

Refugee Integration & Long-Term Health Outcomes in Canada (SyRIA.lth)

What it is:

Refugee Integration and Long-term Health Outcomes in Canada is a pan-Canadian longitudinal study funded by The Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). The project is a partnership between settlement service agencies and academic research institutions in three of Canada's largest refugee resettlement provinces: British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec.

We are looking at how different resettlement programs support the social integration of Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) and the impact of integration pathways on their long-term physical and mental health. Our goal is to improve the health and well-being of new Canadians by understanding what leads to successful integration outcomes and for whom so that we can tailor resettlement programs to best suit newcomers' needs and circumstances.

Our research goals:

To produce knowledge that will:

- Inform promising practices for refugee resettlement and integration
- Strengthen knowledge exchange in the settlement sector
- Identify the impact of settlement policies on refugee health and well-being
- Deepen our understanding of the influence of social conditions on long-term health and well-being

Our approach:

Interviews will be collected once a year for four years with Syrian adults who resettled in Canada between 2015 and 2017. In year two and year four, we will also conduct focus groups to gain more insight into the nature of people's experiences.

These interviews will follow key integration markers at the material or functional level (e.g., employment, housing and social services accessed), the social level (e.g., social networks, discrimination), and the subjective or psychological level (e.g., sense of belonging, stress).

Project Updates

Work to date:

- Our first paper has been published and the second one is submitted for publication:
- 1) Jill Hanley, Adnan Al Mhamied, Janet Cleveland, Ouja Hajjar, Ghayda Hassan, Nicole Ives, Rim Khyar and Michaela Hynie, **“The Social Networks, Social Support and Social Capital of Syrian Refugees Privately Sponsored to Settle in Montreal: Indications for Employment and Housing During their Early Experiences of Integration,”** Canadian Ethnic Studies 50 no. 2 (2018): 123-148.
 - 2) **National paper comparing GAR and PSR pre-migration differences, and their impact on key integration variables**
- On-going dissemination of year 1 survey results nationally and internationally (see p.3)
 - Year 2 survey data collection is complete (April– July 2018); final numbers:

Site	Year 1 sample	Number of participants who didn't want to be contacted for follow-up surveys	Year 2 follow-up interviews total	Year 2 attrition numbers
Kitchener	141	2	133	6
Toronto	546	3	514	29
Windsor	235	0	219	16
Montreal	697	2	646	49
Vancouver	246	2	231	13
Okanagan Valley	67	0	66	1
National total	1932 (excluding 24 pilots)	8	1805 (excluding 13 pilots)	119

Next steps:

- Continuous work on data analysis, reports writing and dissemination
- What's App blast to participants (a short What's App message to all our participants thanking them for participation and sharing with them some results)
- Year 2 survey data cleaning and analysis

Incredible year of Data Collection



Congratulations on another incredible year. The project depends entirely on data collection; our team's work is the foundation of everything we are doing!

(Image: June 17th, 2018 celebrating Eid at Dr. Michaela's house)

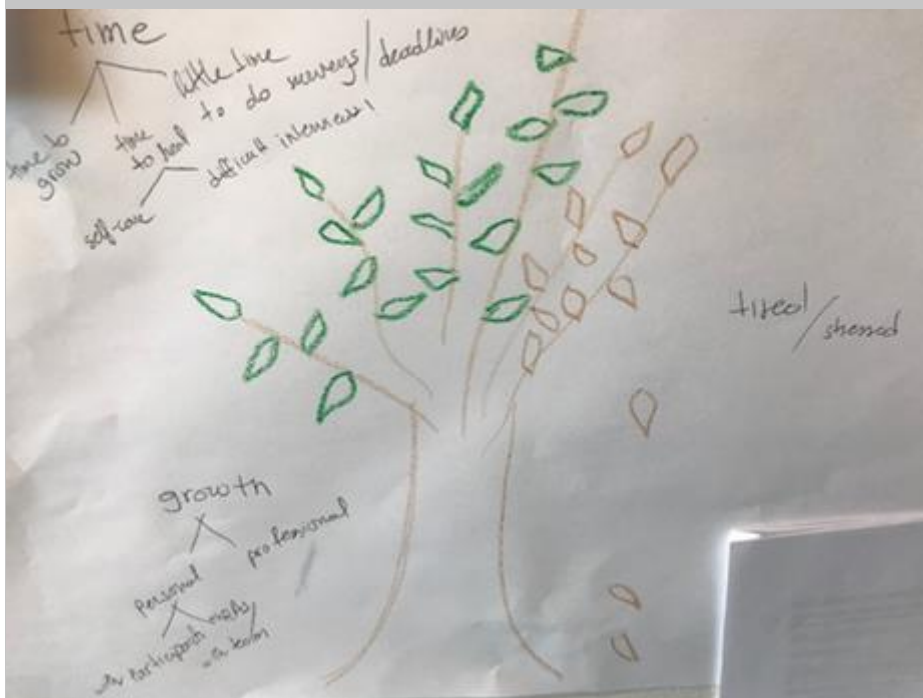
Self-care webinar for our researchers:

Dr. Branka Agic, our co-investigator on the SyRIA.lth project, works with IRCC to deliver self-care webinars to visa officer who interview refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Dr. Branka offered the self-care webinar to our research team during year 1 & 2 as an opportunity to get together and discuss this important topic.

