

Research Methods for the Study of Refugee Resettlement

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This study tries to integrate different methods for research on refugee resettlement, which denotes the scholarship that intends to compare specific issues in two or more contexts and societies under their diverse socio-cultural settings. The study aims to represent a holistic picture that allows a greater understanding of refugee resettlement and proposes developing a more appropriate and holistic research methodology for refugee studies to do research in state and public administration. Researching the refugee problem has various distinctive noticeable difficulties that scholars must deal with; it also provides a diverse alternative for each stage to pilot the research process. The paper discusses the correlations amid the methodological problems and clarifies the critical decisions that are considered when researching the refugee problem.

Keywords: *research, refugee resettlement, history, comparative study, case study, law and security*

Introduction

The world has experienced a huge flow of human migration and displaced people since World War II. The typical mobility of humans is contingent on the persons' race and rank that contain the economic ability and their choices as well as the admissibility of a country. However, it is different when people have fled due to persecution and/or fear of persecution from their motherland and face the challenges of legal migrants when no one is ready to recognise them as members of their polity that could support them to take a legal flight. The contemporary refugee crisis now appears a global problem. Their resettlement gains attention among the political leaders and international aid agencies for their rights and opportunities, which can support them for a peaceful life. Meanwhile, the number of refugees and displaced people has increased significantly because of climate change, food crises and civil wars in different parts of the world.

As per the latest update from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the total volume of displaced people is 79.5 million at the end of 2019; 26, 45.7 and 4.2 million are refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers, respectively,

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due to persecution, war and conflict and violations of human rights. Only thirty per cent of them are under the mandate of the UNHCR.² As reports showed in 2019, about seventy per cent of the global refugees are coming from the following five nations: Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. It is reported that the most significant part of the refugees (3.7 million) is hosted by Turkey, Pakistan, Germany and Uganda, respectively 1.4, 1.06 and 1.2 million. In contrast, the fourth leading refugee group (1.1 million) from Myanmar is currently hosted by Bangladesh in the world's largest refugee camps. The refugee problem has become a subtle topic in many countries when the countries that cause refugee problems are alleged to be fanatical to a minority on race, religion or language. Refugees face a looming plethora of violations and vulnerabilities that eventually end in a disaster. They have become burdens from socio-political, economic and environmental aspects. The present study focuses on the relationship among the different research methods to design the refugee resettlement research in social science.

The study examines different research methods to configure a footprint of research on refugee resettlement to deal with humanitarian agencies and other state and non-state actors. It endeavours to represent diverse methods in social science research for refugee resettlement. The study also indicates an appropriate research methodology on refugee resettlement considering their socio-cultural settings, political ecology and respect to the existing international and domestic laws. The research is solely based on secondary sources of data and comprised both the primary and secondary studies on research on refugees and other migrants. The research findings indicate a standard guideline to research on refugee resettlement in different political spectrums and reveal the externalities that the scholars have to bear in mind during research on refugee resettlement. It also tries to highlight the trade-off between the researchers and their research environment to focus on the research goals and achieve satisfactory outputs. The review is helpful to reveal the harmonised ideas of individuals for refugee resettlement who synchronised their movements to fabricate services on refugee resettlement.

To keep the objectives and goals in mind, the author suggests various research approaches. It also recommends combining them suitable for respective study when a different system in social science allows us to find a way to gain a broad understanding of diverse facets, narratives and figures of a research problem. The scholarship warrants the results are affected by neither a single methodology nor the dissimilarity resulting from the character of the methodology, other than a result of underlying factors.³ The study concludes by a claim to cover and manage multidimensional data through research that could perhaps improve the refugee lives and the incentives necessary for refugee resettlement in the future.

² UNHCR, 'Figures at a Glance', 2020.

³ R Burke Johnson, Anthony J Onwuegbuzie and Lisa A Turner, 'Toward a Definition of Mixed Methods Research', *Journal of Mixed Methods Research* 1, no 2 (2007), 112–133.

Conceptual framework – Developing a comparative framework

The study intends to operationalise the notions since notions are subjective and the psychological metaphors cannot be quantified. The identification index (as coordination of criteria that replicate the notion) is essential to transform the notions into variables. It is crucial to operationalise the concepts and variables in any research. However, during research with such variables in the field of refugee resettlement, many externalities might bedevil the researchers. The conceptual framework shows how a comparative framework in research on refugee resettlement indicates the independent and dependent variables that might change their resettlement process. Therefore, the researcher needs to identify the variables and categorise them into dependent and independent variables that result in the fundamental research on the resettlement process for the refugees.

