

# **THE METROPOLIS AMERICAS SUMMIT**

**MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN THE AMERICAS: A SHARED VISION**

National Press Club , 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

December 12-13, 2024

# **LE SOMMET METROPOLIS AMÉRIQUE**

**GOUVERNANCE DES MIGRATIONS DANS LES AMÉRIQUES : UNE VISION  
COMMUNE**

National Press Club , 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045

PROGRAMME PRÉLIMINAIRE

12-13 décembre 2024

# **LA CUMBRE DE METRÓPOLIS AMÉRICAS**

**GOBERNANZA DE LA MIGRACIÓN EN LAS AMÉRICAS: UNA VISIÓN  
COMPARTIDA**

Club Nacional de Prensa, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045

PROGRAMA PRELIMINAR

12-13 de diciembre de 2024

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

Please note all poster presentations are listed at the end of the program as they run through the entirety of the conference.

A final and complete program with additional information (exhibitors, maps, etc) will be posted shortly.

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Les titres et les informations concernant toutes les séances s'affichent dans la langue officielle dans laquelle ils ont été soumis par l'organisateur de l'atelier.

Veillez noter que toutes les présentations d'affiches sont listées à la fin du programme car elles sont exposées tout au long du congrès.

Un programme final et complet avec des informations supplémentaires (kiosques des exposants, cartes, etc) sera posté prochainement.

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH/ JEUDI 12 DECEMBRE

**Registration / Inscriptions** As of / À partir de 8:30 am

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**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM**

## **Welcome & Opening Remarks / Remarques Préliminaires**

- **Esther Benjamin**, President and CEO, World Education Services, Conference Co-chair
  - **Catrina Tapley**, Chair Metropolis Institute/Association for Canadian Studies and former Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Conference Co-chair
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**9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**

## **Keynote Address**

### **Post Election Public Opinion on Immigration in the United states and Canada: New Survey Results**

Join us for a collaborative workshop exploring public opinion and demographic trends on immigration in the United States and Canada. This session will bring together researchers from the Metropolis Institute and Pew Research Center to analyze recent data on evolving trends on immigration in the two countries. Participants will gain insights into evolving trends shaping public opinion on immigration and discuss the implications for policy and public engagement. Through presentations, interactive discussions, and data-driven activities, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the cross-border dynamics shaping North American public opinion on immigration.

- **Jack Jedwab**, President of ACS and CEO of Metropolis Institute
- *Commentator:* **Sahana Mukherjee**, Pew Research

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**10:15 AM – 10:45 AM | Break / Pause**

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**10:45 am – 12:00 pm**

Block A of concurrent sessions (workshops and roundtables)

Bloc A des séances simultanées (ateliers et tables rondes)

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A1 | *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel*

### **Changing the Narrative in Canada and the US: A Conversation Around Advocacy and Impact in the Immigration Space**

For the first time in a quarter century, a clear majority of Canadians now say there is too much immigration. Public support for immigration has been grounded in large part in the belief that it contributes to Canada's economy. The Canadian government has created a powerful narrative that highly skilled, economically self-sufficient immigrants are the ideal candidates for Canadian citizenship. Sadly, refugees, and especially refugees from the Horn of Africa, do not fit that narrative. My presentation will summarize my ongoing research on the education and career aspirations of youth with refugee backgrounds from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan. Instead of putting the structures in place that value the youths' assets and strengths, my findings consistently suggest that unexamined deficit thinking around race and refugees is used to sustain and produce new forms of everyday precarity for these youth. However, the youth are not passive bystanders. They are demonstrating they are capable and able to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Whether consciously or unconsciously, effectively or not, the youth are continuously pushing back on the common narrative that African refugees are needy and lack skills. They have adopted the counter narrative of capability, agency, and resistance.

