**RRN Webinar: Social Media Tools for Mobilizing Knowledge Transcript**

**Dina Taha**: Hello, and welcome, and without any further ado, please let me introduce to you our first speaker, the mastermind behind the Refugee Research Network, Susan McGrath, to give us a quick overview of the Refugee Research Network and what inspired this webinar series and she will be introducing our next speakers Michele and William.

**Dina Taha**: Professor Susan McGrath is Professor Emerita and senior scholar at the School of Social Work York University. She served as a director of the Center for Refugee Studies from 2004 to 2012. She's the past president of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration and a founding member of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. Professor McGrath was awarded the 2015 SSHRC partnership Impact Award for forging innovative interdisciplinary, equitable and cross sector partnership. In 2014 was invested into the Order of Canada in recognition of her outstanding achievement in research and policy and refugee rights. And of course she's the founder and the moving force behind the Refugee Research Network. Susan, it's a pleasure to be with you today and over to you.

**Susan McGrath:** Thanks very much Dina. Thanks to you and all our team that has put together this webinar. We're very excited, we want to welcome you to this first in a series of webinars on refugee research, and the focus will not be just on what the knowledge is being generated but how do we mobilize it.

**Susan McGrath:** About the tools and strategies that can help reach researchers and optimize the dissemination of their research findings. This was an initiative of the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, known as the Refugee Research Network. Refugee Research Network, it's a global network of academics, practitioners and policymakers.

**Susan McGrath:** Built around relationships and relationships among refugee research centers across the global north and south.

**Susan McGrath:** And they were in Bogota, Cairo, Chicago, Johannesburg, Kampala, Kolkata London, Melbourne, Oxford, Sydney, Tehran, Toronto, and Washington. And we have sought to generate and disseminate knowledge that improves the well being of refugees, but also is accessible to multiple audiences.

**Susan McGrath:** At our last formal meetings in 2015 we continue to meet at the biennial conferences of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration.

**Susan McGrath:** Which was to meet in Ghana over this past July is likely to be a virtual meeting next year. So hopefully many of you will join us wherever that will be. You can check the IASFM website.

**Susan McGrath:** My colleague, Julie Young, who's the Canada Research Chair at the University of Lethbridge and I have published and edited a collection that seeks to capture and reflect on how we at the RRN try to build these networks for knowledge production and mobilization.

**Susan McGrath:** And what we were able to accomplish together, as well as the challenges in trying to build silos.

**Susan McGrath**: Bridging across silos sectors regions and engaging across the global south and north tensions.

**Susan McGrath:** We've been profoundly aware of the differences and capacity among researchers and research centers around the globe.

**Susan McGrath:** We recognize and share concerns about the politics of knowledge production in forced migration context.

**Susan McGrath**: We’re aware that while 85% of the refugees are located in what we call the global south, 85% of the research on refugee issues comes from the global north, and a chapter in the book by Loren Landau speaks to the challenges faced by researchers in the global south.

**Susan McGrath:** The book was published by the University of Calgary press. I highly recommend them. It is free, open access, you can download the entire PDF version of the book, or you can download chapters - that link is being posted.

**Susan McGrath:** The RRN was given a partnership award by SSHRC in 2015 and we've been using these funds to develop and promote the knowledge mobilization capacity of refugee researchers.

**Susan McGrath:** An example is the refugee research digest, which is published bi-weekly. It provides a summary of current research and links to the communications of interest to people who are concerned about refugee issues. And again, you'll see a link to this at the end of the presentations.

**Susan McGrath:** This series of webinars is part of our ongoing commitment to knowledge mobilization and our first session today draws on a chapter from a book written by William Payne and Michele Millard on the use of social media by the RRN.

**Susan McGrath:** Any questions? I will introduce Michele and William.

**Susan McGrath:** Okay. I’m pleased to introduce Michele and William. Michele Millard has served as the coordinator for the Center for Refugee Studies at York since 2004. She was a project coordinator of the network in which she set up and managed all of the online networking, the knowledge mobilization and the dissemination activities of the entire project.

