Centre for Refugee Studies
Annual Report
2018-2019
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Contact Information

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Coordinator: Michele Millard, 853 Kanef, mmillard@yorku.ca

Charter Dates

July 2015 - June 2020

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”.

Annual Activities in Fulfilling Mandate

Research

In this penultimate year of our 2015-2020 charter, we analyze our strategic research objectives from the charter in relation to our progress in achieving them; our top four priorities are listed below (CRS responses for this year are in italics):
a) Refugee Education
CRS will host the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees Project (BHER), funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) at a total of $4.5m. This project delivers postsecondary education to refugees in the Dadaab camps of Kenya, and is, by far, CRS's largest project.

With CRS Exec D. Dippo (Education) as lead investigator, CRS supported three grants to extend BHER: one year from Soros (the Open Society Foundation: 1. in 2018 for $199,000; 2. in early 2019 for $500K; May 2019 update - successful); and 3. $9m from Global Affairs Canada for 5 more years of work (pending).

An edited book (editor W. Giles) featuring research by BHER students, York graduate students and faculty and counterparts in Kenya and Dadaab specifically is underway.

b) Researchers Without Borders: Developing Refugee Studies Through Global South-Global North Partnerships:
CRS will create an international, inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral network of experts;

CRS landed a successful SSHRC Connections Grant in 2018 (ranked #1 in the competition) which led to an international workshop with several of the world's leading critical refugee studies thinkers here in Toronto, an online manifesto, and subsequent knowledge mobilization events in Greece, India, the US and Lebanon.

CRS continues to foster and cultivate its international network, which is largely an outcome of the Refugee Research Network, for which S. McGrath (former CRS exec) is just completing her SSHRC impact award.

c) The Role of Big Data in Humanitarian Response:
Through its Partnership Development Grant awarded in 2015, CRS will forge collaboration across the social sciences and computer sciences using 'big data'. Working with international partners, CRS will extend its humanitarian agenda and use innovative methods that bridge computer science and social sciences to address forced migration in new ways.

This exploratory project ended funded by a PDG (PI S. McGrath), with several papers and outputs completed or in process. This project led to new thinking about collaborations between the social and computational sciences in relation to humanitarian preparedness. This work is the basis of a new SSHRC Partnership Letter of Intent submitted in February 2019, led by CRS Exec. M. Hynie.

d) Protracted Displacement Among Refugee Refugees in Camps and Urban Areas
CRS researchers are conducting research with Syrian refugees living in urban centres in Turkey and Jordan. York is well-positioned to support existing research and launch new projects that address assistance to refugees in the MENA region ('Middle East'), particularly refugees in protracted situations. An internship program in conjunction with CARE Canada and Carleton University has been launched, with up to four graduate students conducting research in countries where CARE conducts humanitarian work. Expanding and formalizing these research opportunities with CARE and other NGOs is a priority.
CRS co-applicants (Exec members Kyriakides, Soennecken, and Hyndman) co-wrote with PI Milner (Carleton) a successful Partnership Grant that was funded in 2018, based on the MoU, internships and urban refugee research noted above ($2.5m)

**CRS used a failed York Research Chair program of research as a basis to design its signature CIHR funded project: SYRIA.lth (Syria Long-term Health)**

*We are riding the momentum of Canadian refugee settlement research which was not listed in our Charter in 2015; the $1.35m CIHR grant on the social determinants of health, integration and well-being, led by CRS exec, M. Hynie (Health), has collected 2 years of 4 for a longitudinal data set that will be the first of its kind in Canada about Syrians who arrived after Nov.4, 2015.*

**As per its Charter and Mandate, CRS participated in and facilitated**

**Policy Engagement (UN/national)** – M. Hynie and J. Hyndman were invited to present on various research projects related to private sponsorship and Syrian settlement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada in Ottawa, May 2018; the CRS director has been invited back to present at the International Metropolis Conference in June 2019.

**Conferences/workshops** – CRS sponsored the graduate student conference in October 2018, partnering with Indigenous community leaders and students on themes of displacement and dispossession. CRS spent much of the year fundraising and planning for the (highly successful) Canadian Association of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) at York in May 2019. A SSHRC Connections Grant was awarded (PI Hynie; co-app Hyndman et al.).

**Community partnerships** – These flourished in 2018-19 with a number of community-based researchers in various organizations participating in externally funded CRS projects. Many frontline refugee-serving staff take the CRS summer course as a professional development training.

**Education and public outreach** – CRS was very active in disseminating research and providing education to York students and to the public. Details for each item are provided in Appendix 1.

i. **CRS Seminar Series** (2018-19) – CRS held 18 seminars with international, national and local researcher, including our True Visitor and Resident Scholar, Dr. Omer Ozcan. **Five** more events were co-sponsored with other ORUs as well. See Appendix 2 for details.

ii. **Howard Adelman Lecture** – was given by Dr. Alison Mountz, CRC in Global Migration from the Balsillie School for International Affairs at Laurier University.
iii. **CRS Undergraduate Certificate in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies** – continues with constant interest. The Vice-Provost’s office began a review of the Certificate, its history and operations.

iv. **CRS Graduate Diploma in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies** – funded nominally by FGS, this credential continues to be a draw for grad students from outside the Toronto area to York.

v. **CRS Summer course (25th year)** - the course was full again this year.

vi. **CRS Visiting scholars** -- Seven international visitors from Australia, Brazil, Ireland, Turkey, Ethiopia, Germany, the Netherlands, and India were resident at CRS, along with two visitors from other parts of Canada.

