

## **ORA REPORT 2001-2002 - CENTRE FOR REFUGEE STUDIES**

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This report covers the period May 2001 to April 2002.

### **Highlights**

Perhaps the most important development in the past year has been the periodic review of the Centre for Refugee Studies by the university's Senate Committee on Research. A very long process, it eventually led to the committee recently renewing the mandate of the Centre for six years. This then completes the transition from the period of the late 1990s, when the large CIDA grant for the Centre came to an end as well as the period of conflict. Since then the Centre has been operating harmoniously, but also much more parsimoniously.

It has, nevertheless, been productive. A number of projects were brought to completion: research on integration in Canada (Kosovar refugees, immigrant youth at risk, religious organizations assisting elderly newcomers in Canada), a project on conflict management and refugee return in the Horn of Africa, contributions to the development of courses on immigration and refugees. New ones have been begun, in particular a project on refugee diasporas and their relations to the Canadian host society and to their countries of origin, a training project for researchers in the Palestinian Territories working on gender and family dynamics, a project on war-affected children in Southeast Asia and a book on the global refugee regime. And, of course, a substantial number of projects are continuing, while efforts are being made in half a dozen areas to initiate new projects. The annual summer course was again very successful, drawing participants from all over the world, and a full program of events was provided during the year. This year, however, two important policy workshops were held with policy-makers, civil-society activists and academics, one on Canada's obligations with respect to the global refugee problem and the other on the relation between security issues arising from Sept. 11 and migration policies. Moreover, Centre members, especially Prof. Sharryn Aiken, have been involved in public discussions about new immigration and refugee legislation and regulations in Canada and about new border-control plans following Sept. 11. *Refuge* has continued in its new, more academic format.

The Centre has 21 Faculty Members and 11 Faculty Associates and 8 Research Associates. A particularly active Student Caucus developed in the past year. Plans have been made for renovations of the Centre's office and library space, which will provide more work space for students and projects. This partly new environment will be an auspicious signal for the next stage in the life of the Centre.

### **Completed Projects**

**Kosovar Refugees in Canada:** Prof. Larry Lam completed two projects for Citizenship and Immigration Canada, one with Prof. Cliff Jansen and Prof. Morley Beiser on the **Sponsorship of Kosovar Refugees**, the other without collaborators on the **Immigration Settlement and Adaptation Program** for this group of refugees.

**Growing Old in a New Land:** This pilot project investigated the services offered to elderly by non-Christian (Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim) religious organizations in Toronto. It was undertaken for and funded by Multiculturalism Directorate, Heritage Canada. A scholarly report on findings by **Dr. Janet McLellan** and **Prof. Michael Lanphier**, "The Importance of Religious Institutions/Organizations in the Lives of Elderly Newcomers," was presented at the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Biennial, Halifax, NS, November, 2001.

A project report was produced and distributed.

**Newcomer Youth at Risk:** Prof. Larry Lam completed this sub-project on newcomer youth who did not enter the Canadian school system for a larger project by the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement for Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

**Conflict Management and Refugee and IDP Return in in the Horn of Africa:** Prof. Howard Adelman completed his studies for the development of an *Early Warning and Conflict Management System* (now called *CEWARN*) for the countries of the Horn of Africa under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) as well as the *Ethiopian and Eritrean Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Return and Reintegration programs in relation to the cessation of hostilities and the Peace Agreement*.

Contributions to **Educational Media Partnership on Immigration and Refugee Issues for Computer Assisted Learning (EMPIRICAL):** This project (funded by *Ontario Administration of Settlement and Integration Services* and administered by the Centre of Excellence for Research in Immigration and Settlement) is to develop a new inter-university curriculum on immigration, refugee movements, integration and ethno-cultural diversity. CRS Faculty Members and Associates **Profs. Howard Adelman, Sharryn Aiken, Wenona Giles, and Alan Simmons** were among a team of EMPIRICAL consultants and course directors who developed a set of 11 undergraduate Internet-based distance education courses (consisting of 12 modules, apart from the introductory course with 24 modules) that address these issues and that utilize research and researcher resources. At the same time, the CRS Resource Centre, under the direction of its Coordinator, Mr. Donald Mitchell, was engaged in research for these courses (with three researchers) and in cataloguing video resources (over 400 hours of footage) to be used in the courses. (All of this footage is fully indexed and available as part of the CRS Resource Centre collection.)