**Susan McGrath:** She has volunteered for organizations that provide refugee settlement protection and advocacy Services. That includes being past president of the board of Sojourn House on the executive committee of the Canadian Council for Refugees and the Community Council Salvation Army's Immigrant and Refugee services.

**Susan McGrath:** William Payne is a doctoral candidate in critical human geography at York University and a graduate research associate at the Center for Refugee Studies. He teaches in the geography department at York and in the community worker program at George Brown College. He is a former research assistant with the RRN where he was responsible for our bi-weekly digest and he supported the network on different social media platforms. I’m pleased to introduce today and look forward to the conversation.

**Michele Millard:** Today, William Payne and I will talk a little bit about social media tools for translating and mobilizing research.

**Michele Millard:** What we are going to do, I mean, we'll talk about it, but will also talk about some of the issues that have arisen in working with social media.

**Michele Millard:** Basically what we're going to cover is a brief description of the networks and virtual world and how research is being disseminated. The good, the bad, and the ugly of uncomfortable research.

**Michele Millard:** And what's the problem or is there a problem and actually should we even ask this question – so this is the big question.

**Michele Millard:** I mean, one of the principal impacts of the RRN, the knowledge to make it more accessible globally through supporting the development of networks globally.

**Michele Millard:** As well as setting up an active social media presence, through its website Facebook group Twitter and YouTube channel.

**Michele Millard:** At the end of the day, though, we must ask the question has the production and dissemination of refugee research improved the situation of refugees globally, not just out of the RRN.

**Michele Millard:** In general, I think all of us will probably say no. No it has not.

**Michele Millard**: But, nevertheless, I mean the accomplishments of the RRN have been very impressive over the last 12 years now and as Susan has mentioned the spread is global of the project itself. However, aside from the RRN, there are many more networks out there now and working very effectively. And I'm just going to show you very quick examples. Hopefully these links will work.

**Michele Millard:** So this is just an example of the RRN website and what we primarily do right now is we publish our bi-weekly research digests.

**Michele Millard**: And then we have children, so after the end of the RRN Carleton developed the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network, which is connected to the RRN, and it's mostly around policy, I would think, but they have a very effective website and social media presence.

**Michele Millard:** And of course, there are academic associations, such as the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration.

**Michele Millard:** I'm going to plug the next conference, which will be next July. We're not quite sure whether it's virtual or face-to-face. But, we'll keep everyone posted. And then, as an example of the effectiveness of our global south partners, there's a very strong presence in social media by research groups like the Calcutta Research Group.

**Michele Millard:** The end result of all of this kind of work that's been done over the last little while has been a creation of a web of networks each entity has its own individual expertise programs, research production outreach activities, and connections and networks, but together we think that they can produce the kind of synergy that has the potential obviously to be more than the sum of its parts.

**Michele Millard**: Research institutions are engaged in producing research, training scholars in disseminating the results of their work as widely as they can, some are better than others in engaging with governments and policymakers.

**Michele Millard:** Membership driven academic and non academic associations primarily focus on fostering networks and research knowledge dissemination.

**Michele Millard**: Through meetings and conferences, sometimes through their own publications. Civil society organizations will also use research to support their advocacy and program development. Social media tools used by networks such as the RRN are now standard practice across the board and very effectively used. It's evident that significant research is being produced on refugee and forced migration issues.

**Michele Millard:** It's also evident that the virtual world is well suited to disseminate and raise the profile of non-academic forms of knowledge.

**Michele Millard:** So there’s a resource page we’ll make available, just so you can get a sense - this is sort of a quick picture sense of, networks institutions and their social media presence and also examples of different dissemination formats. So you might find this useful to look at just to see the scope of activity and also the different kinds of approaches that are being used.

**Michele Millard:** So again, going in a little bit more depth, how research is being disseminated, as we said, it's the big four usually, it's also Instagram and all the other platforms as well

**Michele Millard:** I'm just going to use the RRN Facebook group as an example. There's a lot of engagement that happens. We're going to pull some stats for you.

**Michele Millard:** So you can see for example with the RRN Facebook group we have 46,000 people on it and it's very active. This is just in the last 28 days or so - at any given time about 22,000 members or 23,000 members are active.