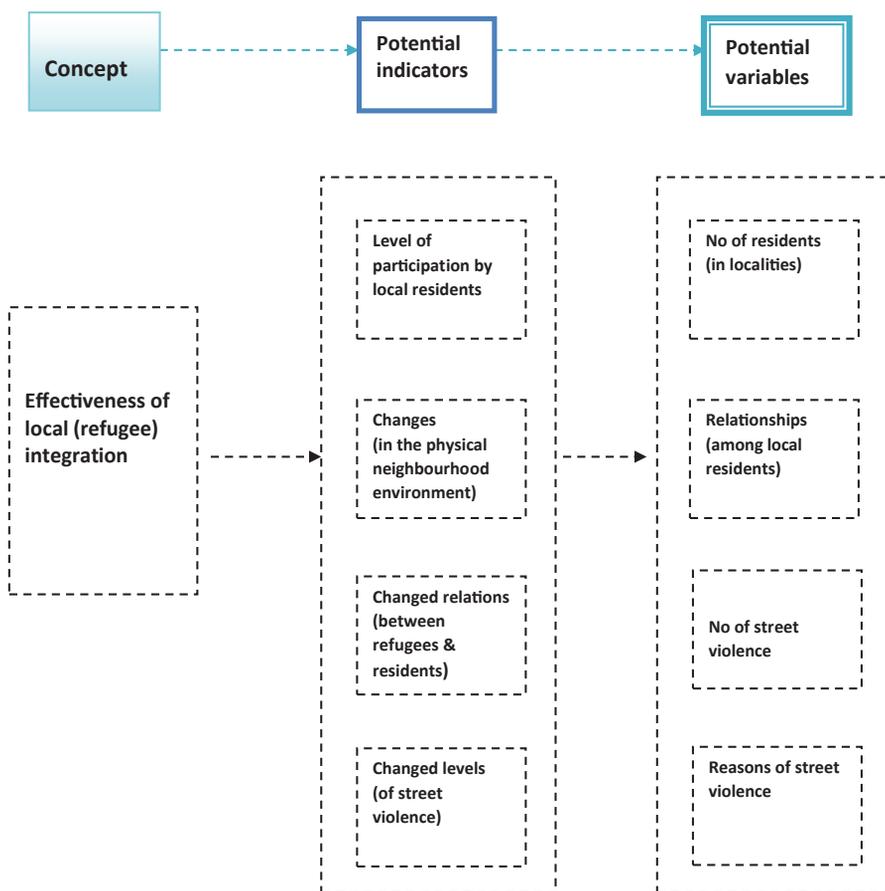


Figure 1: Comparative framework

Source: Compiled by the author.

Historical research method to study refugee resettlement

The studies on refugees are related to history and international law. The historians used the method extensively in Europe and beyond to interpret the former policies and generate future policies on refugee resettlement. Every research requires a technique based on its nature and objectives through which it tries to answer research questions set earlier. Research on refugee resettlement requires a historical approach to identify the root causes of displacement and produce new policies. It can help the resettlement process to take refugees in any country, including European and North American countries. The historical method is significant for principles and practice in refugee research to explore the suitable policies that can be applied to mitigate future crises.

Peter Gatrell rightly pointed out that “refugee history cannot just be about refugees”;⁴ earlier, the historians mainly concentrated on the human species.⁵ Yet, within the regional and international history scholarship, many consider climate change and the environment – and not typically “refugees” – one of the main causes. The history of ‘refugees’ has changed and shifted its connotation and circumstances from time to time, place to place. As a result, the studies on ‘refugees’ are not firm and concrete, and refugee people are not a mystery of factual contexts like war and conflict or famine. There is little scope for anyone to escape the earlier history of refugees, as it is the legacy of the past. Therefore, it is essential to identify the ‘root’ of refugee people to resettle them through research-driven policies. In a nutshell, understanding history is crucial and fundamental for resettlement as it links past to present.

The refugee people are observed and presented differently in the global historiography, from the Jewish Holocaust to the African civil war and famine and from the Arab region to Southeast Asia. The burgeoning refugee literature deals with the refugee formation that caused their removal by force or such force directed to ethnic cleansing and related to genocide studies.⁶ Nonetheless, it is also promising when the international actors and their functional architecture change their humanitarian actions from aid to the coordination and categorise the international law that ensures refugees’ rights and opportunities based on their historical background.⁷ Eventually, all these concentrates on the development of refugee history and comprises all the accumulated experience during their flight from home to the country of asylum and a third country for resettlement. Refugee history also contains the reactions from humanitarian organisations and other non-state actors, including the host country, to personify refugees’ experiences not just because they are

⁴ Peter Gatrell, ‘Refugees – What’s wrong with history?’, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 30, no 2 (2017), 170–189.

⁵ Dan Stone, ‘Refugees then and now: Memory, history and politics in the long twentieth century: An introduction’, *Patterns of Prejudice* 52, no 2–3 (2018), 101–106.

⁶ Pertti Ahonen, Gustavo Corni, Jerzy Kochanowski, Rainer Schulze, Tamás Stark and Barbara Stelzl-Marx, *People on the Move: Forced Population Movements in Europe in the Second World War and Its Aftermath* (Oxford: Berg, 2008); Matthew Frank and Jessica Reinisch (eds), *Refugees in Europe, 1919–1959: A Forty Years’ Crisis* (London: Bloomsbury, 2017).

⁷ Fiona Reid, Laure Humbert and Sharif Gemie, *Outcast Europe: Refugees and Relief Workers in an Era of Total War 1936–48* (London: Continuum, 2012); Gerald D Cohen, *In War’s Wake: Europe’s Displaced Persons in the Postwar Order* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

victimised and rescue hunters but they are also contributors.⁸ As a result, refugee studies urged for an interdisciplinary and nation-transcending research method when their history is the summation of different times and events and a compulsion to conceptualise their history and significance.⁹ Moreover, former refugee studies were directed by sociology, political theory, anthropology and law and “focused on security and border control, citizenship and statelessness, national identity ... and the role of NGOs and international organisations such as UNHCR in aiding refugees, creating and maintaining camps, and resettling refugees”.¹⁰ However, Philip Marfleet was different who called for the historical study of refugees.¹¹

Table 1: Comparative study framework

History of the followings to be considered for refugee studies	Different academic background	Scholars and practitioners
International Law, Geopolitics of Borders, Human Rights, experience of migration, discourse used to describe refugees, past memory reshapes, recent discussions	Law, Political Science, Philosophy, Cultural Geography and History	Bialasiewicz, Maessen, Goalwin, Gigliotti, Taylor, Ahonen, Pavlovich, Kushner, Stone

Source: Compiled by the author based on Marfleet, ‘Refugees and history’.

