

Metropolis Americas Summit

December 11-12, 2023

SUNY Global center and Ellis Island Museum

New York



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www.metropolisconference.ca

Cumbre de las Américas de Metropolis

11 y 12 de diciembre de 2023

SUNY Global center y Museo de Ellis Island

Nueva York

THE STATE OF MIGRANT RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS

LA SITUACIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS DE LOS INMIGRANTES EN LAS AMÉRICAS



Messages from the Conference Co-Chairs

Mensajes de los copresidentes de la Conferencia



CATRINA TAPLEY

Former Deputy Minister of
Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada

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Ex Viceministro de Inmigración,
Refugiados y Ciudadanía de Canadá

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Metropolis Americas annual summit. Marking the 75th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights, and focusing on migrants' rights, the conference is fittingly being held in New York City which has been, and continues to be, a gateway for migration to the Americas. The iconic New York Statue of Liberty remains a global symbol of freedom and of welcoming immigrants to new countries. With historic levels of refugees and displaced persons around the world how do we live up to the welcoming ideals of Lady Liberty and ensure that migrants rights are respected while managing migration in a safe and orderly fashion?

Over the next two days, we look forward to an active discussion and an exchange of views that reflects the diversity of perspectives on this topic throughout the Americas. It is an honour to be among such bright academics and seasoned practitioners as we find novel solutions to the complex migration challenges of the 21st century.

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Es para mí un gran placer darles la bienvenida a la cumbre anual de Metropolis Américas. Con motivo del 75 aniversario de la Declaración de los Derechos Humanos de la ONU, y centrándose en los derechos de los migrantes, la conferencia se celebra en la ciudad de Nueva York, que ha sido, y sigue siendo, una puerta de entrada para la migración a las Américas. La emblemática Estatua de la Libertad de Nueva York sigue siendo un símbolo mundial de libertad y de acogida de inmigrantes a nuevos países. Con niveles históricos de refugiados y desplazados en todo el mundo, ¿cómo podemos estar a la altura de los ideales de acogida de la Dama de la Libertad y garantizar que se respeten los derechos de los inmigrantes, gestionando al mismo tiempo la migración de forma segura y ordenada?

Durante los próximos dos días, esperamos con interés un debate activo y un intercambio de puntos de vista que reflejen la diversidad de perspectivas sobre este tema en todo el continente americano. Es un honor estar entre académicos tan brillantes y profesionales tan experimentados mientras encontramos soluciones novedosas a los complejos retos migratorios del siglo XXI.

Messages from the Conference Co-Chairs

Mensajes de los copresidentes de la Conferencia



Mayu Brizuela de Avila

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

Ex Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de El Salvador

As a Central American I am most grateful for my appointment as Cochair of Metropolis Americas' annual summit together with Her Excellency Catrina Tapley. I have followed Canada's premier independent think tank's contributions in the field of migration and used to look enviously at it serving only North America. It is now a reality, Metropolis Americas has expanded beyond the borders of Canada, Mexico, and the US. It is an honor to have the opportunity to cement the collective way forward fomenting research and policy deliberations on migration that will benefit the Americas as a whole.

That vision for international participation from the Americas is commendable. By bringing together researchers, policy makers, service providers, and civil society, Metropolis is creating an environment that fosters collaboration and identifies solutions for safe, orderly, and regular migration, recognizing the new realities of migration in our hemisphere as recent years have seen the rise of larger scale irregular migratory flows because of continually limited regular migration channels and unaddressed drivers of migration.

I wish you all the best for a successful conference that encourages knowledge sharing and meaningful discussions and hope that it leads to outcomes that positively impact the lives of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants' rights.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

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Cómo Centroamericana estoy muy agradecida por mi nombramiento como Copresidenta de la cumbre anual de Metropolis Américas junto con Su Excelencia Catrina Tapley. He seguido las contribuciones del principal tanque de pensamiento independiente de Canadá en el campo de la migración y solía mirar con envidia que sólo sirviera a Norteamérica. Ahora es una realidad, Metrópolis Américas se ha expandido más allá de las fronteras de Canadá, México y Estados Unidos. Es un honor tener la oportunidad de cimentar el camino colectivo hacia el fomento de la investigación y las deliberaciones de políticas públicas sobre migración que beneficiarán a las Américas en su conjunto. Esa visión de la participación internacional de las Américas es encomiable.

Al reunir a investigadores, responsables políticos, proveedores de servicios y sociedad civil, Metrópolis está creando un entorno que fomenta la colaboración e identifica soluciones para una migración segura, ordenada y regular, reconociendo las nuevas realidades de la migración en nuestro hemisferio, ya que en los últimos años se ha producido un aumento de los flujos migratorios irregulares a gran escala debido a la continua limitación de los canales de migración regular y a la falta de respuesta a los factores que impulsan la migración.