**Michele Millard:** And you know the engagement levels are quite high. I just wanted to show you the top posts in the last 28 days are quite interesting, the posts that engage people are ones that simulate discussion.

**Michele Millard:** Requests for assistance if somebody is pulling together some free programs to be involved with. Those kinds of things people are responsive to a lot. I just wanted to point out this one here.

**Michele Millard:** This post was very interesting. It was a very innocuous post about somebody recruiting for interns. All I did in the comments was say something like, oh, it would be so nice if these people were paid and boom, the whole conversation kind of exploded.

**Michele Millard:** Clearly the interest and demand is there. And so I think it just illustrates actually quite nicely in terms of, immediate engagement and developing a sense of community of like-minded folks. Social media actually is really one of the best places to do it. Aside from the face to face, of course, there was always stuff around face to face, that can't be reproduced

**Michele Millard:** What we've observed, basically, is that there are a lot of people who care about refugees. There's a lot of good research out there.

**Michele Millard:** With curated credible and accessible sources of information for researchers, refugees, policymakers and advocates can be provided relatively easy.

**Michele Millard:** Non-academic forms of knowledge have a place in the research ecology. People are helpful to each other. Something to note is, I think, is the importance of curation. Also acknowledging the ecosystem of knowledge production and the interrelationship between academic research, websites, social media outreach use of different formats such a short videos recordings, talks, webinars and summaries.

**Michele Millard:** Different platforms such as Doodly, film performance visual arts, news articles, grassroots reports, and refugee voices both witnessing and creating their own research and content.

**Michele Millard**: I think also important, and we don't always pay that much attention to it is the realization of how artistic practice, such as poetry, painting, film video music and so on can be an activity of witnessing and testimony as well as a synthesis of the knowledge coming out of an academic environment.

**Michele Millard:** You know what's problematic is that, and we're going to be discussing this in a bit more detail later. Is the realization that for all the research that's out there and it's good research, governments and decision makers seem very happy to throw money at it, but then they ignore it.

**Michele Millard:** In terms of policy and practice. We also recognize that the fact that, goldfish attention spans are now longer than humans, and I've seen that quite a bit on the Internet.

**Michele Millard**: And then the other issue is resource interest and capacity issues for research communications are issues for academics.

**Michele Millard:** You know, constantly having to learn new platforms, constantly having to think about different ways to communicate or talk about your research outside of the traditional academic formats of journal articles, conference presentations and books.

**Michele Millard:** So, the ugly part. Obviously we are all aware of trolls. One thing around curation is that the curator or curators come across a lot of stuff that is exhausting and also if you're encouraging online engagement making judgment calls about what is a productive conversation and what actually is a bad faith conversation, it's an interesting challenge and how to deal with that.

**Michele Millard:** In the actual narratives themselves, confronting the hierarchy of suffering, different traumatized groups will tend to see their own suffering.

**Michele Millard:** People will also look in historical suffering and it's often used to negate the current story being told. And then also, the issue around impact of research, again, despite the amount of research that's out there, things do seem to be getting worse. I mean this is just this story from The Guardian about a family who few days ago drowned while trying to cross the border, the channel. There are all kinds of stories that are happening.

**Michele Millard:** The outcomes of policies around the Safe Third Country Agreement in Canada, the incarceration of asylum seekers in the US and the refoulement.

**Michele Millard:** So the thing to keep in mind when working with social media is that, if I can pull out the data of our social media posts and the ones that get the most reactions obviously are the strong narratives of, either the heroic refugee who manages to overcome their difficulties or some shocking kind of development that is happening as a result of government policies. So, these are emotional triggers.

**Michele Millard:** I don't know that it's good or bad. I would respond to that in a fairly neutral way. Just understand that that is the lens that people see their information through in the social media context. And if you are going to engage in social media communication, it does require different ways of thinking about research dissemination.

**Michele Millard:** And I'm going to use this example. This was created by Dina Taha, our graduate research fellow, and we were experimenting with Doodly, which is an online platform for short animated video creations and we were wondering what it would look like for academic research. So this is a two-minute video, I'm going to play it and hopefully everyone will be able to hear it.

