

**JUNE 2020**

# **Annual Report 2019-2020**

**Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement**

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Submitted to the Vice President, Research and Innovation by Dr. Usha George, Academic Director, Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement (RCIS), in consultation with the RCIS Advisory Committee.

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## Acknowledgement of Indigenous Land

RCIS conducts its activities and occupies space in the traditional and unceded territory of nations including the Anishnaabeg, the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and territory which is also now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We acknowledge that this territory is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas. Indigenous peoples lived in what we call Canada for thousands of years before the arrival of the first Europeans. We cannot ignore immigration's linkages to settler colonialism, which in Canada has seen the expropriation of Indigenous land, the violent displacement and oppression of Indigenous peoples, the erasure of Indigenous geographies, and the suppression of Indigenous knowledge. The resilience of Indigenous peoples is evidenced by the continued survival of their cultures, languages, and expression, along with ongoing reclamation and resistance activities. RCIS is committed to using our platform to emphasize and celebrate this resilience, and to challenge enduring colonial efforts to eradicate Indigeneity in Canada.

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## Confronting Anti-Black Racism in Our Work

As a research centre dedicated to migration research and knowledge mobilization, as well as the training of future immigration and settlement researchers and practitioners, RCIS acknowledges how the limited attention given to the experiences of specifically African, Caribbean, and Black communities in migration scholarship overall has contributed to both the lack of public awareness around Black Canadians' past and present-day experiences and the general ahistoricism which has helped in fuelling anti-Black racism in Canada to this day. Part of this ahistoricism has been the construction of all Black communities in Canada as immigrant communities, when in fact Black Canadians have had a presence in Canada for over 400 years. While critically examining Black communities' – including asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants – experiences of Canada is important to decentring the myths of Canadian multiculturalism and Canadian exceptionalism, recognizing Black Canadian heritage as a direct challenge to Canada's hegemonic white settler narrative is imperative to confronting the normalization of anti-Blackness and the systemic racism which this narrative has engendered. In this spirit, we commit to using our platform to challenge the white gaze common to immigration and settlement research and to highlight, participate in, and support research which focuses on the experiences of Black communities both inside and outside of Canada over time through an anti-racist, anti-colonial, and intersectional lens.

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## Summary

This report summarizes the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement's (RCIS) research activities over the 2019 – 2020 year. Since its inception in 2011, RCIS has matured into a successful research institution, meeting its goal to advance policy-related research and scholarship in the areas of immigration and settlement, both nationally and internationally. RCIS continues to draw on a strong research and teaching presence related to immigration and settlement studies at Ryerson, including the interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies (ISS), and the interdisciplinary PhD Program in Policy Studies with a field of specialization in Immigration, Settlement, and Diaspora Policies.

RCIS is committed to training students and offering opportunities for students to participate in research and knowledge mobilization activities. RCIS offers publication and research dissemination opportunities to students and junior scholars through the [three RCIS publication series](#) as well as through the [Lunch and Learn Research Presentation Series](#). RCIS additionally hosts visiting researchers and offers placements and fellowships to students whose work includes a migration or settlement focus. In the 2019 – 2020 year, RCIS provided a research assistantship to a graduate student and a research placement for another graduate student. In addition, RCIS hosted one international doctoral researcher and one domestic doctoral researcher. RCIS additionally partnered with the ISS program and the CERC in Migration and Integration to send two students to this year's Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Conference. Finally, RCIS collaborates with the graduate-student led Migration Initiative Publication Series, connecting them to reviews and advising on thematic 'clusters' for grouping publications.



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RCIS held a [Global Governance of Migration Conference](#) in October of 2019. This was a one-day conference focused on changing migration trends and the question of global governance through international migration compacts which featured presentations from three speakers, including Dr. Usha George, Dr. Anna Triandafyllidou (CERC in Migration and Integration), and Dr. Georgeta Pourchot (Virginia Tech), followed by a panel session moderated by two Ryerson PhD students. The conference was attended by students from the Immigration and Settlement Studies graduate program and the Policy Studies PhD program as well as prospective Ryerson students. The audience additionally included many RCIS affiliates; faculty members from Ryerson University, York University, and the University of Toronto; and community members. RCIS is in the process of formalizing a research partnership with Virginia Tech as a result of this conference. The Global Governance of Migration theme was expanded in the CERC in Migration and Integration's Migration 2030 Conference, for which RCIS was a collaborator and Dr. Usha George chaired the opening panel.

RCIS continued its [Lunch and Learn Research Presentation Series](#), exploring common research interests and synergies among faculty, students, and community members who are interested in migration. However, several of these sessions were impacted by COVID-19 developments. Of the two RCIS Lunch and Learn events which were ultimately able to run before the shutdown, one featured two students as co-presenters with an RCIS affiliate and another featured a research fellow who presented his recently defended doctoral research. As in previous years, students from the School of Social Work, Policy Studies, and Immigration and Settlement Studies continued to be the main attendees of these events, in addition to Ryerson faculty members, including RCIS affiliates.

