

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:***Researching Refuge: Obstacles, Practicalities, Developing Community*
Research Affiliate Workshop
Tuesday 20th June 2023**

The 5th Refugee Law Initiative (RLI) Research Affiliate Workshop will take place on Tuesday 20th June 2023, 10.00-16.00, at Senate House, University of London. The workshop offers an opportunity for RLI Research Affiliates to come together, to exchange ideas, and to share their research on refugee law and forced migration, broadly defined.

The workshop will build on the success of the previous Research Affiliate Workshops and is organised to coincide with the 7th RLI Annual Conference, 'Inequality and Fairness in Refugee Protection' (21st – 23rd June 2023).

1. Theme

The theme '*Researching Refuge: Obstacles, Practicalities, Developing Community*' speaks to concerns and challenges that early career researchers face when grappling with analytical, policy-oriented, and practical questions in the forced migration field.

The theme is broad, to allow for engagement across disciplines and shared areas of interest. In particular, the workshop aims to promote reflection and exchange on the following topics: selecting and using analytical frameworks; the relationship between research, law, policy, and politics; and the everyday 'doing' of (doctoral) research. Below are some prompts for participating network members.

Analytical frameworks:

- Which factors are important when choosing a methodological and theoretical approach for a research project?
- What are the challenges associated with research on refuge, such as fieldwork, interdisciplinarity, looking for ways to decolonise our research field, and ethics?

Research and beyond:

- How can we comprehend the diverse forms of engagement that exist between refugee law, policy, politics, and research?
- What implications do these forms of engagement have for researchers and research participants when designing and pursuing refugee research?

Everyday practicalities:

- What practical concerns do early career researchers have during their studies and are they particular to our field?
- How can such concerns productively be addressed either on an individual or a collective basis?
- What about the wellbeing of early career researchers? How can more focus be paid to such issues?

By creating a constructive and supportive space for early career researchers to discuss their projects, the workshop aims to generate insight into the complexities of the academic research process. **Please**

note that the workshop is not envisaged as an opportunity to present a whole PhD thesis, but rather a chance to discuss these cross-cutting and more fundamental issues of approach and methodology in an informal way.

2. Workshop Format

Selected network members will present in panel sessions based upon the above themes. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes: 2 minutes to outline their PhD project; 6 minutes to speak to a specific challenge they are facing based on the workshop theme; and 2 minutes to pose questions to the workshop. The sessions will be moderated by a chair, who will raise points and facilitate an open discussion at the end of each panel.

In relation to the '**Everyday practicalities**' prompt, we are particularly keen on also allowing sufficient time for all attendees at the workshop to have the opportunity to raise and discuss any relevant issues relating to conducting research, independent study, and working within a supervisor/supervisee relationship.

A keynote speaker (to be confirmed) will conclude the morning session with observations based on the questions addressed at the workshop.

3. How to Apply to Present

The Workshop Committee invites Research Affiliates of the RLI, at any stage in their research, to submit extended abstracts for inclusion in the workshop panels. The extended abstract should be limited to a summary of the applicant's research project and bullet points detailing key issues/concerns/questions the applicant would like to discuss. The extended abstracts should not exceed two pages of A4. To reiterate, the workshop is less a chance to present your research or to describe your topic and more a chance to identify a problem or a best practice in the planning and/or conduct of research.

Please send extended abstracts to rli@sas.ac.uk. **The submission deadline is 17th March 2023.** A decision will be returned by 27th March 2023. The committee's decision is final.

4. Attendance and Registration

Attendance at the workshop is free. Please email rli@sas.ac.uk to register.

A key aim is to make the workshop an open, friendly, collaborative and safe space for all attendees.

We strongly encourage RLI Research Affiliates at all stages of their doctoral research to attend, even if they do not wish to present. Students on the MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies who feel that their dissertation would be helped by attending are also welcome to register.

Ahead of the workshop, attendees will be asked to submit 2/3 questions or issues they have in their research, which they would like to be discussed at the event.