**Michele Millard:** So that was an example of using Doodly. You create the content on the Doodly platform. And then you throw it up on YouTube. I played around with it myself. It took me an afternoon and of course the first thing I created was a cat video tools like this where you radically condense down the research and focus on the visual communication aspects of it I think can be quite useful when you're reaching out to non academic audiences.

**Michele Millard:** The other kinds of formats that we've used for disseminating research Is our research digests like this. Very useful.

**Michele Millard:** And we've also created research summaries. And again, we're not the only people who do this obviously. This seems to be becoming much more of a standard practice to create one page summaries in plain language.

**Michele Millard:** And then I also wanted to bring your attention to something, one of our faculty members at CRS did. She created an online academic archive using Scalar and it's just, again, a different way of presenting information. So it's highly visual and it obviously links into archived newspaper articles and audio records as well.

**Michele Millard:** And of course, we have our standard academic publications and this just gives you an example, a non comprehensive example, how many academic publications that are out there that deal with some form of migration or forced migration.

**Michele Millard:** However, and, you know, we came up with a – but.

**Michele Millard:** How do researchers engage with the political nature of refugee policy with its current performances of exclusionary and violent policies aimed at deterrence and punishment, rather than protection?

**Michele Millard:** And which refuses to engage in any meaningful way with the root causes and many receiving states, historical, political and economic complicity in generating these refugee movements.

**Michele Millard:** Aside from issues of impact, what are the ethical implications of seeking closer ties to policy and decision making entities.

**Michele Millard:** As I was doing this presentation and this morning I just came across this article, which was basically saying a lot of what I've been thinking about for quite some time. This is a recent article published on Open Democracy by Maurice Stierl, and basically he is critiquing how much research is being impacted by the geo political conceptualization of migration, for example.

**Michele Millard:** policy relevant research is being subsumed under governments and international organizations different definitions of policy categories definitions assumptions and needs.

**Michele Millard:** And the Canadian context, the case in point is the Canadian NGO communities’ use of the government's term inventory to describe refugees.

**Michele Millard:** The article questions the win-win framing of engagement between researchers and policymakers where policymakers profit from rigorously produced evidence and researchers profit by having their work considered relevant in the real world.

**Michele Millard:** And gaining access to the realms of policymaking and government greater funding opportunities and fast growing research output and leadership. Even so, an end result may be research framed by geopolitics, but it is still nevertheless ignored because the results are politically unpalatable, as they require addressing fundamental issues resulting in comprehensive changes in relations to people, the environment and identity.

**Michele Millard:** And at this point, I am going to turn over the presentation to William who will discuss a few of the issues that we've been raising particularly the funding and disregarding problem. And also, more thinking about knowledge mobilization.

**William Payne:** so Michele's gone over kind of the current state of the research. I wanted to highlight this article also that was entitled fund but disregard where UN seemed to fund extensive academic research with the potential to inform humane and effective border policies, but the actual practice is that there is increased repressive border regimes that undermine what could be evidence based immigration policy.

**William Payne:** So this article speaks to the inability of critical academics to influence policy making in the field of mobility governance in the EU, despite the financing. So this really a context of disregard of the expert knowledge and so policies, policymakers and politicians push forever more exclusionary and violent policies in dealing with asylum seekers.

**William Payne:** And various types of migrants and so we need to recognize that these anti migrant policymakers have their own ecology of knowledge that they are drawing on to substantiate their actions, even as they are funding the research that's happening. And so this really brings us to an ethical situation where we need to consider the complacency involved in accepting government funding for research without guarantees that the findings will be used. So I'm going to give an example now on the next slide of a specific experience I had.

**William Payne:** So this example has to do with a research project that I was part of as a research assistant at the Center for Refugees Studies. And so this is from my own experience where I think that this example illustrates the dilemma about impact that has to do with assessing the state of private refugee sponsorship in Canada, a few years ago. So as I said I was hired as a summer GA by Dr. Jennifer Hyndman to help with this project and we produced two Documents.

**William Payne:** One was a policy brief entitled “The state of private refugee sponsorship in Canada transitions and impacts” and the other one was a publication for forced migration review that gave an overview of the private refugee sponsorship.

