

A Canadian Refugee Research Network (CRRN): Globalizing Knowledge

A SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Cluster Program: 2008-2015

Centre for Refugee Studies, York University

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Project Summary

The purpose of this project is 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 finding solutions to the plight of refugees. As an established hub of scholarly activity internationally, the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York University is well-placed to stimulate this knowledge mobilization process. **Our goal** is to build a network of networks: the Canadian Refugee Research Network (CRRN), which will produce, share, and consolidate knowledge across space, as well as globalize knowledge production. Through its dialogical and participatory “cluster of clusters” approach, the proposed Canadian Refugee Research Network aims to contribute to the improvement of the well-being of refugees and forced migrants around the world by: 1) expanding our awareness of the global knowledge regime concerning refugee issues and forced migration, 2) improving communication concerning this knowledge within and between academic, policy-making and practice sectors in the Global South and North, and 3) alliance-building and active policy involvement in the development of national and international policy frameworks and humanitarian practices affecting refugees and forced migrants.

As a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention, a major location for the resettlement of refugees, host of an internationally recognized refugee status determination system, and a prominent actor in the international system with a stated commitment to humanitarian issues, Canada is well positioned to provide leadership in standard setting and implementation in research, practice and policy to address the root causes of forced migration and refugee flows, to support resettlement when required, and to develop more predictable, effective and comprehensive solutions to the plight of refugees and forced migrants.

This initiative is intended to build Canada’s capacity in the field, to establish linkages with colleagues internationally, and to support the transfer of knowledge within and across regions in the Global South and North. This will be accomplished through the following **five actions**:

- Establishing a **Canadian refugee law research network** based at CRS
- Establishing a **Canadian refugee policy network** of academics and policy makers based at CRS
- Supporting the development of the nascent **Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies** (CARFMS) which will facilitate communications across academic disciplines and across academic, practice and policy sectors throughout the country
- Establishing an **international network of refugee research centres** with selected centres serving as nodes in their regions

- Partnering with the **Canadian Council of Refugees** and a new international **NGO Network on Refugee Rights**.

The connections among researchers and research centres in Canada and globally will be facilitated with the development of a virtual research community that includes global online connections and communications and a virtual library with materials from the South and North and fully accessible to the South and North.

Network members have identified the following **five key research and policy issues** as priority areas for the network to address:

- In/security in the Canadian Refugee Determination System
- Refugee resettlement
- Protracted refugee situations, internally displaced populations and human rights
- Extraterritorial refugee status determination procedures and the externalization of asylum
- Environmental and development induced displacement.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR AND CO-APPLICANTS

Susan McGrath, the **Principal Investigator**, is Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at York University.

Wenona Giles, the **Senior Co-Applicant**, is an Associate Director of CRS, an anthropologist, and Professor in the School of Social Sciences at York University.

Sharryn Aiken is past President of the Canadian Council for Refugees, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at Queen's University and Editor-in-Chief of *Refuge*.

Michael Barutciski is Associate Professor of International Affairs at York's bilingual Glendon College.

Nergis Canefe is Associate Professor of Political Science at York University and a resident faculty at Centre for Refugee Studies.

Rudhramoorthy Cheran is assistant professor in the department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Windsor.

François Crépeau holds the Canada Research Chair in International Migration Law, Université de Montréal.

Donald Galloway is Professor of Law at the University of Victoria, specializing in Immigration Law, Refugee Law and Citizenship Law.

Jennifer Hyndman is Professor of Geography at Simon Fraser University (on leave at Syracuse University in 2007-08).

Gerald Kernerman is an Associate Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies and Assistant Professor of Political Science at York University.

COLLABORATORS are a distinguished group of Canadian and international academics (senior and junior) who will ensure that the project is informed by scholarly and innovating thinking across the sectors, facilitate communications within and between sectors, and provide important vehicles for dissemination of learnings and policy recommendations.

Academic Sector - Canadian Universities

Howard Adelman is the founding director of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University and is currently a Research Professor at the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

Ranu Basu is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at York University.

