

**Refugees, Forced Migration, and Conflict**  
Final report regarding an ISA 2018 Workshop

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**Overview of the Workshop**

More than 65 million people – 1 in approximately every 110 people on the planet – are currently displaced from their homes by conflict, persecution, famine, or natural disasters. In 2014 alone, this amounted to an average of 42,500 people each day being displaced. Of these, one quarter to one third are refugees who have crossed international boundaries. The flow of refugees out of conflict zones poses an increasingly sizable and dangerous problem to global security in general, and to the humanitarian interests of forced migrants, in particular. The Syrian refugee crisis has especially captured headlines as countries in the region, as well as European states, have scrambled to form an appropriate response.

Our proposal was designed to provide an opportunity for scholars working on these topics to come together to discuss their ongoing research, tactics for bridging the gap to policy makers, and writing for a broader audience. These goals were facilitated by designing a workshop comprised of three parts. First, the morning session included a small number of new research paper presentations. Second, the afternoon session began with a discussion of participants' experiences engaging with policy makers, think tanks, and organizations that deal with refugee problems "on the ground." Third, the afternoon session ended with a roundtable discussion that emphasized "bridging the gap" between academia and the policy world. This focused upon identifying general strategies for communicating findings and conclusions of published research in a succinct and digestible manner.

All sessions went very well. Our participants were actively engaged in all discussions. Junior colleagues presenting their original research received some highly valuable feedback and make some excellent new network connections. Furthermore, a number of participants commented on the great value of the workshop as being to get to better identify where is the cutting edge of empirical research on refugees, forced migration, and conflict.

## **Schedule of Events**

- 09:00-09:15: Welcome & introductions
- 09:15-09:45: Tiffany Chu (University of Arizona), “The Effect of Leader Turnover on Refugee Repatriation.” [Discussant: Vincenzo Bove]
- 09:45-10:15: Benjamin Laughlin (University of Pennsylvania), “Cell Phones, Rumors, and Internal Displacement in Civil War.” [Discussant: Prakash Adhikari]
- 10:15-10:30: BREAK
- 10:30-11:00: Tolga Sinmazdemir (Bogazici University), “The Allure of Distant War Drums: Refugees, Geography, and Foreign Policy Preferences in Turkey” (with Anna Getmansky & Thomas Zeitzoff). [Discussant: Kerstin Fisk]
- 11:00-11:30: Abbey Steele (University of Amsterdam), “Measuring Civilian Resettlement Patterns in Civil War.” [Discussant: Carlos Vargas-Silva]
- 11:30-13:00: LUNCH
- 13:00-14:30: Roundtable discussion on perspectives from the field.
- 14:30-15:00: BREAK
- 15:00-16:30: Discussion on writing op-eds and blogs on forced migration
- 16:30-17:00: Closing remarks and discussion

## **Dissemination and Outreach Strategy**

Given the grave importance of this topic of research to policymaking worldwide, we are keen to design a robust strategy for dissemination of the contributions to the workshop. With this in mind, we already secured an agreement to publish papers written by many of our participants as part of a special issue of the *Journal of Peace Research* to be published in 2019. This special issue will focus upon empirical (primarily quantitative) research on process of refugee flows, forced migration, and conflict processes. This promises to make a big impact on the relevant literatures. It is our hope that our group discussions regarding writing for broader audiences will also encourage participants to look to further disseminate their research beyond the special issue.