



Artwork by: Adel Salmanzadeh

About the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies

Introduction

The Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies aims to respond to contemporary challenges of conflict and climate induced displacement. We are driven by a transformative agenda that places social justice and human rights as core aspects of our work that will empower refugee voices and build local capacities. Through a commitment to multidisciplinary scholarship, the Centre is committed to bringing together academia, refugee communities, government, civil society, and the private sector to collaboratively work on meaningful and tangible projects on current and future forced displacement.

Welcome to the October 2023 newsletter from the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS). These newsletters – produced on a half-yearly basis – are intended to update partners and supporters on our work, as well as showcase upcoming areas of focus. In addition, the newsletter provides updates on some of the existing research priorities, and other areas in which CAPRS has been involved.

As CAPRS continues to streamline our work and focus over the coming months and years, we look forward to sharing more exciting content and updates with you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the CAPRS team at caprs@auckland.ac.nz should you have any queries.

**The Centre for
Asia Pacific
Refugee Studies -
Tāwharau
Whakaumu**

A message from the CAPRS Co-Directors

Embracing the transition from start-up to sustainability

Over the past six months, CAPRS has seen significant progress in our work, marked by ongoing research endeavors, an expanded presence in the Asia Pacific, and promising partnership discussions. This reflects the Centre's unwavering commitment to Aotearoa New Zealand and the region, as well as our capacity to shape policy and effect positive change for refugee communities.

As we continue to evolve, the demand for strong leadership and forward-thinking within the Centre remains as needed as ever. As such, it is with great pride, that we announce that Rez Gardi has assumed the role of Co-Director at CAPRS. Rez brings with her a wealth of knowledge, profound regional insight, and an unwavering passion that will guide CAPRS into its next phase of growth. Over the past three years, Rez has been a key contributor to the Centre as a Co-Founder and subsequently as an Adjunct Research Fellow. We are elated to welcome her into this new role, which will undoubtedly build upon the strong foundation laid by former Co-Director Gul Inanc.

In September, CAPRS also welcomed the 2023/2024 Non-Residential Fellows to CAPRS with great enthusiasm. This diverse cohort, all recent PhD graduates, have varying areas of expertise, ranging from regional refugee responses to improving access to education and addressing climate-related displacement. Over the next six months, they will embark on the process of translating their PhD research and findings into action-oriented policy projects. These projects are expected to provide valuable insights and recommendations to governments and policymakers alike.

At CAPRS, we recognise that academia plays a pivotal role in advancing the cause of refugee protection by providing a robust intellectual foundation for policy development, advocacy, and international cooperation. Through rigorous research, scholarly analysis, and the dissemination of knowledge, academia sheds light on the complex challenges faced by displaced populations, offering critical insights into their unique needs and vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, academia serves as a driving force for innovation, fostering a deeper understanding of humanitarian and legal frameworks, as well as best practices in refugee protection. This knowledge is essential in informing evidence-based policies, shaping public opinion, and enhancing the capacity of governments, international organisations, and civil society to address the multifaceted issues surrounding refugees. In essence, academia not only empowers those on the frontlines of refugee protection but also serves as a catalyst for compassion, empathy, and informed action, ultimately contributing to the well-being and security of some of the world's most vulnerable populations.

It is in this vein, that CAPRS will continue our work in earnest both as a team but also in partnership with other academic institutions, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders. As we move towards the end of the year, we extend our sincere thanks to our affiliated scholars, external stakeholders, partners and staff for your contribution to our work and the refinement of our Vision. We very much look forward to continuing to our work together over the months ahead and into the new year.



Rez Gardi & Jay Marlowe

on behalf of CAPRS Team

CAPRS Non-Residential Fellowship

Overview

In late September 2023, CAPRS was pleased to welcome three new scholars to the Centre as part of our Non-Residential Fellowship Programme. Fellows will be engaged throughout their time with CAPRS with a 1:1 mentor, as well as access to the extended CAPRS network. This work of the Fellows cover topics including climate displacement, access to education, and Australia's regional refugee policies and suggestions for future engagement.

To support our fellows through this journey, a range of professional development sessions have been crafted, the first which was delivered in early October in collaboration with the Public Policy Institute at UoA. Future seminars will be held with Helen Sword as well as Routledge. An additional session on practical application of research with former NRF Fellow will also be held.

