

# Summer Newsletter 2023, Issue 12

## Bulletin d'été 2023, No 12



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES SUR LES RÉFUGIÉS ET LA MIGRATION FORCÉE

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# ABOUT CARFMS/À PROPOS DE L'ACERMF

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## ABOUT CARFMS

The Association works to foster an independent community of scholars dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of Canadian refugee and forced migration research by establishing active partnerships and collaborations among researchers, teachers, practitioners, policy makers, advocating and supporting publications, conferences, and other fora that contribute to open and inclusive communication and networking around issues relating to refugee and forced migration studies in Canada and elsewhere.

The vision of the Association is to create a community for scholars with an interest in issues relating to refugees and forced migration, to facilitate networking and collaboration between scholars, to disseminate research findings, to foster linkages between scholars and governmental and non- governmental actors, to serve as a forum for debate and intellectual exchange on refugee and forced migration issues, and to be a prime resource of Canadian scholarship and academic contacts in the field of refugee and forced migration studies in Canada. For more information visit our website at [www.carfms.org](http://www.carfms.org)

## À PROPOS DE L'ACERMF

L'Association cherche à encourager et réunir une communauté indépendante d'universitaires dédiés à l'avancement et à la diffusion de la recherche portant sur les migrations forcées et l'asile au Canada, en établissant des partenariats actifs et des collaborations entre les chercheurs, les enseignants, les praticiens, les représentants gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux.

L'Association encourage et soutient la réalisation de publications, l'organisation de conférences et d'autres forums qui contribuent à créer une communication ouverte et inclusive, ainsi que le réseautage, sur des questions reliées à l'asile et aux migrations forcées, au Canada et ailleurs.

L'objectif de l'Association est de créer une communauté de chercheurs partageant un intérêt pour les questions reliées aux migrations forcées et à l'asile, de faciliter le réseautage et la collaboration entre les chercheurs, de diffuser les résultats de recherche, d'accroître les liens entre les chercheurs et les acteurs gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux. L'Association vise aussi à créer un forum de débats et d'échanges intellectuels sur les questions de migrations forcées et d'asile, et à être une ressource incontournable au Canada en matière de contacts dans le milieu canadien universitaire et de la recherche dans ces domaines.

Pour plus d'information visitez notre site internet [www.carfms.org](http://www.carfms.org)



# WELCOME/BIENVENUE



By: Stephanie P. Stobbe,  
CARFMS President

Between May 29th and 31st, CARFMS held its first in-person conference since the Covid-19 pandemic under the umbrella of Congress at York University. The conference included its first hybrid sessions, allowing for those online to join us at the in-person sessions. We were pleased to welcome many international participants to the conference alongside our national researchers, practitioners, students, and others.

First, I would like to say a big thank to CARFMS 2023 Conference Chairs Dr. James Simeon and Michele Millard of York University, along

with the Conference Committee, for hosting and organizing the logistics of holding an in-person conference. The CARFMS Executive and Conference Committees were especially hardworking after hosting the CARFMS 2022 online conference at United College at the University of Waterloo in November 2022.

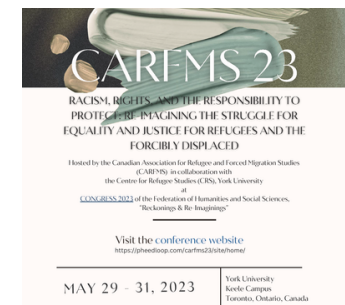
CARFMS 2023 started off with a beautiful composition prepared by the Cuban Children's Choir (organized by Professor Luisa Iniguez) as a special gift to CARFMS to remind us of the conscious and unconscious biases and systemic discrimination faced by refugees and forced migrants and its impact on children.

We had wonderful keynotes, plenaries, and 40+ sessions that discussed racism, rights, and the responsibility to protect. The honourable Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, chair of the World Refugee & Migration Council and one of Canada's leading voices on global

migration and refugee protection, shared his insights into his various works. After a 27-year political career, where he served as Canada's minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Employment and Immigration, Dr. Axworthy has continued to work extensively on human security, refugee protection and human rights in Canada and abroad. The title of his talk was "Strangers at Our Gate" that provided insights into how we can address these issues. Professor Elies van Sliedregt of Tilburg University Law School in the Department of Criminal Law in The Netherlands, and researcher in the field of national and international criminal law, presented on "The Interplay Between International Refugee Law and International Criminal Law" and the complexities of different legal frameworks. Dr. Stephanie Stobbe, President of CARFMS and researcher on Southeast Asian refugees and private sponsorship of refugee programs, spoke on "Enhancing Democracies and Right to Asylum

through Immigration Policies and Programs – The Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees." Several film screenings, including Photovoice, Documentary-Making and Participatory Video in the Age of TikTok and the documentary film Passage to Freedom produced by former CBC Executive Producer, Sheila Petzold, for the Hearts of Freedom project, added to the conference.

We hope you enjoyed the conference and have your own highlights. If you're not already a member of CARFMS, please join us and stay connected through our various activities and resources on our website <https://carfms.org/membership/>. We look forward to seeing you again at our CARFMS 2025 conference!



