

Annual Report Template 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.

The Plan for the Intensification and Enhancement of Research (PIER) can be found at the following link:

http://pier.info.yorku.ca/files/2016/06/PIER-Combined-Highlights_Report_Appendix.pdf

ORU Directors are advised to review the Terms and Expectations of their current charter, their last Annual Report and address steps to fulfilling their mandate when completing the annual report. Reports for fiscal 2016-17 are due no later than **May 27, 2017**.

Centre for Refugee Studies Annual Report 2016-2017

1. Contact Information

Director	Jennifer Hyndman
Telephone	33689
Email	jhyndman@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

2016 - 2017 CRS Executive Committee

Jennifer Hyndman, Director
Christina Clark-Kazak, Faculty Representative
Don Dippo, Faculty Representative
Wenona Giles, Faculty Representative (resigned Dec. 2016)
Luann Good Gingrich, Faculty Representative
Michaela Hynie, Faculty Representative
Christopher Kyriakides, Faculty Representative (joined Jan. 2017)
M. K. Hassan, Education Program Representative
Merouan Merkouar, Faculty Representative
Susan McGrath, Faculty Representative
Dagmar Soennecken, Faculty Representative (filled vacancy, joining March 2017)
Dina Taha, Corey Ranford-Robinson, Student Representatives
Michele Millard, Centre Coordinator (consulting member)

York full-time affiliates (active members only)

First Name	Last Name	Faculty	Membership Term
Don	Dippo	Education	Oct. 2019
Lorraine	Otoide	Education	Dec 2017
Anna	Zalik	FES	Sept 2019
Christina	Clark-Kazak	Glendon / International Studies	Sept 2018
Awalou	Ouedraogo	Glendon / International Studies	Jun 2017
Michaela	Hynie	Health / Psychology	Jan 2018
Yuka	Nakamura	Health/Kinesiology	Jan 2019
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. 2018
Ranu	Basu	LA&PS / Geography	Oct. 2018

YORK UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH & INNOVATION

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. 2017
Merouan	Merkouar	LA&PS / Social Science	Jun 2017
Fahimul	Quadir	LA&PS / Social Science	Dec. 2018
Ozgun	Topak	LA&PS / Social Science	Feb. 2019
Luann	Good Gingrich	LA&PS / Social Work	Jun. 2017
Susan	McGrath	LA&PS / Social Work	Dec. 2019
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. 2019
Dagmar	Soennecken	LA&PS / SPPA	Mar. 2019
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. 2019
Sean	Rehaag	Osgoode	May 2018

External Affiliates

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Membership Term
Imran	Ali	Aid Worker, Recent PDF at UC Berkeley	Nov 2019
Idil	Atak	Prof. , Department of Criminology, Ryerson University	Sept. 2019
Paula	Banerjee	Prof., Department of South and Southeast Asia Studies, Calcutta University	June 2017
Laura	Bisaillon	Prof., Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, University of Toronto	June 2017
Nimo	Bokore	Prof., School of Social Work, Carleton University	
Pablo	Bose	Prof., Department of Geography, University of Vermont	Sept. 2017
Tom	Clark	Community Scholar	Dec. 2018
Janet	Cleveland	McGill University	Sept 2019

YORK UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Nivedita	Das Kundu	Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi	Dec. 2019
Sarah	Dryden-Peterson	Harvard Graduate School of Education	Jan 2019
Noheir	Elgendy	Former Prof. Urban Studies, Cairo University	Sept 2019
Barzoo	Eliassi	Prof., Department of Social Work, Linnaeus University	July 2018
Neda	Faregh	Independent Researcher	June 2018
Adel	Garnier	Université Libre de Bruxelles	Sept 2019
Sacha	Guney	Community Scholar	Feb 2019
Heather	Johnson	Dr., School of Politics and International Studies, Queen's University Belfast	April 2019
Lucy	Karanja	Western University	April 2017
Narendran	Kumarakulasingam	School of International Service, American University Washington	June 2017
Audrey	Macklin	Prof., Law, University of Toronto	Dec. 2018
Michele	Manocchi	Community Scholar	April 2017
Kevin	McKague	Prof., Sannon School of Business, Cape Breton University	Feb 2019
James	Milner	Prof., Political Science, Carleton University	Sept. 2018
Peter	Nyers	Prof., Political Science, McMaster University	
Niloufar	Pourzand	CRS Professor of Practice, PhD	Sept 2019
Justin	Rogers	Prof., Social Work, University of Bath	Jan 2020
Geraldine	Sadoway	Adjunct, Osgoode Hall Law School	April 2017
Fidaa	Shehada	Centennial College	Oct 2019
Sule	Tomkinson	Department of Political Science, Prof., Political Science, Université Laval	Nov 2019

