The National Academies of
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COMMITTEE ON POPULATION

Virtual Stakeholder Meeting on Refugee Resettlement in the United States: The Role of Migration Research in Promoting Migrant Well-being During the COVID-19 Pandemic

December 1, 2020: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm (EST)
December 2, 2020: 1:00 – 4:30 pm (EST)

> This stakeholder meeting will bring together migration researchers, representatives of U.S. voluntary resettlement agencies, and other practitioners to consider the role of migration research in informing programs serving refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an emphasis on bringing global learning to those on the ground working with refugees. The discussion at the meeting will be framed by the results of a scientific workshop, "Forced Migration Research: From Theory to Practice in Promoting Migrant Well-Being," organized in May 2019 by the Committee on Population (CPOP) of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine with dedicated support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

DAY 1: Tuesday, December 1

9:00-9:15 am   **Welcome; Meeting Goals**

Ellen Percy Kraly (Colgate University), *Meeting Co-Chair*
Holly E. Reed (Queens College, City University of New York), *Meeting Co-Chair*

9:15 am-10:45 am   **Concepts, definitions, and data on refugee and forced migrants and migrant populations**

> *Key points from the May 2019 CPOP workshop[1]: The demography of refugee migration and settlement is constrained by official definitions of who is a refugee or an*

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[1] Information on the workshop is available: https://www .nap.edu/resource/25584/interactive/

Proceedings from the workshop are available: https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25584/forced-migration-research-from-theory-to-practice-in-promoting-migrant

immigrant. Data collection is needed to support analysis that is comparative among refugee and immigrant groups over time and different regions and places in the United States, and that recognizes the changing and emerging drivers of migration.

Romesh Silva (United Nations Population Fund), *moderator*

Sebastian Steinmuller (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), *participant*

Bouchta Bouziani (High Commission for Planning, Morocco), *participant*

Vebjørn Aalandslid, Statistics Norway, *participant*

Questions for discussion:

- Do rhetoric and policy around the pandemic reshape the migrant groups your organization is serving, or even expand your objectives and goals?
- How are national data on refugees and immigrants utilized in your organization and your programs?
- What are the most significant weaknesses in statistical and information systems regarding refugee settlement in your areas of operation?
- From the perspective of your mission and operations, are there groups of migrants for which more statistical information is needed?

10:45-11:00 am   BREAK

11:00 am-12:30 pm   Ethical issues in migration research

> ➢ *Key points from the May 2019 workshop: Ethical issues arise in all points of the research process: conceptualization, research design, data collection, analysis and communication.*

Susan McGrath (York University), *session moderator*

Sofia Gruskin (University of Southern California), *presenter*

Danielle Grisby (Refugee Council USA), *presenter*

Questions for discussion:

- How is public health being "weaponized" against refugees, asylum seekers and migrants due to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How can organizations and researchers promote both public health and migrant and refugee rights, and also recognize the resilience of migrants and migrant communities?
- What ethical issues emerge in research conducted by your organizations, for example evaluation research and assessment?
- Are there ways that population scientists can contribute your efforts to maintain standards regarding confidentiality and informed consent?
- Are there ethical dimensions of advocacy for refugees and communication with the public?

12:30 pm   Adjournment

1:00-2:15 pm   **Modeling and projecting forced migration and population displacement**

> ➢ *Key points from the May 2019 workshop: Modeling and simulation of forced migration and population displacement can serve to facilitate discussion, explore policy and response scenarios, structure thoughts and communicate ideas. New tools and approaches to estimate, understand and forecast forced migration and population displacement can capture the complexity and interactions of drivers of migration as well as impacts at different scales of analysis.*

Sarah Staveteig Ford, U.S. Department of State, *moderator*

Jean-Christophe Dumont (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), *participant*

Alexander Kjærum (Danish Refugee Council), *participant*

Questions for discussion:

- What emerging issues, patterns, and trends in the causes as well as consequences of refugee and forced migration are evident through your work and outreach? How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting these trends and issues?
- What is the role of prediction and forecasting of levels and characteristics of refugee and forced migration in your organization's operations and planning?
- What social, demographic, and health information about future refugees, migrants and migrant populations is most germane to the planning processes of your organization?

2:15-2:30 am   BREAK

2:30-4:00 pm   **Research design in evaluation of migrant integration and program evaluation**

> ➢ *Key points from the May 2019 workshop: The social science of refugee and immigrant settlement and*

integration requires comparable data collection in both destination and sending areas in order to assess the extent to which selection plays a role in explaining the trajectories of migrant populations in communities of settlement, and also in assessing the impact of integration and settlement programs.

Pia Orrenius (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas), *moderator*

Hamutal Bernstein (Urban Institute), *participant*

Jennifer Sime and Graeme Rodgers (International Rescue Committee), *participants*

Katie Mullins (Jesuit Refugee Services), *participant*

Questions for discussion:

- How is successful settlement and integration measured in your operations?
- Is there a place for the collection of data on populations served by your organization through survey methodology?
- Are there examples of ongoing registration systems for persons served to allow monitoring and evaluation of integration and well-being of refugees and migrants?
- Regarding the settlement and integration experience of populations and persons you serve, what questions critically require empirical information?
- How has the pandemic changed your operations and goals and how could data collection and survey research assist with navigating these changes?
- Are there new areas of partnership that hold potential for monitoring and analysis of settlement and integration outcomes (e.g., with public health professionals, social scientists, and municipalities)?

4:00-4:30 pm	Final Discussion
4:30 pm	Adjournment