

Today's Ethical Responsibilities in Studying Migration, Relocation and Resettlement of Individuals and Families



Libyan coast guard forces pick up and repatriate refugees

The underlying assumptions about one's citizenship and the rights and privileges that flow from these connections are turned upside down by migration and immigration that happen under threat and force.

It is possible that no place wants or will accept you & you may never be able to return to your home.

Central to the dilemmas posed for the displaced is that they may no longer possess paper work on their identity. Frequently, they are left without financial & social support. Those with connections in the new place may have more options, but often are not given many choices.

The vulnerability to exploitation & harm of these displaced is varied & often surprising.

Even the skills and knowledge they have may be discounted or denied. The impact of the displacement itself can be extensive. These situations leave the individuals and families who move dependent on the good will and welcome of others who themselves may feel threatened by the refugees. Threat underlies many interactions. Migrant Children Moved Under Cover of Darkness to a Texas Tent City (NYT, (9/20/18))



Perceived threat and violence may have driven the displacement. Friends & family left behind may well be a continued risk. Being able to decode the new culture, officials, norms, & options are also threatening situations. Many come with secrets, technical knowledge, and anxieties which contribute to sense of

fear. Being repatriated may be dangerous & pose a threat for further problem.

Unaccompanied minors wait for sponsors.

They have a right to public education as children. Helping is not without consequences. There are many legal and regulatory policies that the refugee is burdened to navigate and keep their status valid.

The "alien" is held responsible for following all legal mandates & knowing them. The many levels of regulations and governmental authority often cloud the possible avenues for survival. The Supreme Court [upheld President Trump's ban on travel from several predominantly Muslim countries](#), delivering to the president on a political victory (NYT, 6/26/18)
The localities, cities and states may clash with each other and federal policy.

Delaware State opened doors to them through TheDreamUSA & Instate tuition. Sanctuary Places where some effort is made to protect undocumented immigrants (NYT 1/29/2017)

Let us explore the ethics of doing research that help improve processes and services for those moving.



Ethics in research & intervention have evolved generally. Informed consent. Human subjects reviews. Privacy assurances & anonymous treatment in reporting. Protecting findings and materials from unauthorized use. Recognizing that big data may be hacked or otherwise compromised. Understanding and guarding against power assertion within the current settings of subjects. Recognizing that data may be valuable to others not involved in the original studies.
They often are fleeing threats of violence for themselves & those they left behind

Privacy & secrecy are often crucial if the movers may be pursued or forced to return.

Leigh Leslie wrote about Central Americans fleeing war in the 80's & 90's. to come to the USA (1993). Her studies showed high levels of stress and desire for

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safety. In addition to the trauma of leaving & struggling to get settled & employed, they feared deportation. El Salvadorians were particularly at risk as a group & as individuals in that they were not being given refugee status. She noted when presenting her work that she was careful about records & identifiers in her studies as they could be made public and endanger the respondents.

The process of resettlement depends a great deal on private agencies and funding not only in the USA but also around the world.

The way incoming movers are handled in terms of their resettlement and their guidance on how to integrate into very different communities and new work options is still often considered functional or necessary, at least, in the short run. The choice of where to settle groups of displaced people is often political & may not locate them near others of similar background.

Often it is important to be part of the effort to aid immigrants & refugees to be acceptable as a researcher. Would-be researchers may work in agencies or assist with access to services. The transition to researcher requires transparency & assurances of rights of respondents.



Most marginalized groups now ask for & deserve oversight of access & reporting of findings. They want a voice. Clear communications are fundamental to consent.



Implicit nationalism is expressed in the host country's desire to slow or cut off the flow of new migrants & refugees. Even in situations where the ideology recognizes the past groups as important to national

culture & accomplishments, the newcomers are questioned as to their ability to fit into current life.

Denmark is requiring values education for refugee children.

In the USA last summer we had an extremely nasty example of policy to discourage refugees by separating families with even the youngest children being taken without families' knowing where they were going & very little contact.

While many Americans on their own & through organizations & media protested, there was little that was done to alter the situation.



Migrant Children Moved Under Cover of Darkness to a Texas Tent City NYT 9/30/18. Said to be temporary.

Still, because sponsorship placements are often protracted, immigrant advocates said there was a possibility that many of the children could be living in the tent city for months. ... concerns are heightened at a larger facility like Tornillo, where signs that a child is struggling are more likely to be overlooked, because of its size. ... moving children to the tent city without providing enough time to prepare them emotionally or to say goodbye to friends could compound trauma that many are already struggling with.

Other examples of ethical questions in research and programs:

Aung Phyoo: Burmese-Chin. Resettlement in Maryland International Rescue Committee 2015 Internship from his self evaluation:

"Burmese-Chin population in Baltimore, the variety among that population are vast. with are Hakha, Tedim and Mara. With 53 different kinds of dialects of Chin from the state alone. Clients use Burmese as the main language because Burmese is the primary language taught in the public school system. Their escape was dangerous and expensive." (His own Burmese was from his childhood, but it was a bridge.)

