Towards a Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement

Webinar, May 7-9, 2025

Day 1: Asia, 7th May
Day 2: Africa, 8th May
Day 3: Latin America, 9th May

BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS AND ABSTRACTS

University of Dar es Salaam

Carleton University

IDRC · CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Localizing Knowledge Production or Producing Local Knowledge?

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CALL FOR PAPERS FOR REGIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ON DISPLACEMENT:
Localizing Knowledge Production or Producing Local Knowledge?

Background

This call is part of a collaborative work between four IDRC research chairs on forced displacement located at the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Asian Institute of Technology, Center on Gender and Forced Displacement (India), and the University of Guadalajara (Mexico). It stems from a larger multiyear collaboration between a 12-chair global research network funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Since Chimni's 1998 article in the Journal of Refugee Studies on the geopolitics of refugee studies, there has been a call for greater attention to research produced in the Global South by the actors most affected by forced migration. Implicit in these calls is a sense that scholarship from the North is subject to the policy paradigms of the Global North, especially concerning containment and exclusion. Subsequent scholars, such as Landau (2012) and Shivakoti and Milner (2022), have called for new approaches to overcome power asymmetries in research partnerships to allow for research to be foregrounded in the research priorities of Global South researchers. Less attention has been paid to the differentiated knowledge global South researchers produce on displaced persons.

This call for papers seeks to go beyond geopolitical/postcolonial/epistemological arguments that only highlight the historical domination of the Global South by the Global North and the contemporary asymmetries and diverse inequalities between them. Instead, it seeks to draw upon the diverse perspectives of scholars based in contexts across the Global South working on forced migration and displacement issues.

The call seeks to organize a three day online regional webinar to foster discussion about progress and barriers in the generation of knowledge on forced displacement in the Global South. The ultimate goal is to develop a "Global South School of Thought" on human displacement, which can air the voices of scholars in the Global South on displacement at the global level. Using the concept of "situated knowledge", as defined by Donna Haraway, the regional workshops will examine how such knowledge can reshape global discourses, particularly in terms of understanding displacement from the Global South perspectives.

The webinar is informed by the fact that the policies and laws on displacement, and in particular refugees, originate from the Global North and are adopted by the Global South. We therefore ask: What are different ways in which the global South conceptualizes displacement and what are new and emerging ways of knowing and studying displaced people which are not part of mainstream Global North knowledge? The webinars will culminate in the publication of selected academic works that synthesize insights from the workshop and provide a framework for future comparative research projects between Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The event will also serve as a learning and experience-sharing opportunity for researchers and practitioners working on forced displacement, thereby ensuring that stakeholders are aligned in their understanding and approaches to finding sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced people.

Objectives of the workshop

- Explore theories relevant to displacement in the Global South;
- Explore methodologies used in studying displacement in the Global South;
- Provide regional contributions to displacement studies in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America;
- Contribute to displacement policies in these regions by highlighting unique perspectives and contributions to policies from these regions.

Call for papers

We invite conceptual and empirical papers, both of which may include policy discussions, to be presented during the three-day webinars on the Global South School of Thought on Displacement. The papers should answer one or more of the following questions which will further be grouped into conceptual, empirical, and policy papers:

1. What is Global South? Why does the Global South matter when it comes to issues of displacement?
2. What is decolonization? Does decolonial theory offer different ways of understanding displaced people in the Global South and contribute to the production of sustainable durable solutions?
3. What is localization? Is localization possible given the current world order? If so, how?
4. What is a "sustainable durable solution"? What are examples and ways in which sustainable durable solutions have been practiced in different places?
5. What policy directions for the displaced in the Global South will ensure emancipation and sustainability?
6. How are the agencies of displaced people exercised in any of the above contexts?
7. What stories of the displaced inform our research and methodology?
8. What are the challenges and prospects for the studies on forced displacement in the global South in the face of the current policies of the Global North in particular the United States?

Workshop Dates

The workshop will be held online from May 7th to 9th, 2025. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

May 7th (Asia): 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM IST
(India Standard Time)

May 8th (Latin America): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM CDT
(Central Daylight Time)

May 9th (Africa): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM EAT
(East Africa Time)

Important deadlines

March 31, 2025: Send title, 500-word abstract, name, email, and affiliation to the email below

April 30, 2025: Send full paper

May 1-6, 2025: Notification of acceptance

May 7-9, 2025: Online webinars and presentations

Eligibility

Open to: Academia, Graduate Students, Practitioners, Policy Makers/ Government, CSOs.

Awards: Participants will be awarded a certificate of attendance with logos of the four institutions organizing the webinar. Authors of the best papers will be paid a token honorarium and their papers will be published in an edited volume.

Language: Submissions may be made in English, French, or Spanish.

Interested candidates should send their submissions to Paula Banerjee at paulabanerjee44@gmail.com (for those from Asia); to Hiram Abel Angel Lara at hiram.angel@cucea.udgx.mx (for those from Latin America); or to Opportuna Kweka at opportuna.kweka@gmail.com and Abebaw Minaye – abebaw.minaye@aau.edu.et (for those from Africa).

Towards a Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement

University of Dar es Salaam · Carleton University · IDRC·CRDI · Canada

Webinar
May 7-9, 2025

Prof. Paula Barnerjee	Prof. Abebaw Minaye	Prof. Hiram Angel Lara	Prof. Opportuna Kweka
IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, the Asian Institute of Technology - Center on Gender and Forced Displacement (India)	IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)	IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, University of Guadalajara (Mexico)	IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)

SCAN THE QR CODES TO REGISTER

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Prof. Opportuna Kweka

Chair of the University of Dar es Salaam Research Chair on Forced Displacement

University of Dar es Salaam Research Chair on Forced Displacement funded by the International Development Research Centre of Canada was introduced in July 22. It is a multidisciplinary and multi-country entity hosted in the Department of Geography, College of Social Sciences. The Chair has more than 30 members and operating in five East African countries namely Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Members are working on different issues of displacement categorized as conflict induced, climate change, development and trafficking induced. The Chair's main activities are research and publications, seminars, outreaches, policy dialogues, training and capacity building. The Chair in run by the Chair, and supported by four coordinators, seminar, outreaches, policy dialogues and research, and two advisory boards, local and international. The research conducted in the Chair is demand driven, action oriented which aims at bringing impact on policy, by raising voices of scholars in the global South and those of the displaced. Issues addressed so far are on livelihood, inclusion in the economy, environment, climate change, legal, social, integration, social cohesion, root causes and alternative durable solutions.

Recently the UDSM's Research Chair on Forced Displacement has joined hands with the Addis Ababa's (also IDRC's funded) Chair operating in the horn of Africa to establishment of a network of researchers working

on issues of forced displacement in the Horn and East Africa, as a way of influencing policies at the regional level. The Chair has also joined hand with the Chairs Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Guadalajara in Mexico and Asia Institute of technology in Thailand to establishment of the Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement with funds from IDRC and Carleton University. In all its activities, the Chair is working with different government offices, non-governmental organizations, united nations, universities, and displaced communities.

The Global South School of Thought of Forced Displacement or simply referred to here as the School, is the first of its kind. With funds from Carleton University and the IDRC, the School aiming at establishing what we call the global South scholars' thoughts on human displacement issues. The East Africa and the Great Lakes region of East Africa have been areas with a large number of displaced people and some of the cases have become very complex to offer a solution and requires multidisciplinary approach to address them. The climate induced displacement adds to this complication. Initial global South scholars ideas shows that the treatment of the displacement must be equal irrespective of the countries they come from, therefore the Chair concentrated in understanding these categories not in isolation but in their totality. Existing literature shows that refugees are the most studied category, while there are a number of displaced categories with similar situation to those of the refugees who are not supported and their plight are not written about. While most of the displaced are in the global South a number of research, scholars, funding, publishers, publications, teaching curriculum, conferences are organized and based in the global North and accessible mostly by the global North scholars. The IDRC's research chairs have completed three years now, which is the good time to take stock of theories, concepts and new ideas raised by the global South scholars on displacement as a way of building their body of knowledge. It is postulated that, the reasons why some of the displacement take long to end is due to the fact that the policies and studies have been constructed outside the context in

which those displaced or their hosts have had marginal say on the ideas and the knowledge produced and the policies and solutions driven from the knowledge. The IDRC's research fund is decentering the power of knowledge creation and dissemination on displacement from the North to the South. The School of Thought is for the global South scholars to reflect on what knowledge, how different, how the same and not only inform the globe but also the policy makers. It is expected that the School will continue with webinars which will include presentations of researchers from the Global South and publications of their works in a compendium. The results will be disseminated in the Global Refugee Forum.

Remarks from Prof. Abebaw Minayi, Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, hiopia

Prof. Abebabw Minaye

Chair of the Research Chair on Forced Displacement and Migration Studies at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

The research chair for forced displacement and migration studies at Addis Ababa University (AAU), is one of the 12 research chairs established with the financial support of the International Development Research Centre of Canada in the global south in five regions of the world (East Africa, West Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa and South East and East Asia). They are established with the project "Strengthening *Knowledge, Evidence Use and Leadership in the Global South on Forced Displacement"*. The AAU chair was established in July 2022 and hosted at the College of Education and Language Studies at AAU. Its major activities are conducting research, building local capacity, providing community outreach services and engaging in policy dialogue on forced displacement. The chair's five priority thematic areas are; legal frameworks, governance and security; displacement economies and livelihoods; refugee and IDP education; mental health and psychosocial support; and diversity and inclusion in the context of forced displacement. The AAU chair is a 9-member multi-disciplinary team who came from psychology, social work, social anthropology, comparative education and mental health epidemiology. Yet we are working to add more team members from diverse fields. For example, we have added political science, psychiatry and geography and environment study experts in our new project on climate migration. The chair is supported by a 12-member

advisory board composed of government sectors, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, independent researchers and a refugee representative. So far, the research chair has conducted seven studies in the selected themes. It has conducted six public lecture series. It has also given mentorship and grant support for 14 young scholars (6 MA, 5 PhD and 3 post doc candidates). It organized a regional workshop in a form of roundtable and workshop in February 2024 to prepare conditions for the establishment of a network of academics on forced displacement and migration in the East, Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa.

The AAU research chair has provided methodology and substantive training on forced displacement for young scholars at Addis Ababa University and for stakeholders who came from Addis Ababa city administration. The AAU chair has participated in several webinar presentations. First is a webinar on *Seeking Solutions for Unprecedented Internal Displacement and Its Impact in Ethiopia* organized by *the Advanced Studies, London University, Refugee Law Studies.* The second was on *the Role of Regional Economic Communities in Promoting Protection and Solutions to Forced Migrants: The Case of IGAD.* This was presented for the *Refocus Seminar which is an Online Summer Program on Forced Migration in Africa which is a Workshop Series Organized by the Refugee Law Initiative of the University of London, the Centre for Migration Studies of the University of Ghana (in partnership with IDRC-CRDI); the African Centre for Migration & Society at the University of the Witwatersrand; and the African Academy for Migration Research (AAMR).* The third was organized by the network of the twelve research chairs where the AAU chair presented on: *Challenges and Opportunities for Strategic Directions to Durable Solutions* which is related to the Working Method and Thematic Priority on the Peace Processes, Peace Agreements and Peacebuilding for Internal Displacement of the May 2023 Report on the **Vision and Thematic Priorities in Addressing New Challenges**

and Consolidating Gains by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons by Paula Gaviria Betancur for the 53 session of the UN General Assembly.

Currently the chair is actively engaging in the network of the twelve research chairs where Carleton University supported by IDRC is creating a vibrant platform that creates new initiatives like the current global south school of thought on forced displacement and the collaborative research like cross region comparison of immobility in Latin America and Africa. Within Ethiopia, the research chair has forged meaningful connections with key actors like the Refugee and Returnee Services (RRS), the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), the National Partnership Coalition (NPC), the Jesuit Refugee Center (JRS), the United nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Development and Interchurch Aid Commission (DICAC), the Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). We have also forged a working relationship with the Department of Migration and Globalization at the University of Continuing Education, Krems, Austria. One of the key roles of the research chair is to become a platform for discussion. With this spirit the AAU chair recently organized an international conference on **Global South Perspectives on Forced Displacement: Navigating Policy, Practice and Research Linkages** held at Skylight hotel in Addis Ababa on April 24 & 25. Over 120 participants coming from government sectors, UN agencies, academic institutions, international NGOs, local NGOs, refugee led organizations and refugee representatives took part. Over 23 guests came outside of Ethiopia mainly from the East, Horn and Great Lakes Region of Africa. But there were also guests from Canada and Ghana. Colleagues from Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa also contributed as panelists virtually. A total of 26 papers (19 oral & 7 poster) were presented and four panel sessions were conducted

by individuals representing key sectors. Finally, the conference was culminated by a half day workshop on April 26 that pursued the previous year initiative towards establishing the regional network which concluded actually establishing the network of researchers on forced displacement in the East, Horn and Great Lakes Region of Africa signed by 31 founding members with the secretariat being based at the AAU chair and the annual meeting to rotate among the countries in the region.

For the AAU research chair, the school of thought is an avenue whereby scholars in the global south will bring their perspectives on forced displacement in a contextually relevant manner to inform policy and practice specifically in the region but also to impact global discourses. A school of thought is a means of establishing distinct thinking whereby we create our own intellectual tradition on forced displacement in both dialogue/conversation as well as writing. We want to forge our own philosophy and voice at regional and global levels for enhanced contextualized knowledge and practice. I hope this school of thought webinar will set the precedence for a more nuanced engagement of global south scholars by building the capacity of scholars in the region on forced displacement. I wish all participants, presenters and facilitators a successful webinar.   .

RRemarks from Prof. Paula Barnajee, Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, AIT, Thailand

Professor Paula Banerjee

IDRC Endowed Research Chair on Gender and Forced Displacement
Director, Centre on Gender and Forced Displacement (CGFD), Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

The establishment of the Centre on Gender and Forced Displacement (CGFD) at the Asian Institute of Technology in 2023 emerged from a critical recognition: that dominant paradigms in displacement studies continue to marginalise gendered experiences, obscure Southern epistemologies, and replicate Eurocentric assumptions about mobility, borders, and statehood. As the IDRC Endowed Research Chair, my work has been shaped by the imperative to reframe both the intellectual and policy terrain of forced displacement through intersectional, contextually grounded, and decolonial perspectives drawn from South and Southeast Asia.

Since its inception, CGFD has served as a site of both scholarship and praxis, engaging with the complex entanglements of gender, displacement, and structural violence. Our inaugural seminar in October 2023, held on Climate Action Day, foregrounded the gendered dimensions of climate-induced displacement and sought to bridge scholarly research with practitioner knowledge. The discussions emphasised the differentiated vulnerabilities that environmental crises pose for women, and called for more nuanced climate governance frameworks rooted in gender justice. This was followed in March 2024 by the international conference *"Gender, Geopolitics, and Forced Migration,"* which interrogated

masculinist logics of sovereignty and security, and posed critical questions about the silences and exclusions in mainstream geopolitical discourse. These conversations did not merely critique policy from without—they offered feminist and Southern alternatives grounded in lived experience.

In June 2024, CGFD convened *"Refugee Voices from Southeast Asia,"* a forum that brought together displaced individuals, scholars, and advocates to articulate the everyday realities of statelessness and marginality in a region where most states remain outside formal international protection frameworks. By centring the voices of refugee communities, the event disrupted representational hierarchies and affirmed the political agency of those often rendered voiceless in policy debates. Our December 2024 Winter Workshop on *"Climate-Induced Forced Displacement on Women in the Global South"* deepened these engagements through intensive capacity-building and pedagogical exchange. With participants from across Asia, the workshop examined the intersections of environmental precarity, gendered labour, and displacement, while encouraging participants to imagine solidarities beyond the nation-state.

These interventions culminated in our co-organisation of *"Migrant Asia: International Conference on Migrants in the Making of Asia"* in April 2025—a gathering that foregrounded the historic and contemporary trajectories of migration across the region. Emphasising urban exclusion, labour precarity, and the gendered dynamics of mobility, the conference was a platform for comparative, transregional inquiry that resists narrow statist framings of migration. Across each of these initiatives, CGFD has sought to develop an intellectual architecture that is both regionally rooted and globally resonant.

It is within this context that CGFD engages with the Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement—an emergent epistemic community that reclaims the terms through which displacement

is studied, theorised, and addressed. The School is not a replication of institutional networks; it is an attempt to articulate a plural yet grounded intellectual tradition shaped by scholars, practitioners, and communities in the Global South. CGFD's contribution to this project has been to foreground the gendered logics that structure displacement and to reimagine research not as extraction but as co-production and accountability.

In assuming this Chair, I have worked not only to convene conversations but to unsettle certitudes—to insist that the margins are not peripheral, but generative. It is my hope that through continued collaboration and critical inquiry, we may begin to shape more just, inclusive, and transformative responses to the realities of displacement that define our world today.

Remarks from Prof. Hiram Angel Lara, Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, Guadalajara University, Mexico

Prof. Hiram A. Ángel

Chair in Forced International Migration, Inclusion, and Human Rights at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico

In March 2022, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the University of Guadalajara (UDG) signed a grant agreement for project 109882-001, within the framework of a global-regional project that the funding body calls "Strengthening knowledge, evidence base, and leadership in the Global South on forced displacement: Mexico and Central America." The overall objective of the project was to support research on forced displacement from other countries to Mexico, particularly including emerging issues on the southern and northern borders. The specific objectives accompanying the aforementioned overall objective are:

i. Develop useful research for Mexican civil society, such as organizations that assist migrants on the southern and northern borders.

ii. Generate interdisciplinary research based on a collective agenda among partners, providing new perspectives and possible solutions to long-standing problems.

iii. Consolidate regional thought leadership by promoting debate and the development of public policies for access to education and health services.

iv. Promote the visibility of migrant women and their struggle for inclusion, empowering their voices and experiences in policy design and in shaping public debate.

In order to achieve the objectives set forth in the IDRC Project within the timeframe stipulated in the Agreement, the University of Guadalajara, as Beneficiary, decided to create the Chair in Forced International Migration, Inclusion, and Human Rights (MIFID Chair).

The general objective of the Chair is to develop high-level projects, jointly with local, national, and international actors, aimed at the research, discussion, promotion, development, and execution of activities that contribute to understanding the phenomenon of Forced Migration and Displacement, and to understand the social and emotional processes and the main needs of people in this situation, with a human rights and gender perspective. This will contribute to decision-making and the development of policies that promote inclusion, respect, and access to basic rights.

Among the international actors with which the MIFID Chair has organized various events at various times are: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Regional Network for Human Mobility LGBTIQ+LAC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Mexico, IDRC and the Center for Research in Social Anthropology (Ciesas Occidente).

These partnerships have helped promote various projects, among the most important being the Forum on Migration, Forced Displacement, Refuge, and Rights for People on the Move, which has been held annually since November 2023 within the framework of the Guadalajara International Book Fair. Along with this national forum, the First Meeting on Human Mobility and Forced Displacement in Mexico-United States:

Challenges of Binationality was also promoted in conjunction with other academic institutions in Mexico and the United States. Since 2024, in an ongoing effort to raise awareness of the region's problems, the Trajectory and Mobility Seminar (TRAMOS: https://www.youtube.com/@TRAMOSSeminarioCIESAS/streams) has been held. This space brings together academics, officials from international organizations, and civil society organizations to discuss the various issues related to human mobility and forced displacement. The work of the MIFID Chair has also served to strengthen educational spaces, which is why the diploma in Forced Migration and Displacement in the Americas has been offered since 2023.

The Chair's website is one of its main tools for disseminating information (https://catedramifid.cucea.udg.mx). There, you can learn about the lines of research being developed by various academics within the project: inclusion processes; risks and violence; climate change; and political institutions. Work is also underway to strengthen its own Data Center, specifically focused on mapping and building secondary databases using open-access primary information from various international sources.

All of these summarized elements are an example of how the MIFID Chair at the University of Guadalajara generates information and builds knowledge from the Global South. While we are not unaware of the discussions and proposals being developed in the Global North, we propose, through our actions, an invitation to build a horizontal dialogue where the voices of the South—from the regions where people who migrate to more developed countries in search of better life options come from—can be heard and recognized as generators of diverse, rich knowledge, supported by direct sources of information, and also analyzed by people from the countries that comprise and participate in the various institutions and organizations (universities, civil society, governments, and international organizations) of the Global South, in an effort to decolonize knowledge and incorporate multi-sited and multicultural perspectives.

