

ORA REPORT 2002-2003: CENTRE FOR REFUGEE STUDIES

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This report covers May 2002 to October 2003

[WE NEED CONSISTENCY IN HOW WE USE PROF., MS., MR.]

Mandate

The Centre for Refugee Studies is engaged in research on refugee issues; it informs public discussion as well as policy development and practice innovation by international, governmental, advocacy and service organizations; and it supports teaching in refugee and migration studies. Refugee studies is conceived in broad terms, as being concerned with the displacement of populations and individuals across and within borders, for reasons of persecution, expulsion, violence, violation of fundamental human rights and loss of essential human security and livelihood. It covers not only accommodation, protection, and assistance for refugees through asylum, settlement, resettlement and reintegration, but also the prevention of displacement. Its approach is necessarily interdisciplinary and respects diversity in perspectives.

Recently, the York University Senate approved (upon a review by the Senate Committee on Research) the renewal of the mandate of the Centre for Refugee Studies, until the next review by 2008.

Organizational Structure and Staffing

The centre is managed by a Director, with the help of a full-time Coordinator. They report to a 7-person Executive Committee, which represents all the constituencies of the centre, namely faculty members and

associates, visiting scholars and research associates, students, and staff. It reports to still more broadly representative Council of about 35 members, in which the ultimate decision-making authority of the centre is vested (within the rules of the university). Student members also belong to a formally recognized Student Caucus. Standing Rules govern the decision-making processes.

In the winter and spring of 2003, the centre held two half-day strategic planning meetings to develop a longer-term strategy. The focus was on long-term fiscal sustainability.

Peter Penz continued as Director of the centre, supported by Michael Lanphier as Deputy Director and Lawrence Lam as Education Coordinator (with responsibility for the Diploma and Certificate programs). (However, in July 2004, a new director will take over; Peter Penz's term then comes to an end.) Prof. Sharryn Aiken, who joined the Faculty of Law at Queen's University in 2002, continued as Editor in Chief of the centre's journal *Refuge*. In the annual Summer Course on Refugee Issues, Gregory Lyndon took over from Sharryn Aiken as Academic Director.

Among the staff of the centre, significant changes occurred in the Spring of 2003. Colleen Burke, CRS Coordinator since 1999, left and was replaced by Myron McShane. The position of Resource Centre Coordinator, filled by Donald Mitchell, was ended due to budgetary constraints. CRS currently has 7 work-study students, three graduate assistants and four research assistants on research projects. Shirley Fletcher has continued as Financial Officer and Florence Ocen as
[WHAT'S HER TITLE?] Finally, doctoral Student and CRS Research Associate, Pablo Bose, should be singled out for a superlative job in revamping the CRS website and providing an excellent marketing pamphlet.

In the summer of 2003, the physical space of the centre was renovated, to allow more efficient use of space and some sharing of resources with other centres and to make it more suitable for use by graduate students.

York University Faculty Affiliated with the Centre (2002-2003)

[I SUGGEST WE GIVE EACH A LINE]

The following are York Faculty Members associated with the Centre for Refugee Studies