# CARFMS23 CONFERENCE

## CARFMS23 CONFERENCE DELIVERS: FIRST HYBRID CONFERENCE AT CONGRESS PROVES TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS!

The 2023 CARFMS Conference was our very first in-person conference since the pandemic. In addition, it was the first time that CARFMS held its conference at the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) annual Congress, the premier academic annual scholarly conference in Canada and one of the largest in the world. In addition, the CARFMS23 Conference held several of its sessions in a hybrid format that allowed participants from across Canada and the rest of the world to join the sessions synchronously online.

With nearly 140 registered participants in attendance over the three days of the conference, May 29th to 31st, and with three keynote speakers, three plenary sessions, and over 40 panel sessions, presenting the latest research findings in the field of refugee and forced migration studies, all those in attendance were fully engaged with all the highly interesting, informative, and dynamic presentations. There was something for everyone.

The CARFMS23 Conference commenced with a gift from the children of Cuba with a message of peace in the form of a video presentation by the Lucecita Choir (Little Light). The video presentation was made possible by Professor Luisa Iniguez, University of Havana. To view this wonderful video please click [here](#).

Indeed, "the future is peace." CARFMS is very grateful to all those responsible for presenting us with this marvellous video to open our 2023 CARFMS Conference.

There were many highlights at this year's CARFMS23 Conference, titled, "Race, Rights, and the Responsibility to Protect: Re-Imagining the Struggle for Equality and Justice for Refugees and the Forcibly Displaced," such as the presentation of our Student Essay Contest Winners, the launch of our new Lived Experience of Displacement Award, special film documentary showing of "Passage to Freedom," in English and French, and our two Congress Graduate Merit Award Winners, the various Congress events and sessions such as the "BIG THINK" lectures, Expo Publishers exhibit, Career Corner, and the President's Reception. The CARFMS Annual General Meeting was also well attended and provided an opportunity for everyone to stay abreast of the latest developments of our association.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable things was that the CARFMS23 Conference at CONGRESS at York University was held a mere six months after our last CARFMS Conference that was held last November. This was a completely online conference that attracted many participants across Canada and the rest of the world.

The mark of any successful conference is what those who attended and participated in the conference had to say. The informal feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive from those who were present. And, again, we should like to thank our sponsors for both their financial as well as in-kind support: the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS), York University, and FHSS.

We are now in the early stages of planning for our next CARFMS Conference that will be held in 2025, and, most likely on our West Coast. Coming soon there will be a call for proposals to host the next CARFMS Conference in 2025. Details will be posted on our CARFMS website <https://carfms.org/>. We very much hope to see you there!



# CARFMS23: KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## THREE OUTSTANDING KEYNOTE ADDRESSES HIGHLIGHT THE CARFMS23 CONFERENCE

By JAMES C. SIMEON



Keynote addresses are the staple of any academic conference, and, above all, keynote addresses should provide unique insights and new perspectives on the theme and/or subthemes of the conference. But, most importantly, a great keynote address is simply inspirational. It moves you to new ways of understanding, thinking, and seeing the world, and crucially, motivates you to action. All three keynote speakers at CARFMS23 were exceptional and started off each day of the conference on the right note that carried all the participants for the rest of the day. All the keynote addresses were deeply satisfying and memorable and set the bar for all other presentations that followed.

Dr. Stephanie Stobbe, Associate Professor, Chair of Conflict Resolution Studies, Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the President of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS), was our

opening keynote address on Monday, May 29th. The title of Dr. Stobbe's keynote address was "Enhancing Democracies and the Right to Asylum Through Immigration Policies and Programs – The Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees." Dr. Stobbe began her keynote by outlining the history of Canada's ascension to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in 1969, and, the adoption of the 1976 Immigration Act, that recognized refugees as a distinct class. She noted that this made it possible for Canada to resettle thousands of Southeast Asian refugees, from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, between 1975 to 1997. This was the largest resettlement of non-Europeans in Canadian history. Many of whom were brought to Canada through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, Master Agreements, the Designated Class, and the One-for-One Matching Formula. Dr. Stobbe pointed out that Canadians fully embraced the notion of the "responsibility to protect" before this was even an articulated doctrine of the United Nations. Canada's contribution to the resolution of Southeast Asian refugees led to the UNHCR awarding the Canadian people with the Nansen Medal in 1986. The first and only time such an honor was bestowed on a nation. The Southeast Asian refugee

movement has had a significant impact on the development of Canadian society, both in terms of shaping its refugee policies and practices and in helping to realize its official policy of multiculturalism and its ideals of upholding its humanitarian aspirations and tradition. Dr. Stobbe closed her address with an invitation for everyone to attend the film screening of the Heart's of Freedom project's documentary "Passage to Freedom/Passage vers la liberté" that will take place over the next two days.



The second day of the CARFMS23 Conference, Tuesday, May 30th, featured Professor Dr. Elies van Sliedregt, Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, Tilburg School of Law, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, who presented her keynote address on "The Interplay Between International Refugee Law and International Criminal Law." This keynote address was a Congress Open Event, meaning that it was promoted by Congress and open for anyone at Congress to attend.

