

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient rock-cut architecture, likely the Naqsh-e Rostam in Iran. It features large, weathered stone structures with columns and arches carved into a desert cliffside under a clear blue sky. The foreground is a sandy, arid landscape with sparse desert vegetation.

Conference on Innovative and Transformational Ideas to Improve the Development and Policy Response to Forced Displacement

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Virginia Tech
Language and Culture Institute



Acknowledgements

This report is based on the Conference on Innovative and Transformational Ideas to Improve the Development and Policy Response to Forced Displacement. The Conference was the result of a collaborative effort led by the Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (LCI) in collaboration with the Office of Outreach and International Affairs (OIA), the Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED), and the School for Public and International Affairs (SPIA). Additional support for the conference was provided by the U.S. Embassy in Jordan.

The conference faculty planning committee consisted of Patricia Parera (Associate Director for Partnerships, LCI), Georgeta Pourchot (Refugee Project Coordinator, Adjunct Faculty, SPIA), Khaled Hassouna (Associate Director for MENA and Curricula Development, CIRED), Jessica Agnew (Graduate Assistant, CIRED), Ben Sanders (Program Assistant for Partnerships, LCI), and Siddhartha Roy (Postdoctoral Research Associate, CEE).

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our international participants who traveled from nearly a dozen institutions of higher education; as well as participants from Virginia Tech, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the World Bank Group, the U.S. State Department, and the Embassy of Jordan. It is with your continued support and efforts that we are able to host events such as this one.

Glossary of Acronyms

ALCE	Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education
CALS	College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
CEE	Civil and Environmental Engineering
CIRED	VT Center for International Research, Education and Development
ICTAS	Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science
JUST	Jordan University of Science and Technology
LCI	VT Language and Culture Institute
OIA	VT Outreach and International Affairs
SPIA	VT School of Public and international Affairs
UCN	US-Jordan University Cooperation Network
UJ	University of Jordan
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VT	Virginia Tech
VTC	Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

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Introduction to the meeting

The United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan maintain a shared commitment and mutual interest to foster sustainable development, scientific collaboration and mutual understanding. The U.S.-Jordanian University Cooperation Network (UCN) is the result of that cooperation and aims to strengthen strategic and long-term collaboration among U.S. and Jordanian universities to advance joint research, expand academic exchanges, strengthen the quality of higher education, and encourage joint capacity building and professional development.



The Conference on Innovative and Transformational Ideas to Improve the Development and Policy Response to Forced Displacement is one of the first such collaborations to promote shared knowledge, expand opportunities for multi-institutional cooperation, and systematically coordinate resources among its members in search of sustainable responses to development challenges. The conference, organized by Virginia Tech's Language and Culture Institute, drew over 75 participants from 12 Universities from across the globe, scholars and development practitioners.

Virginia Tech is a contemporary, global land-grant research university dedicated to discovery, innovation, experiential learning, and service to humanity. Virginia Tech believes in the power of education to improve the lives of our students, their families, and communities across our country and the world.

The conference attracted Jordanian scholars working on proposals that address issues related to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and forced displacement in Jordan. The importance of the Network is invaluable to promote collective action, advance scientific discovery, promote impactful collaboration among development partners and higher education institutions, and above all create the conditions to improve access, the cross fertilization of ideas and shared prosperity in Jordan and the region.

Jordan, a country of 9.7 million people, is a voice for moderation, peace and reform in the Middle East. The UCN recognizes the need to positively influence the future generation of Jordan and the Arab World by leading education policy reform and professional development. Jordan has one of the youngest populations in the world, with 68 percent of its population under the age of 30. The UCN aims to adopt modern approaches that can offer young people the skills they need to define their trajectories in life and adapt to local, national, and global changes.

We believe that Jordan, and its institutions of higher learning, have the ability to serve as a model for the rest of the region. This is precisely the time for a renewed focus on education, not just as a national priority for economic growth and social development but also as a national strategy for stability, peace, and prosperity. As a Network, we hope to adopt modern approaches that can offer young people the skills they need to define their trajectories in life and adapt to local, national, and global changes.