RCIS was successful in its application for a SSHRC Connection Grant for a series of events focused on refugee settlement and lived experience (funding awarded: \$24,995.00). Two grant applications RCIS supported as a partner were also successful, including a SSHRC Partnership Grant focused on migrant solidarity and sanctuary (funding awarded: \$41,115.00) and a SSHRC Insight Grant focused on the wellbeing of older refugees in Canada (funding awarded: \$198,988.00). RCIS additionally applied for three new grants, including a Canadian Heritage Anti-Racism Action Program Grant proposing an anti-racism leadership training program for Ryerson University undergraduate students (funding requested: \$561,196.70), and two SSHRC Horizon 2020 Partnership Grants with European consortiums focused on newcomer inclusion and settlement regionalization initiatives (funding requested specific to Canadian activities: \$78,053.00) and the effectiveness of mentorship relationships for newcomer settlement (funding requested – specific to Canadian activities: \$179,642.00).

RCIS also continued work on [three ongoing research projects](#) (a SSHRC Insight focused on inclusive citizenship for racialized newcomer women in Toronto; a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant focused on Syrian refugee newcomers' experiences of resettlement in the GTA; an IRCC Service Delivery Improvement Grant focused on newcomers' entrepreneurial activities in the GTA). Across these three studies, RCIS employed two project coordinators and 16 research assistants, seven of whom were students, and three of whom were recent graduates. Among the remaining eight employees, RCIS has prioritized hiring researchers directly from the communities implicated in the studies and with lived experience relevant to

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the themes and issues being examined. RCIS additionally collaborates with eight partners across these projects, including five community settlement agencies, the City of Toronto, and researchers from universities and colleges in the GTA. All of these projects are nearing the end of their recruitment stages (aiming to complete all recruitment by November 2020) with analysis and synthesis of findings being completed concurrently (aiming to finalize analysis by February 2021). Findings will eventually be shared in papers, reports, and presentations (timelines are dependent on project end dates, but these activities will span March 2021 – December 2021).

RCIS continued to run its [publication series](#) over the 2019 – 2020 session. In addition to the Working Papers and Research Briefs series, RCIS created the Spotlight on Migration series. This series features quick, researched opinion and ‘think’ pieces or summaries about migration-related themes and issues. The hope is that this series will (1) increase the accessibility of the research and work being produced by the Centre and widen the audience; (2) encourage submissions from students, practitioners, and community members who may not have submitted to our other series; and (3) help to address popular misconceptions and generate discussions about issues related to migration. Five of the seven publications produced by RCIS over the 2019 – 2020 session were authored by students.

In January 2020, RCIS merged its publication series with the Ryerson University CERC in Migration and Integration. In the 2020 – 2021 session and going forward, the RCIS Working Papers series will be produced jointly by RCIS and the CERC in Migration and Integration. This decision was made in recognition of the overlap between RCIS’ previously established publication series and the CERC’s Migration Working Group sessions and the potential value in combining our two groups’ efforts to engage more researchers and students to publish their migration and settlement related works with Ryerson University.

RCIS additionally devoted significant time and attention to rebuilding and modernizing our website using the Ryerson responsive design. In addition to improving the searchability of RCIS and RCIS content, and making the RCIS website more accessible overall, this activity has been important to enhancing RCIS’ online presence and credibility as a research centre, by making the RCIS image more in-line with the Ryerson University brand, increasing accessibility to migration research, and highlighting the work of our members, affiliates, and collaborators. As part of increasing our online/digital presence, RCIS created the [‘RCIS Introduces’ video series](#) in Fall of 2019 to highlight the work of Centre members, affiliates, and collaborators in an accessible format. This project has entailed creating individual profiles for each of our affiliates on the new RCIS website, and booking time with each of our affiliates to get an updated headshot and to record a short video of them answering questions related to their current projects, their career highlights, their plans for the future, and their advice to new researchers and students. This project is additionally seen as a means of increasing traffic to the RCIS YouTube page and website and generating new interest in RCIS overall.