We also recognize that socioeconomic processes are occurring in the Global South that undermine the well-being, health, security, education, and, in general, the quality of life of the highly vulnerable, impoverished, and abused people of the continents we inhabit. These realities, which have been the product of historical and ongoing processes of oppression, exploitation, and dispossession between regions (North-South), have generated devastating consequences in our countries, one of which is forced displacement in all its forms.

For this reason, the reality of Africa, Asia, and Latin America deserves to be told through the narratives of the countries that make up the Global South. Hence, the School of Thought project on forced displacement emerged from a local perspective that breaks with the ethnocentrism that has characterized publications on displacement. The importance of producing knowledge from the South and having it published and read in the diverse regions of the planet is fundamental to maintaining balanced dialogues among the world's academic, not only among our academic institutions but also among decision-makers at different levels of political influence, professionals involved in forced displacement, international organizations, among others. Reading each other, understanding each other, and making better decisions could be a positive outcome of this effort by our universities, which we began in 2025 with this series of webinars.

Remarks from Prof. James Milner,
A Professor of Political Science , Carleton University

So let me begin from the perspective of the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and then Roula will be able to share from the perspective of IDRC and the donor community. So, I've had the great privilege of being associated with many of the wonderful chairs in the IDRC network for a number of years. Opportunity Kweka and the colleagues at the University of Dar es Salaam have been a very important part of my intellectual journey for more than 25 years.

Paula Banerjee at the Asian Institute for Technology has been a visionary leader in this field and the work of Deram Ahmed and others in the Americas region have really demonstrated that there's a shift that's happening within the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. This is a journey that we've been on for a very long time. It was 27 years ago at a conference at the Refugee Studies Program at the University of Oxford in the UK where B.S. Chimni, the Indian scholar, presented a paper on the geopolitics of refugee studies, view from from the south.

And in that paper, Chimney argued that so long as research capacities remain contained in the global north in this field, and that knowledge from the global south was inserted in an inferior way, that so long as we retain that paradigm that we would lose the knowledge and the perspective of those most affected by displacement, but also that the research agenda, the methodologies, the theories that we have within the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies would reflect the interests of global north actors. At the time, it was a very uncomfortable message for the field to hear, but over the 20-25 years since then, we have certainly found that it's long overdue to revisit whose knowledge anchors and centers the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. While 75% of the worlds displaced are in the global south, in low- and middle-income countries of the global south, 90% of the most cited

literature, the vast majority of research funding, most projects are based in the global north.

And what this means is that we have a much skewed understanding of the phenomenon of forced migration. That having this imbalance in the literature, it means that the knowledge, the theoretical frameworks of global north scholars really dominate the field. It also means that there's a disproportionate emphasis in the literature on the perspective of the global north, global north cases, global north anxieties, and global north policy preferences.

So what you are doing in this school of thought exercise is to challenge an ethical bias and a theoretical opportunity. So the ethical bias is that why it is that scholars like me sitting in the global north should be considered as the experts on this phenomenon? When I get emails saying, Professor Milmer, you're an expert on refugee issues in Tanzania, can you answer a few questions? I laugh.

I haven't had the opportunity to work in Tanzania since 2018. The real experts are the ones who live and work within that space every day, who understand the nuance of the local context, the political actors at play, the priorities at play, the shifting environment. So the experts on these issues are those who are most affected by displacement.

So you have an opportunity to address an ethical imbalance, but the knowledge, the expertise, the priorities, those most affected by displacement, those are the priorities that can and should influence the agenda. But at the same time, there is a substantive opportunity within the field. Why accept the research agenda that comes from the global north? Why accept the methodologies that come from the global north? Why accept the epistemologies and the ontologies that come from the global north? This is an opportunity to ask across the global south, for those who are established scholars or emerging scholars working on issues of forced displacement, what are the research priorities that motivate you? What are the methodologies that you employ, that you

consider appropriate in the context where you work? What are the theoretical frameworks that resonate with your space? What are the epistemologies and ontologies that drive the work that you do? And what are the research findings that drive your approach to knowledge production? Those are perspectives that have been overshadowed within the field.

And it's time to address this imbalance, but also to critically, systematically, and convincingly interrogate the question of what do we mean by a global south perspective on forced displacement? What can that do to change the balance in the literature? And how can it identify a new way of understanding the phenomenon of forced displacement? This is more important than ever when you consider where we are in the world when it comes to forced displacement responses. We see that funding for forced displacement responses are under threat now, unlike at a level we've never seen before. With U.S. funding cuts, where we see European states engaged in policies of projecting their border further and further away from the ocean, seeking to contain refugees in regions of origin.

Given the politics of the refugee regime, given the politics of the field of refugee and forced migration studies, this is a critical project at a critical time. Before passing to Rula, I want to pose five questions that I'd love for you to consider throughout the work that you're doing through these webinars, spanning all of these regions of the world. First of all, engage in dialogue with each other about what are the most pressing research questions that motivate you and your work? How do those questions differ across regions? That's number one.

Number two, what are the opportunities to collaborate across regions? To get out of a silo of states about forced displacement dynamics in a specific region, but what are the opportunities across regions? Number three, how can we build solidarity networks with those who have been affected by displacement, so that their knowledge, their expertise,

can more fully inform the way that we do research? And then, number four, how can we mobilize the results of this knowledge to regional and global levels to bring about change? And that ultimately leads to the fifth question that I have for all of you. How do we then mobilize all this knowledge, all of this expertise, to change the very paradigm of how we think about forced displacement, forced migration, and refugees? So from a scholarly perspective, it's a fantastically exciting time. And I know, Rula, from an IDRC perspective, and where we are in policy and practice, it's even more important, these conversations.

Let me pass it to you. Thank you so much, James. Let me take a few minutes to compliment a little bit what you said.

Remarks from Roula El-Rafai,
Senior Programme Specialist, democratic and Inclusive Governance, IDRC

But let me start by saying, as James said, this is a time where it's more critical than ever to think in an alternative way about solutions to the multiple challenges that we are facing on forced displacement. If we look at the traditional, durable solutions that UNHCR has presented, we are in a different space today. We are in a space where there is little funding, there's austerity, there isn't enough money for humanitarian development, aid, and even research.

So I can't stress enough how important it is for this network of scholars who are all there, for this network of displaced populations with lived experiences, to get together to reflect on how do we do things differently and how do we think differently about a vision for solutions that are sustainable, for solutions that allow long-term cohabitation with host communities. And this is where we need the creativity of such an important mechanism, such what you call the critical thought type of approach. So thank you for the innovation that you are bringing.

This is timely. This is important. And what I can do is, like James, come up with maybe a set of three key guiding questions that are always on the mind of a research donor like IDRC.

So the first issue that's now becoming more and more present in our discussions with you, with the 12 Research Chairs Network, with others in the field of forced displacement, is the issue of global north versus global south. Ultimately, these categories, we used to use them when we talked about decolonization of research and knowledge production, but we're realizing together that these are maybe false, it's a false dichotomy. These are not binary.

These are much more complex in the way we understand them. We need to problematize these categories. We need to redefine them.

We need to understand the space of a power relationship. We're doing that dynamic of power relations between global north and global south among global south scholars. And what is it that defines this difference? Is it the function rather than where you are sitting or what you are doing? So I think, I hope this critical thought journey of yours leads us to rethink drastically what we mean by global north versus global south when it comes to the understanding of the field of forced displacement.

The second set of issues that is always on the mind of IDRC, we've been in the business for about 60 years funding research in the global south. And the key thing that we always think about research to what end? What do we do with the knowledge and the research that we generate and how do we influence policies? So this whole concept of knowledge for action, knowledge for policy influence, knowledge for policy impact, but also knowledge that we can scale up to achieve greater impact. At the policy level, it's again a question that needs revisiting.

There are new policy actors out there. Who are they? How do we engage with policy makers? How do we understand the level at which we are engaging? Are there different ways and strategies for us to achieve change? Does it always have to go through policy makers or can we go by working with communities to lay the groundwork for something that eventually changes behaviors, norms, that eventually creates change that is basically irreversible at some point. So the question for you, scholars, colleagues, practitioners, what is this new policy engagement space when we talk about forced displacement? Who are the actors? Where are they based? How do we connect local realities with change at multiple levels? And we can do it in the typical traditional way.

This is not about only changing laws, but about changing norms, behaviors, creating networks, as James mentioned, networks of solidarity that lead to coalitions, to different ways of thinking that has to be long

term. Because on the short term, many of the policy spaces we are engaged with are closed. They do not allow room for engagement or for change.

But, again, the global context of lack of funding makes it necessary for all of us to actually work with these multiplicity of actors because they also are realizing there is no one from outside that is coming to resolve all these issues for us and all these challenges. So we need to do it outside. And this is where the critical thought journey that you are embarking on will create this kind of new, innovative way of reflecting about what we mean by policy influence, policy change, and scaling up.

And the last point I will mention is, given all this, the new knowledge that is being generated, what do we do about all this and how do we do things differently? Ultimately, you are going to come up yourself with recommendations to us, to donors, to civil society, to academics, to academic institutions about a new way of doing things, to think about long term, sustainable thinking about how we address these challenges. There are no perfect answers, but there are many ways to think innovatively about these answers. And I think the mere fact, and I will end on this point, the mere fact that you are all gathered here from multiple regions, I mean, the privilege of having this knowledge being generated from multiple regions across continents on the same issue is only a way for us to enrich our knowledge about how to do things differently, how to think about forced displacement challenges, solutions, problems differently, but also learning from each other what works, what doesn't and why not.

So I will end on that to say thank you for the opportunity to speak to you, but we really look forward to hearing what you are going to recommend to us. You are overcoming challenges of time zones, you are overcoming challenges of language, translation, visa requirements and movement, possibility of mobility or immobility, but this is the

place to do it. All of you from the Global South are connected to so many souls from the Global North, but thank you so much for the opportunity and we really look forward to the recommendations from your work.

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Canada

Programme for the webinar on School of Thoughton Forced Displacement 7th-9th May 2025

(for link to participate send email to **kweka@udsm.ac.tz** copy to **paulabarnerjee44@gmail.com, abebawminaye@aaau.edu** and **hiram.angel@cucea.udg.mx**)

LOCAL TIMES APPLY

Time	TITLE OF THE PAPERS	Responsible/Chair/ Author
THAILAND TIME	**ASIA DAY 7th of May 2025**	Prof. Paula Barnerjee
10-10:15	Morning: opening introduction of the School of Thought – overall PI	Prof. Paula Barnerjee
	Presentation of Papers from Asia	Chair: PAULA BANERJEE
10:15-10:30	Title: Exploring the local community's knowledge in climate-induced displacement and relocation in India.	Virendra Kumar
10:30-10:45	Localising Displacement in the Global South: Decolonial Pathways to Sustainable Humanitarian Responses	Garrima Chopra
10:45-11:00	Participatory Governance: Amplifying Displaced Voices in Policy Design: Bihar's Journey toward Inclusive Resilience	Dr. Rajesh Kumar

11:00-11:15	War, coloniality, geopolitics and the force migration of the Rohingya people of Myanmar	**AIT**
11:10-11:30	Reimagining Displacement: Global South Epistemologies and the Rohingya Refugee Crisis	Sucharita Senguta
11:30-11:45	Sultana's Dream: A Feminist Imagination of a Secure Future	Samata Biswas The Sanskrit College and University bsamata@gmail.com
11:45-12:00	Working title: A continuous fight for education: challenges and opportunities for Rohingya youth in New Delhi in formal education.	Georgia Howitt Sutton
12:00-12:15:	Transplanting ecological constitutionalism in asean legal governance: reconstructing environmental resilience in the digital transformation epoch	Arie Baskhoro , Paula Banerjee
12:15-1230	Decolonizing Pedagogies of Displacement: Glocal Possibilities and Theoretical Openings from South Asia	*Priya Singh*
12:30-12:45	Daily Life, Difficulties and Dislocation: A Constant Pressure on West Bengal –An Indo-Bangladesh Border	Dr. Suchismita Majumder
12:45-1:45	Remarks from IDR. Regional, UN, Government and NGO each having 15 minutes	Chair: Paula Barnerjee
1:45-2:15	discussion	Paula Banerjee
2:15-3:00	Break	all

Tanzania time	**School of Thought Opening ceremony**	Chair: Prof. Opportuna Kweka
3-3:15	Remarks from the four chairs organizing the School of Thought	Paula Abebaw, Opportuna and Hiram
3:15-3:30	Remarks from the IDRC	Roula Rafai regional IDRC office
3:30:3-45	Official opening: Guest of honor Prof Bonaventure Rutinwa, Professor of Refugee Law and DVC Academic University of Dar es Salaam	Prof. B. Rutinwa
3:45-4:00	Key paper: Why Does the 'Global South' Matter in Global Discourses on Displacement?	Prof. Khoti Kamanga
4:00:4:15	Discussion of the key note paper – Khoti Kamanga	Chair: Prof. Opportuna Kweka
4:15-4:30	A systematic review of literature on forced displacement the Global South – authors, key words and themes – Opportuna Kweka	Chair Prof. Paula Barnejee Opportuna Kweka
4:30-4:45	Remarks from the Addis Ababa Chair	Chair: Prof. Hiram Angel Lara
4:45-5:00	Remarks from Hiram Angel	Chair: Prof. Abebaw Minaye
5:00	End of the webinar days 1	

Official opening by the Acting DVC Academic University of Dar es Salaam, Prof Flora Magige

Opening Speech for the Launch of a School of Thought on Forced Displacement on the 8th of May 2025

Prof Flora Magige Acting DVC Academic,
University of Dar es Salaam

DVC academic University of Dar es Salaam

Distinguished guests, fellow scholars, students, partners, and friends,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I welcome you all to the official launch of our School of Thought on forced displacement—an initiative born from critical reflections, pressing global challenges, and a commitment to academic rigor and policy relevance. Today marks not just the beginning of a scholarly platform, but the birth of a shared intellectual journey—one that centers the voices, experiences, and epistemologies of the Global South.

The theme *Global South Perspective on Forced Displacement* is both timely and urgent. Across Africa and the Global South, communities are increasingly grappling with multiple, overlapping crises—from conflict and resource-driven displacement to climate-induced mobility. Yet, the dominant narratives often overlook the agency, history, and solutions embedded within these regions.

This School of Thought brings together researchers, practitioners, and policy actors who believe that knowledge production must be inclusive, intersectional, and grounded in justice. It aims to reframe how we understand displacement not merely as a humanitarian issue, but as a structural and political phenomenon shaped by historical inequalities, power relations, and environmental injustices.

We envision this space as a laboratory of ideas and action: (i) A space for mentoring the next generation of scholars; (ii) A platform for policy

dialogues informed by evidence, (iii) A bridge between academia and communities (iv) a commitment to producing research that does not just describe reality but challenges it.

University of Dar es salaam has been a host and a home of many global south scholars such as Walter Rodney, and many others most of them came as refugee but emerged to be great intellectuals of all times. The kind of questions asked in the School of Thought at therefore to new in this campus. Tanzania is a home of one of the Great intellectual, President Nyerere who uses his own philosophy to integrate refugees and freedom fighters into the society and the economy of the country. There is no doubt that it is the perfect place to the Centre of renewal of these initiatives.

We are grateful to our partners, the Asia Institute of technology in Thailand; Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia; University of Guadalajara Mexico; Carleton University in Canada and the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) for the funds first to establish the research chair and second for support of the network of chairs and additional research funds to focus on climate change and displacement.

With these few remarks let me officially declare this School open and wish you the best in the presentations and the discussion.

Time	TITLE OF THE PAPERS	Responsible/Chair/Author
DAR ES SALAAM TIME	**Day 2: AFRICA DAY**	Chair Prof. Abebaw Minaye
8:00-8:15	Human Trafficking in Forced Displacement: A Look at the Legal Frameworks of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	Nickson Philbert
08:15-08:30	Towards regional and local frameworks for governing displacement, community based and agencies of the refugees as a durable solutions	Opportuna Kweka
08:30-08:45	Decolonising Humanitarian Aid: Lessons from Local Displacement Responses in the Global South	Olusegun Israel OLANIYAN
8:45-9:00	Decolonizing food assistance for internally displaced persons in East Africa: Rethinking needs and responses from a global South perspective	Robert Katikiro
9:00-9:15	Confronting the 'Root Causes' of Displacement as a Distinct 'Durable Solution	Khoti Kamanga
9:15-9:30	Discussion	Kweka

9:30-9:45	Studying Drought: Global South perspectives on climate-induced displacement: Livelihood resilience in sending and receiving areas	Saumu, Katikiro, Lekumok, Faraja, Rikanga
9:45-10:00	Socioeconomic Impact of Relocation of Maasai pastoralists from Ngorongoro to Msomera, Handeni Tanga in Tanzania	Lekumok Kironyi, Opportuna Kweka, Glory Lyimo, Michale David Rikanga
10:00-10:15	Contribution of migrant entrepreneurs for local economy in host communities: the case of Ethiopian migrants in South Africa	Yordanos S. Estifanos (2nd Abstract)
10:15-10:30	Challenges and Opportunities in Reunification of Children Displaced from their Home with Families and Living on the Street in Asella Town	Bashir Ida'o
10:30-10:45	Causes and effects of children out migration: A case in Humbo woreda, Wolaita Zone	Woldeab Daniel
10:45-11:00	Investigating the Exposure of Forced Migrants for Human Trafficking in Ethiopia	Shishigu Abi Adimasu
11:00-11:15	AI-Powered Conflict Prediction and Prevention: A Tool for Peacebuilding in Ethiopia	Gadisa Adamu Mitiku
11:15-11:30	Trends, Future Trajectories, and Determinants of Triple Respiratory Viral Syndromes in Conflict and Internal Displacement Contexts: Implications for Health Services and Policy in the Amhara Region, Ethiopia	Chalachew Yenew

11:30-11:45	At the Margins? Pastoralism as Envisioned in the Tanzanian Institutional Setup	Benezet Rwelengera, Edith Benedict, Glory Lyimo and Michael Rikanga
11:45-12:00	Localized Legality: Rethinking Migration Governance at the Ethiopia–Sudan Border	Kiya Gezahegne
12-12:15	Differently recognised, differently protected: Settled and Self-settled refugees in Uganda	David Ngendo-Tshimba
12:15-12:30	Twail as a tool for studying forced migration in the global South	Leonard Chimanda
12:30-12:45	Decentering Displacement: Rethinking the Global South's Role in Migration Knowledge and Policy	Amal EL OUASSIF
12:45-1 pm	Gender Dimensions in Forced Displacement: A Gender Transformative Approach to Reshaping Norms Among Displaced Persons in Ghana.	Mary Setrana
1-1:15	Old wine in a new bottle: the review of 2023 WRD "skill matching" as a durable solution	Opportuna Kweka, Paul Barnejee and Abebaw Minaye and Hiram Angel Lara
1:15-2	Discussion	Prof Opportuna Kweka
2-3 pm	Break	
3-5pm	Remarks from Prof. James Milner, UN, NGOs, INGO, governments and IDRC offices in the horn and East Africa 8 of them each 15 minutes	Chair: Dr. Abebaw Minaye

Remarks from Dr. Martha Mutisi, Senior Programme Officer with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)'s Governance and Justice Programme. Based in IDRC's East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)

Thank you so much, Professor Opportuna. And thank you to the participants from across the globe. I'm sorry that I was not able to join yesterday on day one. But I've been following up through colleagues, of course. I'm glad that James Milner was part of day one yesterday. I think I've just had snippets of the conversations of the last panel discussions. And I think my starting point is that we are headed in the right direction. As we begin to interrogate how knowledge production processes are being undertaken. When it comes to studies on forced displacement, forced migration, among other things. When we come to unpack some of the inequalities, the hierarchies within the knowledge production economy. I think we are actually being strategic and very intentional about changing the way things are done. So I'd like really to express my appreciation to Professor Opportuna Dr. Abebaw Pal and Hiram and all researchers in IDRC.

For me to really say that what is happening, the conversation that is actually happening now. Among yourselves, where you are seeking ways to have Southern voices heard in this field of forced displacement and forced migration. Is really an attempt not just to claim a space on the table. But really to make a difference. I think when we want our voices to be heard when it comes to the research that we are producing in forced displacement. We want to make a change to the people that are most impacted. And this is in line with IDRC's mandate. Which is to let Southern researchers be at the center of the research that they produce. At the center of identifying the issues that need to be researched about.

But most importantly, be at the center of crafting the solutions to the challenges that they face. IDRC's mandate has always been about localization. It's always been about ensuring that the Southern researchers are the ones that lead these conversations.

I really liked the conversations in the last panel. Where we are even challenging what does even the word global mean? Is the word global just reserved for perhaps those in the North? Or perhaps Western institutions? And yet we are all part of the globe. I also like the fact that even when we are talking about being thought leaders.