Les deseo lo mejor para una conferencia exitosa que fomente el intercambio de conocimientos y debates significativos y espero que conduzca a resultados que tengan un impacto positivo en las vidas de los refugiados, los solicitantes de asilo y los derechos de los migrantes.

"Pon tu granito de arena donde estés; son esos granitos de arena juntos los que abruma al mundo".

Welcome message

Mensaje de bienvenida



Jack Jedwab

President and CEO, Metropolis
Institute / Association for Canadian
Studies

Presidente y Director General,
Instituto Metropolis / Asociación de
Estudios Canadienses

"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution" (article 14 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights) . December 10th, 2023 will mark 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the anniversary provides an important opportunity to take stock of global migration challenges and provide a deeper examination about the state of migrant rights across the Americas. We've chosen the City of New York to hold this year's edition of the Metropolis America's annual summit which on December 11th will take place at the Global Conference Center of the State University of New York (SUNY) and on December 12th at Ellis Island's National Museum of Immigration.

I am proud to be associated with an outstanding program which will contribute to future research partnerships across the Americas. I want to thank our esteemed co-chairs Mayu Avila and Catrina Tapley. I also want to thank the organizations that are supporting this year's edition of Metropolis Americas and in particular World Education Services. Thanks as well to my colleagues Gallya Lahav and Rebecca Neuwirth.

My deepest appreciation goes to the Summit's organizing team at the Metropolis Institute led by James Ondrick, Emma Proux and Shania Bramble.

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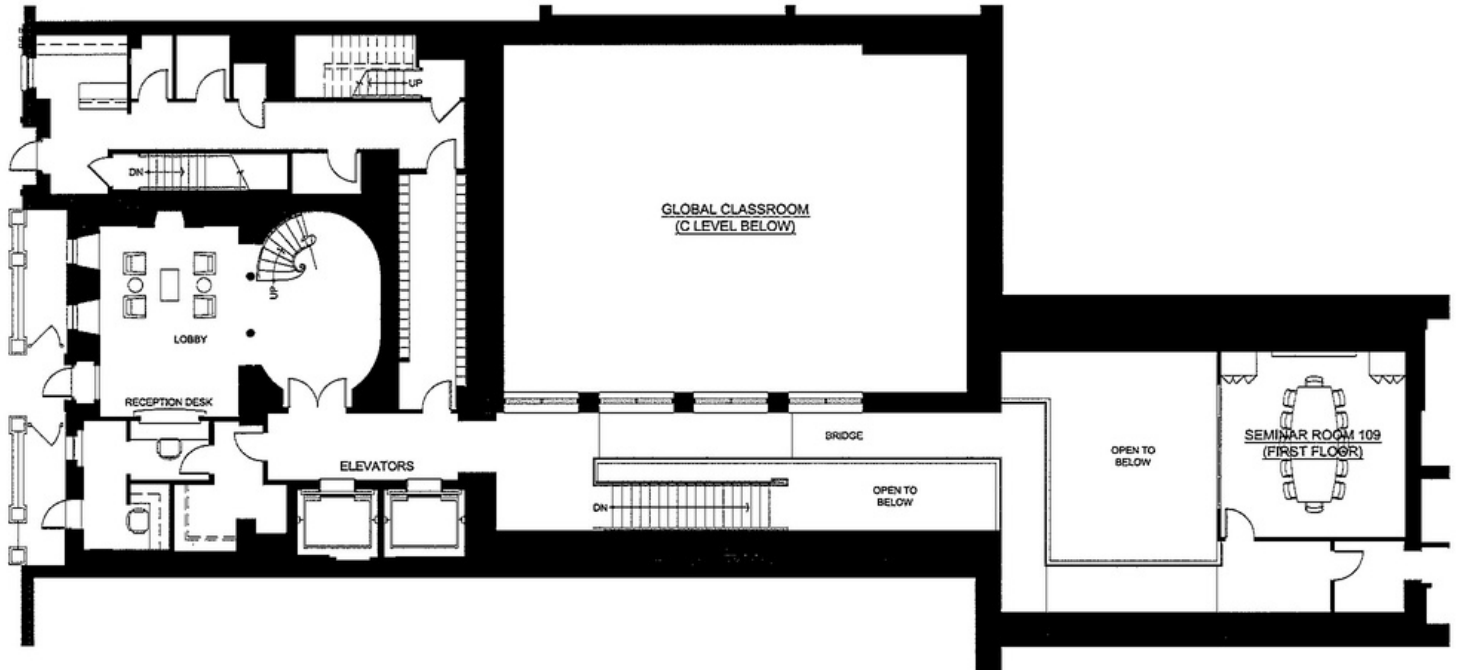
"Toda persona tiene derecho a buscar asilo, y a disfrutar de él, contra toda persecución" (artículo 14 de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas). El 10 de diciembre de 2023 se cumplirán 75 años de la adopción de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos y el aniversario ofrece una importante oportunidad para hacer balance de los retos de la migración mundial y profundizar en el estado de los derechos de los migrantes en las Américas. Hemos elegido la ciudad de Nueva York para celebrar la edición de este año de la cumbre anual de Metropolis América, que tendrá lugar el 11 de diciembre en el Global Conference Center de la Universidad Estatal de Nueva York (SUNY) y el 12 de diciembre en el Museo Nacional de la Inmigración de Ellis Island.