CRS Graduate Research Fellows

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Membership Term
Aytak	Akbari-Dibavar	PhD candidate, Trudeau Scholar, Political Science, LA&PS, York University	Dec 2019
Ghuna	Bdiwi	PhD candidate, Osgood Hall Law School, York University	Apr 2020
John	Carlaw	PhD candidate, Political Science, LA&PS, York University	Sept 2019
Giulia	El Dardiry	PhD candidate, McGill University	Apr 2020

Michael	Gordon	PhD candidate, Political Science, McMaster University	Dec 2019
Neil	Judge	MPhil candidate, Jawaharlal University	Apr 2020
Aysegul	Ozgen	PhD candidate, Sociology, University of Buffalo	Dec 2019
William	Payne	PhD candidate, Geography, LA&PS, York University	Sept 2019
Corey	Ranford-Robinson	PhD candidate, Sociology, LA&PS, York University	Sept 2020
Dina	Taha	PhD candidate, Sociology, LA&PS, York University	Sept 2020
Yolanda	Weima	PhD candidate, Geography, LA&PS, York University	Sept 2018

5. Annual Activities in Fulfilling Mandate

a. Research

- i. **Grants** - In the past year, CRS succeeded in generating \$2.2 million in external research funding from 10 projects (new payments and ongoing instalments), including a highly competitive CIHR grant (total value of \$1.35m, PI M. Hynie) on the social determinants of Syrian refugee health in three provinces (QC, ON, BC). We were also successful on 2 of 3 of Insight Grants (PIs C. Clark-Kazak, J. Hyndman), and 2 Open Society Foundation funds (USD\$199,700 / CAD\$259,610) to support the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project.
- ii. **Policy Engagement (Federal)** – This has been one of our most active years of engagement with government, policy makers and civil servants, in particular with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). See details under PIER recommendations. In partnership with the Refugee Research Network, CRS produced 4 policy briefs that were presented at meetings of senior staff of IRCC and GAC in December 2016. We have witnessed the concrete impact of our research in actual policy changes enacted in December 2016 with the removal of caps on privately sponsored refugees from Canadian visa posts that process a majority of Sub-Saharan African refugees.
- iii. **Conferences/workshops** – CRS supported the annual conferences of the Canadian Association of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) in May 2016, the CRS Student Conference in September

2016 as well as the biannual conference of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) in July 2016.

- iv. Graduate student prizes, training and contributions: the Humanitarian Research Network; two externally funded awards were granted to CRS-affiliated graduate students to support their refugee-related research in Egypt and Brazil: Felisa Ponce (MA, DVST) and Dina Taha (PhD candidate, Sociology).
 - v. **Community partnerships** – flourished in 2016-2017 through new community-based research initiatives (M. Hynie's CIHR grant); agreements of collaboration with various foundations and community groups throughout Ontario.
- b. Education and public outreach – please see Appendix 1 for details
- i. CRS Seminar Series (2016-17) - 19 CRS Seminars were held; see Appendix 1 for details.
 - ii. Howard Adelman Lecture, Jacqueline Bhabha, Harvard University May 2016
 - iii. Undergraduate Certificate in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
 - iv. Graduate Diploma in in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
 - v. Summer course
 - vi. Visiting scholars and postdocs program – CRS hosted 7 visiting scholars, including 1 Professor of Practice
 - vii. CRS faculty and grads were asked to be consultants for children's books being written and published about various refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, and several other conflict-affected countries. The CRS Professor of Practice, Dr. Niloufar Pourzand, and two graduate students from Education did the work.
- c. York/CRS Syrian Response and Refugee Initiative (SRRI, part of the Lifeline Syria Challenge) – In 2016-17, CRS received funding from Osgoode Hall and the Provost's office to provide support, training to sponsor at York, as well as public education, student engagement, and outreach beyond the campuses. The ten refugee sponsorship groups at York also received training and support (see Appendix 1 for details). CRS plans to host this project for another year, given that just half of the sponsored refugees have arrived.
6. Challenges and Areas for Improvement
- a. Capacity – The \$44K/year from VPRI is much appreciated but leveraged to the maximum. For every dollar provided by VPRI, CRS generated \$43.