### Challenges and Areas for Improvement

A challenge noted at the Council of Research Directors in spring 2019 was that many ORUs, including CRS, receive no credit for York’s partner status, faculty research, and subgrants as co-applicants on SSHRC Partnership Grants. Is there a way to ‘count’ these external funds at all?

The most pressing challenge for CRS continues to be capacity; the director (a LA&PS-based faculty member) taught three courses and maintained director duties for the last two academic years.

Given the five course annual teaching load in LA&PS, the pool of potential directors going forward should come from Health, Law or other faculties where teaching loads are lower and therefore the same releases allow for more time to devote to the Centre. A five year term for directors exacerbates this lack of capacity over time. CRS is delighted to announce its new incoming Director Dr. Sean Rehaag from Osgoode Hall Law School at York.

### PIER Responses

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<td>2. Investing &amp; Promoting People</td>
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3. Supporting Research Growth & Development

4. Leadership in Research and Research Advocacy
   Alternative Solutions workshop (see above)  In Process

5. Building Research for the Future
   NEW CRS Director sought  ACHIEVED

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Financial Position

See attached

Non-Degree Activities

CRS Summer Course; both credit and non (see above).

Space Utilization

See attached

Objectives for Upcoming Year

As outgoing CRS director as of June 30, 2019, this section cannot be completed in full. A comprehensive review of the Centre’s mandate, strategic priorities, research plans, and funding approach for the next five years will take place in late summer and early fall 2019 under the direction of Dr. Rehaag, the CRS Executive and membership.

However, CRS will maintain its robust record of external funding; develop another signature multi-year grant to anchor sustained research and opportunities to train graduate studies.

Other relevant items

Our signature research and KMb event this past year was an international workshop that hosted leading migration scholars from across the world who gathered to develop ‘alternative solutions to refugee protection’ complementary to and distinct from the salient model envisaged by the Global Compact on Refugees. Alternative modalities of protection at different scales were analyzed, and an online manifesto was developed by
participants, with social media and hard copy KMb tools travelling around the world. Uptake and knowledge mobilization events were held in Thessaloniki, Greece, Kolkata, the US and Lebanon, among other places. The Kolkata Declaration from India in November 2018 is a related output from this work. Funded by a SSHRC Connections grant ranked 1/58, CRS has succeeded in some part in changing the conversation about refugee 'solutions' at this important juncture where 85% of the world's refugees live in the global South while 85% of funding to support refugee protection comes from the global North.

As Director, I hope I have succeeded in strengthening the research culture at CRS, as well as the research output, while spreading the global reputation of this ORU. Our research networks stretch farther and are deeper than four years ago, building on the solid foundation inherited from the previous director, Dr. Susan McGrath.

The transition from director to a more dedicated researcher is a welcome one, but directing CRS has been a pleasure and a privilege.
Appendix 1

Membership and Governance

2018 - 2019 CRS Executive Committee

Jennifer Hyndman, Director
Don Dippo, Faculty Representative
Luann Good Gingrich, Faculty Representative
Michaela Hynie, Faculty Representative
Christopher Kyriakides, Faculty Representative (joined Jan. 2017)
Sean Rehaag, Faculty Representative
Dagmar Soennecken, Faculty Representative (filled vacancy, joining March 2017)
Ozgun Topak, Faculty Representative
Aida Afrazeh Student Representative (2019)
Biftu Yousuf Student Representative (2019)
Sarah Marshall Student Representative (2018)
Aytak Dibavar Student Representative (2018)
Michele Millard, Centre Coordinator (consulting member)

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<td>Imran</td>
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**External Affiliates**

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<td>2022</td>
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<td>Idil</td>
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**CRS Graduate Research Fellows**

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<td>Erdilmen</td>
<td>PhD candidate, Political Science, McGill University</td>
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<td>Yolanda</td>
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Publications and Conference Presentations of Core CRS Affiliated Scholars

Imran Ali

Refereed Papers


Keynotes and Invited Talks


Presentations to Practitioners and Policymakers


International Meetings (Lead Organizer)

‘Emergency Data Science: Taking Advantage of the Data Flood,’ 1st International Workshop on Data Science for Health and Humanitarian Emergencies, York University, Toronto, Canada (December 2018), c.f.: http://emergencydatascience.org/

Expert Panel Meeting on Chemical Water Quality and Malnourished Child Health in Humanitarian Emergencies, York University, Toronto, Canada (November 2018).

