

DePaul Migration Collaborative

DMC

Advocating for Justice, Educating for the Future

Monthly Newsletter

Announcement: This is the last DMC Monthly Newsletter until the Fall Quarter. Thank you for your support and have a wonderful summer!

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.

If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter, please [subscribe!](#)

Events

DMC Partner Events

May 4- August 25, 2024 *Opening Passages: Photographers Respond to Chicago and Paris*, Chicago Cultural Center Exhibition Hall, 4th Floor North

Learn More: [HERE](#)

June 18, 2024 @9:30am to 11am
2024 Pre-World Refugee Day Conversation
Adler University, 17 Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60614

June 18, 2024 @12:00pm *The Power of Refugees World Refugee Day 2024 Advocacy Event* at Daley Plaza, 50 W Washington St. Chicago. IL 60602

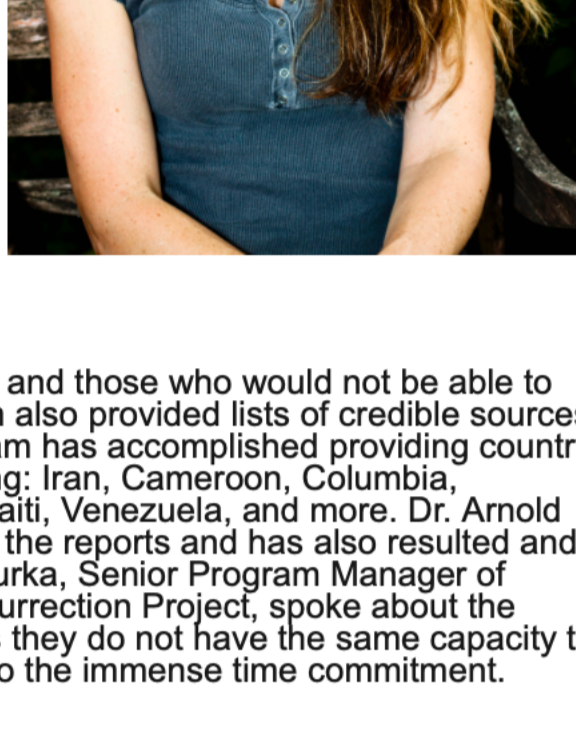
June 22, 2024 All Day *World Refugee Day Chicago 2024 Celebration* at Foster Beach Park

News

Solutions Lab Series: Dr. Arnold Speaks On the Importance of Country Conditions Reports and Shares Research Experience alongside The Resurrection Project and Students

On May 15, 2024, DMC Solutions Lab Grantee, Dr. Arnold shared the important research that her and her team of students have conducted on country conditions in partnership with the Resurrection Project. Students involved in this research include Mia Borowski, Samira Abdoulaye, and Briana Ortiz.

Dr. Arnold began by summarizing how she initially became involved with asylum cases and country conditions research. She then continued by describing her partnership with The Resurrection Project (TRP). TRP started by providing Dr. Arnold's team with a list of countries and harms they have researched to help better identify the client base. As Arnold's team constructed these reports, TRP assisted



with disseminating them to legal providers and those who would not be able to afford an expert witness. Dr. Arnold's team also provided lists of credible sources that can be used in cases. Overall, her team has accomplished providing country conditions reports for 14 countries including: Iran, Cameroon, Columbia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Haiti, Venezuela, and more. Dr. Arnold shared that their partnership goes beyond the reports and has also resulted and in students volunteering at TRP. Marina Burka, Senior Program Manager of Immigrant Justice Partnerships at the Resurrection Project, spoke about the partnership being crucial to TRP's work as they do not have the same capacity to conduct country conditions research due to the immense time commitment.

A theme that emerged during the presentation was the uniqueness of working with a student team to do country conditions research. One student provided Dr. Arnold with a reflection statement and wrote:

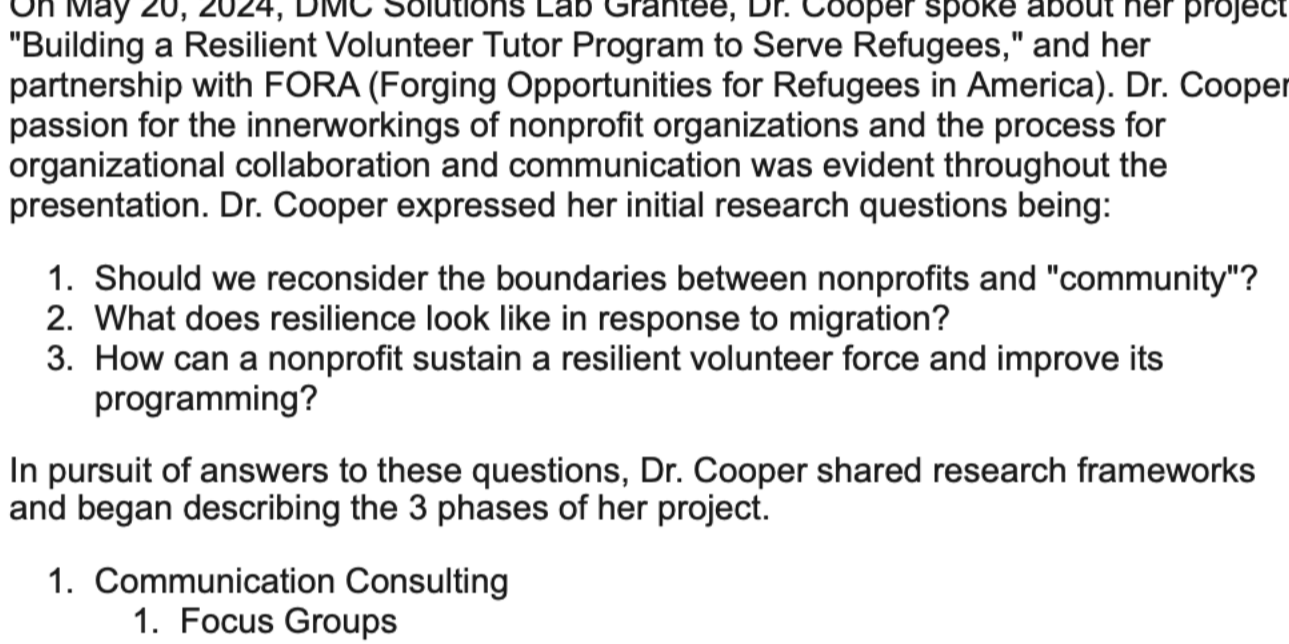
"I learned so much from doing the country conditions. Prior to this, I had no experience within immigration, how the process worked, or what was going on within the countries. I also learned how widespread the issues that are going on throughout the world are. With the criminalization of migrants that we see in the media, most people do not realize the horrors that they are going through to just get to the United States, let alone how hard it is to get inside of it."

Another student wrote:

"The research I am doing can save someone's life."

Another great DMC Solutions Lab Series Presentation!

Solutions Lab Series: Dr. Cooper Shares Consulting Work that Students Conducted with Refugee Serving Organization FORA to Strengthen Migrant Tutor Program



On May 20, 2024, DMC Solutions Lab Grantee, Dr. Cooper spoke about her project, "Building a Resilient Volunteer Tutor Program to Serve Refugees," and her partnership with FORA (Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America). Dr. Cooper passion for the innerworkings of nonprofit organizations and the process for organizational collaboration and communication was evident throughout the presentation. Dr. Cooper expressed her initial research questions being:

1. Should we reconsider the boundaries between nonprofits and "community"?
2. What does resilience look like in response to migration?
3. How can a nonprofit sustain a resilient volunteer force and improve its programming?

In pursuit of answers to these questions, Dr. Cooper shared research frameworks and began describing the 3 phases of her project.

1. Communication Consulting
 1. Focus Groups
 2. Social Media for Volunteer Outreach
 3. Identifying New Partners
2. Recruiting Volunteers
3. Remote Volunteer Pilot

In the first phase, her class, Communication Consulting, was split into three groups where FORA was their client, and they were required to submit project proposals and work with FORA to strengthen volunteer resiliency and expansion of FORA's tutoring program. From this course, emerged Dr. Cooper's 3 research assistants Tristan Balgemann, Isabelle Robichaud, and Jessica Bergman. Tristan joined the session and shared about his role in the project.

We were also joined by Michael O'Conner, co-founder, board member, and managing director at FORA who expressed the importance of the project and provided context to their volunteer programming and the needs of refugee students. The final goal of the project is to release a report that can help guide similar nonprofit organizations who are working with specific social issues.