On behalf of Virginia Tech and the US-Jordanian University Cooperation Network, I would like to thank all of our presenters, panelists and participants who traveled from near and far to take part in this wonderful event.

Patricia Parera

Secretariat, US-Jordan University Cooperation Network

Assoc. Director for Partnerships, Language and Culture Institute

Plenary Session #1

Welcome and Guest Speakers

Virginia Tech Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, Dr. Guru Ghosh, opened the morning session launching the conference with high expectations of the events proceedings. Dr. Ghosh emphasized the importance of cross-cultural exchange experiences for students especially from the western hemisphere.

U.S.-Jordan University Cooperation Network Secretariat and Conference Chair, Patricia Parera, addressed a very eager room of attendees and laid the groundwork for what was sure to be a productive week. Ms. Parera happily welcomed several international guests from across the globe. This event is the first of its kind since the U.S.-Jordan UCN's inception in March of 2018. Ms. Parera could not iterate enough the importance of this first step for the network. Ms. Parera also extended her gratitude to the LCI, CIRED, SPIA, and OIA for their generous support and contributions in preparing for the conference.

Dr. Van Crowder, Executive Director of the Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED), presented on the work that his office has been doing most recently. Dr. Crowder presented on the purpose of his office in relation to the University as a whole and some of the many projects CIRED is currently involved in. Some of the locations CIRED is currently located in include: Afghanistan, Senegal, Armenia, Honduras, Guatemala, Morocco, and Malawi. Dr. Crowder reaffirmed Virginia Tech's commitment as a land-grant university to creating a more sustainable, diverse future for the United States and the rest of the world.

Dr. Juan Manuel Moreno, Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa, participated in the conference via WebEx. Dr. Moreno gave a brief overview of the World Bank and its operations in Jordan and the Middle East. While the Bank has been involved in Education in Jordan for 2 decades, Dr. Moreno acknowledged that they have failed to make any substantial impact. He did note that the Bank is looking to increase its involvement with Universities in Jordan and encouraged conference participants to create a dialogue with the Government of Jordan since any participation with the World Bank must be facilitated through the government.

Dr. Mark Johnson, Visiting Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Fulbright Policy Specialist 2019 at the U.S. Embassy in Amman and Hashemite University, presented on the upbringing and current developments of the U.S.-Jordan UCN. Dr. Johnson addressed the many challenges the Jordanian higher education system is facing including: heavy teaching loads, budget austerity, and discrepancies between degree programs and the Jordanian labor market. Dr. Johnson briefly spoke

on the results of the 2016-2018 “U.S.-Jordan Pathways” assessment conducted by the Eurasia Foundation. Findings of the assessment showed little long-term research or linkages between U.S. and Jordan universities while there is a high percentage of Jordanian faculty who hold US PhDs. Another finding showed that Jordan Universities lack the institutional capacity to engage with U.S. grant competitions due in part to their weak research management systems. Dr. Johnson spoke on the foundational principles the UCN was founded on including initial focuses on research and “pipelines” at the faculty-PhD candidate level.



Panel One: Capacity Building for Youth, Women and Communities

Moderated by Dr. Georgeta Pourchot, Refugee Project Coordinator for the School of Public and International Affairs, Panel One: Capacity Building for Youth, Women and Communities included presenters: Dr. Qanita Bani Baker, Assistant Dean of Computer Science at Jordan University, Dr. Mwaffaq Otoom, Associate Professor of Computer Engineering and Director of International Relations and Projects at Yarmouk University, Dr. Andy Muelenaer, Professor of Pediatrics at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Panelists included Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director of Women & Gender in

