

IASFM20 Podcast Series Full Transcript

Episode 3. Pre-conference Workshops Overview

Opening credit

Forced migration due to war, conflicts, disaster, climate change and urban development impacts is a critical issue requiring attention from multiple stakeholders. The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration, or IASFM, is a global interdisciplinary association committed to advancing research, policy analysis and understanding of forced migration and displacement. The 20th Conference of IASFM was held on the 21-23 January 2025 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, with a topic of “Forced Displacement in an Urbanizing World”. This audio series, supported by the Washington University in St Louis, presents various reports from this conference.

The views, opinions, and contents expressed in this podcast are solely of those of the creators and do not necessarily reflect the views or possessions of Washington University in St Lou is.

Host: Dr. Akino Tahir

Welcome to the IASFM20 podcast series. Back with Akino as your host for today, where we will hear about the pre-conference workshops that happened on the day before the IASFM20 Conference started.

We had two workshops for post graduate students and early career researchers: “Governance of Displacement and Protection in a Chaotic World” academic writing workshop and “Utopian Imagination: the Action Researcher for Transition Change” workshop. Let’s hear from the facilitators and participants about what the workshops are about and what impression they have after the workshops.

Guest 1: Dr. Nicholas James Maple

So just to fully introduce myself, I'm Dr Nicholas James Maple. I'm a lecturer in refugee studies at the Refugee Law Initiative at the University of London in the UK. I organized this writing workshop with my colleagues, Tristan Harley from the Kaldor Center in Sydney, and James Milner from the LEERN initiative in Canada. This workshop came about through a discussion the three of us had about creating a space for early career academics to present their initial work related to forced migration in a safe and friendly environment. The idea being if they presented, say six to eight thousand (6000-8000) words of initial draft of the paper, they'll be able to get feedback from other participants but also ourselves as people who have been in academia for a little bit longer in a safe and friendly space, as I said. The other idea was also to introduce them a little bit more to publishing academic articles within the forced migration space, and so as an editor of the refugee survey quarterly, I also spoke a little bit about (and) gave some tips and ideas about how you can turn these ideas and work that they'd already started, turn it into the peer review articles that could then get published

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Host: Marofa Sharifi

Thank you. Though you mentioned it about the material already, but I still want to ask, why this theme of your workshop that you had, “Governance of Displacement and Protection in a Chaotic World”?

Guest 1: Dr. Nicholas James Maple

It stems, I think, from the fact that we're in a world where silent spaces broadly are continuing to shrink in most regions, if not all regions of the world. So the theme is really about trying to understand responses to forced migration and whatever those responses might be. But also how we can understand and conceptualize forced migration in different ways, either to gain more understanding but also how that then might relate to policy and practice. Are you turning research into practical implications and practical concrete steps for ways forward?

Firstly, I should say that we were all really impressed by the level of ideas and research that gone into all the papers. They were really excellent, so the hope is that through the peer review, so peer feedback from other participants and from Tristan and myself, the aim is that these papers can then be worked up into submissions for publication, and whether that is through academic journal or perhaps an academic journal and also through blogs and other media so people can access and read about this research. Because the participants are doing really fascinating, important research, and it's important that they are able to share it in this sort of world we live in now, that people will be able to read it and understand and unpack what these findings are.

Host: Dr. Akino Tahir

That was Nicholas Maple, one of the facilitators of the academic writing workshop, sharing the idea behind the workshop to Marofa Sharifi, our field reporter.

Now let's hear from Naureen Rahim, one of the participants, on her impression and take away from the workshop.

Guest 2: Naureen Rahim

Well, it was a wonderful platform to present your work to the audience and also like-minded people and to get constructive feedback about your article that you're currently writing on. And it was also a nice exercise between us, where we read each other's draft papers and gave the comments. Also we were from different backgrounds, so we could understand what sort of work is going on refugee purposes in different disciplines. So it was really a nice place to discuss our work together and also a wonderful opportunity for networking. I really look for a main lead that how I should be presenting my work and also submitting to a journal. So, what are the strategies that I should be looking for before submitting my article to a journal? There were some practical discussions about the role of the early career researchers in publishing in different kind of journals and what are the aspects that we should look forward.