**William Payne:** Practice and programming in Canada and the policy brief itself gave several recommendations to government when it was published at the beginning of 2017.

**William Payne:** And I just want to highlight a couple of them in face of global shrinking of the category of refugees over the past decade. The world is closing its doors to refugees. And so Canada should maybe take a lead to reverse that trend. That was one of the recommendations of the report.

**William Payne:** And also we highlighted the need for changes in policy and management regarding the long wait times for private sponsored refugee applicants, especially those from capped visa posts.

**William Payne:** And we saw those as urgent and named that we also recommended the doubling of the sponsorship through the World University Service Canada sponsorship program and we noted the contradictions in which the numbers of people sponsored as PS ours was surpassing

**William Payne:** The numbers of government assistant refugees in Canada that was really an aberration of additionality the CSR program was really supposed to add to not replace government sponsorship.

**William Payne:** We also noted that there was a limit on that, that the limits on the numbers of Privately sponsored refugees should be removed because it really undermined the actions of civil society and we called for the expansion of the use of prime facia refugee status as had been happening for a Syrian private resettlement at the time, there were some other specific recommendations.

**William Payne:** But what I want to point out is that by and large, there's been very little movement on these items that we were trying to highlight through these publications. But what did happen. And what I want to highlight here is that then we started receiving emails and they weren't emails from policymakers, who were interested in the ideas we were thinking about, they were from people in dire situations and forced migration situations that were reaching out because our contact information as you can see on the slide was available in the publication. So these publications, especially the one from FM were communicated through

our knowledge of knowledge mobilization. So we use those tools to make them available and worked with this migration review, who also does a very good job of this.

**William Payne:** And so our contact information was out there and I started to notice over the early part of 2017 we're getting emails from people in a dire situation, something I had not personally anticipated.

**William Payne:** I remember that in about 2000 in about July of 2017 I decided to respond to one. And I want to just read a little bit from that email that we received was sent to the three authors of this publication and I'm going to skip the person's name, but my name is x and I'm from Venezuela, I'm 30 years old. I found your email by looking help online to apply as refugees. Everybody knows the situation in my country, so my husband and me are looking for a better life.

**William Payne:** We're still young and just married. So we want to have access to work food as a normal life because we don't feel safe in this country, we're not able to buy food. I have been without a job for more than seven months.

**William Payne:** Because the company is not able to pay. So, the situation is hard in here.

**William Payne:** And the email goes on and this person identifies that they'd actually been in Canada as a student at one point.

**William Payne:** So this kind of caught my attention because they had been a student at George Brown College where I work so I responded and I also was in touch with my co-authors about this and one of the CO authors Shauna responded to me that she receives dozens of these sorts of emails every day, and that was when I started to become aware that this is a situation that our work, our presence out there doing academic work or other kinds of work puts us out there and maybe creates a kind of a sense of false hope.

**William Payne:** And we had a back and forth between the three of us on how we could respond. And really, I would say that to some extent. It was an unsatisfying experience.

**William Payne:** But these emails have kept coming. And so in 2017 I say started saving them. So I've saved them from 2017 I think there were more but than I started being more careful and I have 18 different emails and they're very detailed about people's situation.

**William Payne:** And then I actually received 26 of these kinds of requests and they're ones that we can link back to this 2017 publication, because they're sent to the three of us. And so this is the only place where the three of our names are and then in 2020 there have been already 17 emails.

**William Payne:** And so just in the last few months we've heard from Jonathan in Panama was originally from Nicaragua from Didier who's originally from Cote d'Ivoire, who's in Togo, Jose, who's a Venezuelan in another country in South America. Noor who's Syrian in Lebanon Carlos who’s Venezuelan in Peru Ali, who’s Syrian and still in Syria, trying to get out, Ahmad who’s in Turkey but originally from Syria. Abdullah who's Yemeni who's in Malaysia and so on. I could keep going, but I think you get the point that this is a situation that really kind of underlines the ethical dilemma. So I'm going to go to the next slide.

**William Payne:** And I'm going to wrap up now, just because of time. I want to leave the rest of the time for discussion.