Thank you Dr. Cooper, Michael O'Connor and Tristan for joining us and sharing about your research!



About FORA

- Established 2019
- West Ridge neighborhood, Chicago
- 40,000 yearly hours of individualized, high-dosage tutoring to 80+ refugee children

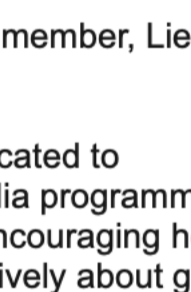


Phase 1: Audit

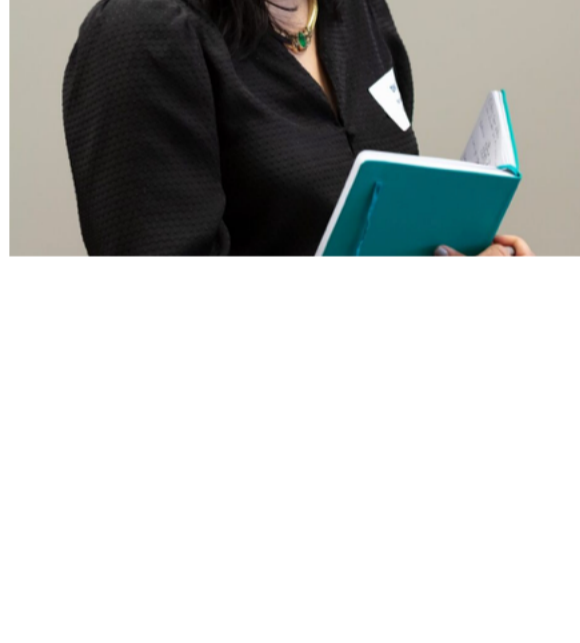
- CMNS 356 Communication Consulting
- Focus group
- Social media for volunteer outreach
- Identifying new partners

Chicago Tribune

At West Ridge tutoring center, multilingual refugees greet safe space to learn with help from college students



Team Spotlight: Lien Tran



Meet advisory council member, Lien Tran!

Professor Tran is dedicated to developing digital media programming that has impact and encouraging her students to think creatively about game design that is connected to social issues. Lien Tran is an assistant professor of games and design at DePaul University's School of Design in the Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media. She is director of Matters at Play, a transdisciplinary design lab partnering in the creation of interactive advocacy solutions for positive social transformations (particularly in the areas of social justice, public health, and the environment). As an advisory council member, Lien has written articles connected to the topic of immigration such as "[The Game of Life: Leveraging Tech for Civics Education](#)" and "[Lunar New Year Offers a Chance to Reflect on Asian American History](#)". Lien supported the DMC in its recent 2024 Symposium as a moderator for the Youth and Education Panel, but she also has supported the DMC with her valuable input. We are so happy to have her as part of our advisory council!

World Refugee Day: How Are You Celebrating?

World Refugee Day is coming up on June 20, 2024. It is a day meant to educate and raise awareness about the rights, needs, and futures of refugees. World Refugee Day began in 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#). It is also meant to celebrate the rich diversity that refugees bring into their new communities and for communities to honor refugees and acknowledge their experiences and struggles.



Learn more about the performances, picnic, soccer tournament, kids activities, and advocacy event. Come and celebrate the diverse cultures and celebrate the refugee members of our Chicago community.

WRD Chicago Information: [HERE](#)

In Case You Missed It

Migration News

Without Paywalls

[DePaul Alum Debuts 'Invisible People' Docuseries On Malaysian Refugees](#)-Block Club Chicago

[Ana: A Ukrainian Refugee's Story on the Trauma of War](#)- Borderless

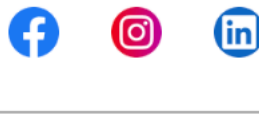
[UN refugee chief says 114 million have fled homes because nations fail to tackle causes of conflict](#)- Associated Press

[What will President Biden's executive action mean for migrants who have come to Chicago?](#)- CBS News Chicago

[NJC Denounces Latest Anti-Immigrant Policy from Biden Administration and Prepares to File Lawsuit Challenging Severe Restrictions on Right to Seek Asylum](#)- NJC

[Sudan faces imminent crisis as displaced population nears 10 million](#)- Sudan Tribune

[Hunger Hotspots report: Famine looms in Gaza while risk of starvation persists in Sudan, Haiti, Mali, and South Sudan](#)- World Food Programme



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