North Africa. She is PI of the Refugee Hosts project (see www.refugeehosts.org and @RefugeeHosts) and the Southern-Led Responses to Displacement project (www.southernresponses.org and @SouthernResp).

Foni Joyce Vuni

Foni is a refugee from South Sudan. Her parents fled the southern part of Sudan in 1991 because of the civil war – her father was a journalist fleeing the state - and sought asylum in Kenya where she was born. Foni is also part of the Tertiary Refugee Student Network (TRSN) a group that is advocating for 15% increase of refugees in take in Tertiary education level by 2030 and also a member of the Refugee Education Council, that is working on Together for Learning campaign by Canada and as a council aims to ensure that solutions and approaches are shaped by the knowledge and experiences of youth advocates, women, teachers, parents and community leaders who are living as refugees, forcibly displaced persons or in communities that host them. Foni currently is the Global Refugee Youth Network coordinator and is also a Research Associate at the Refugee Led Research Hub. Foni believes that it's important to create platforms that allow refugee youth to transfer skills and support each other but more importantly allow refugees to be part of discussion and decisions about them.

Yousif M. Qasmiyeh

Yousif M. Qasmiyeh is a poet and translator whose DPhil research at the University of Oxford's English Faculty explores containment and time in 'refugee writing' in English and Arabic. His poetry and translations have appeared in journals and magazines including Modern Poetry in Translation, Stand, Critical Quarterly, GeoHumanities, Cambridge Literary Review and PN Review. Yousif is Creative Encounters Editor of the Migration and Society journal, Writer-in-Residence of the Refugee Hosts research project, and Joint Lead of the Imagining Futures Baddawi Camp Lab. His collection, *Writing the Camp* (Broken Sleep Books, 2021), was The Poetry Book Society's Recommendation for Spring 2021, and was Highly Commended by the 2021 Forward Prizes.