Dr. Asher Hirsch



Asher Hirsch is a Senior Policy Officer with the Refugee Council of Australia. His work over nine years has involved research, policy development and advocacy on national and international issues impacting refugee communities. Asher holds a PhD in law from Monash University, as well as a Juris Doctor, Master of Human Rights Law, Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice and a Bachelor of Arts. His PhD focused on Australia's externalisation policies in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Betty Barkha



Betty has over a decade of experience working with development organisations in Asia and the Pacific. Her research interests include gender, climate change, displacement, and social inclusion. She is committed to using her research to inform policy and practice that can help to protect the rights of women and girls affected by climate change. Dr Betty has a PHD, a Master of Arts in Sociology and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Psychology. Her PHD titled "Cascading Tides, Invading Lives," centres on scrutinising the Gendered impacts of Climate Change-Induced Displacement and Planned Relocation in Fiji.

Dr. Emily Miller



Emily has a background working with high school students in a range of roles, including as a teacher. She built on these experiences in her PhD, examining experiences in high school for young people from refugee backgrounds in South Australia. This research emphasised engagement with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, their families, and educators working in high school settings. Dr Miller was awarded the university-wide Ian Davey Research Thesis Prize for most outstanding PhD thesis at the University of South Australia.

Fellows will present their policy papers in April 2024 at a CAPRS-Kaldor Academic Symposium. Here fellows will discuss their findings and recommendations to key stakeholders.

More information on the 2023/2024 Scholars and the Non-Residential Fellowship can be found [here](#).

Spotlight Interview – Rez Gardi CAPRS Co-Founder and Co-Director

What has been your past engagement with refugees and forcibly displaced persons? How did you fall into this line of work?



Being born and raised in a refugee camp, I learnt about the denial of human rights and lack of justice before I knew what those concepts meant, legally. The circumstances I was born into—as a Kurd whose family escaped genocide—shaped my interest in equality, justice, and human rights very early on. As the daughter of human rights activists, an ingrained passion for equality and justice inspired me to pursue a career in law. I wanted to understand the power of law to create positive change. So, I decided to dedicate my career to helping others find their voice and access justice, as a lawyer.

In Pakistan, I was denied an education because of my refugee status. And in New Zealand, when I was in high school, a careers adviser told me I ‘should consider other options’ because law school would be too difficult for someone like me—a refugee with no history of education in the family. People like me did not finish school, let alone end up at university. It was all of these barriers, the stereotypes, and the assumptions about refugees that I wanted to crush. So, I founded Empower—a refugee-youth-led organisation aiming to address the underrepresentation of refugees in higher education. It was about taking back control of our own lives and, one day, hopefully, being able to influence the laws that apply to people who are forcibly displaced, as I once was. Through Empower’s projects, we worked with refugee youth starting in Aotearoa New Zealand to empower and enable them through education, leadership, and capacity-building, so that young refugees can pursue a meaningful future. Through our work, we have reached over 30,000 refugee youth globally.

It was through my work with my fellow refugee youth that I first had the opportunity to advocate in the global fora. In 2016 I was selected to represent New Zealand in the first ever Global Refugee Youth Consultations in Geneva and I went on to support the establishment of the Global Youth Advisory Council to the UNHCR. Over the years, I have helped establish mechanisms within the UNHCR global governance system, for example, the Refugee Advisory Group for the UNHCR Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement and the UNHCR’s Advisory Board of Organisations led by Displaced and Stateless People. Through these various advocacy efforts and different platforms, our demand was simple yet profound—refugees should have a say in all decisions that affect our lives. We worked closely with different stakeholders and found allies within the system to help us break barriers to our participation.

Prior to joining as Co-Director, you were already a CAPRS Co-Founder. How did this come about and why was the formation of the Centre important to you?

Refugee situations have increased in scope, scale, and complexity, and this necessitates new and innovative methods for protection and solutions. While the status quo continues to work for some issues, large-scale refugee movements and protracted refugee situations persist around the world, indicating that things must change.

While there are many scholars and experts, like me, who also happen to have lived experiences of forced displacement, refugee voices are still largely missing in refugee research and scholarship. From decision-making outcomes to research that has the potential to influence law and policy related to the predicament faced by refugees, it is imperative that refugees play a key role. Finding the best responses to, and solutions for, the complex issues facing the millions of displaced people across the globe requires strong evidence-based research and a commitment to translating findings into impact. It requires input from those with lived experiences of forced displacement for the development of policies that are in step with reality on the ground. Participation begets solutions.

