

**JULY 2019**

# **Annual Report 2018-2019**

**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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## 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. RCIS' research focus thus complements graduate education in the field of immigration and settlement.

This report summarizes RCIS' research activities in 2018-2019.

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## Governance

### Academic Director

- **Dr. Usha George**, School of Social Work (2017 – January 2019; June 2019 – 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 served as the former Interim Vice-President of Research and Innovation at Ryerson University (2016–2017).

*Dr. Usha George was on administrative leave January 2019 through June 2019, during which time Dr. John Shields acted as Academic Director of RCIS.*

- **Dr. John Shields**, Politics and Public Administration (January 2019 – June 2019)

Dr. Shields has over 30 years of university teaching and research experience in the areas of public administration and public policy, Canadian politics, immigrant settlement and integration policy and practices, and non-profit sector studies. He holds/held research affiliations with the Centre for Governance Studies at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby; the Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies, Faculty of Business, Ryerson University; the International Social Sciences Institute at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; and the Ontario Metropolis Centre (Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement). He is also a member of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies at Ryerson and is affiliated with the MA program in Public Policy and Administration (which he served as co-Director from 2005-2012); the MA program in Immigration and Settlement Studies; the Joint (with York University) Graduate Programme in Communication and Culture, which offers both MA and PhD streams; and the PhD program in Policy Studies. He is a past-Director of CERIS, and past-Managing Editor of the *Journal of International Migration and Integration*. In 2016 he received the National Metropolis Researcher Award. Dr. Shields has published extensively, including the co-authoring of five books and over sixty published articles and papers and an extensive number of policy papers and conference presentations.

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## Coordinator

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

## Advisory Committee

### Ryerson Faculty Members

- **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)
- **Dr. Henry Parada**, School of Social Work (2012-2014; 2017-present)

### External Members

- **Dr. David Manicom**, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Settlement and Integration at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (2018-2019)

## RCIS Governance 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 28th, 2018, 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. 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, some of these with RCIS affiliated faculty:

- *Protecting the Rights and Mobility of Latin American and Caribbean Children and Youth: Canada's Role*, SSHRC Connection Grant application – RCIS partnered with Dr. Henry Parada, the Rights for Children and Youth Partnership Project, and several community agencies working in child protection
- *Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration*, CERC application (Round 2) – RCIS worked with the nominated CERC candidate to develop the second stage proposal to meet the CERC requirements
- *Addressing social isolation among older immigrants in Canada: Developing multi-level, multi-component interventions to promote connectedness* – SSHRC Initial Stage Award (LOI) \$20,000 Awarded: PI: Sepali Guruge; Co-Investigator, John Shields

#### *Unsuccessful*

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

- *Towards the Best Interests of Children and Youth: Exploring the Intersections of Child Protection and Precarious Immigration Status*, SSHRC Insight Grant – RCIS partnered with Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi, the Rights for Children and Youth Partnership Project, the Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence (CWICE), and Peel Children's Aid Society

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## **Pending**

Applications to the following external funding programs are pending:

- *Refugee Resettlement and Integration in Canada: Lived Experience, Lessons Learned, and Promising Practices*, SSHRC Connection Grant application – RCIS partnered with the City of Toronto Newcomer Office, the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT), CultureLink Settlement and Community Services, and the YMCA of Greater Toronto

## **Research Projects**

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

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.

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

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



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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.

## Books

Harald Bauder, ed., *Putting Family First: Migration and Integration in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2019.

Harald Bauder, Mehrunnisa Ahmad Ali and John Shields. *Introduction to Putting Family First: Migration and Integration in Canada*. Migration Research Series #57. [Geneva: (United Nations) International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2019]: 18.

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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 Rights for Children and Youth Partnership (RCYP)
- 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

- 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.

### RCIS 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.

- 2019/1: *"If you are in Palermo, you are a Palermitan": An interview with Mayor Leoluca Orlando* by Dr. Harald Bauder

RCIS is anticipating a research brief from 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.

### RCIS Working Papers

RCIS Working Papers present scholarly research of all disciplines on issues related to immigration and settlement. The purpose is to stimulate discussion and collect feedback.