The methodological problem is common to historians when writing about the past. In addition, refugee, asylum and immigration politics are currently surrounded by the moral and socio-cultural mess that captured historians for being wary in establishing the fact that they attempt to label and investigate. Besides, “historians have been slow to wake up to the crucial insight that emerges from scholarship in the social and political sciences, namely that states make refugees, but that refugees can also make states”.¹² The flight of an individual and his migration, even to become a refugee and their sufferings in a new place, is intertwined with several phenomena, i.e. history of a nation, diplomacy, war, persecution, etc. However, these phenomena are not sufficient to constitute the refugee history for a specific group. At the same time, it is also relevant to know and explore the reasons – how and why they become refugees. Further, the scholars need to discover how their movement has shaped their interconnection in hosted and resettled states and how it influences local politics.¹³ Equally, the massive upheavals require navigation and comprehension, while legacies are preserved and adapted from the past and transmitted to each generation. Tradition is not concrete, it is flexible; humans can learn, if they want, from past information about the destroyed cultures, they can also observe the paths that

⁸ Gadi BenEzer and Roger Zetter, ‘Searching for Directions: Conceptual and Methodological Challenges in Researching Refugee Journeys’, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 28, no 3 (2015), 297–318; Peter Gatrell, *The Making of the Modern Refugee* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).

⁹ Stone, ‘Refugees then and now’.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Philip Marfleet, ‘Refugees and history: why we must address the past’, *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 26, no 3 (2007), 136–148.

¹² Gatrell, ‘Refugees – What’s wrong with history?’

¹³ Stone, ‘Refugees then and now’.

were unfollowed. Indeed, in-depth study on the past with reviewing long-term past/present of humans leads civic attention to the combination of flows and diverse methods of alteration in the history of humankind, containing a whole series of events from revolution to evolution. Refugee people convey an ethnoreligious uniqueness of religious or cultural minority and geographically narrate the people from different parts of the world.¹⁴ They also considered themselves citizens; however, in case of the Rohingya from Myanmar, the government has always declared them illegal immigrants.¹⁵ The government has not recognised them as citizens of Myanmar. They called them “resident foreigners”,¹⁶ which made them stateless since independence.

In contrast, others are unable to secure their lives and properties due to civil war and conflict and lose their national identity.¹⁷ That is why scholars, scientists and practitioners from different backgrounds advocate that understanding the refugee movement today and getting to know history is the only way to understand, since the entire narrative is contemporary, while it will help understand the history of refugees and resettlement in the future.

Comparative research method to study refugee resettlement

Refugee resettlement in the 21st century has become a global concern that needs comparative research due to its variability. “Comparative research” denotes a comprehensive term and uses both qualitative and quantitative methods to study a research problem and makes a comparison within two different contexts. It received several designations to redefine its application in social science. The definition appears and becomes more precise with the combination of “cross-national” terminology in “comparative research”. Hantrais and Mangen indicate that “cross-national comparative research” is implemented when countries are compared to the same concepts to make generalisations or better understand the phenomena under study.¹⁸

The scholarship on distinguishing the different types of “comparative research” is needless and not very specific. The concept of “cross-country”, “cross-nation”, “cross-societal”, “cross-cultural”, “cross-systemic”, “cross-institutional”, as well as “trans-national”, “trans-societal”, “trans-cultural” are applied as synonymous, in general, during comparison at macro-level. It also denotes the distinct types of comparisons by authors, while the distinction differs from one another. Besides, “the confusion reflects the point

¹⁴ A.K.M. Ahsan Ullah, ‘Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar: Seeking Justice for the Stateless’, *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 32, no 3 (2016), 285–301; Jacques P Leider, ‘Rohingya: The History of a Muslim Identity in Myanmar’, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*, May 2018.

¹⁵ Eleanor Albert and Lindsay Maizland, ‘The Rohingya Crisis’, *Council on Foreign Relations*, 23 January 2020.

¹⁶ Ullah, ‘Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar’.

¹⁷ Kazi Fahmida Farzana, *Memories of Burmese Rohingya Refugees: Contested Identity and Belonging* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

¹⁸ Linda Hantrais and Steen Mangen (eds), *Cross-national Research Methods in the Social Sciences: Method and Management of Cross-national Social Research* (London: Pinter, 1998).

that national boundaries are different from ethnic, cultural, and social boundaries”.¹⁹ For example, applying “cross-national” and “comparative regionalism” in macro-comparison, researchers have identified robust and reliable associations among the quality of development, conflict and governance in social systems. It has also been observed that the fusion of non-violent conflict, democracy with high productivity, and self-sustaining development are imperative for a well-performing social system. So, the main difficulties of using the “comparative method” in any research are the small number of cases and numerous variables; however, these variables are strongly interrelated. The latter is problematic for the comparative method to give an arrangement for the variables to solve.