Host: Banafsha Mudaber

Thank you, Ms. Naureen. What new perspectives or insights did you gain from this workshop?

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Guest 2: Naureen Rahim

Well, while we had the presentation time and then we had the question answer sessions and the comments received from different individuals, then we could understand where do we stand in our argument and how the paper should be shaped and get a precise version. There was further discussion about how we can improve. What are the areas that we look towards before submitting a journal article. It really helped me in a sense that now I can understand what are my strengths, and at the same time, what are the weaknesses of my research, so it will really help me to improve those areas which I still lack. And it also gave me a good opportunity to talk with those professors who are also leading some of the journals. The editing issues and everything, these were discussed. And also some very important practical issues that we often do not talk much, these were discussed here. So, it was really a fruitful session for us.

Host: Dr. Akino Tahir

Moving on to the second workshop on action research methodology. Unfortunately we couldn't catch the main facilitator, Male Lujan Escalante from University of the Arts London, for an interview. But we talked to the workshop's co-facilitator, Arfan Ahmad, who is a student from Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia.

Guest 3: Arfan Ahmad

So we organized the workshop to explore how design can drive positive change in complex social issues, like the refugees in Indonesia, especially by involving participants in creative problem solving. The theme of this workshop is "Utopian Imaginations: The Action Researcher for Transition Change" was chosen to encourage participants to envision their ideal futures like the utopia, while grounding their ideas in actionable solution for real world transitions. So to achieve this, we conducted a series of workshops, guiding participants step by step to transform the ideas into practical and impactful frameworks. We hope this workshop inspires participants to think critically and creatively, equipping them with tools to address societal challenges. The aim of this workshop is to foster collaboration, spark meaningful conversations, and empower them to implement sustainable solution in their own communities.

Host: Dr. Akino Tahir

Next, Eka Handriana, one of the workshop participants, shared her opinion to Banasha Mudaber our field reporter, about the workshop and how she can use it in her work.

Host: Banafsha

So why are you interested in joining utopian imagination workshop?

Guest 4: Eka Handriana

Because it's very relevant to my work. I'm conducting research right now about the water access and risk related to water using autoethnographic method. We are in the halfway through our research but we still think that we need to go deeper. By following the workshop yesterday, I think that I gained some insight from the workshop. I think utopia could be a kind of tool to maybe evoke some vivid memories about water that is relevant to my work or we can use Utopia to imagine the better future in our life. I think I

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need to explore more. I'm going to apply this kind of insight from the utopia to my work. It could be combined with the autoethnography (methodology) in my work. That workshop is fun, beautiful and insightful for me.

Host: Dr. Akino Tahir

Thank you Eka, Arvan, Naureen, and Nicholas for sharing your thoughts on the pre-conference workshops, and also to all participants who came to Yogyakarta a day earlier to join the workshops. We hope you gained useful feedback and practical insights that are helpful for your research. Also thank you to all facilitators for sharing their valuable time with us in the conference.

I'm also extending our thanks to the workshop organizers and sponsors. The Governance of Displacement and Protection in a Chaotic World academic writing workshop is organised and supported by Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN), the Refugee Law Initiative, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, and the RSQ journal. The Utopian Imagination: the Action Researcher for Transition Change workshop is organized by RDI UREF and supported by Design Ethnography Lab Institute Teknologi Bandung.

For listeners, if you are interested to join or perhaps organizing similar workshops, let us know, who knows, maybe we can find ways to make it happen.

Again, we welcome your reflections, comments, or other remarks in platforms where this series is published, on Spotify, Instagram, LinkedIn, or other social media and communication channels of RDI UREF, Department of Anthropology UGM, and IASFM. To find out more about IASFM or the 20th Conference, you can write us by email or check out IASFM's website, which you can find at the episode description.

Thank you for listening to this episode. I'm Akino as your host today will stop here. Stay tuned for our next episode and wishing you a lovely day ahead.

Closing credit

The 20th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference is organized by the Resilience Development Initiative in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada.

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