

DePaul Migration Collaborative

Advocating for Justice,
Educating for the Future

Monthly Newsletter



Rob Patel speaking at 1.30.24 Monthly Meeting

WHO WE ARE: The DePaul Migration Collaborative engages scholars, practitioners, students and alumni to find solutions to society's most pressing problems in the areas of migration, mobility and human rights.

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Events

This Month with the DMC

February 20, 2024: The Central America Monitor: Groundbreaking Data on El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—the DMC is hosting a bilingual event featuring Dr. Kennedy and her colleagues. Laura Achútepe Laura Andrade is the Executive Director of the Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (IUOP) (University Institute of Public Opinion) at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador. Lisette Vasquez is the Executive Director of the Myrna Mack Foundation (Fundación Myrna Mack). Migdalia Ayesas is the Director of the National Violence Observatory (Observatorio Nacional de Violencia, ONV) of the University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security (Instituto Universitario en Democracia, Paz y Seguridad, IUDPAS) at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH). Come learn about the Central America Monitor and its focus to advance human rights, justice, security and transparency in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras through data.

RSVP: [Here](#)



Come learn about the Central America Monitor (CAM), a collaborative research project implemented by the National Autonomous University of Guatemala (UNAH), the Myrna Mack Foundation (FMM) in Guatemala, and the Central American University José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador. To advance human rights, justice, security and transparency in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, it tracks progress, setbacks and migration in seven areas. DMC featured practitioner Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy and her colleagues will share a sample of this data and contextualize it with current events in each country and how it relates to migration to the US and elsewhere.

Contact Us: migration@depaul.edu

RSVP: [40-04-0009](#)

Save the Date

April 11, 2024: Cities and Migration: Plans, Policies, and Action (All-Day)—Sign-ups will be available by the end of this month on events.dePaul.edu, DePaul, and Eventbrite. Look out for this announcement on our social media!



The DePaul Migration Collaborative hosted several networking events, including a panel discussion, a webinar, and a panel discussion. The panel discussion, titled "Cities and Migration: Plans, Policies, and Action," was held on April 11, 2024. The event featured several speakers and a Q&A session. The webinar, titled "Refugees and Migration: A Global Perspective," was held on April 12, 2024. The panel discussion, titled "The Role of Nonprofits in Migration," was held on April 13, 2024.

DMC Partner Events

February 15, 2024: Webinar & Panel Discussion: Early Childhood Development and Learning for Children Affected by Conflict and Crisis—Refugees and Migrant Education Network is hosting a webinar related to youth affected by conflict.

RSVP: [Here](#)

New DMC Opportunities

Event Assistant Student Position: The DMC is eagerly seeking a student to join our team and support us as we plan our second annual symposium. If interested in reading more and starting the application, please check out the campus job board.

Link to [Campus Job Board](#)

Call for Applications coming soon for Practitioners in Residence and Solutions Lab partners.

-[Refugees and Migration Project](#) - DePaul Migration Collaborative
- [Solutions Lab](#) - DePaul Migration Collaborative

News

DMC Hosts Panel on Chicago Response to Recent Arrivals

On Tuesday, January 30th, the DePaul Migration Collaborative (DMC) hosted a thought-provoking panel addressing the multifaceted issues surrounding recent migrants in Chicago engaging over 50 participants. The panelists included DMC Practitioners in Residence, Rob Parrel of Rob Parrel and Associates, a policy consultant and Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, a Country Conditions Expert and Social Scientist. They were accompanied by Laura Rodriguez Pressa from the Chicago Tribune, and Isaac Arredondo, Senior Director of Programs for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). The insightful conversation was moderated by Dr. Jesse Murres of DePaul's Latin American and Latin Studies Program.

Each panelist delivered a concise presentation, covering their involvement with recent arrivals. The event explored reasons migrants may flee their home countries, migrant experiences at the US-Mexico border, the journey of migrants being housed in northern cities, and the unique situation of Ukrainian refugees in the Chicago area. Tensions between migrants and host communities were also examined, especially regarding available housing and shelter. Another theme included in the discussion was the examination of current federal and state laws and responses to the migrant situation. The panel also demonstrated the indispensable role of nonprofits in responding to these challenges, providing essential advocacy, resources, and legal services. This event not only offered valuable insights into the current migration events but also fostered an open dialogue on the legal aspects, enhancing participants' understanding of the broader context.