Ranu Basu

Edited Book Chapters


Conference Presentations

Kolkata, December 2018 Ecotones *The subaltern tides of Kumirmari, Sunderban: The ebbs and flows of educational spaces. Ecotones #4 ‘Partitions and Borders’* at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta


*Cities of Integrative Multiplicity*, invited paper presented at *Refugee Resettlement Symposium* at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, October 2018

Nergis Canefe

Book Chapters


**Canefe, N.** (2018) “Far from the Madding Crowds: Redefining the Field of Socio-Legal Studies from Within,” in Patrick Taylor et al. eds., *Critical Interventions in Socio-Legal Studies*, University of British Columbia Press (forthcoming)


Books

**Canefe, N.** (2018) (Sole Author) *The Syrian Exodus in Context: Precarity, Mobility and Rights* (Bilgi University, Human Rights Law Series, Istanbul, Turkey)

Journal Articles


Don Dippo

Book Chapters


Luin Goldring

Publications


Refereed Conference Presentations


Luann Good Gingrich

Refereed Publications


Non-Refereed Publications


Invited Workshop Presentation


Jennifer Hyndman

Refereed Journal Articles


Chapters in Books


Selected International Invited Talks

“Global Compacts or Containment? Geopolitics by Design” at Urban Recovery(s): Intersecting Displacement and Reconstruction, keynote at American University in Beirut, April 1-3, 2019.


Michaela Hynie

Chapters in Books


Articles in Refereed Journals


Edited Special Issues


Chris Kyriakides


Willem Maas

Susan McGrath
Refereed Conference Papers


Obiora Okafor
Public Lecture at the Australian Institute of International Affairs on “International Solidarity in Global Refugee Protection”, Melbourne 14 February 2019

Report to the UN General Assembly on “International Solidarity in the Global Migration Context”, October 2019

Presentation to the York Circle on “Refugee Law after 9/11”, November 2018

Speaker on the Plenary Panel at the World Human Rights Cities Conference in Gwangju, October 2018

Sean Rehaag


Dagmar Soennecken
2019 Editor-in-chief, Refuge: Canada’s Journal on Refugees/Revue Canadienne Sur Les Réfugiés

Referred Chapters in Books or Edited Volumes


Conference Papers


2019 “Refugee Advocates, Courts and Public Policy Compared,” IPSA RC #09, Prato, Italy, July and CPSA (pre-organized panel), Vancouver, May.


2018 “Reconfiguring the Refugee Community under Harper,” (co-author: C. Anderson), Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA), Regina, May.

Antonio Sorge

Book Chapter

Ozgun Topak

Articles


Presentations

Appendix 2

2018-2019 Research Activities

Research Proposals Submitted

Don Dippo (P.I.), *Facilitating Access to Higher Education for Refugees and Local Populations in Dadaab, Kenya (BHER Project)*, Open Society Foundation, USD$550,000

Don Dippo (P.I.), *BHER Project*, Global Affairs Canada, $9 million

Jennifer Hyndman (P.I.), *Welcome-Net: Ensuring Successful Refugee Integration*, NCE LOI, $1.6 million (not funded; a SSHRC researcher not funded since 2012)

Michaela Hynie (P.I.), J. Hyndman, S. McGrath (co-applicants) *Modeling Global Solutions: Constructing Collaboratories to Illuminate Dynamics of Displacement and Strengthen Humanitarian Action*, SSHRC PG LOI, $20,000

Chris Kyriakides (P.I.), J. Hyndman (collaborator) *Bordering (Mis)Trust: The Impact of Refugee Reception Discourses on Social Cohesion and National Belonging*, SSHRC Insight, $164,750

Antonio Sorge (PI), *ReCentering the Mediterranean: Refugee Resettlement on the Sicilian Borderland*, SSHRC IDG, $49,701

New Research Funded

Nergis Canefe (PI), *“Ethics of Witnessing: Working with Human Suffering”*, York University Internationalization Grant

Luann Good Gingrich (P.I.), Workshop: *Cultivating Cultures of Inclusion International Workshop*, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft/German Research Foundation, €3,000

Luann Good Gingrich (PI) *Cultivating Cultures of Inclusion International Workshop*, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Research Events Fund, $1,590

Jennifer Hyndman, Dagmar Soennecken, Chris Kyriakides (co-applicants), James Milner (P.I., Carleton) *Civil society and the global refugee regime: Understanding and enhancing impact through the implementation of global refugee policy*, SSHRC PG, $2.5 million

Michaela Hynie (P.I.), J. Hyndman (co-applicant) *CARFMS19: Interrogating Integration*, SSHRC Connections, $24,465

Dagmar Soennecken (P.I.), *Refuge*, SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals, $82,794
Ozgun Topak (P.I.), *Governing Refugees by Vetting*, SSHRC IDG, $109,902

**Ongoing Research Grants**

Ranu Basu (P.I.), *Subalterity, public education, and welfare cities: Comparing the experience of displaced migrants in three cities*, SSHRC Insight, $58,171.

Wenona Giles (P.I.) *Supporting provision of university degrees to refugee and local population in Dadaab, Kenya*, Open Society Foundation, USD$199,700.

Wenona Giles, (P.I.), Don Dippo (co-applicant), with institutional partners Windle Trust, Moi University, Kenyatta University, UBC, Global Affairs Canada, *Building primary/secondary teaching capacities in the Dadaab refugee camps and locally in Dadaab, Kenya by increasing access to higher education*, $4.1 million. One year extension with funding granted by Global Affairs Canada, $291,848.

Luann Good Gingrich (P.I.), Rupa Banerjee, Ernie Lightman (co-applicants) *Advancing social inclusion in Canada’s diverse communities: Neighbourhood, regional, and national comparisons*, SSHRC Insight, $252,949.