*The self-care webinar will be offered throughout the project and is part of RAs' mandatory training.

Final Year 2 data collection debrief meeting:

We used artistic expression to guide the reflective process. Everyone was asked to draw a metaphor representing their year 2 experience and then describe in words what the metaphor represents (please see image below that illustrates one of Toronto RA experience)



Like a tree:

- Growth: I grew personally (intra and inter-personal) and professionally with team members and participants
- Healing: I need self-care some of my leaves are falling (representing stress)
- Time: is an important element to grow and heal

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference

Our team presented year 1 survey data at The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference Thessaloniki, Greece in July 2018

Title of the Panel: Probing Private/Community Resettlement for Refugees

Key points from the presentation:

- Social networks do not differ between GARs and PSRs in terms of having friends from other-ethnic communities, closeness to them, or reliance on them
- More PSRs are working but still precarious financially and only a small number found their jobs through their sponsors



Presentation by Dr. Jennifer Hyndman & Dr. Michaela Hynie at the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Conference (July 26, 2018)

Our Team's Work



Dr. Jill Hanley

Webinar: Discover the CCR Migrant Workers Report Cards and How to Use them

SyRIA.lth Co-lead Dr. Jill Hanley, Associate Professor, McGill University School of Social Work, Montreal will be presenting on migrant workers' rights.

Date & time: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - 2pm

Description: Evaluating Migrant Worker Rights grades the performance of provincial and federal governments in protecting the rights of migrant workers. The report cards analyze developments of the last five years and identify government policy solutions and practical responses for migrant workers in their jurisdiction.

Read more on: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/webinar/migrant-worker-report-cards-2018>



Dr. Michaela Hynie

New SSHRC Partnership Grant



Dr. Jennifer Hyndman

Four executive committee members of York University's Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) including SyRIA.lth Principal Investigator Dr. Michaela Hynie and Co-lead Dr. Jennifer Hyndman are successful co-applicants and collaborators in the Social Science and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grant, titled "**Civil society and the global refugee regime: Understanding and enhancing impact through the implementation of global refugee policy.**" The project's total budget is \$3.5 million, with SSHRC contributing almost \$2.5 million

Read more on: <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/>

SSHRC Insight Grant

Dr. Michaela Hynie also received SSHRC Insight Grant led by Hala Tamim, titled "**New country, New Parenthood: Syrian refugees in the context of resettlement**"

Relevant Research

Building a New Life in Britain: The Skills, Experiences and Aspirations of Young Syrian Refugees

This report, the first of the project, presents original research evidence based on 1,516 face-to-face interviews with young Syrian international protection beneficiaries and applicants, 18-32 years old, which were conducted in the UK, Lebanon and Greece, between April and October 2017. Key findings from this comparative analysis inform our policy recommendations concerning the settlement, training and skills provision for young forced migrants in the UK.

Read report findings on: <https://philpapers.org/rec/KARBAN>

Highlighting the Gender Disparities in Mental Health Among Syrian Refugees in Jordan

Jordan has been a host country to many refugees from neighbouring countries for many years and has recently become a place of refuge for thousands of Syrians. The Syrian crisis has resulted in millions of Syrians fleeing their homes, uncertain of when they will return. Most of those seeking refuge have witnessed and/or experienced traumatic events that have affected their mental well-being in addition to starting over as refugees. Despite the large number of non-profit organizations providing free mental health services to refugees, not everyone has equal access to these services. This report, based on a literature review and a focus group discussion, highlights the different gender dimensions of mental health among Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Read the full report on: <http://www.interventionjournal.org/>

News & Events

2018 OCASI Executive Directors Forum

40 Years of OCASI: Advocacy for Change

November 7-8, 2018 | The Westin Prince Hotel, Toronto

A Forum open to all Agencies serving Newcomers and Refugees in Ontario



Read more on: <http://www.ocasi.org/executive-directors-forum>

Continuing Education Opportunities:

Course/ Webinar	Website
Webinar: Syrian Youth Mentor Initiative	https://irmhp-
Course: The Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health Project, by CAMH	rmhp/courses

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event	Location	Website
November 19-21	Canadian Conference on Global Health	Toronto Canada	http://www.csih.org/
November 26-28	Canadian Council for Refugees Fall 2018 Consultations	Montreal Canada	http://ccrweb.ca/en/



416 736 2100 ext. 22054



syrialth@yorku.ca



www.yorku.ca/syrialth

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