**Syllabus for a Short Course Within the “University of Immigration And Diversity”:** This project consisted of the development of syllabi for 13 short courses on immigration, integration and diversity for civil servants and NGO practitioners and was organized by Metropolis / Ottawa. Various members of the Centre for Refugee Studies performed roles in this project, including as workshop leaders and specific syllabus developers (**Profs. Sharryn Aiken and Lorne Sossin** for “The Normative and Legal Framework”, **Prof. Peter Penz** for “Canada’s Refugee and Humanitarian Policies” and **Prof. Valerie Preston** for “Social, Political and Cultural Integration”) and as editor of the material: **Prof. Howard Adelman**, who put the syllabi together in a volume entitled *Immigration Policy and Practice in Canada* and wrote the introduction for it.

### New Projects

**Social cohesion and international migration in a globalizing era: transnational solidarities and newcomer incorporation in Canada:** This three-year study, headed by **Prof. Michael Lanphier**, is to identify domestic and international influences shaping the integration of refugees in Canada, especially those from war-torn nations maintaining close ties to their country of origin. Researchers plan to study refugee groups that have had four different migration experiences: relatively new arrivals who received little government assistance (Colombians, Sudanese); populations with long-standing out-migration networks (Croatians, Filipinos); groups with short-lived and finite out-flows (Cambodians, Chileans, Ethiopians, Guatemalans, Salvadorians, Vietnamese); and groups with long-term ongoing refugee patterns (Sri Lankan Tamils and Kurds). Apart from Prof. Lanphier, the team includes CRS members **Prof. Luin Goldring, Dr. Janet McLellan, Dr. Cheran Rudhramoorthy and Dr. Mohammed Hassan**, as well as other academic researchers in Vancouver, Prince George, St. Catherine, Toronto, Montréal, and Halifax. The project is the outcome of an application to a Strategic Grant competition under the theme of “Social Cohesion” by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, which first seed-funded the proposal and then awarded \$563,000 for the project.

**Changing family dynamics in displaced communities of Islamic Origin: an educational/training program:** The

two-year project, funded by the Ford Foundation for \$573,080, will create an interactive educational program for front-line researchers (academic and practitioners) in the Palestinian Territories. It includes (but is not confined to) researchers involved in a large comparative, cross-national Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) on family dynamics in Islamic diasporas, headed by **Prof. Haideh Moghissi**, with co-investigators **Profs. Saeed Rahnama and Mark Goodman**. (See under “On-going Projects” below.) This project supports the MCRI project through the sharing of methodological, substantive and policy knowledge and expertise and the provision of a forum for the dissemination of research findings. An initial workshop was held in Amman, Jordan, for researchers from there and from Gaza.

**Children Caught in Conflicts: Assessing the Impact of Conflict on Children in East Asia and the Pacific:**

CRS is one among five partner institutions in this joint undertaking along with the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and others. This study aims at an enhanced knowledge base relating to children affected by armed conflict in the East Asia and Pacific region, with a focus on Indonesia, the Philippines and the Thailand-Myanmar border. The project will identify and define child protection strategies for these specific types of conflict, which are often geographically localized, generally of varying intensity and directly affecting a small portion of the population. **Dr. V. Vijayakumar**, Visiting Scholar and International Liaison Coordinator for Asia and **Mr. William Deng Deng**, an External Associate of the Centre are two of the four Project Leaders in this project. The project is receiving funding from CIDA and UNICEF. Although the project is for a period of 18 months, attempts are underway to expand on the outcome and plan for a more meaningful dialogue with civil society, NGOs, the legal profession, academic institutions and the governments in the region to improve awareness and involve them the future work related to the protection of children during conflicts.

**The Global Refugee Regime: Charity, Management, and Human Rights:** **Mr. Tom Clark**, a Research Associate of CRS, began to write a textbook on the above topic. An advisory committee struck by the Centre is assisting him.

### On-going Projects

**Refugees in Limbo:** This project of **Prof. Michael Creal's**, which is to study the situation of the many thousands of refugees and refugee claimants in Canada living in “limbo” and thus assess this aspect of Canada’s refugee determination system, has continued to collect cases.