International Development at CIRED, Dr. Tom Archibald, Assistant Professor in the department of ALCE at Virginia Tech, and Dr. Hani Saoub, Dean of the School of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Baker's presentation, *Supporting the Role of Refugee and Jordanian Women in Jordanian Society to Participate in Sustainable Development*, addressed the major discrepancy in the percentage of women to men enrolled in higher ed programs and the number of ratio of women to men involved in the Jordan labor market. Some of the issues addressed in Dr. Baker's project include: increasing the quality of education in poorer communities and refugee camps, increasing capacity for women to enter the information technology labor market, and empowering and educating refugee and low-income women. Through an educational awareness and empowerment campaign, Jordanian and refugee women across the country of Jordan can increase productivity and work toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Ootom, a proud Virginia Tech alumna, presented on his ongoing project: *SHE-WILL-INNOVATE: Empowering Female Syrian Refugee Higher Education Students in Northern Jordan with Innovation Capacities*. Yarmouk University, located in Irbid in the northern most region of Jordan, is located just 12 miles from the Syrian border offering Dr. Ootom and other University faculty easier accessibility to refugees in the area. Dr. Ootom spoke briefly on the demographical background of Jordan and addressed how the Syrian Refugee Crisis was an unexpected element that complicated a growing Jordanian economy. Dr. Ootom's project is the development of a professional diploma specifically designed for implementation with Syrian refugee students in northern Jordan. SHE-WILL-INNOVATE addressed the following issues facing Jordan: high unemployment among female refugees and Jordanians in communities near the camps, low engagement of refugees in host communities, and the absence of business and entrepreneurial skills among refugees and Jordanians in poorer communities. Dr. Ootom's project includes a "Train the Trainer" element and modules in Business, Leadership, Commercialization, Soft Skills, and English Language training.

Dr. Muelenaer offered attendees insights into his TEAM Approach he has utilized in the past several years on his work in Malawi. Dr. Muelenaer emphasized the importance of working towards improving from Multi- and Inter- disciplinary research approaches to a Transdisciplinary approach. Transdisciplinary research involves all parties, includes

the stakeholders, and is more program oriented than the latter two. Dr. Muelenaer reinforces the idea that transdisciplinary research is, essentially, Team Science. Scientists contribute their unique expertise, work outside their specific discipline, and work to understand the complexities and project as a whole rather than a part. Dr. Muelenaer put this in context with his discussion on his work with Mzuzu University in Malawi. Dr. Muelenaer and his colleagues created TEAM Malawi [Technology-Education-**A**dvocacy-**M**edicine] as a transdisciplinary collaboration designed to meet the challenges of resources-limited environments through community based participatory research/design/pedagogy.



Panel Two: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Moderated by Dr. Luke Juran, Assistant Professor of Human Ecology of Water at Virginia Tech's Department of Geography, Panel Two: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) included presenters: Dr. Ahmad Al-Tarawnah, Water and Sanitation Officer for UNICEF, Dr. Siddhartha Roy, Post-doctoral Fellow with the Department of CEE at Virginia Tech, and Dr. Jennifer Kushner, Assistant Director for CALS Global at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Al-Tarawnah participated via Zoom and presented on the work being done at Za'atari Refugee Camp in relation to WASH challenges and obstacles. Za'atari Refugee Camp is the world's largest Syrian refugee camp and has evolved into a permanent settlement for nearly 80,000 refugees. At one point, the Syrian security forces launched a large-scale security campaign leading to an increase of 156,000 people residing within the camp. Dr. Al-Tarawnah explained that because of the large number of refugees and current political climate in Syria, UNICEF and other associated agencies have begun the process of implementing the infrastructure to make Za'atari and similar refugee camps permanent cities within cities.

Dr. Roy, a member of the famous Marc Edwards Water Research Team that uncovered the dangerous amounts of lead in the water in Flint, Michigan, presented on the involvement of citizens in monitoring water quality nationwide. Dr. Roy began his talk by introducing the idea of citizen science – the idea of involvement of the public in scientific work/research within their communities. Such monitoring and evaluation is being utilized across the United States – especially in rural communities – to protect citizens health and to prevent disasters such as the Flint, Michigan water crisis.

Dr. Kushner, Assistant Director for CALS Global at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented on her perspective of international development and refugees as it is related to a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous (VUCA) world and its relationship to the Nexus created by Water, Energy and Food Security. These three sectors of security are all linked to the well-being of humans, sustainable development, and the eradication of human poverty. As we continue to face an ever-growing population, the necessity for water, energy and food security has never been greater.