Establishing a school of thought on forced displacement. It's not necessarily about replicating or mimicking. But contextualizing what is it that we want the structures to look like. We can't replicate the same structures that we feel that maybe they're not serving our purposes. If those structures end up replicating the same inequalities, the same exclusion. Then it won't be making sense.

So I'm really happy to hear that in our attempt to amplify local voices, to amplify Southern voices. We are also asking questions. Who is being left behind? And you're asking questions about whether even refugee-led organizations are being part of this process.

So this initiative, I think, is just the beginning of a revolution that cannot be stopped. And I urge us to really come up with concrete measures. For example, come up with our own journals where we can publish.

And find ways of incentivizing even the scholars within the Global South. To really want to be associated with Southern-led journals, for example. How can we even also challenge some of the university promotion policies? We seem to look at maybe extending our Global Northern journals to be the ones that are rated high.

I think that conversation we need to have even within our own universities. Because if you publish in a journal that is, for example, in North America or in Europe. It looks like you've done much more rigorous research than when you publish in a journal that is based in Africa or in Asia.

So we also need to change our mindset. So localization is much more than trying to replicate, trying to mimic, and trying to create the same structure. But it's also about deconstructing and asking the tough questions.

Even the way we do our own processes, our own internal processes in universities and in think tanks. So I really look forward to some concrete outcomes that will emerge from these three days of conversation. Thank you so much to Professor Oportu a for really inviting me to this conversation.

Over to you. Thank you very much. I won't add much, but to say thank you to you, Dr. Martha.

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ON DISPLACEMENT:
Localizing Knowledge Production or Producing Local Knowledge?

MEXICO TIME	DAYS 3: LATIN AMERICA DAY	
Mexico time	**LAyC Region Webinario 09th of May 2025, Guadalajara, Jalisco**	Dr. Hiram Angel LARA
Time	Título de las presentaciones y artículos TITLE OF THE PAPERS	Authors
8.00-8.15	Open ceremony – guest of honor, and remarks representatives from governments, NGOs, UN, INGos. IDRC regional and Ottawa office eahc given 10minutes	Chair: Dr. Hiram Angel

8.15-8:30	Tres consideraciones clave para mejorar las perspectivas del Sur Global en la gobernanza migratoria y el derecho internacional de los refugiados Three key considerations for enhancing Global South perspectives in Migration Governance and International Refugee Law	Estela Vieira Liliana Jubilut
8:30-8:45	Del desplazamientp a la acción: la movilización de los refugiados nicaragüenses en México. From displacement to action: the mobilization of Nicaraguan refugees in Mexico.	Dra. Ana Lorena Valle Cornavaca Lizbeth Guerrero Ramírez
8:45-9:00	Riesgo de desplazamiento forzado en municipios rurales de México por la afectación de la violencia del crimen organizado. Risk of forced displacement in rural municipalities in Mexico due to the impact of organized crime violence.	Kelly Giovanna Muñoz
9:00-9:15	Post-deportación y Síndrome de Ulises: una aproximación a la inserción laboral de mujeres deportadas que viven en la frontera MX-EU Post-deportation and Ulysses Syndrome: An approach to the labor insertion of deported women living on the Mexico-US border	Vianey G. Zúñiga Castro Arturo Fabián J.
9:15-9:30	Efecto trump: realidades, desesperanza y resistencias desde Tapachula Trump effect: realities, hopelessness and resistance from Tapachula	Andrea Sofía Chong Ricardo Peña Alejandra Buitrón

9:30-9:45	Nuevas perspectivas para el análisis del desplazamiento forzado en México a través del uso de variaciones de intensidad lumínica	André Jersón Millán López
	New perspectives for the analysis of forced displacement in Mexico through the use of light intensity variations	Hiram A. Ángel Lara
9:45-10	¿Transición energética o desplazamiento verde? Un análisis de las narrativas globales sobre transición energética y su impacto en América Latina	Dra. Alfa C. M. Gutiérrez-Hernández
		And
	Energy transition or green shift? An analysis of global narratives on energy transition and their impact on Latin America	Dr. Daniel Lemus-Delgado
10:00-11	Comentarios y preguntas Comentarios y preguntas	Chair: Hiram Angel Lara
11-12	RECESO Break	All
12-12:15	Desplazamiento forzado en el capitalismo con estancamiento secular.

Forced displacement in capitalism with secular stagnation. | Agustín R. Vázquez García

Profesor/ Investigador Departamento Producción Económica-UAM-X avazquez@correo. xoc.uam.mx |
| 12:30-12.45 | La reproducción de la vulnerabilidad en la movilidad humana

The reproduction of vulnerability in human mobility. | Dr. Edel J. Fresneda |

12:45-1:45	Comentarios y preguntas. Comments and questions	Chair: Hiram Angel
1-45-3	Break	
3-4 pm	Vote of Thanks: Prof. Kweka, Opportuna; Prof. Paula Barnejee; Prof. Abebaw Minaye and Prof, Hiram Angel Lara	Prof. Kweka

NB: the times are local times

Link to day 1:
Thailand times:

Link to days 2:
Dar es Salaam time:

Link to day 3:
Mexico time register here:

Remarks from Meron Abebe, UNDP, Addis Ababa

I rejoined as a panelist. Thank you so much for giving me access. Yes, absolutely. I am very, very much honored to be part of this timely and relevant exchange. And I really thank you for the organizers, for Dr. Abebaw, for inviting me to share some thoughts.

There has been quite tremendous work that has been done by the University, but in collaboration with this network. So I'm really happy to be part of this. If you don't mind my connectivity, as you said, one of the Global South Challenges connectivity.

I will try to switch off the video, then I will be able to speak clearly. Absolutely fine. Excellent.

Thank you so much. Even though I wasn't fully part of the whole exchange, I tried to see some of the papers and abstract, which really, really highlighted concrete experiences across Eastern Horn Africa, particularly looking at the Ethiopian system, solution work, resilience planning to Kenya, integration of displacement into county development frameworks, and also to Somalia's pursuit of durable solution and fragility. These are basically a testament to the innovation and leadership emerging from the region, where also regional key actors like IGAD play an important role in terms of this free movement, and also having this regional important framework, the Kampala Convention.

I'm also very much touched by the decolonialist collapse, that challenge us to rethink the global governance of displacement. Also the Third World approach to international law, which argues how displacement categories, legal constructs, and humanitarian systems have historically excluded and marginalized the global South. We are called also to move beyond this patriotic categorization of refugee versus migrant, or internal versus external displacement, rather for us to focus on building community-rooted regional institutions that are context-specific and human rights-oriented, which is very, very

important and timely reflection.

Also the mental health reflection that came out from specifically the Somali region of Ethiopia, that looks how it is really critical, and somehow the invisible dimension that most of us overlooked, and also the important challenge that the climate-induced displacement pose, mobility-related traumas and social exclusion, which takes a heavy physiological and psychological toll. It's really something that we should reflect and continue to work on, particularly as UNDP we are at the moment reflecting how the development interventions have to have this spatial lens of having this mental health in the development intervention that we are doing in the recovery, MSM, Ecosystem Development, Resilience, and Reintegration. And at the moment we are currently designing a new program with the support from the government of Japan, which is also somehow reflect and address these critical challenges.

And the other areas I think UNDP works, which also directly related with the presentation that was made, was around governance, the national and local government support across Ethiopia, but beyond in East and Horn Africa, which is also in alignment with the UN Secretary General Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, particularly looking at area-based approach that combine basic service delivery, infrastructure, rehabilitation, climate, resilient livelihood, and social inclusion, which is very, very critical. And at the moment there is this direction, I don't know how many of you are really following, but there is this direction from the donors to push the whole UN to come to jointly for a program design and delivery. So many UN are now engaging and involving to design a joint program, particularly Somali region with the existing protracted and different dynamics of displacement, ecology, particularly the IDP camp.

There is a new interesting proposal that's coming up by the UN jointly supporting the government of Ethiopia to design a multi-year kind of program, but also transitioning ecology from IDP camp into permanent settlement. But in general, we know that working particularly on six signature solutions, six signature into pathway are really relevant for the

forced displacement context or discussion that we are having. And also UNDP plays an important role as SDG indicator across the UN system, ensuring that forced displacement responses are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, particularly through the SDGs 1, 5, 10, 11, and 16, which will be relevant also for today's discussion and especially also for some of the papers that I have briefly reviewed.

And basically also UNDP tried to bring to the UN development issues, which I also tried to engage the academia here to be part of this important and timely exchange, because displacement should be tackled jointly, not in a resolution, and it is a structural development issue. I don't know how many minutes left, but just to also briefly reflect, because it's also very relevant for the work that we do. Some of the academic work has to inform policy, programmatic design.

Currently UNDP is developing its five years strategy, which basically focuses on governance, inclusive economic transformation, particularly for forced displacement, and also climate resilience. This is also one of the key concrete aspects of it. And at the same time, we have to acknowledge the gender realities of displacement, which was also one of the interesting areas that I came across from the presentation, because women and girls face heightened risk of gender-based violence, biased economic opportunities, and limited access to leadership space.

This is really an area where recently, actually a few weeks back, UNDP released stories that focus mainly on the Rebuild Hair Business campaign, which was part of a global initiative.

An area where recently, actually a few weeks back, UNDP released stories that focus mainly on rebuild her business campaign, which was part of a global campaign. I'm really happy to share this impact stories with all of you, which will help us to think about how rebuilding livelihood restoring people, particularly in post-conflict settings or scenarios is really important. Particularly, this is due to the Northern

Conflict in Ethiopia, which I'm sure most of you are really exposed.

And also, you know, the root cause discussion that we're having, which is also an area that we're trying to focus on by working through upstream, supporting peace building, climate adaptation and inclusive governance. Finally, I think we must confront also the dwindling funding landscape, to be honest, which is the current reality. Resources are stretched in, not only for the forced emplacement, but in general for the whole sectors.

Funding is a big challenge and we need to come up with a very innovative kind of approach to finding solution. And particularly, the global South should not mainly be responding to crisis, you know, by having this clear, innovative and worshiping the global discourse also on mobility, governance and development. So, I think one of the things that we wanted to have is we need to have a structural, we need to have a collective responsibility that should amplify investing and scale, you know, on homegrown solution that can shape the future of displacement governance, particularly and South to South collaboration approach like that, what we are currently doing should be a key area that we have to focus.

And also, you know, like displacement is not a temporary situation, it's a critical challenge that demand transformative context, specific human rights and the driven solutions. This is the main challenge that we've seen in the development work also, the tendency of looking displacement in the short term is really, really challenging. Yes, I think today's conversation urges, you know, to think about like the decolonization of humanitarian aid, which is not a rhetorical gesture rather than practical imperative across Africa, Asia and Latin America, where there has been proven and historic experience from communities, how they self relent strategies has been developed to manage mobility conflict and environmental challenge.

You know, we have to continue scale up and build on existing and traditional institution, community structures and solidarity network and also using local knowledge, by the way, there is nothing that we can

import from foreign rather like there has to be this knowledge, local knowledge that we have to use. Basically, this is my reflection, but I think the main call that I have for this exchange to continue is also what are we doing with some of the policies, the research works that came out from this group, you know, how they have to be linked with the bigger strategic policy, how this has to be reached to the some of the key decision makers we're encountering in those platforms have to be rethinked. And we have to engage in our exchange regularly with some of the policy makers as a UN, particularly UNDP as a development arm of the UN.

And we try to engage in collaborative work with government at a different level as much as we can to magnify this. And also, you know, to bring all those these knowledge products closer to them so that instead of working from the scratch, there should be a direct linkage between what has been developed with this networks, academias to the policy platform. Yes, this is a reflection from my side, but I'm happy also to take part in if there's any Q&A or any reflection from your side, but I'm really, really happy to be part of this conversation and back to you.

Thank you so much. That was again, a very interesting presentation.

ABSTRACTS

Day 1: Asia Day

Exploring the local community's knowledge in climate-induced displacement and relocation in India

Virendra Kumar

Displacement is conceived of as the forced movement of people from one's original place of habitation to different place, often with unspeakable hardship and sufferings, due to political reasons or development projects. The anthropogenic climate change and associated sea level rise have also emerged as significant phenomena causing potential submergence of island nations and low-lying coastal areas in South Asia. The local communities living in proximity to the sea are thought to have local knowledge about their local ecosystem, and this tacit, uncodified, and experiential knowledge needs to be tapped both for adaptation and for addressing climate-driven displacement. This may not be accessible to scientific experts and public authorities. Drawing from a decolonial paradigm that aims to delink knowledge from Western-centric epistemology and totalizing modernity, the paper aims to explore local and experiential knowledge of local communities about climate change's adverse impacts. While analysing qualitative data collected from the coastal villages of Sunderban and Odisha coastal districts of India, this paper will explore local community knowledge about climate change and how this experiential knowledge can be integrated with institutional mechanism that aims to resettle or relocate these vulnerable communities. The paper further argues that climate-displaced communities require institutionalized opportunities to contest and scrutinize the judgments of technical experts in the relocation process. The contestation of experts' claims reveals an epistemic blind spot in expert judgment and in the process reflects the community's agency.

Localising Displacement in the Global South: Decolonial Pathways to Sustainable Humanitarian Responses

Garrima Chopra

This article explores the intricate connections between localisation, displacement, and decolonisation in the context of the Global South, presenting a novel framework to address the enduring challenges of forced migration. The study examines how community-driven, localised approaches informed by decolonial thought can reshape traditional narratives of displacement and yield sustainable, culturally resonant solutions that diverge from conventional global policies. Central to the inquiry are the questions: How do the legacies of colonialism influence contemporary displacement in the Global South? In what ways can localised strategies disrupt established humanitarian paradigms? And how might decolonial frameworks empower communities to develop their own durable responses to displacement?

The article begins by establishing a comprehensive conceptual framework, defining displacement, localisation, and decolonisation. Displacement is reframed as a multifaceted phenomenon, deeply rooted in historical and socio-political dynamics, particularly in regions marked by a legacy of colonial exploitation. Localisation is positioned as a transformative strategy that shifts power and economic control to local actors, fostering community resilience and self-sufficiency. Concurrently, decolonisation is presented both as a critical lens and a practical methodology that challenges entrenched power structures and revitalises indigenous knowledge and practices.

Drawing on detailed case studies, the narrative contextualises displacement within broader patterns of global inequality, highlighting how the Global South disproportionately bears the burden of forced migration. These case studies illustrate successful localised responses that integrate decolonial insights, showcasing how grassroots initiatives have effectively addressed the unique cultural, economic, and political

realities of their communities. By foregrounding these examples, the article demonstrates that local empowerment can significantly alter the dynamics of displacement, offering alternative pathways to traditional, top-down humanitarian interventions.

Furthermore, the article critically evaluates the limitations of conventional displacement policies that often neglect the specific needs and contexts of affected regions. It argues for a paradigm shift that combines localisation with decolonial perspectives, thereby recognising the agency of local communities and leveraging their intrinsic knowledge to formulate more effective and sustainable solutions. The discussion extends to the policy implications of such an approach at local, national, and international levels, outlining practical recommendations for stakeholders to support and expand localised initiatives without imposing uniform, externally devised models.

In conclusion, this study contributes an integrative perspective on displacement in the Global South, challenging established paradigms and proposing a reimagined framework for humanitarian response. It advocates for a dual approach that not only addresses the immediate needs of displaced populations but also promotes long-term resilience through local empowerment and decolonial strategies. The insights offered here aim to inspire further research and inform policy debates, ultimately fostering a more equitable and sustainable response to displacement that honours the diverse realities of affected communities.

War, Coloniality, Geopolitics and the Forced Migration of the Rohingya People of Myanmar

Twanda Bvirindi EMMIR

The article is nested within the theme: War, coloniality, geopolitics and migration. It reflects on the processes of forced migration among the Rohingya people of Myanmar. In the context of the war in Myanmar whose form seem to be genocidal and driven by the intent to ethnically cleanse the Rohingya people, the article explores the experiences and narratives of displacement and forced migration among the Rohingya people in Myanmar through the digitalised memory and narration of the war by survivors on YouTube. Digitalised memory in the migration studies is still budding. The data for this study will be collected on YouTube, a public website requiring free registration only by those who wish to comment or post videos. The research question attended to in this article asks how the war and forced migration of the Rohingya people is storied in YouTube videos from a victims' perspective. The forced displacement and migration of the ethnic Rohingya people illustrate a migration and geopolitical conundrum which in part is rooted in the issues of war and coloniality. Based on a netnographic study among the Rohingya people sharing their stories and experiences, the article spotlights the issues of war, coloniality and migration that reverberate from these narratives. The article argues that racial hierarchies, societal inequalities as well as colonial and Rohingya imperial legacies shape the material reality of the forced migration and killings of the Rohingya people in Myanmar who in this case are labeled as unwanted bodies. Through the application of a theoretical framework that is informed by the concept of translation, the article illuminates the continuous and constant reorganisation of the ways of lives of the Rohingya in the context of the war and their forced migration.

Reimagining Displacement: Global South Epistemologies and the Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Sucharita Sengupta

This research interrogates the Rohingya refugee crisis as a critical case of global displacement, examining both its humanitarian and political dimensions, and interrogating dominant paradigms of forced migration. Traditional frameworks, largely developed within the Global North, tend to emphasise legal definitions, quantitative measures, and state-centric policy prescriptions that often obscure the lived realities of displaced populations. In contrast, this study foregrounds alternative methodologies emerging from the Global South—approaches that emphasise relationality, narrative, and decolonial critique—to capture the multifaceted nature of displacement and forced migration. The study explores two primary questions: (1) What are the new ways in which the Global South conceptualises displacement? and (2) What are the emerging ways of knowing and studying displaced people that diverge from mainstream Global North approaches? Drawing on a comprehensive review of literature alongside ethnographic fieldwork and participatory research with Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, the research illuminates a spectrum of alternative conceptual frameworks, especially because the Rohingya through their mobility across continents to the Global North subverts boeders- what is the geo political implication of this? Can it lead to thinking of reimagining theories on nationhood, borders and mobillity? The research also wishes to include perspectives rooted in indigenous epistemologies, decolonial theory, and postcolonial critiques that challenge the universalising assumptions embedded in conventional migration studies. Methodologically, the study employs a reflexive and narrative-driven approach. Instead of relying solely on quantitative data or detached policy analysis, the research integrates in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and participatory observations. This mixed-methods strategy enables a nuanced exploration of displacement that accounts for social, cultural, and emotional dimensions often marginalized in traditional studies. By prioritising the voices of

the Rohingya refugees and the local communities that host them, the research foregrounds personal testimonies, oral histories, and local narratives as vital sources of knowledge in Bangladesh, including also border nuances with India and the Bengal-Bangladesh borders. This approach not only disrupts the conventional subject–object dichotomy but also asserts the agency of displaced peoples in constructing their own identities and futures. The research wishes to reveal that Global South scholars and practitioners tend to conceptualise displacement as a dynamic, relational process rather than a static state defined solely by legal status. They highlight the importance of community resilience, cultural continuity, and the role of local networks in mediating the effects of forced displacement. Moreover, these scholars argue that displacement should be understood in connection with broader socio-political processes, including histories of colonialism, structural inequalities, and resistance against hegemonic power structures. The study identifies a shift from a narrow focus on protection and humanitarian relief to a more expansive vision that encompasses development, local empowerment, and social transformation.

The alternative frameworks emerging from the Global South advocate for a re-centering of lived experiences and local knowledges in both the study and practice of refugee management. By embracing diverse methodological tools—from narrative analysis to participatory action research—policymakers can design more context-sensitive interventions that promote social cohesion and sustainable development in displacement settings. This research contributes to a growing body of work that goes beyond the dominance of Global North paradigms in migration studies and calls for a more pluralistic, empathetic, and holistic understanding of forced displacement. Overall, the study underscores that reimagining displacement through a Global South lens not only enriches academic discourse but also has profound implications for addressing humanitarian challenges in a more inclusive and equitable manner.

Sultana's Dream: A Feminist Imagination of a Secure Future

Samata Biswas

In 1905, Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain, an educationist and reformer in Colonial India, wrote "Sulatana's Dream", a feminist utopia in which gender roles are reversed. In this fictional world, called "Ladyland", women rule and make scientific innovations, while men live in seclusion, cooking and caring for children.

"Sulatana's Dream" has rightly been appreciated as the precursor to feminist science fiction, complex exploration of the lives of Muslim women, denied education and forced to live in seclusion in colonial India, as well as a decolonial gesture towards a sovereign imagination more than forty years before the independence of India. It has been appreciated for its scientific imagination, questioning of dominant gender roles, and ecological thinking. Later commentators have found reiteration / traces of Ladyland in later texts such as Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1915 novel Herland and the 2023 smash hit film, Barbie.