- **Shamira Madhany**, World Education Services
- **Kit Taintor**, World Education Services
- **Stacey Wilson Forsberg**, Wilfrid Laurier University

A2 | *Roundtable / Table ronde*

### **How to build migration partnerships engaging employers: two case studies from the hospitality sector**

The world is going through unprecedented demographic shifts, which are expected to result in a shortfall of 15 million workers per year across the high-income countries. Labor mobility has proven to be one of the most effective tools to address worker shortages. However, for any labor mobility pathway to be successful, it is crucial for employers to take a major role in its establishment. And yet, employers have not always been part of designing and implementing such programs.

In this workshop, participants will learn about the importance of inclusion of the private sector in labor mobility partnerships and approaches towards successful engagement with businesses. It will feature new initiatives built on industry-led partnership focus.

- **Melissa Saucedo Huerta**, Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP)
- **Marcos Antillon**, ISMCA
- **Patrick MacKenzie**, IECBC
- **Wendy Cukier**, Diversity Institute
- TBC, Yummy Jobs

A3 | *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel*

### **Canada's Immigration at a Crossroads: Policy Shifts and Emerging Trends**

Join leading academic and policy experts to discuss Canada's shifting immigration dynamics and policies in the face of changing public opinion, rising politicization of temporary migrants, and variations in subnational policies. With elections looming, this session offers a timely, multilevel analysis of recent labor migration policy changes and emerging trends such as new immigration levels, automation and competing policy frameworks. Organized by ÉRIQA (Équipe de recherche au Québec et ailleurs – [www.eriqa.org](http://www.eriqa.org)), an interuniversity research team, this roundtable offers a critical dialogue that bridges global challenges with the unique realities of Canada's immigration landscape.

- **Catherine Xhardez**, Professor, Political Science, Université de Montréal
- **Adèle Garnier**, Professor, Geography, Université Laval
- **Triadafilos (Phil) Triadafilopoulos**, Professor, Political Science, Université of Toronto
- **Valérie Lacarte**, Senior Policy Analyst, Migration Policy Institute

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**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM** *The First Amendment Lounge* - **Lunch / Diner**

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**1:00 PM - 2:15 PM**

Block B of concurrent sessions (workshops and roundtables)

Bloc B des séances simultanées (ateliers et tables rondes)

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B1 | *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel*

### **Bridging Borders: Labour Mobility, Policy Shifts, and the Future of Immigration in North America**

In recent years, immigration has become an increasingly complex and polarizing issue across North America. Both Canada and the United States have experienced a

reduction in immigration numbers and faced growing anti-immigrant sentiment. Meanwhile, labour mobility has emerged as a critical issue, as economies on both sides of the border confront skills shortages and shifting demographics. This panel will bring together thought leaders and policy experts from Canada and the United States to examine these trends, assess their implications for the labor market, and discuss policy responses and practical solutions to foster inclusive and sustainable labour mobility.

This session will be co-led by Skills for Change, a Canadian organization known for its work in newcomer integration and workforce development, and the National Immigration Forum, a prominent U.S. organization advocating for the value of immigrants. This transnational dialogue will highlight both shared and divergent experiences and explore how policy and public opinion are shaping the future of immigration and labor markets across North America.

- **Surranna Sandy**, CEO, Skills for Change, *Expert in workforce development, focused on immigrant integration and skill-building for economic inclusion.*
- **Emily Foster**, Vice President & Chief of Public Affairs, National Immigration forum, *Immigration policy expert with insights into U.S. immigration reform, workforce participation, community outreach, and coalition building.*
- **Laura Reiff**, Business Immigration Lawyer at Greenberg Traurig.

B2 | *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel*

## **PART 2 - Canada's Immigration at a Crossroads: Policy Shifts and Emerging Trends**

Description to be confirmed

- **Catherine Xhardez**, Université de Montréal
- **Augustin Escobar**, CIESAS, México

B3 | *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel*

***Session to be confirmed***

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2:15      PM      –      2:30      PM      |      Break      /      Pause

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**2:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

Block C of concurrent sessions (workshops and roundtables)

Bloc C des séances simultanées (ateliers et tables rondes)

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C1 | *Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel*

### **Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven**

The session will focus on Canada's humanitarian response frameworks, focusing on the formal and informal partnerships between the federal government and the settlement sector. The session will highlight the benefits of this integrated response system, the information pathways present within the collaborative tables, and how this system supported the successful settlement of more than 200,000 displaced Ukrainians and 50,000 Afghan refugees. The session will also focus on lessons learned from Canada's Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven (OUSH), Afghan Special Initiative (AFI), and Operation Syrian Refugee (OSR), and provide recommendations that will guide Canada's future Humanitarian Response Framework and can be implemented locally.

