

**JUNE 2018**

# **Annual Report 2017-2018**

**Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement**

---

Submitted to the Vice President, Research and Innovation by Dr. Usha George, Academic Director, RCIS, in consultation with the RCIS Advisory Committee.

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Governance</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Academic Director .....	5
Advisory Committee .....	5
RCIS Meetings.....	6
<b>Research</b> .....	<b>7</b>
External Funding Proposals .....	7
Research Projects .....	8
<b>Partnerships</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Project Partners .....	10
Event Partners .....	10
<b>Knowledge Mobilization</b> .....	<b>11</b>
RCIS Working Papers .....	11
IRCC-Ryerson Paper Challenge 2018 .....	11
Conferences .....	12
Migration and Integration Presentation Series .....	12
Lunch & Learn Presentation Series.....	13
<b>Training &amp; Student Engagement</b> .....	<b>15</b>
International Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellows.....	15
Student Placements.....	15

---

## Introduction

Since its inception in 2011, the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement (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 in. RCIS's research focus thus complements graduate education in the field of immigration and settlement.

This report summarizes RCIS's activities in 2017-2018.

---

## Governance

### Academic Director

- **Usha George**, School of Social Work (2017-present)

Dr. George is recognized for her expertise in newcomer settlement and integration. She has completed 12 studies in the field of newcomer settlement for the Ontario Region Settlement Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) as well as several studies funded by the SSHRC. In addition to authoring numerous peer-reviewed publications arising out of the studies, Dr. George developed the cultural profile of 101 source countries of Canada's immigrants for CIC's HOST program and was the national coordinator for the section on social work and immigrant communities in a national study on the future of social work in Canada funded by HRDC (1999-2000). Dr. George is based in the School of Social Work and was the former Interim Vice-President of Research and Innovation at Ryerson University.

### Advisory Committee

#### Ryerson Faculty Members:

- **Idil Atak**, Department of Criminology; Director of the Graduate Program in Criminology (2014-present)
- **Harald Bauder**, Department of Geography; Director of the Graduate Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies program; Founding Director of RCIS (2011-present)
- **Mustafa Koç**, Department of Sociology; Director of the Ryerson Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Studies Centre (committee member from 2014-present)
- **Dawn Onishenko**, School of Social Work; Associate Director of the Undergraduate Program in Social Work (2014-present)
- **Henry Parada**, School of Social Work (2012-2014; 2017-present)

#### Community Members:

- **David Manicom**, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Settlement and Integration at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (2018-present)

---

## Coordinator

- **Tearney McDermott**, MA, Immigration and Settlement Studies Alumna (2016), Ryerson University (2017-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. In November 2017, RCIS held a general meeting of RCIS affiliates to welcome Dr. Usha George as the new Academic Director of RCIS and to discuss RCIS' activities going forward. Wine and cheese was served and members shared information about research and publications.

- RCIS Advisory Committee Meeting (May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 2:00 - 4:00)
- Meeting between RCIS, Immigration and Settlement Studies, and the Global Diversity Exchange (December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 11:00 - 12:30)
- RCIS Meeting of Affiliates/Wine and Cheese (November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 5:30 - 7:00)
- Meeting between RCIS, Immigration and Settlement Studies, and the Global Diversity Exchange (Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 11:00 -12:30)
- RCIS Advisory Committee Meeting (November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 2:00 - 4:00)
- RCIS Advisory Committee Meeting (September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, 2:00 - 4:00)

During the summer of 2018, Dr. George will be participating in meetings for the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration & Settlement (CERIS) as a representative of RCIS and Ryerson University to discuss current projects.

