
12th Annual Refugee and Migration Studies Student Conference October 12-13, 2017

Room 519 Kaneff Tower, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

CALL FOR PAPERS - SUBMISSION DEADLINE JULY 15, 2017

Bordering on Crisis: Citizenship, Borders and Forced Displacement

Keynote Speaker: TBD

The scale of international migration is unprecedented. At the same time, the number of people fleeing persecution has reached crisis proportions. According to conventional wisdom, we are living in exceptional times. Today, the intensification of global human mobility clashes with the reality of growing hostility towards migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees, with dwindling opportunities for those seeking safe and legal avenues through which to move. At a time when governments around the world are failing refugees and asylum-seekers, it is often said that we are witnessing a crisis of human mobility hitherto unseen. Stories about migrant and refugee crises in North America, Europe, Central America, North Africa and the Asia Pacific garner headlines on a daily basis, generating controversy around the globe.

Historically, academic research has reproduced taken-for-granted assumptions about international migration and the challenges and opportunities posed by the movement of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons. In this regard, critical scholars argue that academics, media, policy-makers and experts are implicated in the discursive construction of refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and migration through a crisis discourse.

This year we invite contributions from junior scholars, practitioners, academics, civil society groups, artists and activists to examine and reimagine the contradictory and contested meanings of crisis in relation to themes such as citizenship, borders and forced displacement. We encourage participants to reflect on the production of knowledge around refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and migration, and the question of whether and how this process contributes to and/or problematizes the dominant discourse of crisis. Simply put, this conference asks participants to address the question of how to research, problematize and construct alternatives to the hegemonic discourse of crisis which shapes the ways we think about citizenship, borders and forced displacement.

We encourage artists and performers to submit their creative work.

We welcome submissions on a range of topics, including but not limited to the following themes:

- Problematizing the ‘migrant/refugee crisis’ and challenging hegemonic perspectives
- Resettlement, asylum and the crisis of displacement
- Historicizing forced displacement, dispossession and expulsion
- Indigenous worldviews, settler societies and decolonizing knowledge-production
- Post-colonialisms, imperialisms and decolonizing refugee studies
- Bridging theory and practice, advocacy and research
- Critical methodologies and methods
- Crisis of citizenship, cessation and denationalization
- Deportation, detention and crisis
- Securitization of migration, xenophobia and populism
- Canadian/American exceptionalism and crisis
- Trauma, exile and narrative
- Territory, borders and deterritorialization
- Crisis of the nation-state, borders and the international refugee regime
- Development, humanitarianism and regional/global governance

NOTE: We would like to take advantage of the timing of the conference in the academic year to encourage students and scholars presenting preliminary post-fieldwork findings, as well as presentations of research based on recent undergraduate honours theses, internships, and major research projects.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: Individuals, groups, or panels wishing to present at the conference should submit a title and 250-word abstract to CRSSC.Conferences@gmail.com by **July 15, 2017**. Submissions will be assessed on a rolling basis. It is recommended that international applicants submit their proposal(s) as soon as possible.

For panel proposals please include a rationale for the panel as well as a title and brief description of each paper.

Conference registration and participation is free.