I propose the reading of "Sultana's Dream" as the first exercise in feminist foreign policy, in which the Queen of Ladyland asserts, "We do not covet other people's land…we dive deep in the ocean of knowledge and try to find out the precious gems which nature has kept in store for us".

Since the second decade of the twenty-first century, feminist foreign policy has been described as foregrounding the established agenda in women, peace, security frameworks, a decidedly modern approach towards International Relations praxis which mainstreams gender in determining a country's relations with another. Recent events in the world have shown the deliberate suppression of such policies in the case of the conflicts in Palestine and elsewhere, questioning the selective feminism of such policies.

Looking back at "Sultana's Dream", it is possible to explore this century old text to identify and promote a decolonial feminist foreign policy,

centered on the position of women in the world. Ladyland does not fight battles, does not take hostages, or occupy territories—each of which lead to displacement, forced migration and statelessness. In the proposed presentation, I tease out the nuances of this decolonial and ecological feminism, to explore and argue for a foreign policy rooted in care of women, envisioning an end to displacement by war.

A continuous fight for education: challenges and opportunities for Rohingya youth in New Delhi in formal education.

Georgia Howitt Sutton

Around 55 Rohingya families live in a makeshift informal settlement in Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi, India. Barred from refugee status and considered illegal immigrants by the Indian government, many Rohingya survive in precarious physical and socioeconomic conditions in India. Prior to the COVID -19 pandemic, the majority of the Rohingya children attended a local private school and their fees were paid for by the Zakat Foundation of India. However, as funding has now ceased many children must attend the local government schools. This Rohingya community has faced a multitude of challenges, school registration, electricity outages, multiple fires in their settlements, language barriers, NGO funding challenges, and poverty. Yet through adversity the community is resilient and has seen successes. Success in terms of academic achievement, progression through school, access to higher education, and educational aspirations.

This study examines the educational experiences of Rohingya youth investigating both challenges and successes using the medium of participatory visual methods and focus group discussions. The research team conducted a digital storytelling project in the settlement to collectively explore issues around education. The research design is participant led and was designed to empower participants, whilst

deconstructing traditional power structures within research and providing a creative and accessible way for Rohingya children to explore issues in their lives. Issues explored include structural barriers such as a lack of electricity and flooding, social barriers such as bullying. Opportunities include education as preparation for daily life, education as a means to access India, and education as providing daily livelihood and social needs such as play, exercise and access to nutritious food. This paper addresses a literature gap on the educational experiences of Rohingya youth residing outside of the Cox's Bazar refugee camp.

Key words: Rohingya, refugee education, integration, slums, Muslim, youth, classroom, participatory methods, digital storytelling

Transplanting Ecological Constitutionalism in Asean Legal Governance: Reconstructing Environmental Resilience in The Digital Transformation Epoch

Arie Baskhoro , Paula Banerjee

The climate crisis and current digital revolution are not simply technological and ecological phenomena, but rather constitutional milestones that require the highest legal paradigms to be reconstructed. In the Southeast Asian landscape, which is both institutionally dynamic and ecosystemically vulnerable, this study formulates a critical discourse on the significance of transplanting ecological constitutionalism into ASEAN countries' normative structures. The approach adopted is explanatory and critical-reflective, normative-comparative, systematically analyzing constitutional provisions, superior legal doctrines, international instruments (such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement), along with progressive jurisprudence from inter- regional jurisdictions. This study further explores an analytical benchmark based on comparative eco-legal reasoning to assess the compatibility between ASEAN's constitutional structure and environmental norms, while mapping the possibility of harmonizing the green constitution principle in the regional judicial system.The findings of this investigation highlight

an epistemic and ontological void in the ASEAN constitutional structure, which remains formalistic, anthropocentric, and has yet to internalize fundamental principles of sustainability such as non-regression, intergenerational justice, and the rights of nature. In responding to these structural imperfections, this article advocates for a green constitutional model integrated with digital governance, where tools such as blockchain transparency mechanisms, AI-based environmental surveillance, and digital citizen participation serve as central components in revitalizing the constitutional legitimacy of environmental conservation. The study's primary contribution consists in the formulation of a normative roadmap for ASEAN constitutional law reform that is simultaneously adaptive and visionary to the ecological challenges of the 21st century, and compatible with the values of environmental democracy and contemporary digital infrastructures. Epistemologically, this article stretches the horizons of eco-constitutionalism doctrine into Southeast Asian realms, and normatively delivers a convincing argument that without an ecological constitution, there will inevitably be no sustainable resilience.

Decolonizing Pedagogies of Displacement: Glocal Possibilities and Theoretical Openings from South Asia

Priya Singh

This essay proposes a theoretical framework for imagining decolonial pedagogies of displacement in South Asia, as part of a broader Global South School of Thought. It argues that pedagogy is not merely a mode of transmission but a critical site for resisting epistemic violence and reclaiming the terms of knowledge production. Here, pedagogy is understood in the Freirean sense,as a political and ethical practice that facilitates the co-construction of knowledge between teachers and learners through dialogue, reflection, and action (Freire, 1970). Decolonization, in this context, refers not only to the dismantling of

colonial structures but to the delinking from Eurocentric ways of knowing, creating space for epistemic plurality, and reimagining knowledge through the experiences and struggles of the historically marginalized (Mignolo, 2007; de Sousa Santos, 2014). Situated within the entangled historical legacies of colonial rule, postcolonial state formation, and ongoing global asymmetries, South Asia presents a rich terrain for theorizing alternative, glocal modes of engaging with displacement.

The starting point of this inquiry is not the displaced subject as a passive recipient of aid or instruction, but as a co-constitutor of knowledge and meaning. Drawing on the concepts of situated knowledge (Haraway, 1988), epistemologies of the South (de Sousa Santos, 2014), and border thinking (Mignolo, 2007), the essay builds a theoretical foundation for alternative pedagogies. Haraway's notion of situated knowledge disrupts claims of objectivity by emphasizing the partial and located nature of all knowledge, allowing us to foreground the lived and embodied perspectives of displaced persons. De Sousa Santos calls for epistemologies of the South that centre the knowledge systems produced in resistance to domination, those often erased by dominant global paradigms. This is particularly resonant in South Asia's context of ethnicity, caste, conflict, and migration. Mignolo's concept of border thinking, rooted in epistemic disobedience, provides a critical lens for theorizing from the geopolitical and epistemological margins, useful for South Asia's many borderland and stateless experiences.

Equally important is the inclusion of indigenous knowledge systems, often grounded in oral traditions, ecological literacy, and community-based ethics, which offer alternative frameworks for understanding displacement beyond legalistic or humanitarian terms. In South Asia, indigenous epistemologies reflect deep relationships to land, memory, and mobility that predate colonial borders and disrupt dominant narratives of belonging and exclusion. These knowledge systems challenge the authority of formal institutions and invite pedagogical practices that are relational, intergenerational, and spiritually grounded. Vandana Shiva

(1989) has argued that indigenous knowledge in India, particularly among women and forest-dwelling communities, constitutes a form of resistance to capitalist and colonial paradigms of development. Such knowledge, rooted in biodiversity, cultural continuity, and spiritual values, provides a rich epistemic archive for imagining just and sustainable responses to displacement. Building on Shiva's work, scholars like Archana Prasad (2003) have further emphasized how Adivasi ecological knowledge systems in central India reflect collective memory, cosmology, and non- anthropocentric relationships with nature. Similarly, Amita Baviskar (2005) critiques the marginalization of indigenous communities in state-led environmentalism and argues for recognizing their environmental knowledge as foundational to sustainable and inclusive development.

Central to this theorization is the notion of glocality,a term originally conceptualized by Roland Robertson (1995) to describe the simultaneity and mutual shaping of global and local forces. Glocal thinking resists both methodological nationalism and uncritical cosmopolitanism. It recognizes that displacement is produced by global structures, capitalism, climate crisis, conflict, yet experienced, interpreted, and navigated through local cultures, histories, and languages. In pedagogical terms, glocality implies crafting learning spaces that are attentive to transnational power structures while remaining grounded in community-specific knowledge and practice. It offers a framework through which displaced persons in South Asia can be situated as both global political actors and bearers of vernacular epistemes.

Rather than mapping existing practices, the essay engages in speculative theorizing. It envisions pedagogical futures were displaced individuals, host communities, and scholars collaboratively construct learning environments informed by subaltern voices, affective labour (Hardt, 1999), and non- extractive research ethics (Smith, 1999). Here, affective labour, defined as the emotional and relational work of care,

empathy, and resilience often performed by marginalized communities (Hardt, 1999),is recognized as central to knowledge production. Non-extractive research ethics, meanwhile, foreground reciprocal and co-constructed engagements that resist the instrumentalization of vulnerable communities for data or publication (Smith, 1999). In such spaces, storytelling, oral history, and embodied experience are not adjuncts to theory, but theory in themselves. The essay contends that developing a Global South School of Thought on displacement requires not just southern content, but southern forms of pedagogy, forms that can unsettle colonial grammars of knowledge, reconfigure research ethics, and open new vocabularies for thinking about displacement. Can pedagogy itself become an act of sanctuary, a space of epistemic hospitality for those rendered stateless, voiceless, and unseen?

Daily Life, Difficulties and Dislocation: A Constant Pressure on West Bengal –An Indo-Bangladesh Border

Suchismita Majumder

Displacement has become the most common fact of our life now a days. However, migration has been going on for time immemorial in search of a better life and sometimes in search of safety and security. The notion of 'left behind' is always associated with the issue of migration irrespective of its nature--- voluntary or involuntary. Decolonization, partition, formation of newfangled boundaries of newly emergent nation states have make the life of people in South and South East Asia scattered and complicated in many ways. The celebration of 75 years of freedom in 2022 reminds the contested Radcliffe line and the agonies that India has experienced due to partition in 1947. Creation of East Pakistan and the appearance of Bangladesh in the World map in 1971 cause huge population movement in the bordering states in eastern part of the country. Since Independence India has received migrants and refugees from almost all neighbouring states but migration from Bangladesh

seems a never-ending occurrence and it is mainly because of the extensive and porous border that is almost impossible to manage. West Bengal, a major part of Indo-Bangladesh border has long been used as a corridor of migration from East Pakistan and today's Bangladesh. Generally, this movement is illegal and many a time it can be truly termed as forced migration. Along with religious intolerance against Hindus, search for livelihood is also a dominant factor of migration from Bangladesh. So, both Bangladeshi Hindus as well as Muslims are continuously moving towards West Bengal in addition with other parts of India. Now entering of stateless Rohingyas, the most persecuted community from Myanmar, using Bengal borders is a new inclusion with these Bangladeshis and it is a current unease for India mainly from 2012.

'Bangladeshis' are the nationals of Bangladesh. But Rohingyas, being mainly a Muslim ethnic minority both in Myanmar and in their province Rakhine in Western Myanmar, are a group of stateless people. In the Revised Myanmar Citizenship Law of 1982, they are not included in the list of 135 national ethnic groups of Myanmar. Though they are connected with the land of Western Myanmar for centuries but they are not recognized as natives of that country from the early years of independence of Myanmar. This is the most basic difference of these two groups of people. Rohingya issue has become a worldwide concern since 2017. With their dissimilar backgrounds Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are inflowing into Indian land in search of refuge, security, work and other necessities depending on diversified situation. In the entire process their victimization occurs in several ways.

The crucial focus of the present study is on the continuous trespassing of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas through Bangladesh-West Bengal borders with different motives and the resulting difficulties.

Day 2: Africa Day

May 8th 2025

KEY PAPER

Global South Holistic Understanding Displacement: Refugees, Climate-Development and Trafficking induced Displacement

Opportuna Kweka

Chair of the research Chair on Forced Displacement

This paper presents a global South holistic understanding of forcibly displaced people. It provides the reasons a critique of the global North narrow understanding of forced displacement issue in the forced displacement studies. While the global South is pushing for focus on all displaced irrespective of their causes, the North is seeking to further categorize and subsuming the other categories into the "mainstreamed" category, the refugees. Informed by studies done at the Research Chair on Forced Displacement the paper brings a comparison of rout causes and outcomes of different displacement trajectory. The paper show that since the categorization of the forcibly displaced is first of all different from the way the global South are conceptualizing displacement (as evidenced by the OAU and Cartagena Convention), but also it does not offer much in terms of protection and ensuring their sustainable development but a "divide" and "further marginalization of the displaced.

Emancipation and Sustainability in Forced Displacement Policies: A Bibliometric Analysis of Policy Directions and the Role of Public Universities in the Global South

Eutychus Ngotho Gichuru,

Forced displacement in the Global South remains a pressing humanitarian and policy concern, requiring durable solutions beyond relief short-termism and emphasizing emancipation in the long term. While policies that regulate forced displacement are likely to be borrowed from models

originating from the Global North, there exists a pressing need for policies that are sensitive to the socio-economic, political, and cultural contexts of the Global South. This paper conducts a bibliometric analysis to explore the policy directions most likely to promote emancipation and sustainability for the displaced in the Global South. It also examines the public university leadership in shaping research, advocacy, and policymaking in this field. Through intense reading and critical examination of research papers, policy briefs, and research trends, this paper aims to identify the dominant discourses, gaps, and emerging voices in scholarship on displacement in the Global South. Through such an examination, it will show how far and how extensively scholarly work is reaching policy, how much voice is accorded to displaced communities, and how structural barriers hinder enduring solutions. The study is informed by decolonization, localization, and sustainable durable solutions frameworks and seeks to map the trajectory upon which these concepts are represented in policy rhetoric and implementation strategies. The article also examines the public universities in the Global South as central drivers of displacement policy-making. This study evaluates the extent to which universities can employ their role in order to critically address Global North paradigms and co-produce knowledge which addresses the everyday lives of refugees. Early findings suggest that in spite of growing volumes of research in favor of alternative, decolonial policy responses to displacement, there are significant barriers to formal policy processes embracing such knowledge. Such barriers include power imbalances within global knowledge production, limited funds for Global South-based research, and bureaucratic obstacles to new policy adoption. Exemplars of effective local intervention, however, point to avenues of advancement towards more emancipatory and sustainable policy trajectories. This contribution to the broader debate on displacement presents a bibliometric mapping of the leading debates, identifies the areas that have been under-examined, and

proposes means through which public universities can more explicitly be involved in shaping policy. It argues overall for a remapping of the policy landscape one centered on the displaced, fostering self-sufficiency, and grounded in the particular socio-political environments of the Global South. By a focus on the perspectives of policymakers and experts in affected regions, this research adheres to the larger project of developing a Global South School of Thought on Displacement, as a counter-paradigm to hegemonic approaches, with the goal of inducing more equitable and effective policy choices.

Decentering Displacement: Rethinking the Global South's Role in Migration Knowledge and Policy

Amal EL OUASSIF

The Global South has long been positioned as the primary site of displacement, often framed through narratives of crisis, dependency, and humanitarian intervention. However, beyond being a space of displacement, the Global South is also a site ofknowledge production, policy innovation, and migration governance modelsthat challenge dominant paradigms shaped in the Global North. Despite increasing scholarship on decolonizing migration studies, much of the literature remains focused on critiquing North-South power asymmetries rather than actively constructing a Global South School of Thought on Displacement. This paper seeks to shift the discourse from one of critique to one of theorization and methodological innovation, asking: Why does the Global South matter when it comes to forced migration and displacement?

This paper argues that the Global South is not a homogeneous category but a dynamic epistemic space that generates distinct perspectives on mobility, displacement, and integration. The study engages withcritical migration studies (Shivakoti & Milner, 2022),postcolonial thought(Chimni, 1998), andSouthern epistemologies(de Sousa Santos,

2018) to examine how migration governance in the South is shaped by historical legacies, contemporary policies, and local agency. Moving beyond a deficit-oriented lens, it highlights how countries in the Global South—despite receiving the majority of displaced persons—develop alternative governance models that contrast with Global North containment policies.

Methodologically, this research employs a comparative content analys is of migration policies and legal frameworks acrossAfrica and Latin America, specifically examining Morocco, and Mexico as key regional actors in migration governance. The study focuses on three key dimensions: Policy Divergence: How do migration policies in the Global South resist or adapt to Global North paradigms? Local Knowledge & Practices: How do Global South scholars and communities conceptualize displacement outside the Northern securitized framework? 3. Policy Influence & Constraints: What barriers exist in elevating Global South knowledge into international migration governance?

Findings demonstrate that Global South states and scholars are not merely recipients of migration knowledge but producers of situated context-driven understandings that challenge universalist migration models. For example, Morocco's evolving migration policies within Africa, Mexico's role as both a migrant sender and transit state, offer insights intonon-Western modes of migration governance. Byforegrounding these regional perspectives, this paper makes an essential contribution to the call for a Global South School of Thought on Displacement, centering the knowledge and experiences of the very regions most affected by forced migration. This contribution calls for epistemic justice in displacement studies, recognizing the Global South not as a passive periphery but as an active contributor to shaping global migration discourses and policies.

Old wine in a new bottle: the review of 2023 WRD report on "skill matching"

Opportuna Kweka, Paul Barnejee and Abebaw Minaye and Hiram Angel Lara

This paper examines the current WDR's report which emphasizes on "skill matching" and for development and management of migration. The report emphasize on needs of destination and motives of migration. This paper, presents the situating in the Global South in relation to this report using data from the field on different groups of migrants in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Given the global division of labor we argues that first: the skill matching assumes that the migration is always from South which has labor to North which as capital, the skill matching will only satisfy the labor markets of the global North; secondly, it is not clear how refugees and other displaced people will be given priority in the highly 'homo economicus" society of the Global North and restrictive policies of the Global South; Migration in this case is as a mere economic practice and that the motive of the migrants is to get labour. Economic is given priority over "utu" and needs of the displaced even in areas they are hosted. Economic gains are given priority over societal needs and the report presents this naively, as unaware of the global unequal relations between the two regions. . it is obvious that the displaced will have double loss, home and labor/livelihood. This given the restrictive policies of many of the hosting states in the global south, it is doubted if the needed skills will be available or the fact that refugees and other displaced are facing a challenge of education let alone skills. The proposal as we conclude will continue this serve labor demands of the global North, continue extraction in the global South while the displaced are sent as laborer's and remit meagre remittances. Finally in the wake of Donald Trump's policies and unemployment in the global North it is doubted if these policies will fit the current context.

Gender Dimensions in Forced Displacement: A Gender Transformative Approach to Reshaping Norms Among Displaced Persons in Ghana.

Mary Setrana Thomas Yeboah Owusuaa Eshia

Forced displacement amplifies pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities for women and men as well as girls and boys and for decades displaced women and girls have often been disadvantaged in various ways including gender-based violence (GBV), access to social services, legal and leadership compared to men and boys. Despite years of awareness creation and programs in the area of gender equality, gender inequalities continue to persist among displaced populations. Though numerous studies have been on forced displacement and gender-related issues, little attention is given to gender dynamics as they play out in the study areas of this research. The study aims to examine the gender dimensions of forced displacement in Ghana, focusing on how FDPs perceive (access to education and economic opportunities and GBV), experience access and use of social services, navigate, and challenge gender norms through the use of a Gender Transformative Approach (GTA). This paper adopts a participatory mixed-methods approach, which includes collecting both qualitative and quantitative data using survey questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus group discussion and also consulting and engaging different actors. A sample size of 400 persons comprised of refugees and IDPs was considered. Out of the total respondents, 10 participants were sampled for the qualitative study. Also, 15 key informants from various stakeholder groups were engaged and three FGDs were held. The study sites include Krisan Refugee camp and urban refugees in Accra and Internally Displaced communities such as Glife and Agbogbloshie also in Accra. The findings revealed that whilst displacement often exacerbates vulnerabilities, particularly for females facing increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV), and limited access to economic and education this can also serve as the turning point for positive things

in the life of such persons. Qualitatively, some displaced women had new economic roles that gave them the financial power to take care of their children and husbands, challenging traditional gender expectations of the role of a woman in a family. Regarding GBV, the most likely group perceived to be the most vulnerable are the female youth with the majority 51% of refugees and 45% of IDPs reporting this. Adult females were also seen as highly at risk with 13% pointing to this group. Again, concerning the incidence of GBV, 15% of refugees and 5% of IDPs indicating they have experienced GBV since they became displaced. It was also, found that women's access to productive services such as land and capital had not changed since they became displaced. One major solution to FDP's challenges includes continuous education against gender discrimination and also by giving 50% or more quota to women in livelihood skills training. The paper concludes that by applying the GTA lens the study identifies strategies for fostering gender-equitable policies and programs that empower displaced individuals and challenge discriminatory social norms. This paper contributes to scholarly and policy discussions on gender and forced displacement by emphasising perceptions and experiences on GBV, education and economic opportunities, access to productive resources and the need for interventions that transform the experiences of displaced communities in Ghana.

