



IU BLOOMINGTON

EMERGING AREAS OF RESEARCH

Abstract Template -- Due June 30, 2017

Title of initiative to be proposed:

Forced Migration: Origins, Effects, and Solutions

Name of lead PI, with title, department/school:

Elizabeth Cullen Dunn, Associate Professor, Geography and International Studies

Key team member names and departments/schools (up to 10 names):

Elizabeth Cullen Dunn (Geography/International Studies); Michelle Moyd (History); Stephen Macekura (International Studies); Ishan Ashutosh (Geography); Clemence Pinaud (International Studies); Abdulkader Sinno (Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies); Christine Glaser (SPEA); Dina Okamoto (Sociology); Lilian Yahng (Center for Survey Research)

Description of area to be proposed. What constitutes this area of research or creative activity as emerging?
(Word limit=500)

More than 65 million people around the world are forced migrants--refugees, internally displaced people or asylum seekers. This population, which has increased by over 33% in the last decade, will continue to grow well into the 21st century. With hundreds of millions who will be affected by climate change and armed conflict, and an international system for managing migration that has become completely dysfunctional, forced migration will remain a politically charged topic for the foreseeable future. Yet, although the US is the world's largest donor of aid to displaced people, few research centers in the US can offer evidence-based insight on the origins of the crisis and the effects of forced migration and humanitarian aid on displaced people themselves, or offer novel ideas for resolving it. The Indiana Center for the Study of Forced migration will be a research hub addressing these urgent questions. Focusing on people displaced by conflict, development or disaster, and the institutions that aid them or regulate their movements, the Center will be an authoritative public voice on forced migration. In addition to academic research, it will also be a place where academic researchers, aid agencies, charitable foundations and displaced people themselves can address problems and hash out solutions, as well as a respected source of policy advice for governments, foundations, multilateral institutions and NGOs.

Indiana University is the ideal home for this Center. IU's School for Global and International Studies, including IU's long area studies tradition and robust language programs, provide a strong basis for research on questions of migration. Individual IU faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Global and International Studies have developed strong research initiatives into topics including humanitarian assistance and displacement, and war economies and refugee dislocation. The Center will build on these endeavors by promoting cross-disciplinary, team-based research to support and expand faculty and graduate student research. In particular, the Center will focus on three key aspects of the forced migration crisis: (1) the origins of mass displacement, including political, historical, and environmental factors; (2) humanitarian response, including transnational aid institutions, donor nations, international NGOs and local aid agencies, and peacekeeping operations; and (3) the lived experiences of displaced people, including their experiences with emergency aid. We will focus not only on resettlement in North America or Europe--which, despite the controversy in the United States, affects less than 1% of the world's displaced population—but on the effects of protracted displacement, voluntary and involuntary repatriation, and social integration in developing countries.

The multidisciplinary group at IU includes scholars whose work has gained national and international attention, and has already begun creating partnerships with international agencies, corporate foundations, and resettlement agencies in Indiana to make IU a center for thinking about long-term solutions outside the current dysfunctional international system. With strategic funding, the Indiana Center for the Study of Forced Migration will be a center of innovative research aimed at developing long-term solutions to the global crisis of mobility.

Please submit to earprogram@indiana.edu