Moderator Jesse Murres with Panelists Isaac Arredondo, Laura Rodriguez Pressa, Elizabeth Kennedy and Rob Parrel by Dominique Cressler

DMC participates in DePaul's Innovation Day

The DMC was selected to participate in DePaul University's 2024 Innovation Day Showcase. This event showcases and celebrates DePaul's efforts towards innovation for Social Good. Jill Hyeon-Rodriguez and Dominique Cressler represented the DMC and discussed the environmental impact on forced migration and how DMC programs are addressing the needs of migrants across the city. Our very own Solutions Lab Graduate Dr. Black led the panel on AI and Social Good and our steering committee members and even past interns were there sharing other work they are doing.

You can read a full recap of the event: [HESG](#).



Photo: "DMC Booth Innovation Day 2024" by Jill Hyeon-Rodriguez

Students Join PIRs through Research Assistantships

Angelique Lara is working with Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy. (Image 1)

"My interest in migration comes down to three personal connections I have: my family history, my lived experience in Latin America, and moving to Chicago amidst a massive influx of migrants. These three factors, in combination, make me feel extremely passionate about helping migrants and providing them with the resources they are not sufficiently granted. Immigrants, like every other human being, deserve empathy, asylum, and support, especially during challenging times. I look forward to supporting the DMC in upholding the values of justice, advocacy, and education."

Rosbel Garcia is working with Rob Parrel. (Image 2)

"The most rewarding part of working with the DePaul Migration Collaborative has definitely been the opportunity to pursue and help produce locally relevant research relating to immigration. Rather than simply doing immigration research in Chicago, the DMC has allowed me to do immigration research in Chicago, capitalizing upon my local context and my academic interests."



Country Conditions Expert Witness Training



The DePaul Migration Collaborative (DMC) recently organized a training session for faculty members from across the Chicago area on 1/25, led by Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy, Practitioner in Residence with the DMC. Dr. Kennedy, recognized for her expertise in the country conditions of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, comprehensively covered the role of country conditions experts and their significance in the asylum process.

The training was especially valuable for faculty who want to assist those seeking asylum but did not have knowledge of the asylum court system. Faculty attendees from DePaul, Northwestern, and UIC. Dr. Kennedy detailed how to connect with an asylum case, how to turn research into country condition reports, and what to expect when testifying in the courtroom.

This interactive session not only equipped faculty members with practical knowledge but also fostered a sense of community among the participants, reinforcing the DMC's commitment to addressing migration challenges by connecting with service opportunities.



Legality of Using Police as Border Agents

View Dr. Cindy Heredia speaks in podcast about her research on policing of borders and migrants.

[Check it out](#)



Island to Liberty: A Cuban Journey to the U.S.

DePaul professor discusses films and statistics, including post-DACA issues, plus tips for Bar with those Community for Displaced Immigrants (CDI) to share the story of the migrants experience waiting in a wait-point.

[Check it out](#)

Request PIR Elizabeth Kennedy or Rob Parrel to speak in your classrooms with this [form](#).

In Case You Missed It

Calls to Action

Volunteer with the Resurrection Project: Join at the TPOR&AC workshop! They will continue every Tues-Fri from February 26, 2024 through at least the end of April 2024. We are beginning the next phase of workshops which will give opportunities to potential applicants outside of the city shelter system. For more information or how you can get involved and help applicants register for the workshops, please see the links below.

Sign Up: [Here](#)

Contact Congress Representatives to Reject H.R. 2:688

Learn more about how H.R. 2 would welcome U.S. asylum protections [here](#) and [here](#)

Join the **Meal Me at the Mission** and DCSA in serving the Catholic Charities Tuesday Night Supper at 721 N. LaSalle St. Participants will help to prep and serve a hot meal to guests who may be experiencing homelessness or are recently arrived migrant families. Come ready for a meaningful Volunteer service experience.

March 26, 1-Day Service Immersion: Chicago Response to Migration. Deadline to apply March 1, 2024. Apply [here](#).

Migration News

Without Payments

- [DMC Grants and Services: Immigration, International, American Federation of Teachers, and Catholic Charities](#)
- [Chicago's Immigration and Migration: A Guide to the City's Immigration and Migration Services](#)
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With Payments

- [Do I Have to Come Here in Person or Send? | The New Yorker](#)
- [DACA: What's the Deal? | The New Yorker](#)



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