Michaela Hynie (P.I.), Susan McGrath (senior co-applicant), Jennifer Hyndman, Kwame McKenzie, Branka Agic, Farah Ahmad, Neil Arya, Ahmed Bayoumi, Christina Clark-Kazak, Janet Cleveland, Marcela Diaz, Ben Kuo, Joanna Rummens, Yogendra Shakya (co-applicants), *Refugee integration and long-term health outcomes in Canada*, $1.35 million from CIHR.

Jennifer Hyndman (P.I.), J. Reynolds (co-applicant) *Alt-Solutions Workshop on Refugee Protection*, SSHRC Connections, $24,762.


Susan McGrath (P.I.), *Connecting Emerging Scholars and Practitioners to Foster Critical Reflection and Innovation in Migration Research*, SSHRC Connections, $40,250.

Susan McGrath (P.I.) *SSHRC Impact Award*, $50,000.

Susan McGrath (P.I.) Michaela Hynie, Peter Isaboke, Regine King, Suzanne Dudziak, Charles Kalinganire, Charles Rutikanga, Joseph Hahirwa (co-applicants) SSHRC PDG, *Synthesizing indigenous and international social work theory and practice in Rwanda*, $200,000 (one year extension).

Craig Damian Smith (P.I.) *Closing the Integration Gap: Assessing Impacts of Social Networks & Integration of Government Assisted Refugee Newcomers*, SSHRC IDG, $54,208

**Completed in 2018**

Susan McGrath (P.I.), Ali Asgary, Alison Mountz, Jeffrey Collman, Jennifer Hyndman, Kim Rygiel, Lisa Singh, Luann Good Gingrich, Susan Martin, Aijun An, Jianhong Wu, Xiangshi Huang (co-applicants), *Building Bridges across Social and Computational"
Major Research Project Updates

1. Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) $4.1m
Leads: W. Giles and D. Dippo; Project Manager A. Orgocka

Goal and development strategy

BHER is a development Project that seeks to improve quality of education at the primary and secondary level in refugee camps and local host communities in Dadaab, Kenya by drawing on Canadian and Kenyan expertise to develop and enhance professional capacities in situ. We accomplish this through the provision of inclusive and gender sensitive teacher education programs to working, untrained teachers and those expressing an interest in joining the teaching profession. Informed by a Feasibility Study completed in 2012, the BHER model, the backbone of this Project, combines blended teaching and learning that delivers university level certificate, diploma and degree programs to refugee and local teachers and those interested in the field of education in Dadaab. It is expected that the implementation of this model will prepare a better teaching and education workforce that will in turn lead to better schooled children at both the primary and secondary levels and improved professional capacities in the refugee and local communities where these trained individuals contribute their knowledge and skills.

Key achievements

Deliver programming on schedule. During the reporting period, all diploma programs were completed save for 8 students in Kenyatta University’s Diploma in Teacher Education – Primary program. These remaining students from Cohort 2 will graduate between December 2018 and July 2019. Cohort 1: 41 students in two degree programs – B.Sc. in Community Health by Moi University and B.A. in Geography by York University, completed all program requirements. 20 York University B.A. Geography students graduated in August 2018; 21 Moi University B.Sc. students graduated on December 20 2018. Cohort 1: 7 students B.Ed. in Science by Kenyatta University will graduate in July 2019. Cohort 2: 75 students in three degree programs – B.A. in Educational Studies offered by York University, B.Ed. in Primary Teacher Education and B.A. Arts offered by Kenyatta University – continued completing course requirements and are set to graduate by December 2019 under OSF funding.

The research team is currently in the process of writing a book about the BHER project with the working title Theory and practice of borderless university education: Notes from Dadaab and Kakuma. An online portal providing a set of resources for supporting initiatives that provide higher education to marginalized communities was completed in early 2019 (https://bher.eecs.yorku.ca/). Further funding is being sought by co-PI Don Dippo to continue the project beyond the end date of this grant.
2. Refugee integration and long-term health outcomes in Canada ($1.35m)

Michaela Hynie (P.I.) S. McGrath, J. Hyndman and 20 co-applicants across Canada

Refugee Integration and Long-term Health Outcomes in Canada is a pan-Canadian longitudinal study funded by The Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). The project is a partnership between settlement service agencies and academic research institutions in three of Canada’s largest refugee resettlement provinces: British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec.

We are looking at how different resettlement programs support the social integration of Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) and the impact of integration pathways on their long-term physical and mental health. Our goal is to improve the health and well-being of new Canadians by understanding what leads to successful integration outcomes and for whom so that we can tailor resettlement programs to best suit newcomers’ needs and circumstances.

Our research goals:
To produce knowledge that will:
- Inform promising practices for refugee resettlement and integration
- Strengthen knowledge exchange in the settlement sector
- Identify the impact of settlement policies on refugee health and well-being
- Deepen our understanding of the influence of social conditions on long-term health and well-being

Our approach:
- **Interviews** are collected once a year for four years from Syrian adults who resettled in Canada between 2015 and 2017. In year two and year four, we will also conduct **focus groups** to gain more insight into the nature of people’s experiences.
- These interviews will follow key integration markers at the *material or functional level* (e.g., employment, housing and, in Year 1, social services accessed), the *social level* (e.g., social networks, discrimination), and the *subjective or psychological level* (e.g., sense of belonging, stress).

