

2024 Migration Studies, Oxford University Press

Special Issue Proposal

Proposed title: Innovative Methodological Approaches in Migration and refugee studies: A Global South Perspective on Ethical, Non-extractive and Just Research Editors:

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Overview

The field of migration and refugee research has expanded extensively. However, the predominant methodologies, dominated by perspectives from the Global North are critiqued for being extractive and limited in scope. This special issue seeks to centre research led by scholars from the Global South, working with refugee and migrant communities in different geographical regions, and employing innovative, ethical, socially just, and non-extractive methodological approaches that enhance our understanding of refugee and migrant experiences, knowledge production, and representation.

Aims and Scope

This special issue will feature innovative methodologies that prioritise social justice, inclusivity, and ethicality beyond the performative institutional practices and procedures in the study of refugee and migrant education. We aim to create a collection of work that addresses complex questions around knowledge production, power dynamics, and representation. Contributors are encouraged to present research which showcase methodologies that view participants as active co-creators of knowledge, capable of leading their own voices and sharing their truths and realities.

We are especially interested in methodological approaches that do not claim to "give voice" to participants but offer frameworks and platforms where voices from within refugee and migrant communities are represented fairly and ethically. This involves a shift from the researcher as the primary interpreter of experiences to the community as both the holder and interpreter of its own knowledge, with the researcher facilitating an innovative, ethical space for these accounts and experiences to be understood and acted upon.

Objectives

1. Highlight innovative methodologies and tools from and by the Global South researchers and participants: We aim to bring forward methodological contributions led by scholars and participants from the Global South, who have developed and co-developed approaches uniquely suited to their contexts and the needs of the participants, offering knowledge and innovative perspectives to explore how refugees and migrants illustrate, interpret and represent their experiences in general, **with particular interest in the formal, informal and non-formal educational experiences and struggles in these times of high tensions in the world.**
2. Promote Ethical and Socially Just Research Practices: Emphasis will be placed on innovative methodologies that reflect ethical, just, non-extractive principles which respect the agency and rights of participants. This includes research practices and tools that prioritise meaningful collaboration and fair representation of participants' experiences.
3. Move Beyond 'Giving Voice' to Offering a Just Platform: We seek contributions that avoid framing research as a means of "giving voice" and instead focus on building just platforms that champion and amplify the participants' voice and recognise their right to the construction and interpretation of their own realities and truths as valid knowledge.
4. Move beyond research and methodologies conducted within the limitations of Euro and Anglo-centric perspectives to amplify research by and for Indigenous Peoples using methods and approaches rooted in Indigenous traditions and knowledge(s). Research that foregrounds Indigenous ways of being and knowing, disrupts colonial narratives and resists extractive research practices.

Suggested Topics

We welcome contributions that engage with innovative methodologies that stem from relational epistemologies, anticolonial and decolonial research, Afrocentric research, Indigenous methodologies, (non-white) feminist research and participatory methods.

Audience

This issue will be relevant to scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in education, migration, forced migration, and social justice research as well as the refugee and migrant communities. By focusing on methodological innovation, it will be of relevance to those interested in exploring new tools that centre the voice of refugee and migrant participants and advance ethical values through the work of researchers in the Global South.

Submission Guidelines

Contributors are invited to submit original research articles, methodological reflections, or case studies that align with the themes of this issue. We encourage submissions that engage critically with the methods used, discuss challenges and successes, and propose new directions for ethical, innovative research in refugee and migrant education.

We warmly invite you to submit your abstract (500 words maximum) and a short biography (200 words maximum) by the **25th of November 2024**.