Methodologies for Research and the Health and Wellbeing of Migrants in Transit

Final Report

February 22, 2024

Workshop overview and rationale

In 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that the world had hit a grim milestone: over 110 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes. Yet even as the number of forcibly displaced individuals has risen, countries of destination and transit are increasingly implementing policies intending to ban, block, and return asylum seekers and migrants, pushing these vulnerable populations onto evermore dangerous migration routes and leaving migrants in extended periods of transit and uncertainty. Advocates have raised the alarm on the harm and risk of mortality associated with these policies, yet our ability to follow migrants through extended periods of transit – both to provide services and collect data that would enable us to understand the risks associated with protracted and interrupted transit – remains limited. Additionally, conventional concepts, methodologies, and theories used to study migration are often insufficient in addressing these risks and confronting their broader political and ethical implications.

The limitations of existing methodologies and analytical frameworks complicate efforts to assess the full impact of policy decisions and is a significant obstacle to designing interventions at various stages of the journey to mitigate risk and reduce harm. An interdisciplinary approach is critical to understanding how the increasingly extended periods of time migrants are spending in transit impacts their health, access to livelihoods and education, legal status and rights, and long-term wellbeing, and requires a comprehensive approach spanning the social, political, legal, and health sciences.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this workshop was to draw from interdisciplinary best practices to address the methodological and ethical limitations of current approaches to research on migrants in transit. Specifically, we aimed to foster a collaborative network of interdisciplinary scholars and practitioners working on promoting the protection and wellbeing of migrants in transit. Ultimately, we hoped these efforts would contribute to advancing knowledge of the challenges facing people on the move, enhance humanitarian efforts to better serve those needs, and inform policy efforts that can hold states accountable for the human costs of their migration policies.

KEY ISSUES: Many of the research questions are the same across the globe, but answering them requires an approach that is attuned to the specificities of migrant groups and their experiences in each region. In this workshop we explored the global and context-specific challenges and opportunities

through the lens of three case studies: 1) the U.S.-Mexico border and Central American route; 2) the Euro-Mediterranean route; and 3) the Asia Pacific route. During the workshop, we discussed common themes and strategies needed to address these questions while simultaneously embracing the contextual nuances and regional realities. We discussed the following research questions and themes during the workshop:

- **Concepts and definitions:** How do we define a migrant population that is on the move or in transit? What are the legal, social, political, and practical implications of these varying definitions? How does this operationalization influence research approaches and the uptake and utility of research findings?
- **Methodologies:** What are the methodologies that enable us to characterize and understand the experiences of migrants in transit? How can we ascertain the impact of multilevel factors – policies, social context, individual characteristics – on their health and wellbeing? What are the strengths and limitations of existing approaches? What are the lessons we can learn across disciplines?
- **Innovations, opportunities, and risks:** What are the innovative technologies and methodologies we can use to advance knowledge and action to support the protection and wellbeing of migrants in transit? What are the important ethical considerations and vulnerabilities? How can we ensure a 'do no harm' approach in our research?
- **Data gaps and translation:** What is the current data gap? What data are needed to stimulate positive changes in policies and practices that support the protection and wellbeing of migrants in transit? As researchers, how can we collect data that is useful to a range of stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, advocates, practitioners)?

The first two days of the workshop were dedicated to interrogating these questions and presenting strategies and case examples that illuminate opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that may help us transcend the limitations of our specific fields and expertise. On Day 3 we constructed plans for a collaborative and interdisciplinary network of researchers and practitioners, including specific opportunities for collaboration and collective outputs.

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Day 1 Summary: January 10, 2024

In Day 1 we began by presenting three migration contexts that were used as case studies throughout the workshop: 1) Asia-Pacific route; 2) Central American route; and 3) Euro-Mediterranean route. We then proceeded to have a discussion on how to define and conceptualize "migrants in transit," as well as the advantages and disadvantages of various definitions. The final two presentations focused on different methodologies for understanding the experiences of migrants in transit beginning with qualitative methodologies and moving into quantitative methodologies.

Key points

1. Language

Presenters and attendees repeatedly discussed the importance of the language we use to describe the population of "migrants in transit," as well as their experiences. The language we use is also dependent on the objectives of the statements that we are making, the audience, and the context. The effective selection of language and terminology requires an interdisciplinary perspective that can see the implications of language choice from different perspectives as the language we use can have consequences for accountability and action. Migrants' perspective must also be included in these discussions to ensure representation. Attendees cautioned against focusing only on language that evokes risk and ignores the resilience and creativity of migrants in transit, as the language that is used can also be a source of power ('proud to be a migrant,' and 'the right to migrate'). Together we discussed the different dimensions of an appropriate definition for migrants in transit and concluded that it must include the elements of: 1) mobility; 2) vulnerability or need; 3) rights (or lack thereof); and 4) migration intentions.

2. Context

The case studies illustrated many of the ways various migration routes are similar and/or different as well as how they are interconnected, thus highlighting the importance of context when considering the experiences and needs of migrants in transit. Across the three case studies, we observed the non-linear and non-binary nature of transit (concepts included porosity, informality), the insecurity and risks facing migrants moving along these routes, and the use of externalization and securitization measures by state actors. However, these contexts highlighted important differences in the historical and social context, regional responses and movements, and geography. Across the case study contexts were substantial differences in language, migrant identities, and practical differences in the challenges and opportunities for research (e.g., variable retention in surveys).

3. Complementarity

The workshop brought together a diverse group of scholars with varied backgrounds, identities, and experiences. Discussions highlighted the complementarity of positionality, disciplines, and methodologies, acknowledging that we "always only have a partial view" and that there are "many ways of knowing."

Session 1: Setting the scene

Moderator: Claire Greene

Speakers: Alexandra Delano Alonso, Delphine Rodrik, Susan Banki

Delphine Rodrik's presentation delved into the complexities and challenges faced by migrants using the Euro-Mediterranean route. The migration routes are not linear, and people are often forced to move between them due to prevention and deterrence methods. The European Union's (EU's) border policies focus on closing borders, externalization agreements with third states, and criminalizing humanitarian assistance. Examples include returns from Spanish enclaves to Morocco and forced returns to Libya by sea. The closed-border policy has led to widespread pushback practices across the EU continent, involving racial profiling, covert handling outside legal frameworks, and extreme violence, with summary expulsions into places migrants may not have passed through.