Estoy orgulloso de asociarme a un programa excepcional que contribuirá a futuras colaboraciones en materia de investigación en todo el continente americano. Quiero dar las gracias a nuestras estimadas copresidentas Mayu Avila y Catrina Tapley. También quiero dar las gracias a las organizaciones que apoyan la edición de este año de Metropolis Américas y, en particular, a World Education Services. Gracias también a mis colegas Gallya Lahav y Rebecca Neuwirth.

Mi más profundo agradecimiento al equipo organizador de la Cumbre en el Instituto Metropolis, dirigido por James Ondrick, Emma Proux y Shania Bramble.

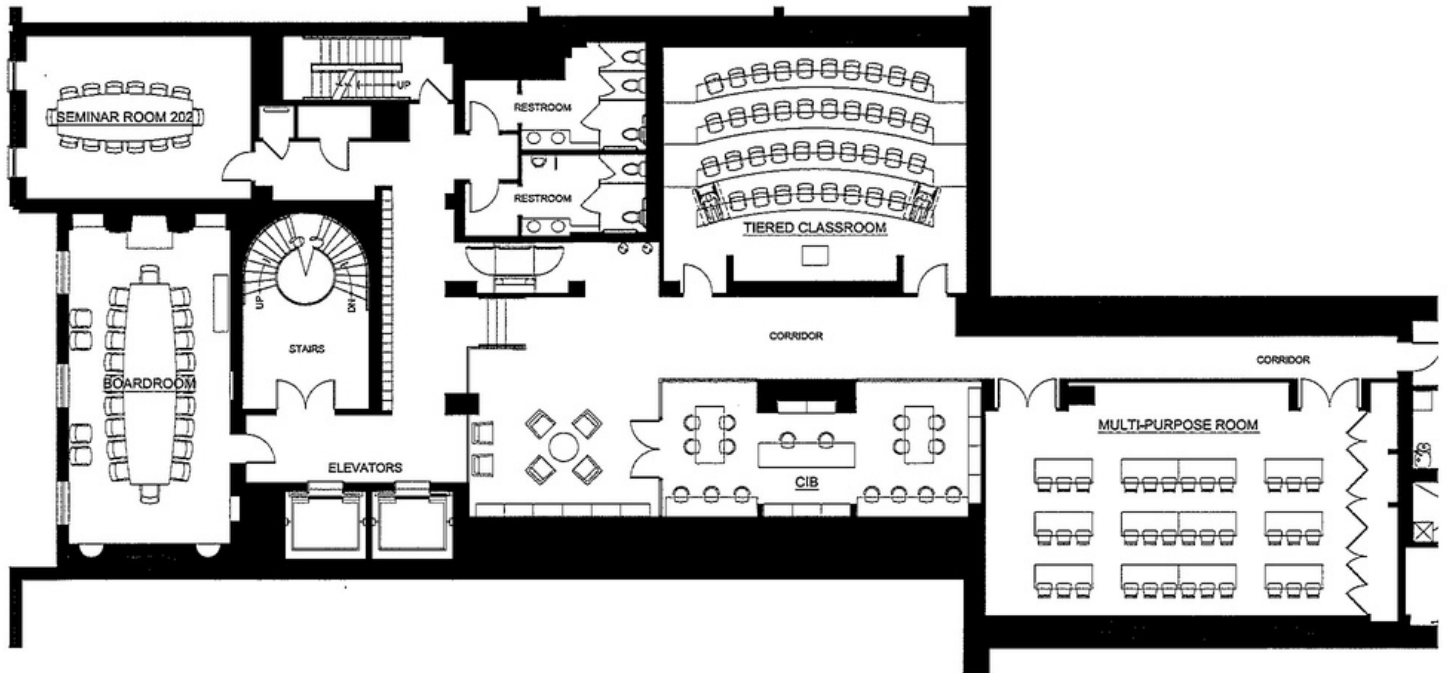
Titles and information regarding all sessions appear in the official language they were submitted in by the workshop organizer.