# CARFMS23: KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor van Sliedregt noted that her keynote would concentrate on her five-year European Research Council funded research project, JOINEDUPJUSTICE, that will look at setting the parameters for a coordinated system of global justice at the domestic level. Essentially, this research project will deal with foreign nationals who have committed serious international crimes outside the forum state; that is, the state that tries these crimes. She then went on to make seven observations. The first was that the future of international criminal law will be domestic. This will be due to universal jurisdiction that has been applied more widely recently than in the past. Professor van Sliedregt referred to TRIAL International's 2022 report that most of the domestic international prosecutions took place in Europe and that among core international crimes brought to trial the bulk were for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The

second observation dealt with the recent trends in universal jurisdiction, and she noted that Sweden and Germany are at the forefront of domestic prosecutions for serious international crimes. In all instances, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have played a crucial role in bringing perpetrators to trial. The third observation dealt with foreign fighters and the complex relationship between international humanitarian law and counterterrorism criminal law. Foreign fighters are involved in dual nature groups; that is, participating in non-state armed groups that are often labelled as terrorist organizations. Since it is easier to obtain convictions on the basis of counterterrorism charges most are tried under these charges at the expense of international criminal charges. But, as of late there have been trials held on cumulative charges of terrorism and for core international crimes, especially, in France and Germany. The fourth observation was on the use of Article 1F exclusion from refugee protection. The emphasis here was on the mismatch between international criminal law and international refugee law and the consequences for those who are excluded from refugee protection and not deemed worthy of prosecution and

end up in "legal limbo." In short, they cannot be returned to their country of nationality due to the non-refoulement principle but have no legal status in their host country. The fifth observation dealt with the issue of prosecution and the two models of dealing with those who are liable for the core international crimes: the "No Safe Haven" versus the "Global Justice" models. The Netherlands, United States, Canada, and Australia follow the "No Safe Haven" model that utilizes immigration and nationality laws to deal with those who are liable for core international crimes. The sixth observation was on who should be prosecuted? The example presented here was the United Kingdom's 2021 Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Act that is intended to protect its military personnel and veterans from being prosecuted for serious international crimes that the United Kingdom has an international obligation to prosecute. The point here is there is a blatant double standard when it comes to the prosecution of international crimes. States are inclined to protect their own and to go after foreign 'low-cost' defendants. And this leads to Professor van Sliedregt's final observation, what this all means for international refugee law. Refugee

exclusion was grounded originally in the "No Safe Haven" model. The circumstances and situation have changed since the 1950s and, therefore, we must move to a "Global Justice" model that sets a policy for domestic prosecution for core international crimes. The keynote address ended with a call for States to employ exclusion as a portal of prosecution and not as an entrance to legal limbo." Professor van Sliedregt stated that she hoped that she could return to a CARFMS Conference when the JOINEDUPJUSTICE research project was concluded and report on the progress toward an alignment of international refugee law and international criminal law and a shift from a "No Safe Haven" to a "Global Justice" and enforcement model.



# CARFMS23: KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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The third day of the CARFMS23 Conference, Wednesday, May 31st, had as its keynote speaker the incomparable the Hon. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, Chair of the World Refugee and Migration Council, among many other noteworthy positions and activities. For example, he holds many honorary doctoral degrees including from York University. The title of his keynote address was, “Strangers at our Gates.” Congress also designated this keynote address as an Open Event that was available to everyone who was attending Congress. Dr. Axworthy began his address by referring to the Ottawa Treaty or the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and stated that the military opposed it but the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) declared landmines to be a public health problem. He noted that it became the basis of research to a much broader connection to public health. The counterpoint were the victims themselves, he said, who were involved in the effort. Gathering the information, data, and experiences of victims were crucial to getting countries to sign the treaty. Researchers played an essential role in getting the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty approved. Accordingly, he stated, this is why the research that people are doing at CARFMS is so vital and crucial to those who are forcibly displaced. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy said that he is



here to ask for our help with our thoughts and proposals, to develop a core of research, for data, to document experience, to make the necessary public connections, and to get the public involved. More participation and involvement of people on these issues is essential. Referencing Charles Taylor, as his inspiration, who observed that in this “secular age” there are more demands on people and the narrowing of vision and empathy and the hardening of hearts to the “strangers at our gates.” The COVID virus demonstrated how problems often come in battalions and how, consequently, people are driven from their homes. The world’s wealthy States are contributing to the problem of forced displacement. Climate change is affecting people who are forced to flee. Dr. Axworthy pointed out that Charles Taylor has argued that this generation is not reaching out as never before, given the current need of our time. He asked, “What

are we doing in Canada to address the concerns of the forcibly displaced?” Moreover, he noted that the federal government in Canada is dithering on this issue. The dialogue needs to change, Dr. Axworthy, asserted, and we need to respond to those who have been forcibly displaced. Voices need to be raised. Dr. Axworthy concluded his remarks by calling on everyone’s help. He stated, “We [World Refugee and Migration Council] would like to collaborate with you.”