Susan Banki's presentation centered on transit migration in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting the diversity of displaced populations. She emphasized the unique characteristics of the region, such as its large landmass and imporous sea borders. The lack of signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention in many Asia-Pacific countries raises concerns about obligations and sovereignty. Banki introduced the concepts of porosity and informality in migration governance, emphasizing the need for comprehensive research methods.

Alexandra Delano Alonso's presentation focused on changes in migration flows along the US-Mexico border and the Central American route over the last decade. Shifts include the reasons for leaving, the rise of group migrations, and changes in destinations. Mexico has become both a country of transit, destination, and return, challenging traditional definitions of transit. The language has shifted from "migrants in transit" to "migrants in waiting," highlighting the forced confinement in Mexico. Alonso discussed alternative approaches, emphasizing the need for free transit, dignity, and community repair.

In the discussion, participants explored the interconnectedness of contexts, the role of informality in weaker states, and the challenges of defining and addressing data gaps in discussions about migrants in transit. The effectiveness of deterrence measures, access to information, and the impact of policies on migrants' decision-making processes were also thoroughly examined.

Session 2: Concepts, Definitions and Populations

Facilitators: *Ayten Gündoğdu, Daniel Naujoks*

The session led by Ayten Gündoğdu and Daniel Naujoks introduced the session with a discussion on the proliferation of labels and categories used to define people on the move, such as refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), economic migrants, asylum seekers, climate migrants/refugees, stateless people, irregular migrants, unaccompanied minors, etc. The urgency lies in reflecting on these concepts and definitions in the work of researchers and practitioners. Key questions included the concepts used in participants' work, strategies, challenges, and how to define and differentiate between asylum seekers and migrants. The discussion explored the political nature of concepts and definitions, acknowledging the role of language in state actions.

Daniel Naujoks explored the term "Transit Migration" and the various definitions associated with it. He emphasized that no concept has a single definition and can be statistical, legal, policy-oriented, or used in social vernacular. The discussion touched on the evocative images associated with transit migration, the role of North African countries, and the political motives behind using the term to justify scrutiny of migration. Participants discussed the challenges of defining and investigating transit migration, considering the intersection of vulnerability, agency, and power in the conceptualization.

During the discussion, participants expressed diverse perspectives. They questioned the usefulness of terms like "in transit" in public health practice, considerations about the normalization of stability versus mobility, and the qualitative differences in the experiences of people labeled as transit migrants. The conversation addressed the power dynamics embedded in terminologies and the impact of definitions on individuals' access to rights and protection. There was also a call to reevaluate terminology to better capture the confinement aspects ("enforced immobility") and vulnerabilities experienced by those labeled as "transit migrants." The debate extended to migrants' self-representation, state actions, and the weaponization of the term "transit migrants" in political discourse to evade state obligations. Overall, the session underscored the importance of critically examining and redefining concepts to better address the complexities of migration experiences.

Session 3: Methodologies: Qualitative strategies for research with migrants in transit

Moderator: *Naor H Ben-Yehoyada*

Speakers: *Ayten Gündoğdu, Amelia Frank-Vitale*

Ayten Gündoğdu and Amelia Frank-Vitale each presented on their respective research methodologies and findings related to migration. Dr. Frank-Vitale emphasized the importance and utility of an anthropological approach to studying migration, particularly focusing on the stories of individuals moving through different spaces. She highlighted the complexity of migration experiences, the limitations of traditional research methods, and the need to incorporate her own mobility into the research process. She introduced a new project that explores the intersection of climate, health, and migration through a collective, simultaneous and multilocal approach.

Dr. Gündoğdu, a political theorist, discussed her research on migrant deaths and disappearances in the Euro-Mediterranean region. She explained how her work draws on critical theory, emphasizing its normative commitment to emancipatory goals. Dr. Gündoğdu critiqued the term "missing migrants" and proposed alternatives that highlight state responsibility and violence. She explored the concept of "forced disappearances," linking it to civil death and racialized dimensions of violence. Dr. Gündoğdu underscored the importance of conducting a systemic and historical analysis of border controls and paying attention to new claims and strategies to contest borders.

During the discussion, attendees raised questions relating to the scale, causality, and audience for qualitative research findings. Participants debated the value of ethnographic methods versus quantitative approaches, with a consensus emerging that both are complementary. The need for mixed methods studies, collaboration, and the power of storytelling in influencing policy change were emphasized. Attendees discussed the challenges of making research palatable to policymakers, the potential for engaging with different audiences, and the role of critical scholarship in influencing global and regional standard setting bodies.

Overall, the conversation on qualitative methodologies provided insights into the diverse perspectives and methodologies employed in migration research, touching on the interdisciplinary nature of the field and the challenges of translating research findings into policy impact.

Session 4: Methodologies: Quantitative strategies for research with migrants in transit

Moderator: Claire Greene

Speakers: Ietza Bojorquez, Sam Chambers, Jane Linekar, Ana Martinez-Donate

The presenters discussed various research projects focusing on migrants in transit, emphasizing the importance of data gathering for informed practices from government, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The primary questions revolved around estimating the number of migrants in transit and their health-related characteristics through demographic and epidemiologic research methodologies. Traditional survey approaches based on fixed populations were deemed inadequate for in-transit migrants, emphasizing the need for new methods and innovations in research approaches.

Dr. Bojorquez highlighted the EMIF as a survey that has been operating since 1993, providing information on migrants deported by U.S. authorities, those coming from the Northern Triangle, and others. The method involves time-venue sampling, a probability-based method to produce a representative sample. Dr. Chambers' presentation focused on spatiotemporal and forensic analysis of human migration patterns in policed borderlands. It delved into the impact of surveillance systems on migrant mortality and highlighted the role of checkpoints, towers, and mobile surveillance units in shaping migration routes and contributing to fatalities. Jane Linekar, from the Mixed Migration Center (MMC), presented their approach to developing and using a standardized global data collection system, 4Mi, to gather information on mixed migration. The system involved field enumerators along migration routes, collecting data on various aspects such as reasons for migration, perceived risks, and access to assistance. The MMC emphasized flexibility, adaptability, and large-scale research. Dr. Martinez-Donate presented on the Migrante Project, which collects data from migrants in the U.S.-Mexico border region. This long-standing study aims to address the gap in research on migration flows and health outcomes, especially in transit areas. The project uses a survey model inspired by EMIF, focusing on different phases of migration and incorporating a health module. Results from the project provide insights into health issues, risk indicators, and contextual factors relating to transit migration.