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## Governance

### RCIS Team

#### Academic Director

- **Dr. Usha George**, School of Social Work (2017 – January 2019; June 2019 – present)

Dr. Usha George is recognized for her expertise in newcomer settlement and integration. She is a Professor in the School of Social Work at Ryerson University and the current Academic Director of the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement (RCIS). Dr. George is the former Interim Vice President of Research and Innovation and the Dean of the Faculty of Community Services (2006-2017). In 2015, she was awarded the Errol Aspevig Award for Outstanding Academic Leadership. Dr. George came to Ryerson in 2006 from the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, where she had been the Associate Dean since 1999. She is the past director of the Ontario Metropolis Centre of Excellence for Immigration and Settlement. Her main areas of teaching, research, and professional activity are social work with diverse communities, and newcomer settlement and integration, with an emphasis on examining policies and programs to ensure newcomers have the supports they need to settle and become contributing members to Canadian society. Her scholarly work has attracted over \$14 million CAD in research grants and contracts. She is well published and is often sought by the media for her views on immigration. Dr. George immigrated to Canada in 1990 and worked as the Executive Director of the then-South Asian Family Support Services in Scarborough and as the Senior Program Director of Social Planning Council, Toronto. Usha George has a PhD in Sociology from Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria; a MA in Sociology from Loyola University of Chicago; and a MA in Sociology and Social Welfare from the University of Kerala.

#### Coordinator

- **Tearney McDermott**, MA, Immigration and Settlement Studies Alumna (2016), Ryerson University (2017 – present)

#### Advisory Committee

- **Dr. Idil Atak**, Department of Criminology; Director of the Graduate Program in Criminology (2014 – present)
- **Dr. Harald Bauder**, Department of Geography; Director of the Graduate Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies program; Founding Director of RCIS (2011 – present)
- **Dr. Mustafa Koç**, Department of Sociology; Director of the Ryerson Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Studies Centre (committee member from 2014 – present)
- **Dr. Dawn Onishenko**, School of Social Work; Associate Director of the Undergraduate Program in Social Work (2014 – present)

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- **Dr. Henry Parada**, School of Social Work (2012 – 2014; 2017 – present)
  - **Dr. John Shields**, Department of Politics and Public Administration; Former Interim Director of RCIS (2012 – 2019; 2019 – present)

## **RCIS Meetings**

The RCIS Academic Director and Coordinator hold weekly meetings on Thursdays from 10:00 until 12:00. The RCIS Advisory Committee meets bi-annually and is available for regular consultation via email.

- *RCIS Meeting of Affiliates/Wine and Cheese* (November 21st, 2019, 4:00 - 6:00, YDI 1134, OVPRI, 11th Floor)

RCIS held an annual general meeting of RCIS affiliates to discuss RCIS' activities and members' updates from the past year. Wine and cheese were served, and members shared information about research and publications.

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## Research

### External Funding Proposals

#### *Successful*

The RCIS Academic Director was successful in obtaining the following grants in partnership with RCIS affiliated faculty:

- *Refugee Resettlement and Integration in Canada: Lived Experience, Lessons Learned, and Promising Practices*, SSHRC Connection Grant application – Dr. Usha George (RCIS (principal applicant) partnered with Dr. Harald Bauder (co-applicant), Dr. John Shields (co-applicant), Dr. Henry Parada (co-applicant), Dr. Ferzana Chaze (co-applicant), Dr. Esme Fuller-Thomson (co-applicant), the City of Toronto Newcomer Office (partner), the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) (partner), CultureLink Settlement and Community Services (partner), and the YMCA of Greater Toronto (partner) (funding awarded: \$24,995.00)
- *Urban Sanctuary, Migrant Solidarity, and Hospitality in Global Perspective*, SSHRC Partnership Grant—Stage 1 application – Dr. Usha George and RCIS (central support institution) partnered with Dr. Harald Bauder (principal applicant) (RCIS' in-kind contribution: \$41,115.00)
- *The Well-Being of Older Refugees in Canada: A Mixed-Method Study*, SSHRC Insight Grant application – Dr. Usha George (co-applicant) and RCIS (collaborator) partnered with Dr. Esme-Fuller Thomson (principal applicant) and Dr. Audrey Koboyashi (co-applicant) (funding awarded: \$198,988.00)

#### *Pending*

Applications to the following external funding programs are pending:

- *Anti-Racism Leadership Training for Employment: A Pilot Project*, Canadian Heritage Anti-Racism Action Program Grant application – RCIS partnered with Dr. Henry Parada (co-applicant, School of Social Work), Dr. W. Michael Carter (co-applicant, School of Creative Industries, Faculty of Communication and Design), and Olivia Chow (collaborator, Institute for Change Leaders) (funding requested: \$561,196.70)

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- *Inclusive Solutions for the Effective Arrival of Migrants into Local Communities (ARRIVALGATE)*, SSHRC Horizon 2020 MIGRATION-04-2020 Partnership application – RCIS partnered with a European Consortium headed by the Polish Platform for Homeland Security (principal applicant) and consisting of partners in eleven different countries (funding requested – specific to Canadian activities: \$78,053.00)
  - *Initiatives Organizing Informal Support for Recently Arrived Migrants through Personal Relationships (InteRelate)*, SSHRC Horizon 2020 MIGRATION-04-2020 Partnership application – RCIS partnered with a European Consortium headed by the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg in Austria (principal applicant) and consisting of partners in nine different countries (funding requested – specific to Canadian activities: \$179,642.00)