This is why the formation of CAPRS was critical to me — to bring together actors from academia, government, civil society, government, private sector, and, importantly, refugee communities to respond to these challenges through evidence-based scholarship with a focus on high impact research that can lead to real results for forcibly displaced communities. While we are still in the formative years of CAPRS, I am confident that we have already had an impact and will continue to contribute to achieving positive change, inclusion, and social cohesion in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region.

What are your hopes for this work?

Overall, my hopes are to create a global refugee system wherein responses are better coordinated, proactive, and leave no one behind. Informing policy via academia is one crucial way to deliver better outcomes to refugees. A better equipped system is possible and informing these practices by consulting directly with thematic experts holding lived experience of forced displacement, and meaningfully engaging their perspectives across sectors is a pivotal avenue to this future. This is why working with forcibly displaced populations is central to CAPRS work.

The aims and goals of CAPRS do not begin and end within the university structure. Generating knowledge in this space, and co-producing it with stakeholders, means imbuing these findings with a relevancy that extends outside academia. Catalysing change by responding to the challenges of the system and developing evidence-based practice is crucial to seeing this become reality. The impact of this cross-disciplinary work is more relevant than ever, as the current system is not equipped to respond to existing and emergent crises. A better-informed system creating better outcomes is possible!

You maintain a strong presence in New Zealand as well as represent CAPRS globally and regionally. Can you tell us how you navigate these two worlds and how this is strategic to CAPRS vision and mandate?

In many ways, the work of CAPRS in New Zealand is one point on a larger continuum of a global ecosystem. Instead of envisioning CAPRS as confined to the surrounding conditions of New Zealand, or even the Asia Pacific more broadly, CAPRS produces academic works that informs academics and other stakeholders in an iterative way, feeding the local and the global simultaneously. CAPRS' mandate to respond to contemporary threats of displacement, including the accelerating effects of climate change, does not and cannot occur in one space alone.

CAPRS' multidisciplinary approach to scholarship emphasises this. The nature of these problems, being massive yet diffuse, reminds us that our scholarship must reflect this, and our solutions must involve many actors. Bringing together strategic partners that may not traditionally be involved in an academic setting is essential in broadening the relevancy of all academic work. CAPRS prides itself on being a nexus point between the worlds of academia, government, private actors, and especially refugees, and these networks range across the world.

You have significant experience in the not-for-profit sector in New Zealand, Asia, the Middle East and globally. What suggestions do you have for how academia and civil society can work better for strengthened outcomes for refugees?

We are facing unprecedented numbers of forced displacement — now more than ever — we need to work together to come up with practical effective responses to forced displacement through multidimensional, multidisciplinary, and intersectional approaches that are refugee-centered. The collaboration between academia and civil society is crucial for creating stronger evidence-based solutions that address the complex challenges faced by refugees. To do this, we must ensure that academic research directly informs the work of civil society and that academic research is relevant and responsive to the realities on the ground. We must ensure that research outcomes are translated into actionable policies and programmes that have a tangible impact on the lives of refugees.

The refugee-led call for 'nothing about us, without us' is not a call to engage refugees in consultations and research and then to make decisions without us, it is a call to make space for refugees to use our skills, perspectives, and experiences to contribute directly to the future of solutions. After all, we, refugees, are the experts of our lives and the issues affecting us, and we should be treated as such.

There are many avenues for better incorporating refugee perspectives into academic research in a more genuine and systematic way. Refugees are not homogeneous, and neither are our voices. Refugees belong to many different national, social, religious, and ethnic groups, and inevitably have varying opinions and beliefs. Therefore, no one scholar could ever represent a comprehensive 'refugee voice'. As such, scholarship should endeavour to seek input from scholars representing diverse views, and include different nationalities, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

We need to create scholarship identified by people currently displaced to address current and future challenges associated with forced displacement. To achieve these goals, this requires a prioritisation and orientation towards capacity-sharing and co-designing, to ensure that we can provide a platform for scholars and researchers with forced displacement experiences. Leading and emerging scholars can facilitate research, training, and scholarship opportunities which result in specific deliverables, and ensure genuine and effective participation and involvement of refugees in academic work which has the potential to impact and respond to challenges and opportunities relating to us.