**William Payne:** But we have a situation here where we have a proliferation of research and dissemination, but we have this ethical dilemma of what's happening with it, especially for the research community and so on the next slide we talk about the definition of knowledge mobilization. So I'd like to kind of call us back to this definition and to think about what this definition does for us.

**William Payne:** In terms of reconsidering what the purpose of knowledge mobilization is and the ways in which power is supposed to manifest in a good knowledge mobilization system and maybe reconsider how we're doing things to improve on what we are doing and to address kind of the ethical dilemma of having our work kind of maybe create false expectations on one hand, and not particularly impact the policy of politicians who are making the decisions on the other.

**William Payne:** And maybe with the last slide I'll wrap up. There's so this one really unpacks some of the ways that knowledge mobilization can be evaluated, so that we can reconsider what we are doing in terms of the use of social media and other tools of knowledge mobilization to examine whether we're reaching who we want to reach.

**William Payne:** Whether our knowledge mobilization is really addressing the needs that are out there that we are using knowledge mobilization and social media tools to really engender the relationships that are needed to really bring about change. And I would say that this to some extent, has to do with policymakers and politicians, but also with civil society and more in the frame of activist scholarship in order to really promote going beyond that.

**William Payne:** And finally, thinking doing an examination of the results to make sure that the incremental advances that are being made are sufficient given the suffering that we're really documenting often with the research that we do. Where do we go from here and maybe that's a good one to put up as we move into the discussion we have some ideas here, but really I think we can shift to the discussion here as well.

**Dina Taha:** Yes, absolutely wonderful discussion and obviously there's so much to talk about.

**Dina Taha**: Thank you Michele and Will for walking us through the good, the bad, and the ugly of social media and inviting people, academics specifically to walk out of traditional modes of communication to access new and important audience that are not usually accessed through academia and we do have a few questions actually coming.

**Q & A**

**Question:** Do you think things are indeed getting worse? Or are things receiving more coverage, giving it the perspective of becoming worse. Also, how do you feel about Facebook and other related social media enterprises tracking the knowledge being posted and engaged?

**Michele Millard:** I can address the Facebook issue. I mean, we can’t take responsibility for all the content that comes through Facebook but groups like the Refugee Research Network Facebook group or, the Migration Policy group or I mean these are safe spaces that. Basically people self select for and I do notice that the more successful groups are the ones where people are respectful with each other, but also the content that gets posted on there is reasonably credible. You know, obviously sometimes, questionable things do get through. But I have to say the community’s right on top of it because the community who self select into these groups, they are familiar enough with what's going on that they can figure out what doesn't seem right.

**William Payne:** Michele and I actually did have a discussion about whether we think things are actually getting worse and we kind of came to the conclusion that they are, that the restrictions that, especially in the context of COVID are increasing. It's not just that we're more aware of the situation, but they really are getting worse and so on that, I would say. And I also want to recognize that and we didn't include it in this talk there are other examples of nefarious use social media to really hard do harm and one of the examples that came up in our prior discussions was the situation of the Rohingya and the use of Facebook to really promote the attacks against Rohingya in that situation.

**Question:** Yes people respond emotionally to refugee issues, but as researchers, do we not have the responsibility not to be biased when governments are legitimately controlling their borders for security purposes and fear of overpopulation.

**Michele Millard:** Yeah, it's not the research that I'm arguing that. It's how you communicate about the research and I think it's a fallacy to think that you're not coming to it from a point of view, right, or an emotional response to the suffering of people it's thinking about how that, work can get communicated to audiences beyond the academic. Because I think, quite frankly, knowledge mobilization activities are important for certain kinds of engaged or activist research because the target is probably civil society first. Before going to the governments and policymakers, because in the current political context, politicians are going to do things that they think are safe, that will get themselves re-elected and unless there's push from the grassroots or push from the general community, they will not respond in a more generous way. I think by creating communities of support for refugee issues where the foundation is good evidence based research, but the messaging may be much more concrete and a little bit more tied to emotional reactions. This can provide more opportunities for those empowered to raise rather than lower the bar of refugee protection.

