CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS
ONLINE CONFERENCE ON
SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CHALLENGES
IN TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 29, 2021

Organized by

Nicholas Sambanis
PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
DIRECTOR, PENN IDENTITY & CONFLICT LAB

Şule Yaylacı
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, PENN IDENTITY & CONFLICT LAB

The Syrian refugee crisis is the largest humanitarian crisis of our time. More than 6.6 million Syrians have fled their country as a result of wartime violence and political persecution. The majority of them are under temporary protection in Turkey and other countries in the region, which face significant challenges in accommodating large numbers of Syrians. The mass influx of refugees has generated new socio-economic challenges for the host societies in the region, and these challenges are often associated with increased intergroup conflict between refugees and native populations. Perceiving higher economic competition and cultural threat from migrants and refugees, host populations are often biased against refugees and migrants and are opposed to policies of accommodation and resettlement of these outgroups. In-group bias and out-group prejudice are pervasive features of human behavior, motivating various forms of discrimination and conflict ranging from discrimination in the labor market, mass atrocities, terrorism, and genocide. This workshop will explore sources of bias and discrimination –and ways to overcome such bias— with a particular focus on Syrian refugees in Turkey and other countries in the Middle East.

The potential for conflict between host populations and immigrant groups is present in every immigrant-receiving country, yet migration within the Global South (South-South migration) offers a different set of challenges than migration from Global South to Global North. This workshop will put the challenges of Syria's refugee crisis in comparative perspective and explore new paths for innovative research that can inform policies designed to increase inclusion and reduce bias toward refugees in Turkey and other Middle Eastern countries. We will explore both domestic and international sources of variation in how refugees are treated; and consider a broad range of resettlement challenges for regional actors.

This Online Conference on Syrian Refugee Resettlement will explore the challenges associated with the resettlement and inclusion of Syrian refugees from an inter-disciplinary lens.

We invite proposals for papers focusing on the politics, economics, and psychology of immigration, analyzing data and case studies directly relevant to the Syrian case. We are interested in both micro-level studies on the causes and consequences of inter-personal and inter-group conflict between hosts and immigrants; and macro-level studies that explore the impact of state policies or the consequences of regional actors' foreign policies on the experience of refugee populations.

The workshop will produce insights on the interaction of macro- and micro-level factors, analyze the promise and impact of different policies, and explore how what we know about refugee resettlement from studies of the Global North must be adapted to produce useful policy insights for the Global South.

Some questions that workshop participants will address include: Do host populations in refugee-receiving countries in the region discriminate against refugees and other migrants and why? What is the respective role of economic vs cultural threat perception in generating anti-refugee bias? Under what conditions does increased contact with refugee populations increase bias? How can such bias be reduced? How do state policies (or the media) in different countries in the region affect how refugees are perceived and treated by the local population? Are there systematic differences in the forms of social conflict that arise due to mass migration in the Global South compared to the Global North? In what ways do regional actors' foreign policies shape the native societies' behavior toward refugees? The conference will facilitate a deeper understanding of these and other questions with a view toward advancing the academic literature and policy-making with a focus on challenges of social and political inclusion of Syrian refugees.

We seek thought-provoking papers that are grounded in theory while providing rigorous and original empirical analyses that address questions of vital practical, normative, and policy importance. We are open with regard to methodological approach and encourage applications from researchers across the social sciences.

Application deadline: Interested scholars should submit one-page abstracts for consideration by **March 14, 2021**. We expect papers to be submitted to the conference organizers 10 days prior to the conference. We are willing to consider fully developed pre-analysis plans or short papers based on preliminary research. Authors of accepted proposals will be informed by March 31st. Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and may be submitted through the following link: https://forms.gle/2jHyFaUuytYaCxYD9

Please direct questions to Şule Yaylacı (syaylaci@sas.upenn.edu).