## Research Projects

- *Towards Improving Equality and Engagement: The Citizenship Experiences of South Asian and Chinese Women in Toronto (2017 – 2021)*

This project is a multi-year collaborative research study by researchers from RCIS and the University of Toronto. With the goal of understanding and fostering inclusive citizenship in Canada, this study employs an intersectionality perspective to explore the citizenship experiences of naturalized South Asian- and Chinese-Canadian women citizens over the age of 25 living in the Greater Toronto Area. The study objectives are to (1) facilitate a better understanding of the challenges faced by racialized immigrant women in Toronto; (2) provide insight into what resources and programs are needed to foster inclusive citizenship in Toronto; and (3) develop a theoretical framework including the intersectionality perspective for analysis of immigrant women’s identity, civic engagement, and equality of participation in Toronto. Study activities include data collection through focus groups and interviews (approximately 50 participants) and an online survey (400 participants in total). This study is funded by an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

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- *A Partnership Approach to Syrian Refugee Resettlement in Toronto and Mississauga: The Role of Social Capital (2018 – 2021)*

Headed by RCIS, this multi-year partnership project brings together researchers from Ryerson University, the University of Toronto, and Sheridan College and community practitioners from CultureLink, the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT), Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS), the Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT), the City of Toronto Newcomer Office, and the YMCA of Greater Toronto to jointly explore the settlement issues facing Syrian refugees in the City of Toronto and Mississauga. The study objectives are to (1) understand the settlement experiences of and outcomes for Syrian refugee families; (2) explore the gendered experiences of settlement for Syrian refugee women; (3) examine the relationship between social capital and the settlement experiences of Government-assisted refugees (GARs) and privately sponsored refugees (PSRs); and (4) provide 'actionable knowledge' for building social capital for community partners engaged in the settlement of Syrian refugees. This study is funded by a Partnership Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

- *Entrepreneurship and Barriers to Scaling Up: Exploring the Entrepreneurial Activities of Refugee Newcomers in the Greater Toronto Area (2018 – 2021)*

This multi-year collaborative research study by researchers from RCIS in partnership with practitioners from Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS) will explore entrepreneurship as an option for economic integration for refugees living in the Greater Toronto Area. The study objectives are to (1) examine the level of entrepreneurial activity amongst refugees in Ontario, particularly women refugees; (2) explore the pathways to and the role of social capital in these refugees' entrepreneurial activities; (3) understand the barriers faced by refugee entrepreneurs seeking to scale up their businesses; (4) examine the regulatory framework governing entrepreneurship in Ontario in terms of incentives and impediments, and how these affect refugees' entrepreneurial activities in particular; and (5) use information gathered throughout the life of the project to develop and test out a web-based resource for refugees which will in simple language present information related to establishing and scaling-up a business. This resource will be hosted by Magnet – a not-for-profit, data-driven, social innovation founded by Ryerson University, in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. The aim of the resource developed from this project will be to empower refugees – especially women refugees – to make choices which enhance their economic security and ultimately support their economic integration in Canada. This study is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

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## Partnerships

RCIS continues to develop new partnerships for the purpose of building an infrastructure for research, outreach, seeking research funding, and knowledge mobilization.

### Project Partners

- University of Toronto
- Sheridan College
- CultureLink Settlement and Community Services
- The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT)
- Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS)
- Child Welfare and Immigration Centre of Excellence (CWICE)
- Peel Children's Aid Society
- The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
- City of Toronto Newcomer Office
- YMCA of Greater Toronto
- York University
- Magnet

### Event Partners and Collaborators

- The Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration
- The Rights for Children and Youth Partnership (RCYP)
- The Migration Initiative
- Virginia Technical Institute (International Refugee Research Project)
- Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)
- Global Diversity Exchange (GDx)
- The Ryerson Middle East and North Africa Studies Centre (MENA)
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

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## Knowledge Mobilization

RCIS has produced scholarly publications and organized and participated in a range of events that facilitate capacity building, partnership development, outreach to the immigration and settlement community, and enhance RCIS's and Ryerson University's reputation.

### Working Papers

As of January 2020, the Working Papers Series is produced jointly by RCIS and the CERC in Migration and Integration at Ryerson University. Working papers present scholarly research of all disciplines on issues related to immigration and settlement. The purpose is to stimulate discussion and collect feedback.