**William Payne:** I maybe I would just add in responding to the question is that I think there is actually a lot of work as a geographer at unpacking what borders really are as a tool of the state and whether the really the most appropriate tool to bring about security to address kind of the, people's fears of overpopulation, whether there are better ways that are more equitable that are not rooted in a kind of discrimination and marginalization, than borders themselves. So I think that what I would respond to. It's really kind of not a discussion about the use of social media, but really the kind of research we do can create new imaginaries, I think, in conversation with people, including border crossers who clearly don't think that the purpose of borders as a tool for government is the most important way to see a border when I'm trying to find security for myself, I guess, human security. So I just add that in. Wonderful.

**Question:** Even though we were talking about non-traditional platforms for disseminating research. Do the panelists have any thoughts on whether refugee research is better being disseminated in specialist journals on the topic or would we be better trying to have the issues, published in other more generic journals? Shouldn't we try to mainstream the field of studies?

**William Payne:** So I'll answer briefly and then Michele, you might have thoughts but I would agree with you entirely. I think that mainstreaming the field of studies is for me really useful. I personally come from it from kind of an activist scholar point of view that the purpose is not to create silos of knowledge, but really it's about I think for most of us in this area, kind of doing this kind of research we've entered to really because we want to use research to have an impact on the lived experience of people facing forced migration and refugee situation. So I would say any way we can do that. And certainly starting by what you're calling mainstreaming is a good way to go. And I would say other knowledge mobilization gives us a whole suite of other ways to imagine routes to impact.

**Michele Millard:** Yeah, I'm pretty much in agreement with William and I think the more inclusively you think about the research, the better. I mean, I think specialized journals or a specialized publications are very helpful in that you know their peer reviewed and you know there's quality control around there. At the end of the day, pieces are kind of bolstered by this stringent review process. But then I just think, you don't stop there, right, especially, in the context of refugee and forced migration, because essentially, there's a huge ethical component to doing the research. To begin with, you are looking at trauma, you are looking at suffering, you're studying all kinds of violations and even when you're studying resilience, it's in the context of trauma and violation. And you don't just stop with academic publications and I think and not every academic or every scholar is suited for this and you shouldn't be pushed to do things. You're not suited for. But if you're only publishing in academic journals, you're only talking to a very, very small group of people. In the context of refugee studies, I think, I just don't think that's enough.

**Question:** How do you strike a balance between positive engagement on social media and recreating emotional fatigue saturation numbness of the recipient?

**Michele Millard:** Susan is a very good expert in that. And both of us used to work with the Center for Victims of Torture. So there’s quite a lot of literature around that. I mean, these are all kind of I guess self-management skills. Yeah, you're looking at, you're looking at a lot of bad, bad things, but it's not the only thing in the world. So you have to always be aware of that. And also just the fact that you're doing this kind of research, I think, is a form of resistance. I mean, clearly, you're not doing it to support what's happening. You're, creating this kind of research as a way to explain what's happening and come up with solutions, how to stop it from happening. So I think taking comfort in that, it is very, very helpful and also getting involved with like minded individuals, creating your own communities or larger ones. I find whenever we go back, if we ever go back to face to face conferences, the kind of networking and collegiality that takes place in those events are really helpful for people and it's just part of, you know, the awfulness of it. It is only part of the continuum.

**William Payne:** Basically that the analysis of our social media presence and of our knowledge mobilization work needs to identify what this balance is because I agree with Nadine, that if it's mostly producing fatigue saturation and numbness, we have to change something.

**Dina Taha:** A quick update before we wrap up the upcoming webinars already confirmed on November 25 with Professor Christina Clark Kazak who is going to talk to us about ethics of care and what it means in the knowledge mobilization and forced migration context.

**Dina Taha:** And if you want to stay in touch, feel free to. We encourage you to sign up to our mailing list and our social media. Irina probably shared them by now, and we encourage you to share with us any work that you produce to include in our refugee digest, which is a bi-weekly digest that Susan talked about.

**Dina Taha:** And once again, I want to thank all our guests and our speakers and at the amazing questions that we received. I truly had a wonderful time. And until we see you again next time, have a wonderful weekend.