‘Revitalising IDP Research: 20 Years of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement’

Workshop Methodology

This one-day workshop to celebrate 20 years of the Guiding Principles is dedicated to reflecting on the state-of-the-art in research on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and internal displacement and building momentum for future research on IDPs.

Convened by the Refugee Law Initiative (RLI) at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, with leading research partners, the workshop complements the global GP20 policy process.

The funding for room hire provided by the John Coffin Trust is gratefully acknowledged.

1. Research context

Internal displacement due to conflict, violence, disasters and other push factors is a major feature of today’s world. Tens of millions of IDPs are reported to exist across over 125 countries. Oriented by the Guiding Principles, attention to IDPs forms a major part of the humanitarian effort. Meanwhile, high poverty levels in protracted IDP situations bring other development and protection challenges.

The mainstreaming of IDPs in the humanitarian response has brought practical dividends. However, at the same time, there seems to have been a decline in research on IDPs and internal displacement over the last 10-15 years, most of which now takes place in policy institutions. Yet comparatively little new academic research or thinking on internal displacement has emerged since the mid-2000s.

2. Objectives and outcomes

Against this backdrop, the RLI workshop takes an important step towards reinvigorating the IDP research agenda through pursuit of the following objectives:

- Share recent IDP research, review the state of the art and identify research gaps
- Bring together perspectives on IDP research from the policy and academic spheres
- Stimulate networking among colleagues to reflect on future directions in IDP research
- Renew interest in IDP research by developing research collaborations, agendas and projects

1 Institute for the Study of International Migration (Georgetown), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, and the Special Rapporteur on IDPs
Envisaged material outcomes from the RLI workshop are as follows:

- A short ‘state of the art’ report on IDP research to identify trends, gaps and future directions
- A modest IDP research network as a centre of gravity to promote research/collaboration
- An IDP research agenda, including dissemination (report) and outreach (network)

The RLI is responsible for the production of relevant materials and follow-up.

3. Methodology for the IDP workshop

The workshop methodology is designed to pursue these objectives and outcomes. The level of detail involved aims to ensure that the workshop is not merely a talking shop but rather that it provides a platform for concrete next steps to reinvigorate this field of research.

Opening session

The opening session offers a broad entry point to the challenges and priorities in IDP research from two perspectives: the RLI Director will briefly reiterate the academic research imperatives; the UN Special Rapporteur on IDPs will outline the policy priorities identified by the GP20 Plan of Action. These academic and policy ‘framing’ presentations provide a context for the sessions that follow.

Panel sessions

The three consecutive panel sessions focus on substantive themes in IDP research. Each includes three different thematic panels. Each panel lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The panels involve short presentations from three or four researchers on their current research in the IDP field. These presentations should give a good flavour of the individual research and, based on that, address broad areas of current interest on the panel theme, identify gaps in research and propose future directions for research on the theme. Taken together, the presentations should provide participants with a broad sense of the state of research on the overall theme of the panel.

The Chair will briefly introduce the theme and presenters and keep time. After the presentations, the Chair will open up the discussion. This will focus on the presentations but will also encourage debate, questions and comments on other points relevant to the panel theme, focusing on:

- Priorities for research within the thematic area of that panel

Thus, prior to the workshop, all participants should think carefully about which panels you wish to attend and any substantive thematic points that you might wish to introduce in the discussion.

At the end of the session, the Chair of each panel will list the three main research priorities identified for that theme on an A4 sheet. These sheets will be displayed outside the main room prior to the final plenary session to give all participants a sense of the research priorities for panels that they were

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2 Where time allows, other questions could include:

- Other important considerations relating to research on the panel theme
- Other research relating to the panel theme currently being carried out
- The dynamic between policy-relevant and academic-led research in relation to the theme
- Gaps and future research priorities in relation to the panel theme
unable to attend. RLI staff will also be taking more detailed notes of presentations and discussion during the panel as a basis for the ‘state-of-the-art’ report to be produced after the event.

**Poster session**

The poster session takes place during lunch to allow additional sharing of research in the IDP field by participants who were selected to present posters at this dedicated session. As this session takes place in the lunch room, participants are encouraged to stroll around the posters after eating to engage with the poster presenters about the research on display.

**Plenary session**

The final plenary session moves forward discussion of substantive themes to focus on how to **develop new momentum in IDP research**. The session lasts for 45 minutes. It will start with a short presentation by the RLI Director on the three envisaged outcomes (see above) and continue with an open discussion of ‘next steps’ that will be facilitated by the session Chair (Professor Walter Kälin).

Thus, prior to the workshop, **all participants** should think carefully about proposals to develop new momentum in IDP research. This could include:

- Comments on the three proposed RLI outcomes (report, network, agenda)
- Involvement, potential collaborative research projects and sources of funding
- Connections with other potentially interested researchers not present at the workshop
- Alternative proposals for next steps...

Proposals, feedback and discussion will be captured by RLI staff taking notes for follow-up.

**4. Poster presenters - guidance**

Information regarding the posters, printing etc. can be located on the practical information page referred to below and also in the more detailed **poster guidance**. Printed posters should be brought to the registration desk no later than **9.30am on the day of the event**, so that we can make arrangements for their display that lunchtime.

**5. Panel presenters - guidance**

Please note that no written paper is required – the emphasis is instead on communicating the broad outlines of individual research in an engaging way to participants. Presentations must be **absolutely no longer than 12-14 minutes**. You will not have time to go into the minutiae so think carefully about how you will present your research and its implications for the theme.

If you wish to use Powerpoint, then please bring your Powerpoint presentation on a **USB only** to the session. Do not email it. **Please bring any paper notes or handouts with you** to the workshop in advance. We will not have the facilities to print out materials on the day.

If a good number of presenters also produce written papers, then we will take forward publication of papers produced for the workshop in an appropriate format.

**6. Panel chairs - guidance**
Please provide only a brief introduction by reminding participants of the panel theme, the session methodology, the name and affiliation of the presenters and the title of their papers.

You will be provided with an alarm clock for time-keeping and we ask that you keep time strictly in order to allow time for discussion. Each presenter should be allowed an absolute maximum of 14 minutes to speak, after which you should move directly to the next speaker.

Once all of the presentations for your panel have been delivered, please open to the floor for questions and comments (including your own), which should be kept concise and to the point (a maximum of one minute per intervention if possible) in order to facilitate discussion.

Following the session, please list the main three research priorities for the panel theme and return the poster sheet to an RLI staff member.

7. Other information (all participants)

Basic practical information

Please review the basic practical information for the workshop posted on the RLI website.

Arrival at the workshop

On arrival at Senate House in central London, you should go to the South Block and follow the signs inside the building towards the workshop.

Your registration pack will include the finalised workshop programme, a list of participants, and a personal name badge. Please wear your name badge at all times during the workshop, since this will be required in order to gain access to all sessions.

Tweeting, recording etc.

Please feel free to tweet etc. during the workshop using hashtag #RLIGuidingPrinciples. However, please do not record video or audio without the explicit consent of the workshop organisers.