



Annual Report for the Centre for Refugee Studies

May 1, 2015-April 30, 2016

Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation
York University

Submitted May 20, 2016

York University
Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation

Annual Report Format for Organized Research Units

Annual reports for the Organized Research Units (ORUs) must be prepared using the following format. Information and explanations on each section are provided in the Annual Report Guidelines. ORUs are also encouraged to reference the Strategic Research Plan available at <http://srp.info.yorku.ca/files/2013/04/13-061-SRP-full-Brochure.pdf>. Reports for fiscal 2015-16 are due no later than 20 May, 2016.

**Centre for Refugee Studies
Annual Report
2015-2016**

1. Contact Information

Director	Christina Clark-Kazak
Telephone	33689/88106
Email	cclark-kazak@glendon.yorku.ca
Campus address	853 Kaneff Tower
Admin contact	Michele Millard
ORU Website	www.yorku.ca/crs

2. Charter dates 2015 - 2020

3. Mandate

The Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York is an interdisciplinary community of researchers dedicated to advancing the well-being of refugees and others displaced by violence, persecution, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation through innovative research, education, and policy engagement. Since its inception in 1988, CRS is recognized as an international leader in the creation, mobilization, and dissemination of new knowledge that addresses forced migration issues in local, national and global contexts.

Its **vision** for 2015-2020 is “to be the leading refugee studies and forced migration research centre in North America, producing and disseminating new knowledge and critical analysis that enhances protection for and the well-being of refugees and other displaced people through policy and practice”.

4. Membership and Governance

2015 - 2016 CRS Executive Committee

Ranu Basu, Faculty Representative
 Christina Clark-Kazak, Acting Director
 Don Dippo, Faculty Representative
 Wenona Giles, Faculty Representative
 Luann Good Gingrich, Faculty Representative
 Michaela Hynie, Faculty Representative
 Merouan Merkouar, Faculty Representative
 Susan McGrath, Faculty Representative
 James C. Simeon, Faculty Representative
 Yolanda Weima, Raghad Abdellatif, Student Representatives
 Michele Millard, Centre Coordinator (consulting member)

York full-time faculty (active members only)

First Name	Last Name	Faculty	Membership Term
Don	Dippo	Education	Oct. 2016
Lorraine	Otoide	Education	Dec 2017
Anna	Zalik	FES	Sept 2016
Christina	Clark-Kazak	Glendon / International Studies	Sept 2018
Awalou	Ouedraogo	Glendon / International Studies Glendon / Public & International Affairs	Jun 2017
Michael	Barutciski	Affairs	Sept 2016
Michaela	Hynie	Health / Psychology	Jan 2018
Wenona	Giles	LA&PS / Anthropology	Dec. 2018
David	Murray	LA&PS / Anthropology	Feb. 2017
Antonio	Sorge	LA&PS / Anthropology	Feb 2019
Daphne	Winland	LA&PS / Anthropology	Dec. 2015
Ranu	Basu	LA&PS / Geography	Oct. 2018
Libby	Lunstrum	LA&PS / Geography	Jun. 2018
Valerie	Preston	LA&PS / Geography	Jan. 2018
Jennifer	Hyndman	LA&PS / Geography/Social Science	Aug. 2018
Janice	Kim	LA&PS / History	April 2017
Alison	Crosby	LA&PS / School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies	Mar. 2011
Merouan	Merkouar	LA&PS / Social Science	Jun 2017
Fahimul	Quadir	LA&PS / Social Science	Dec. 2018
Luann	Good Gingrich	LA&PS / Social Work	Jun. 2017

Susan	McGrath	LA&PS / Social Work	Dec. 2016
Sylvia	Bawa	LA&PS / Sociology	Jun 2017
Secil	Ertorer	LA&PS / Sociology	Jan 2018
Luin	Goldring	LA&PS / Sociology	Dec. 2018
Christopher	Kyriakides	LA&PS / Sociology	Feb 2019
James	Simeon	LA&PS / SPPA	Jun. 2016
Dagmar	Soennecken	LA&PS / SPPA	Mar. 2016
Nergis	Canefe	LA&PS / SPPA/Political Science	Dec. 2018
David	Dewitt	LA&PS /Political Science	Dec 2018
Gerald	Kernerman	LA&PS /Political Science	Feb. 2018
Willem	Maas	LA&PS /Political Science	Sept. 2016
Sean	Rehaag	Osgoode	May 2018

Other Members

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Date of Leaving
Idil	Atak	Department of Criminology, Ryerson University	Sep-16
Paula	Banerjee	Department of South and Southeast Asia Studies, Calcutta University	June 26 2017
Raj	Bardouille	Independent Researcher	Sept. 2016
Laura	Bisaillon	Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, University of Toronto	June 26 2017
Pablo	Bose	Department of Geography, University of Vermont	Sept. 2017
Tom	Clark	Community Scholar	Dec. 2018
Janet	Cleveland	McGill University	Sept 2016
Nivedita	Das Kundu	Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi	December 24 2016
Sarah	Dryden-Peterson	Harvard Graduate School of Education	Jan 2016
Barzoo	Eliassi	Department of Social Work, Linnaeus University	July 2018
Neda	Faregh	Independent Researcher	June 2018
Sacha	Guney	Community Scholar	Feb 2019
Suzan	Ilcan	Department of Sociology and Legal Studies, University of Waterloo	April 2016
Heather	Johnson	School of Politics and International Studies, Queen's University Belfast	April 2016
Lucy	Karanja	Western University	April 2017
Narendran	Kumarakulasingham	School of International Service, American University Washington	June 26 2017

