

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR REGIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ON DISPLACEMENT:

Localizing Knowledge Production or Producing Local Knowledge?



CENTER ON
GENDER AND
FORCED
DISPLACEMENT
ADDRESSING GENDER GAP ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT



IDRC · CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

Background

This call is part of a collaborative work between four IDRC research chairs on forced displacement located at the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Asian Institute of Technology, Center on Gender and Forced Displacement (India), and the University of Guadalajara (Mexico). It stems from a larger multiyear collaboration between a 12-chair global research network funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Since Chimni's 1998 article in the *Journal of Refugee Studies* on the geopolitics of refugee studies, there has been a call for greater attention to research produced in the Global South by the actors most affected by forced migration. Implicit in these calls is a sense that scholarship from the North is subject to the policy paradigms of the Global North, especially concerning containment and exclusion. Subsequent scholars, such as Landau (2012) and Shivakoti and Milner (2022), have called for new approaches to overcome power asymmetries in research partnerships to allow for research to be foregrounded in the research priorities of Global South researchers. Less attention has been paid to the differentiated knowledge global South researchers produce on displaced persons.

This call for papers seeks to go beyond geopolitical/postcolonial/epistemological arguments that only highlight the historical domination of the Global South by the Global North and the contemporary asymmetries and diverse inequalities between them. Instead, it seeks to draw upon the diverse perspectives of scholars based in contexts across the Global South working on forced migration and displacement issues.

The call seeks to organize a three day online regional webinar to foster discussion about progress and barriers in the generation of knowledge on forced displacement in the Global South. The ultimate goal is to develop a "Global South School of Thought" on human displacement, which can air the voices of scholars in the Global South on displacement at the global level. Using the concept of "situated knowledge", as defined by Donna Haraway, the regional workshops will examine how such knowledge can reshape global discourses, particularly in terms of understanding displacement from the Global South perspectives.

The webinar is informed by the fact that the policies and laws on displacement, and in particular refugees, originate from the Global North and are adopted by the Global South. We therefore ask: What are different ways in which the global South conceptualizes displacement and what are new and emerging ways of knowing and studying displaced people which are not part of mainstream Global North knowledge? The webinars will culminate in the publication of selected academic works that synthesize insights from the workshop and provide a framework for future comparative research projects between Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The event will also serve as a learning and experience-sharing opportunity for researchers and practitioners working on forced displacement, thereby ensuring that stakeholders are aligned in their understanding and approaches to finding sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced people.

Objectives of the workshop

- Explore theories relevant to displacement in the Global South;
- Explore methodologies used in studying displacement in the Global South;
- Provide regional contributions to displacement studies in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America;
- Contribute to displacement policies in these regions by highlighting unique perspectives and contributions to policies from these regions.



Call for papers

We invite conceptual and empirical papers, both of which may include policy discussions, to be presented during the three-day webinars on the Global South School of Thought on Displacement. The papers should answer one or more of the following questions which will further be grouped into conceptual, empirical, and policy papers:

1. What is Global South? Why does the Global South matter when it comes to issues of displacement?
2. What is decolonization? Does decolonial theory offer different ways of understanding displaced people in the Global South and contribute to the production of sustainable durable solutions?
3. What is localization? Is localization possible given the current world order? If so, how?
4. What is a "sustainable durable solution"? What are examples and ways in which sustainable durable solutions have been practiced in different places?
5. What policy directions for the displaced in the Global South will ensure emancipation and sustainability?
6. How are the agencies of displaced people exercised in any of the
7. above contexts?
8. What stories of the displaced inform our research and methodology
9. What are the challenges and prospects for the studies on forced displacement in the global South in the face of the current policies of the Global North in particular the United States?

Workshop Dates

The workshop will be held online from May 7th to 9th, 2025. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

May 7th (Asia): 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM IST
(India Standard Time)

May 8th (Latin America): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM CDT
(Central Daylight Time)

May 9th (Africa): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM EAT
(East Africa Time)

Important deadlines

March 15, 2025: Send title, 500-word abstract, name, email, and affiliation to the email below

April 10, 2025: Send full paper

April 15, 2025: Notification of acceptance

May 7-9, 2025: Online webinars and presentations

Eligibility

Open to: Academia, Graduate Students, Practitioners, Policy Makers/ Government, CSOs.

Awards: Participants will be awarded a certificate of attendance with logos of the four institutions organizing the webinar. Authors of the best papers will be paid a token honorarium and their papers will be published in an edited volume.

Language: Submissions may be made in English, French, or Spanish.

Interested candidates should send their submissions to Paula Banerjee at paulabanerjee44@gmail.com (for those from Asia); to Hiram Abel Angel Lara at hiram.angel@cucea.udgx.mx (for those from Latin America); or to Opportuna Kweka at opportuna.kweka@gmail.com and Abebaw Minaye – abebaw.minaye@aau.edu.et (for those from Africa).