- 2020/1: *Mapping Migrancies: A discursive mapping approach to analyse lived experiences of skilled migration infrastructures*, by Marina Khan, Western Sydney University
- 2019/5: *Barriers vs. bridges: Undocumented immigrants' access to post-secondary education in Ontario*, by Marietta Armanyous & Graham Hudson, Ryerson University
- 2019/4: *Syrian brides and the Global Compact on Refugees: How Canada's FIAP can reimagine refugee women's empowerment*, by Dina Taha, York University

RCIS is currently anticipating three new working papers, including (1) a paper by Marshia Akbar and Valerie Preston (Ryerson University) focused on the labour market challenges and entrepreneurial activities of Bangladeshi immigrant women in Toronto; (2) a paper by Manheet Dhiman, Ada Wong, and Jody Yvonne (ACCES Employment) focused on employment services and programs addressing barriers facing South Asian newcomer women in Canada; and (3) a paper by Vathsala Illesinghe, Nishi Mitra, and Khalid Iftekhar (Ryerson University) focused on express entry and South Asian women's place in economic migration pathways to Canada.

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## Research Briefs

RCIS research briefs are short peer-reviewed commentaries of 2,000 to 4,000 words on pertinent and/or contemporary issues related to immigration and settlement.

- 2019/2: *Solidarity Cities in Germany and Switzerland: A Brief Overview of Initiatives*, by Harald Bauder & Timo Weisser

RCIS is currently anticipating a research brief from former visiting scholar, Dr. Max Stephan Bernlochner, of the Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration Baden-Wuerttemberg in Stuttgart, Germany, covering insights from his interviews with members of staff at the City of Toronto civil service, at Ryerson University, and with several immigrant-serving organizations regarding settlement services and integration in Ontario.

## Spotlight on Migration Series

The RCIS Spotlight on Migration Series has been created to address popular misconceptions about migration and newcomers and to generate discussion. Spotlight on Migration pieces include a combination of research-informed overviews and blog posts focused on issues and questions related to migration.

- 2020/1: *Venezuelan Migrants and COVID-19*, by Verónica Escobar Olivo, Ryerson University
- 2019/2: *Connecting immigration to Canada's Indigenous past and present*, by Harald Bauder, Ryerson University
- 2019/1: *Is there mass migration in Canada?*, by Usha George & Tearney McDermott, Ryerson University

RCIS is currently anticipating two new Spotlight on Migration pieces, including: (1) a paper from Chantel Spade (Ryerson University) focused on Xenophobia and COVID-19; and (2) a paper from Dominik Formanowicz (York University) focused on the 'People's Pantry' group as an example of urban community resilience during COVID-19.



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## Conferences

- *Migration 2030 Conference*. (February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration. Tecumseh Auditorium, Ryerson University, Toronto)
  - **Dr. Usha George** (RCIS Director) was Chair of the first panel session on ‘Migration Policy Narratives in the Age of the Global Compacts’



- *Pathways to Prosperity 2019 National Conference – Immigration at the Crossroads: Renewing Support for Immigration to Canada at the Intersections of Research, Policy, and Practice* (October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto)
  - RCIS partnered with the Immigration and Settlement Studies (ISS) MA program and the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration to send two students to hold a table at this event.

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- *Global Governance of Migration: Is It Possible?* (October 3rd, 2019, 12:00 - 5:00, Sears Atrium (3rd Floor), George Vari Engineering Building, Ryerson University)

**RCIS hosted this half-day conference. The conference consisted of a lunch, three presentations, and a speakers panel, followed by a reception:**

- *Session 1: General Trends in Global Migration* – **Dr. Usha George** (RCIS Director)
- *Session 2: Mess Management and Non-State Actors at the Age of the Global Governance of Migration* – **Dr. Anna Triandafyllidou** (Professor and Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, Ryerson University)
- *Session 3: The Global Compact for Migration: What Is and Is Not Working? The Case of Europe* – **Dr. Georgeta Pourchot** (Program Coordinator of the International Refugee Research Project, Virginia Tech)
- *Panel on Global Governance of Migration* (Moderators: **Zainab Abu Alrob** (PhD student, Policy Studies, Ryerson University) and **Claire Ellis** (PhD student, Policy Studies, Ryerson University))

**Audience members: 90**



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## Presentations

- *Beyond Borders – Panel Discussion on borders and their societal, cultural, and environmental impacts* (November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 6:30 – 8:45 pm, Hart House Debates & Dialogue Committee, Hart House, University of Toronto)

This panel focused on borders in terms of their influence in the exclusion of refugees, to the intrusion on indigenous nations, to the consequences on global climate action. The discussants spoke about the political dimensions of borders, their consequences on the current world, and implications for the future.

**Panelists: Usha George (RCIS Director), El-Farouk Khaki, Stephen Sharper, and Kevin Lewis O’Neill**



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## Conference Papers

**Usha George** (RCIS Director) and **Tearney McDermott** (RCIS Coordinator), “A Partnership Approach to Syrian Refugee Resettlement in Toronto and Mississauga” (April 7th – April 8th, 2020, Second International Conference, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Petra Campus, Jordan)

**\*\*This conference has been postponed due to COVID-19. It will be rescheduled.\*\***

## Lunch & Learn Research Presentation Series

The RCIS Lunch & Learn Research Presentation Series is intended to explore common research interests and synergies among faculty, students, and community members who are interested in migration. At each session, there is a short presentation followed by questions and feedback from the audience, and a light lunch is provided.

