

## COMMITTEE ON POPULATION

# Workshop on Forced Migration Research: From Theory to Practice in Promoting Migrant Well-Being

**National Academy of Sciences Building  
Lecture Room  
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20418  
May 21-22, 2019**

The purpose of this workshop is to bring fresh and innovative approaches in social demographic theory, methodology, data collection and analysis, and practice and applications to the forefront of the community of researchers and practitioners who are concerned with better understanding and assisting forced migrant populations. Workshop participants will share cutting-edge social demographic research and practice from around the globe, with the aim of creating a research and practice agenda for the field of forced migration in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – and improving research, analysis, data collection, and practices to make better progress in the health and well-being of forced migrants at every stage of their life course. The lessons that can be learned by the United States from global best practices will be emphasized throughout the workshop. After the workshop, the National Academies Press will publish a rapporteur-prepared proceedings volume that summarizes the workshop presentations and discussions.

Support for this workshop is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

### **DAY 1: Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

8:15-9:00 am Breakfast served in the East Court outside of the Lecture Room

**9:00-9:30 am Welcome and Introductions**

- Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University), *Workshop Co-chair*
- Holly E. Reed (Queens College, City University of New York), *Workshop Co-chair*
- Karabi Acharya (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**9:30-11:00 am**

**Setting the Stage: Critical Issues in Forced Migration Research**

*This session will set the stage for the discussion by laying out global and national trends and policies concerning forced migration and population displacement (e.g., protracted displacement, mixed migration, increased border security, smuggling and trafficking, burden sharing, etc.) and issues of importance in forced migration research, with a particular focus on global issues, U.S. domestic issues, and ethical issues in research with these populations. Speakers will address the benefits of international and comparative perspectives on forced migration for U.S. immigration policy and refugee programs.*

Global Issues:

Michaela Hynie (York University)

["Current Global Issues in Forced Migration"](#)

National Issues:

Don Kerwin (Center for Migration Studies)

["Forced Migration Research in the United States"](#)

Ethical Issues:

Christina Clark-Kazak (University of Ottawa)

["Ethical Issues in Forced Migration Research"](#)

Moderator/Discussant:

Susan McGrath (York University)

**BACKGROUND READINGS:**

- Susan F. Martin and Elizabeth Ferris. (2017). US Leadership and the International Refugee Regime. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 33(1), 18-28. Available: <https://refuge.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/refuge/article/view/40445>
- T. Alexander Alienikoff. (2016). The present, past, and future of refugee protection and solutions: Camps, comprehensive plans, and Cyber-Communities. *Emory International Law Review*, 31, 539-552. Available: <http://law.emory.edu/eilr/content/volume-31/issue-4/lecture/refugee-protection-camps-plans-cyber-communities.html>
- B.S. Chimni. (2018). Global Compact on Refugees: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back. *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 30(4), 630-634. Available: <https://academic.oup.com/ijrl/article/30/4/630/5343642>

**11:00-11:20 am**

**BREAK**

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**11:20 am-12:30 pm**

**Conceptual and Definitional Issues in Forced Migration Research**

*This session will focus on forced migrant categories, conceptualizations, and definitional issues. Some issues for discussion may include:*

- *Categories of forced migrants by types of displacement (e.g., climate-induced migration, conflict-induced migration, development-induced migration, trafficked and smuggled persons, stateless persons, mixed migration flows)*
- *Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees at various stages of migration (i.e., immediate crisis, camp-based vs. “self-settled” migrants, resettlement, repatriation)*
- *The blurring of categories and definitions (“who is a refugee?”)*
- *Tensions among legal definitions, demographic measures, and popular conceptions of forced migrants.*

*Speakers will also address the implications of concepts and categories of forced migration and migrants for efforts to foster well-being and human security.*

**Speakers:**

Irene Bloemraad (University of California, Berkeley)

[“Defining, Measuring and Understanding ‘Integration’”](#)

Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University)

[“Conceptual and Definitional Issues in Forced Migration Research”](#)

**Moderator/Discussant:**

Holly E. Reed (Queens College, City University of New York)

**BACKGROUND READING:**

➤ Heaven Crawley and Dimitris Skleparis. (2018). Refugees, migrants, neither, both: categorical fetishism and the politics of bounding in Europe’s ‘migration crisis.’ *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 44(1), 48-64. Available: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369183X.2017.1348224>

