

PROJECT
UPDATE
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"Evolving Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration" project members joins IHSA Conference 2023 in Dhaka

On November 6, 2023, the research project "Evolving Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration" presented its work at the 7th International Humanitarian Studies Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA) organized the conference in partnership with the North South University and InSights, Bangladesh. This year's theme, "Humanitarianism in Changing Climates," addressed climate change as a threat that has brought a new dimension to climate-related disasters and the shifting climates across social, political, and cultural spheres that influence humanitarian assistance. The research team presented their findings in the panel "Examining Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration: Approaches to the Needs of Vulnerable Groups on the Move in Crises." The panel emphasized the importance of examining the needs of at-risk groups in forced migration and adapting practices to close the remaining gaps in humanitarian assistance. Mr. Alexander Hunns from UNU-MERIT joined the panel with his presentation on the climate vulnerability of encamped refugee populations. The panel was divided into two sessions to allocate sufficient time to present and discuss the papers.



Photo 1 IHSA Conference Panel "Examining Humanitarian Action for Forced Migration: Approaches to the Needs of Vulnerable Groups on the Move in Crises"

The first session started with Dr. Lisette R. Robles from JICA Ogata Research Institute introducing the panel's theme and six papers that explored and analyzed the practical approaches used by humanitarian actors to address the specific needs of different groups. Dr. Irene Schöffberger from the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre of IOM and Ms. Salma Nooh from the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe presented their findings on the issue of missing data for humanitarian assistance for child migrants. Colleagues from the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix followed them, Ms. Nikki Herwanger and Ms. Alexandra Bate, who

presented on improving data on migration and internal displacement through female participation in data collection. In the last presentation of the first session, Dr. Rogie Royce Carandang from the University of Connecticut and Dr. Robles discussed the limited visibility of humanitarian action for displaced older people in research and practice. The invited discussant, Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui from the University of Dhaka, emphasized the need for a human rights-based approach to humanitarian assistance. The authors responded to questions and comments on the challenges of data collection and possible solutions, data segregation, and what vulnerability means for different displaced groups.



Photo 2 Panel Session 1 In-person and online project colleagues with Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui.

The second session of the panel began with presentations from Mr. Oliver Wiegiers of the Christian Blind Mission and Ms. Louisa Yasukawa from UNHCR. They discussed the evolution of disability-inclusive humanitarian action for internally displaced people in Vanuatu and Nigeria. Dr. Tatsuya Hata from Kindai University and Mr. Kaito Takeuchi from JICA Ogata Research Institute presented their findings on protecting trafficked fishermen from Thailand to Indonesia as a form of humanitarian action for displaced people. Mr. Alexander Hunns then elaborated on the climate vulnerabilities of encamped refugees based on a study he conducted with his colleagues Dr. Sonja Fransen and Ms. Talitha Dubow. Finally, Dr. Lorenzo Guadagno, from Platform on Disaster Displacement, shared his thoughts on the meaning of vulnerability, the adaptation of humanitarian responses, and how considering the vulnerabilities of different groups can push the boundaries of what the humanitarian response is or should be. The authors also answered questions on the role of advocacy for vulnerable groups. The panel was thought-provoking and concluded with these discussions.

This conference panel participation will contribute to developing the research project under the Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Support Research Cluster of JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development



Photo 3 Panel Session 2 In-person and online project colleagues with Mr. Alexander Hunns.

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