- **Sarosh Rizvi**, Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven
- **Katie Crocker**, AMSSA
- **Andrea Gagne**, HIAS

C2 | *Roundtable / Table ronde*

### **Looking beyond the national: Regional leadership as a source of innovation**

Conversations around immigration policies generally focus on the national level, and yet there are vast differences in immigration patterns, needs, and politics across regions in the US and Canada. This creates challenges – as some regions seek to attract migrants at the same time others are overwhelmed with inflows – but also opportunities for collaboration and progress at the local level even while divisive politics stalls progress at the national level. This session will explore how to build infrastructure connecting immigrants to where they are most needed and have the highest chances of success, and how to build federal level policies that are better connected to regional needs.

- **Moderator: Rebekah Smith**, Labor Mobility Partnerships (LaMP)
- **Marwan Ismail**, Polycultural in Toronto
- **Kelly Ernst**, Center for Newcomers in Calgary
- **Janna Pastir**, North Dakota Office of Legal Immigration
- TBC, Niskanen Center

C3 | Workshop - Panel Presentation / Atelier - Présentation d'un panel

**The role of media in debates around immigration**

*Session description to be confirmed*

- Moderator: **Rebecca Neuwirth**, CSO of Documented
- **Dara Lind**, Fellow, American Immigration Council
- Others TBC



# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH/ JEUDI 13 DECEMBRE

**Registration / Inscriptions** As of / À partir de 8:30 am

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**8:45 AM - 9:00 AM**

**Opening Remarks - TBC**

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**PLENARY SESSION 2 - 9:00 am - 10:15 am** | The First Amendment Lounge

## **Organized Crime and Migration in the Americas**

Research by the North and Central American Task Force on Migration clearly outlined the need for new regional cooperation efforts to address migration and forced displacement in the Americas. This includes addressing a range of drivers and creating new alternative regular migration pathways to address humanitarian protection.

Key among these efforts is strengthening the fight against organized criminal networks that smuggle and traffic people across borders. This roundtable session with experts from across the region will provide an overview of current research and political context, and will present specific recommendations to address this rapidly escalating problem.

- **Moderator: Jeff Stoub**, World Refugee & Migration Council
  - **Augustin Escobar**, CIESAS, México
  - **Elizabeth Ferris**, Georgetown University Institute for the Study of International Migration/Vice President of Research/WRMC
  - **Catrina Tapley**, Chair Metropolis Institute/Association for Canadian Studies and former Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
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**10:15 am – 10:45 am** | Break / Pause

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**PLENARY SESSION 2 - 10:45 am – 11:45 am** | The First Amendment Lounge

## **Regional Migration Governance in the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities**

As the Americas are witnessing substantial mobility, the institutional landscape of migration governance is complex with a rich history of sub-regional cooperation. This paved the way for the adoption of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection on the margins of the 9th Summit of the Americas in 2022. This initiative holds great potential, but there are still challenges regarding sufficient coordination and complementarity and integrating the

established collaborations into the framework of the Declaration. This roundtable aims to review challenges and opportunities as this new mechanism emerges towards enhanced cooperation and synergy to improve migration in the Western Hemisphere.

- **Claudia GONZALEZ BENGOA**, Organization of American States
- **Diego Chaves-González**, Senior Manager, Latin America and Caribbean Initiative, Migration Policy Institute
- **Carolina Brea**, Deputy Chief program officer, Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
- **Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian**, Director, Department of Social Inclusion, Organization of American States
- **Alvaro Calderón Ponce de León**, Minister Plenipotentiary, the Colombian Embassy in Washington DC