



MARRNet
Migration and Refugee
Research Network



REFUGEE ALTERNATIVES
Improving policy, practice and public support



@Marrnet



@MARRNetwork

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

MARRNet Refugee Alternatives Pre-Conference Academic Forum

The Migration and Refugee Research Network (MARRNet) invites researchers to submit abstracts for presentation at the 2019 Refugee Alternatives Pre-Conference Academic Forum on Monday 18 February 2019, 1-5.30pm at UniSA City West Campus.

The forum will bring together researchers from a wide range of disciplines to share their research, and find connections with other research that is occurring nationally.

The forum aims to:

1. Identify the range and scope of research in the field of refugee studies in Australia;
2. Determine priority research projects within and across three workshop themes of work, health and wellbeing and education; and
3. Canvas policy reforms and determine strategies for achieving their adoption.

Abstracts will need to align at least loosely with one of the three workshop themes. Presenters will be allocated to the most relevant theme for the purposes of presenting. However, there will be discussion across themes during the course of the workshop.

Please submit abstracts of 100 words and a presenter biography of 100 words to MARRNetwk@gmail.com. Abstracts are due by December 7, 2018 at 5pm (ACST).

Workshop themes

1. Work

Participation in the workforce is crucial to the integration of refugees into Australian society, their financial security and their psychological well-being. At the same time, employment can be a location of exploitation and discrimination. The challenge for researchers in this space is to highlight the problems with existing practice, and to explore avenues for regulatory reform.

Within the work theme, the workshop will focus on three sub-themes

- vulnerability and discrimination;
- pathways to well-being and financial security; and
- barriers to entering and remaining in the workforce.

2. Health and Well-being

People with refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds face a range of barriers to health and wellbeing as a result of migration pathways and experiences in resettlement countries, and

have varying cultural understandings of health and illness. This workshop explores several key areas of health for refugees and asylum seekers:

- Impact of policies and practice within resettlement countries on health and wellbeing both directly and also through the social determinants of health (eg. housing, education, employment, English language skills, social inclusion, access to health services)
- Mental health, with a focus on understandings of mental health and best practice mental healthcare
- Pathways to healthcare (e.g., barriers and facilitators to accessing care)

3. Education

Pre-school, school and tertiary educational settings are central to the success of people from refugee backgrounds. They provide opportunities for refugees to develop linguistic and academic capabilities required for them to become active contributors to the communities in which they live. Research into the educational experiences of refugees has largely focussed on individualised problems and barriers to educational success including trauma, low levels of literacy and interrupted schooling. While there has been a recent shift to acknowledge the importance of developing inclusive educational communities, little is understood about the policy implications of this work or what this might look like in educational settings.

The education workshop will seek to explore:

- Federal, state and local policies guiding education provision for refugee learners.
- Practices in educational settings which support refugee learners.

Presentation Format

Presentations will need to use a modification of the Pecha Kucha method.¹ Presenters will show 5 slides in 5 minutes as a means of presenting their research. Presentations will be followed by round table discussion.

Registration

Please register your attendance at the Refugee Alternatives Preconference Forum at <https://refugeealtforum.eventbrite.com.au>

Please register your attendance at the Refugee Alternatives 2019 Conference at <https://refugeealternatives.org.au/register/>

¹ <https://globaldigitalcitizen.org/how-to-make-great-presentations-with-pecha-kucha>