Co-produced research is of paramount importance in fostering more equitable and effective research that can inform policy and help address the myriad of challenges faced by forcibly displaced people, globally. Refugees are experts on the challenges that affect our lives, which makes our active involvement in co-produced research not only a matter of ethical consideration but a recognition of our unique perspectives and the importance of amplifying our voices. By involving forcibly displaced individuals in the research process, we move beyond the traditional top-down approach, and instead, create a collaborative process that includes the invaluable, intersectional, and nuanced insights of refugees and forcibly displaced people.

Refugee participation is not only an 'ethical imperative'; it can also contribute to changes in policy, the development of law, and durable solutions that are innovative, sustainable, and more impactful. The importance of reflecting the perspectives of those with lived experiences of displacement has been highlighted in many fora. However, a number of obstacles still hinder the participation of refugee scholars. We need to develop more effective measures for redressing the imbalance in scholarship to include refugee voices. Academia and civil society can work together in the following ways:

- Establish platforms for continuous knowledge sharing between academia and civil society. This can include regular seminars, conferences, and workshops where researchers, practitioners, and advocates can exchange ideas, experiences, and best practices.
- Collaborate on advocacy efforts to influence policies at local, national, and international levels. Academic research can provide the evidence base for civil society to advocate for policies that protect the rights and improve the well-being of refugees.
- Encourage multi-stakeholder partnerships that involve governments, international organisations, private sector entities, and other key actors. These partnerships can pool resources, expertise, and influence to create comprehensive and coordinated responses to refugee challenges.

By fostering a stronger collaboration between academia, civil society, and refugee communities, we can harness the collective expertise, resources, and passion of these sectors to create more impactful and sustainable outcomes for refugees globally. This synergy can lead to innovative solutions, improved policies, and a more inclusive and supportive environment for refugees to rebuild their lives and thrive.

What is one thing on your 2024 wish list?

In 2024, I want to foster and enhance my connections with our esteemed affiliated scholars, a community renowned for their diverse expertise and rich experiences. I hope that together we can cultivate opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and to leverage the collective expertise and varied perspectives within our network to develop holistic approaches that address the multifaceted needs of refugee populations.

Civil Society & Community Engagement, and Capacity Building New Zealand Refugee Advisory Panel



Since their conception in July 2022, the New Zealand Refugee Advisory Panel (NZRAP) has had a successful first year, with CAPRS providing secretarial support. Our year end review held with the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) in September provided us with positive feedback on our partner oriented approach to strategy and policy development for refugee resettlement in New Zealand.

NZRAP's interests, perspectives, and knowledge were integral in showcasing the value and relevance of lived experience at the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Forum in July 2023. On an international level, NZRAP is actively engaged in collaborating on pledges for the Global Refugee Forum to be held in Geneva in December 2023.

NZRAP has committed to ongoing work in two priority areas: Meaningful Refugee Participation (MRF) and Effective Settlement (ES). The ES priority area focuses on what effective settlement in Aotearoa looks like, in particular with regard to health-care for refugee communities. The NZRAP team are currently planning how to generate achievable and measurable goals under both priority areas.

Once the new government is formed, the communication focus for NZRAP is a ministerial briefing to ensure the relationship between NZRAP and government remains strong and focused on achieving positive outcomes for refugee communities. NZRAP has expressed a desire to engage in training to upskill its members and in-turn empower the value of lived experience, allowing members to continue to meaningfully contribute within their advisory roles. This will ensure that learnings and communications are sustainable, and support NZRAP members, as well as both governmental and non-governmental communities involved in refugee resettlement in New Zealand.