Research and knowledge mobilization to date:
- 1932 base-line interviews with newly resettled Syrian refugees across Canada
- 1805 participated in year 2 follow-up survey; 153 participants participated in 20 focus groups nationally across Canada
- Year 3 follow-up interviews are underway
- Research data analyses
- Various dissemination activities
- Hynie and Hyndman invited to IRCC un May 2018 to present on the project
SyRIA.lth
Syrian Refugee Integration & Long-Term Health Outcomes in Canada

YEAR 2 INFOGRAPHIC

1,805 individuals SURVEYED
153 participated in FOCUS GROUPS

Vancouver = 231 participants
Okanagan Valley = 66 participants
Windsor = 220 participants
Kitchener = 133 participants
Montreal = 643 participants
Toronto = 512 participants

Language

Need assistance with interpretation?

Vancouver
- Always: 30%
- Sometimes: 45%
- Never: 17%

Windsor
- Always: 20%
- Sometimes: 61%
- Never: 19%

Montreal
- Always: 22%
- Sometimes: 43%
- Never: 35%

Okanagan Valley
- Sometimes: 83%
- Never: 17%

Kitchener
- Always: 40%
- Sometimes: 49%
- Never: 19%

Toronto
- Always: 30%
- Sometimes: 52%
- Never: 19%

70 % rated their health as "Good" or "Very Good"
Learning and Education

Percentage taking language class

- Kitchener
- Montreal
- Okanagan Valley
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Windsor

Percentage attending other schooling

- Kitchener
- Montreal
- Okanagan Valley
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Windsor

Sense of Belonging

85 %
describe a "strong" or "very strong" sense of belonging to Canada

98 %
feel Canadians "usually" or "almost always" treat them with respect

93 %
find Canadians "usually" or "almost always" welcoming and accepting

Percentage feeling a "strong" or "very strong" sense of belonging to their city

For more information, visit: www.yorku.ca/syrialth

Funded by:

CIHR IRSC

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

ACCT

Access Alliance

University of Windsor

UQAM

St. Michael’s

McGill University

York University

Investing in People Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County

ISS of BC

Greater Toronto

Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia

Wellness Institute

camh

Women’s College Hospital

University of Guelph

Mississippi Valley

Agricultural College

Access Alliance

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## Dissemination Summary

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<th>Dissemination strategy: Publications</th>
<th>Dissemination activity:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 paper accepted for publication in Refuge Journal:</strong> Hynie, Michaela &amp; McGrath susan &amp; Bridekirk Jonathan &amp; Oda anna &amp; Ives Nicole &amp; Hyndman Jennifer &amp; Arya Neil &amp; Shakya Yogendra &amp; Hanley Jill &amp; McKenzie Kwame &amp; SyRIa.lth. What Role Does Type of Sponsorship Play in Early Integration Outcomes? Syrian Refugees Resettled in Six Canadian Cities</td>
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<th>Dissemination strategy: Presentations &amp; conferences</th>
<th>Dissemination activity:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentations about the launch of the project at community and settlement agencies in year 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Presentation of preliminary findings to Ontario Ministry of immigration in year 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Project presentation to Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in 2018</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Presentations of findings internationally such as presenting at the University of Sussex 2018, UK, and International Association for the</strong></td>
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<td>Postcards, Infographics, Factsheets &amp; Newsletters</td>
<td>Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) conference 2018, Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Project factsheet developed and disseminated in year 1</td>
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<td>• Results infographics developed and disseminated in year 1 and 2</td>
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<td>• Project postcards developed and disseminated in year 1</td>
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<td>• Project Quarterly updates newsletters developed and disseminated quarterly</td>
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<td>Email communications</td>
<td>• Email communication with community and settlement agencies about project progress with the results infographic</td>
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<td>• Syrialth listserv email communication with project updates and relevant information</td>
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<td>WhatsApp &amp; text messages</td>
<td>• What’s App messages to research participants nationally with the infographics in year 1 and 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website &amp; Socialmedia</td>
<td>• Project website developed (available in English and Arabic and soon in French): <a href="http://syrialth.apps01.yorku.ca">http://syrialth.apps01.yorku.ca</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Social media campaigns including weekly Twitter posts (on-going)</td>
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Visiting Scholars

- Bushra Beegom, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Kerala
- Fabio Pucci, PhD Candidate, Federal University of São Carlos
- Omer Ozcan, True Visitor in Anthropology, York University
- Meron Meleke, Associate Professor and Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Bayreuth, Editor in Chief of the Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights (EJHR)
- Carly Gordyn, PhD Candidate, Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University
- Thomas Hughes, Teaching Fellowship PhD Candidate, School of Geography and Archaeology, National University of Ireland Galway
- Pauline Bon, PhD Candidate, International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam

Knowledge Mobilization, Outreach and Public Media

**Sept 13, 2019 (Co-sponsored with Sociology)**
Book Launch: Indian Migration and Empire, A Colonial Genealogy of the Modern State by Radikha Mongia

**Sept 27, 2018**, Kick-off Event, Jennifer Hyndman, Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, and Johanna Reynolds, PhD Candidate, Geography
“From protection to mobility: rethinking ‘forced’ migration”

**Oct 2, 2018**, CRS AGM and Social
Howard Adelman Lecture with Alison Mountz, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Migration at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University
“Canada as safe haven? Documenting two generations of US war resister migrations”