Governing Irregular Migration: Adapting Frameworks for Lebanon and Morocco

Houwayda Matta and Myriam Cherti

Migration governance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is shaped by a complex interplay of actors operating at multiple levels—international, regional, national, and local. Countries in the region function as origin, transit, and destination countries for migrants, refugees, and displaced populations, making governance particularly challenging. This paper analyses the multi-level governance (MLG) framework in two MENA countries: Lebanon and Morocco, highlighting the roles

that global organizations, regional bodies, national governments, and local authorities in managing migration and particularly irregular migration by sea. It also examines the challenges and opportunities in coordinating migration policies across these levels.

Irregular migration by sea, particularly in Lebanon and Morocco, results from complex interplay between push and pull factors. In Lebanon, these dynamics are deeply rooted in structural deficiencies, including chronic political and economic instability and the absence of an effective governance framework. This migration crisis increases the extreme vulnerabilities of affected populations and highlights the limitations of current management strategies, which are often fragmented and reactive rather than preventive. In Lebanon, for instance, the lack of a coherent national migration policy undermines any attempt at sustainably tackling irregular migration.

Morocco on the other hand has made significant strides in the governance of migration and in adapting its policies and laws to align with international commitments and transformations that humanize these frameworks continentally. This includes the development of both legal and institutional frameworks. However, there remain constraints that hinder the advancement of this governance, particularly legal and operational ones.

Migration governance frameworks and how they are operationalized within each country context plays a central role in shaping migration patterns. Weak national governance not only fuels the proliferation of smuggling networks but also deepens the sense of despair among marginalized communities, pushing them toward dangerous migration routes. In the absence of adequate policies, individuals are left with few alternatives but to embark on perilous journeys to Europe, despite the numerous institutional and physical barriers in place. The failure to implement a structured migration governance plan tailored to

Lebanon's realities reflects broader dysfunctions in national governance. This situation underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive reform approach aimed at strengthening state capacity, improving migration management, and ensuring greater protection for migrants.

While in Morocco, despite the existence of strong governance at the national level in the form of the National Strategy for Migration and Asylum, it is its local implementation, which pauses a significant challenge. As the lack of coordination between the national and local levels and creates a gap in the governance of migration.

These two case studies of Lebanon and Morocco, highlight the pressing need to develop or reinforce a strategic migration management plan that is both context-specific and sustainable. This reform should pursue two key objectives: addressing the root causes of irregular migration—such as economic hardship, social instability, and political uncertainty—and establishing durable mechanisms for managing migration flows in line with international human rights standards. The success of this initiative depends on strong governmental commitment, with authorities adopting a proactive stance in implementing long-term solutions rather than short-term, ad hoc measures in response to external measures and particularly international pressures from European countries.

Applauded for Saving Lives But Challenged by Operational and Governance Difficulties: Experiences from Five Migrant Response Centers in Ethiopia

Abebaw Minaye

This paper is based on a field work in five migrant response centers (MRCs) in Ethiopia located in the perilous borders between Ethiopia and neighboring countries that include Kenya, Somalia, Somaliland, Djibouti and Sudan. Data was collected from MRC staff (KII), beneficiary migrants (interviews), MRC management committee (FGD), IOM staff supervising the activities of the MRCs (KII), relevant stakeholders from

federal government representatives (KII) and field observation. The findings showed that there is huge smuggling and trafficking going on in these border areas where migrants are vulnerable to many difficulties. Some are found at the verge of death in the border areas due to starvation, getting stranded for long, exhausted because of the difficult journey in these border areas and being beaten including losing body parts as a result of attacks by traffickers. All except one all the MRCs are found in locations that are extremely hot making crossing these areas on foot or even by vehicles often freight, motorbikes or other land transportation difficult. Some get deported by police after immediately crossing the border since smugglers and traffickers abandon them to escape from being caught by border police. Others get deported after exploitation, abuse, attack, imprisonment and other harsh experiences in the destination. IOM set these MRCs from 2012 to 2022 to give lifesaving assistance (food, shelter, health support, psychosocial support, nonfood items) and voluntary return to these migrants to their respective origin sites. Through this modality IOM served over 60,000 migrants by providing standard service which was extremely applauded by migrants, the origin and border community, the government and other stakeholders. However, as IOMs support was based on project support getting funds from donor's, sustainability has become difficult. Difficulties are observed in terms of budget, ownership, leadership, coordination, and community engagement. As a result, the operation and governance of these MRCs is becoming difficult and their future is uncertain. The paper has identified strategies for new arrangements, capacity building actions and standards of operation procedures to continue their operation by engaging local community and federal and regional governments with the technical support of partners.

Human Trafficking in Forced Displacement: A Look at the Legal Frameworks of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Nicksoni Filbert Kahimba

This article is based on the premise that trafficking in persons exists in the context of forced displacement because trafficking is inherently a forced movement from its definitional foundations. The article used Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to prove or disapprove this premise, while drawing legal support from the OAU Refugee Convention and the Kampala Convention. The analysis has answered this premise in the affirmative. It has indicated that the three countries indirectly and sometimes directly recognise this legal relationship and fairly can allow victims of trafficking to benefit from the international protection within the forced displacement framework. While victims can receive protection in the anti-trafficking legal framework, international protection is also a promising avenue. The article does not propose the adoption of a new convention or instrument to operationalise this relationship. It recommends the adoption of a standard regulation that lays proper procedural and legal mechanisms to tapping international protection.

TWAIL as a tool for studying forced migration in the global south

Leonard Chimanda Joseph

The use of decolonial approaches in studying forced migration is currently a fast-growing school of thought. This school argues that forced migration studies are colonized in several aspects; embodying western (Global North) ways of knowing the result of which perpetrates the continued dominance of the Global North over the Global South. The school has also escalated its sphere to international law where Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) as subsets of decolonial approaches are becoming one of dominant approaches and methodologies of studying international law. The main argument under TWAIL is that the making and operation of international law while

marginalizing Global South advances the dominance of Global North. TWAIL has two phases: TWAIL 1 and TWAIL 2. While TWAIL 1 focuses much on the liberation of Global South states from colonized international law, TWAIL 2 focuses on liberation of the people in the Global South against both the Global South state and international law. This study seeks to explore the relevance and significance of studying forced migration in the Global South using TWAIL 2. The study mainly seeks to identify specific aspects of forced migration in the Global South that makes it compelling to challenge the existing system of international law using the second phase of TWAIL. Besides, the paper makes an exploration of the potential challenges associated with the use of TWAIL 2 as an approach to studying forced migration in the Global South.

The return of the development approach to displacement: are we on the same page now?

Opportuna Kweka

Global south understanding of displacement has taken a holistic understanding, which is a development, linking issues of colonialism, poverty globalization and displacement. This understanding which has avoided categorization have looked at displaced as people in needs and marginalized as opposed to "foreign" and "dangerous to national security" . It breaches the human rights and the development approach which are globally led separately by the UN on one hand and the WB and IMF on the other. This perceptions of the "economic" being separate from the "humanitarian" has led to protracted refugees situations in the global south which hitherto was not there. The paper

draws mostly from the case of Tanzania during Nyerere when the state at the centre of management of the refugees to day when there the global humanitarian refugee management regime has taken over.

Towards regional and local frameworks for governing displacement, community based and agencies of the refugees as a durable solutions

Opportuna Kweka

For a long time global refugees management regime has promoted the global policies and laws over the regional policies and laws. While the OUA, and the Cartagena frameworks recognize "events disturbing public order' and those displaced due to climate disaster as people in need of support, it has been difficult for such people to be recognized at the global level, and accorded support similar to that of the refugees either as internally or externally displaced people. The paper argues that the binary of internally and externally displaced people and refugees vs other categories are constructed to suit the global north refugee management regime while the global south scholars and he displaced sees the importance of their recognition and need for support. Recognizing efforts made by the global south scholars, states and the refugees from studies which provide a localized solution to regional and local ways of doing things, interactions between refugees and the host and agencies represents the durable solutions. This entails ignoring colonial boundaries – think regionally – decolonize; address route causes – deal with sustainable durable solutions and conflict resolution different levels -community based conflict resolution, community based refugees management; consider multiple perspectives and practices which works. The paper culminates in beyond Trump's administration which increase cut aid and resettlement has been taken with two different perspectives.

Asylum seekers-cum-undocumented labourers: An intersectional analysis of forced migration and labour exploitation in urban Uganda

David Ngendo-Tshimba

As the second most youthful country in Africa and hosting the largest refugee population on the continent, Uganda portends a fertile ground for labour exploitation involving asylum seekers and refugees given their compounded vulnerabilities. The nexus between asylum and trafficking for labour exploitation is yet to be fully appreciated, let alone taken as a productive area of focus for scholarship. The siloing of asylum and labour exploitation into separate fields of inquiry and policy intervention can only exacerbate rather than alleviate the existential plight of both trafficked persons for labour exploitation and forced migrants in search for asylum.

This paper thus establishes, through proxy indicators, the extent to which asylum seekers in Uganda's urban spaces end up in exploitative labour markets as undocumented labourers. It draws its primary data mainly from 450 structured questionnaires filled by self-settled refugees and asylum seekers in Kampala (administered between December 2024 and February 2025). The findings, in sum, severely punctuate the discourse on Uganda's hailed refugee response with the under-studied phenomenon of undocumented and exploited labourers among asylum-seeking populations. As such, the epistemic value of this study lies in illuminating the current limits of the response to and management of forced migration in the so-called global South today. By the same token, it also showcases the limits of the regulation of labour markets and labour migration in and from Uganda, to the rest of the global South.

Differently recognised, differently protected: Settled and Self-settled refugees in Uganda

David Ngendo-Tshimba

As host to the largest refugee population on the African continent and as one of the countries piloting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), Uganda's choices and experiments in refugee protection and management are pertinent to a range of forced migration situations globally. The Government of Uganda maintains a predominantly rural settlement-based approach to refugee protection whereby asylum seekers are, in the main, recognised as prima facie refugees. To the extent that Uganda has been severally hailed for its refugee regime deemed progressive in terms of the basket of rights extended to recognised refugees, a great deal of attention has been accorded to prima facie refugees – those who fled in mass influxes and ending up in rural-based refugee settlements. However, little attention has comparatively been given to individual status refugees (less than 15 per cent of the refugee population), who predominantly reside in the country's urban and peri-urban areas. What is the level of interaction among the different institutional actors in the refugee recognition regime in Uganda today? When and why are some refugees recognised on a prima facie basis, while others are required to pursue an individual Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process? What can be said about this dual RSD system in terms of accessibility, accuracy, efficacy and fairness? And do the two approaches to refugee recognition equally result in adequate refugee protection? These are the questions that this paper grapples with. Answers to these questions are mainly resultant of an empirical fieldwork by way of interviews (15) and focus group discussions (5), which was ethically conducted in Kampala between February and May 2021.

Contested Spaces: The Politics of Survival of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Urban Uganda

Dr Robert Senath Esuruku

This paper investigates the active strategies employed by refugees and asylum seekers in Kampala to resist marginalisation and assert their rights within the contested urban spaces. The paper moves beyond descriptive accounts of refugee life to interrogate the political dimensions of displacement, focusing on the ways in which refugees and asylum seekers negotiate contested urban spaces and navigate systems of power. Employing a qualitative research design, incorporating in-depth semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and spatial analysis, this study seeks to deconstruct the dominant narratives surrounding urban refugees, revealing the intricate power dynamics that shape their daily lives. The paper will analyse the ways in which urban spaces in Uganda are contested by refugees and asylum seekers, examining the spatial politics of inclusion and exclusion. It will explore how refugees negotiate access to essential resources, including housing, employment, and social services, within a context of limited resources and competing interests. The paper will interrogate the role of state policies and bureaucratic practices in shaping the spatial experiences of refugees, highlighting how these mechanisms can both enable and constrain their access to urban spaces. Furthermore, it will examine how refugees utilise informal networks and social capital to create alternative spaces of belonging and survival, challenging the dominant spatial order.

The paper will explore how refugees engage in acts of everyday resistance, challenging discriminatory practices and advocating for their inclusion in urban life. It will examine the role of refugee-led organisations and community-based initiatives in mobilising refugees and advocating for their rights, highlighting the ways in which refugees are active agents in shaping their own destinies. The paper will

analyse the power dynamics inherent in the refugee-host relationship, exploring how systemic inequalities and discriminatory practices shape the daily lives of refugees and asylum seekers. It will probe the ways in which refugees navigate the complexities of urban life, including access to legal protection, social support, and economic opportunities. It will also examine the role of international humanitarian actors and non-governmental organisations in shaping the experiences of urban refugees, highlighting the complex interplay of power and influence within the humanitarian sector. This paper will provide a nuanced and critical account of their lived realities in urban Uganda and challenge the dominant narratives that often portray refugees as passive victims, highlighting their agency and resilience in the face of adversity. The findings of this paper will contribute to a deeper understanding of the politics of survival in urban refugee contexts, and inform the development of more equitable and sustainable policies and practices.

Decolonising Humanitarian Aid: Lessons from Local Displacement Responses in the Global South

Olusegun Israel OLANIYAN

Humanitarian aids has been a decades economic incentives provided by the Global North countries to the Global South countries in alleviating them from despicable position. However, in recent time, advocacy, clamour and efforts to decolonise humanitarian aids have been ongoing with several scholars arguing that such aids were aim to foist capitalist values, capitalist institutions, and capitalist development. That is, the aim is to propagate mystifications, and modes of thoughts and action which serve the interests of capitalism and imperialism. For decades, extant studies have explored diverse issues on decolonisation of humanitarian particularly within the health sectors, however, there remain a significant gap in literature on how communities in the Global South have historically managed displacement without external aid and how their strategies can offer more sustainable, culturally relevant, and effective solutions. Anchored on secondary methods of data collection

from available journals, reports, and case studies, this paper draw analysis from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It seek to highlights the strength of locally driven responses and critiques the strategy in which international aid organisation reinforce colonial power dynamics. This study advocates for a reimagined humanitarian approach that prioritise on indigenous expertise and community-led initiatives in forced migration and displacement management.

Decolonizing food assistance for internally displaced persons in East Africa: Rethinking needs and responses from a global South perspective

Robert Eliakim Katikiro

Food assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in East Africa has largely been shaped by humanitarian frameworks that originate in the Global North. These approaches often impose standardized food aid packages that do not fully consider the sociocultural dimensions, dietary preferences, or adaptive food security strategies for IDPs. Persistent reliance on externally driven interventions has led to a cycle of dependency that undermines the long-term resilience and sustainability of food systems in displacement settings. This paper critically examines the conceptualization of food needs among displaced populations, contrasting Global North-led humanitarian interventions with localized, community-driven responses. By employing a decolonial lens, this study integrates the power dynamics inherent in food aid distribution, the agency of displaced populations in defining their own food security strategies, and the viability of alternative frameworks that center on local knowledge and participation. Drawing on case studies from displacement-affected

regions in East Africa, this study highlights the complex intersections between forced migration, food security, and humanitarian governance. The findings indicate that current food aid structures, while essential for short-term relief, often marginalize local food systems and fail to integrate indigenous knowledge and coping mechanisms. The exclusion of local actors from the decision-making processes of food assistance programming further exacerbates vulnerabilities and limits the effectiveness of the interventions. Prior to displacement, many displaced populations relied on diverse and contextually appropriate food production systems that supported their nutritional needs and livelihoods. However, upon displacement, their access to traditional food sources, agricultural land, and income-generating activities is severely constrained, leading to increased reliance on externally provided food rations that are often nutritionally inadequate and culturally inappropriate. In contrast, evidence suggests that locally driven responses, such as incorporating IDPs into the agricultural activities of host communities, supporting food markets that enable displaced populations to make choices regarding their consumption, and leveraging indigenous food knowledge, present more sustainable and dignified alternatives. These approaches not only enhance food security but also foster economic integration and self-reliance among displaced populations. The study underscores that food assistance programs designed without meaningful participation from affected communities risk perpetuating cycles of vulnerability, rather than facilitating resilience. This study contributes to ongoing discussions on the decolonization of humanitarian responses by critically analyzing the extent to which displacement-related food assistance reflects the needs, aspirations, and adaptive capacities of IDPs. This calls for a paradigm shift from externally imposed, short-term relief measures toward more inclusive and sustainable frameworks that recognize food sovereignty and promote long-term resilience. The findings highlight the necessity of rethinking humanitarian food assistance to integrate local agencies, cultural appropriateness, and economic sustainability into response planning. This reconceptualization requires structural changes

in policy and practice, particularly through the active involvement of local organizations, host communities, and displaced persons in shaping food security strategies. The insights from this study provide a foundation for alternative policy directions that align with durable solutions for displacement and contribute to a more equitable and effective humanitarian response in East Africa.

Confronting the 'Root Causes' of Displacement as a Distinct 'Durable Solution

Khoti Kamanga

The architecture of the central issue of durable solutions to the refugee problem of the last six decades has been confined to three prescriptions – voluntary repatriation (that is, return to the Country of Origin), resettlement (or, relocation to a willing Third Country), and assimilation (that is, Local Integration in the Country of Asylum, including naturalization).

It is the key contention of the present paper, that this troika of prescriptions has proven to be significantly constrained, littered with gaps such that it is high time the these prescription were reconsidered and if necessary complemented.

Voluntary Repatriation (often presented as the "best solution") is a highly constrained prescription, primarily on account of the very high threshold of prerequisites it demands. Return to the Country of Origin (CoO) is conditional upon two key factors: "in dignity and safety", two ingredients rarely found in a continent characterized by brutal, chronic armed conflicts, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a ready example.

The greatest setback of **Resettlement** is the critical requirement to have a willing State offering to receive refugees, but it is also a

solution that is conditional upon applicants for resettlement meeting specific qualifications such as age, gender, and health. Importantly, the needs of the CoA in mitigating its burdens as a host weigh very little if anything in the equation.

Local integration, including naturalization, is a rare approach, such that CoA who have offered it, especially on a large scale can be counted on the fingers of one's hand. No wonder Tanzania is often the reference point on this matter. This Third World host nation has at different times naturalized en masse, refugees from Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia.

It is against this background, that the present paper advocates for consideration of confronting the 'root causes' of flight (often, armed conflict resulting from governance deficit) as a distinct 'durable solution' in its own right, and not, as is presently the case, as a peripheral strategy. Evidence abounds of situations where with the elimination of the root causes, displacement was brought to a definitive end and return home was not followed by re-cyclical displacement.

The end of **colonialism** in Mozambique (in 1975) and the emergence of an independent Government, but also the end to the armed conflict between FRELIMO and RENAMO turned a new page in the humanitarian disaster in that Southern African nation. Following the elimination of **minority rule** in Southern Rhodesia, and its replacement by majority rule in Zimbabwe (in 1980) the cessation clause was applied to all Zimbabwean refugees. Likewise, once the 'final solution' to Apartheid **occupation** of Namibia (in 1990), Apartheid rule in South Africa, and restoration of a **democratic**, **constitutional regime** in Malawi's (in 1994), all refugees from these countries were able to have recourse to voluntary repatriation.

To the contrary, where the root cause of flight was left unattended and festering, the result was either, re-cyclical displacement (Burundi, DRC), or 'Protracted Refugee Situation' (Palestine).

Historical Interactions between Naturalised Refugees and Indigenous residents in the Post-Colonial Western Tanzania, 1960s-2023

Mussa Kasimu

This paper examines the nature of interactions between the naturalised refugees and Indigenous residents in the western Tanzania from 1960s to 2023. Grounded from archives, interviews, and secondary documentary reviews, the paper establishes that the nature of interactions between the naturalised refugees and indigenous Tanzanians is primordial. Evidences collected from Mwese, Ulyankulu and Katumba old settlements and in other areas such as Kaliua, Urambo and Mpanda show that prior to their naturalisation, former refugees were socially and economically interacting with the indigenous Tanzanians. They were sharing social services and engaged in commodity-exchange. The pre-naturalisation interactions was found to have impacted the post naturalisation interactions. However, both the pre and the post-naturalisation epochs are characterised by harmonious and conflictual interactions. Different stakeholders such as the government of Tanzania, international organizations, Non-Government Organizations and donor countries have played different roles to harmonious such interactions. However, in pre-naturalisation period there were some challenges that emanated from un-equal status between the two communities which were improved by naturalisation that transformed refugee status to citizenship. Despite such transformation, the paper reveals that there are still some other existing challenges relating to interactions which emanate from negative stereotyping and spatiality among other factors. The paper; therefore, recommends that stakeholders should continue harmonizing interactions by providing education for integration and friendly circumstances which allows the two communities to interact.