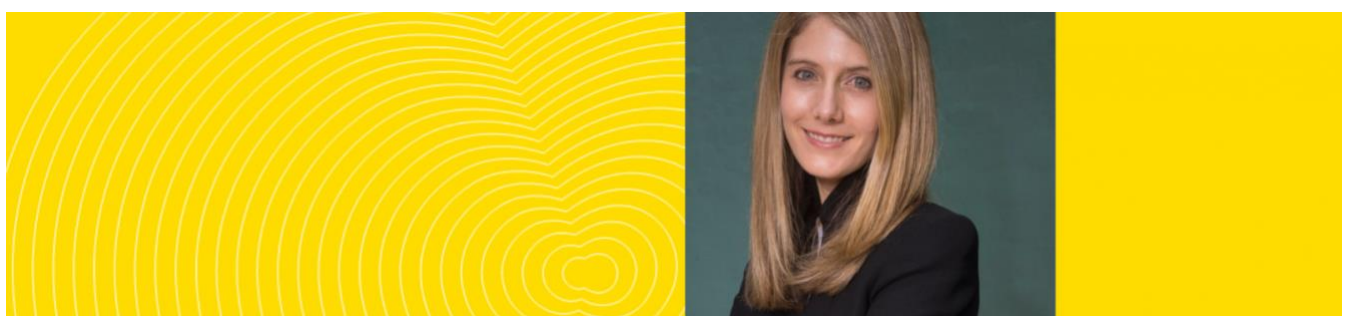


Affiliated Scholars Updates

Jane McAdam awarded prestigious Laureate Fellowship

CAPRS Affiliated Scholar - the Director of the [Kaldor Centre](#) – Professor Jane McAdam AO, has been awarded a highly prestigious Australian Laureate Fellowship to conduct research tackling evacuations from crises, including disasters, climate change, conflict, humanitarian emergencies and pandemics.

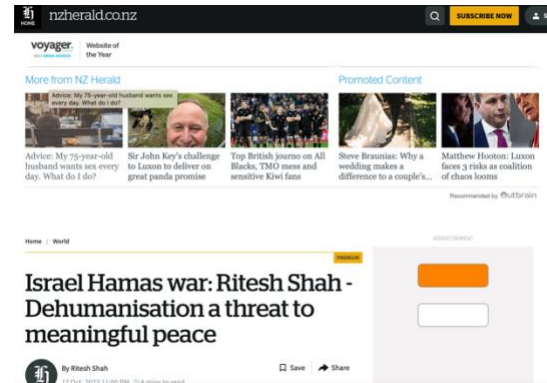
Through the Australian Research Council (ARC), to Professor McAdam was awarded \$3.14 million as a Laureate Fellowship to support internationally recognised researchers who can play a significant leadership and mentoring role in growing Australia's research and innovation capacity. Professor McAdam will engage in a five-year research program on 'Evacuations in International Law: Disasters, Conflict & Humanitarian Crises'. Congratulations Professor McAdam on this wonderful achievement and we look forward to following your research over the coming months and years.



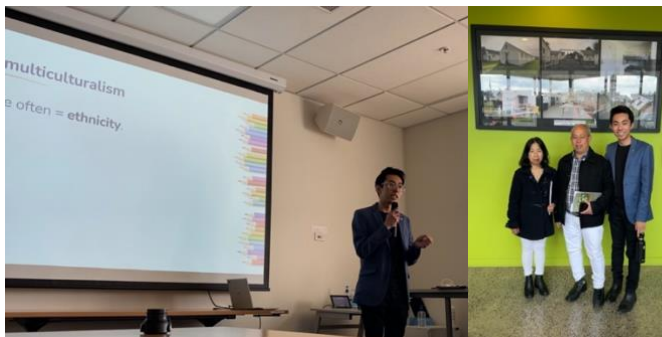
Dr Ritesh Shah

Over the past six months, Dr Shah has been actively supporting the work of CAPRS through a number of avenues, as well as delivering upon a number of research projects around the world. A brief summary of his activities include:

- Earlier this year, Dr Shah concluded a four-year project in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council in Palestine. [In the research](#), he traced children's well-being over the period of COVID-19 and the ongoing occupation. It was found that in both contexts, the occupation had a detrimental impact on their well-being, though how this manifest itself is distinct between West Bank and Gaza. The research serves as a timely reminder of the need to address the drivers of displacement, rather than just the effects of it. Dr Shah also wrote an opinion piece on the current conflict, which was published in the [New Zealand Herald](#).
- Dr Shah has also recently embarked on a new scholarly project aimed at locating contemporary humanitarianism within theories and logics of racialised capitalism and bordering regimes. It has served to raise questions about a system which is geared towards the expropriation of displaced peoples' labours, land, and resources for the benefit of hosting countries, societies, corporations and INGOs. In September, Dr Shah was invited to give a talk at the University of Bristol about this work, and how it applies to the education in emergencies sector. You can listen to his talk [here](#).
- In partnership with Professor Jay Marlowe, Dr Shah is leading a project for USAID on higher education under threat in authoritarian and non-permissive contexts. So far, they have completed a desk review of the threats which such contexts pose to higher education, and ways that systems, institutions, and individuals respond to this in ways that support continuity, adaptation, and transformation of these threats. They've also consulted with higher education stakeholders in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Latin America/Caribbean region, and are now building out some case studies of various responses to threats posed. Out of this work, they hope to produce tools, resources and guidance which will support USAID and other donors, UN agencies, national governments, to better protect academic freedom and the right to higher education for all.
- Finally, Dr Shah has also recently co-published a [blog](#) in the Humanitarian Practice Network entitled 'Who holds whom to account when harm is done? Funder accountability and responsibility within the education in emergencies community'.