**Integrating Diversity:** **Prof. Lanphier**, in collaboration with CERIS, is co-directing this study of immigrant integration with respect to economic activity, housing, education, health and community in Greater Toronto. The output is to be an edited volume, to be published by the University of Toronto Press.

**Ethics of Development-Induced Displacement:** Of the two sub-projects on this topic, both headed by **Prof. Peter Penz**, the funded period of the Indo-Canadian sub-project, which is on the responsibilities of national development authorities, came to an end early in 2000, but the dissemination portion continued. Project findings were reported at dissemination workshops arranged by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in New Delhi and Ottawa (supported by funding from CIDA). Plans were made for a volume to be published in India. The Canadian sub-project on international responsibilities (funded by the SSHRC) continued. Ms. Amani El Jack completed the last research field trip studying the gender dimension of displacement from Sudan. Plans have been made for two publications, one on the field research on particular cases, the other on ethical issues and standards. With respect to the latter, papers were prepared for presentation in panels at conferences in May and June 2002. CRS Faculty Member **Prof. Pablo Idahosa** is part of the large team for this project. He, Prof. Penz and project researchers Ms. El Jack and Ms. Gruner gave a panel on “Development, conflict and human security” in York University’s International Development Week.

**Ethics and International Intervention:** This project consists both of a Gerstein Advanced Seminar Series on this

topic, now concluded with two more seminars in the fall of 2001, and a SSHRC-funded Research Development Initiative, which focuses on the cases of Serbia-Kosovo and Sudan. It includes CRS Faculty Members **Profs. Howard Adelman, David Dewitt and Peter Penz** and is being carried out jointly with the Centre for Practical Ethics and the Centre for International and Security Studies. In the past year the research plan was developed, the research initiated and a research partnership with the Key Centre on Governance, Justice and Ethics at Griffiths University in Brisbane, Australia, established. Presentations on this topic were made at a CRS Brownbag Seminar and Profs. Adelman and Penz participated in a joint MSF/CRS panel on “The ethics of humanitarian intervention” last October.

**International Conference on Responses to War Crimes, June 4 - 6, 2003, York University:** Co-convenors: Government of Canada and Osgoode Hall Law School. Organizing director: **Prof. Sharry Aiken**. Funding is expected from the Government of Canada and other sponsors. To find ways to ensure the accountability of those responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, the conference will bring together over seventy practitioners and explore best practices, the role and mobilization of civil society and Canada's experience and recommend a model to the international community.

### **Project development**

CRS is developing projects in the following areas:

- Natural disasters and emergency responses
- Refugee advocacy
- Strengthening refugee-camp education
- Major environmental changes and their prospective displacement and health effects
- Inequities in the global refugee regime
- Adolescent genocide survivors in Rwanda

In addition, CRS has taken the initiative in exploring York's capabilities in the area of development, conflict and human security and has participated in plans for the development of a graduate program at York on International Program Management.

### **Events and educational activities**

In the winter, two one-day conferences were held by CRS, both funded by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) of the Government of Canada. Both involved participation by government officials, NGO representatives and academics (including one who came from Mexico) and were conducted under Chatham House rules. The first, held January 18, was a policy workshop on “**The Global Refugee Problem and Canada's Policies: Challenges and Options**”. CRS then produced a report on the deliberations and conclusions. The second, held March 15, was a roundtable on “**Migration and security: September 11 and implications for Canada's policies**” organized at the request of CCFPD. The report on the latter has been produced by a rapporteur provided by CCFPD. Both are available on request.

### **The annual Summer Course on Refugee Issues**

This year's course (May 25 – June 2, 2002) attracted over sixty participants from countries including Canada, the United States, The United Kingdom, South Africa, Uganda, Sudan, Kazakhstan, Congo and Armenia. Participants included practitioners in the area of refugee resettlement, people working in government refugee determination mechanisms, refugee lawyers, journalists, academics and refugees. The summer course faculty includes academics from York and other institutions, refugee and immigration lawyers, representatives of UNHCR and non-governmental organizations.