- *Don't Count on Canadians: The Shifting Politics of Population Shifts* - **Martin Regg Cohn**, political columnist for the Toronto Star and visiting practitioner in the Ryerson University Faculty of Arts (March 17th, 2020, 12:00 - 1:15, SHE 686 (FCS Dean's Boardroom), Sally Horsfall Eaton Building, 99 Gerrard Street East, Ryerson University)

Ryerson Visiting Practitioner Martin Regg Cohn of the Toronto Star was to discuss how the refugee movements he witnessed as a foreign correspondent relate to the political movements he has covered as a columnist in recent Canadian and Ontario elections. Is it said that the world needs more Canada, but how much of the world does Canada want?

**\*\*This event needed to be cancelled due to COVID-19.\*\***

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- *A View from the South: A Reflection on the Migration Process from Central America* - **Dr. Henry Parada** (Professor, School of Social Work, Ryerson University), **Kevin Cruz** (Professor, School of Sociology, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras), and **Verónica Escobar Olivo** (Research Assistant, School of Social Work, Ryerson University) (March 12th, 2020, 12:00 - 1:15, EPH 222, Eric Palin Hall, School of Social Work, 99 Gerrard Street East, Ryerson University)

This presentation discussed the migration process from the countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador). The flow of migrants from Central America to the United States and Canada has been a constant phenomenon during the last decades, however, the recent influx of migration and subsequent closing of US borders have revealed and intensified already existing tensions between the Global North and Global South. Using data from the Rights for Children and Youth Partnership project this presentation explored how the economic, political, social, and cultural disparities between the two regions impact the current refugee application process for Central American claimants at North American borders.

**\*\*One of the presenters connected remotely from Honduras via Zoom.\*\***

**Audience members: 21**



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- *The Conservative Party of Canada, Competing Multiculturalisms and the 2019 Canadian Federal Election* – **John Carlaw**, graduate research fellow of York University's Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) and Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) (October 8th, 2019, 12:00 - 1:15, JOR 440, Ryerson University)

This presentation discussed the evolution (and devolution) of the Conservative Party's approaches to citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism and touched on continuity and change under the Liberal government in the case of refugee policy while offering some reflection and encouraging discussion of dynamics concerning the 2019 Canadian federal election.

**Audience members: 42**



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- *Migration Health: Program and Policies* – **Michael Mackinnon**, Director of Migration Health Policy and Partnerships, Migration Health Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (February 6th, 2020, 12:00 - 1:30, SHE-686 (Dean's boardroom), FCS, Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre (6th floor), 99 Gerrard Street East, Ryerson University)

Michael Mackinnon was to discuss the Migration Health Branch (MHB) of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) as the Government of Canada's centre of expertise for the management of health-related aspects of migration and the crucial role they play in protecting the health of Canadians and promoting the integration of migrants through leadership in migration health policies and programs.

**\*\*This event needed to be cancelled due to the presenter's involvement in Canada's response to COVID-19. It will be rescheduled.\*\***

### **'RCIS Introduces' Video Series**

The 'RCIS Introduces' Video Series has been created as a means of highlighting the work of Centre members, affiliates, and collaborators. During the 2019/2020 year, RCIS met individually with ten researchers to film short videos and take headshots. The RCIS video project in-person meetings will resume when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

RCIS has so far released four of the ten videos and we are in the process of editing the remaining videos for release:

- "RCIS Introduces Dr. Josephine Pui-Hing Wong" (Released June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020) – Video accessible at: <https://youtu.be/rHhhyK1rFtc>
- "RCIS Introduces Dr. Henry Parada" (Released May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020) – Video accessible at: [https://youtu.be/IYjNn7gm\\_u4](https://youtu.be/IYjNn7gm_u4)
- "RCIS Introduces Dr. Anna Triandafyllidou" (Released May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020) – Video accessible at: <https://youtu.be/a-1A9tw9S7k>
- "RCIS Introduces Dr. Harald Bauder" (Released May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020) – Video accessible at: [https://youtu.be/DcU\\_7jO8Geo](https://youtu.be/DcU_7jO8Geo)

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## Training & Student Engagement

### Placement Students

- Shawna Marlay (MA student, Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University) (September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020) (Completed a 150-hour practicum with RCIS to satisfy requirements for graduation from the Immigration and Settlement Studies Graduate Program) (Main focus: Literature review)

### Research Assistants

- Chantel Spade (PhD student, Ryerson University) (May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – present; ending July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020) (Main focus: Spotlight on Migration Series)
- Verónica Escobar Olivo (MA, Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University) (March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – present; ending September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020) (Main focus: Spotlight on Migration Series and Working Papers)
- Tenny Bui (MSW, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto) (October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020) (Main focus: 'RCIS Introduces' Video Series)

### Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellows

- RCIS hosted PhD student **Marina Khan** from the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University in Australia September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Marina's study, *Mapping Migrancies: Analysing migration trajectories through infrastructural encounters*, examines the migration infrastructure of international skilled migration in Australia and Canada. During her time at RCIS, Marina conducted interviews with 15 research participants located in Toronto and Montreal, presented with the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration Migration Working Group, and submitted an RCIS working paper.
- RCIS hosted PhD student **Jocelyn Kane** from Political Studies at the University of Ottawa January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 when the RCIS office closed in line with COVID-19 restrictions. Jocelyn Kane is a doctoral candidate in Political Studies at the University of Ottawa. During her time with RCIS, Jocelyn was working on her thesis research focused on the conceptual and practical implications of voluntary statelessness in political theory and governance.



## Finances for 2019-2020

### RCIS Expenses 2019-2020

EXPENSE	ACCOUNT/COST CENTRE	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel</b> (1 Coordinator; 15 hours/week at \$35.00/hour)	1-13-36048 (OVPRI, RCIS Account)	\$ 28,381.48
<b>Exhibitor fees</b> (P2P conference)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 344.50
<b>Travel</b> (air travel for 1 invited conference presenter and furniture transportation)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 424.93
<b>Accommodations</b> (1 invited conference presenter)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 819.93
<b>Furniture rental</b> (tables and chairs for 1 conference)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 647.03
<b>Furniture purchase</b> (1 bookshelf, 1 table, 2 desk shelves, 1 filing cabinet)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 507.58
<b>Food and beverage</b> (1 meeting of affiliates catered by Ryerson Eats; 1 conference catered by Ryerson Eats; and 2 lunch and learn events catered by Platterz)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 3,979.29
<b>Printing expenses</b>	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 101.26
<b>Office supplies</b>	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 400.76
<b>Office and presentation equipment</b> (printer; projector; headphones)	1-13-36357 (Usha George, Fund 13)	\$ 871.56
	<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$ 36,478.32</b>

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## Activity Plan for 2020-2021

### RCIS Governance Meetings

- The RCIS [Advisory Committee](#) will meet once in every three months: October 2020, January 2021, April 2021, and June 2021 (tentative dates).
- The Committee will be contacted on an ad hoc basis between these dates.
- The Annual RCIS Meeting of Affiliates will be tentatively set for February 2021, with the hope of connecting in person.
- The Director and Research Coordinator will continue to meet on a weekly basis.

### Research

#### *External Funding Proposals*

- RCIS is currently vying for a research consultancy contract (with an EU Canada working group (CESO) on women's migration, focusing on opportunities and challenges, labour market experiences, and gender and equity in health. A preliminary application has been submitted; work would begin November 2020. Funding is a global contract valued at approximately \$7,785 CDN.
- RCIS is supporting Stage 2 of Dr. Harald Bauder's (RCIS Advisory Committee member) SSHRC Partnership Grant, *Urban Sanctuary, Migrant Solidarity, and Hospitality in Global Perspective*. To be submitted October 2020.
- RCIS is supporting Dr. Henry Parada's (RCIS Advisory Committee member) SSHRC Insight Grant focused on the intersection of immigration and child protection issues, in partnership with the Child Welfare and Immigration Centre of Excellence (CWICE) and Peel Children's Aid Society. To be submitted October 2020.

#### *Research Projects*

- RCIS is in the process of completing a scoping review of women, settlement, and integration (Timeline: September 2020 – December 2020). This is being led by Ryerson Policy Studies PhD student, Chantel Spade.
- RCIS is continuing work on [three ongoing research projects](#) (SSHRC Insight; SSHRC Partnership Development Grant; IRCC Service Delivery Improvement Grant). Two of these projects will finish in March 2021 and the other will finish in March 2022.

### Partnerships

- RCIS will continue to collaborate with the CERC in Migration and Integration, the Immigration and Settlement Studies graduate program, the Policy Studies PhD program, and the Ryerson University School of Social Work.
- RCIS aims to formalize its research partnership with Virginia Technical Institute.
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- RCIS is currently partnering with the Brookfield Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Ryerson University on a grant application.
  - RCIS will continue to foster community partnerships with [existing](#) and new partners.

## **Knowledge Mobilization**

### *Working Papers*

- Going forward, RCIS is jointly producing the Working Papers Series in partnership with the CERC in Migration and Integration. RCIS aims to publish 15 Working Papers in the 2020 – 2021 year.

### *Research Briefs*

- RCIS aims to publish 4 Research Briefs in the 2020 – 2021 year.

### *Spotlight on Migration Series*

- RCIS aims to publish 6 Spotlight on Migration pieces in the 2020 – 2021 year.