Prof. Irving Abella (History), Prof. Howard Adelman (Philosophy),
 Prof. Vijay Agnew (Social Science, Women's Studies, History),
 Prof. Sharryn Aiken (Law:Queen's University), Prof. Anne-Marie Ambert (Sociology,
 Women's Studies), Prof. Michael Creal (Humanities, Emeritus), Prof. David Dewitt
 (Political Science), Prof. J.P. Diamani (Political Science), Prof. Wenona Giles (Social
 Science, Women's Studies), Prof. Mark Goodman (Social Science, Atkinson), Prof.
 Abbas Gnamo (Centre for International and Security Studies), Prof. Luin Goldring
 (Sociology), Prof. Femida Handy (Environmental Studies), Prof. Mohammed Hassan
 (Environmental Studies), Prof. Pablo Idahosa (African Studies, Political Science), Prof.
 Lesley Jacobs (Philosophy), Prof. Ilan Kapoor (Environmental Studies), Prof. Larry
 Lam (Sociology), Prof. Michael Lanphier (Sociology), Prof. Paul Lovejoy
 (History), Prof. David Lumsden (Anthropology), Prof. Gertrude Mianda (Sociology,
 Women's Studies) Prof. Susan McGrath (Social Work, Atkinson) Prof. Haideh Moghissi
 (Social Work, Atkinson, Women's Studies), Prof. Obiora Okafor (Law), Prof. Peter
 Penz (Environmental Studies), Prof. Valerie Preston (Geography, Women's Studies),
 Prof. Fahim Quadir (International Development Studies, Social Science),
 Prof. Saeed Rahnema (Social Science, Atkinson, Political Science), Prof. Craig Scott
 (Law),
 Prof. Alan Simmons (Sociology), Prof. Lorne Sossin (Law, Political Science),
 Prof. Penny Van Esterik (Anthropology), Prof. Sandra Whitworth (Political Science,
 Women's Studies), Prof. Daphne Winland (Anthropology), Prof. Yuklin Renita Wong
 (School of Social Work, Atkinson)

Activities in 2002-2003

During this period, two very successful Summer Courses in Refugee Issues were held. [DO WE HAVE SOME DATA ON NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS, DIVERSITY OF COUNTRIES AND SOME INDICATION OF THE KIND OF PRESENTERS?]

A very well attended graduate-student symposium was held in October 2003 that attracted participants from Ottawa, Montreal, Detroit, Vermont and Massachussets and a keynote speaker from B.C. Kevin DeJesus, a doctoral student in geography, is to be thanked for his considerable efforts in making this happen.

The centre has been busy fund-raising and preparing for a major international meeting of specialists on legal remedies for war crimes entitled **Searching For Justice: Comprehensive Action In The Face Of Atrocities**, organized by Prof. Sharryn Aiken. Experts from around the world will gather at York on Dec. 4-6, 2003. The conference has a budget of about \$200,000 from five Federal Government sponsors and the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

[THE FOLLOWING IS GIVEN PROPORTIONATELY TOO MUCH SPACE; MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LIST THE TOPICS]

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

16 October, 2002 ADEL YAHYA, CRS Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar

"Palestinian Refugees in Search of a Solution"

5 November, 2002 Senator MOBINA JAFFER and others

"Commemorating the Arrival in Canada of Uganda's 1972 Expellees"

6 November, 2002 PILAR RIANO-ALCALÁ, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
"Narratives of Fear and Geographies of Displacement in Medellín, Colombia"
 [Co-sponsored with CERLAC]

27 November, 2002 NILOUFAR POURZAND, CRS Visiting Doctoral Candidate,
 University of Greenwich
"Afghan Refugee Women in Pakistan (1980-2001): Resistance in Adversity"

15 January, 2003 JEMERA RONE, Counsel for Human Rights Watch
 "Corporate Funding, Arms Proliferation and Human Suffering: The Case of the Sudan"
 with seven co-sponsors

26 February, 2003 MOHAMMED HASSAN, Environmental Studies and CRS Faculty
"Global Perspective on the Refugee Crisis: The Case of the Kurds in Iraq"

6 March, 2003 Special Event with 5 speakers
 ("*Second Annual Symposium: Women's Voices from the Middle East*")

12 March, 2003 PETER PENZ, CRS Director, Environmental Studies, and
 PABLO IDAHOSA, Social Sciences and Coordinator of the African Studies Programme
"Do States have a Right to Displace People? Development, Displacement and Ethics"

17 March, 2003 HOWARD ADELMAN, CRS Founding Director, Philosophy and HSPT
"Palestinian Refugees and the Peace Process"

20 March, 2003 ANTHONY RICHMOND, Professor Emeritus and CRS Senior Scholar

"Globalization, Nationalism and War"

26 March, 2003 PRIYA KISSOON, CRS Visiting Doctoral Candidate, King's College,
University of London

*"Resettlement, Integration and the Meaning of Home for Refugees in the UK and
Canada"*

Recent seminars in the fall of 2003 have included Emerging Research Themes with 10
faculty and a special seminar on Women and the Civil War in Sierra Leone.