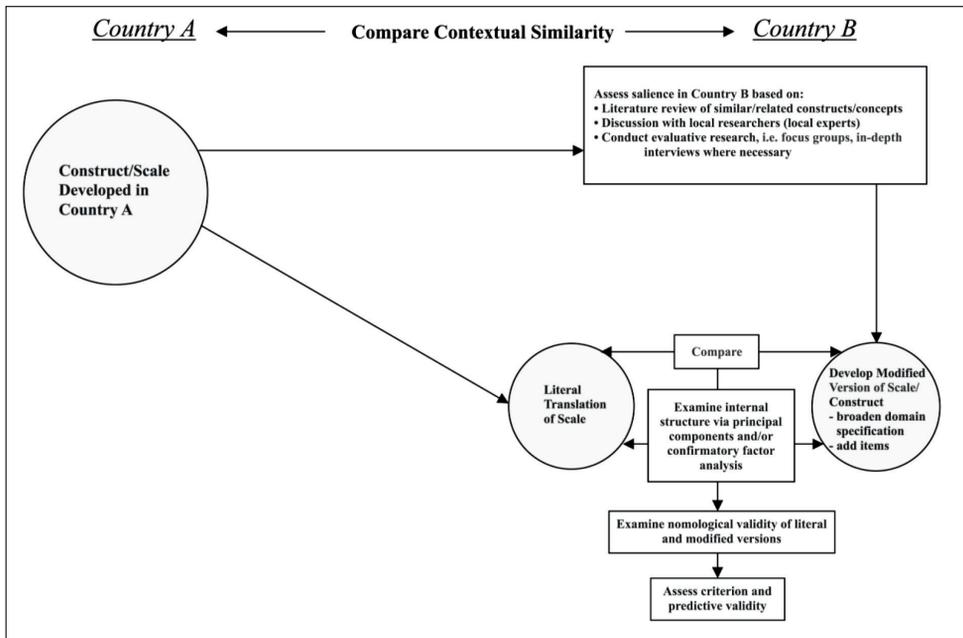


Figure 2: Contextual similarity comparison

Source: Compiled by the author based on Oommen, ‘Ethnicity, Immigration and Cultural Pluralism’.

In contrast, the other is familiar to social scientists and can be practised irrespective of specific methods. Before going to an in-depth explanation of precise suggestions to reduce the problem, two widespread comments are directive. First, where possible, one can use the statistical method instead of the weak comparative method. But the comparative approach is sometimes more encouraging than the more simple statistical method and can give more specific results where there is a relentless scarcity of time, money and energy. This comparative method is valid in any research at the first stage to develop the

¹⁹ T Oommen, ‘Ethnicity, Immigration and Cultural Pluralism: India and the United States of America’, in *Cross-national Research in Sociology*, ed. by Melvin L Kohn (Sage Publications, 1989).

hypothesis carefully; secondly, the hypothesis can be statistically tested where the number of variables is high. Comparative research desires to encourage interdisciplinary research to study a social problem. Typically, this will signify two or more related branches of social science; nonetheless, it should be assumed as a broader perception in social science research.

Comparative politics, from its genesis, works simultaneously as a methodology and branch of political science. Once we decide what to do, comparative politics indicates how to do it. Nevertheless, there is a consensus about the shortage of explicit and implicit awareness in comparative research among the researchers that Sartori (1970) defined as “unconscious thinkers”.²⁰ This method is simple and does not follow rationality and empirical study, so it is not practical and can be misleading.²¹ Firstly, “the comparative method is defined here as one of the basic methods – the others being the experimental, statistical, and case study methods of establishing general empirical propositions”.²² Thus, it is not just a relevant term ambiguously denoting the effort of one’s interest in research, but also a specific method focusing on cross-sectional research, i.e. institution, society, culture, etc.²³ Secondly, the comparative method is well-defined “as one of the basic scientific methods, not the scientific method”, which becomes narrow in its scope in the opinion of Harold D Lasswell. According to him, the scientific method is a comparative one where a “scientific approach to political phenomena and the idea of an independent comparative method seems redundant”.²⁴ Thirdly, the “comparative method” is a way to determine the experimental associations among the variables, not just as a measurement method. Likewise, Sartori has defined them as rational on nominal, ordinal (comparative) and cardinal scales. However, Kalleberg²⁵ conferred it as the “logic of comparison” and defined the “comparative method” as “a form of measurement”, which is ordinal measurement. Finally, it is expected that it will make a significant difference between method and technique. Thus, comparative research is a broad-gauge and wide-ranging method that is not limited but specialised. In this manner, Gunnar Heckscher carefully denotes it as “the method (or at least the procedure) of comparison”.²⁶ However, Walter Goldschmidt²⁷ chooses the term “comparative approach” because “it lacks the preciseness to call it a method”. The “comparative method” could also be understood as a primary method of research, or rather a mere tactical aid to research on refugee resettlement.

²⁰ Giovanni Sartori, ‘Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics’, *American Political Science Review* 64, no 4 (1970), 1033–1053.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Arend Lijphart, ‘Typologies of Democratic Systems’, *Comparative Political Studies* 1, no 1 (1968), 32–35.

²³ Arthur L Kalleberg, ‘The Logic of Comparison: A Methodological Note on the Comparative Study of Political Systems’, *World Politics*, 19, no 1 (1966), 72; Shmuel N Eisenstadt, ‘Social Institutions: Comparative Study’, in *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, vol. 14, ed. by David L Sills (New York: Macmillan & Free Press, 1968), 423.

²⁴ Harold D Lasswell, ‘The Future of the Comparative Method’, *Comparative Politics* 1, no 1 (1968), 3.

²⁵ Kalleberg, ‘The Logic of Comparison’.

²⁶ Gunnar Heckscher, *The Study of Comparative Government and Politics* (London: Allen and Unwin, 1957).