The discussion covered four main topics related to quantitative methods: sampling, triangulation, retention, and measurement. There was a concern raised about the eagerness to amass data quickly and potentially losing sight of ethical considerations and the purpose of data collection. Informed by the experience of one participant who worked on the Thai-Burmese border, participants agreed on the importance of ethical research, cautioning against the risk of endangering respondents and the need to reflect on the motivations behind data collection. However, attendees also argued that ethically collected data can advance policy and public health, providing valuable insights. Other attendees offered alternatives, including the use of existing technologies and available secondary data in research used in creative ways. Other participants noted the importance of careful data management. Participants raised the question of determining when data is sufficient and identifying priority gaps to advance programming, policy, and action. Overall, the conversation underscored the need for ethical data collection, awareness of researchers' positions and motivations, and a thoughtful, deliberate approach to the use of data in informing policies and actions.

Day 2 Summary: January 11, 2024

On Day 2, we had four sessions, each dedicated to a key problem that arises in the context of transit migration. The day started with a session that explored the multiple uses of technology by different actors (e.g., states, researchers, non-governmental organizations, and migrants) in the context of transit migration. This discussion was followed by a session that explored the different ways researchers and practitioners can incorporate ethical considerations as they research populations on the move. The third session of the day looked into the distinctive vulnerabilities experienced by unaccompanied minors and children on the move. The day came to a close with a session on the policy and advocacy dimensions of research on transit migration, addressing how we can link data to action in ways responding to the needs of the populations we work with.

Key points

1. Ethics of Knowledge Production

Presenters and attendees returned to ethical considerations in the collection and use of data during several sessions. They raised concerns about data extraction and emphasized the need to prioritize the rights, interests, and needs of the migrants in research and advocacy. Accordingly, one key conclusion was that data collection, publication of research, legal advocacy, etc. should not put migrants at risk by revealing their identities and routes to authorities. A related issue on Day 2 revolved around the need to build equitable partnerships with researchers embedded in the community and with migrants themselves; relatedly, there was an emphasis on the need to research and work with migrants as collaborators rather than simply treat them as objects of study.

2. Race and Racism

Questions of race and racism came up on both days but particularly on Day 2. Presenters and attendees reflected on the impact of structural racism on the differential effects of border control technologies on populations on the move, racialized constructions of "vulnerability" and "minors" in the context of migration, and the disproportionate exposure of racialized migrants (e.g., sub-Saharan Africans) to violence, abuse, and exploitation.

3. Political Interventions and Partnerships

The sessions for the day explored several sites in which research can find an audience and make a political impact—ranging from official policy-making sites such as UN organizations, state agencies, national and international courts to less formal sites of political activism such as community-based organizations and refugee-led advocacy groups.

Session 5: The Multiple Faces of Technology:

Moderator: Katherine McCann

Speakers: Charles Heller, Austin Kocher

Charles Heller, a researcher representing Border Forensics, started his presentation with a critique of the tendency to over-exaggerate digitalization of border control and overlook the proliferation of physical walls and fences. He provided several examples from the work of Border Forensics to discuss the multiple methods and technologies that can be used to investigate border violence. He emphasized the need to use surveillance technology against the grain and exercise "a disobedient gaze"—one that refuses to render visible what the states want to render visible (e.g., migrants' routes) and instead renders visible what states want to conceal (i.e., state violence). Such critical positioning of the researcher, according to Heller, is necessary to respect the migrants' "right to opacity" (Glissant)—a right that obliges the researchers not to reproduce the racialized representations of migrants, for example.

Austin Kocher, a legal and political geographer, started his presentation with a discussion of the ways in which asylum-seekers use the smart phone technology not only to store their records but also for purposes of ground-up resistance, including documenting abuse. While such uses can be important for countervailing state surveillance and violence, Kocher underlined, they also involve risks such as "digital capture" by state agencies. Following this discussion, he focused primarily on the specific technologies that the US government uses to govern asylum-seekers, including CBP One and SmartLINK apps. Kocher pointed out that the facial recognition technology in CBP One and the electronic monitoring technology in SmartLINK were transferred to the migration control context from different fields. Emphasizing these technologies' public histories of failure, he argued that the US government's decision to use them despite these well-known problems demonstrated the expendability of migrants' lives.

One key issue that came up in the discussion following these two presentations was the racial bias of technology, particularly the impact of structural racism on access to technology such as smart phones. The participants also explored how technology can be used in ways that respond to the needs of migrants (e.g., provide health care to migrants on the move) and uphold their rights (e.g., the life-saving impact of Watch the Med alarm phone). One key takeaway of the session was that researchers and practitioners can achieve these goals better if they stop fetishizing technology and embed it instead in existing social networks of migrants.

Session 6: Ethical Considerations for Researching Populations on the Move:

Moderator: Claire Greene

Speakers: Delphine Rodrik, Kaveh Khoshnood

Delphine Rodrik, a legal researcher and practitioner at the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, addressed the ethical challenges that arise in the litigation of court cases that involve migrants who experienced human rights violations. Rodrik emphasized that litigation should wait until migrants arrive in safe spaces where they can meet with lawyers, access health care, and meet their fundamental needs. She pointed out that lawyers should be honest with migrants about the limits of legal tools, including about the fact that a judgment from a human rights court might not necessarily improve their situation. Rodrik highlighted the risks of "extractivism" and the need to work with migrants by prioritizing their needs and interests. Accordingly, she argued for the need to exclude certain legal claims that can have a negative impact on the mental health and well-being of the migrant. She also underlined the challenges of talking publicly about these legal cases, using a language that can express the problems experienced by the applicants without turning them into victims, and advocating for migrants by protecting them from overexposure to potentially traumatizing media scrutiny.