"His work was in supplying the core services under a time schedule of 90 days. Primary risk factor of Burmese-Chin and other refugee populations are

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emotional and mental health. **Many refugees come from backgrounds where their lives were traumatized by violence, torture, rape, forced labor and death.** Refugee resettlement work, much like a lot of other humanitarian work, takes mental and emotional fortitude.

Neda Moinolmolki: THE ROLE OF BHUTANESE ADOLESCENT REFUGEES' ACCULTURATION AND FAMILIAL SOCIAL CAPITAL ON THEIR GENERAL WELL-BEING AND SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT 2016

The findings & community support for the research. **Adolescents findings:** Findings indicated a stronger orientation with **ethnic identification** to be significantly related to Bhutanese adolescents' general well-being and school adjustment. This study's results demonstrated that both **individuals' developing acculturation identities**, along with **their mesosystem familial social capital factors**, are significantly related to individuals' general well-being and mesosystem-level school adjustment. This study explored the potential associations of familial **social capital and acculturation variables** on Bhutanese refugee adolescents' school-level adjustment and general well-being. Moreover, this study examined the unique **additive relationship of familial social capital on Bhutanese adolescent refugees' school adjustment and general well-being over and above the effects of acculturation identity.** **"I am forever indebted to the refugees and friends with whom I worked, who were willing to help facilitate this study and patiently answer the many language and cultural questions that arose throughout the process. Additionally, I want to thank the many people who, in their commitment to assisting refugees, contributed to this research,** such as the staff of Church World Services, Pennsylvania Migrant Education, Bhutanese Nepali Church of Lancaster, and the Bhutanese Community Development of Lancaster. (Neda, 2016) "

Wafaa M. Khalifah 2016 Arab Muslim Women Refugees in the Mid- Atlantic United States: Family Adaptation, Social, and Religious Support **Being safe with her children were the reason to search for a better life.** Churches and resettlement organizations have played a major role in helping new refugees throughout the resettlement process. Some

participants were happy to build friendships and to socialize with other Muslims, while others maintained a limited relationship by only participating in major Islamic events. However, regarding resettlement organizations, participants held different views about their care and effectiveness, some were more just doing their job and others were really responsive.

"One of the main things that help me to learn the language was the way American communicated with us. When I was trying to speak, they would encourage me, explain to me, make me feel safe, encourage me, and they never laugh at me."

Shan Jiang Mothers supporting Chinese schools in Alabama 2017-8

The Chinese American mothers created a **rich cognitive environment** for their children to grow in. They had low levels of satisfaction with their children's academic attainment, despite their children's high achievements. They universally felt the influences of racial discrimination, although to different extents. The schools provided to these **Chinese American mothers strong social support, brought them various social resources, and acted as a bridge to larger society.** The schools had dual roles for language-teaching and passing-down cultural values.



HSFS partnerships with academic programs
Currently Greece, Germany, China, Korea.

International contacts have been an important part of our program. One of the recent collaborations has been with the University of Patras in Greece. Visits have gone in both directions and included other educational institutions and has resulted in students doing field placements in Greece. Dr. Eugenia Arvanitis of the University of Patras' Department of Educational Science and Early Childhood Education. Dr. Jinkyung Kim of the Korean National Open University, and Dr. Chryssi Vitsilaki of the University of the Aegean's Department

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of Preschool Education and Educational Design presented in 2018.

Ethical concerns in working with refugees & studying them were especially fraught in the past few years with both Syrians & Africans

The spring 2017 series featured guest scholars from Greece, **Drs. Eugenia Arvanitis and Pandelis Kiprianos** of the University of Patras' Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education. Much of the discussion in the open forum was focused on the work they and their students had done in **working with refugees in Greece** and the importance of **the exchanges benefiting the refugees and the importance of transparency and not making promises you might not be able to keep**. Several of our students have been doing international field placements in Greece.



Ethics and equity in Scholarly work with migrants & refugees *Going forward*

Refugees & immigrants have a stake in good research & dissemination of results:

We have a lot to gain by putting energy into this area of family research:

Being clear & open about our work	Being aware of consequences & careful about interpretation of findings	Synthesizing across groups and identifying new lines of inquiry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the vulnerable subjects & their data. Having their input on the shape of inquiry. Working with partners across the world. Giving credit fully and freely. Being sure to bring results into the scholarly discourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure that limitations are discussed. Discussing findings with the groups from which they are drawn. Following up on any promises made. Suggesting implications for policy and program changes. Translating the findings into policy and public relevant language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curiosity & interest is essential to research and theory and necessary for policy & program development. Long term trends are important to document and interpret. Cross national research has given some models for more collaborative & integrated research.

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Summary
Ethical choices are key to all scholarly work and essential where there is vulnerability