These brief summaries cannot do justice to these superb keynote addresses. There was a lively question and answer segment following each of the keynote addresses that further engaged those present and clarified and elaborated on a number of points that each of our distinguished speakers made during their addresses. The three keynote addresses taken together were an outstanding contribution to our CARFMS23 Conference and to taking up the challenge to collaborate with other organizations, whether public or private, to advance a progressive and strategic research agenda for a more just and equitable state of the world to all those who have been forcibly displaced from their homes. They also reinforced the significance of research as a positive force for change in the world and helping to achieve a more just, equitable, sustainable, and peaceful world.



# CARFMS23: PLENARY PANELS

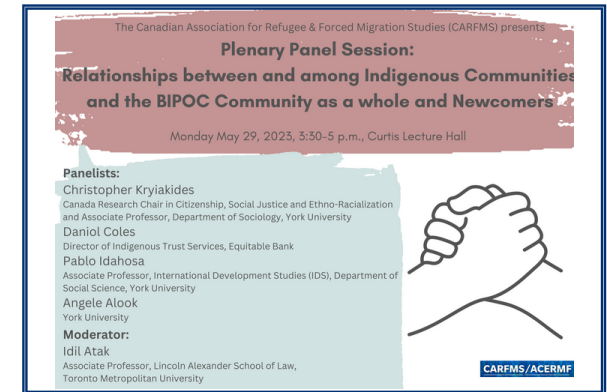
## TOWARDS THE DECOLONIZATION AND THE INDIGENIZATION OF CANADIAN REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES By JAMES C. SIMEON



The 2023 CARFMS Conference at Congress at York University was titled, “Race, Rights and the Responsibility to Protect: Re-Imagining the Struggle for Equality and Justice for Refugees and the Forcibly Displaced,” that aligned and was consistent with the Congress theme of “Reckonings and Re-Imaginations.” CARFMS23 was held over three days, May 29th to the 31st, and one of its principal features was its three Plenary Panel Sessions that were held over the three days of the conference. All the Plenary Panel Sessions were Open Congress Events that were available to all those attending Congress and not simply CARFMS23. Each Plenary Panel Session focused on one of three subthemes of CARFMS23. The conference subthemes grappled with aspects of the decolonization and indigenization of refugee and forced migration studies in Canada and highlighted essential aspects of the discipline of refugee and forced migration studies.

The first Plenary Panel Session addressed the “Relationships Between and Among Indigenous Communities and the BIPOC Community as a whole and Newcomers,” held on Monday, May 29th, was chaired by Professor Idil Atak, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University, and included presentations by Professors Pablo Idahosa, International Development Studies, York University; Christopher Kyriakides, Canada Research Chair in Citizenship, Social Justice, and Ethno-Racialization, Department of Sociology, York University; Angele Alook, School of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, York University; and Daniol Clair Cole, Director of Indigenous Trust Services, Equitable Bank.

This session was very well attended and covered a wide range of topics that included a call for a new language in this sphere for those who are seeking social justice and wellbeing. From the Metis view, relationships are critically important and are founded on trust. Finding the way forward to mutual benefit and success is key. Companionship and allyship, with communication that is open and transparent that allows us to make a life for our family and ourselves is an overriding goal. From the perspective of Indigenous women that too often have neither a voice nor privilege, we must forge alliances with decolonial settlers. And we must



be mindful of Indigenous Law and the social system of care. The wellbeing of children and care for the most vulnerable in society is paramount. To live a good life requires the art of good relationships which is premised on mutual respect. One must be gentle with people. It is important to recognize that when someone arrives in this country, they are not reborn. There are intergenerational memories, and we must be mindful of the history of coercion and racism. What is essential is that we must find convergence. And we must be mindful of the words and their meanings. For instance, BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Colour] is a term that is not used in many countries. The words need to be unpacked and we should pay attention to who is using them and for what purpose.

The question-and-answer segment that followed was very interesting as well as challenging but highly educative in the most positive sense.

# CARFMS23: PLENARY PANELS



The Canadian Association for Refugee & Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) presents

**Plenary Panel Session:**  
**Human Rights and International and National Laws - More Than Just Words**

Tuesday May 30, 2023, 3:30-5 p.m., Curtis Lecture Hall

**Panelists:**  
Maureen Silcoff  
Partner, Silcoff Shacter, Instructor, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University  
Rachel Bryce  
Associate, Landings LLP  
Barbara Jackman  
Senior Lawyer and Founder, Jackman & Associates  
Karen Drake  
Associate Dean (Students) and Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

**Moderator:**  
Judge Judith Gleeson  
Upper Tribunal, Asylum and Immigration Chamber of the United Kingdom



CARFMS/ACERMF



Day two of CARFMS23, Tuesday, May 30th, offered a Plenary Roundtable on a contested topic, “Human Rights, International and National Law – More Than Just Words.” It featured a highly distinguished panel of legal practitioners that included: Judge Judith Gleeson, Upper Tribunal, (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), United Kingdom, who served as the chairperson of the session; Barbara Jackman, Senior Counsel and Founder, Jackman & Associates; Professor Karen Drake, Associate Dean (Students), Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, and a member of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation; Maureen Silcoff, Adjunct Professor, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University, Partner, Silcoff Shacter; and Rachel Bryce, Associate, Landings LLP. This Plenary Roundtable Session was very well attended.