Kaveh Khoshnood, an epidemiologist based at Yale University, discussed the ethics of research in the context of humanitarian crises by drawing on his research on HIV/AIDS prevention and his work with the Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale. He emphasized that ethical questions are not exhausted by the formal IRB process and that they should be addressed together with methodological questions. Khoshnood underscored the importance of "do no harm" as a guiding principle; accordingly, he argued that research should be undertaken only if it is necessary and only if it can be conducted in a way that minimizes the risks for all the participants and the researcher(s). He pointed out that assessment of risks requires careful attention to the local context and collaboration with local researchers and NGOs. Khoshnood illustrated these risks with a case study of a pilot study on substance use and the risk of HIV/AIDS among displaced Syrians in Lebanon. To avoid the further stigmatization of an already stigmatized population, Khoshnood argued, there was a need to extend the study to the Lebanese population and to reflect critically about publicizing the findings.

The discussion that followed these presentations addressed the need to conduct research ethically by avoiding extractivism. Participants emphasized the need to provide feedback after the research in order to reengage the people we work with. They underscored the need to engage with the community and involve migrants in the research process as collaborators and co-design the research as much as possible. There was also a discussion of the challenges of conducting research in the context of humanitarian emergencies given that institutional review of research in many states with such emergencies is closely tied to surveillance mechanisms.

Session 7: Addressing Vulnerabilities through the Lens of Unaccompanied Minors and Children on the Move

Moderator: Nara Milanich

Speakers: Estrella Lajom, Jane Linekar

Jane Linekar, Head of Research and 4Mi at the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), discussed the methodologies that MMC uses in researching unaccompanied minors and children on the move. Linekar emphasized that vulnerability should be understood in terms of the inability to enjoy rights in specific contexts rather than a complete lack of agency, and she listed some of the key indicators of vulnerability as gender, age, nationality, language, migration route, and education. To tackle the challenges of data collection about this hard-to-reach population, MMC operates with the principle of "do no harm" and starts data collection with easy-to-reach groups and with caregivers. Linekar emphasized some of the limits of such an approach, including the inadequacies in caregivers' accounts. To address the limits of these indirect methods, MMC also engages in direct data collection from unaccompanied minors and children, combining surveys and semi-structured interviews. In concluding her presentation, Linekar underscored the need for more data collection to understand the different factors that contribute to vulnerability as well as their interactions.

Estrella Lajom from UNICEF's Migration and Displacement Unit discussed the distinctive vulnerabilities of unaccompanied minors and the challenges arising from data gaps and inadequate reporting mechanisms. In terms of data gaps, Lajom pointed to problems such as inadequate data from official sources, lack of disaggregation (in terms of age, sex, nationality, risk category, etc.), and under-recording of IDPs and missing migrants. In terms of reporting, Lajom underscored the challenges arising from the lack of standard definitions, use of different national procedures, and lack of data sharing. She also discussed the lack of data for most migration routes outside Europe and the United States. Some of the reported vulnerabilities of unaccompanied minors include lack of shelter, hunger, financial problems, physical violence, trafficking, and exploitation. Lajom also discussed the findings of a 2018 IOM survey on the Central and Eastern Mediterranean route, which shows that migrants from sub-Saharan African migrants are more vulnerable to exploitation and the risk of exploitation is higher in the Central Mediterranean route.

The discussion centered around definitional questions and the politics of data collection. Several participants pointed to the need to think carefully about the various factors that shape the definitions central to this session—i.e., "vulnerability," "minor," "unaccompanied," and "child." There was attention to the racialized aspects of this problem, particularly to the challenges that non-white minors experience in being recognized as vulnerable children. In terms of the politics of data collection, several participants pointed to the need to be cautious about data collected by states for purposes of shaping public narratives (e.g., creating a sense of crisis at the border by using images of suffering children).

Session 8: Linking Data to Action

Moderator: Monette Zard

Speakers: Sana Ali Mustafa, Daniel Naujoks

Daniel Naujoks presented his research that examined the references to human mobility and transit migration in the UN development plans (1997-2001). While 93% of these reports include references to mobility, only 6% mention "transit migration," with a notable spike in 2016. According to Naujoks, in the limited number of reports that mention "transit migration," there is no actionable plan linked to it, but there is an association between this phenomenon and securitization and border control. The presentation highlighted the challenges of designing meaningful interventions given the lack of interest in incorporating "transit migration" into the framework of development plans (unless it is linked to border control).

Sana Ali Mustafa, CEO of Asylum Access, underscored the crucial importance of self-representation and self-determination for people with the lived experience forced displacement. In terms of linking data to action, she argued for the need to engage directly with refugee-led movements and eliminate intermediary INGOs. These engagements should avoid extractivism at any cost, Mustafa argued, and strive to establish equitable research partnerships (e.g., by seeking partnerships with researchers embedded in the community, offering compensation for surveys, co-authoring publications). Mustafa also emphasized the need to think carefully about the footprint of data collection, collect data only if it is necessary, and be mindful of how the data will be used once it is collected.

In the ensuing discussion, participants explored different ways of linking data to action. Some participants focused on official spaces of policy-making such as the UN and discussed the challenges of translating research into policy in such spaces especially given the institutional resistance to change. Other participants argued for the need to think about the impact of the research beyond the official spaces of policy-making and collaborating with local grassroots communities in ways that respond to their needs. Questions of research ethics—e.g., how to collect, use, and publicize data responsibly—arises in each of these spaces, albeit differently.

Day 3 Summary: January 12, 2024

In Day 3 we facilitated a conversation intended to elucidate priority actions that workshop attendees can take to promote further research collaborations and strengthen the network. Attendees shared their insights on the value of the network, potential collaborations, and concrete outputs, while avoiding added burden. The discussion shifted to exploring project collaborations, particularly focusing on terminology, the history of terminology, and defining the target population. Participants raised topics that weren't covered sufficiently within the workshop, but could become an extension of these discussions and areas for future collaboration. These included: 1) research on interventions that specifically address the needs and contextual realities of migrants in transit; 2) children and migration and the role of and discourse around smuggling; 3) conceptual history in understanding migration; and 4) community-level responses and engagement. Emerging this discussion was the suggestion of topic-based meetings and creating a directory of partners mapped to areas of interest and expertise. Attendees also expressed the absence of representatives from organizations like IOM and MSF, emphasizing the value of including operational perspectives in discussions.

