



Call for Papers

Workshop Session: Coping with Vulnerabilities in the Context of Forced Migration

Organizers:

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Triggered by ongoing threats to life, health and physical safety resulting from natural disasters, war and protracted conflict (Martin et al. 2014), forced displacement responds to and generates multiple vulnerabilities that forcibly displaced people face at every stage of their journey (Gilodi et al. 2022). Seen from the perspective of what has been called 'crisis migration' (McAdam 2014), these movements try to evade hazardous situations yet tend to end up in new critical situations prompting new vulnerabilities. By contrast, other research has emphasized how forced displacement has been used to construct and politicize 'migration crises', yet without accounting for the multi-layered and contradictory manifestations of vulnerability (Lindley 2014).

By focusing on forced migrants' experiences in crisis situations during displacement, this panel questions the multiple relationships between vulnerability and (migration) crises. Moreover, it considers the journey of forced displacement as a process (Crawley et al. 2018; Benezet and Zetter 2015), meaning that the conditions that trigger and define mobility, the conditions along the route and finally at the destination, however temporary, constitute and mediate vulnerabilities.

More than 6 million people have been displaced from Ukraine following the Russian invasion. Forced migrants - mostly women and children - faced critical situations during their migration such as threat to life, family separation, and uncertainty about their daily lives and future. With the war still ongoing, vulnerabilities forced migrants experience extend across borders and concern their families and homes. Similarly, a series of earthquakes in southern Turkey in early 2023 had a dramatic impact on Syrian refugees, who experienced new challenges on top of existing vulnerabilities. These two cases illustrate the overlapping crises and struggles faced by forced migrants, including socio-economic precariousness, emotional distress, legal uncertainty and lack of support.

We invite papers that address, from different disciplinary perspectives, questions such as:

- How can vulnerability be defined and analysed in the context of forced migration?
- What are the vulnerabilities experienced by forced migrants in recent 'migration crises'?
- How do vulnerabilities change over time and space during migration journeys and in different 'migration crises' and national and socio-economic contexts?
- What coping strategies do forced migrants develop and what resources do they mobilise to cope with vulnerability?
- What role do (transnational) relational resources/social capital play in the coping strategies of forced migrants?
- How are vulnerabilities perceived and experienced by forced migrants and how (if at all) do they relate to identities and subjectivities that emerge during migration?
- In which ways has vulnerability entered policy discourses on displacement and forced migration and how has it been constituted as an object of government itself?

Please submit your abstract of max. 2,000 characters, by email to oleksandra.tarkhanova@unine.ch no later than 5 January 2024.

The language of the workshop is English.

Authors will be informed of the acceptance of their paper for presentation at the workshop by 20 January 2024.

References:

- Benezer, G. and Zetter, R. (2015) 'Searching for directions: conceptual and methodological challenges in researching refugee journeys', *Journal of Refugee Studies* 28(3): 297-318.
- Crawley, H., Düvell, F., Jones, K., McMahon, S. and Sigona, N. (2018) *Unravelling Europe's Migration Crisis: Journeys Over Land and Sea*, Bristol: Policy Press.
- Gilodi, A., Albert, I. and Nienaber, B. (2022). Vulnerability in the Context of Migration: a Critical Overview and a New Conceptual Model. *Human Arenas*. Online first: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42087-022-00288-5>.
- Lindley, A. (2014). Exploring crises and migration. Concepts and Issues. In: Lindley, A. (ed) *Crisis and Migration. Critical Perspectives*. Routledge, 1-23.
- Martin, S., Weerasinghe, S. and Taylor, A. (2014). What is crisis migration? *Forced Migration Review* 45: 5-9.
- McAdam, J. (2014). The concept of crisis migration. *Forced Migration Review* 45: 10-11.