Catherine Dauvergne is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Migration Law at the University of British Columbia.

Don Dippo, York University is the Associate Dean of Education and a former elementary school teacher.

Martha Kuwee Kumsa is an associate professor at the Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Audrey Macklin is an associate professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto.

James Milner is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto and previously a Trudeau scholar (2003-2006). He begins a tenure stream appointment at Carleton University in July.

Peter Nyers is Assistant Professor of the Politics of Citizenship and Intercultural Relations in the Department of Political Science at McMaster University.

Obiora Okafor, York University, joined Osgoode Hall Law School after holding faculty positions at the University of Nigeria and Carleton University.

Peter Penz, York University, is Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Environmental Studies and former Director of CRS.

Peter Showler teaches Immigration and Refugee Law and Advanced Refugee Law at the University of Ottawa. He is also Director of the Refugee Forum located at the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the university.

James C. Simeon is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University.

Academic Sector - International Scholars

B.S. Chinni, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, is an internationally renowned legal scholar. His areas of expertise include international law, international trade law and international refugee law.

Barbara Harrell-Bond, American University in Cairo Egypt and Oxford University, UK, is founder of the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford.

Maja Korac is a Reader in the School of Social Sciences, Media, and Cultural Studies, at the University of East London, UK.

Gil Loescher is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Studies, University of Oxford, and long-established expert on international refugee policy.

Alison Mountz is Assistant Professor of geography at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

Academic Sector - New Scholars (Canada)

Uzo Anucha is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, York University.

Sasha Baglay (LL.M, Dalhousie; DJur, Osgoode Hall) is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Pablo Bose is currently a George Washington Henderson and SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography at the University of Vermont.

Zeinab Bou-Zeid is a Ph.D. candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School (will defend in December 2007) and a Research Associate at the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University.

Alison Crosby is Assistant Professor in Peace, Internationalism, Gender and Development in the School of Women's Studies at York University.

Amani El Jack is a senior PhD candidate (will defend in early 2008) in Women's Studies at York University.

Kirsten Emiko McAllister is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University.

Delphine Nakache, is a newly appointed professor at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, where she will teach Public International Law, Immigration and Refugee Law and International Trade Law.

Anna Zalik is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS will be actively engaged in the development of the Global Network of Researchers and Research Centres and will link their networks to the Global Network more generally. The number of Canadian and international partners is expected to increase as the Network reaches out in person and online to colleagues around the world. The specific contributions of the institutional partners are described below.

Canadian Institutional and Government Partners

The Canadian Council for Refugees (Janet Dench, Executive Director) is a non-profit umbrella organization of approximately 170 member organizations across Canada involved in the settlement, sponsorship and protection of refugees and immigrants. It is providing leadership to the emerging International Networking on Refugee Rights, growing out of an international conference that brought together close to 500 participants (most NGOs) from over 30 countries.

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is concerned with Canada's foreign policy, rules-based trading arrangements and the expansion of market access at bilateral, regional and global levels. (*Catherine Godin, DFAIT*).

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) presides over immigration and refugee issues in Canada as one of the federal government organizations. (*Micheline Aucoin, CIC*).

Metropolis Project is an international forum for comparative research and public policy development about population migration, cultural diversity and the challenges of immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world. (*Howard Duncan, Executive Head*).

Canadian Metropolis Research Centres: There are five regional metropolis centres across Canada with which the CRRN has an association through the Metropolis Project

Metropolis Atlantic Centre of Excellence – Terry Murphy, Chair

Montréal Centre for Inter-university Research on Immigration, Integration and Urban Dynamics (IM) – director appointment pending.

Joint Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement (CERIS) – Valerie Preston, Co-Director (York University)

Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration (PCERII) – Tracey Derwing, Co-Director (University of Alberta)

Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis (RIIM) – Dan Hiebert, Co-Director (University of British Columbia)

Private Sector Partner

IBM Canada Ltd. is one of Canada's leading providers of advanced information technology, products, services and business consulting services (*Phil Dasilva, Client Executive*).