- 2019/3: *Rescaling the Sanctuary City: Police and Non-Status Migrants in Ontario, Canada* by Mia Hershkowitz, Dr. Graham Hudson & Dr. Harald Bauder
- 2019/2: *Promoting and Challenging Immigration Detention in Canada: Understanding the Role of Advocacy Coalition Groups in Canada's Immigration Detention Policy Subsystem* by Vanessa Chidi Wachuku
- 2019/1: *Influence of Immigration Policies on Supply of Ethnic Business Entrepreneurs in Canada* by Dr. Shuguang Wang & Rebecca Hii
- 2018/2: *Assessing Canada's Support of International Students: A Comprehensive Review of Canada's Retention and Settlement of its "Model Immigrants"* by Zaheer A. Dauwer

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RCIS is anticipating a working paper from Dina Taha, a PhD Candidate from the School of Sociology and Refugee Research Network of the Center for Refugee Studies at York University, titled *Syrian brides and the Global Compact on Refugees: How Canada's FIAP can reimagine refugee women's empowerment*.

## Conferences

- *International Metropolis Conference 2019: The Promise of Migration – Inclusion, Economic Growth and Global Cooperation* (June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Shaw Centre, Ottawa)
- *RCYP International Conference 2019: Protecting the Rights of Children and Youth in Central America, the Caribbean and Canada* (March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Central YMCA, Toronto)
- *12th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS): Interrogating Integration* (May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019; York University, Toronto)
- *21st National Metropolis Conference: Doing Immigration Differently* (March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019; Halifax, Nova Scotia)
- *Austerity: Coping is not enough. Berlin, Germany: Friedrich Ebert Foundation* (February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019)

## Presentations

- *Social Inclusion Workshop – Social inclusion and refugee integration: lessons learned* (June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 2:00 pm, International Metropolis Conference 2019, Shaw Centre, Ottawa, ON)

This workshop examined responses to the Syrian civil war crisis of 2015 and resulting refugee flows by evaluating cases of integration – or lack thereof – in Canada, Germany, and Central Europe. The cultural, scholarly, and professional diversity of the discussants offered a wide range of analyses of the local populations' ability to respond to large inflows of refugees and measures for improvement in policy and practice.

**Presenters: Usha George (RCIS), Huda Bukhari, Philina Wittke, Georgeta Pourchot**

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- *Cities and Migration Workshop – The inclusive city: envisioning municipal infrastructure options for immigrant integration* (June 26th, 2019, 2:00 pm, International Metropolis Conference 2019, Shaw Centre, Ottawa, ON)

This workshop included four presentations that analyzed the growth of municipal offices in Canada and the United States, and their impact on migrant integration. Particular focus was given to what lessons can be learnt, and what challenges remain to be addressed.

**Presenters: Westy Egmont, Usha George (RCIS), Vera Dodic, Eva Millona**

- *Children and Families Workshop – Putting family first: Implications for migration and integration policy and practice* (June 26th, 2019, 2:00 pm, International Metropolis Conference 2019, Shaw Centre, Ottawa, ON)

This workshop explored the settlement and integration of migrants, taking a ground-up perspective, with special focus given to the role of the family for integration, including themes such as children and youth, gender, work and community.

**Presenters: Harald Bauder, Mehru Ali, Ümit Kiziltan, Marie McAuliffe, John Shields (RCIS)**

- *Migrant Health Workshop – Establishing the right linkages between migrants’ health and appropriate healthcare post-migration* (June 26th, 2019, 4:00 pm, International Metropolis Conference 2019, Shaw Centre, Ottawa, ON)

In this workshop presenters discussed the health status and conditions of migrants, with a focus on continuity of care and contributing to the healthy immigrant effect, as well as how to support immigrants with health conditions to contribute positively to society.

**Presenters: Michael MacKinnon, Usha George (RCIS), Mary Ellen Macdonald, Charles Hui, Davide Mosca, Edward Ng**

## Conference Papers

John Shields, “Resilience and the Canadian Non-profit Migrant Settlement System: Challenges and Opportunities for Newcomer Integration” Session: *Competing Projects of (Im)migrant and Refugee Integration and Exclusion in Canada*, 12th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS): Interrogating Integration, York University, Toronto, May 14-16, 2019.