Los títulos y la información sobre todas las sesiones aparecen en la lengua oficial en la que fueron enviados por el organizador de la presentación.



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 NEW YORK, NY 10022



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As of / a partir de las 8:30 am

Registration / inscripción



Global Classroom

9:15 - 9:45 am**Opening Remarks / Discurso Inaugural**

Global Classroom

- **Esther Benjamin**, CEO and Executive Director, World Education Services (WES)
- **Jack Jedwab**, President, ACS-Metropolis Institute
- **Mayu Brizuela de Avila**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador
- **Catrina Tapley**, Former Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

9:45 - 11:00 am**Plenary 1 / Plenario 1**

Global Classroom

Migrant Rights at the Intersection of Gender and International Governance

In this opening plenary session, our focus will center on past, current and future challenges with regards to international migration and specifically migrants rights. Our distinguished speakers will share valuable insights, highlighting the intricate interplay between gender-related issues and migration—a critical facet in discourse and decision making around migration. This session offers a unique opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of the complexities surrounding migrant rights, examples of good practices and fostering international cooperation.

- Moderator: **Lizeth Danesa Lema**, IOM
- **Anna Eva Radicetti**, Deputy Director, IOM, New York Office
- **Giovanni Bassu**, Deputy Director, New York Office, UNHCR
- **Linda Doutre**, Coordinating Member from the Refugee Protection Division's Gender Related Task Force, The Gender Related Task Force (GRTF) team by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)

11:00 – 11:15 am
Break/Pause**11:15 - 12:30 am**
Block A / Bloc A
Concurrent Workshops
Talleres Simultáneos**Block A / Bloc A**
A1 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación
del panel

Multi-purpose Room

Promoting Inclusive Public Spaces: Strategies for Immigrant and Refugee Integration in Canadian Cities

The Role of Municipal Public Space in ensuring Immigrants'/Migrants' Full, Equal, and Meaningful Participation in their new communities: Examples from the City of Saskatoon

Canadian cities are planners, custodians, and stewards of indoor and outdoor public spaces. From street naming to park development to community centres, this workshop highlights early efforts by the City of Saskatoon to intentionally plan and build diversity, inclusion and belonging into the public realm.

- **Jasmine Calix**, Immigration Partnership Saskatoon
- **Kevin Kitchen**, Community Initiatives Manager, City of Saskatoon

Intercultural cities and Anti rumor Strategies: an opportunity to mitigate xenophobia against migrant and refugees

The workshop seeks to answer how can societies deconstruct the old, but permanent rhetoric of racism and xenophobia, as well as strategies for inclusion to reach all vulnerable groups, especially those under the circumstances of human mobility. One glance at the hate pyramid shows that an anti-rumor strategies aim to focus on the most crucial factor: stereotypes and prejudices. To promote interculturalism as a policy and anti rumor strategies in countries like Mexico, an approach from the human rights perspective is needed, as well as an aspect of interaction between populations.

- **Maria Jose Salcedo**, Friedrich Naumann Foundation
- **Tamara Aranda**, Sin Fronteras IAP

Block A / Bloc A***A2 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel***

Tiered Classroom

The Continuous Journey: Bridging the Gap between Humanitarian Response, Domestic Development and Refugee Re-Settlement

Globally, migration is not a linear phenomenon. Rather, migration is increasingly multidirectional. In recent years, many countries are observing an increase in population movements; some of these are characterized by people fleeing conditions of persecution in their countries of origin and seeking refuge in a destination country. Climate change is another driver, displacing populations due to natural disasters. According to the UNHRC, there is an exponential increase in displaced populations. On the other hand, the Central American region, has seen the rise of larger scale irregular migratory flows as a result of continually limited regular migration channels and unaddressed drivers of migration. The Northern countries of Central America have experienced this phenomenon, considering that every year El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras receive more than 100,000 returnees. Among these, families, women, unaccompanied children, and other migrants in vulnerable situation, require specific assistance to re-start their lives within communities.

Therefore, this panel discusses not only the existing gaps between the international humanitarian response and domestic resettlement and how we can bridge them to provide more integrated, coordinated, and seamless services to displaced populations. It also explores experiences and good practices implemented between international organizations and civil society. Establishing collaborative processes, exchanging tools and global approaches on protection, re-settlement, reintegration, mental health and psychosocial approaches, among other, and sharing experiences amongst these agencies can play a significant role in enhancing support for migrant returnees and refugees, and other displaced populations.