### *Conferences*

- RCIS will hold a conference focused on the implications of COVID-19 for temporary and permanent migration in Canada, including newcomer settlement. The conference will take place in May 2021 with an audience of 90 people. RCIS will invite one out-of-province speaker and four Ontario-based speakers. RCIS will engage partners from the settlement sector (including existing settlement partners); the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade; Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada; as well as the CERC in Migration and Integration.
- RCIS is partnering with the CERC in Migration and Integration on the *Migration and the Future of Work: Canadian and Comparative Perspectives in Pandemic Times* conference in February 2021.

### *“Refugee Resettlement and Integration in Canada: Lived Experience, Lessons Learned, and Promising Practices” Digital Series*

- RCIS will run a 6-part digital series focused on Canada’s approach to refugee resettlement and integration. The overall aim of the series is to engage stakeholders to consider Canada’s approach to refugee resettlement and identify changes to policy and practice that will make Canada more inclusive and responsive to refugees’ needs.
- The six sessions will take place over zoom between November 2020 and February 2021.
- The series will bring together refugees from past and more recent cohorts, as well as settlement workers and service providers, policymakers, researchers, and students to share insights and lessons learned from research findings, settlement practice, and lived experience. The series is being coordinated by two students from the Ryerson University Policy Studies PhD program.

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- Specific objectives of the series are to:
    - Identify gaps in Canada’s current refugee policy (who is being excluded and what needs are being overlooked?) and assess the capacity of the settlement sector to meet refugees’ needs;
    - Provide a forum for refugees from past and current cohorts to share their experiences navigating the settlement sector in Canada and provide insights on how future refugees’ capacity in their settlement might be enhanced;
    - Engage service providers across Canada to share successful practices and areas for improvement, including suggestions for supporting settlement agencies and workers to better support refugees;
    - Share insights from research focused on refugee resettlement and integration both in Canada and abroad; and
    - Increase regional, provincial, and national collaboration and partnerships to work towards strengthening refugee supports in Canada.
  - The series is funded by a SSHRC Connection Grant which RCIS applied for during the 2019 – 2020 session.

#### *Lunch & Learn Research Presentation Series*

- Given COVID-19 constraints, RCIS aims to complete 3 lunch and learn presentations over the 2020 – 2021 year.

#### *‘RCIS Introduces’ Video Series*

- RCIS aims to complete ‘RCIS Introduces’ videos with an additional 10 affiliates over the 2020 – 2021 year (potentially remotely over Zoom given COVID-19 constraints).

### **Training & Student Engagement**

#### *Placement Students*

- RCIS aims to offer a research placement to two students from the Ryerson Master of Immigration and Settlement Studies program (150 hours each) in Spring 2020.
- In November 2020 RCIS will be bringing on two Master’s students connected to the University of Toronto’s Muslim Students’ Association to work on our Syrian Resettlement Research Study.
- RCIS had previously arranged to host a placement student from the Master’s program at the University of Toronto Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (September 2020 – April 2021), but the placement was cancelled due to COVID-19 changes.

#### *Incoming Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellows*

- RCIS aims to host two visiting scholars in the 2020 – 2021 year. RCIS has made arrangements to host doctoral fellow Victoria Reitter (April 2021 – August 2021) and postdoctoral fellow Giselle Thompson (April 2021 – TBD).

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- **Victoria Reitter** is an Austria-based researcher from the Department of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Salzburg. Her dissertation focuses on statelessness in the context of flight migration to the European Union.
  - **Giselle Thompson** is a Canada-based researcher who has recently completed her PhD with the Department of Sociology at York University. Her dissertation focused on the implications of national debt for the operationalization of children’s educational rights in Jamaica.
  - RCIS has been approached by **Anu Besson**, a post-doctoral candidate at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland to be hosted in 2021. Details of the placement are yet to be finalized. Anu’s area of study is the everyday and environmental aesthetic practices of migrants – specifically expatriate Finns – in the formation of identity.

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## Anticipated Budget for 2020-2021

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel</b> (1 Coordinator; 15 hours/week at \$35.00/hour)	\$ 28,381.48
<b>Exhibitor fees</b> (P2P conference)	\$ 350.00
<b>Travel</b> (air travel for 1 invited conference presenter)	\$ 500.00
<b>Accommodations</b> (1 invited conference presenter)	\$ 600.00
<b>Furniture rental</b> (tables and chairs for 1 conference)	\$ 650.00
<b>Food and beverage</b> (1 meeting of affiliates catered by Ryerson Eats; 1 conference catered by Ryerson Eats; and 3 lunch and learn events catered by Platterz)	\$ 4,400.00
<b>Printing expenses</b>	\$ 250.00
<b>Office supplies</b>	\$ 200.00
<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$ 35,331.48</b>