**12:30-1:30 pm**

**LUNCH**

(Provided in the East Court outside of the Lecture Room)

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**1:30-2:40 pm**

**Issues and Innovations in Population Data Collection and Measurement I: Registration and Administrative Data**

*This session will address issues and innovations involved in the collection of social demographic data on forced migrants through registration and administrative data systems (including camp registers, community-based registrations, the UN Refugee Agency [UNHCR] and national government administrative databases, civil and vital registration systems, non-governmental organization [NGO] and resettlement agency databases, and other sources of administrative data). Speakers will identify the connections between initiatives in demographic data collection and programs to support and assist migrants.*

**Speakers:**

Marwan Khawaja (United National Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia [UN-ESCWA])  
[“Advancing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in the Service of Refugees”](#)

Romesh Silva (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA))  
[“Challenges and Opportunities in Enhancing Population and Demographic Data on Forcibly Displaced Persons”](#)

**Moderator/Discussant:**

Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University)

**BACKGROUND READINGS:**

- Nicholas Oakeshott, Jonathan Marskell, Emily Weedon Chapman, and Marie Benihirwe. (2018). *Empowering refugees and internally displaced persons through digital identity*. World Bank Blogs. Available: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/empowering-refugees-and-internally-displaced-persons-through-digital-identity>
- European Union and the United Nations. (2018). *Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics: International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*. Available: [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles\\_and\\_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018\\_1746\\_EN\\_08-E.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Principles_and_Recommendations/International-Migration/2018_1746_EN_08-E.pdf)
- Lena Endresen and Geir Øvensen. (1994). *The Potential of UNRWA Data for Research on Palestinian Refugees: A Study of UNRWA Administrative Data*. FAFO Report 176. Oslo, Norway. Available: [https://www.fao.no/media/com\\_netsukii/176.pdf](https://www.fao.no/media/com_netsukii/176.pdf)

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**2:40-3:00 pm**

**BREAK**

**3:00-4:10 pm**

**Issues and Innovations in Population Data Collection and Measurement II: Survey Research**

*Continuing the discussion on data collection, this session will focus particularly on innovations and new technologies in the collection of social demographic data on forced migrants via survey research methods, such as using existing nationally-representative surveys to identify forced migrants, special migration surveys and methodologies, and the potential to develop a global migration survey that would include forced migrants.*

**Speakers:**

Jon Pedersen (Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies)  
["Surveys of Forced Migrants"](#)

Karen Pren (Princeton University)  
["A Guide to the Mexican & Latin American Migration Projects";](#)

["The Ethnosurvey in Theory and Practice"](#)

**Moderator/Discussant:**

Sarah Staveteig (U.S. State Department)

**BACKGROUND READINGS:**

- Alice Bloch. (2007). Methodological Challenges for National and Multi-sited Comparative Survey Research. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 20 (2), 230-247. Available: <https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article-abstract/20/2/230/1535983?redirectedFrom=PDF>
- Fernando Riosmena. (2016). The Potential and Limitations of Cross-Context Comparative Research on Migration. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 666(1), 28-45. Available: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0002716216650629>

**4:10-5:00 pm**

**General Discussion: Cross-Cutting Issues in Forced Migration Research with a Focus on Conceptualization, Definitions, Data Collection, and Measurement**

**Moderator:**

Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University)

**5:00 pm**

**Adjournment**

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**DAY 2: Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

8:15-9:00 am Breakfast served in the East Court outside of the Lecture Room

**9:00-10:30 am Issues in Research Design and Analysis of Migrant Integration**

*This session will emphasize cutting edge approaches to designing social demographic research among forced migrant populations, particularly in the study of migrant integration, and highlight the importance of flexible and cross-cutting methodologies and designs. The session will also address new and innovative approaches to data analysis. Speakers will consider the potential role of research results in informing programs of migrant and refugee settlement and integration, and the consequences for migrant health and well-being.*

Speakers: Fernando Riosmena (University of Colorado at Boulder)  
["Challenges to understanding the \(re-adaptation of displaced people under a population lens"](#)

Aimee Chin (University of Houston)  
["Estimating the Impact of Newcomer Programs on Child Migrant Education and Acculturation"](#)

Mark VanLandingham (Tulane University)  
["Measuring and Modeling the Nexus among Resilience, Recovery, Culture, and Acculturation: Vietnamese-American refugees in post-Katrina New Orleans"](#)

