



Workshop in Trento - Concept note

Navigating forced displacement: the influence of everyday informal practices on forced migrants' human security

22-23 February 2019

Global forced migration has grown by over 50 per cent in the last 10 years reaching 68.5 million people by the end of 2017, 85% of which are hosted in states of the Global South - either their own state or neighbouring states, characterized by situations of fragility (UNHCR 2018). While the conflict-related forceful movement of people has often been framed as a security threat for states and host communities, a human security approach has broadened the understanding of security to include other areas of human well-being (UNDP, 1994).

In spite of widespread academic criticism against the concept of human security, its adoption in the analysis of situations characterized by forced migration has encouraged a deeper understanding of the many aspects that influence people's perceptions of security in fragile contexts (Solomon et al., 2017), including issues concerning psycho-social well-being, identity and belonging (Leaning, 2004; Winslow & Eriksen, 2004; Glasius, 2008).

Drawing on (Newman, 2016) proposition of borrowing the concept of 'everyday security' from criminological studies to look at lived experiences of security by individuals and groups, this workshop invites interdisciplinary and empirically grounded contributions investigating forced migrants' informal practices to improve their perception of security in the broadest possible sense (including access to land, basic services, livelihoods means, belonging to a community). A particular focus on practices employed by forced migrants who find themselves in a situation of informality/illegality (i.e. urban/self-settled refugees or returnees who chose not to subscribe to official resettlement or repatriation plans) will be encouraged, as these people's relationship with the locality is not mediated by any broader national or international framework and the conditions for their human security and integration need to be negotiated locally and directly by the people involved (Hovil, 2016).

This workshop is organized in the framework of the research project "Human security among South Sudanese self-settled refugees in Uganda: strategies of access to basic services" funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation and implemented at the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Trento.

Room and board for the participants will be covered by the workshop organisation.

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and be submitted to sara.desimone@unitn.it by 31 December 2018.



References

- Gladius, M. (2008) Human Security from Paradigm Shift to Operationalization: Job Description for a Human Security Worker. *Security Dialogue*, 39 (1), pp.31–54.
- Hovil, L. (2016) *Refugees, Conflict and the Search for Belonging*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Leaning, J. (2004) “Psychosocial Well-Being over Time”. *Security Dialogue*, 35 (3), pp.354–355.
- Newman, E. (2016) “Human Security: Reconciling Critical Aspirations With Political ‘Realities’”. *British Journal of Criminology*, 56 (6), pp.1165–1183.
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