Understanding Integration: Perspectives from Refugees and Hosts in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Gordon Ogutu

Research on refugee integration has grown significantly in recent years, driven by increasing concerns over immigration and ethnocultural diversity, particularly in Europe and North America (Holloway and Sturridge, 2022). Yet, relatively little attention has been paid to integration in contexts of prolonged displacement in the Global South, which also hosts the majority of the world's refugees (UNHCR, 2022) and grapples with deeply entrenched refugee challenges (Milner, 2009). Within the humanitarian sector, the concept is a central theme in humanitarian policies and development plans and is understood in diverse and often contrasting ways by both refugees and host communities in Kakuma. This study seeks to examine how the experiences of refugees in Kakuma with different policies shape their understanding of integration and the role of humanitarian interventions and policies in the process.

At the Margins? Pastoralism as Envisioned in the Tanzanian Institutional Setup

Benezet Rwelengera, Edith Benedict, Glory Lyimo and Michael Rikanga

Tracing the history of Tanzanian pastoralism back to the pre-colonial age reveals a pattern of marginalisation that began with the advent of colonialism and has continued into the present day. Research shows that the postcolonial period largely retained the colonial trajectory on pastoral matters, as evidenced by the creation of conservancies and estates. Drawing from political ecology and decolonial perspectives, we were inspired by Achille Mbembe's Necropolitics, which examines the power to dictate who may live or die, to understand the place of pastoralism within Tanzania's institutional set-up. Our critical examination of over 50 institutional documents (the Constitution, policies, legislations, strategies, interventions, plans, programmes and the Ruling party's Election Manifesto) reveals how the romanticisation and entrenchment

of colonial philosophies, ideologies and practices of land use, development and conservation, have historically relegated pastoral communities at the margins, a trend that postcolonial institutions continue to perpetuate. We argue that present-day institutions not only invisibilise the contribution of pastoralists but also create the conditions for their displacement in the name of modernity, development, and conservation. We submit that touching base with on-the-ground realities and the socio-ecological histories of pastoralists, is important to inform and rethink institutional changes.

Global South perspectives on climate-induced displacement: Livelihood resilience in sending and receiving areas

Saumu Mwasha, Robert Katikiro, Michael Rikanga, Faraja Namkesa, Lekumok Kirony

Climate change-induced displacement is becoming an increasingly urgent challenge in the Global South, where migration flows are shaped not only by environmental pressures but also by deep-rooted socioeconomic and political structures. While much of the existing discourse on forced migration is framed through Global North paradigms—focusing on containment, securitization, and crisis response—this study situates displacement within the lived realities of resource-dependent communities in Tanzania. Using a case study approach, it examines migration from Kishapu District (a drought-prone sending area) to Kasulu District (a rural receiving area) and Dar es Salaam City (an urban receiving area) to explore how climate-induced displacement influences livelihood resilience. Data were collected through focus group discussions with displaced persons and key informant interviews with local leaders, policymakers, and development practitioners. Findings reveal that while environmental stressors—particularly prolonged drought and resource depletion— are primary push factors for displacement, migration decisions are

also shaped by economic opportunities and social networks. Youths, in particular, migrate to urban centers not only as a survival strategy but also in pursuit of better livelihoods. This challenges the dominant narrative that climate-induced migration is purely involuntary and underscores the agency of displaced populations in navigating socioeconomic transitions. Migration further contributes to economic growth in receiving areas, fostering entrepreneurship, labor market expansion, and remittance flows that sustain both urban and rural economies. However, migration also creates resource deficits in sending regions, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to strengthen local adaptive capacity. The study reveals that resilience levels vary significantly between sending and receiving areas, shaped by local adaptation strategies and structural conditions. In Kishapu, communities rely on collective land-use planning, diversified income sources, and intergenerational knowledge sharing to cope with environmental stress. Rural receiving areas such as Kasulu offer temporary relief but struggle with weak infrastructure and limited governance capacity, affecting long-term stability. Urban centers like Dar es Salaam provide greater economic opportunities but expose migrants to precarious employment and insecure housing, raising concerns about sustainable integration. By shifting the lens to a Global South perspective, this study deepens understanding of key themes such as agency, adaptation strategies, and structural drivers of resilience. It challenges Global North narratives that depict climate migrants as passive victims, instead illustrating their proactive role in shaping livelihood transitions. The study also highlights the significance of localization, demonstrating how community-driven adaptation mechanisms—such as informal safety nets, communal resource-sharing and indigenous resilience practices—inform sustainable responses to displacement. Rather than viewing displacement solely as a crisis, this paper argues that it is a complex socio-economic process requiring localized, decolonized, and contextually grounded solutions. It calls for policies that integrate migration into national development planning, strengthen rural economies, and promote equitable urban integration; ensuring

migration enhances rather than undermines long-term resilience.

Socioeconomic Impact of Relocation of Maasai pastoralists from Ngorongoro to Msomera, Handeni Tanga in Tanzania

Lekumok Kironyi, Opportuna Kweka, Glory Lyimo, Michale David Rikanga

A political economy of relocation of the nomadic pastoralists from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) yields different perceptions from both the host and relocated communities. This paper lays down a baseline for understanding the socioeconomic impacts associated with the relocation of the Maasai pastoralists from NCAA to Msomera village in the Handeni Tanga Region. The purpose is to inform the national policy on relocation. Data for this study were collected through focused group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), and field observation. While several studies have found out that the displaced are impacted more than the host communities, in this study, both communities bear almost the same level of impacts including increased land use conflicts, pasture shortage, livelihood and social systems disruption, and health, and environmental challenges. The study recommends areas for policy interventions to guide the relocation process despite the underpinning reasons for relocation. Keywords: Relocation; Conservation; livelihood d

The Politics of Belongingness and the fate of Indigenous Maasai in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania

Richard Mbunda

Indigenous Maasai in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) are apprehensive about their fate following some recently imposed decisions that threaten their very existence. In the first place, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is implementing the so called 'voluntary relocation' policy to displace them to Msomera,

Tanga with the view to conserve the natural resources of the NCA. Moreover, towards the end of 2024, the government issued an order under local government laws (District Administration), to deregister, inter alia, 96 hamlets, 25 villages and 11 wards of the Ngorongoro district authority. Although this order was eventually withdrawn, these decisions still raise questions related to the politics of belongingness of the Maasai indigenous communities, which is a fundamental human need, understood as the subjective feeling of deep connection with social groups, physical places, and individual and collective experiences of these communities. Using qualitative data obtained through interviews, focus group discussions, and a review of official documents, this paper attempts to explore the conception of belongingness from three analytical levels namely the communities physical, social and spiritual identity and attachments with the area; the politics of belonging and how it relates to the participatory politics of citizenship, entitlement and status; and finally, the broader implications of the propagated conservation project in the NCA to the identity, entitlements and status of indigenous communities in the area. It is concluded in this paper that socio-political stability and peace are unlikely to prevail in the context of the worldviews of the mainstream bioeconomy narratives and fortress conservation that exclude the people, but where we can decolonize such narratives by emphasizing participatory decision making and localizing our view of human rights on the basis of local identities and a sense of belongingness of marginalized communities.

Settlement Planning and Erosion of Traditional Practices: Challenge to In-situ Adaptation in Relocated African Communities

Naishiye Stanley Lotha

This paper examines the challenges posed by settlement planning to continuity of in situ adaptation for traditional practices in relocated communities in Africa. The finite nature of land resource suggests that,

there is a constant increasing in demand for land that calls for its proper management. To do so, various government institutions have been empowered by law to manage land use for various activities. Around independence and before, communities were more freer to relocate and evolve their culture in situ in their destination. In present time, the relocated communities are forced to live in planned areas with morphologies and structures pre determined by professional entrusted by the governments to manage land use. As a result, settlement planner, architects and engineers have the upper hand in determining how communities should live in planned settlements. The planning process products are usually master plans with clearly defined zones which are then consolidated cadastral surveys with physical markings on the land in the form of beacons defining properties.These land divisions are enforceable by law and cannot be altered to cater for cultural needs if provisions were not made. In this regard, the resulting settlement plans response to cultural needs are in the hands of these professions, and may allow or hinder continuity of cultural heritage depending on planners knowledge and willingness to incorporate cultural aspects in the plans. Many relocation projects focus on physical infrastructure while neglecting cultural heritage. This accelerate the deterioration of culture since it gives no space for in-situ adaptation. Hence social structures weakens and disrupts community identity. This study conducted a systematic literature review of scholarly research, policy reports, and case studies from African countries to examine challenges posed by settlement planning to continuity of in situ adaptation for traditional practices in relocated communities in Africa. It identifies strategies that integrate indigenous knowledge, traditional leadership, and practices into relocation settlement planning. The findings shows that, the challenges of incorporating cultural practices spring from inability of planners to recognize the need for inclusion of natural landscape features and space for traditional practices in planed relocation settlements. These are such as places for rituals, traditional

ceremonies and other practices. Also, the findings show that when the relocating community are involved in relocation processes and planners design culturally sensitive spaces, communities retain their identity and social cohesion. Settlement planning must prioritize cultural continuity alongside physical infrastructure. The results suggest that policymakers should implement community driven planning models, invest in heritage based economic initiatives, and use technology to integrate cultural heritage into settlement planning. Relocation should empower displaced communities by preserving their traditions and strengthening their resilience. By adopting these strategies, policy makers, heritage managers and settlement planners can ensure that relocation does not erase culture and traditions but instead, becomes an opportunity to protect and sustain them.

Development induced displacement: a comparison analysis for a national resettlement policy in Tanzania

Ignasia Mbatta & Opportuna Kweka

Tanzania does not have a resettlement policies. Resettlement is done ad-hockly and it is investment or project based. Different ministries have outlined different resettlement policies. The main compensation scheduled used when people are moved to let for a development plan is that of the Ministry of Lands and Human Settlement, which allows for land and compensation of any property on the surface of the land. This paper compares three cases of population resettlement plans in urban and rural Tanzania in order to shed light on issues for consideration for planners. The three cases are: removal of population in Msimbazi vally to let for a recreational area in urban Dar es Salaam, the Msimbazi Project; Relocation of the Maasai from Ngorongoro to Msomera; and resettlement of population living in the way of the crude crude oil pipe from Hoima Uganda to Tanga, Tanzania. The paper shed lights on issues to be considered for a national resettlement policy in Tanzania. The same

policy as we argue can be adopted for use in resettlement of those affected by climate disaster.

Localized Legality: Rethinking Migration Governance at the Ethiopia–Sudan Border

Kiya Gezahegne

This paper interrogates the feasibility and meaning of *localization*, the prioritization of local agency, knowledge systems, and governance practices, through the lens of cross-border migration along the Ethiopia-Sudan frontier. Drawing on four years of ethnographic fieldwork along the Ethiopia-Sudan border, the study critically examines how the concepts of *legality* and *illegality*, typically defined in rigid legal and policy terms by national and international actors, are interpreted, enacted, and contested at the local level. National and global frameworks tend to define migration legality through formal documentation, border checkpoints, and bilateral agreements, often informed by securitization agendas and international migration control regimes. However, in the lived experiences of migrants and border communities, these binaries dissolve into a spectrum of legal ambiguities shaped by history, identity, and socio-economic necessity.

At the local level, legality is often understood less as a formal legal status and more as a performance of belonging, trust, and community integration. Migrants crossing the border with expired visas, forged documents, or through unofficial routes may still be perceived as "legitimate" by local actors if their actions align with longstanding practices of seasonal labor, kinship ties, or economic interdependence. Conversely, even migrants with valid documents may face suspicion or exclusion based on ethnic, religious, or regional identity. This localized interpretation of (il)legality is deeply embedded in historical narratives of shared land, colonial boundary-making, and socio-cultural fluidity,

highlighting the disconnect between state-centric migration regimes and ground-level realities.

By exploring these divergences, the paper argues that *localization* is not only possible but essential in a world order that often marginalizes local logics and lived experiences in favor of universalized, top-down policy prescriptions. Further, it shows localization in migration governance requires not merely devolving responsibility but also recognizing and legitimizing the ways in which local communities define legality, manage mobility, and negotiate identity.

Challenges and Opportunities in Reunification of Children Displaced from their Home with Families and Living on the Street in Asella Town

Beshir Ida'o

The objective of the study was to explore challenges and opportunities in the reunification process of children exposed to street life with family in Asella Town. In conducting this research, qualitative research approach and phenomenological design were used to describe the lived experience of the participants. The study also employed interview, FGD and observation as data collection tools, purposive and availability samplings as techniques of the study. In the same vein, the study used thematic data analysis. In this study, both primary and secondary data sources were used. Primary data were collected from 21 children who were exposed to street life before and reunified back to their families/caregivers. Secondary data were collected from reports of youth and children office. The findings of the study indicated that family breakdown, death of one of or both of biological parents, family poverty, peer pressure, and living with step-parents are challenges in reunifying children exposed to street life whereas the existence of governmental and non-governmental organizations working on these children are opportunities in reunifying these vulnerable children. In conclusion, different attempts

were tried so far to reunify them with family or support children exposed to street life both by government and non-governmental organizations as opportunities but there are still challenges both from the children exposed to street life themselves and from their families in the reunification process. Thus, the study recommends that children exposed to street life are vulnerable groups in the society and thus, Asellla town administration, Asella youth and children office had better work together to minimize challenges and promote opportunities.

Trends, Future Trajectories, and Determinants of Triple Respiratory Viral Syndromes in Conflict and Internal Displacement Contexts: Implications for Health Services and Policy in the Amhara Region, Ethiopia

Chalachew Yenew, Anteneh Mengist Dessie, Almaw Genet Yeshiwas

Introduction: Triple Respiratory Viral Syndromes (RVS), encompassing COVID-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), present a growing threat to global health. **Objectives:** This study analyzed RVS trends, future trajectories, and determinants, including conflict periods, to guide health policies and enhance early warning, preparedness, and response systems for public health emergencies. **Methods:** A repeated cross-sectional study (2020-2023) of 468 individuals analyzed using EpiData and RStudio employed ETS forecasting, polynomial regression, and logistic regression to predict triple RVS prevalence in Amhara by 2030, with ArcGIS mapping spatial distribution of infections and IDPs.

Results: Among RVS-suspected patients, 13% had confirmed triple infections. From 2020-2030, infection trends show steady increases for RSV (30-60 per 100,000; $R^2 = 0.99$), Influenza (20-45 per 100,000; $R^2 = 1.00$), and COVID-19 (40-60 per 100,000; $R^2 = 0.97$) with relation

to conflict. Spatially, West and East Gojjam report higher triple infection rates, correlating with high IDP concentrations. The logistic regression model identified key risk factors for triple RVS infections: close contact with SARS patients (4.2 times higher risk), animal exposure (2.7 times), summer admissions (3.9 times), older age (≥65 years; 3.05 times), and the post-conflict period (1.85 times/85% higher likelihood), highlighting significant contributors to the increased risk. **Conclusions:** The sharp increase in Triple RVS infection in Amhara following the conflict underscores the impact of displacement, increased human-animal contact, and seasonal factors on disease transmission. With projections indicating further rises by 2030, urgent interventions are needed to mitigate risks and protect vulnerable populations. A **health-peace approach** that integrates conflict-sensitive health strategies is crucial for strengthening resilience. Expanding **mHealth and telemedicine** can improve access to healthcare for displaced communities. **Keywords:** Triple RVS Infection, Post-Conflict, Internally Displaced Persons, Health Peace Approach, Telemedicine

Consequences of Political Transitions for Forced Displacement in Ethiopia

Desalegn Amsalu

This paper explores into the intricate relationship between political transitions and forced displacement in Ethiopia. It provides a comprehensive analysis of all major political transitions since 2000, focusing on their implications for displacement. These transitions include pivotal events such as five national elections held since 2000 (national elections in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2021) and a significant political reform initiated in April 2018. The paper examines these seven key national political transition events: understands broader political context associated with these political transitions, and studies corresponding displacement responses, and maps the relationship between human-induced forced displacements and those political transitions. To track

displacement events, the study utilizes data from the EPO database, GRID Reports, IOM-DTM, and various reports from humanitarian and human rights organizations. The findings underscore the profound and often severe consequences of political transitions in Ethiopia, highlighting their role as a driving force behind forced displacement on a substantial scale. The paper aims to emphasize the importance of managing peaceful political transitions to mitigate the atrocities often associated with such events. This point is further underscored by the fact that political transitions in the country are often deeply intertwined with ethnic dynamics, frequently leading to displacement events driven by ethnic or religious divisions.

AI-Powered Conflict Prediction and Prevention: A Tool for Peacebuilding in Ethiopia

Gadisa Adamu Mitiku

Conflicts in Ethiopia often escalate due to hate speech and divisive narratives spread through social media. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms focus on post-conflict interventions rather than prevention. This study proposes an AI-driven solution that predicts and prevents conflicts before they occur by analyzing social media data for early warning indicators. Using machine learning and natural language processing (NLP), the system will detect hate speech, inflammatory content, and emerging tensions across ethnic, religious, and regional lines. The system will provide real-time alerts to relevant authorities, including law enforcement, policymakers, and peacebuilding organizations by identifying risk areas and trends. Unlike conventional conflict management strategies that respond after destruction, this AI-powered approach enables proactive intervention, minimizing violence and fostering social cohesion. The model will be trained

on vast datasets of online discourse to enhance accuracy in detecting harmful patterns. Furthermore, it will incorporate sentiment analysis and geospatial mapping to pinpoint high-risk locations. By integrating AI technology with Ethiopia's peacebuilding efforts, this solution aims to bridge the existing gap in conflict prevention mechanisms, ensuring timely interventions to de-escalate tensions. This research highlights the transformative role of AI in conflict resolution and its potential to support sustainable peace. The findings will contribute to developing technology-driven policies for early conflict detection and mitigation in Ethiopia.

Migration, Displacement and Mental Health in the Somali Region of Ethiopia

Professor Nasir Warfa

The Somali region of Ethiopia is located in the eastern part of the country. It is the second largest city in Ethiopia, with mass land of 328,068KM, Square. Average temperatures ranges between 18 and 45 degree, centigrade. Population estimates is between 6 to 9 million. 85% of the population live in pastoral or semi-pastoral settings. This presentation will focus on the intersections between migration, displacement and mental health. It will touch on several key themes that are seen as risk factors for poor mental health. The presentation will also explore the causes and consequences of migration and displacement in the Somali Regional State, drawing on the findings of several decades of climate change study conducted by Jigjiga University. This data shows that changing climate conditions are the core factors causing migration and frequent displacements in the region. There is a well-established body of epidemiological studies which investigated with the relationship between forced migration and mental health problems. From these studies, we already know people exposed to forced migration and displacement are likely to develop mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress

disorder, depression and general anxiety. The presentation will provide further analysis into the mechanism through which displaced people are at greater risk of developing social and psychological problems.

"Malnutrition in Kakuma Refugee Camp: Assessing the Prevalence and Contributing Factors of Undernourishment among children in Kakuma Camp."

Rashad kaftari

This mixed-method study explores the high prevalence of malnutrition among children in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya which poses a threat to this vulnerable population. Malnutrition refers to health problems caused by dietary deficiencies which occur due to children either do not consume enough food or eat too many unhealthy foods. However, structured surveys gathered quantitative data by evaluating dietary patterns alongside health metrics and socio-economic elements that affect food accessibility in Kakuma camp. Additionally, through qualitative interviews and focus groups discussions (FGDs) with caregivers provided insights about the difficulties they encounter in providing proper nutrition to their children.

However, the research results demonstrate widespread malnutrition which leads to stunted growth and multiple health issues among in the camp children. Consequently, malnutrition stems from insufficient access to nutritious food options and low-quality diets together with socio-economic factors that contribute to food insecurity. Thus, the camp's logistical challenges combined with financial constraints created obstacles for caregivers to source sufficient food.

Therefore, the study highlights the necessity for specific interventions that address nutritional status and food security for children living in Kakuma refugee camp. Stakeholders who address immediate

dietary requirements together with socio-economic obstacles will create successful strategies to combat malnutrition and improve children's well-being in the camp.