- b. CRS appreciates the capacity added to VPRI office for all ORUs, but this is not a resource we can plan to use strategically for our own operational deficits; for example, we were offered a research contract from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Ottawa, but had to turn it down because we have thin capacity to contract or conduct research beyond the individual and team projects currently underway.
 - i. The CRS director, with support from the coordinator, is currently responsible for curating the seminar series (19 this year) that provides curriculum for York undergrad certificate students and graduate diploma students, many of whom state that they come to York for this diploma; the director is academic director for the summer course, working to define the curriculum and invite experts in the field;
 - ii. The CRS director gets a 1.0 teaching release which is not sufficient to conduct contract research (already she is on three CRS research teams plus holds her own SSHRC Insight as PI). In 2017-2018, the CRS director will teach 3 courses (1.5), direct the centre, organize the seminars that provide substance to the under/graduate education programs for the academic year with the coordinator, meet with prospective funders/foundations, community partners, various levels of government (UNHCR in General IRCC at federal level; MCI at provincial level), and vet various applications for visiting scholars. The current director finds the workload disproportionate to the release being offered, especially with the current interest in refugee issues and research. CRS will aim to find a director from Health (1.5 load) or Osgoode Law (2.0 load) going forward, but this could be difficult since most faculty are housed in the LA&PS.

- c. Knowledge Mobilization – we have very little capacity beyond basic social media and maintenance of existing websites; our biggest success in this area has been the Refugee Research Network with more than 37,000 Facebook members.

Advancement – The ORUs, and CRS specifically, still have no concrete liaison or advocate in Advancement. BHER has been contacted by Advancement for fundraising, but our Centre is limited in courting or even contacting potential donors since we cannot do so without Advancement's pre-approval.

7. Financial Position (see attached)

8. Space Utilization (see attached)

9. CRS occupies a relatively small amount of real estate compared to its neighbours on the 8th floor of Kaneff; office space is at a premium. Ill-lit space allocated for grad students is, in contrast, underused, and offices without ceilings have proven limited for some staff and faculty. Overall, CRS has a space crunch; we have had to evict two resident faculty and turn down one PDF so far (see also below), while other ORUs have sufficient offices with windows and ceilings to allocate them to graduate students.

10. PIER Responses – CRS meets and plans to incorporate many of the PIER aims:

A) Collaboration and interdisciplinary – CRS currently hosts **10 active research grants, most of which are interdisciplinary, along with a small number of extensions (see financial document); CRS faculty are often on more than one of these grants, and faculty are invariably from several different disciplines.**

i. **Impact on policy and practice** – During summer 2016, CRS was invited by the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to provide input and attend national consultations on a) asylum procedures; and b) the global refugee regime. We sent two faculty and a senior graduate student to the consultations and provided a written brief on asylum.

Through our SSHRC funding from the Refugee Research Network, four CRS faculty travelled to Ottawa in April 2016 to consult IRCC on what research (within CRS's scope) would be most constructive for its policymakers. Four areas were agreed upon, and four briefs on topics of **climate change, private sponsorship, social age, and the future of the global refugee regime**. In December 2016, these were presented to a senior group of IRCC policy makers (two director generals, several directors and policy analysts). CRS had impact in that one of its recommendations was implemented just a few weeks later.

