

DePaul Migration Collaborative

Advocating for Justice,
Educating for the Future

Monthly Newsletter

SOLUTIONS LAB



FACULTY LED

Solutions Lab grantees are DePaul faculty determined to address existing gaps in providing services to migrants during their settlement in Chicago.



NON-PROFIT PARTNERED

Solutions Lab members partner with nonprofits and work with students to conduct research and create innovative and intentional solutions to migrant issues

PRACTICAL APPROACHES

The Practitioner in Residence (PIR) invites experts on migration and human rights to collaborate, address challenges, and inform policies. The residency is 3-6 months and promotes practical action.

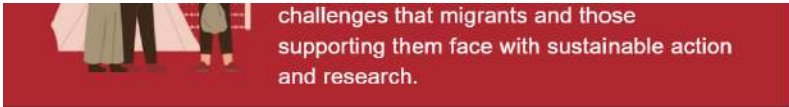


CONTEMPARY ISSUES

Practitioners address contemporary



PRACTITIONERS IN RESIDENCE



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

Cities and Migration: Plans, Policies, and Action Symposium

The DePaul Migration Collaborative's Second Annual convening brings experts, nonprofit leaders, students, scholars of migration, policy makers, and legal advisors to discuss contemporary migration issues in our *Cities and Migration: Plans, Policies, and Action Symposium*. This symposium will answer urgent and timely questions related to youth, health, law, housing, data and research, and labor with innovative solutions.

For those attending through zoom. The zoom link will be sent out closer to the date.

RSVP: [Here](#)

DePaul Migration Collaborative

Cities and Migration: Plans, Policies, and Action

DePaul Migration Collaborative, DePaul University
2nd Annual Symposium • April, 11 2024

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Save the Date

[May Solutions Lab Series](#)

Wednesday May 8, 2024 *Building Resilient Programs to Serve Refugees* with Dr. Kate Cooper

Wednesday May 15, 2024 *New Refugee Categories, New Tactics* with Dr. Kathleen Arnold

Monday May 22, 2024 *Migrants, Money, and Remittances* with Dr. Lamont Black

DMC Partner Events

April 11, 2024 @ 5:30pm to 7:30pm *Documenting Persecution and Trauma: Advancing Asylum and Human Rights through the 2022 Istanbul Protocol*

RSVP: [HERE](#)

April 12, 2024 @ 8am-4:30pm *Documenting Persecution and Trauma Workshops: Training Forensic Evaluations and Country Reports for Asylum Claims*

RSVP by April 5, 2024: [HERE](#)

April 24, 2024 @ 6:00pm *Annual Bowman Lecture in Public Service with Dr. Magdalena Rivera, President of the Illinois Migrant Council, Hybrid Event*

RSVP: [HERE](#)

New DMC Opportunities

Solutions Lab Application: [Link](#)

DePaul
Migration
Collaborative

**Last Date To Apply: April
15, 2024**

Now Accepting

Applications

**Applications open
for 2024-2025!**

**Contact us:
migration@depaul.edu**

**DMC 2024
SOLUTIONS
LAB RESEARCH
GRANT**

Established in 2023, the DMC's Solutions Lab program aims to support community-engaged research projects aimed at directly addressing key challenges facing migrants in the United States and across the



world.

The program is open to all full-time faculty members at DePaul University who have a track record of either academic or community-engaged work in the area of migration, immigration, or asylum.

Practitioner in Residence Application: [Link](#)

DePaul
Migration
Collaborative



APPLICATIONS OPEN
**PRACTITIONER IN
RESIDENCE**

Spring 2024 - 2025

The Practitioner in Residence program is created for experts and professionals working on forced migration, immigration and human rights issues. Practitioners in Residence (PiRs) will contribute to the DMCs Reframing Refugees Project, addressing key challenges facing forced migrants in the United States and across the world.



Through this project, the Practitioners in Residence will have the opportunity to engage advocates and decision-makers on social and cultural realities that drive migration, collaborate with faculty engaged in various disciplines at the intersection of migration, outline effective strategies for pursuing claims for protection in the US and develop replicable models for advancing and advocating for better representation and treatment of asylum seekers.