---

## Research

### External Funding Proposals

#### *Successful*

The RCIS Academic Director was successful in obtaining the following grants, some of these with RCIS affiliated faculty:

- *Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration* CERC application - RCIS co-wrote the proposal (submitted May 2017)
  - Awarded \$10,000,000.00
- *Partnership Approach to Syrian Refugee Resettlement in Toronto and Mississauga: The Role of Social Capital* - RCIS Partnership Development Grant application (submitted November 2017)
  - Awarded \$193,482.00
- *Entrepreneurship and Barriers to Scaling Up: Exploring the Entrepreneurial Activities of Refugee Newcomers in the Greater Toronto Area* - Service Delivery Improvement application (submitted February 2018)
  - Funding is being negotiated

#### *Unsuccessful*

Applications to the following external funding programs were unsuccessful but provide a basis for the development of future applications:

- *Entrepreneurship and Barriers to Scaling Up: Exploring the Entrepreneurial Activities of Refugee Newcomers in the Greater Toronto Area* ORFRE application - RCIS (submitted September 2017)
- *Towards Transformative Knowledge in Global Migration* - CIFAR application - RCIS co-wrote the proposal (submitted January 2018)
- *Refugee Research Policy Centre* (with University of Victoria) - RCIS partnered with University of Victoria (submitted October 2017)

---

## ***Pending***

Applications to the following external funding programs are pending:

- *Protecting the Rights and Mobility of Latin American and Caribbean Children and Youth: Canada's Role* Connection Grant application - RCIS is a partner to Dr. Henry Parada, the Rights for Children and Youth Partnership Project, the Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council (will be submitted July 2018)

## **Research Projects**

- **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).

---

## 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
- The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT)
- Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (SAFSS)
- The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT)
- City of Toronto Newcomer Office
- YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Magnet

### Event Partners

- 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)

---

## 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.

### RCIS Working Papers

- 2018/01: *A Case for Families - Serving immigrant families: Using knowledge translation to inform a family approach in the settlement sector* by Tania Dargy

RCIS is anticipating working papers from Policy Studies PhD student Vanessa Wachuku and graduates of the ISS MA program Ann Satkunam and Tearney McDermott

### IRCC-Ryerson Paper Challenge 2018

RCIS participated in the first annual Ryerson - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) student paper challenge. The challenge was launched to enhance Ryerson's relationship with government in migration policy and students were encouraged to submit policy or research papers on any subject related to the IRCC mandate. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, authors of the top five selected papers travelled with RCIS to Ottawa to present their findings to IRCC management and staff. Authors included Gina Jibrán of the Early Childhood Studies (MA) program, Urban Development (MPL) students Rui Huang and Sachin Persaud, Zaheer Dauwer Lorelle Juffs of the Immigration and Settlement Studies (MA) program, and Jessica Praznik, of the Public Policy and Administration (MA) program. In addition to having the opportunity to present their papers in Ottawa, winning students also received a \$500 bursary and a certificate of achievement.

### Presentations

- *Proliferation of Refugee Studies in Turkish Universities: A Critical Re-Assessment* - Joint MENA-RCIS talk with Metin Ozugurlu (May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018)
- *Turkey and the West: Future of Partnership in Uncertain Times* - Joint MENA-RCIS talk with Dr. Kemal Kirişçi (April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018)

- 
- *Sanctuary and Solidarity Cities: Shaping the Agenda* - RCIS Visiting Fellow Martin Bak Jørgensen, Aalborg University, Denmark, and RCIS Visiting Fellow Janika Kuge, University of Freiburg, Germany (March 27th, 2018, 6:15 - 7:45, Kerr Hall East 321B)

## Conferences

- *Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) 18th Annual Conference: Dialogue Beyond Borders*. RCIS co-hosted this event with the Department of Criminology (May 22, 2018 - May 25, 2018; Carleton University, Ottawa)
- *Transitions: Ageing Across the Life Course - 2018 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Knowledge Exchange*. RCIS participated in this conference hosted by the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (April 29, 2018 - May 1, 2018; Ryerson University, Toronto)
- *20<sup>th</sup> National Metropolis Conference - Immigration Futures: Marking 20 Years of the National Metropolis Conference*. RCIS purchased table space jointly with the Immigration and Settlement Studies MA program (March 22, 2018 - March 24, 2018; Westin Hotel, Calgary)
- *Pathways to Prosperity 2017 National Conference*. RCIS participated in the conference and purchased table space jointly with the Immigration and Settlement Studies MA program (November 15, 2017 - November 17, 2017; Hilton Hotel, Toronto)

## Migration and Integration Presentation Series

In Spring 2018 RCIS hosted six presentations with international experts on migration and integration. At each session, there was a presentation followed by questions and feedback from the audience. These presentations were open to all Ryerson faculty, students, and community members.