**Oct 16, 2018**, Craig Smith, CRS Affiliate and Associate Director of the Migration Lab, Munk School, U of Toronto, “The Tragedy of Europe: How Integration and Open Borders cause Migration Crises”

**Oct 25, 2018**, Film Screening: I am Rohingya: A genocide in four acts, with director Yusuf Zine and the cast – co-sponsored with Centre for Feminist Research

**Nov 2, 2018**, Annual CRS Student Conference: Bridging the Gap Between Refugee and Indigenous Communities, held at TD Centre, Yorkgate Mall
Nov 7, 2018, Roundtable Discussion featuring CRS faculty and Peace with Women Fellows (NATO officers), “Gender, migration, and security: Canadian perspectives”, with AD Research Sandra Whitworth participating

Nov 22, 2018, Idil Atak, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology, Ryerson University, “The Whole System Has Become More Punitive”: Refugee Protection in Canada

Nov 28, 2018, Nergis Canefe, Associate Professor of Politics, Public Policy and Law, York University, Book Launch: The Syrian Exodus in Context (and launch of Syrian refugee archive for scholarly use)

Jan 14, 2019, (With Sociology) Peter Nyers, Associate Professor, Political Science, McMaster University Irregular Citizenship, Immigration, and Deportation Omer Ozcan, True Visitor in Anthropology, York University Waiting: Stretch-out Present and Political and Temporal Agencies in the Kurdish Borderlands

Jan 31, 2019, Ranu Basu, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, York University Subalterity in Education within the Context of Displacement: From Ideology to Practice

Feb 13, 2019, (With YCAR) Bushra Beegom, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Kerala, Displacement and Dispossession through Land Acquisition: Kerala Experience

Feb 25, 2019 (co sponsored with CFR) Film Screening: “A Piece of Paradise”, a film by Patrick Alcedo

Feb 27, 2019, Humanitarian Series Part I Hernan Delvalle, Rita E. Hauser Fellow, Harvard University and Médecins Sans Frontières (Netherlands) Borders, migration, exclusion: The role of civil society and humanitarian aid in an increasingly polarized political context

Mar 3, 2019 (co-sponsored with Centre for Jewish Studies) Music in the Time of Anne Frank, piano works presented and performed by Deborah Nemko

Mar 6, 2019, Humanitarian Series Part II Linn Biorklund Belliveau, Researcher/analyst, DIGHR and Médecins Sans Frontières, CRS Affiliated Scholar
Borders, migration, exclusion: The role of civil society and humanitarian aid in an increasingly polarized political context

March 14, 2019, Megan Gaucher, Assistant Professor, Department of Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University, The Role of Family in Constructions of the 'Desirable' Canadian Refugee

March 14, 2019 (co-sponsored with Geography) Melissa Wright, Pennsylvania State University
Killing the Border Life/La Vida Fronteriza: Trump’s Wall

Mar 20, 2019, CRS AGM and Anniversary event, Keynote speech by Sean Rehaag, Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, Experimenting with Refugee Status Adjudication

Apr 2, 2019, Emma Carmel, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath
Crisis, what (refugee) crisis? The business of ‘business-as-usual’ in EU migration governance

April 4, 2019, Refugee Rights' Day - Panel Discussion, Syria Response and Refugee Initiative Reception and “The Road Less Travelled” Exhibit Launch
Geraldine Sadoway, Human Rights and Refugee Lawyer (LLM), Author and Instructor; John Carlaw
Project Lead, York University Syria Response and Refugee Initiative, Graduate Fellow, Centre for Refugee Studies; Humaima Ashfaque, Student Ambassador, Syria Response and Refugee Initiative, Student Refugee Program Coordinator- WUSC Keele Campus Committee; Edwar Dommar, Amnesty International at York, WUSC Keele & Ryerson University Lifeline Syria Challenge Volunteer

April 9, 2019, Shahram Khosravi, Professor of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University
Walling, Unsettling, Stealing

CRS Conferences
CRS hosted its annual student conference in October 2018, and was involved in supporting one major conference in May 2018 (CARFMS18 – Dialogue Beyond Borders) hosted by Carleton University, as well as providing conference and Secretariat support to upcoming CARFMS and IASFM conferences, held in May 2019 (York University) and July 2020 (Accra, Ghana) respectively.

Community Engagement
CRS continued to be active in the community and policy arenas, participating in a number of initiatives and events. In June 2018 the CRS hosted the International
Refugee Rights Conference of the Canadian Council for Refugees with over 800 attendees.

**2018/19 Visiting Scholar of Practice** - Omer Ozcan, True Visitor in Anthropology, York University

**CRS Projects**

**York University Syria Response and Refugee Initiative**

Since Fall 2015 the York University Syria Response and Refugee Initiative (SRRI) has led York’s participation in the Pan-GTA Ryerson University Lifeline Syria Challenge to sponsor Syrian refugees and helped educate, mobilize and work with York students to promote awareness of refugee issues amongst themselves and the wider community. Since its inception the SRRI has been hosted by the Centre for Refugee Studies with financial support from the Provost’s Office. In prior years there had also been financial and website support from Osgoode Hall Law School.

The project ran from November through the end of April 2019 with funding from the Provost’s Office. The project formally ended April 30, 2019 and marked its end with an event on Refugee Rights Day, April 4th.