Last Date To Apply:
April 12, 2024

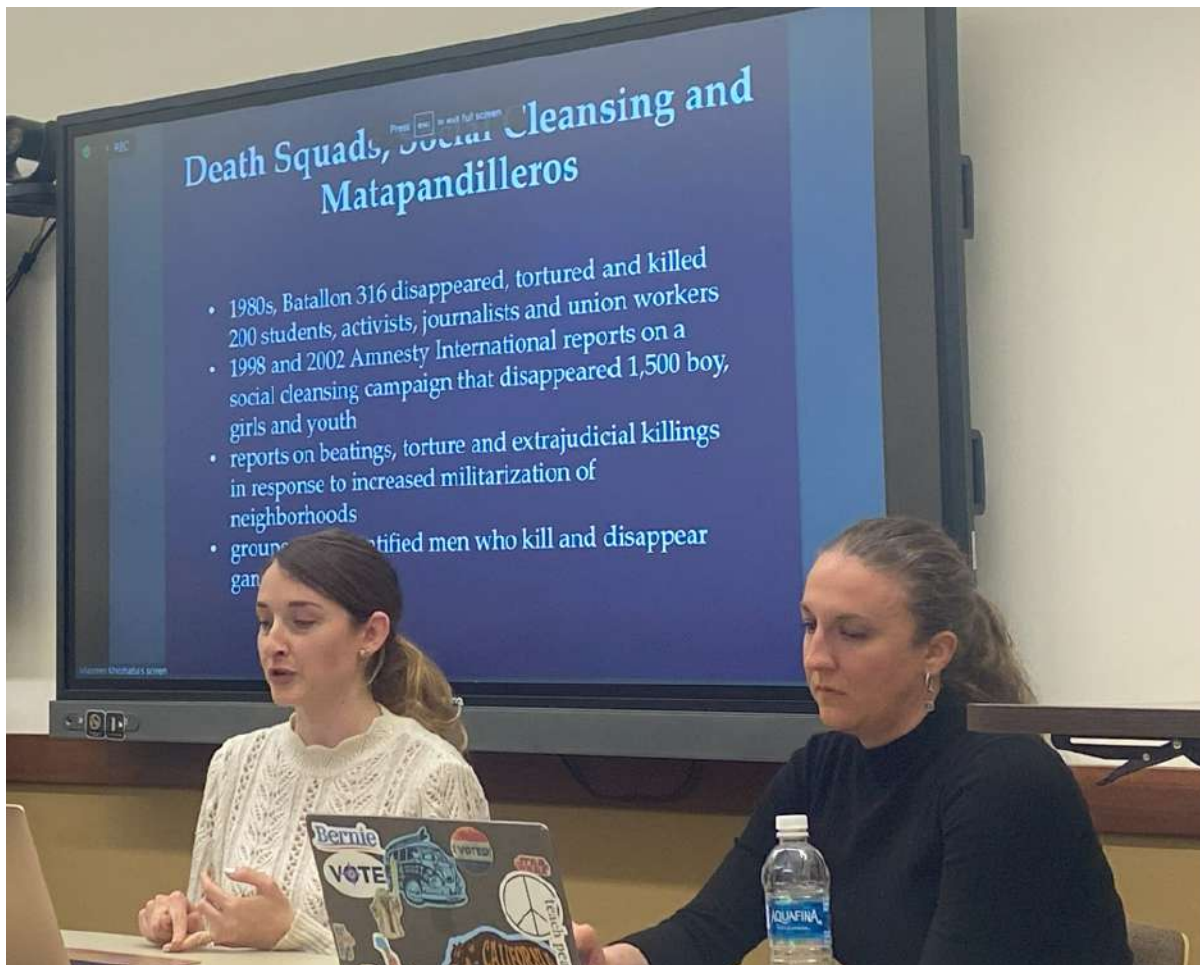
CONTACT US:

migration@depaul.edu

News

PIR Engages Over 100 Participants in Country Conditions Trainings.

Over her residency period with the DMC, Practitioner in Residence Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy gave three trainings to our CBO partners. These trainings provided participants with an understanding of country conditions in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala that give rise to asylum claims as well as directed participants to key resources to support asylum claims from these countries as well as country conditions resources and expertise more generally. We have been extremely pleased and fortunate to have DePaul Migration Collaborative Practitioner in Residence Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy share her expertise. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Senior Program Coordinator for Kids in Need of Defense Marna Shorack who attended and provided context during the Honduras training and is currently working to reunite migrant families separated under the Trump administration. These trainings engaged over 100 participants.





Dr. Kennedy and Marna Shorack presenting to CBO Partners on Honduras Country Conditions, by Dominique Cressler

Meet Our Newest Team Member, Deeksha Chitturi

Meet our newest intern who is joining the DMC to help plan and organize our 2024 Symposium. Deeksha is pursuing a Masters of Science in Marketing Analysis Graduation. She is involved with the ISEE Mentorship program as a mentor for Global DePaul. When asked what she is most excited about for the DMC Symposium, she responded,

"As an event assistant for the DePaul Migration Collaborative's Symposium this year, I'm looking forward to seeing how the symposium brings together the collective expertise of DePaul University's faculty, practitioners, and students to address critical issues surrounding migration, mobility, and human rights. I am particularly excited about the diverse range of topics that will be covered during the Symposium, from legal perspectives on asylum and immigration to social, psychological, and public health considerations related to migration and mobility. It's inspiring to see individuals from diverse fields coming together to work towards positive change"



Team Spotlight: Anuradha Rana

Anuradha Rana is an independent filmmaker, educator, mentor, and program leader who has produced and directed award-winning films internationally. Born and raised in India, her immigrant roots create the lens of a curious interloper at the heart of her films, where everyday characters push conventional boundaries. She is also serving on the DMC Advisory Council.