Attendees discussed the idea of preparing a collection, possibly for submission to Forced Migration Review (FMR), and potential co-partnering for a special issue. Three ideas related to this idea emerged that can help in defining the approach for a special issue. First, one attendee suggested involving enumerators or community members as co-authors. Second, one attendee mentioned that the objective could be to frame and problematize the issue within existing spaces and bringing visibility to populations falling through the cracks, such as migrants in transit. Lastly, one participant mentioned that MMC has previously served as a convening platform for policymakers, which could be a platform for a future convening to share some of the work emerging from this special issue and build on the discussions within this initial workshop.

Participants expressed the need for a shared/open-access curriculum (with appropriate acknowledgements), teaching materials, and online spaces for concept papers and resources. Attendees suggested a post-grad course and joint seminars between different networks.

Attendees discussed the structure of the network, with suggestions for formalizing it to facilitate collaboration and funding opportunities. Applying for funding and organizing a future symposium may help to establish this network and strengthen the formality of the network for growth and sustainability.

Participants discussed potential names for the network and explored ideas for collaborative initiatives, such as joint seminars and symposiums. The discussion concluded with participants expressing the need for roles and responsibilities, formalizing the network's structure, and creating a repository for teaching,

resources, and research. Participants showed enthusiasm for the ideas presented during the meeting and expressed gratitude for the diverse contributions from the engaged community.

Key points

1. Define the Value of the Network:
    *   Clarify the collective value of the network and how it can be an added value rather than a burden to participants.
    *   Consider how the network can contribute to the work and objectives of its members. Define roles and responsibilities.

2. Project Collaborations and Concrete Outputs:
    *   Brainstorm project collaborations, focusing on topics such as terminology, history, and defining the target population.
    *   Explore possibilities for concrete outputs from meetings, emphasizing the importance of interventions and research on people in transit.

3. Enhance Multidisciplinary Collaboration and grow the network:
    *   Encourage multidisciplinary collaboration, including perspectives from anthropologists, experts in children and smuggling, NGOs, and operational organizations like IOM and MSF.
    *   Discuss specific topics in focused events and interventions to gather diverse perspectives.
    *   Identify other individuals who may be interested in joining and participating in this type of network

4. Create a Trusted Network and Directory:
    *   Establish a directory of partners mapped to their areas of interest and expertise.
    *   Build a trusted network that can provide expertise and support when needed.

5. Explore Formalization and Collaborative Outputs:
    *   Consider the creation of a collection or special issue similar to Forced Migration Review (FMR) to spotlight key issues, challenges, and perspectives.
    *   Explore the possibility of co-partnering for such initiatives, involving enumerators, informants, and contributors to broaden the epistemic field.
    *   Reflect ideas in a collection format rather than forcing them into a single framework.

Appendix 1. Agenda

Day 1: January 10, 2024

Welcome

9:00-9:30am

Introduction to the workshop

Objectives: Articulating the data gap and why it needs to be addressed.

Structure of the workshop: Overview of timeline, logistics, and outputs.

Speakers: Ayten Gündoğdu, Claire Greene, Monette Zard

Session 1

9:30-10:45am

Setting the scene: A brief overview of the 3 contexts we will be using as a lens through which to explore different research methodologies.

The US/Mexico Border and the Central American Route, Alexandra Delano Alonso

The Euro-Mediterranean Route, Delphine Rodrik

The Asia-Pacific Route, Susan Banki

Moderator: Claire Greene

10:45-11:00am   Break

Session 2

11:00am-
12:30pm

Concepts, Definitions and Populations: How do we define and describe the population we are trying to understand?

- How do we define and differentiate between asylum seekers and migrants? In what circumstances is this differentiation needed, and when might it be unhelpful, even dangerous?
- What additional considerations do we need when thinking of documented vs. undocumented migrants?
- Where do returnees and deportees factor into this discussion?
- How do detention and confinement play into this larger question?
- How does pendular or circular migration affect existing concepts and categories?
- How do we define 'transit,' bot theoretically and operationally?

Speakers: Ayten Gündoğdu, Daniel Naujoks

12:30-1:30pm   Lunch

Session 3
1:30-2:30pm

Methodologies: Qualitative strategies for research with migrants in transit

Speakers will provide examples of ways in which qualitative methods have been used by scholars and practitioners, followed by open discussion.

- What do these approaches allow us to capture? What do they miss?
- What are some of the strengths and limitations of these approaches?
- Is there a transnational component to them?

Speakers: Ayten Gündoğdu, Amelia Frank-Vitale

Moderator: Naor H Ben-Yehoyada

2:30-2:45pm

Break

Session 4
2:45-4:15pm

Methodologies: Quantitative strategies for research with migrants in transit

Speakers will provide examples of ways in which qualitative methods have been used by scholars and practitioners, followed by open discussion.

- What do these approaches allow us to capture? What do they miss?
- What are some of the strengths and limitations of these approaches?
- Is there a transnational or longitudinal component to them?

Speakers: Ietza Bojorquez, Sam Chambers, Jane Linekar, Ana Martinez-Donate

Moderator: Claire Greene

Wrap Up
4:15-4:30pm

Summary of key discussion points and preview of Day 2

Claire Greene

5:00-7:00pm

Dinner at Pisticci

125 La Salle St, New York, NY 10027

Session 5

9:00-10:15am

The Multiple Faces of Technology: Technology is a critical tool for reaching and maintaining contact with migrants, collecting data, and sharing findings. Yet its use is not without risk. We will discuss the legal and political implications of technology in the sphere of migration. Speakers will share examples of the use of technology within the context of research on migrants in transit, followed by open discussion guided by the following questions:

- What are the legal risks and liabilities of technology, including privacy risks, as it is used in research?
- How is technology used by governmental and non-governmental actors (i.e., data collection for immigration control), and how does our role as researchers interface with this reality?
- What are best practices in using technology and attending to concerns about surveillance, data protection, and privacy?