This workshop will be organized jointly by COSTI (<http://www.costi.org/>), and CIFAL York (<https://www.yorku.ca/cifal>) and IOM (<https://www.iom.int/>).

- **Ali Asgary**, Professor, Disaster & Emergency Management, School of Administrative Studies, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University, Director, CIFAL York
- **Samina Sami**, CEO COSTI
- **Natalia Zepeda**, Deputy Subregional Program Coordinator, IOM El Salvador
- **Alejandro Calderón**, Director General, Fe y Alegria El Salvador

Block A / Bloc A***A3 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel***

Seminar Room 202

Pathways to postsecondary education for youth with refugee backgrounds in Canada

Canada leads the OECD as the country where the first- and second-generation children of immigrants have higher overall postsecondary education (PSE) participation rates than non-immigrants. Yet some groups of immigrant youth, including youth with refugee backgrounds from Africa have been found to achieve lower academic standards, study in lower streams, drop out at higher rates, and enter university in lower proportions. This session will present early research findings from a SSHRC-funded national community-based study exploring how the Canadian school experiences of African refugee youth impact their decision to pursue PSE. The presentation will focus on data collected through 80 interviews with youth in Ontario.

- **Dr Stacey Wilson-Forsberg**, Associate Professor in the Human Rights & Human Diversity program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Director of the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa
- **Jane Roche**, Program Manager, NASH (Nationale Association of System heads) Refugee Resettlement Initiative (RRI)

Block A / Bloc A***A4 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel***

Seminar Room 303

Analyzing International Migration Data: A Comparative Study of Canada and the United States - PART 1**Immigrant Integration in North America – What Can the Data Tell Us?**

Several observers contend that successful immigrant integration requires that there be relative parity between immigrants and non-immigrants in several key areas (i.e., economic, social, civic and democratic participation, and health). Evidence informed data is necessary to document disparities for in migrant social and economic outcomes relative to the broader society. In this session, representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau and Statistics Canada will look at good practices in the use of data to measure migrant outcomes by selecting key indicators in the two countries. They will also examine opportunities for comparative work using the censuses in the United States and Canada.

- **Eric Jensen**, Senior Advisor for Population Estimates, US Census Bureau
- **Lauren Medina**, Chief, Foreign-Born Population Branch, US Census Bureau
- **Mark Gross**, Chief of the International Migration Branch, US Census Bureau

Part 2: session B1

Block A / Bloc A***A5 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel***

Boardroom

Challenges and Evolutions in Refugee and Migration Policies: A Comparative Exploration of UDHR's Ideals and the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement**Then and Now: Are the aspirational fundamental human rights goals of the UDHR undermined by contemporary refugee and migration policies**

The UDHR was adopted after the atrocities of WWII. It set out, for the first time, the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. This roundtable will focus on the human rights of displaced people, with a focus on how these populations and the drivers of displacement have changed since the UDHR was adopted and on how contemporary refugee and migration policies often undermine those people most in need of protection.

HIAS and JIAS, both founded over 100 years ago to respond to the urgent needs of Jewish refugees, will reflect on how their mandates have expanded to respond to the global needs of today's displaced people, the impact on their service delivery models, and their engagement with communities and other partners.

- **Elise Herzig**, Executive Director, JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services), Toronto
- **Rachel Levitan**, Chief Global Policy and Advocacy Officer, HIAS, Washington, DC

Control by coordination: The political development of the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement

The Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement was signed in 2002 and subsequently renegotiated in 2023 in order to coordinate asylum policy across the land border of the two countries. This presentation traces the genesis of the agreement back to the first introduction of the safe country principle in 1986. It examines the efforts of Canadian officials to incorporate this principle into Canadian immigration management, and how this shaped the development of the STCA as a bilateral framework for asylum control through coordination.

- **Geoffrey Cameron**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, McMaster University

Block A / Bloc A***A6 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel***

Seminar room 109

Empowering Vulnerable Children: CWICE's Innovative Approach at the Intersection of Child Welfare and Immigration

CWICE supports vulnerable children at the intersection of child protection and immigration, running an Ontario-wide consultation center, conducting research, and providing national training. Gain insights into assisting unaccompanied and separated children seeking status, recognizing its pivotal role in their lives. Discover our collaborations with border services, settlement agencies, and law enforcement. Witness policy advocacy's impact in safeguarding children's interests amid precarious immigration situations. Acquire invaluable lessons and strategies for empowering those navigating child welfare and immigration's complex crossroads.

- **Mary Beth Moellenkamp** CEO, Peel Children's Aid
- **Prasad Nair** Director, Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence, Peel CAS

Universal Health Care for Migrants: Right or Privilege?