Ensuring meaningful participation of Persons with Disabilities in Peace-building Processes Ethiopia: A human rights based approach

Shimeles Ashagre Asfaw

Persons with disabilities face significant challenges stemming from conflict-induced displacement, exacerbated by political instability and ethnic tensions worldwide. The situation is not different in Ethiopia where millions were displaced due to conflicts across the country. This paper explores the implications of a human rights-based approach to addressing the rights of IDPWDs within the framework of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Protocol, which emphasizes the protection and assistance of IDPs under international law. Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Protocol with the aim of enhancing the legal protections available to IDPs. Beyond the Kampala Protocol, the country has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that has ushered in a new era for the rights of persons with disabilities in situation of conflict and other humanitarian crises.

The paper explores the basic tenets of a human rights-based approach particularly participation, accountability and non-discrimination (PAN). This approach aligns with the principles enshrined in the Kampala Protocol, which obligates state parties to take proactive measures to prevent displacement and protect those affected. Furthermore, the paper discusses theories of compliance and the obligations that arise from ratifying international instruments. It investigates Ethiopia's commitment to the Convention of Persons with Disabilities and the Kampala Protocol and the broader implications of their ratification on national policies regarding IDPs.

Through qualitative analysis, the study reveals that compliance with the Kampala Protocol is not merely a legal obligation but a moral imperative that reflects Ethiopia's commitment to safeguarding human rights. The findings underscore the need for a multi-faceted approach that integrates humanitarian aid, development initiatives, and robust legal frameworks to address full and effective participation, accountability and non-discrimination.

Investigating the Exposure of Forced Migrants for Human Trafficking in Ethiopia

Shishigu Abi

Migration and human trafficking (trafficking) become a serious agenda worldwide since they have tremendous impact on social, economic, political and environmental set up of the world. In this regard, the linkage between forced migration and trafficking in Ethiopia as well as the overlooked issues behind, were the targets of this review. The review focused only on internal trafficking or trafficking within Ethiopia. The methodological analysis of this review was based on secondary data i.e. document review. ILO (2009) operational indicators of trafficking were used as an instrument in the review process of this paper. The review result shows that forced migration exposed people to trafficking in Ethiopia significantly. But, it does not mean that all form of migration leads to trafficking, or all form of trafficking demands migration. It is to mean that the fates of many forced migrants end up in situations of trafficking. On the other expression, trafficking can occur without movement of persons. Nevertheless, forced movement is an expedient opportunity for trafficking. In addition, economic problem and family casualties exposed people for internal trafficking in Ethiopia meaningfully. Alluring of migrants into trafficking through false hopes or promises given by brokers (delalas) and debt bondage were the prevailing ways of trafficking. Brokers, car

drivers and returnees from migration were the main actors of trafficking. It can be concluded from the review result that, forced migration was an expediential way for migrants to be trafficked. It is recommended that local governments and national government should work towards safe migration and anti- trafficking activities in quite coordinated and cooperative systems in a sustainable way.

Causes and effects of children out migration: A case in Humbo woreda, Wolaita Zone

Wolddeab Daniel

Across the world, many developing and poor nations incur massive outmigration of youths for various reasons. This study was aimed at examining the extent causes and consequences of out migration of children in Humbo Woreda of Wolaita Zone, Southern Ethiopia. Cross sectional research design with mixed research approach was employed. The quantitative data was collected from 171 households in 4 randomly selected Kebeles. Questionnaire and semi-structured interview were used as the main data gathering tools in the study. To find out the major causes of children out migration, binary logistic regression was employed. To examine the magnitude of children out migration, thematic analysis, explanation and quoting were used. To find out the effects of children out migration on the wellbeing of children, on the wellbeing of family and agricultural productivity, one way MANOVA was used. The result of logistic regression shown that poverty, household's income and access to credit were the significant predictors of children's outmigration, where the model, by explaining between 36.1% cox & Snell R2 and 53.1% Nagelkerke R2, has predicted 83.1% of variance in children's outmigration by the linear combination of five independent variables which also included land size and family size. The qualitative results also indicated that community's attitude and low employment were the main reasons behind the child outmigration. Regarding the magnitude of outmigration, 112 (65.4%) of households have migrated children in

their home, whereas, 59 (34.6%) have no migrated children. Besides, 71.43% of migrants were migrated after 2010 E.C within about 6 years. The result of one way MANOVA about the effect children outmigration on the parental wellbeing, children's future wellbeing and agricultural productivity indicated that the children outmigration has significant effect on the parental wellbeing, children's future wellbeing and agricultural productivity $F(2, 168) =77.392$, $p=0.000$, Wilk's Lambda $(\lambda) =0.174$, partial eta squared (partial $\eta2$) $= 0.583$, observed power$=1.000$. Hence, the researcher recommends enhancing access to credit for the community and training as well as massive awareness creation programs for the community to reduce children's outmigration.

Achieving lasting resettlement: A multi-dimensional analysis of sustainable durable solutions for forced displacement in the Global South.

By Joburg Mahuyu

The issue of forced displacement has become a pressing global challenge, with millions of individuals across the world uprooted from their homes due to a myriad of factors, such as armed conflict, environmental disasters, and economic upheaval (UNHCR, 2022). In response to this crisis, the concept of sustainable durable solutions has emerged as a critical framework for addressing the complex needs of displaced populations, particularly in the Global South [a term used to refer to developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and parts of the Middle East (Castles, 2003)]. The Global South presents a particularly urgent context for addressing displacement challenges, as many countries in this region grapple with limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and political instability. These factors complicate the implementation of effective solutions (Betts & Collier, 2017).

Sustainable durable solutions are defined as long-term, stable, and dignified strategies that enable displaced individuals to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society (UNHCR, 2019). These solutions typically involve three pathways: voluntary repatriation to the country of origin, local integration into the host community, or resettlement to a third location.

Displacement, in this context, refers to the forced uprooting of individuals and communities from their homes, leading to significant disruptions in social networks, cultural ties, and economic stability (Betts, 2013). Displaced populations often face prolonged periods of vulnerability and marginalization, requiring tailored approaches that account for diverse socio-political contexts and the unique needs of different demographic groups (Fiddian-Qasmiyeh et al., 2014).

This study seeks to answer the following questions: (i) What is a "sustainable durable solution"? (ii) What are examples and ways in which sustainable durable solutions have been practiced in Global South? (iii) What policy directions for the displaced in the Global South will ensure emancipation and sustainability?

The study adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies to enable a nuanced understanding of sustainable durable solutions to forced displacement in the Global South. This study engaged with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and displaced populations themselves. A multi-dimensional analysis was used to understand how lasting resettlement can be achieved. A thorough review of existing literature, case studies from diverse regions within the Global South was done. Thematic analysis was employed to analyse qualitative data from interviews and focus groups. Case study analysis and comparative analysis were used to identify the factors contributing to the success or failure of various sustainable durable solutions in the Global South. Descriptive statistics was utilised to quantify relationships and impacts. Quantitative findings

was cross-verified with qualitative insights to ensure robustness and consistency in conclusions. The study identified factors such as climate change, political instability, economic hardships, urbanisation and globalisation as major causes of displacement and detrimental to sustainability of resettlement solutions.

The study recommends that policies should prioritise inclusive approaches that incorporate the voices and needs of displaced populations, Governments in Global South should develop community-driven initiatives that promote local integration and self-reliance, Governments should develop and enhance legal frameworks that protect the rights of displaced populations, Policymakers should direct resources toward improving infrastructure and essential services in both host and home communities and Global South countries should address the impacts of climate change, urbanization and globalisation within policy frameworks.

Overview of West Africa Forced Displacement: Drivers, Hotspots, Policies and Gender Dimensions

Owusua Eshia

The phenomenon of Forced displacement in West Africa is a complex and often shaped by the combination of factors such as; political, environmental, socio-economic, and the general security of the region. This paper explores the key drivers of displacement across the West Africa sub-region, including conflicts and insurgencies particularly in the Lake Chad Basin, the Sahel, and northern parts of Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Mali, as well as climate-induced disasters such as famine, droughts, floods, and desertification. Political and ethnic tensions, communal violence, and poor governance further exacerbate the vulnerability of populations to displacement. The region's displacement hotspots are concentrated in conflict-affected zones,

causing both internal and cross-border displacement of populations. In response to the phenomenon, member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have adopted regional frameworks such as the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy and the African Union's Kampala Convention, yet national implementation remains uneven and often lacks gender sensitivity. The gender dimensions of forced displacement in West Africa reveal unequal impacts on women and girls and in some cases women and children in general, including increased risks of gender-based violence, limited access to reproductive health care, and limited livelihood opportunities. However, gender-transformative policies and programming remain underdeveloped, often failing to address the structural inequalities that shape displacement experiences. In order to address the underlying causes and effects of forced displacement in the region, this overview advocates for improved regional cooperation, gender- responsive initiatives and greater policy coherence.

Keywords: West Africa, forced displacement, Regional displacement policies, Gender

Day 3: Latin America day

Tres consideraciones clave para mejorar las perspectivas del Sur Global en la gobernanza migratoria y el derecho internacional de los refugiados

Three key considerations for enhancing Global South perspectives in Migration Governance and International Refugee Law

Estela Vieira and Liliana Jubilant

While the dominant narrative on migration issues, including International Refugee Law, is primarily shaped by the normative production and perspectives of the Global North, the Global South— particularly Latin America— brings distinctive experiences and knowledge production on migration and displacement; by not only adapting global frameworks to regional realities, but also by establishing a regional architecture of norms and practices that is closely aligned with evidence-based knowledge efforts from academia, brings forth innovative approaches and initiatives, and tackles local issues. With unique characteristics in both conceptual and contextual aspects, Latin America approach to displacement is rooted in a long history of exile, forced migration, and internal conflicts, which have positioned Latin America as both a source and a host of refugees (from within and from outside the region). It is also a region where refugee protection systems have been shaped by a complex coexistence of multiple regimes, that advanced in discussing different phenomena of forced migration, such as climate-induced migration and mixed migration flows, in establishing a layered protection architecture that combines refugee protection, solidarity, long-term solutions, humanitarian visas and complementary pathways, which allow for regional cooperation and responsibility sharing, and in shifting from the more conservative views and practices from the Global North. This approach not only

addresses specific regional needs, but also challenges the prevailing framework of migration governance and Refugee Law, which may no longer be sufficient to tackle the complex challenges of the 21st century. Advancing and making this regional reality known is relevant in itself but also highlights three key considerations for enhancing Global South perspectives in migration governance and International Refugee Law: 1) demonstrating the potential of **localizing knowledge production,** given that, on the one hand, despite coming from unique socio-political and economic contexts of a specific region, these views are far from being isolated, offering important insights that can be mirrored elsewhere to enhance protection, and, on the other, local solutions might better fit local challenges; 2) bringing forth **new perspectives, world views and values** to the global debate on migration governance and International Refugee Law, that fight against coloniality, racism and other power structures that have been in play and do not allow for a real international perspective, and 3) highlight the wealth of knowledge by scholars in the Global South, granting them the chance to speak from experience **while avoiding the establishment of a niche-based participation,** in the sense of having them only focus on their regions. This paper aims to explore these three trends, using Latin America as an example, to assist in a path towards a Global South school of thought on displacement.

Del desplazamientp a la acción: la movilización de los refugiados nicaragüenses en México.

From displacement to action: the mobilization of Nicaraguan refugees in Mexico.

Dra. Ana Lorena Valle Cornavaca,Lic.Lizbeth Guerrero Ramírez

El desplazamiento forzado de nicaragüenses ha cobrado una relevancia crítica desde la crisis sociopolítica de 2018, cuando la represión estatal y la persecución política obligaron a más de 600,000 personas a huir del país. La expulsión masiva de opositores en 2023, la revocación de

nacionalidades, el cierre de más de 5,000 organizaciones de la sociedad civil, la clausura de universidades, la apropiación de propiedades privadas y la persecución religiosa han agravado la situación. En el último año, la negación del ingreso a Nicaragua y la no entrega de pasaportes han dejado a muchas personas en una condición de apatridia de facto. Organismos internacionales como la CIDH y el ACNUR los han clasificado a como refugiados, lo que subraya la urgencia de fortalecer los sistemas de asilo en la región.

Este trabajo examina desde una metodología empírica el papel de la cooperación entre distintos actores en el fortalecimiento del sistema de asilo, con énfasis en la participación significativa de las personas refugiadas y el papel de la academia en proporcionar un sustento teórico. El incremento de organizaciones lideradas por refugiados, evidenciado en las aportaciones al Plan de Acción Chile 2024-2034 en el marco del 40 aniversario de la Declaración de Cartagena, demuestra el potencial de la articulación de los propios desplazados para incidir en el diseño de políticas migratorias. Estas organizaciones no solo han contribuido a la formulación de estrategias políticas, sino que también han desempeñado un papel clave en la provisión de asistencia humanitaria, apoyo legal y acceso a recursos básicos para otros refugiados.

El caso mexicano ilustra las barreras que enfrentan los solicitantes de asilo nicaragüenses a pesar de que este país cuenta con una legislación que reconoce el derecho al refugio. Aunque las tasas de reconocimiento de asilo para nicaragüenses son relativamente altas, los procesos administrativos prolongados, la falta de acceso a servicios esenciales y la vulnerabilidad ante redes de tráfico y trata representan obstáculos significativos. Además la criminalización del desplazamiento forzado, dificulta la integración y el acceso a derechos fundamentales.

El trabajo argumenta que el fortalecimiento del sistema de asilo requiere una articulación efectiva entre organismos internacionales,

Estados receptores, academia y organizaciones lideradas por refugiados. La Academia juega un papel fundamental al proporcionar marcos teóricos y metodológicos que respalden la implementación de políticas de asilo con un enfoque de derechos humanos. Asimismo, el reconocimiento y apoyo a las organizaciones creadas por refugiados pueden contribuir a la generación de redes de protección y estrategias de integración sostenibles. Se resalta que la articulación de las propias personas desplazadas ha sido clave no solo en el ámbito político, sino también en el humanitario. Sin una respuesta adecuada y coordinada, el desplazamiento forzado de nicaragüenses seguirá aumentando, exacerbando la crisis humanitaria y evidenciando las limitaciones de los sistemas de asilo existentes. En este sentido, es fundamental fortalecer el sistema de asilo basado en la cooperación, la participación activa de los refugiados y el respeto a los derechos humanos.

From displacement to action: the mobilization of Nicaraguan refugees in Mexico.

Ana Lorena Valle Cornavaca and Lizbeth Guerrero Ramírez

The forced displacement of Nicaraguans has taken on a critical significance since the 2018 sociopolitical crisis, when state repression and political persecution forced more than 600,000 people to flee the country. The mass expulsion of opponents in 2023, the revocation of nationality, the closure of more than 5,000 civil society organizations, the closure of universities, the appropriation of private property, and religious persecution have worsened the situation. In the last year, the denial of entry to Nicaragua and the non-issuance of passports have left many people de facto stateless. International organizations such as the IACHR and UNHCR have classified them as refugees, underscoring the urgency of strengthening asylum systems in the region.

This paper uses empirical methodology to examine the role of cooperation among different actors in strengthening the asylum system, with an

emphasis on the meaningful participation of refugees and the role of academia in providing theoretical support. The increase in refugee-led organizations, evidenced by contributions to the Chile Action Plan 2024-2034 in the framework of the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration, demonstrates the potential of the integration of displaced persons themselves to influence the design of migration policies. These organizations have not only contributed to the formulation of political strategies but have also played a key role in providing humanitarian assistance, legal support, and access to basic resources for other refuge

This paper argues that strengthening the asylum system requires effective coordination between international organizations, host states, academia, and refugee-led organizations. Academia plays a fundamental role by providing theoretical and methodological frameworks that support the implementation of asylum policies with a human rights approach. Furthermore, recognition and support for organizations created by refugees can contribute to the creation of protection networks and sustainable integration strategies. It emphasizes that the coordination of displaced persons themselves has been key not only in the political sphere but also in the humanitarian sphere. Without an adequate and coordinated response, the forced displacement of Nicaraguans will continue to increase, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and highlighting the limitations of existing asylum systems. In this regard, it is essential to strengthen the asylum system based on cooperation, the active participation of refugees, and respect for human rights.

Riesgo de desplazamiento forzado en municipios rurales de México por la afectación de la violencia del crimen organizado.

Risk of forced displacement in rural municipalities in Mexico due to the impact of organized crime violence.

Kelly Giovanna Muñoz

La violencia y la presencia del crimen organizado en México son factores determinantes que obligan a las personas a abandonar sus hogares. Los ataques armados, las amenazas y el hostigamiento crean un ambiente de miedo que lleva a los habitantes a buscar seguridad en otros lugares. En este sentido, las comunidades rurales, muchas de las cuales ya enfrentan condiciones de pobreza y marginación, son especialmente vulnerables al desplazamiento forzado. La combinación de la violencia y la falta de recursos agrava su situación abonando a un proceso de desruralización, que también influye en la desarticulación de comunidades, lo que a su vez aumenta la vulnerabilidad en las regiones afectadas haciendo que las personas se vean forzadas a dejar sus tierras y hogares.

Esta investigación se propuso la realización de un Índice de Riesgo de Desplazamiento Forzado Rural, que se basa en variables como la presencia de crimen organizado, tasas de criminalidad, emigración forzada y victimización. Con este índice se pretendió visibilizar a través de la cartografía, la grave situación de violencia que enfrentan los municipios rurales del país, principalmente aquellos con poblaciones pequeñas. Se destaca que un número significativo de estos municipios ha sido afectado por ataques armados, lo que los coloca en diferentes niveles de riesgo, desde muy alto hasta medio. La categorización de los municipios según su nivel de riesgo es crucial para entender la dinámica de la violencia en áreas rurales.

Los municipios con un riesgo muy alto pueden requerir atención urgente y medidas de prevención, intervención y protección para abordar la violencia. Además, este análisis puede ser útil para la formulación de políticas públicas y estrategias de seguridad que se enfoquen en las

áreas rurales más vulnerables. Por ello, se hace fundamental que el gobierno y las autoridades tomen acciones concretas para proteger a estas comunidades y abordar las causas subyacentes de la violencia, garantizando así la seguridad y el bienestar de sus habitantes.

Risk of forced displacement in rural municipalities in Mexico due to the impact of organized crime violence.

Kelly Giovanna Muñoz

Violence and the presence of organized crime in Mexico are determining factors that force people to abandon their homes. Armed attacks, threats, and harassment create an environment of fear that drives residents to seek safety elsewhere. In this sense, rural communities, many of which already face conditions of poverty and marginalization, are especially vulnerable to forced displacement. The combination of violence and lack of resources exacerbates their situation, contributing to a process of deruralization, which also influences the disarticulation of communities, which in turn increases vulnerability in the affected regions, forcing people to leave their lands and homes.

This research proposed the development of a Rural Forced Displacement Risk Index, based on variables such as the presence of organized crime, crime rates, forced emigration, and victimization. This index sought to highlight, through mapping, the serious situation of violence faced by the country's rural municipalities, primarily those with small populations. It is noteworthy that a significant number of these municipalities have been affected by armed attacks, placing them at varying risk levels, from very high to medium. Categorizing municipalities according to their risk level is crucial for understanding the dynamics of violence in rural areas.

Municipalities with a very high risk may require urgent attention and prevention, intervention, and protection measures to address violence. Furthermore, this analysis can be useful for formulating public policies and security strategies focused on the most vulnerable rural areas. Therefore, it is essential that the government and authorities take concrete actions to protect these communities and address the underlying causes of violence, thus ensuring the safety and well-being of their inhabitants.

Post-deportación y Síndrome de Ulises: una aproximación a la inserción laboral de mujeres deportadas que viven en la frontera MX-EU

Post-deportation and Ulysses Syndrome: An approach to the labor insertion of deported women living on the Mexico-US border

Vianey G. Zúñiga Castro (Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa)

En esta ponencia los autores exploran las consecuencias psicosociales de la deportación de mujeres mexicanas provenientes de Estados Unidos, que actualmente radican en el lado mexicano de la frontera entre ambos países. Como consecuencia de las políticas migratorias impulsadas para la protección de la soberanía de EU, a partir de 2003, es que este grupo de población migrante, principalmente indocumentada, comienza a ser deportada de forma masiva de vuelta a México, donde tienen que enfrentarse a la ruptura de vínculos familiares, al rechazo e incompatibilidades socioculturales, así como a la falta de oportunidades laborales y educativas. Se realiza una serie de 15 entrevistas semi-estructuradas con mujeres deportadas que radican en Tijuana. Por un lado, se encuentra que la violencia estructural, tanto física como psicológica y sexual, es causa de la migración, pero al mismo tiempo, esta no se detiene con la migración a otro país, y sí por el contrario, se agrava cuando son deportadas a sus lugares de origen, donde más de la mitad de las entrevistadas se ha tenido que reencontrar con sus

agresores. También se encuentra que los programas de inserción laboral destinados a esta población, no sólo impulsan el desarrollo de habilidades y aptitudes para facilitar su contratación, también sirven como red de acompañamiento entre beneficiarias y como terapia ocupacional.