Moderator/Discussant: Pia Orrenius (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas)

BACKGROUND READINGS:

- Alexia Lochmann, Hillel Rapoport, and Biagio Speciale. (2019). The effect of language training on immigrants' economic integration: Empirical evidence from France. *European Economic Review*, 113, 265-296. Available: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0014292119300200>
- Pieter Bevelander. (2016). *Integrating refugees into labor markets: economic integration of refugees into their host country is important and benefits both parties*. IZA World of Labor. Available: <https://wol.iza.org/articles/integrating-refugees-into-labor-markets/long>

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**10:30-10:50 am**

**BREAK**

**10:50 am-12:20 pm**

**Incorporating Demographic Research in Program Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation**

*In this session, speakers will focus on how NGOs, international organizations, and local governments can best incorporate social demographic research into their program design, monitoring, and evaluation of program outcomes for programs in health, economic and social development, and education, among other areas. The goal is to use best practices from researchers and adapt these practices for various settings and contexts among forced migrant communities. This session will emphasize translating research into practice in order to address the health and well-being consequences of forced migration.*

**Speakers:**

Jeannie Annan (International Rescue Committee)

["Becoming evidence-based in humanitarian settings: organizational efforts and a case study"](#)

Betsy Plum (New York Immigration Coalition)

["Using Research to Improve Advocacy"](#)

Michael Wessells (Columbia University)

["Voice, Agency & Forced Migration: Narrative and Participatory Action Research Approaches in Program Design, Monitoring and Evaluation"](#)

**Moderator/Discussant:**

Susan McGrath (York University)

**BACKGROUND READINGS:**

- Michaela Hynie. (2018). The Social Determinants of Refugee Mental Health in the Post-Migration context: A Critical Review. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 63(5), 297-303. Available: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0706743717746666>
- Susan McKay, Angela Veale, Miranda Worthen, and Michael Wessells. (2011). Building meaningful participation in reintegration among war-affected young mothers in Liberia, Sierra Leone and northern Uganda. *Intervention*, 9(2), 108-124. Available: <https://insights.ovid.com/crossref?an=01198282-201107000-00002>

**12:20-1:30 pm**

**LUNCH**

(Provided in the East Court outside of the Lecture Room)

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**1:30-2:40 pm**

**Issues and Innovations in Population Modelling and Projections**

*This session will focus on the innovative use of population modelling and projection methodologies for predicting future forced migration flows; understanding characteristics of forced migrant populations; and estimating their health, well-being, and other outcomes. Speakers will discuss existing analytic capacities to anticipate the impacts of forced migration for sending and receiving communities.*

Speakers:

Erika Frydenlund (Old Dominion University)

["Modeling & Simulation for Forced Migration Research"](#)

Raya Muttarak (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis)

["Applying concepts and tools in demography for estimating, understanding and forecasting forced migration flows"](#)

Moderator/Discussant:

Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University)

**BACKGROUND READINGS:**

- Collins, A. J., & Frydenlund, E. (2016, December). Agent-based modeling and strategic group formation: A refugee case study. In *Proceedings of the 2016 Winter Simulation Conference* (pp. 1289-1300). IEEE Press. Available: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7822184>
- Jose J. Padilla, Erika Frydenlund, Hege Wallewik, and Haane Haaland. (2018). Model Co-creation from a Modeler's Perspective: Lessons Learned from the Collaboration between Ethnographers and Modelers. In *International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation* (pp. 70-75). Springer, Cham. Available: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-93372-6\\_8](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-93372-6_8)
- Raya Muttarak and Wolfgang Lutz. (2014). Is Education a Key to Reducing Vulnerability to Natural Disasters and hence Unavoidable Climate Change? *Ecology and Society*, 19(1), 1-8. Available: <https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol19/iss1/art42/>

**2:40-2:50 pm**

**BREAK**

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**2:50-4:00 pm**

**Looking to the Future and Critical Next Steps**

*Speakers will discuss directions for future research and practice in the area of forced migration, with an emphasis on what has been learned throughout the two-day workshop. The goal will be to lay out an agenda for critical next steps in this area of population research and practice.*

Speakers:

Katharine Donato (Georgetown University) &  
Mark VanLandingham (Tulane University)

["Forced Migration Research: Future Directions for Research and Practice"](#)

Moderator:

Holly E. Reed (Queens College, City University of New York)

**4:00 pm**

**Adjourn**