- **Annalee Coakley**, Medical Director, S, Calgary, AB
- **Deidre Lake**, Executive Director at AIMGA
- **Carlos Franco Paredes**, Colorado State University

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Lunch

Multi-purpose Room

1:30 - 2:45 pm
Block B / Bloc B
Concurrent Workshops
Talleres Simultáneos**Block B / Bloc B**
**B1 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación
del panel**

Seminar Room 303

Analyzing International Migration Data: A Comparative Study of Canada and the United States - PART 2

North American Index for Measuring Immigrant Integration – A Feasibility Study

As a follow-up to the session Measuring Immigrant Outcomes in the United States and Canada, this workshop will present evidence informed research on indicators of migrant integration in selected cities in Canada and the United States. Researchers from Association of Canadian Studies (ACS) Metropolis Institute and the American Immigration Council (AIC) will showcase some of their current work on individual country indices – the Canadian Index for Measuring Integration and Inclusion (CIMII) and the U.S. Cities Index, respectively. They will also consider the feasibility of establishing a comparative study of selected North American metropolitan areas with a focus on economic integration. The aim of the workshop is to look into ways to create a combined North American Index for Measuring Immigrant Integration for the two countries. The key objective of the index will be to provide a credible framework for ongoing assessment of the state of immigrant integration in Canada and the U.S., which will ultimately be a resource for policymakers, researchers, and immigrant service provider organizations in the two countries.

- **Ravindra Shredtha**, ACS-Metropolis
- **Jack Jedwab**, ACS-Metropolis
- **Nan Wu**, American Immigration Council
- **Mo Kantner**, American Immigration Council (TBC)

Block B / Bloc B**B2 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación
del panel**

Seminar Room 202

Enhancing Newcomer Integration: Nurturing Inclusive Narratives and Client-Centered Approaches - PART 1

The Story Book of Resettlement: Newcomer data and insights are summaries of hundreds of thousands of stories of resettlement used to develop client-focused programs to ensure successful integration is achieved

This workshop explores YMCA programming and our clients' feedback as a platform for information sharing to ensure the successful resettlement of newcomers. As we look into our crystal ball, we embed the feedback of newcomers into new policies, and resources to support the integration of future generations. Our hopes to facilitate future resettlement remind us our efforts now can guide us further when we understand feedback is a synonym for improvement. It is our clients' resettlement experiences that are our greatest learnings, and the best vision is insight. Discussions will be accompanied by opportunities to share strategies, resources and accomplishments.

- **Mitra Neshat**, YMCA of Greater Toronto
- **Teresa Costa**, YMCA of Greater Toronto

Part 2: Session C4

Block B / Bloc B**B3 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel**

Multi-purpose Room

National approached to addressing the health vulnerabilities of newcomers.

In healthcare, newcomers are rarely addressed as a group with vulnerabilities and specific needs. Adjusting to a new country, culture, language, and healthcare system is a complex task which puts pressure on individuals and families. These pressures can have profoundly negative impacts on health and wellness known as “the diminishing healthy immigrant effect”. Switchboard (US) and National Newcomer Navigation Network -N4 (Canada) are national organizations whose missions are to foster deeper understanding of newcomer needs, and intersectoral collaborations between newcomer-serving sectors. Presenting together, Switchboard and N4 will outline how being a newcomer is a social determinant of health, the challenges facing newcomers within health services, outline concrete efforts to enhance equity for newcomers accessing and experiencing services, and explore opportunities within community partnerships to foster equity efforts.

- **Christine Kouri**, Director, National Newcomer Navigation Network
- **Adrien Matadi**, Technical Advisor Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers/Switchboard

L'adaptation des services PRAIDA au fil des changements des politiques d'immigration canadienne et leurs impacts sur le profil de la clientèle desservie

Le PRAIDA, seul programme institutionnel canadien d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile, compte sur plus de 60 ans d'expertise en contexte d'intervention auprès des populations migrantes au Québec. Le programme s'est adapté au fil des vagues migratoires et des changements aux politiques d'immigration canadienne et américaine. Plus récemment, le protocole additionnel à l'ETPS soulève de nouveaux enjeux, notamment en ce qui concerne l'accès au droit d'asile. En effet, l'application du protocole sur l'entièreté de sa frontière canado-américaine a eu un impact sur le profil de la clientèle desservie et la sécurité des passages irréguliers dont le droit est pourtant garanti par l'article 31 de la Convention de 1951.