Lincoln Dam



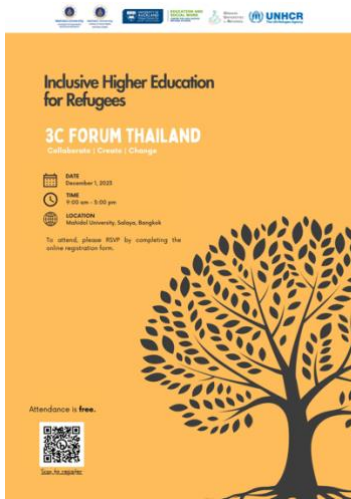
On Friday 10 November, Affiliated Scholar Lincoln was invited by the Ministry of Education, New Zealand to deliver a keynote address at their Refugee Education Hui. The hui was held at Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa – Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre, and was for Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTL) and Bilingual Assessment Service (BAS) assessors.

He was invited to speak about the overlapping strands of his research – which includes his father's story as a refugee, the relationship between biculturalism and multiculturalism in Aotearoa-New Zealand, te Tiriti o Waitangi and Asian communities, and multicultural education. Notably, the invitation to speak was particularly impactful as it also fell close to 40 years since his own father left the Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre.

Rodrigo Ramalho

Rodrigo is pleased to announce that he has further strengthened his ties to the not-for-profit sector, joining [Refugees as Survivors](#) as a Board Member.

Upcoming activities



On 1 December 2023, CAPRS in partnership with Mahidol University Thailand, UNHCR and OUR Initiative will be organising the [7th 3C Forum](#) in Bangkok, Thailand. The 3C Forum seeks to facilitate effective collaboration amongst participants leading to new initiatives to increase access to higher education opportunities for refugees in Thailand.

Our main goals are:

(a) to involve as many interested stakeholders as possible to ensure that everyone who has the potential to develop solutions to the challenges of accessing higher education in the region; and

(b) to develop a new vision for the advocacy and civic role of the Thai higher education sector in contributing to the 15 by 30 target (to achieving enrolment of 15% of young refugee women and men in higher education by the year 2030) and strategic response to ongoing refugee emergencies.

This participatory forum will engage and connect universities, refugee communities and key stakeholders across Thailand in addressing the urgent need to formulate new higher education policies. The event will consist of interactive sessions based on participatory small group discussions aimed towards identifying outcomes, goals, and next steps towards enabling universities to better contribute to refugee communities.

Register to attend

Please RSVP by completing the on-line registration form.

Recent / Upcoming Publications and Events

DEANE, K., AHMAD, M., BULLEN, P., CHUAH, Y., FENAUGHTY, J., JOSEPH, D., KALSI, K., MARLOWE, J., PAKY, V., TANG-TAYLOR, J. (2023). Connect & Kōrero: Innovating to amplify refugee and ethnic migrant youth voice in Aotearoa New Zealand policy. Ministry for Youth Development. Wellington.

MARLOWE, J., EPP, K., Jaduram, R. & UDAHEMUKA, M. (In Press) Disaster Communication and Capacity Building with Refugees and Migrants. In Lou, H., Adamson, C. (eds) Handbook of Social Work and Disaster Practice.

MARLOWE, J., MALIHI, A. Z., MILNE, B., MCLAY, J., & CHIANG, A. (2023). Settlement trajectories of nearly 25,000 forced migrants in New Zealand: longitudinal insights from administrative data. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 1-24. 10.1080/1177083X.2023.2214606

NEEF, K., JONES, E. & MARLOWE, J. (2023) The Conflict, Climate Change, and Disaster Displacement Nexus Revisited: The Case of the Protracted Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh. *Journal of Peace and Development Studies*.