²⁷ Walter Goldschmidt, *Comparative Functionalism: An Essay in Anthropological Theory* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966).

Case study for refugee resettlement

The case study method is closely related to the comparative methods. However, particular types of “case studies” in the comparative approach can even be recognised as implicit. The case study comprises the single-site research and authorises the researchers to evidence them with the authenticity of real-life events that can potentially be considered the traditional Chicago School method. It can be helpful in research on refugee resettlement as their case is different while their destinations are more or less the same. To conceptualise and capture the character and connotation of a case study method within the scope of refugee studies in political science, ‘one needs to know something of its internal disciplinary organisation’,²⁸ which varies from the other social science branch and country. The case study, in political science, is the most commonly used method of analysis that denotes a variety of meanings and practices that differ from particular methods to a research approach. They who are working on grounding the case study as a “set of methods” – the principal connotation – capture the notion as a precise form of study connecting multi-site scholarships directed to founding the fundamental indications and hypothesis testing. The case study can also be used to investigate any case due to the interest of the case per se or to build a theory. Carter and Osborne²⁹ found several challenges for refugee resettlement in a new place to study the case of refugee resettlement in Winnipeg, Canada. They recommend that the broader policy and programs can expedite the resettlement process in a new place while their absence yields numerous sufferings for the resettled persons. A case study also reveals the advantages and disadvantages of resettlement of a particular ethnic group in rural or urban settings that can support the policy-makers and politicians in decision making about their resettlement prospects and further steps in the governing process. The addition of “comparative” with “case study” proposes different methodological requirements regarding the project and study objectives through recognising and characterising dependent and independent variables. These studies usually scrutinise the covariation across case data.

In contrast, single case studies ended with a qualitative method, which typically searches for compatibility amid theory and data and searches for ‘theory-driven within case expectations’.³⁰ Besides, single case studies completed by an explanatory method may emerge today as “ethnographic or participant observer studies and often use case material to explore particular theoretical issues”.³¹ That is why it is crucial for refugee resettlement research when refugees bear ethnic diversity. The method also helps to explore the local responses by the regional government and other stakeholders for strengthening the institutional landscape for further resettlement and sustainability.³² A case study can

²⁸ Albert J Mills, Gabrielle Durepos and Elden Wiebe (eds), *Encyclopedia of Case Study Research* (Sage Publications, 2009).

²⁹ Thomas S Carter and John Osborne, ‘Housing and Neighbourhood Challenges of Refugee Resettlement in Declining Inner City Neighbourhoods: A Winnipeg Case Study’, *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* 7, no 3 (2009), 308–327.

³⁰ Mills et al., *Encyclopedia of Case Study Research*.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Huyen Dam and Sarah V Wayland, ‘Syrian refugee resettlement: A case study of local response in Hamilton, Ontario’, *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien* 63, no 3 (2019), 360–373.

assist both the community leaders and policy-makers in coping with potential challenges and benefits of refugee resettlement³³ when other durable solutions are not possible and available for the refugees. It also indicates an improved support service during integration and broader participation to limit the detrimental effects of the resettlement program in any third country.³⁴

Mixed-method in research on refugee resettlement

The study in social science is directed by the challenges, not by the methods, while methods can approach a problem to seek answers and change society.³⁵ The methods are pivotal in any investigation to focus the research problem and get answers. Refugee resettlement is such a problem that it needs constant analysis and suggestions for practical solutions. Qualitative and quantitative research is essential for social science; however, the nature of the research problems and their objectives demand the research approach to respond to the questions. Combining the qualitative and quantitative research methods has got significant attention nowadays.³⁶ It is more beneficial as it can originate a metaphor and exemplify triangulation which is crucial to study a social problem like refugee crisis and resettlement. The refugee people are the by-product of various political and socio-economic events of history, and their perspectives are somehow different from the other migrants. That is why the refugee crisis and resettlement require a comprehensive investigation covering a diverse way to examine. These refugee people want justice and a decent life for their future livelihoods, including health, education, food, shelter and economic opportunity with political membership in any country. Likewise, recognising the diversity of refugee phenomena and power differences needs cultural responsiveness and a mechanism to build trust favourable for research on refugees to change their lives and minimise inequality.³⁷ That is why mixed-method can aid in diverse aspects of refugee resettlement research. It intends to go deep into identifying the influential variables to propose a practical and effective solution for them when international aid agencies have prioritised their crises to develop their livelihoods through research.³⁸ Many studies followed mixed research methods for research on refugee resettlement and to study their stigma, stress,³⁹ legal

³³ Daniel Gilhooly and Eunbae Lee, 'Rethinking Urban Refugee Resettlement: A Case Study of One Karen Community in Rural Georgia, USA', *International Migration* 55, no 6 (2017), 37–55.

³⁴ Benjamin Harkins, 'Beyond "temporary shelter": A case study of Karen refugee resettlement in St. Paul, Minnesota', *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* 10, no 2 (2012), 184–203.

³⁵ Donna M Mertens, 'Mixed Methods as Tools for Social Change', *Journal of Mixed Methods Research* 5, no 3 (2011), 195–197.

³⁶ Jessica T DeCuir-Gunby, 'Mixed Methods Research in the Social Sciences', in *Best Practices in Quantitative Methods*, ed. by Jason Osborne (Sage Publications, 2008), 125–136.

³⁷ Abigail LH Kroening et al., 'Developmental Screening of Refugees: A Qualitative Study', *Pediatrics* 138, no 3 (2016).