Speakers: Charles Heller, Austin Kocher

Moderator: Katherine McCann

10:15-10:30am   Break

Session 6

10:30-11:45am

Ethical Considerations for Researching Populations on the Move: Ensuring an ethical approach to research is critical, particularly when the population faces added vulnerabilities due to their migration status. Speakers will share examples of how they've incorporated ethical considerations into their research and participate in an open discussion guided by the following questions:

- How can we ensure our research approaches meet the needs of people on the move, and what lessons can we apply across disciplines?
- What ethical challenges are likely to arise from this type of research, and what are the best practices for navigating these challenges?

Speakers: Kaveh Khoshnood, Delphine Rodrik, Bruce Shapiro

Moderator: Claire Greene

11:45am-
12:45pm   Lunch

Session 7

12:45-2:00pm

Addressing Vulnerabilities through the Lens of Unaccompanied Minors and Children on the Move

- What specific subsets of this population exist that need additional and/or specific safeguards for protection?
- What are the unique considerations for conducting research for key populations?
- How have these considerations been applied to unaccompanied minors and children on the move?

Speakers: Estrella Lajom, Jane Linekar

Moderator: Nara Milanich

2:00-2:15pm

Break

Session 8

2:15-3:45pm

Linking Data to Action

This session will explore the policy and advocacy dimension of this research, asking how we can better place and leverage our work for impact. Speakers will share examples of interdisciplinary collaborations that leverage a range of methods to advance the use of data to inform action. We will then have an open discussion about what kind of data are needed and for what purpose, as guided by the following questions:

- Who are the end users?
- How can scholars and practitioners meet this need responsibly?
- What lessons and techniques exist across disciplines for reaching and maintaining connection with participants on the move?
- What types of quantitative and qualitative data can we access, and what are the innovative or creative approaches to using these data to fill the knowledge gap?
- How can we better utilize community networks to reach and support migrants

Speakers: Sana Ali Mustafa, Daniel Naujoks

Moderator: Monette Zard

Wrap Up

3:45-4:00pm

Summary of key discussion points and preview of Day 3

Ayten Gündoğdu

Session 9

9:00-10:30am

Next Steps - Building Collaborations: This workshop is aimed to be the first step in ongoing work and collaboration-building around migrants in transit. Stemming from this session, we hope both to build an open network of communication among the attendees and to develop and move forward with a concrete output formalizing our conversations.

Building a collaborative network of researchers:

- What would attendees hope this network would provide?
- How can we best structure this network to meet those needs?
- How do we sustain this network moving forward?

Collaborative work and a concrete output:

- What output do we want to produce?
- What does the structure and timeline look like for developing and disseminating this output?

Facilitators: Ayten Gündoğdu, Claire Greene, Katherine McCann, Monette Zard

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10:30-10:45am   Goodbyes

Appendix 2. Attendee bios

Attendees are listed alphabetically by last name.

Mehreen Afzal

Mehreen Afzal is a specialist in international refugee and human rights law with fifteen years professional experience with UNHCR ranging from protection delivery in refugee camps in Africa and Asia to global advocacy in multilateral processes at UN Headquarters in New York. Her specific and ever-expanding interest since completing her PhD at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy two decades ago, has been examining the normative and policy frameworks geared towards protecting people on the move as a result of new and emerging forms crises or disasters.

Susan Banki

Susan Banki is an Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. She studies the political, institutional, and social contexts that explain the roots of and solutions to human rights violations and social justice abuses. In particular, she is interested in the ways that questions of sovereignty, transnationalism, and citizenship/membership have shaped our responses to conflict and injustice, particularly examining institutions such as the international refugee regime, diasporas, and the humanitarian system. Susan's focus is in the Asia-Pacific region, where she has conducted extensive field research in Thailand, Myanmar/Burma, Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Japan on refugee/migrant protection, statelessness and border control. Her current projects include: the work of diasporas in responding to acute crises at home; humanitarian responses to complex displacement contexts; and the role of creative arts in transnational activism.

Naor H Ben-Yehoyada

Naor Ben-Yehoyada's work examines unauthorized migration, criminal justice, the aftermath of development, and transnational political imaginaries in the central and eastern Mediterranean. His monograph, *The Mediterranean Incarnate: Transnational Region Formation between Sicily and Tunisia since World War II* (Chicago Press, 2017), offers a historical anthropology of the recent re-emergence of the Mediterranean. He is specifically interested in the processes through which transnational regions form and dissipate. He proposes to view such spaces as ever-changing constellations, and show how we can to study them from the moving vessels that weave these constellations together and stage their social relations and dynamics in full view. He has also written shorter pieces about the different phases of the dynamics of maritime unauthorized migration and interdiction, as well as on the role that the Mediterranean's seabed plays in Italian political retrospection.

Ietza Bojorquez

Dr. Bojorquez holds a Ph.D. in Epidemiology, and a MSc in Public Health. Her main research interest is on the social determinants of health, in the areas of mental health, health-related practices (diet, physical activity) and migrant health.

After graduating from medical school, she worked in health promotion in rural areas in Mexico. From 2007 to 2010 she was Deputy Director of Operations Research in Mexico's Ministry of Health. From 2010 on, she has been a professor-researcher at the Department of Population Studies, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico, where she is currently in charge of the Surveys of Migration in Mexico's Borders (EMIF). She is a member of the board of the Lancet Commission on Migration and Health-Latin America Node.

She is currently working on an epidemiological study of COVID-19 among migrant and non-migrant population, the development of a model to facilitate access to mental health care for migrants, and a qualitative study of migrants' access to healthcare, among other projects.

Jill Brennick

Jill Brennick, MPH, is the Administrative Assistant for the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health's Program on Forced Migration and Health and is a graduate of the program. Jill has extensive program management experience in international health and development. Her work experience includes Marie Stopes International, Alight, and American International Health Alliance.