CRS' journal has continued publishing. Under the editorship of Prof. Sharryn Aiken, the
journal *Refuge* saw a reduced format of three issues per year. [IS IT DEFINITELY NOW
ONLY 3 ISSUES/YEAR OR WAS THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES ISSUE COUNTED
AS A DOUBLE ISSUE?] The following issues were produced in 2002-2003:

Volume 20.3: *Detention of the Displaced* Guest Editor: Eleanor Acer

Volume 20.4: *Refugee Protection in the New Security Environment* Guest Editor: Colin
Harvey

Volume 21.1: *Population Displacements: Causes and Consequences* Guest Editor:
Ogenga Otunnu

Volume 21.2: *Palestinian Refugees* Guest Editor: Reem Bahdi

Volume 21.3: *Global Movements for Refugee and Migrant Rights*

Guest Editors: Michelle Lowry and Peter Nyers

Refuge lost generous funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada in the spring
of 2003. Plans are to seek SSHRC funding in June of 2004. The subscriber base has
been doubled to enhance its chances of success in this upcoming proposal. [I AM NOT

SURE THAT WE SHOULD SAY ALL THIS. LET ME THINK ABOUT THIS.]

Teaching

The graduate Diploma program in Refugee and Migration Studies had ? students registered at the end of the teaching year and the parallel undergraduate Certificate program had ? students registered.

The annual Summer Course on Refugee Issues (check dates May 25 – June 2, 2003) was a huge success, given the fact that SARS managed to stop only a few participants. The course attracted over forty participants from many countries. 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.

Research

Three projects, detailed in earlier reports to ORA, continue to anchor the Centre. They are as follows.

One, 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, will continue until March 2005. Current emphasis is on research by its nation-wide co-investigators on the integration of refugees. It should be

noted that Prof. Lanphier co-authored *The World in a City* (University of Toronto Press, 2003).

Two, *Ethics of Development-Induced Displacement*, headed by Prof. Peter Penz, has had its reporting time extended into the spring of 2004. The focus over the next year will be in dissemination of results through publications, a major conference and electronic media.

Three, *Changing family dynamics in displaced communities of Islamic Origin: an educational/training program* is headed by Prof. Haideh Moghissi. A recent Jerusalem Methodology Seminar was conducted and an MCRI mid-term evaluation was successful.

Another continuing project, *Children Caught in Conflicts: Assessing the Impact of Conflict on Children in East Asia and the Pacific*, is continuing until December 2003 under the aegis of Dr. Vijayakumar, Visiting Scholar at CRS.

A new project, *African Human Rights Defenders Project*, has received seed funding from IDRC, InterPares and Amnesty International. It will study the perils of human rights leaders and how they can communicate with their groups while under state threat or in exile. The Visiting Practitioner Scholars James Torh and Hassan Shire will head this project while receiving assistance from York Africanists. A longer-term three-year project is in the planning stages.

CRS faculty and students have combined forces on refining many proposals in the past year. These include a CIDA Track II project on Refugee Education and a SSHRC RDI proposal on Refugee Advocacy that was close to being accepted. It should also be noted

that a major Citizenship and Immigration Canada contract for managing electronic courseware was submitted and narrowly lost. This proposal was submitted in concert with Atkinson School of Liberal and Professional Studies.

Upcoming initiatives include Refugee Health (with Nancy Johnston of the Faculty of Nursing) and Refugee Life Narratives (with the help of NGO Coordinator and Faculty Emeritus, Michael Creal).

Hello,

We are currently working on the 2002-2003 Annual Report and are asking all Research Centres and Institutes to submit their reports to our office. Attached you will find the template we will be using for this years report.

Please use the attached template.

Please note that there is a 5 page maximum.

Please ensure your report is presented according to these specifications:

single-spaced, with no more than six lines of type per inch;
body text in a minimum 12 pt font or 10 characters per inch;
all margins set at a minimum of 3/4" or (1.87 cm);

The deadline for submitting this report to the ORA is set to Thursday,
October 16th 2003

We thank you, in advance, for your attention to this matter.

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Office of Research Administration

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