

The Refugees in Towns Project Presents

# REFUGEE INTEGRATION CONFERENCE & ARTS FESTIVAL

## Conference Program

Practice-Relevant Research for Supporting Refugee Integration in Towns

Friday, October 2

### 11:45 AM - Opening Remarks

Karen Jacobsen, Henry J. Leir Professor in Global Migration at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy  
Gregory Gottlieb, Director of the Feinstein International Center

### Presentations and Discussions

Short video presentations are available online for all guests to watch prior to the live discussion. Each guest will receive Zoom links for live meetings upon registering for the conference.

### 12 PM - Panel 1: Local Inclusion Versus National Exclusion

Moderator: Stephanie Khoury

1. Beatriz Almeida de Stein (Consul General of Ecuador) & Fernanda Escobar, Boston, MA (Brandeis University & Fmr. Consulate of Ecuador in Boston): **Ecuadorians in MA: The Role of Country of Origin Governments in Supporting Integration Abroad.**
2. May Mzayek, Austin, TX (University of Texas & Fmr. Syrian American Refugee Aid): **Syrian refugee integration in the American south.**
3. Teodora Jovanovic (The Institute of Ethnography SASA & University of Belgrade & Fmr. Miksaliste) & Marina Lazetic (Tufts University), **Belgrade, Serbia: Between transit and host city on a "closed" route.**
4. Victoria Rios Infante (Puentes para la Integración) & Cordelia Rizzo (Northwestern University), Monterrey, **Mexico: Central and South American migrants transforming a transit city into a host city.**
5. Natasha Venables (Rotary International), Harare, **Zimbabwe: Social exclusion and urban change for refugee returnees.**

### 1 PM - Coffee Break & Networking

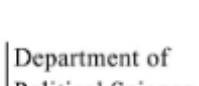
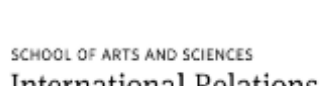
### 1:30 PM - Panel 2: Refugees Helping Themselves and Being Helped by Hosts: Integration as a Two-Way Process

Moderator: Karen Jacobsen

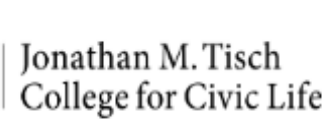
1. Saidouri Zomaya (University of Chicago) & Angelica Barahona, Chicago, IL (World Relief Chicago): **Hosts, local communities, and resettlement agencies working toward self sufficiency as neighborhood demographics change.**
2. Ruby Assad (BCARS) & Ally Hawkins (Northeastern University), Amman, **Jordan: Social cohesion between a mix of refugee groups in a country of first asylum.**
3. Joy Al-Nemri & Maha Abdullah (Jiran Arabic Community Action), New Britain, **CT: Arabic speaking refugees integrating through language learning, fitness, and personalized action plans.**
4. Leila Asadi (University of Arizona), Detroit, **MI: Building community and wellness through art therapy, photography, poetry, and food.**
5. Graeme Rodgers (International Rescue Committee), **New York: Refugee Resettlement and the Idea of "Work."**
6. Cheryl Hamilton & Chris Ko (International Institute of New England) Boston, **MA: Resettled refugees' job skills in New England's cities and towns.**
7. Yuliia Kabanets (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) Kyiv, **Ukraine: The role of universities in supporting IDP integration.**



CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES AT TUFTS



Tufts Department of Sociology  
Tufts Diversity Fund  
Global Tufts Month  
Refugees in Towns  
Institute for Business in the Global Context  
Tufts Development Office  
Tufts Bridging Differences Seed Grant



## 2:30 PM - Coffee Break & Networking

## 3 PM - Panel 3: Refugee Integration Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

Moderator: Charles Simpson

The RIT research team will give a brief overview of the effects of COVID-19 on migrant integration and discuss how COVID-19 has impacted migrant integration in their area. Attendees will then have an opportunity to join smaller thematic breakout group discussions with RIT researchers and practitioners from different geographic locations to further address the difficulties migrants are facing, and specific approaches that have helped them adapt to “the new normal.”

## 4:30 PM - Panel 4: The Intersection of Practice, Research, and the Arts Bridging to the Refugee Integration Arts Festival

Moderator: Marina Lazetic

Featuring: Karen Jacobsen (RIT), Carrie Preston (Initiative on Forced Displacement, BU), Marina Lazetic (RIT/Initiative on Forced Displacement), Stephanie Khoury (RIT/Tufts University), Anita Fabos (Clark University), Cheryl Hamilton (IINE), Paul Miranda (Nonviolent Peaceforce), and Cordelia Rizzo (Northwestern University).

What is the role of art in refugee integration? What is the connection between research, practice and art in migration related work? Our panelists will tackle these and other questions while sharing their experience of working on issues related to migration and forced displacement, using multidisciplinary approaches and tools.

Please note all sessions may be recorded.  
If you do not want to be recorded, please contact an event organizer.

All events are free and open to all! To receive the Zoom links to the events, register at:  
<https://www.refugeesintowns.org/events>