Post-deportation and Ulysses Syndrome: An approach to the labor insertion of deported women living on the Mexico-US border

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Violence and the presence of organized crime in Mexico are determining factors that force people to abandon their homes. Armed attacks, threats, and harassment create an environment of fear that drives residents to seek safety elsewhere. In this regard, rural communities, many of which already face conditions of poverty and marginalization, are especially vulnerable to forced displacement. The combination of violence and lack of resources worsens their situation, contributing to a process of deruralization, which also affects the lives of Mexican women. In this paper, the authors explore the psychosocial consequences of the deportation of Mexican women from the United States, who currently reside on the Mexican side of the border between the two countries. As a consequence of immigration policies implemented to protect US sovereignty, starting in 2003, this migrant population, primarily undocumented, began to be deported en masse back to Mexico, where they face the disruption of family ties, rejection and sociocultural incompatibilities, as well as a lack of employment and educational opportunities. A series of 15 semi-structured interviews were conducted with deported women living in Tijuana. On the one hand, it was found that structural violence—physical, psychological, and sexual—is a cause of migration. However, at the same time,

this violence does not stop with migration to another country and, on the contrary, worsens when they are deported to their places of origin, where more than half of the interviewees have had to reunite with their abusers. It is also found that job placement programs for this population not only promote the development of skills and abilities to facilitate their employment, but also serve as a support network for beneficiaries and as occupational therapy

Nuevas perspectivas para el análisis del desplazamiento forzado en México a través del uso de variaciones de intensidad lumínica

New perspectives for the analysis of forced displacement in Mexico through the use of light intensity variations

André Jersón Millán López, Hiram A. Ángel Lara

Desde hace varios años México, al igual que otros países de América Latina, se encuentra inmerso en una espiral de violencia entre bandas de narcotraficantes por el control de zonas para el cultivo, la producción, la venta y el trasiego de drogas. Esta situación ha llevado a la disputa sangrienta por los territorios entre cárteles rivales y entre cárteles y las autoridades militares y de seguridad, con grandes consecuencias para la ciudadanía. Adicionalmente, la presencia de cárteles aumenta el riesgo para la población en su conjunto, ocasionado el desplazamiento de personas en las regiones donde tienen presencia, debido al temor creciente por los secuestros, extorsiones, cobros de "derecho de piso", desapariciones, violencia sexual, robos violentos, trata de personas y vulneración de la propiedad privada.

Uno de los grandes problemas para determinar la magnitud de la situación y sus consecuencias sobre la población civil es el cálculo y localización de los desplazamientos, dado lo complejo que puede ser la recogida de datos en las distintas poblaciones urbanas y rurales del país. No obstante, la Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMDPDH) desde 2014 ha monitoreado, partir

de información periodística, "episodios de desplazamiento interno por violencia que ocurren en México" (CMDPDH; 54, 2021).

Esta investigación tiene dos objetivos, el primero, analizar la influencia de las organizaciones de tráfico de drogas y sus efectos en la migración interna de los municipios de México, utilizando un enfoque metodológico innovador basado en Millán López y Ángel Lara (2025), quienes sugieren que los movimientos poblacionales son posibles de medir a través de las variaciones en la intensidad lumínica nocturna proyectada al espacio exterior (capturada por sensores remotos), lo que permite la construcción de indicadores proxis de migración y, el segundo, proporcionar nuevas herramientas de análisis para calcular los desplazamientos por violencia en México en los últimos 30 años.

Con esta información es posible visualizar de forma agregada cómo la presencia del crimen organizado en una región específica impulsa a las personas a cambiar de residencia habitual de forma forzada (o no hacerlo), además de que también permitirá observar el componente espacial y temporal de estos efectos sobre las vecindades próximas a la región o municipios. Con ello se busca ofrecer una perspectiva a nivel subnacional y local que ayude a la creación de políticas públicas replicables y comparativas entre países de América Latina, así como analizar el papel que juegan las políticas de seguridad y la respuesta gubernamental en la dinámica de desplazamiento forzado.

Para hacer posible el análisis de los patrones de movilidad y su correlación con la presencia de las organizaciones de tráfico de drogas, se instrumentalizarán las variables de movilidad a partir de los datos anuales de luminosidad del producto nasa Black Marble provenientes del sistema nasa Level-1 and Atmosphere Archive and Dis-tribution System (laads). Por su parte, los datos de presencia de organizaciones se obtendran de resultados de los trabajos de Coscia, M., & Rios, V. (2012) y el Universal (2022).

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This research has two objectives: first, to analyze the influence of drug trafficking organizations and their effects on internal migration in Mexican municipalities. This approach is based on an innovative methodological approach based on Millán López and Ángel Lara (2025), who suggest that population movements can be measured through variations in nighttime light intensity projected into outer space (captured by remote sensors), allowing for the construction of proxy indicators of migration. Second, to provide new analytical tools for calculating displacement due to violence in Mexico over the past 30 years.

With this information, it is possible to visualize, in aggregate, how the presence of organized crime in a specific region drives people to forcibly (or not at all) change their habitual residence. It will also allow us to observe the spatial and temporal components of these effects on the neighborhoods surrounding the region or municipalities. The aim is to offer a subnational and local perspective that will aid in the creation of replicable and comparative public policies across Latin American countries, as well as to analyze the role that security policies and government responses play in the dynamics of forced displacement.

To enable the analysis of mobility patterns and their correlation with the presence of drug trafficking organizations, mobility variables will be instrumented based on annual luminosity data from the NASA Black Marble product, sourced from the NASA Level-1 and Atmosphere Archive and Distribution System (LAADS). Data on the presence of organizations will be obtained from the results of the work of Coscia, M., & Rios, V. (2012) and El Universal (2022).

¿Transición energética o desplazamiento verde? Un análisis de las narrativas globales sobre transición energética y su impacto en América Latina

Energy transition or green shift? An analysis of global narratives on energy transition and their impact on Latin America

Dra. Alfa C. M. Gutiérrez-Hernández, Dr. Daniel Lemus-Delgado

El boom de la transición hacia energías limpias, impulsada por el Norte Global, ha intensificado la demanda de litio, recurso clave para la produccción de baterías utilizadas en tecnologías más eficientes de almacenamiento de energía. Esta transición se presenta como una solución sostenible frente a la crisis climática y tiene un impacto directo en la región del "triángulo del litio" conformado por Bolivia, Argentina y Chile, donde se concentra el "58% de las reservas [mundiales]" de este mineral. (Walter, Deniau y Herrera, 2023, 15). Sin embargo, detrás de la narrativa de la transición energética se esconde una lógica neoextractivista que provoca desplazamiento forzado, pérdida de territorios y afectaciones socioculturales para los habitantes de las comunidades en las que se localiza este mineral.

Esta ponencia analiza cómo las narrativas globales sobre la "minería sostenible" y la "transición verde", promovidas desde el Norte Global, se adoptan en documentos de organismos internacionales como la Agenda 2030 y el Acuerdo de París, promoviendo marcos normativos y priorizando de manera indirecta la demanda global de estos minerales por encima de los derechos y las necesidades de las comunidades locales.

Para analizar este fenómeno, se emplea el Análisis Crítico del Discurso (ACD), basado en el enfoque de Fairclough (1992, 2003) y Fairclough y Wodak (1997) que propone analizar el discurso como texto, que da cuenta de las características lingüísticas y retóricas que construyen la imagen de la "minería verde"; como práctica discursiva, que revela cómo estas narrativas circulan, se adoptan y reinterpretan

en los contextos locales; y el discurso como práctica social, que analiza los efectos ideológicos y hegemónicos que perpetúan relaciones de poder desiguales y consolidan la lógica extractivista en la región.

Este artículo ilustra cómo el discurso de la transición energética justifica los procesos de desplazamiento forzado que despojan a las comunidades de sus territorios, mientras promueve una visión tecnócrata del desarrollo. Los resultados incluyen la identificación de patrones comunes en la adopción de narrativas globales y su impacto en el desplazamiento de comunidades locales, así como el análisis de estrategias comunitarias que buscan resistir y reconfigurar estas narrativas.

Finalmente, se plantean propuestas para construir políticas y prácticas que prioricen los derechos humanos, el conocimiento ancestral y la autodeterminación de las comunidades afectadas, impulsando una transición energética justa e inclusiva para los pueblos del triángulo del litio.

Energy transition or green shift? An analysis of global narratives on energy transition and their impact on Latin America

Alfa C. M. Gutiérrez-Hernández and Daniel Lemus-Delgado

The clean energy transition boom, driven by the Global North, has intensified demand for lithium, a key resource for the production of batteries used in more efficient energy storage technologies. This transition is presented as a sustainable solution to the climate crisis and has a direct impact on the "lithium triangle" region comprised of Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile, where "58% of the world's lithium reserves" are concentrated. (Walter, Deniau, and Herrera, 2023, 15). However, behind the energy transition narrative lies a neo-extractivist logic that causes forced displacement, loss of land, and sociocultural impacts on the inhabitants of the communities where this mineral is found. This

paper analyzes how global narratives about "sustainable mining" and the "green transition," promoted by the Global North, are adopted in documents from international organizations such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, promoting regulatory frameworks and indirectly prioritizing global demand for these minerals over the rights and needs of local communities. To analyze this phenomenon, we employ Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), based on the approach of Fairclough (1992, 2003) and Fairclough and Wodak (1997). This approach proposes analyzing discourse as a text, which accounts for the linguistic and rhetorical characteristics that construct the image of "green mining," and as a discursive practice, which reveals how these narratives circulate, are adopted, and reinterpreted in local contexts. and discourse as a social practice, which analyzes the ideological and hegemonic effects that perpetuate unequal power relations and consolidate the extractivist logic in the region.

This article illustrates how the energy transition discourse justifies the processes of forced displacement that dispossess communities of their territories, while promoting a technocratic vision of development. The results include the identification of common patterns in the adoption of global narratives and their impact on the displacement of local communities, as well as the analysis of community strategies that seek to resist and reconfigure these narratives.

Finally, proposals are made for building policies and practices that prioritize human rights, ancestral knowledge, and the self-determination of affected communities, promoting a just and inclusive energy transition for the peoples of the lithium triangle.

Megaproyectos y desplazamiento forzado: una lectura biopolítica

Megaprojects and forced displacement: a biopolitical reading

Agustín R. Vázquez García Profesor/Investigador Departamento Producción

El Informe Especial de Desplazamiento Forzado Interno en el Estado de Oaxaca, publicado en octubre del 2024, elaborado por la Defensoría de Derechos Humanos del Pueblo de Oaxaca, registra cuatro casos de desplazamiento forzado en la región del Istmo de Tehuantepec. La ponencia propone una lectura que amplifica dicho escenario, a partir de la conceptualización de desplazamiento forzado propuesta por M. Cernea, para incluir la inmovilidad física en coexistencia con las condiciones generales de producción de acceso limitado. Ese concepto será utilizado para interpretar la información primaria y secundaria recopilada desde la década del dos mil para dicha región que, además de ser receptáculo de inversiones que han configurado un territorio con megaproyectos, debido a su posición geográfica, transita población migrante proveniente de Centroamérica y América del Sur. Es entonces una región donde ocurren condiciones de desplazamiento forzado en la definición ampliada de Cernea, siendo el hecho determinante, las nuevas condiciones generales de la producción instalada en esa región en forma de megaproyectos, prolongado como eje del desarrollo regional con la propuesta de un corredor interoceánico. La participación del Estado, capital, y crimen organizado en la región, genera el desplazamiento forzado en varias dimensiones de la reproducción social, y con diferentes grados de intensidad, incluyendo el escenario limítrofe de expulsión de segmentos de la población.

Megaprojects and forced displacement: a biopolitical reading

Agustín R. Vázquez García Profesor/Investigador Departamento Producción

The Special Report on Internal Forced Displacement in the State of Oaxaca, published in October 2024 by the Ombudsman's Office of Human Rights of the People of Oaxaca, records four cases of forced displacement in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec region. The report proposes a reading that broadens this scenario, based on the conceptualization of forced displacement proposed by M. Cernea, to include physical immobility coexisting with the general conditions of limited access to production. This concept will be used to interpret the primary and secondary information collected since the 2000s for this region, which, in addition to being a receptacle for investments that have shaped a territory with megaprojects, due to its geographical position, is also home to migrant populations from Central and South America. It is therefore a region where conditions of forced displacement occur, according to Cernea's expanded definition, the determining factor being the new general conditions of production established in that region in the form of megaprojects, extended as an axis of regional development with the proposal of an interoceanic corridor. The involvement of the state, capital, and organized crime in the region generates forced displacement in various dimensions of social reproduction, and with varying degrees of intensity, including the borderline scenario of expulsion of segments of the population.

La reproducción de la vulnerabilidad en la movilidad humana.

The reproduction of vulnerability in human mobility.

Dr. Edel J. Fresneda

Pese a que teorías y autores han hecho referencia a la relación que tiene la vulnerabilidad con el desplazamiento humano, aún no se ha explorado fehacientemente el vínculo contingente que tal situación de desventaja origina y su extensión a lo largo del ciclo migratorio. La vulnerabilidad no sólo es una condición de riesgo que causa la movilidad humana. Por el contrario, es a su vez una circunstancia que involucra distintas dimensiones y situaciones de perjuicio y deterioro que pueden corroborarse en sociedades de origen, tránsito y destino.

En el caso de la migración latinoamericana de los últimos años, es posible reconocer diferentes circunstancias de vulnerabilidad experimentadas por los y las migrantes, que involucran a sociedades de origen, tránsito y destino por su reiteración y que se materializan tanto en la baja o difícil reinserción de las personas en movilidad, como en lo relativo a su exposición a estructuras de desigualdades y deficiencias institucionales que impiden la realización identitaria, laboral, educativa, cultural y socioeconómica de las mismas personas. En ese sentido, la reproducción de la vulnerabilidad ocurre no sólo por la falta de activos y capitales o nulo o exiguo acceso a estructuras diversas, sino por la ausencia de políticas de reinserción y atención o cuidado de los migrantes. Irónicamente, en la última década esta situación descrita antes ha provocado fenómenos en la región, que están vinculados con la prolongación del tránsito en algunas migraciones y con la existencia de asentamientos contingentes que terminan por ser puntos geográficos de continuidad del tránsito. Esto se denomina dispersión transnacional de la vulnerabilidad.

Migraciones como la haitiana, la cubana, la venezolana y la colombiana que salen de sus sociedades de origen y transitan por diferentes naciones y, también, otras movilidades de países centroamericanos como Honduras, Guatemala y El Salvador, reflejan una reproducción de la vulnerabilidad

en el tránsito que tiende a ampliarse en el presente con las políticas de contención migratoria en los Estados Unidos y durante el asentamiento forzado en México.

Así, en este paper se propone analizar desde una perspectiva multidisciplinar (antropológica y sociológica) la existencia de esta reproducción de la vulnerabilidad a escala internacional, comparando las migraciones centroamericanas y caribeñas, como un fenómeno hasta ahora no eficientemente estudiado e incluido en las políticas de desplazamiento. Esta perspectiva única conlleva repensar las políticas de la región haciendo hincapié sobre todo en las historias de los desplazados. Estudios vigentes realizados sobre la perspectiva de los desplazados y sus propias experiencias durante el tránsito, permiten también valorar los desafíos que interponen las recientes medidas de contención y rechazo a las migraciones.

The reproduction of vulnerability in human mobility.

Dr. Edel J. Fresneda

Although theories and authors have referred to the relationship between vulnerability and human displacement, the contingent link that such a situation of disadvantage creates and its extension throughout the migratory cycle has not yet been thoroughly explored. Vulnerability is not only a risk condition caused by human mobility. On the contrary, it is also a circumstance that involves different dimensions and situations of harm and deterioration that can be corroborated in societies of origin, transit, and destination.

In the case of Latin American migration in recent years, it is possible to recognize different circumstances of vulnerability experienced by migrants. These circumstances affect societies of origin, transit, and destination due to their recurrence and are materialized both in the limited or difficult reintegration of people on the move, as well as in

their exposure to structures of inequality and institutional deficiencies that impede their identity, occupational, educational, cultural, and socioeconomic fulfillment. In this sense, the reproduction of vulnerability occurs not only due to a lack of assets and capital, or limited or no access to diverse structures, but also due to the absence of policies for the reintegration and care of migrants. Ironically, in the last decade, this situation described above has led to phenomena in the region linked to the prolongation of the transit in some migrations and to the existence of contingent settlements that end up being geographic points of continuity. This is called the transnational dispersion of vulnerability.

Migrations such as those from Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela, and Colombia, which leave their societies of origin and transit through different nations, as well as other mobility movements from Central American countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, reflect a reproduction of vulnerability in transit, which tends to expand in the present with migration containment policies in the United States and during forced settlement in Mexico. Thus, this paper proposes to analyze the existence of this reproduction of vulnerability on an international scale from a multidisciplinary perspective (anthropological and sociological), comparing Central American and Caribbean migration, a phenomenon that has so far been inefficiently studied and included in displacement policies. This unique perspective entails rethinking regional policies, placing particular emphasis on the stories of displaced persons. Current studies on the perspective of displaced persons and their own experiences during transit also allow us to assess the challenges posed by recent measures to contain and reject migration.

Título de la propuesta: Efecto trump: realidades, desesperanza y resistencias desde Tapachula

Trump effect: realities, hopelessness and resistance from Tapachula

Mtra. Alejandra Buitrón, Mtra. Andrea Sofía Chong,
Lic. Ricardo Peña

La migración internacional en la frontera sur de México y norte de Guatemala se ha visto transformada de manera enérgica desde inicios del año 2025; el cambio en la política migratoria de Estados Unidos bajo el segundo mandato de Donald Trump ha tenido implicaciones en la experiencia migratoria de las personas. Nuestra investigación busca ser un aporte situado en la reflexión de cómo las políticas internacionales del norte global tienen repercusiones en las localidades, principalmente en cómo estos procesos afectan las experiencias cotidianas.

La actual política migratoria estadounidense, caracterizada por el cierre de fronteras, la cancelación de las citas mediante la aplicación CBPOne, el aumento de la vigilancia, la criminalización y las amenazas bajo el régimen de deportación ha posibilitado cambios en los proyectos de vida de las personas migrantes, refugiadas y solicitantes de la condición de refugiado, impactando sus estrategias, las condiciones para acceder a servicios básicos y su perspectiva del futuro, etc.

En la frontera sur de México, Tapachula es la ciudad con mayor presencia y diversidad de personas de distintas nacionalidades, ya sea por su ingreso, retorno, tránsito o deportación desde Estados Unidos, es un espacio con múltiples tensiones, por lo que nos centraremos en el análisis de los retos, las solidaridades y violencias que enfrentan las personas migrantes, refugiadas y solicitantes de la condición de refugiado en esta ciudad. Estos cambios a nivel global están incidiendo en las relaciones locales, en la manera en la que las

personas migrantes y no migrantes habitan la ciudad, en la presencia y respuesta de los distintos actores como organizaciones de la sociedad civil, de agencias internacionales e instituciones gubernamentales de seguridad, verificación y control migratorio.

Trump Effect: Realities, Hopelessness, and Resistance from Tapachula

Alejandra Buitrón, Mtra. Andrea Sofía Chong and Lic. Ricardo Peña

International migration on the southern border of Mexico and northern Guatemala has undergone a dramatic transformation since the beginning of 2025. The change in US immigration policy under Donald Trump's second term has had implications for people's migration experiences. Our research seeks to contribute to the reflection on how international policies from the Global North impact local communities, primarily on how these processes affect everyday experiences.

Current US immigration policy, characterized by border closures, the cancellation of CBPOne appointments, increased surveillance, criminalization, and threats under the deportation regime, has led to changes in the life plans of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, impacting their strategies, their access to basic services, and their outlook on the future. On Mexico's southern border, Tapachula is the city with the greatest presence and diversity of people of different nationalities. Whether due to entry, return, transit, or deportation from the United States, it is a space fraught with tension. Therefore, we will focus on analyzing the challenges, solidarity, and violence faced by migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in this city. These global changes are impacting local relations, the way migrants and non-migrants inhabit the city, and the presence and response of various actors, such as civil society organizations, international agencies, and government institutions responsible for security, verification, and migration control.

GLOBAL SOUTH (CRITICAL) SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This is to certify that .....has presented in the first Global South (Critical) School of Thought on Displacement webinar which took place on 7-9 th May 2025.

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