"As an immigrant, I've grappled with the notion of home, feeling caught between the land of my birth and the place I now call home. This struggle prompts me to question where I truly belong. As a storyteller, I seek to reconcile these two worlds, finding meaning for myself while contributing to a broader narrative that transcends borders. I am acutely aware of the privilege I hold in being able to immigrate, while countless others are denied this choice or opportunity. This dissonance drives me to use my platform to advocate for justice and equality, striving to amplify the voices of those marginalized by unjust immigration policies. Being a part of the DMC allows me to be part of community that is fostering discussions on this issue and contribute in a small way.

In DOC 380/480 Filming with Change Agents, I collaborated with students and the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI) to produce two short films supporting ICDI's mission. The process involved students meeting with ICDI representatives to understand their objectives, visiting the organization to witness their work firsthand, and engaging with staff and participants to develop film ideas. Over 11 weeks, students pitched, finalized, and executed their chosen concept, requiring dedication and commitment. I'm immensely proud of the trust built between students and participants, resulting in films created with empathy and respect for the experiences of recent immigrants and displaced individuals.

Films created in collaboration with organizations like the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI) serve a crucial role in raising awareness, fostering empathy, and amplifying the voices of marginalized and historically excluded communities. These films can be used as tools for advocacy and empowerment, and play a vital role in promoting social change, challenging stereotypes, and building a more inclusive and empathetic society."- Anuradha Rana

Steering committee member Maria Ferrera also worked on *Journey*. Check out the two films that her and her students worked on!

[Island to Liberty](#)

[Journey](#)



Photo 1: Professor Rana and students at 2024 Innovation Day by Jill Nyhof-Rodriguez, Photo 2: Clip from "Journey"

DMC Welcomes International Experts Pioneering Research in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador

Photo 1: Left to Right- Lissette Vasquez, Laura Andrade, Migdonia Ayestas and Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy. Photo 2: Audience 1. Photo 3: Audience 2.



On February 20, the DePaul Migration Collaborative hosted a panel of distinguished international researchers to discuss the work of the Central American Monitor.

The Central American Monitor is a collaborative research project spearheaded by the National Autonomous University of Honduras, the Myrna Mack Foundation in Guatemala, and the Central American University José Simeón Cañas in El Salvador. This initiative aims to track progress, setbacks, and stagnation in seven critical areas—human rights, justice, security, and transparency among them. Dr. Elizabeth Kennedy and her esteemed colleagues presented a sample of the project's data, providing attendees with nuanced insights into current events in each country and their implications for migration to the US and other destinations.

The speakers included Dr. Elizabeth G. Kennedy, a Country Conditions Expert, Social Scientist, and DMC Practitioner in Residence. Her insights provided invaluable context to the discussion. Laura Andrade, the Executive Director of the Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (IUDOP) at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador, shared critical perspectives derived from extensive social research. Lissette Vasquez, as the Executive Director of the Myrna Mack Foundation, contributed profound insights into impunity, rule of law, and human rights in the region. Lastly, Migdonia Aystas, serving as the Director of the National Violence Observatory at the University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security, offered invaluable data and analysis on criminality and violence in Honduras.

More than 70 students, staff and faculty attended the presentation. The event served as a platform for informed discourse and an example of collaborative action toward advancing human rights, justice, security, and transparency in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.



DePaul Mission and Ministry Invites PIR Rob Paral to speak with 94 Student Leaders about refuge in Chicago

This year's Common Mission social justice training, "Welcoming New Arrivals: A Teach-In," explored the current migrant situation in Chicago. Students heard stories and insights from those impacted, reflected on how the Catholic, Vincentian mission calls them to respond and learned about ways they can directly get involved to support and advocate for our new neighbors in Chicago. PIR Rob Paral opened up the discussion by framing migration and Chicago. Photo by Ronny Valasquez.



Newsline: DePaul to Resettle Refugee Student Via WelcomeCorps

DePaul joins WelcomeCorps on Campus to sponsor a refugee student.

[Read More](#)

In Case You Missed It

Calls to Action

Volunteer with the Resurrection Project- Join at the TPS/EAD workshops! They will continue every Tues-Fri from February 20, 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 on 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 Bill](#)

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

Migration News

Without Paywalls

[Supporters in Chicago rally in support of migrants ahead of city eviction deadline-CBS Chicago](#)

[Tensions flare between Chicago and White House over migrant crisis-CNN](#)

[ICE agents will start wearing body cameras in five U.S. cities-NBC News](#)

[USCIS Streamlines Process for Refugee Employment Authorization Documents- USCIS](#)

[Migrants report reusing soiled diapers on babies amid essential goods shortages in Chicago shelters- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Statement Signed by 130 NGOs to Congressional Leadership: Do Not Expand Funding for Immigration Detention in the FY24 Spending Bill- NIJC](#)

With Paywalls

[Asylum in America, by the Numbers- The New York Times](#)

[Biden Opens a New Back Door on Immigration-New York Times](#)

[Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson says limited migrant shelter evictions to start- Chicago Tribune](#)





Contact Us: migration@depaul.edu

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