- **Alexis Jobin-Théberge**, CIUSSS West Central PRAIDA

Block B / Bloc B**B4 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel**

Seminar Room 109

Guestworker programs: constitutional action and collaborative approaches

Migrant workers face a difficult reality asserting their labour and human rights due to their precarious immigration status. As host countries, both Canada and the USA tie migrant workers to their employers, rendering workers highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This panel will examine the history of the Canadian closed work permit regime, highlighting the systemic racism and contemporary discriminatory impact, and the resulting challenges migrant workers face exercising their rights. The workshop will also look at strategies to better protect migrant workers, including a discussion on a recent constitutional class action launched in Canada to challenge the employer-tied regime.

- **Amanda Aziz**, Migrant Workers Centre
- **Eugénie Depatie-Pelletier**, Association for the rights of household and farm workers
- **Myriam Dumont-Robillar** Professor, Faculty of Law of the University of Montreal
- **Jeremy McLean**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Justice in Motion

Block B / Bloc B**B5 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel**

Tiered Classroom

Pandemic arrival: understanding the resettlement of Afghan Refugees in Canada

In the midst of a coronavirus pandemic, the Taliban swept control over Afghanistan in a few short days during August of 2021. Meanwhile, heightened restrictions and measures preventing travel made it even more difficult for Afghans to flee to safety. Despite these enormous obstacles, some Afghan refugees were resettled in Canada and the United States. Essential arrival and resettlement services were either closed or had to be held online so their reception experiences were “unique” at best, troublesome or nonexistent at worst. This workshop showcases current research and best practices regarding the resettlement of Afghan refugees in the United States and Canada during the pandemic. Experts in refugee resettlement share their best practices and experiences of assisting in the housing, vaccination, language training and other aspects of integration. Researchers share their results of surveys and qualitative interviews. Our goal is to provide an event that allows presenters and audience members to discuss and reflect on the resettlement conditions the Afghans experienced in both countries.

- **Lori Wilkinson**, University of Manitoba
- **Fariborz Birjandian**, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
- **Catrina Tapley**, Former Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Block B / Bloc B**B6 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel**

Boardroom

Newcomer Skills Recognition for Full, Equal, and Meaningful Inclusion in the Economy

For newcomers seeking a safe and better life in a new country, full, equal, and meaningful participation in the labour market is a critical piece to their successful inclusion. Newcomers often face higher rates of unemployment and underemployment relative to the domestic-born population. Employers often lack the know-how to assess the skills newcomers bring with them and newcomers similarly lack the local knowledge needed to navigate hiring processes or social norms. Projects in Canada and the US are showing promise that a shift to skills recognition and away from credential evaluation is a more effective benchmark in supporting newcomers in securing skill-aligned work in less regulated industries, such as BLO, Finance or IT, while addressing chronic underemployment. This conversation will explore solutions-focused opportunities and challenges presented by this shift and explore the potential to improve settlement outcomes through innovative new practices, including the use of artificial intelligence.

- **Jina Krause-Vilmar**, President & CEO, Upwardly Global
- **Wendy Cukier**, Professor, Entrepreneurship and Strategy, Ted Rogers School of Management, Director, Diversity Institute, Founder Committee Member, Lifeline Afghanistan
- **Patrick MacKenzie**, CEO, Immigrant Employment Council of BC
- **Dr. Fabio Jiménez**, Head of Labour Mobility and Markets Unit, IOM

2:45 - 3:00 pm**Break**

3:00 - 4:15 pm**Block C / Bloc C****Concurrent sessions (workshops)****Séances simultanées (ateliers)****Block C / Bloc C****C1 - *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación del panel***

Seminar Room 303

Big Migration Data: A Colombia-Canada Collaboration

Founded in response to a massive migration shock, Colombia's National Migrant Observatory has partnered with Alinea International and Foreign Affairs Canada to develop data infrastructure, analysis, and communication tools that will distill complex information for policy makers and the public. Massive micro-level data create unprecedented opportunities for measuring social, economic, and cultural integration of Venezuelan migrants by the receiving Colombian society. Urgent demographic, statistical, institutional and communicative opportunities and challenges will be discussed. The panel features two Canadian and two Colombia experts with backgrounds in economics, communications, statistics, and artificial intelligence.

- *Moderator:* **Emilio Ojeda**, Northumberland County
- **Colin Decker**, University of Toronto
- **Audrey Wubbenhorst**, Humber College

Block C / Bloc C**C3 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación
del panel**

Multi-purpose Room

Championing Migration Governance: A Workshop on National Progress and Global Collaboration in El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras

Workshop with virtual connections will take place to show the steps undertaken by El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras in the strengthening of their migration governance management as Champion Countries for the Implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and through the development of national improvements as the enhancement of their national legal frameworks, the expansion of their assistance capacities and services as the commitment in regional and global discussions on the subject. The moderator from IOM will be present in SUNY and will moderate three government representatives who will participate virtually: Lizeth Lema (IOM), Ministry of Diaspora and Human Mobility (El Salvador), National Institute on Migration (Honduras) and Directorate General for Migration and Foreigners (Costa Rica).