The session began with a clear statement that the Canadian legal order and legal system has perpetrated structural violence on Indigenous Laws. The Canadian government has passed the United

Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act that calls for the Canadian Government, in cooperation and collaboration with Indigenous People, to co-develop an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Action Plan 2023 has been identified as displacing Indigenous constitutionalism.

The Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) with the United States was recently extended which has restricted further the access to asylum at the Canadian border. The United States uses detention as a tool to help it to manage its asylum system. The United States bars asylum claims after one year. It also has specific restrictions on the use of gender-based violence as a basis for a claim for refugee protection.

There is such a thing as “climate refugees” if the State creates certain instabilities and does not protect certain groups of persons. What may be required is a change in the legal definition to

include “climate refugees” in Section 97 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA). Climate change has the potential to displace one billion people in the foreseeable future.

What obligation does the government have to those who are held in detention abroad in appalling conditions? The Bring Our Loved Ones Homes (BOLOH) case will likely be lost at the Federal Court of Appeal but then, will be argued at the Supreme Court of Canada. There is a positive obligation on the part of governments to protect its citizens abroad under the principles of fundamental justice. With the move to the right in Europe on these cases, there are efforts underway to exclude as many people as possible.

During the question-and-answer segment, the point was made as to how Indigenous People can address refugees. This is clearly something that would need to be considered within the context of the human rights and Indigenous Nations seeking jurisdiction to address these legal concerns.

# CARFMS23: PLENARY PANELS

On the third day of the conference, Wednesday, May 31st, the Plenary Panel Session addressed the issues on the subject of “Structures/Processes and Policies/Practices and the Intersectionality of Exclusion and the Continuum of Care.” This Plenary Panel Session was chaired by Professor Michaela Hynie, Acting Director, Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS), Department of Psychology, York University. The panelists included Professor Shauna Labman, Executive Director, Global College, Acting Director of the Human Rights Program, University of Winnipeg; Dr. Leora Gansworth, Post-Doctoral Scholar, Osgoode Hall Law School, and Affiliate of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Languages (CIKL), York University; and Talayeh Shomali, Director, Equitable Education Access, Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY), Toronto, Ontario. This closing Plenary Panel Session adopted a unique format of the chairperson asking relevant questions on the subject of the session and then getting responses from each of the three panelists. The session commenced with each of the panelists briefly introducing themselves. Professor Labman mentioned her extensive work on resettlement in Canada and, in particular, the private sponsorship program for refugees. Dr. Leora Gansworth noted that she is continuing her work investigating environmental health priorities as determined by the Indigenous Peoples. Dr. Gansworth said that she is a proud citizen of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, where her maternal ancestry comes from. She also grew up living with Haudenosaunee Peoples (paternal ancestry) on Tuscarora Nation territory. Talayeh Shomali noted that she was previously a lawyer in Iran who specialized in family law. She noted that in her position as the Director of Equitable Education Access they only accept children as their clients.



The first question posed to the panel was, “What does the word ‘protection’ mean in your work?” It was noted that borderless access to education is essential because there is a fear that the children will be “called out” due to a lack of immigration status. Refugee studies is siloed with a focus on either asylum or resettlement. There have been limitations on ‘protection’ from a historical perspective. Protection involves an examination of the treaty relationships, languages, cultures, and sacred sites that need protection. From the Indigenous point of view, everyone is a “newcomer.”

The second question posed was, “Can you reflect on the work with and against the systems that you work within?” With private sponsorship more should and could be done. There should be a sense of welcoming and belonging with a clear voice of advocacy in sponsorship.

Settler colonialism has centralized power. There has been a global suppression of Indigenous knowledge in how the environment ought to be treated. Our legal traditions are starting to be recognized as valid and binding. There are multiple issues that face our youth that need to be resolved. It is interesting to note that once those who have been accepted as refugees there is a deep respect for this land.

The third question raised was, “What are the strategies that you are using to bring about change?” There is a duty to consult and accommodate Indigenous Peoples. For Indigenous People the “Land is Life and Life is Land.” Immigration status is often confused, particularly between those who are undocumented and those who are claiming refugee status. Workshops can help to clarify these kinds of confusions. Legal clinics can assist but often people are not aware of these and do not take advantage of them. We should be equipping our students with critical thinking skills and exposing them to new ideas. Academics should do more community talks and develop relationships with outside community groups. We must make connections and share stories. Allyship is essential. A common question frequently asked is where are you from? All of us have a migration story. The settler – colonial default is not the only way, there are other options.

The question-and-answer and discussion segment was very rich with many points covered, including the asylum process, how we might be able to humanize our societies, and learn from our past mistakes.