Sam Chambers

Sam Chambers is a Researcher with The University of Arizona's College of Public Health, in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and a faculty affiliate of the UA Binational Migration Institute. Starting this fall, he will be a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. He also serves as an investigator for Border Forensics in Geneva. Dr. Chambers' primary research focuses on the spatial and temporal patterns of migrant mortalities in relation to policy, infrastructure, and environmental factors.

Alexandra Délano Alonso

Alexandra Délano Alonso is Professor of Global Studies at The New School and Eugene M. Lang Professor for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring. She received her doctorate in International Relations from the University of Oxford. Her work explores the connections between academia, policy and activism, identifying spaces where bottom-up and top-down interactions across different levels and actors produce transformative practices, policies, and spaces to address the inequalities underlying the causes of the forced displacement and the exclusion of migrants with precarious status. She also examines and participates in activism across borders through networks of migrant organizations, mutual aid, and memorial projects as a response and an alternative to existing policies and systems in the struggles for justice.

Amelia Frank-Vitale

Amelia Frank-Vitale is an anthropologist of migration, deportation, and borders in Honduras and Mexico. Her work has focused on the transit migration of Central American migrants in Mexico, migrant caravans as a mobility tactic, and the evolution of the experience of deportation in the era of border externalization. Currently teaching courses on asylum and immigration court for the Human Rights Program at Barnard College, she holds an MA and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, an MA in Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs from American University, and a BA in Anthropology from Yale University.

M. Claire Greene

M. Claire Greene, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor in the Program on Forced Migration and Health at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Her research focuses on improving the effectiveness and implementation of mental health and substance use services for hard-to-reach displaced populations in humanitarian emergencies. Specifically, her research examines models of integrating mental health and psychosocial support across sectors as a strategy to improve the accessibility, relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of these services. Dr. Greene is a member of the Steering Committee for the Columbia University Global Mental Health Program. She is an Editor of the *Global Mental Health* journal and an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Refugee Studies*. Dr. Greene received her PhD in Psychiatric and Substance Use Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, an MPH in Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Global Health from Yale School of Public Health and completed postdoctoral training in Implementation Science and Humanitarian Health from Columbia University.

Ayten Gündoğdu

Ayten Gündoğdu is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Barnard College. Her research lies at the intersection of modern and contemporary European political theory, the political thought of Hannah Arendt, critical human rights studies, critical migration studies, and international political and legal theory. In addition to several articles and book chapters, Gündoğdu is the author of *Rightlessness in an Age of Rights: Hannah Arendt and the Contemporary Struggles of Migrants* (Oxford, 2015), which engages with Arendt's works to rethink questions of human rights that arise in the context of immigration detention, deportation, refugee encampment, and struggles for regularization. She is currently at work on a book that aims to understand the regime of impunity surrounding migrant deaths and disappearances by foregrounding two key dimensions of this problem: racialized vulnerability to lethal violence at the borders of states and the complicity of law in the justification of this violence.

Charles Heller

Charles Heller is the research director of the Border Forensics agency and SNF Professor at the university of Bern where he is leading the "Circumference of Violence" research project. He is further affiliated to the University of Bristol as Research Associate. As a researcher and filmmaker his work has a long-standing focus on the politics of migration, borders, mediation and the law within and at the borders of Europe.

Kaiya John

Kaiya John is a 2nd year MPH Candidate at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, studying in the Department of Population and Family Health with a focus on Public Health and Humanitarian Action. She received her B.A. in International Studies from Vassar College with extensive coursework in forced migration studies and research spanning responses to displacement from Syria, Palestine, and the Western Sahara. Her professional experience primarily lies in the monitoring and evaluation of global health and refugee assistance programs, and she intends to engage further with the intersection of evaluation, humanitarian programs, and gender-based violence after graduation. She currently serves as the Program Evaluation Manager for the *Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education*, a coalition of five undergraduate colleges aimed at implementing a shared curriculum in migration and displacement studies across their campuses.

Kaveh Khoshnood

Dr. Khoshnood is an Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Yale School of Public Health and executive committee member at Yale Council on Middle East Studies. He is co-founder of Yale Violence and Health Study Group and a faculty member of the Program on Conflict, Resiliency and Health at the Yale MacMillan Center. Dr. Khoshnood is trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist and has more than three decades of domestic and international experience in HIV prevention research among people who use drugs and other at-risk populations. Dr. Khoshnood's research interests include: 1) epidemiology and prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2) research ethics and 3) humanitarian health. His projects are primarily in China, Lebanon and Bhutan. Dr. Khoshnood teaches a new course on health in humanitarian crises.

Austin Kocher

Kocher is a political and legal geographer studying the theories, laws, and institutional practices behind immigration enforcement. Assistant Professor with Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), Affiliated Faculty in the Department of Geography at the Maxwell School, and Research Fellow at American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and the Immigration Lab. His research has appeared in journals such as *Antipode, American Behavioral Scientist, Territory, Politics, Governance, Societies, Georgetown Law Journal*, and *Journal of Latin American Geography*.

Estrella Lajom

Estrella is the Coordinator of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC), a cross-sectoral global coalition that seeks to improve data and statistics and support evidence-based policymaking and programming to protect migrant and displaced children. In this capacity, she is responsible for the overall programmatic and operational activities of IDAC which includes 25 Member States and is jointly led by UNICEF (Secretariat Chair), Eurostat, IOM, OECD and UNHCR.

From 2009 to 2021, Estrella was Head of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Support Unit, where she provided critical support to 11 rotating Chairs as the GFMD evolved and contributed to important global processes (e.g., 2013 High-Level Dialogue, 2016 New York Declaration, 2030 Agenda, 2018 Global Compact for Migration). As a former Foreign Service Officer of the Philippines, she also served as Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs from 2004 to 2008.

Ling San Lau

San Lau is a pediatric doctor and Senior Program Officer for the Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network, with professional experience bridging clinical medicine, public health and research. She is dedicated to improving the health and protecting the rights of marginalized populations, including children and families affected by forced displacement, violence and communicable diseases. San is coordinating a joint project of CPC and the Bank Information Center that aims to improve the World Bank's ability to prevent and respond to child sexual exploitation and abuse. She also works closely with the Program on Forced Migration and Health, advocating for the needs and rights of migrants and asylum seekers and supporting the development of public health guidance to preserve access to asylum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

San completed her Master of Public Health at Columbia University, supported by a John Monash Scholarship. She previously worked as a pediatric doctor in children's hospitals in Australia and researched the molecular biology of childhood brain tumors at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., as an American Australian Association and Thrasher Research Fund fellow. She has fieldwork experience in remote Indigenous Australian communities, Nepal, Zimbabwe and Jordan.