- *Moderator:* **Lizeth Danesa Lema**, Project manager, El Salvador, IOM
- **Alejandro Calderón Tobar**, Director General, Fe y Alegría El Salvador
- **Natalia Zepeda**, Deputy Sub-regional program coordinator, International Organization for Migration, (IOM), El Salvador

Block D / Bloc D**C4 - Workshop - Panel Presentation / Taller - Presentación
del panel**

Seminar Room 202

Enhancing Newcomer Integration: Nurturing Inclusive Narratives and Client-Centered Approaches - PART 2**Contesting for Mindshare: Tackling Global Anti-Immigrant Narratives with Impactful Local Storytelling and Communications in Canada, Germany and the U.S.**

Narratives around immigration shape public perception, politics and policy -- with major impacts to our immigrant communities and greater society and for human rights writ large.

This session will investigate prevailing and increasingly globalized anti-immigrant narratives and highlight promising and innovative place-based communications strategies aimed at mitigating harm, contesting for narrative and winning mindshare among critical audiences to advance a different and more realistic story about immigrants, immigration and their place in our communities.

The session will look at tangible examples and tactics that focus on workforce, education, politics and journalism.

- **Moderator: Rebecca Neuwirth**, incoming Chief Strategy Officer, Documented
- **Beth Clarke**, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, WES Global Talent Bridge
- **Viola B. Georgi**, Chair for Diversity Education at the University of Hildesheim in Germany
- **Mazin Sidahmed**, Co-Executive Director, Documented

11

December - diciembre

SUNY GLOBAL CENTRE

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Block C of concurrent
workshops
Bloque C de seminarios
simultáneos

4:15- 4:30 pm

Closing plenary / Sesión plenaria de clausura



Global Classroom

- **Heather De Santis**, Director General, International and Intergovernmental Relations, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- **Pär Liljert**, Director, IOM, New York office

9:00 am

Ellis Island Ferry Pick up*



The Battery, Lower Manhattan

10:30 - 10:45**Opening Remarks / Remarques Préliminaires**

Conference Room

- **Suzanne Mannion**, Director, Public Affairs, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation
- **Stephen Lean**, Family History Center, Ellis Island

10:45 - 11:00**Special presentation / Presentación especial**

- **Melissa Hacker**, documentary filmmaker, *My Knees Were Jumping; Remembering The Kindertransports* (short-listed for Academy Award nomination)

11:00 - 12:15 pm**Plenary 2 / Plenario 2****Examining Refugee Rights in the Americas?**

“Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution” (article 14 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights). December 10th, 2023 will mark 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The terms refugee, asylum seeker and migrant are often used interchangeably. Over the past 75 years there has been considerable change in the way in which migrant receiving societies define refugee status both from the standpoint of applicable categories, the admission process and access to services. With a focus on the Americas, the plenary speakers will examine the legal and other key challenges refugees encounter across the Americas.

- *Session chair:* **Mayu Brizuela de Avila**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador
- **Muzaffar Chishti**, Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute (MPI) and Director of MPI's office at NYU School of Law
- **Carlos Franco Paredes**, Colorado State University
- **Alexandra Hiles**, Senior Director for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

12:15 - 1:30pm**Lunch/visit museum****1:30 - 2:15 pm****Plenary 3 / Plenario 3****Seeking Refuge in the Americas: Public Opinion, Politics and Policy-Making in the Americas**

Across history, refugee admission in migrant receiving countries in the Americas has been the object of debate. Plenary speakers will share their perspectives around the key drivers in national conversations around refugees and refugee status. How does the public understand and interpret refugee issues and how do the issues get situated them in broader societal debate (s) about immigration? To that extent is xenophobia a concern in discussions about refugees? What is the state of cooperation across the Americas in addressing the jurisdictional challenges that policy-makers encounter in their efforts to meet the needs of refugee claimants? What does the future hold for refugee admission and settlement and what might the implications of this be for policy-making?

- **Catrina Tapley**, Former Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- **Rey Koslowski**, Professor, Director of the Master of International Affairs Program, Department of Political Science, International Affairs, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, Center for Policy Research
- **Gallya Lahav**, Professor of Political Science at Stony Brook University, SUNY
- **Jack Jedwab**, President and CEO, Metropolis Institute / Association for Canadian Studies

2:15- 3:00 pm**Closing discussion**

