

REFUGEE-LED RESEARCH FESTIVAL

Roadmaps for Transformative Leadership



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

**REFUGEE-LED
RESEARCH HUB**

Refugee-Led Research Festival

Roadmaps for Transformative Leadership

11–15 September 2023

The RLRH’s second annual Refugee-Led Research Festival brings together researchers, academics, artists, practitioners, and others from throughout East Africa to promote refugee leadership in universities and in forced migration research and practice. This year’s five-day programme includes a mix of interactive panel discussions, lectures and presentations, trainings and workshops, movie screenings, socials, and more. The festival aims to: 1) spotlight refugee-led research, 2) provide an overview of academic, research, and professional opportunities available to attendees, 3) connect RLRH-affiliated learners and researchers with people who care about ethical academic and research ecosystems, 4) facilitate exchange of ideas and actions that are making a difference, and 5) strengthen commitments from participants to support refugee leadership in research and elsewhere. Follow [@RLRH_Oxford](#) for live updates and follow the hashtag #refugeeledresearch. If you plan to attend, whether in person or online, please [register](#).

Programme agenda

The Festival will take place at RLRH’s Nairobi offices on Laikipia Road on the premises of the BIEA. All times listed are EAT. Days marked * are specifically for students & researchers who have been affected by forced displacement, e.g., as current or former refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, or others who self-identify. Whether or not you have participated in RLRH activities before, you’re welcome. Days marked † are open to all who are able to attend, whether in person or online if the session is hybrid (marked ●).

Monday 11th: RLRH Affiliates Reunited * Bringing the greater RLRH community together to connect, share information and resources, and develop individual plans for professional, personal, and intellectual growth.	
9-10am EAT	Welcome reception <i>Coffee, tea, & bites in RLRH Courtyard</i>
10-11:30am	Welcome remarks & workshop “Looking to the future: Opportunities and support for your academic, research, and professional journeys”
12-1pm	Introductions: Academic Pillar 101 “Pursuing your academic aspirations: Pathways, Graduate Horizons, and master’s & PhD programmes” Lunch <i>RLRH Gardens</i>
2:30-3:30pm	Introductions: Research Pillar 101 “Becoming an expert researcher: What <i>actually</i> is refugee-led research?” Mohammed Hassan, Fardosa Salah, Pauline Vidal: Overview of training and research opportunities Bisimwa Mulemangabo, Foni Vuni, Uwezo Ramazani: Flash presentations on research completed in 2023
3:45-5pm	Vision-building workshop: “Purposeful planning, deliberate decisions, rewarding results”
5:30-7:30pm	Dinner: Habesha Ethiopian Restaurant <i>Transport and meal provided.</i>

Tuesday 12th: Research Methods Training *

Research presentations and trainings to co-construct understandings of ethical and impactful research.

9-9:30am	Welcome tea <i>Main Seminar Room</i>
9:30-11am	Introductions: Professional Placements 101 “Pathways for success in the professional sphere”
11:30am-12:45pm	Research Methods Workshop 1: “Interrogating research methods in humanitarian settings”
12:45-1pm	Rapid Research Presentation 1: “UNHCR’s quest to achieve 15by30: Tertiary education and aspirations for refugee students” Natasha Treunen
	Lunch <i>RLRH Gardens</i>
2:30-4:15pm	Research Methods Workshop 2: “Designing ethical research practices in humanitarian settings”
4:15-4:30pm	Rapid Research Presentation 2: “Access to primary and secondary education for the Somali refugee girl child: A case study of Dagahaley-Dadaab refugee camp” Hamdi Mohamed
5-7pm	Affiliate-led sessions: 8 parallel activities in the RLRH Courtyard and Gardens

Wednesday 13th: Creative Approaches to Research @ Nairobi Arboretum *

Breaking away from the conference venue for personal and collective reflection on how our identities and journeys can be represented in the ideas we share with the world.

