



SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOP: THE ETHICS OF STUDYING FORCED MOBILITIES

Symposium, October 7, 2020

Workshop, October 8, 2020

Keynote speakers: Associate Professor Christina Clark-Kazak (University of Ottawa, Canada) & Professor Anna Lundberg (Linköping University, Sweden)

KEYNOTE ABSTRACTS AND BIOS:

The Ethics of Studying Forced Mobilities: Dilemmas, Lessons Learned and Future Directions

Christina Clark-Kazak, University of Ottawa, Canada

Research in contexts of forced mobilities poses particular ethical dilemmas due to precarious legal status, the criminalization and politicization of migration, as well as migrants' extreme dependence on service providers and governments. This talk highlights some of these dilemmas from a variety of research projects and contexts and draws lessons learned. Shifting the focus from procedural ethics, the presentation will highlight approaches based on reflexivity, relationships and reciprocity. It will conclude with some outstanding areas for future collaboration and action.

Christina Clark-Kazak is Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, and President of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. She has previously served as Editor-in-chief of *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, and President of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. Prior to joining the University of Ottawa, she worked for York University (2009-2017), Saint Paul University (2007-2008) and the Canadian government (1999-2007). Her research focuses on age discrimination in migration and development policy, young people's political participation, and interdisciplinary methodologies in forced migration contexts.

The Ethics of Activist Research in Times of Repressive Migration Politics: A Presentation of the Cross-border Solidarity Initiative the Asylum Commission
Anna Lundberg, Linköping University, Sweden

The point of departure for this presentation are opportunities and challenges experienced in the work of the Swedish Asylum Commission - Commission for review of legislation, law enforcement and legal security for people who applied for asylum in Sweden during the period 2015-17 (see also <https://liu.se/forskning/asylkommissionen>). The Asylum Commission was initiated by Lundberg and Vestin (Lundberg & Vestin 2019) and formed together with researchers and activists with extensive knowledge of migration, including asylum seekers' self-organised work to improve the living conditions in Sweden (e.g. people who have experience as asylum seekers, social workers, teachers, and members of NGO's and other networks in the civil society). The commission aims to initiate critical enquiries based on asylum seekers' own lived experiences and perspectives. The backdrop of the Commission is the changes in Sweden's treatment of asylum seekers in recent years and recurring testimonies in various reports depicting an increasingly difficult situation among children, adolescents, and adult asylum seekers. These testimonies concern unpredictable and humiliating decisions, homelessness, mental illness, families who cannot live together and violent deportations to countries affected by armed conflict. There is currently an urgent need for critical enquiries to gain an understanding, both of what has happened substantially with the asylum procedure and content of regulations, as well as of the effects on individuals and welfare institutions in Sweden.

Research and other activities in the Asylum Commission are inspired by participatory action research (Lisahunter et al. 2013), is carried out in collaboration between asylum seekers, researchers, professionals (e.g. social workers, teachers), the voluntary sector and civil society actors (e.g. "gode män", Vi står inte ut, Ensamkommandes förbund). Thus, one important ambition is to rely upon the expert knowledge of all participants in the commission and working within a collective of shared understandings, collective analysis and consultation on potential strategies of resistance.

With examples of the undertakings in the Asylum Commission I will discuss how cooperation between research and community work may be enabled and take form, and the implications of such an approach (Lundberg 2010). Further, I will problematise conventional research approaches that maintain binary relationships between researchers and people subjected to research and relate these to the Commission's methodological standpoints and activities. Finally, I aim to problematise elements of risk in participatory

action research including various dilemmas and challenges that we are facing in our work with the Commission.

Anna Lundberg is Professor of Welfare law at the Department of Culture and Society, Linköping University, and Associate Professor in Human rights. Her scientific interest includes socio-legal and migration studies, critical legal theory and legal geography. Lundberg has been an independent investigator for the Swedish Government to conduct an enquiry about impediments to enforcement in asylum cases. Lundberg's research has appeared in, among others, Human Rights in Practice, Refugee Survey Quarterly, International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family, Peace Review, Nordic Journal of Migration Research. At present, Lundberg is working with the Asylum Commission and in a project titled 'Advanced Legal Practices Advanced legal practices in the welfare state. A study of displacements of the right to social assistance for undocumented persons and poor EU citizens, in three Swedish municipalities'.

References: lisahunter, emerald, elke & Martin, Gregory (2013) Participatory Activist Research in the Globalised World. Social Change Through the Cultural Professions. Australia/Oceania: Springer. Lundberg, Anna (2010). Kritisk-utopisk aktionsforskning. In IMER: möjligheter och gränser: festskrift till Björn Fryklund. Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare (MIM), Malmö högskola.