³⁸ Arati Maleku et al., 'Expanding the transformative explanatory sequential mixed methods design archetype in a cross-cultural context: The polemics of African refugee livelihoods in places of resettlement', *Journal of Mixed Methods Research* 15, no 2 (2021), 212–239.

³⁹ Lisa E Baranik, Carrie S Hurst and Lillian T Eby, 'The stigma of being a refugee: A mixed-method study of refugees' experiences of vocational stress', *Journal of Vocational Behavior* 105 (2018), 116–130.

status, mental health concerning their plight⁴⁰ and to make a partnership with the refugee community during their crisis.

Moreover, it enables the researchers to filter the close search for refugee and displaced people, especially women and children, and navigate the gender-sensitive aspects of the research for sustainable solutions with its improved methodological quality and authenticity.⁴¹ Mixed research approaches can also identify the inequalities of different refugees regarding their status and current dwelling.⁴² As a result, a hybrid research method empowers the researchers in refugee management policy to comprehend the multidimensional refugee resettlement phenomena to use the social capitals and their effects on their wellbeing. It also supports the researchers to look into an issue from diverse perspectives through different lens for a higher response to a crisis by engaging all stakeholders.⁴³

From a methodological point of view, research on refugee resettlement is quite challenging because of its externalities. Sometimes the decision of a body or a person determines the fate of the vast majority of refugee and displaced people who are suffering a perilous life. In addition, different quantitative research methods in refugee resettlement and qualitative research with their varied types are helpful for a practical solution. The following types of qualitative research – Ethnographic Research, Focused Group Discussion (FGD), Key Informants Interview (KII), Delphi Method are crucial to researching refugee resettlement. FGD is essential to encourage the researchers to overview the refugees when they are traumatised and their mental and physical conditions are not satisfactory. It also supports them in building trust and ensuring their safety to identify the actions and effective ways to emancipation and deliver clinical benefits. FGD also plays a role in between quantitative and qualitative methods to link and bridge them to investigate an innovative way to attain a holistic perception of the variables.⁴⁴ Key Informants Interview (KII) is another form of qualitative technique⁴⁵ that is crucial for several reasons; however, it depends on the research problem and the questions researchers wish to answer. It always follows the instruction to get a response from the professionals, who can provide a clear vision and focus on the specific problem to get a transparent overview of the existing issues and guidelines to overcome.⁴⁶ It can also help figure out

⁴⁰ Tahereh Ziaian et al., 'Refugee students' psychological wellbeing and experiences in the Australian education system: A mixed-methods investigation', *Australian Psychologist* 53, no 4 (2018), 345–354.

⁴¹ John W Creswell, *Research Design, Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approaches* (Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2003).

⁴² Giulia Gherardi et al., 'Asylum seekers and inequalities in healthcare: a mixed-method research in Emilia-Romagna region', *European Journal of Public Health* 30, Supplement 5 (2020).

⁴³ John W Creswell, *Mixed-method Research: Introduction and Application. Handbook of Educational Policy* (Academic Press, 1999), 455–472.

⁴⁴ Brian Grim, Judy Gromis and Alison H Harmon, 'Focused group interviews as an innovative Quantitative-Qualitative Methodology (QQM): Integrating quantitative elements into a qualitative methodology', *The Qualitative Report* 11, no 3 (2006), 516–537.

⁴⁵ Valerie J Gilchrist, 'Key informant interviews' in *Doing Qualitative Research*, ed. by Benjamin F Crabtree and William M Miller (Sage Publications, 1992).

⁴⁶ John A Naslund, et al., 'Identifying challenges and recommendations for advancing global mental health implementation research: A key informant study of the National Institute of Mental Health Scale-Up Hubs', *Asian Journal of Psychiatry* 57 (2021).

an actual refugee scenario and their adversities when researchers are not equipped to visit the genuine sufferers at their camps regarding health, education and other rights and opportunities.⁴⁷ As a result, it can assess the need for basic support on education, health, employment and permanent resettlement of the refugees. Further, it can reveal the potential challenges and economic crises that are yet to come and essential to navigating the resettlement process.⁴⁸ Implementing KII in refugee research is not free of risk and challenges where finding the right key is not easy to represent the various context and perspectives. In addition, it is also challenging for the researchers to make appointments for an interview with demanding and hard-to-reach respondents. Whereas the Delphi method can help to reduce such challenges. However, there is a lack of consensus to allow a group of expert persons to provide their opinion on issues and decisions that are coming up from surveying a panel of experts. All the experts who participate in the opinion session deliver their speeches on every question. The responses can be aggregated after each session or round and shared with the same group. Civil society can be a part of it when they have a significant role in refugee crisis management, as Simsa (2017) found their function effective for refugee crisis management.⁴⁹ The resettlement of refugees does not always depend on the refugees' choices and desires; the preferences of the countries receiving and hosting refugees play a leading role in decision-making. The Delphi method can play a significant role in resettling them permanently. The Delphi method "may be characterised as a method for structuring a group communication process so that the process is effective in allowing a group of individuals, as a whole, to deal with a complex problem".⁵⁰ The crisis of refugees is manifold in terms of policy and programs. This method can redesign policy planning for providing them food, education and health services, employment and many more.