# CARFMS23: PLENARY PANELS

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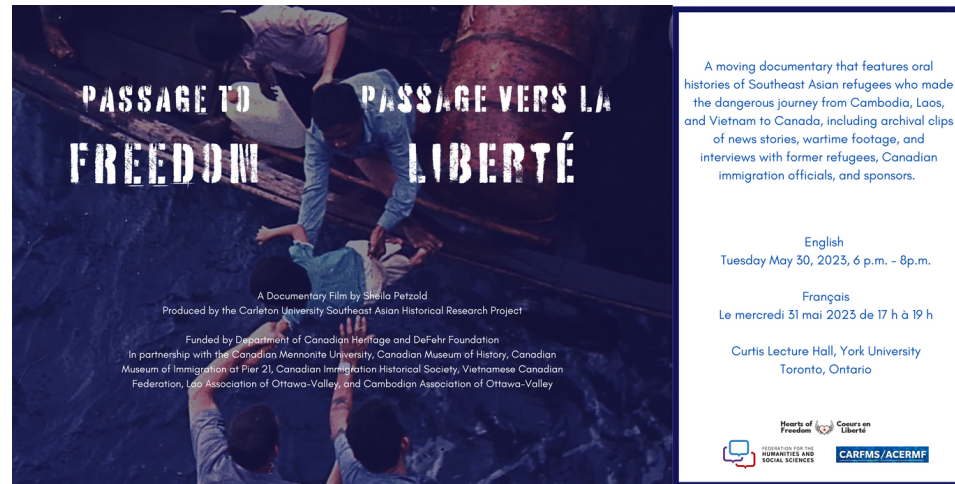


The brief synopses of the CARFMS23 Plenary Panel Sessions hardly does justice to the depth of the analysis and presentation of unique perspectives and insights on the topics under consideration. It can be reported, that taken together, our three Plenary Panel Sessions not only were among the key highlights of our 2023 CARFMS Conference but that they also made a substantial contribution to Congress as a whole. The Plenary Panel Sessions provided substantial and incisive commentary and insights in the ways forward toward Decolonizing and Indigenizing the field of refugee and forced migration studies in Canada.

# CARFMS23: PASSAGE TO FREEDOM/PASSAGE VERS LA LIBERTÉ

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A new film, *Passage to Freedom / Passage Vers La Liberté* (2023), is a moving documentary that features oral histories of Southeast Asian refugees that made the dangerous journey from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to Canada. The film effectively weaves archival clips of news stories, wartime footage, and interviews with former refugees, Canadian immigration officials, and sponsors. New government policies and programs, including the Private Sponsorship of Refugees, enabled Canada to resettle over 100,000 Southeast Asian refugees from 1975 to 1985. The Canadian response to the refugee crisis was recognized internationally with the awarding of the UNHCR Nansen Medal in 1986. Between 1975 and 1997, Canada resettled 210,000 Southeast Asian refugees, making it the longest and largest resettlement of non-Europeans to Canada. The film delves into the harrowing and courageous journey of the refugees during the Vietnam War, the Secret Lao War, and the Cambodian Genocide; their struggles in settlement; and their resilience in starting a new life in a new country. It highlights their successful integration into the fabric of Canadian life and the contributions of this first generation and their descendants in Canada.

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Producer: Sheila Petzold  
Hearts of Freedom Project Researchers:  
Peter Duschinsky, Colleen Lundy, Michael Molloy, Allan Moscovitch, and Stephanie P. Stobbe

# CARFMS STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST 2023

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BY JULIE YOUNG



(L-R): Dr. Stephanie Stobbe, Lawrenz Decano, Lilly Neang, and Dr. Julie Young

The members of the CARFMS Student Essay Contest adjudication committee were Nimo Bokore (Carleton University), Christina Clark-Kazak (University of Ottawa), Bruno Dupeyron (University of Regina), and Julie Young (University of Lethbridge).

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## **We awarded two prizes in the Undergraduate category to recognize two excellent papers:**

- Restaurants and Resettlement: Cambodian Refugees Finding Success in the American Food Industry (Lilly Neang, Global and International Studies, Carleton University)
  - ‘Almost a City’: Understanding and Planning for Refugee Movement to the City Informed by the Context of Nairobi, Kenya (Lawrenz Decano, Urban and Regional Studies, University of Lethbridge)
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There was not a winner in the Graduate and Law category this year.

Please encourage your students to apply to next year’s competition!

To learn more about the CARFMS Student Essay Contest check out the CARFMS website [here](#).

# CARFMS/LERRN LIVED EXPERIENCES OF DISPLACEMENT AWARD 2023

BY JULIE YOUNG

At the initiative of Anna Purkey (St. Paul's University College, University of Waterloo) and James Simeon (York University), CARFMS has teamed up with the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) and the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project to create a new Annual Award to recognize the outstanding scholarship produced by students and early-career researchers within the academic field of refugee and forced migration studies with a lived experience of having been forcibly displaced.