The regular “brown bag” seminars of CRS and other special events sponsored by CRS consisted of the following:

CRS Report to ORA June 2002

15 October, 2001

Panel with Prof. Howard Adelman, Prof. Michael Creal, Prof. Michael Lanphier, Prof. Peter Penz and V. Vijayakumar  
 "The Global Refugee Problem and Canada's Obligations"

Co-sponsored by Medecins sans Frontiers

31 October, 2001

Panel with Prof. Howard Adelman, Sharryn Aiken, Greg Lyndon, Khaki El Farouk, Prof. Peter Penz  
 "Terrorism, Borders, and Refugees"

Co-sponsored by CERIS

16 January 2002

Prof. Howard Adelman (former CRS Director)

"The New Immigration Regulations"

Co-sponsored by CERIS

23 January 2002

Dr. Tom Clark (former National Coordinator of the Inter-Church Committee on Refugees)

"The Global Refugee Regime: Charity, Management, and Human Rights"

6 February 2002

Prof. Howard Adelman (former CRS Director) and Prof. Peter Penz (CRS Director)

"The Ethics of International Intervention"

20 February 2002

Dr. Annette Ittiq DFAIT Human Security Fellowship, Centre for International and Security Studies

"Afghan Refugees, Returnees, and IDPs: Protection Issues and Strategies"

27 February 2002

Prof. Vijay Agnew, Director, Centre for Feminist Research

"Immigrant Women, Violence And Health Across the Lifespan "

7 March, 2002

Asif Rahimi

"Reconstruction in Afghanistan"

Co-sponsored by CARE

13 March, 2002

Greg Lyndon, CRS External Associate, Head of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Kosovo Sub-Office, Field  
 Operation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

"Reflections from the Field: Human Rights in Afghanistan and Kosovo"

20 March, 2002

Patricia Ama Tokunbo Williams, PhD, CRS External Associate

"Newcomers and Unapproved Refugees: Access to Services"

Co-sponsored with CERIS

26 March, 2002

"Human Rights in Islamic Societies and Traditions"

Panel with: Prof. Haideh Moghissi, Dr. Ezat Mossallanjad, Mr. Tarak Fatah, and Ms. Maliha Chishti

CRS Report to ORA June 2002

Moderator; Ms. Noha Mohammed  
 Sponsored by the Islamic Studies Collective  
 Co-sponsored by, CRS, FES,GSA and York University Pakistani Students' Association

The graduate **Diploma** program in Refugee and Migration Studies had **42** students registered at the end of the teaching year and the parallel undergraduate **Certificate** program had **72** students registered. Dr. Peter Nyers received his PhD in this field, successfully defending his dissertation on "Body Politics in Motion: Refugees and States of/in Emergency."

### **Publications**

Under the editorship of **Prof. Sharryn Aiken**, the journal *Refuge* continued with its new, more academic format of four issues per year, which are longer than the issues until 2000.

The following issues were produced in 2001-2002:

*UNHCR: The First Fifty Years*, 19:5 (May 2001), Guest Editor, Elisabeth Rehn

*Xeno-Racism and International Migration*, 19:6, Guest Editor, R. Cheran

*Refugee Reception and Integration: Best Practices*, 20:1 (November 2001), Guest Editor Marzia Ali

*Children at Risk*, 20:2 (February 2002), Guest Editor Geraldine Sadoway

### **International and domestic links**

A Memorandum of Understanding between the **Center for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University** in Skopje, Macedonia, and CRS to cooperate in the development of a graduate curriculum at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University and collaborative research projects was signed. This was followed by a visit by Institute Director Pande Lazarevski to CRS in January, to get responses to the draft for the graduate program, and a visit in March by Dr. Tom Clark, Research Associate at CRS, to Skopje for an initial set of lectures and informal discussion with the prospective faculty members of this program.

The Director of CRS participated in a team from York University that visited the Faculty of Law at the **National University of Colombia** in Bogota to provide advice on the development of a new graduate program. As a result, it was agreed to develop collaborative work on the issue of internal displacement in Colombia. This is covered in a Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities, which is currently being finalized.

Within Canada, a meeting was held between members of the Executive of CRS and of the **Canadian Council for Refugees** and it was agreed to develop a partnership for research collaboration, based on a Memorandum of Understanding that is in the process of development.