Project Lead and CRS Graduate Research Fellow John Carlaw has overseen the project since its inception and earlier collaborated with Pierre-Andre Theriault, his former counterpart at Osgoode. Student volunteer Ambassador Humaima Ashfaque has been central to the many student efforts. The project has collaborated with at least 19 different student groups and 10 sponsorship teams on a wide variety of educational, solidarity and sponsorship initiatives.

**Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Update**

Through its collaboration with the Ryerson University Lifeline Syria Challenge 10 York teams will sponsor and welcome 42 refugees through 13 sponsorships to our community. Each sponsor team includes the participation of a mix of faculty, staff, students, York alumni and allies, including at least five core team members that raise funds and carry out the responsibilities of sponsorship. As of April 2019, 25 Syrian refugees sponsored by York teams have arrived and been supported for a full 12 months, 4 Syrian Refugees arrived in June 2019 and will see their one year of support conclude on June 20th while 7 Syrian refugees being sponsored by one team and 6 Eritreans refugees are expected to arrive in the next few months. The SRRI has also facilitated the transfer of funds raised through donations to York and Osgoode sponsorship fundraising efforts to some of our highest needs sponsorships.
Promotion of WUSC Refugee Sponsorship and Collaboration with WUSC Committees

It has remained a priority of the project to help raise the profile of York’s World University Service of Canada (WUSC) committees, their increased refugee sponsorship commitments and to assist in the recruitment of new members given the important work they do sponsoring a combined five refugee students per year on York’s campuses. Indicative of the amazing work York students are doing in this field, early in 2019 the Keele WUSC committee was awarded the National Committee of the Year Award by WUSC National for their 2018 efforts. Many of the join initiatives undertaken in collaboration with the SRRI were cited in the speech granting them the award and are discussed below.

Refugees Welcome Here! Campaign 2018-2019 on Campus

This year’s primary Refugees Welcome Here! campaign activities included a winter clothing drive for clients of the FCJ Refugee Centre, as well as participation in and support for Refugee Awareness Week 2019 and organizing a Refugee Rights Day panel on April 4th.

Community Engagement

Beyond campus, the SRRI once again participated on behalf of York and the Centre for Refugee Studies on the City of Toronto’s Refugee Rights Month Planning Committee for April 2019, building on prior 2016-18 efforts to help carry out an exciting month of activities with community partners. The committee jointly organized a launch event at City Hall for April 4th with many partners conducting individual events throughout the month.

In June 2018 the Centre for Refugee Studies hosted the International Refugee Rights Conference of the Canadian Council for Refugees as well its youth network’s annual Youth Action Gathering (YAG). From the SRRI York University students Humaima Ashfaque, Cass De Freitas, Roshni Khemraj and Shae MacPherson, as well as Project Lead John Carlaw served on the International Conference’s organizing committee, collaborating with 18 other local team members from prominent refugee and immigrant-serving organizations across the city.

Social Media and Listervs (national and international, hosted and supported by CRS)

CRS Website: http://crs.info.yorku.ca/
CRS Student Caucus Website: http://crsstudents.wordpress.com
CRS Summer Course Website: [http://crs.yorku.ca/summer/](http://crs.yorku.ca/summer/)

**Twitter**
CRS: [https://twitter.com/crsyorku](https://twitter.com/crsyorku) (1,556 followers)
Refugee Research Network: [https://twitter.com/RefugeeResearch](https://twitter.com/RefugeeResearch) (3,380 followers)

**Facebook**
CRS Summer Course: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/611304198899243/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/611304198899243/) (670 members)
Refugee Research Network: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/30614536012/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/30614536012/) (38,687 members)
Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/138817499465045/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/138817499465045/) (3,561 members)
International Association for the Study of Forced Migration: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/450410108332979/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/450410108332979/) (10,697 members)

**Listervs**
CRSNEWSLIST (556 subscribers)
CRSSTUDENTS (161 subscribers)
CCRLIST (1,129 subscribers)
CCRTOR (139 subscribers)
IASFM (549 subscribers)
CARFMS (295 subscribers)

**YouTube:** [https://www.youtube.com/user/refugeeresearch](https://www.youtube.com/user/refugeeresearch)

**CRS Graduate Student Engagement, Mentoring, and Training Opportunities**

CRS research projects employed a number of graduate and undergraduate students as Research Assistants on grants held at CRS and Teaching Assistants (through BHER). Opportunities for skill development included teaching support, literature reviews, data analysis, conference/workshop organizing, journal management, annotated bibliographies and report writing. This year, CRS hosted a practicum with MSW graduate student Luxsiga Ambigaibagan from the School of Social Work. Luxsiga was involved with a number of CRS activities – interning for the CRS Summer Course, providing support to the CARFMS19 conference held in May 2019 as well as the Cultures of Inclusion workshop held in April 2019, presenting guest lectures in undergraduate classes on refugee issues as well as CRS administrative support around the AGM and the CRS Director search.
Student Caucus
The CRS Student Caucus Co-Chairs in 2018-2019 were Aida Afrazeh and Biftu Yousuf, both PhD Students in Human Geography. They took over from the previous Co-Chairs, Sarah Marshall and Aytak Akbari-Dibavar, in January 2019. The 2018 annual conference was held on November 2, 2018, with the theme "Bridging the Gap between Refugee and Indigenous Communities" with great success. The 2019 conference will be held on October 4-5 2019 with the theme "Beyond Durable Solutions". The purpose of this conference is twofold: i) To critically interrogate the language, frames, and responses contained within the three durable solutions and ii) To consider ways in which praxis can move away from and beyond current framings of durable solutions. We are investigating output opportunities for presenters at the conference, as well. CRS thanks all these students for their leadership and hard work.