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John Shields and Jessica Praznik, “Settlement and Belonging in the Canadian City: Promoting Migrant Friendly Cities – The Case of Toronto”, 21st National Metropolis Conference: Doing Immigration Differently, March 21 -23, 2019, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

John Shields and Omar Lujan, “Settlement Services for Immigrant Youth: A Focus on Employment”, 21st National Metropolis Conference: Doing Immigration Differently, March 21 - 23, 2019, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

John Shields, Meghan Joy and Siu Mee Cheng. “Austerity and Social Innovation: The Case of Social Innovation Labs (SILs) and Social Impact Bonds (SIBs).” Presented in Panel XI: Implementing Austerity at the conference Austerity: Coping is not enough. Berlin, Germany: Friedrich Ebert Foundation, 22 February 2019.

## **Other Public Events**

Panelist and Chair, “Knowledge Mobilization in the Immigration and Settlement Sector: Revisiting Goals and Learning from Practices” – A CERIS Community Forum, Toronto Central YMCA, June 19, 2019.

Chair, “Urban Citizenship: Exploring the Sanctuary City Policies”, Migration, Security, Surveillance and Resistance, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, April 1, 2019.

John Shields. Panelist. “Mistrust Thy Neighbor: US-Mexico-Canada Relations in the Age of Trump.” *The Marxé Issues Public Policy Breakfast Series*, Marxé School of Public and International Affairs New York, NY: City University of New York (CUNY), Baruch College, 27 February 2019. Broadcast on CUNY TV:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzL2Yszl9IA&list=PLDBVIY5fArTaC6y-rEvWud8vZHLQ1epaG&index=12&t=0s>

John Shields. Panelist. “Precarious Work: An Invisible Public Health Crisis” (part of the *Community Perspectives on Mental Health and Wellbeing* series). Toronto: Ryerson University, 08 February 2019.

## **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.

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- **Sunbal Mohammad**, graduate of the Ryerson Immigration and Settlement Studies (ISS) Program (March 19th, 2019, 12:15 - 1:30, EPH 222, Eric Palin Hall)

Sunbal Mohammad gave a discussion of the social and cultural integration of immigrants, and in particular Muslim women who veil in Canada. Drawing from her Master's research, she spoke about the barriers to integration that Muslim women face in Canada and how social and cultural integration is linked to economic integration.

**Audience members: 23**

- *How Segregated is Toronto? Inequality, Polarization, and Segregation Trends and Processes* - Dr. **David Hulchanski**, Professor of Housing and Community Development and Chow Yei Ching Chair in Housing in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto (February 14th, 2019, 12:15 - 1:45, YDI 1134, OVPRI, 11th Floor)

Dr. Hulchanski gave a discussion of the impact of public policies relating to income (taxes and transfers), labour market wages and regulations, housing market costs and dynamics; and discrimination in education, employment, and housing on income inequality, income polarization, and segregation by socio-economic and immigrant status and 'race'.

**Audience members: 38**

- *Multiculturalism in Canada: What Census 2016 and Other Data Tell Us* - **Andrew Griffith**, former Director General of Citizenship and Multiculturalism with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, author, political commentator, and blogger (November 29th, 2018, 12:15 - 1:15, EPH 222, Eric Palin Hall)

Using a variety of data sources, ranging from Census 2016, the General Social Survey, employment equity reports and parliamentary websites, Andrew Griffith gave a talk assessing how well Canadian multiculturalism is working in terms of economic, social and political outcomes. The presentation highlighted differences by visible minority group compared to not visible minorities, generation, education and gender, with a particular focus on the 25-34-year-old cohort, and a number of ongoing policy questions were raised.