### **Improvements in research resources**

This past year, the Resource Centre's 11,000-record bibliographic database of fully catalogued and indexed documents was redesigned and features of the database were updated. The Resource Centre's Inmagic DB/Textworks for Libraries database, accessible through the CRS Resource Centre web page [[www.yorku.ca/crs/resource\\_centre](http://www.yorku.ca/crs/resource_centre)], now enables researchers world-wide to conduct detailed and searches of the CRS collection. Using one of a series of sophisticated search or 'query' screens, a researcher can search combining one or more entries in many different fields within this bibliographic database. While much of the database is self-explanatory, on-line and telephone assistance is provided to researchers who might have difficulty or for those who aim to conduct more thorough searches.

### **Centre governance, membership, management and facilities**

CRS Report to ORA June 2002

In 2001-2002, the periodic formal review of the Centre for Refugee Studies was conducted by the Senate Committee on Research. The consultants were Prof. Richard Black, Co-Director, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex and Prof. Margaret Beare, Director of York's Nathanson Centre on Organized Crime. Both recommended unconditional renewal, while making several suggestions for possible improvements in the future. The Senate Committee on Research accepted the recommendations at its June 2002 meeting and renewed the mandate of CRS for six years. This indicates that the transition and rebuilding after the end of the large CIDA Centre-of-Excellence grant and the Centre's conflictual period of the late 1990s have now been completed. Furthermore, the term of the Centre's Director, **Prof. Peter Penz**, who assumed this position in July 1999, was extended to June 2004.

During the past year there has been a certain amount of turbulence in the Centre's central staffing. The Coordinator, **Ms. Colleen Burke**, went on maternity leave July 1 (and immediately gave birth to a lovely daughter, Rosa). She was replaced by **Ms. Lynne Russell**, who performed this task with commitment and energy, until she became afflicted with a protracted illness. **Ms. Sepideh Mahani** then briefly filled the position to enable **Ms. Irinel Bradisteanu** to finish certain commitments before she could take over until Ms. Burke returned July 1. While this has created a certain discontinuity, everyone gave her best effort to make the Centre's operations as smooth as possible.

What also needs to be noted is that **Prof. Sharryn Aiken** will be starting a permanent position in the Faculty of Law at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, in the coming year. In the last three years she has played a central role at the Centre, as the director of the summer course, as the editor of *Refuge* (since 2000), as organizing director of an upcoming international conference on war-crimes remedies and, at various times, as member of the Centre's Executive Committee. She has also been the Centre member most prominent in the media, her expertise in refugee law and the legal determination and treatment of terrorism being frequently called on during a period in which important immigration and refugee legislation and regulations have been developed in Canada and in which a link between terrorism and international migration came to be emphasized. She will continue her affiliation with CRS as well her functions as editor of *Refuge* and as organizer of the war-crimes remedies conference.

Long-term plans for CRS have been discussed with the university's Vice-President for Research and Innovation. One outcome have been plans for physical renovations of the office and library area of CRS. The library space will be enlarged, but it will also accommodate the collections of the Centre for Applied Sustainability and the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement. The other important effect will be to use the existing space more effectively and provide more work stations. This should facilitate the student presence in the Centre and allow us to accommodate visiting scholars more effectively.

The evolution of the Student Caucus into a lively and stimulating unit within CRS in the past year has also been noteworthy. It has been very active in CRS meetings, has held frequent meetings of its own and has energetically put forward proposals for improvements at the Centre.

To keep in touch with everyone, CRS has decided to introduce a new communication policy that is to be explicated and approved in 2002-03. One element of this communication policy is the development of an electronic communication internally and using the annual report as once a year external communication. This past year, the Centre has taken better advantage of its Web site and listservs ([CRSNews@yorku.ca](mailto:CRSNews@yorku.ca) and [CRSDiscussion@yorku.ca](mailto:CRSDiscussion@yorku.ca).) to keep CRS Members informed of developments on a more regular basis. The Centre's Web site address is [www.yorku.ca/crs](http://www.yorku.ca/crs), and the site contains current information about research activities, publications, and on-going educational programmes in the Centre. Students at CRS have a new listserv, [CRSStudents@yorku.ca](mailto:CRSStudents@yorku.ca), to keep one-another informed and this listserv is open to all members of the Student Caucus and students enrolled in both the CRS Undergraduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma Programmes.