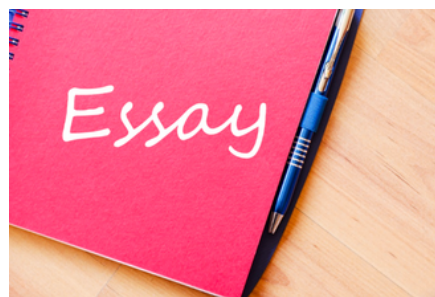
This joint Award aims to ensure that refugee and forced migration research is shaped by a more inclusive and equitable collective engagement, and with the objective of amplifying and highlighting the voices of those with a lived experience of forced displacement.



researcher at the University of St Andrews (UK), won for his paper entitled, "Forced Migration and Transnationalism: Syrian Forced Diaspora, Leadership in Community Resilience and Authoritarian Resistance." Mohamad is currently a Research Fellow at the Centre for Syrian Studies (University of St Andrews, School of International Relations), and also PhD programme fellow funded and supported by the UK Council for Academics at Risk.

There were no submissions in the undergraduate or graduate/law categories. Please encourage people from your networks to consider applying to future competitions!

The adjudication committee for this inaugural award was Don Dippo (BHER representative; York University), James Milner (LERRN representative; Carleton University), Anna Purkey (CARFMS representative; St. Paul's University College, University of Waterloo), James Simeon (CARFMS representative; York University), Julie Young (CARFMS representative; University of Lethbridge), and Pascal Zigashane (community research partner with lived experience of displacement representative; Executive Director, Action Pour le Progres, Kakuma Refugee Camp).



To learn more about the CARFMS and LERRN Lived Experience of Displacement Award check out the CARFMS website [here](#).

There are three categories for this competition:

- Undergraduate students
- Graduate and law students
- Early-career researcher (defined as having completed their highest degree no more than six years before the competition deadline)

The winner of the early-career researcher award was announced at the CARFMS conference in May 2023. Mohamad al-Ashmar, an International Relations doctoral

# UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

## ROHINGYA COMMUNITY WORK BY AZIZ RAHMAN



During my participation in an International Conference on Students as Partners for Sustainable Humanitarian Action at Wilfred Laurier University (WLU) on March 30-April 1, 2023, I visited the Canada Rohingya Centre in Kitchener, and talked to Saifullah, a founding member of the Centre. He came to the conference and we had a chance to talk about Rohingyas in Canada. Saifullah and I discussed collaboration and partnership between their Centre, Institute for Justice, Decolonization and Peace (IJDP) Canada, CERC and CARFMS. During our conversation, I shared some of our works on Rohingya issues, and I proposed to host a Rohingya panel in the Canadian Association for Refugees and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) Conference at York University during the Federation of Social Sciences and Humanities Congress. The Rohingya Centre helped in connecting with speakers and organize the panel titled "Forced Displacement and Resettlement Experiences in Canada." I presented a backgrounder and facilitated the conversation. I asked a set of questions to three Rohingya Centre colleagues. The participants shared their lived experiences and perspectives on displacement and resettlement. They provided insights about Canadian resettlement programs for Rohingyas, the Rohingya Centre of Canada's vision, integration experiences, and the community-engaged research areas for Rohingyas in Canada.



# CALL FOR CARFMS WORKING PAPER SERIES

## APPEL À LA SÉRIE DE DOCUMENTS DE TRAVAIL DU CARFMS

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The CARFMS Working Paper Series is an online publication that provides open access to papers and presentations produced by our members.

We would like to invite our CARFMS members to submit to the Working Paper series pieces of work that relate to refugees and forced migration. Previous pieces published in our Working Paper Series can be found here:

<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/>

For more information about submissions and formatting please check here:  
<https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/author-guidelines/>.

Papers can be submitted using the following online form: <https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/online-submissions/>

Any additional questions or concerns can be sent to Dr. Idil Atak at [idil.atak@torontomu.ca](mailto:idil.atak@torontomu.ca)



La série de documents de travail de CARFMS est une publication en ligne qui offre un accès libre aux documents et présentations produits par nos membres.

Nous invitons les membres de CARFMS à soumettre à la série de documents de travail des travaux portant sur les réfugiés et la migration forcée. Les travaux précédents publiés dans notre série de documents de travail peuvent être consultés ici : <https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/>

Pour plus d'informations sur les soumissions et le formatage, veuillez consulter le site : <https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/author-guidelines/>

Les articles peuvent être soumis à l'aide du formulaire en ligne suivant : <https://carfms.org/working-paper-series/online-submissions/>

Toute autre question ou préoccupation peut être envoyée au Dr Idil Atak à l'adresse suivante : [idil.atak@torontomu.ca](mailto:idil.atak@torontomu.ca)

# CARFMS BLOG CALL FOR ARTICLES

## APPEL À ARTICLES POUR LE BLOGUE DE L'ACERMF

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Dear CARFMS Members,

You are invited to submit a blog to be featured on the CARFMS website. Blogs can be about whatever topic you choose in connection to refugees and forced migration issues and concerns. Submissions from scholars, students, and practitioners are welcome! Submissions should be brief, between 600 and 1,000 words and submitted via the CARFMS website using the following form: <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/contributions-submissions-procedures/>

Past CARFMS blog entries can be found through the following URL: <https://carfms.org/category/blog/>

More information on the Blog Principles and Rules can be found at the following link: <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/principles-and-rules/>

If you have any questions or comments please contact Bruno Dupreyon at [bruno.dupeyron@uregina.ca](mailto:bruno.dupeyron@uregina.ca)



Chers Membres de l'ACERMF,

Vous êtes invité à soumettre un blogue qui sera publié sur le site Web de CARFMS. Les blogues peuvent porter sur n'importe quel sujet de votre choix en rapport avec les réfugiés et les questions de migration forcée. Les soumissions d'universitaires, d'étudiants et de praticiens sont les bienvenues !