**Audience members: 41**

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- *South Asia Gulf Migration Corridor: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* - Dr. **S. Irudaya Rajan**, Professor at the Centre for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and co-author of *Politics of Migration: Indian Emigration in a Globalized World* (2015) (October 25th, 2018, 12:15 - 1:15, EPH 222, Eric Palin Hall)

Dr. Rajan gave a talk on the prospects and possibilities of sustaining the Gulf as a prominent destination for South Asian migration flows, and how and why this significant bilateral labour corridor has emerged and endured. The discussion covered the strategic and economic implications of continued reliance on South-Asian migrants in Gulf countries amidst the broader landscape of labour localization efforts, and crucial areas of policy attention, including worker welfare, leveraging remittances for development, and the need for safer, more accessible and inclusive labour migration processes.

**Audience members: 19**

- *Testing our Tolerance: The journey from foreign refugee camps to Canada's rival political camps* - **Martin Regg Cohn**, political columnist for the Toronto Star and Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Ryerson University Faculty of Arts (October 4th, 2018, 12:30 - 1:30; SHE 686, FCS Dean's Boardroom, Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre)

Martin Regg Cohn gave a talk on his travels as a foreign correspondent to refugee camps abroad, and his coverage of the resettlement debate at home as a political columnist for the Toronto Star. The discussion covered how our splendid isolation has allowed Canada to avoid Europe's flashpoints, because geography engenders generosity — but also hypocrisy.

**Audience members: 40**

## Research Partnership Meetings

- RCIS and the Committee for Labour and Social Matters of the German Bundestag (June 21st, 2019, 2:00 – 3:00; OVPRI, 11th Floor, 1 Dundas Street West, Toronto)

RCIS met with members of the Committee for Labour and Social Matters of the German Bundestag, a high-profile political delegation from Germany, to advise on the politics of immigration issues regarding labour and social matters in Canada.



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- RCIS and the Ontario Bridging Coalition (January 22nd, 2019, 1:00 - 2:00; Jorgenson Hall, Room 801)

RCIS met with members of the Ontario Bridging Coalition to discuss the development of a funding proposal for research around the efficacy of Bridging Programs and how these can be enhanced, as well as future opportunities for research collaboration and partnership.

- Roundtable: How IRCC and Academic Networks Can Better Support Emerging Scholars, IRCC Head Quarters, Ottawa, June 28.

RCIS was invited and engaged in a broad ranging discussion on the topic.

## **Presentations to Government of Canada**

2019 “Strengthening Canada’s Model of Immigrant Settlement”, Presentation to the House of Common’s Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, Ottawa, May 1: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/CIMM/meeting-155/evidence#Int-10590043>

Audio:

[http://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/XRender/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20190501/-/1/31460?Embedded=true&globalstreamId=14&startposition=3902&viewMode=3&useragent=Mozilla/5.0%20\(Windows%20NT%2010.0;%20Win64;%20x64\)%20AppleWebKit/537.36%20\(KHTML,%20like%20Gecko\)%20Chrome/74.0.3729.169%20Safari/537.36](http://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/XRender/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20190501/-/1/31460?Embedded=true&globalstreamId=14&startposition=3902&viewMode=3&useragent=Mozilla/5.0%20(Windows%20NT%2010.0;%20Win64;%20x64)%20AppleWebKit/537.36%20(KHTML,%20like%20Gecko)%20Chrome/74.0.3729.169%20Safari/537.36)

2019 “The Nonprofit Sector Workforce: Modest Reforms to Mitigate Precariousness”, Presentation to The Senate Special Committee on the Charitable Sector, Ottawa: Government of Canada, April 1: <https://sencanada.ca/en/Content/Sen/Committee/421/CSSB/54630-e>

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## 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 one international fellow during the 2018/2019 session.

### International Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellows

- Hosted Visiting Fellow **Dr. Max Stephan Bernlochner** from the Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration Baden-Wuerttemberg in Stuttgart, Germany April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Max was sent to Canada by the Fuehrungsakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg in Karlsruhe, Germany as part of his leadership program of Germany's south-western province of Baden-Wuerttemberg. During his time at RCIS, Max organized interviews with members of staff at the City of Toronto civil service, at Ryerson University and with several immigrant-serving organizations to learn about settlement services and integration in Ontario.

- Made preparations to host 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 and involves a total of 25-30 in-depth interviews, with approximately 50% in each country. During her time at RCIS, Marina will be conducting interviews with 12-15 research participants.