The augmented competitiveness and restructuring of the laws and organisational frameworks related to the global refugee resettlement need all stakeholders to provide a new type of cooperation with others. However, it requires a commanding method to adjust the fast-changing ecology of research in social science and popular practice for anticipatory decision-making to respond to the existing and forthcoming challenges.⁵¹ The mixed-method can be effective and valuable for refugee people when they need health, educational, familial support, and many more from the professional side. There is a lack of adequate policy and programs in the refugee camps due to the existing laws and limited application. As a result, mixed-method can be seen as a forecasting mechanism due to its meaningful use in social science, while it has an unanticipated diversity of other application areas.

⁴⁷ Tala Al-Rousan et al., 'Health needs and priorities of Syrian refugees in camps and urban settings in Jordan: perspectives of refugees and health care providers', *East Mediterranean Health Journal* 24, no 3 (2018), 243–253.

⁴⁸ Kroening et al., 'Developmental Screening of Refugees'.

⁴⁹ Ruth Simsa, 'Leaving Emergency Management in the Refugee Crisis to Civil Society? The Case of Austria', *Journal of Applied Security Research* 12, no 1 (2017), 78–95.

⁵⁰ Harold A Linstone and Murray Turoff (eds), *The Delphi Method. Techniques and Applications* (MA: Addison-Wesley, 1975).

⁵¹ Jon Landeta, 'Current validity of the Delphi method in social sciences', *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* 73, no 5 (2006), 467–482.

Legal and security aspects of refugee resettlement

Refugee resettlement demands the consideration of security and legal issues related to the international human rights of the refugees. The legal status of refugees is applicable when they fail to protect themselves as a community and no longer have chances to restore national security. Besides, they are vulnerable because their liberties are jeopardised, but more fundamentally, they are no longer capable of reorganising themselves as a community where they belonged and enjoyed their human rights.⁵² Their lives become hazardous and rudimentary marginalised, differing from others at severe risks. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is the first-ever international treaty primed in the sponsorship of the United Nations (UN) to protect all dimensions of global migration holistically and comprehensively. The formation of the objectives of GCM is grounded on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and core International Human Rights Law (IHL) instruments to uplift the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. GCM specified twenty-three objectives that bolstered the state for specific commitments and actions. It also helps nation states to seek to address the existing and upcoming challenges related to migration. J Kevin Appleby (2021) found GCM as a blueprint that allows the nations to manage migration flows with multilateral cooperation with other countries with burden-sharing. He considers it the most effective way to manage migration in a humanistic manner, maintain the rule of law⁵³ and strengthen the migration policies.⁵⁴ However, many uncertainties are there on negotiation within the states for managing migrants worldwide as Pauline Melin (2019) observed GCM as a fiasco for European cooperation on the global scene.⁵⁵ It is also necessary to bear in mind the law of hosting and receiving third countries during the resettlement of refugees.

In contrast, international laws are the major ones that can guarantee the human rights of the refugees in their distressed plight to a destination country where there is no option for repatriation and local integration. International laws have always been obsessed with human rights and protection, while national governments focus on their national interests. Political viewpoints consider refugees a term that contains a broader range of benchmarks where these benchmarks indicate the various prerogatives that yield pertinent rights and benefits.⁵⁶ Besides, these refugees are defined as ‘involuntary international migrants’ from a sociological viewpoint.⁵⁷ It is also said that international and domestic laws sometimes have an adverse effect on the refugees seeking asylum due to their thinness and rigidity.

Moreover, few countries have experienced domestic agitations by the refugee people that caused a threat to their homeland security. The refugee people also try to avoid the formal administrative ways during their journey, augmenting the security concern

⁵² Jacques Vernant, *The Refugee in the Post-War World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1953).

⁵³ J Kevin Appleby, ‘Implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration: A Whole-of-Society Approach’, *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 8, no 2 (2020), 214–229.

⁵⁴ Madeline Garlick and Claire Inder, ‘Protection of refugees and migrants in the era of the global compacts: Ensuring support and avoiding gaps’, *Interventions* 23, no 2 (2021), 207–226.

⁵⁵ Pauline Melin, ‘The Global Compact for Migration: Lessons for the Unity of EU Representation’, *European Journal of Migration and Law* 21, no 2 (2019), 194–214.

⁵⁶ Guy S Goodwin-Gill and Jane McAdam, *The Refugee in International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

⁵⁷ Tom Kuhlman, ‘Towards a Definition of Refugees’, *Refugee Studies Centre*, 1991, 6.

in other parts of the world. The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (CSCR) mentioned the definition and its benefits; however, primarily, the convention had geographical limitations that had been excluded by its protocol 1961. Many third world countries are still not a part of these conventions and protocols, but they are partly members of the different international covenants and conventions that encourage them to govern and manage the refugee crisis. However, the first international document, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 article 14(1), declared that “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in others countries asylum from persecution”.⁵⁸ However, the actual definition and recognition do not fully ensure their rights and opportunities. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the international body to handle all aspects related to refugees. It is responsible for the status and recognition of refugees and their protection in terms of food, safety and security with other human rights, i.e. education, health and economic opportunity. It is also true that the international body has suffered since its genesis and a re-examining of its definition, laws and policies related to refugees is necessary due to the emerging global concern. The coordination of UNHCR with other international organisations like IOM, UNDP and the Red Cross can bolster the resettlement process in any part. The host and refugee receiving third countries’ constitutional provisions, judiciary and state policy significantly impact the resettlement process. Many are obsolete and refuse the 1951 Convention and Protocol that inspire and authorise them to reject refugees and resettle in their lands. As a result, the research on refugee resettlement has to combine and consider all aspects of international laws and the countries’ security.