In 2016 the department of Multiculturalism, Citizenship, and Immigration (Province of Ontario) invited four CRS faculty to participate in an advisory committee on the Syrian Refugee Initiative. Four CRS faculty have been attending these meetings, held every other month.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees Ottawa visited CRS at Keele campus twice in fall 2016; we were also invited to present our RRN research briefs in Ottawa in December 2016.

- B) Development of research chairs and professorships (In 2017, CRS lost Dr. Clark-Kazak who was a strategic hire for CRS; we seek a replacement through the faculties, but request assistance in this from the VPRI's office);
- C) Internationalization of Research – 'Internationalized' research continues to be our modus operandi for several grants (RRN, SSHRC Rapid Impact Grant); one CRS faculty has launched a five world region, five year research project on 'reception contexts' (C. Kyriakides); the CRS director and faculty affiliates accept most international invitations to speak to the research being done at CRS, and network with researchers in the field transnationally on a regular basis.

11. Objectives for Upcoming Year (e.g. events, membership, grants, space needs)

- a. **Events** – Objective: to expand CRS's profile in current global debates on re-imagining the international refugee regime by a) working with Dr. Heaven Crawley in Coventry UK to forge conversations and networks; seek material UNHCR support; b) supporting an emerging scholars workshop; c) organizing an international refugee resettlement conference at York among academics, NGOs, refugees and civil society actors for June 2018 (in partnership with the Canadian Council for Refugees; planning is underway).
- b. **Grants** – Make grant applications to 1) a SSHRC Connections (for an international conference related to refugees, human rights, NGOs, academics and policy makers); 2) extend research capacity to take on externally funded research contracts (for policy audiences); 3) to facilitate SSHRC funding to support junior faculty at York affiliated with CRS. 4) Continue to administer the millions in SSHRC and CIHR grants currently held.
- c. **Host** the York/CRS Syrian Response and Refugee Initiative (SRRI, part of the Lifeline Syria Challenge for one more year through renewed support from the Provost's office (confirmed);
- d. **Space** – continue to seek space so CRS no longer has to displace resident faculty involved in the Centre (2 faculty had to be moved out of CRS over past two years); such displacement erodes morale and teambuilding in relation to the research culture we have created; we have also had to curtail visiting scholars and postdoc applications, given the shortage of space; we seek 3 additional offices to house faculty, postdocs, and staff working on funded grant projects; as well as visiting scholars.

- e. **Research and Education Capacity** – extend the Centre’s research capacity and educational/public outreach offerings by hiring a coordinator responsible for supporting the CRS summer course, seminars, and co-executing research contracts. We also sorely need more faculty capacity to complement this post, especially with the loss of strategic hire Christina Clark-Kazak (see below).

12. Other relevant items the Director wishes to include in the annual report

With the loss of strategic hire and invaluable colleague, Dr. Christina Clark-Kazak, CRS seeks (from LAPS and VPRI) a CRC 1. Ideally, someone with an urban approach to forced migration would be ideal, since cities host more refugees than camps. Moreover, forty-nine of every 100 residents of Toronto are born outside the country; many are from the world’s war zones, and York needs to stake out this expertise because we host the students who have come, or whose parents came to the GTA from those war zones. York hosts the Centre for Refugee Studies, the only research centre globally that has expertise in both global forced migration dynamics (refugee camps, urban displacement) and asylum, resettlement, and integration research in Canada.

CRS seeks financial support (half of cost; \$30K) from the Office of VPRI for an Education and Research Coordinator for two years, a position that we would aim to pay for as a Centre, without help from VPRI, once research contracts and other income are secured. The Centre is glad to be used to promote the strong research profile at York (i.e. <https://youtu.be/PIG-dye10AA>), but it also needs investments beyond current levels. CRS provides a strong reputational impact for York internationally.

Several of our researchers have impressive **H-indexes**, but without sufficient time to write scholarly papers, CRS faculty with major administrative and teaching loads will not be able to improve on those scores, or more importantly, produce high quality research that gets shared in international networks and classrooms at York.

13. Appendix 1 – Additional Information about Progress in Fulfilling Mandate (that does not appear elsewhere in the Report) - Attached

14. Appendix 2 – Individual Member Contributions (up to five most notable items for each member) - Attached