Student Bursaries
CRS continues to support four student bursary programs. One developed in collaboration with UNHCR Canada, for York students who have Convention Refugee status. A second bursary is supported by CRS and is directed at York students who are refugee claimants but have not yet secured status. A third bursary is funded out of the WUSC committee. Western Union has kindly funded a bursary for refugee students and provided initial funding for the first year, with subsequent contributions going into the CRS bursary endowment created from the YUFA levy in 2017. The first payout from the endowment happened this year. In 2018 we were able to award four bursaries of varying amounts due to higher levels of funds in our account as well as the Western Union contribution.

Education programs
i) **CRS Summer Course** - for the May 2018 course, CRS had a total of 55 participants, including 11 graduate students. We also worked with a team of 5 graduate interns, helping with the logistical organizing of the course. Our non-York participants came from across Canada, and internationally, from the following countries: Brazil, Trinidad, Japan, Nepal, Singapore, Ethiopia, Uganda, Italy, Ireland, Germany, USA and Australia. We were pleased to have 4 CRS visiting scholars attend this year.

ii) **Graduate Diploma in Refugee and Migration Studies** – a concentrated research and study program in the area of refugee and migration studies offered through FGS for York graduate students. 96 students were enrolled during the 2018/2019 academic year. Dr. Khalis Hassan is the FGS Coordinator for this Diploma housed at CRS.

iii) **Undergraduate Certificate in Refugee and Migration Studies** – a concentrated research and study program in the area of refugee and migration studies
offered to York undergraduate students. 75 students were enrolled during the 2018/2019 academic year. This program is co-administered with Equity Studies.

Refuge
In January 2019, we the editorial team of Refuge was transformed: Dr. Dagmar Soennecken took over from Christina Clark-Kazak as Editor-in-Chief and Kathryn Barber took up the post of Managing Editor from Johanna Reynolds. Dr. Raluca Bejan will be taking over as Book Review Editor later on in 2019. In March 2019, Refuge was once again awarded a three-year SSHRC Aid for Scholarly Journals grant.

Refuge continues to work with Érudit to increase our visibility in French-language bibliographic databases. We have also set internal French content targets for articles and books. We are also cultivating more extensive French and English-language distribution networks and will be publishing biannual general calls for papers in English and French in order to improve Refuge’s visibility in Canada and abroad with the hopes of inviting a broader array of scholars to contribute to Refuge as peer reviewers, book review authors and article authors. We are also working with library services to prepare for the migration of our website to OJS 3, the most advanced form of the website, which is slated to occur in summer 2019. During this transfer, we will be modifying the content of the website to conform more explicitly to the model suggested by the Directory of Open Journals (DOAJ). We are also conducting a complete review of the text on the website in order to ensure that all of Refuge’s protocols are clearly communicated and that all website text is standardized, using the same font and size, and easily legible. Refuge also received a smaller, “off cycle” LA&PS Support for Scholarly Journals grant.

CRS Resource Centre
The Resource Centre team members provided general support to the daily operations of the Resource Centre. The coordinator for the Andrew Forbes Resource Centre was responsible for the following:

• Coordinating the cataloging process for all existing and new materials
• Maintaining existing special collections
• Assist visiting scholars, faculty and graduate students with academic research
• Coordinating with various research units
• Supervising and training work-study students and volunteers
• Coordinating administrative tasks with the university library

Achievements
Over the last few years, the Resource Centre team has worked to create an intellectually stimulating, friendly and supportive environment for researchers, visiting
scholars from around the world and from many Canadian local universities and York graduate and undergraduate students.
The social interactions, academic knowledge exchanges and the frequent interactions between the researchers indirectly created supports for those who use the place frequently, and became a source for guidance, advice, and general knowledge exchange and transfer between the students themselves in topics related to their research.

The Resource Centre also helped build and promote stronger connections between researchers from different academic and research units such as the Centre for Feminist Research, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (homeless hub), Health, Education, Environmental Science, Development studies, History, Geography, Sociology, the faculty of Graduate Studies, the CITY Institute, Schulich, and individuals from U of T and McGill University.

Lastly, the Resource Centre has been used more than once to record documentaries related to its collections, students and faculty members have used the Centre as a study space, to film their projects or to host interviews.

**Volunteer students**
Over the last year, five student volunteers worked on small projects including data entry, scanning and shelving. In 2018-2019, the Centre has continued to successfully manage a number of projects. The Centre continues to work on the Immigration and Refugee Board archive, and other donated collections. We are also in the process of creating and building a new electronic archive about Syrian refugees. This is a project led by myself and my student volunteers. Also in addition to maintaining existing special collections in the Resource Centre, this year we were also happy to be part of the Latin American Working Group Collection.

The Centre has grown in terms of the use of space by academics, graduate and undergraduate students and visiting scholars. Over the last 5 years, the Centre has had a total of 2,800 users/visitors, with over 700 people per year using the space over the last 3 years.