November 19, 2021

BUILDING RESEARCH RELATIONSHIPS AND SETTING THE AGENDA

9:30-11:00 AM EDT
2:30-4:00 PM GMT
4:30-6:00 PM EET
5:30-7:00 PM EAT

Dr. Alice M. Nah
Senior Lecturer at the Department of Politics at the University of York, UK

Maha Shuayb
Lead investigator of LERRN's Lebanon Working Group and Director of the Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS)

Mark Okello Oyat
Director of the Dadaab Response Association

Public Zoom Webinar
Register on our website!

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

Research agendas have often been set by donors and external researchers, who come in from the outside to do research that fits their own priorities. Increasingly, researchers from the Global North are partnering with local researchers but may still be following an external agenda. Refugees are also becoming researchers, choosing to focus on issues that are important to them and their communities. How can research agendas be locally driven and locally relevant? What does a meaningful and reciprocal research partnership look like? How can researchers identify partners and build these kinds of relationships?

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**

Dr. Alice M. Nah

Alice M. Nah is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Politics at the University of York, UK, and conducts research on asylum and migration in Asia. Alice has been invited by government and intergovernmental bodies to participate in global policy making and regional dialogues as an independent expert on forced migration in Asia. She chairs the board of the International Detention Coalition and Protection International, and was a founding member the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (serving as chair from 2008-2010). Alice previously held an Endeavour Cheung Kong Research Fellowship at Monash University, Melbourne; the President's Graduate Fellowship at the National University of Singapore; and a visiting fellowship at the Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University. She holds a PhD from the National University of Singapore.

Maha Shuayb

Dr. Maha Shuayb is Lead investigator of LERRN's Lebanon Working Group and Co-Application on the LERRN partnership. Since 2012, Dr. Maha Shuayb has also been the Director of the **Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS)** – an independent research centre founded in the UK in 1983 and affiliated to St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford. Her research mainly focuses on the sociology and politics of education, particularly equity and equality in education and the implications of the politicization of education particularly on marginalized groups. Over the past eight years, Dr. Shuayb has been occupied with the education response to the Syrian Refugee crisis in Lebanon. She has headed a number of research studies looking at access and quality of education for refugees and the bottlenecks. Her most recent studies include a comparative longitudinal study between Lebanon, Turkey, Germany and Australia which examines the impact of status on education provisions for refugees in the four countries. Dr. Shuayb says it is vital for the voices of researchers in the Global South to be heard and sees value in the approach that LERRN is taking.

Mark Okello Oyat

Mark Okello Oyat is a Ugandan refugee residing in Dadaab, Kenya. He is the director of a community-based organization, the Dadaab Response Association. It is a research-based organization that positions Mark and his team as refugee scholars in encampment. Some of their work on refugee education has been published in **LERRN's Working Paper Series.**