International Research Centres Partners

The Institute for the Study of International Migration (Georgetown University, Washington, DC) affiliated with the Georgetown Law Center, provides analyses of international migration, and networks with other U.S. and foreign universities to foster research exchanges and cooperative projects. (*Susan Martin, Director & Donald G. Herzberg Chair in International Migration*).

The Forced Migration Studies Programme (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) is an Africa-oriented and African-based centre of excellence for research and teaching that shapes global discourses on migration, development and social transformation. It is dedicated to forming an Africa-wide network of migration and displacement scholars. (*Loren Landau, Director*).

The Refugee Studies Centre (University of Oxford) has an international reputation as a leading multidisciplinary centre for research and teaching on the causes and consequences of forced migration. RSC combines academic research, international cooperation and capacity building with a commitment to improving the lives and situations of refugees. In addition, the RSC's *Forced Migration Online* initiative will provide an invaluable resource for all those involved in the Global Network. (*Roger Zetter, Director & Professor of Refugee Studies*).

The Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group is well-known for its research, dialogues, and advocacy work in the scholar-activist world on autonomy, human rights, women's dignity, forced displacement and migration, peace and conflict resolution, citizenship, borders and border-conflicts, and other themes relevant to democracy. The Calcutta Research Group has developed a strong network of scholars, activists and institutions that will contribute to the Global Knowledge Cluster. (*Ranabir Samaddar, Director & Professor*).

The Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program (The American University in Cairo) has an extensive electronic library on refugee and refugee-related topics. The program's extensive research projects, education programs, directories of services for refugees and numerous publications will contribute to the development of the Global Knowledge Cluster. (*Phillippe Fargues, Director & Professor*).

The Institute for Ethnic, Governance and Law (Griffith University, Brisbane) is a joint initiative of the United Nations University and Griffith University in association with the Australian National University. IEGl conducts various projects on issues related to refugees, migrations and forced migration, including a project in Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka; a project on the ethics of intervention; a project on the conception of sovereignty (linked to Princeton University and the United Nations); a Government Research Network project which they could link directly to the Global Knowledge Cluster. (*Charles Sampford, Director & Professor*).

The Group on Political Theory and Legal Theory (Javeriana University, Bogotá) was formed in 2001 by the Javeriana Pontifical University in Bogotá and members of some other law faculties and recognized by the National System of Research Groups (SCIENTI) to address the complex problems of the Colombian reality from the perspective of legal theory, postcolonial studies, and a global approach. (*Roberto Vidal-López, Director & Professor*).

The Division of Population Research in the Institute of Social Studies and Research (University of Tehran) undertakes demographic research related to population and sustainable development in Iran, including issues of gender, poverty and refugee issues which intersect with population and development. Their research aims to build national capacity including development and human resources and promotes networks between local, regional and global research institutions by sharing experiences and research outcomes. (*Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi, Chair & Associate Professor*).

International Voluntary Sector Organization and Agency Partnerships

The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) is an independent, self-governing community of scholars and practitioners who are concerned about understanding forced migration and about improving the formulation of policies and administration of programs dealing with refugees and other displaced persons. (*Susan Martin, President*)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) advocates basic human rights for refugees and seeks to solve refugee problems. UNHCR monitors government compliance with international refugee law, provides various supports to protect refugees in need, assists repatriation of refugees, and helps refugees resettle in countries of asylum. (*Jeff Crisp, Head, Policy Development and Evaluation Service*)

The UN World Food Program (WFP) assists victims of national disasters and displaced people. Its aim is the economic and social development of countries that are suffering from a lack of food due to poverty or disasters. (*Torben Due, Senior Advisor on Refugee and IDP Programming*)

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is dedicated to providing life-saving assistance to children affected by disasters, and to protecting their rights in all circumstances. (*Angela Raven-Roberts, Regional Emergency Advisor, UNICEF CEE/CIS, Geneva*)