The traditional concept of security was narrow and military centred, but nowadays, this concept is involved with other non-military, socio-economic and global crises, including migration. Migration and refugee people is not only a concern for a specific ministry of any country or head of state or ministry of defence or security, it became a part of international politics. The very beginning of the 21st century and the incidence of 11 September 2001 reshaped the global refugee politics and redefined the inter-governmental relations due to the new dimensions of the crises and needs. Likely, the refugee phenomenon is diced by global politics and a new enigma for countries.⁵⁹ However, it is quite different from the cold war era and the involvement of international non-state actors (i.e. UNHCR) in restructuring international refugee protection and security is also significant.⁶⁰ At the same time, it is also pertinent that these people are recognised as a source of dilemma and insecurity, becoming a threat to the host country.⁶¹ Many studies on refugees found them a threat to internal and human security.⁶² Refugee camps are becoming substantially challenging because of organised criminal groups in

⁵⁸ United Nations, ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’, 10 December 1948.

⁵⁹ Benjamin Muller, ‘Globalization, Security, Paradox: Towards a Refugee Biopolitics’, *Refuge: Canada’s Journal on Refugees* 22, no 1 (2004), 49–57.

⁶⁰ Anne Hammerstad, ‘Whose security? UNHCR, refugee protection and state security after the Cold War’, *Security Dialogue* 31, no 4 (2000), 391–403.

⁶¹ Edward Mogire, *Victims as Security Threats: Refugee Impact on Host State Security in Africa* (Routledge, 2016).

⁶² Gil Loescher and James Milner, *Protracted Refugee Situations: Domestic and International Security Implications* (Routledge, 2013).

the refugee camps and their breeding there. Besides, ensuring the security of massive numbers of displaced refugee people – sometimes abode in an informal setting – denotes a different while frightening situation.⁶³ The Europeanisation of refugee policies considers multidimensional perspectives during policy formulation. However, these are not always mutually exhaustive which reversely creates anxiety.⁶⁴ That is why studies on refugee resettlement need to consider a holistic approach to resettle the refugees. The international rejoinders have demonstrated the insufficiencies of the current situation while UNHCR is playing as a leading actor for security from the past conflict-induced humanitarian support worldwide. The recent example of the European refugee crisis and security due to the flow of refugees from the Baltic region and others from different ethnic and religious groups creates threats. Besides, restrictive European policies of migration and increased human trafficking are inter-connected as both have impacted one another. While the absence of protection policies for refugees in international affairs is rather ambitious than practical.⁶⁵ However, refugees are a burden for the host country from economic, social and environmental perspectives. For this reason, a significant flow of resources as humanitarian assistance is needed that can be helpful for those who are struggling for state-building to manage such a crisis.

Conclusions

The research on refugee resettlement is not easy to implement in the 21st century when influenced by many historical, socio-economic and global political factors. Besides, studies on refugee resettlement have had undesirable upshots and choices not discussed sufficiently. Countries can no longer decide alone on any issue that somehow influences the interests of others in recent times. In addition, it is also influenced by the legal and procedural framework for refugee protection. The problem is also related to other aspects of the country, region and different politico-economic situations where the refugees live. It is also crucial for the promises of their rights and opportunities with their lawful status as a refugee. The global legal framework helps the country, which is experiencing a refugee crisis, identify the conventional protection for the refugee under the various laws and protocols related to the refugees.

Moreover, research on refugee resettlement is challenging and recognised as such by several previous research and linked with the resettled refugees, specifically women and children. The linguistic barriers and cultural aspects are also crucial in directing research that deals with the refugees while it needs continuous modification to attain the research objectives. Following various methods in research on refugees help the researchers to allow them to participate in the research program by building rapport and trust. It also

⁶³ Benedetta Berti, 'The Syrian refugee crisis: Regional and human security implications', *Strategic Assessment* 17, no 4 (2015), 41–53.

⁶⁴ Sandra Lavenex, *Revival: The Europeanisation of Refugee Policies (2001): Between Human Rights and Internal Security* (Routledge, 2017).

⁶⁵ Aramide Odutayo, 'Human security and the international refugee crisis', *Journal of Global Ethics* 12, no 3 (2016), 365–379.

creates a pleasant atmosphere both for the research participants and the researchers; however, it is not equally applicable to all the contexts of refugee resettlement research.⁶⁶

Refugee resettlement research is a universal one with the crucial issue of methodology, moral challenges and ethics. Scholars have to confront the problems in performing their study with individuals in cross-cultural realms for refugee resettlement. Although there is an essence for more and more cross-national studies in social science, it becomes challenging and problematic continuously. Every stage in refugee resettlement research, a case study or the cross-national comparison holds a distinct variety of challenges that scientists have to address and handle appropriately. To address each of the challenges would generate difficulties in case study research.

Consequently, it is indispensable to understand how the challenges are influencing each other. This study endeavours to incorporate some varied and fundamental topics in research on refugee resettlement in cross-national and cross-cultural comparison. It also offers a holistic portrait that allows greater insight into this field.

Furthermore, it is essential to recognise the variability of alternatives upon piloting every stage of the research process. It encourages scholars and policy-makers to re-evaluate quoting information and identify best practices aimed at similar programs. It will also simplify the reflection of appropriate interventions and enhance the understanding of the behaviours of refugees for their future resettlement.

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⁶⁶ Rima R Habib, 'Ethical, methodological, and contextual challenges in research in conflict settings: the case of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon', *Conflict and Health* 13, no 1 (2019), 1–7.

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