- *Dynamics of Post-Migrant Societies: Ambivalences between Acceptance and Rejection of Plural Democracy* - Dr. Naika Foroutan, Director of the Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM) and Head of the German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) (June 12, 2018, 2:45 - 4:15, TRS 3-176, Harry Rosen Lecture Hall, TRSM)

- 
- *Who Belongs? Migration and Citizenship in Unsettling Times* - Dr. Leah Bassel, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Leicester, UK (June 4th, 2018, 3:00 - 4:30, TRS 3-176, Harry Rosen Lecture Hall, TRSM)
  - *Global Mobility: Migration, Insecurity, Settlement, and Integration* - Dr. Jeffrey H. Cohen, founding director of Ohio State University's Global Mobility Project (May 22nd, 2018, 2:45 - 4:15, TRS 3-176, Harry Rosen Lecture Hall, TRSM)
  - *Scales of mobility and belonging: Governance and justice in the future city* - Dr. Loren Landau, South African Research Chair in Human Mobility and the Politics of Difference (May 14th, 2018, 2:45 - 4:15, TRS 3-176, Harry Rosen Lecture Hall, TRSM)
  - *Intellectual Migration and Brain Circulation: Conceptual framework and empirical evidence* - Dr. Wei Li, Professor of Asian American Studies and Geography the Asian Pacific American Studies / School of Social Transformation, and School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University (April 30th, 2018, 10:45 - 12:15, TRS 3-176, Harry Rosen Lecture Hall, TRSM)
  - *Understanding Migration in the 21st Century: Critical Reflections on Globalization, Identity and Migrant Agency* - Dr. Anna Triandafyllidou, Director of the Research Area on Cultural Pluralism at the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies) and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies (April 23rd, 2018, 2:45 - 4:15, TRS 1-067, Auditorium, TRSM)

## Lunch & Learn Presentation Series

The RCIS Lunch & Learn Research Presentation Series is intended to explore common research interests and synergies among faculty and students 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.

- David Manicom, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Settlement and Integration Sector at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) (February 9th, 2018, 10:00 - 12:30, YDI 1134, OVPRI, 11th Floor)

- 
- *Emerging findings from a study with Syrian Newcomer Women in Canada* - Mia Hershkowitz and Dr. Sepali Guruge (December 5th, 2017, 12:00 - 1:00, YDI 1134, OVPRI, 11th Floor)
  - *The Settlement of Government Sponsored and Privately Sponsored Syrian Refugees: Lessons Learned* - presentation by Dr. Mehrunnisa Ali (November 28th, 2017, 12:00 - 1:00, Kerr Hall South 134)

A summer Lunch & Learn session with Helge Schwiertz, a PhD student from Universität Osnabrück in Germany, on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 is currently being organized. His research focuses on the organizing and the political practices of migratory youth in Germany and the US.

---

## Training & Student Engagement

RCIS is highly committed to training students and offering opportunities for students to participate in research activities. In addition, RCIS has hosted two international fellows during the 2017/2018 session.

### International Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellows

- Hosted Visiting Fellow Janika Kuge from the University of Freiburg, Germany (February 2018 - March 2018)
- Hosted Visiting Fellow Martin Bak Jørgensen from Aalborg University, Denmark (January 2018 - July 2018)
- Made preparations to host Monsuru Kasali from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland (October 2017) (has deferred trip until August 2018)

### Student Placements

- Maia Fujimoto, MA Candidate, Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University (June 2018 - August 2018): Maia is writing a scoping review of settlement and integration literature for RCIS.