Jane Linekar

Jane is the Head of Research and 4Mi at the Mixed Migration Centre. Jane is responsible for research design and methodology development at the Mixed Migration Centre, as well as review and quality assurance of MMC's research products. Jane has almost 20 years' experience in the humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors, and has worked with the UN, Médecins Sans Frontières, ACAPS and Geneva's Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Before joining MMC in 2019, she conducted and managed research and analysis on peace processes and on humanitarian crises.

Ana Martinez-Donate

Ana Martinez-Donate is a professor in the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. Martinez-Donate's research work has focused primarily on Latino populations in the U.S. and Mexico. She applies a social ecological framework to the analysis of behavioral and social determinants of population health and the development and evaluation of community-based interventions for disease prevention and health promotion. She has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2007. She is the lead investigator of a long-standing binational program of research on HIV risk and access to health services among Mexican migrants. She is also leading several projects that seek to 1) understand syndemic health conditions that disproportionately impact Latino immigrants in the U.S.; and 2) test community-based interventions to reduce health disparities among Latino communities in Philadelphia. At Drexel University, she leads the Migration, Ethnicity, Racism, and Health Working Group (MERHG) and the Graduate Minor in Latino and Immigrant Health.

Katherine McCann

Katherine McCann is a Senior Program Officer at the Program on Forced Migration & Health. Katherine completed an MPH at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health in the Department of Population and Family Health with a certificate in Public Health and Humanitarian Action. Prior to coming to Columbia, Katherine worked as a field coordinator for a medical NGO in Greece and Bangladesh serving migrant populations in acute and protracted emergency settings. She also has domestic experience as an EMT and as a clinical research coordinator studying substance abuse treatment at the University of North Carolina.

Nara Milanich

Nara Milanich is Professor of Latin American History at Barnard College and directs the Center for Mexico and Central America at Columbia University. She researches the history of family, childhood, reproduction, gender, and law in Latin America and is the author of *Children of Fate: Childhood, Class, and the State in Chile, 1850-1930* and *Paternity: The Elusive Quest for the Father*. Milanich volunteered as a translator and legal assistant for Central American mothers and children incarcerated in the U.S.'s largest immigrant detention center. She has written about immigration in the *Washington Post*, *Dissent*, *New York Daily News*, and *NACLA: North American Congress on Latin America*. She teaches an undergraduate seminar on the history and politics of Central American asylum, organized around collaborations with migrant rights organizations. With Fanny García, she has developed [Separated: Stories of Injustice and Solidarity](#), an oral history project with Central American families that were separated at the US-Mexico border.

Sana Ali Mustafa

Sana Ali Mustafa is a feminist human rights activist and movement leader fighting against oppression in Syria and around the world. Sana is CEO of Asylum Access where she leads the organization's work on refugee rights and refugee leadership, and she is the first and only female CEO of an international refugee rights organization with lived experience of forced displacement. Prior to joining Asylum Access, Sana led global efforts for representation and inclusion of forcibly displaced persons. She is an active public speaker, board member of Karam foundation, and member of Syria's first Syrian women's political movement.

Daniel Naujoks

Daniel Naujoks is the director of the International Organization & UN Studies Specialization at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. His research focuses on global governance, and migration, refugees, and citizenship in the Global South, including his book '*Migration, Citizenship, and Development*' (2013, Oxford University Press). He has widely published on the policy-making processes and effects of dual citizenship, atypical citizenship regimes, and diaspora engagement, as well as on the link between human mobility and sustainable development processes. Daniel regularly advises international organizations, serves as chair of the section on migration, refugees and diaspora of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, past chair of ISA's Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration Studies section and editor the journal *Diaspora Studies* and editor of the blog *Multilateralism in Action*. He holds a PhD in political science and political economy from the University of Münster and a law degree from Humboldt University in Berlin.

Delphine Rodrik

Delphine Rodrik completed her law degree at Harvard University, USA, where she previously completed her bachelor's degree in history and literature. She worked as research fellow with Amnesty International in Tunisia, documenting human rights violations against migrants and refugees in North Africa. She has relevant experience working in the United States, Turkey, Lebanon, Greece, and Mexico on international human rights, humanitarian, and migration law issues. Since September 2021, she is a Bertha Justice Fellow challenging push-backs and border rightlessness in ECCHR's Border justice team.

Bruce Shapiro

Bruce Shapiro is Executive Director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, a project of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism encouraging innovative reporting on violence, conflict and tragedy worldwide. An award-winning reporter on human rights, criminal justice and politics, Shapiro is a contributing editor at *The Nation* and U.S. correspondent for Late Night Live on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Radio National. He is Adjunct Professor and Senior Advisor for Academic Affairs at Columbia, where he teaches journalism ethics. His books include *Shaking the Foundations: 200 Years of Investigative Journalism in America* and *Legal Lynching: The Death Penalty and America's Future.* Shapiro is recipient of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Public Advocacy Award for "outstanding and fundamental contributions to the social understanding of trauma." He is a founding board member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network.

Monette Zard

Monette Zard is an expert on forced migration and human rights, and her career has spanned the fields of policy, advocacy and philanthropy. She has served as the Global Human Rights Program Officer at the Ford Foundation in New York and as Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva, Switzerland, a think tank focused on applied human rights research. Her work there explored issues of political violence and the human rights obligations of armed groups, economic and social rights and human smuggling. From 2000-2003, she was a Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington D.C. and held a visiting research fellowship in law at the Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University. Prior to that, she directed the international refugee work of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, during which time her work focused on the use of legal strategies to strengthen refugee protection in Africa as well as the particular issue of how international law should deal with refugees and asylum-seekers accused of committing serious international crimes. She has consulted on international human rights and forced migration issues for a number of organizations including Amnesty International, the Brookings Institute, Human Rights Watch and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.