8:30-9:30am	Welcome walk <i>Meet at entrance to Arboretum with walking shoes. Tea, coffee, mandazi at destination.</i>
9:30-10am	Introduction: “Revealing new perspectives with creative research practices” Exploring non-traditional approaches to research through photography, visual arts, and performance
10am-12pm	Parallel Workshop 1: Capturing hidden narratives How can you tell an unexpected story when photographing everyday subjects and scenery?
	Parallel Workshop 2: Poetic collage Sift through print publications and scrap papers to build a story
	Parallel Workshop 3: Found object biographical storytelling What can items found in a natural park tell about your personal life and memories?
	Parallel Workshop 4: Theatre in the open Collaborate with others to produce scripted and improvised performances
	Lunch <i>Arboretum – bagged lunch provided in the grove</i>
1:30-2:30pm	Presentation of workshop creations All workshop participants
2:30-3pm	Rapid Research Presentation 3: “Thinking beyond permanent strangers: Displacement, citizenship and belonging in the Great Lakes Region” Makuei Daniels
3-3:30pm	Rapid Research Presentation 4: “Circular migration between Kenya and Somalia: A case study of voluntary repatriation in Dadaab refugee camp” Fardosa Salah
5-7pm	Documentary screening at RLRH

Thursday 14th: Conference Day 1 †

9-9:30am	Welcome reception <i>Coffee, tea, & bites in RLRH Courtyard</i>
9:30-9:45am	🎤 Welcome remarks
9:45-10:30am	🎤 Opening lecture & discussion: “Anti-discrimination in the humanitarian research ecosystem” Mohammed Hassan & Fardosa Salah
11am-12:30pm	🎤 Panel 1: “Advancing ethical practice: Refugee-led research in action” What does ethical humanitarian research look like in process and product? The panel will examine the imperative to shift toward genuine refugee-led research, surveying examples of successful and problematic practices, and engaging the audience to imagine a radically improved research ecosystem.
12:30-2pm	Lunch <i>RLRH Gardens</i>
2-3:30pm	🎤 Panel 2: “Creative, considered, and community-based approaches to research dissemination” Panellists will discuss the merits of making research findings accessible to a wide audience, considering how different medias and modes of communication can effectively translate knowledge into impact.
4-5pm	Workshop: “What stories do you want to be told?: Developing a contemporary research agenda”
5pm, onward	End of day reception <i>Refreshments in RLRH courtyard</i> Documentary screening & discussion with the filmmakers “E-refugees: Crafting New Futures” (2023) Bahati Ghislain, Dr. Marie Godin, Jean Marie Ishimwe

Friday 15th: Conference Day 2 †

9-9:30am	Welcome reception <i>Coffee, tea, & bites in RLRH Courtyard</i>
9:30-9:45am	🎤 Welcome remarks
9:45-10:30am	🎤 Opening lecture & discussion: “Anti-discrimination in the University and workplace” Ruth Nyabuto & Annette Riziki
11am-12:30pm	🎤 Panel 3: “Strengthening graduate-level pathways for refugee students” The panel will be invited to reflect on current gaps in advanced education opportunities for refugees, surveying promising efforts underway, and discussing roadmaps for system-wide improvements at local, regional, and global levels.
12:30-2pm	Lunch <i>RLRH Gardens</i>
2-3:30pm	🎤 Panel 4: “Ethical restructuring of professional spaces: Refugee leadership in humanitarian organisations” Should refugees run UNHCR? What does an inclusive workplace look like for individuals who have been affected by displacement? This panel will elaborate on what responsibility means in refugee-facing organisations, engaging the audience to build a collective vision for enabling refugee leadership in the workplace.
4-5pm	Workshop: “Co-constructing a roadmap for transformative leadership”
5pm, onward	End of conference reception <i>Refreshments in RLRH courtyard. Enjoy a pop-up art viewing and an open mic.</i>