Research Updates

Professor Jay Marlowe



Amongst a range of different research projects currently being pursued by Dr Marlowe, his two primary studies are:

Social Network Analysis: The findings of this study are being presented across the country and the team will use these interactions to identify the qualitative component of this study.

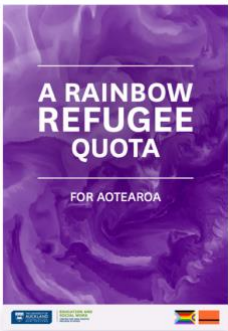
Settlement Outcomes: Integrated Data Infrastructure: Working in partnership with Dr Arezoo Malihi, we have identified nearly 25,000 people from refugee backgrounds through New Zealand's Integrated Data Infrastructure. Through this, we have longitudinal data across several settlement outcomes related to employment, income, social welfare, mobility, housing, education, and language acquisition.

The first paper related to this study was recently published in *Kotuitui*, which is available open access. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1177083X.2023.2214606>

The paper has already been picked up across 15 different news outlets and has one of the highest altmetric scores for the journal already. This information was also used as part of an info pack for the recent National Refugee Resettlement Forum held in Wellington last July.

Policy Equality Advocacy for refugees in New Zealand

A Rainbow Refugee Quota for Aotearoa



Partners: 8-person Rainbow Advisory Panel; Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)

CAPRS author: Murdoch Stephens

Published: June 2022

The *A Rainbow Refugee Quota* report made the case for a portion of New Zealand's annual refugee quota to be allocated to people who are persecuted on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The report was written by CAPRS Senior Research Fellow Dr Murdoch Stephens and was informed by an eight-person advisory group, comprised of members of the rainbow community, a majority of whom had lived experience as a former-refugee within the rainbow community. The release of the report led to meetings with members of Labour's rainbow and ethnic caucuses, as well as Green Party MPs across similar portfolios.

In June 2023, the report was given a new lease of life in a collaboration between CAPRS and Hafsar Tameesuddin, co-secretary general of APRRN, to petition Parliament to consider a rainbow subcategory within the quota. After hearings with the Education and Workforce Select Committee, submissions from numerous groups, and responses from Immigration New Zealand, Labour announced that they would "add a discreet rainbow subcategory to New Zealand's existing annual refugee quota."



Photo - Hafsar and Murdoch present the petition to MPs outside Parliament in Wellington and speak to the media on World Refugee Day 2023.

Safe Start, Fair Future Report



Partners: Asylum Seeker Support Trust (ASST).

CAPRS authors: Michelle Ferns, Murdoch Stephens and Jay Marlowe (with Bernard Sama in his shared role between CAPRS and ASST)

Published: November 2021

The *Safe Start, Fair Future* report focussed on the needs of asylum seekers in the time preceding their refugee status determination and the subsequent needs of accepted convention refugees. This work drew on longstanding advocacy from the sector that sought to gain basic access to services for asylum seekers and equal access to services for convention refugees. The collaboration featured eight authors from across the two organisations and was released at Parliament in May 2022. This work has formed the basis of numerous interactions with Members of Parliament from Labour, the Greens and National.

In mid-2023, the Labour party announced two-year funding for service providers working with asylum seekers. This funding was mirrored in their 2023 [election manifesto](#), which committed the party to “provide asylum seekers with adequate support services while their claims are processed”. The [Green Party immigration policy](#) has long featured commitments to increased support for asylum seekers, albeit not as detailed as in *Safe Start, Fair Future*. These commitments remain in their 2023 Immigration and Refugee election policy.

Podcasts

Since September 2021, CAPRS Co-Founder Rêz Gardî has been connecting and engaging with inspiring individuals across the world as part of CAPRS ‘Unfiltered’ Podcast Series. This podcast was created as a platform for unfiltered honest discussions about issues that impact the lives of those forcibly displaced and possible solutions from a range of perspectives. In addition, the podcast both empowers and amplifies refugee voices around the globe, contributing to increasing awareness about the situations for forcibly displaced people.

Over the past six months, Rêz has hosted two interviews with well-known and inspiring individuals. Her most recent podcasts are with Noor Azizah on advocating for the plight of Rohingya refugees, and Ayan Said on sexual and reproductive health..



All podcasts are available on the CAPRS website, Apple Podcasts, [Spotify](#), Whooshkaa, and other podcast platforms.