Audrey	Macklin	Law, University of Toronto	Dec. 2018
Michele	Manocchi	Community Scholar	April 2017
Fernando	Mata	Community Scholar	April 2016
Kevin	McKague	Sannon School of Business, Cape Breton University	Feb 2019
James	Milner	Political Science, Carleton University	Sept. 2015
Geraldine	Sadoway	Adjunct, Osgoode Hall Law School	April 2017
Ozgun	Topak	LA&PS / Social Science (post doc)	Feb 2019

5. Annual Activities in Fulfilling Mandate (750 words max)

Innovative research: As detailed in appendix 1, CRS affiliates are currently working on over 20 research projects on issues as diverse as environmental refugees, education, health, age mainstreaming and social diversity. We have three multi-million dollar projects: The Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project; the Refugee Research Network; and the Big Data project. Our annual seminar series featured 20 seminars, including two high-profile lectures by Lawrence Hill and Jacqueline Bhabha. As the Secretariat for the Canadian Association for Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) and the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), we actively participated in the organization of the annual CARFMS conference in Winnipeg and the biannual IASFM conference in Poznan, Poland. CRS published 2 issues of *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees* (the only bilingual, open access peer reviewed journal in the field): a special issue on making home in limbo in March 2015 and a general issue in November 2015. CRS staffs and maintains the 6th floor resource centre (also used by CERLAC and YCAR).

Education: We continue to offer diploma and certificate options for York students wishing to complement their degrees with a specialized knowledge of refugee and forced migration issues. The BHER project has attracted media attention and is regularly cited internationally as a model for tertiary education for refugees in situ. CRS ran our annual professional development course on refugee and forced migration issues (<http://crs.yorku.ca/summer/>) on May 4-8, 2015. CRS faculty members mentor World University Services of Canada (WUSC) campus groups at Keele (Don Dippo and Michaela Hynie) and Glendon (Christina Clark-Kazak). CRS offers bursaries for refugee students and worked with the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) to successfully secure a levy to raise \$90,000 for these bursaries.

Policy engagement: Thanks to a SSHRC impact award for the RRN, CRS affiliates are preparing policy briefings for the Canadian government on three topics: age mainstreaming; evaluation of private sponsorship; and, the link between climate change and displacement.

CRS affiliates have been invited to give policy briefings to the federal and provincial governments and have been invited to several meetings with the Ontario government, SSHRC, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, CRS manages, and provides content to, 3 websites, 2 Twitter accounts, 4 Facebook pages, 6 Listservs and 1 YouTube channel (see Appendix 1), to allow for broad public and policy engagement.

6. Financial Position

See CRS Annual Report Financial 2015_2016

7. Space Utilization

See CRS Annual Space Report 2015_2016

8. Objectives for Upcoming Year (e.g. events, membership, grants, space needs 750 words max.)

In order to ensure sufficient human and financial support for our activities, CRS continues to prioritize a major gift to grow our endowment. Despite approaching Advancement on numerous occasions in 2015-16, we have been unsuccessful in obtaining their support. In the coming year, CRS affiliates plan to submit applications for 2 Syrian-specific SSHRC/IRCC grants, 6 Insight Grants, 1 PDG, 1 NOI for a Partnership Grant and 1 Connections grant. We will recruit at least 2 new members for the executive committee and appoint a new Educational faculty advisor to oversee the graduate diploma. We will continue to run our seminar series, including at least one high-profile public lecture, and the annual professional development course. In the context of a larger number of actors in refugee studies in Canada, we will continue to position ourselves as a leader in the field, given our long history of engagement on a broad range of both domestic and international forced migration issues.

9. Other relevant items the Director wishes to include in the annual report (250 words max.)

In 2015-16, the Centre for Refugee Studies has been asked to participate in several university-wide initiatives, which have impacts on our financial and human resources. First, CRS has hosted and provided administrative and mentoring support to York's Syrian Sponsorship Initiative. Second, CRS is involved in planning the Thought Leadership Event on Reimagining Refuge. Third, York's media relations relies heavily on CRS leadership to respond to media enquiries about refugees, which have increased over the past year, due to increased public awareness of refugee issues. We have taken on all of these additional, corporate-level commitments at the same time as the annual financial transfer to CRS from VPRI has actually decreased. Our human resources are over-stretched and this is not a sustainable situation in the long-term.

10. Appendix 1 – Key activities

11. Appendix 2 – Individual Member Contributions (up to five most notable items only for each member)