Les soumissions doivent être brèves, entre 600 et 1 000 mots, et soumises via le site Web de CARFMS en utilisant le formulaire suivant : <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/contributions-submissions-procedures/>.

Les anciens articles du blog de CARFMS peuvent être consultés à l'adresse suivante : <https://carfms.org/category/blog/>.

Vous trouverez de plus amples informations sur les principes et les règles du blog à l'adresse suivante : <https://carfms.org/carfms-blog/principles-and-rules/>.

Si vous avez des questions ou des commentaires, veuillez contacter Bruno Dupreyon à l'adresse [bruno.dupeyron@uregina.ca](mailto:bruno.dupeyron@uregina.ca)

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## APPEL À SOUMISSION

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If you are looking for a venue to have your CARFMS23 Conference paper published, then we suggest that you submit your paper to either *Refuge* or to the Canadian Journal on Peace and Conflict Studies.

Please see the websites for [Refuge](#) and [Peace Research](#) for more information

*Refuge* is Canada's leading academic journal on refugee studies. *Refuge* welcomes your submissions on papers dealing with refugee issues and concerns at any time.

The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies is a highly ranked academic journal which will be issuing a Special Issue based, in large part, on our CARFMS23 Conference. The Special Issue is titled, "Racism, Rights, and the Responsibility to Protect Refugees" and will be co-edited by Professors James C. Simeon and Stephanie P. Stobbe.

The Call for Papers for the Special Issue will be released soon. Please look for it on the CJPCS website and on the CARFMS website. For those who have any questions regarding this Special Issue, please contact the co-editors at [jcsimeon@yorku.ca](mailto:jcsimeon@yorku.ca) and [sstobbe@cmu.ca](mailto:sstobbe@cmu.ca).

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# BECOME A MEMBER/DEVENIR MEMBRE

## Why join CARFMS?

Participate in a community of scholars, researchers, advocates, policy-makers and NGOs working on issues of forced migration and refugees.

Find out about job opportunities, lectures, conferences, publications and other important information through our listserve, forums, and publications.

Discover others who are active in your area of research or policy advocacy through our online database of members.

Share your research with other academics, advocates and the NGO community on our online forums or at our annual conference.

CARFMS is an independent, interdisciplinary association run by its membership and dedicated to the advancement of refugee and forced migration studies.

Participate in the annual conference.

## Pourquoi rejoindre l'ACERMF ?

Pour faire partie d'une communauté d'universitaires, de chercheurs, d'avocats, de représentants gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux travaillant sur des questions de migrations forcées et d'asile.

Pour être tenu au courant d'offres d'emploi, de présentations, de conférences, de publications, et d'autres informations importantes, à travers notre liste d'envoi, nos forums en ligne et les publications de ses membres.

Pour faire la connaissance d'autres personnes actives dans vos champs de recherche ou de pratique, en utilisant la base de données en ligne réservée aux membres de l'Association.

Pour partager vos recherches et pour discuter de ces dernières avec d'autres universitaires, avocats, décideurs politiques et membres d'ONG, en utilisant nos forums en ligne, ou en personne lors de notre conférence annuelle.

Parce que l'Association, qui est indépendante, multidisciplinaire et fonctionne uniquement grâce à ses membres, est dédiée à l'avancement des études sur l'asile et les migrations forcées;

Pour participer à la conférence annuelle.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	ONE YEAR	TWO YEARS
Regular – Independent Researchers and Individuals from/representing Government and Policy-Making Institutions	\$150	\$300
Regular – Student, Postdoc, Low Income Researcher	\$40	\$80
Regular – Individuals from NGOs/Reps/advocates of "Refugee" groups	\$50	\$100
Affiliate – Institutional Membership (Regular)	\$300	\$550
Affiliate – Institutional Membership (Non-profit)	\$150	\$300

CATÉGORIES DE MEMBRES	UN AN	DEUX ANS
Régulier – Chercheurs indépendants et membres du gouvernement, ou représentant le gouvernement et d'autres institutions responsables d'élaborer des politiques	\$150	\$300
Régulier – Étudiants, Post-docs, chercheurs à faibles revenus	\$40	\$80
Régulier – Membres d'ONG/Représentants ou défenseurs de groupes de « réfugiés »	\$50	\$100
Affiliés – membres institutionnels (régulier)	\$300	\$550
Affiliés – membres institutionnels (à but non lucratif)	\$150	\$300

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[www.carfms.org](http://www.carfms.org)



# CARFMS/ACERMF

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES SUR LES RÉFUGIÉS ET LA MIGRATION FORCÉE