Panel Three: Digital Innovation and Technology

Moderated by Ashley Taylor, Director of Pathways for Future Engineers at the Center for Enhancement of Engineering Diversity, Panel Three: Digital Innovation and Technology included presenters: Dr. Khalid Kheirallah, Associate Professor of Public Health at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Dr. Wael Al-Qassas, Professor of Information Technology at Al al-Bayt University, and Abdelaziz Alsharawy, Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Economics at Virginia Tech. Panelists included: Dr. Jim Egenrieder, Director of the Qualcomm® Thinkabit Labs™ at Virginia Tech, and Dr. Amr Hilal, Head Coordinator of the Informatics Lab at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Kheirallah's presentation, *Understanding Mental Health Needs of Refugee Youth; A Gateway to Achieving Sustainable Human Development in Jordan*, addressed the many mental health issues faced by Syrian refugee youth once fleeing a broken country. Through the utilization of iPads in schools, Dr. Kheirallah was able to interview Syrian youth while allowing them the opportunity to experience advanced technology they would not have experienced otherwise. The results of Dr. Kheirallah's study showed a significantly higher level of PTSD symptoms among young boys; however, a lower depressive symptom score compared to young girls. What he did find in common between boys and girls was the large amount of exposure to traumatic experiences and deaths of relatives.

Dr. Al-Qassas presented on an ongoing program being conducted at Al al-Bayt University called Partnership for Digital learning and Increased Access (PADILEIA). The goal of PADILEIA is to facilitate access to higher education for displaced individuals affected by the Syrian Crisis in Jordan and Lebanon. Because of the lack of access to higher education and the immensely large youth population coming out of Syria, education reform is essential for the advancement and development of the refugee youth population. PADILEIA is currently being funded by Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) in collaboration with King's College London (KCL), Al al-Bayt University (AABU), American University of Beirut (AUB), Kiron – Open Higher Education, and FutureLearn. Dr. Al-Qassas was happy to report that in the first cohort, in 2018, 847 participants enrolled in the program.

Mr. Alsharawy's presentation, *Peer Effects in Job Search for Saudi Youth*, highlighted a project that Mr. Alsharawy and his colleagues conducted in Saudi Arabia recently. Finding a job in the Saudi private sector poses serious challenges to youth. Employment in private labor markets is characterized by job search and matching skills that are rarely taught in Saudi educational institutions, but if acquired, can improve matching and shorten the period of job search, reduce stress during search, and be less demoralizing overall. Mr. Alsharawy's team presumes that effectiveness of search depends on job seeker effort and mindset. This pilot project examines the importance of behavioral constraints in job search. The specific hypothesis they examine is the role of peer effects in improving job search effectiveness. They found preliminary evidence that peer effects may assist Saudi youth in their job search. In particular, the team found that participating in virtual group activities increased search effort (number of applications submitted) and encouraged more positive attitudes toward job search.



Plenary Session #2

Continued Panels and Grant Workshops

Day 2 opened with a brief message from Patricia Parera before moving right into a continuation of panels from the day before. Following the conclusion of the panels, the Director of International Relations at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Dr. Bassam Abu Karaki presented on the work conducted within his office. The remainder of the day included presentations by staff from the Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED) and the Language and Culture Institute (LCI) as a part of the Grant Writing Workshop. The purpose of the Grant Writing Workshop was twofold: to inform and instruct Jordanian professors on how to identify grants they will be competitive for, and to provide the background information and knowledge needed to compete for multimillion-dollar grants through U.S. and other global institutions.

Joshua Anderson, Director of Business Development at CIRED, presented on *Pursuing Donor Funding*. His presentation covered a multitude of U.S. and European donor agencies. Mr. Anderson presented on the many aspects to keep in mind when applying for grants or funding from these agencies. Mr. Anderson emphasized the importance of doing background research into the agencies looking for patterns in awardees, so applicants have an idea of what these agencies generally look for.

Jim Foreman, Associate Director of Finance and Administration at CIRED, presented on *Preparing Budgets for Grant Proposals*. Many of the Jordanian scholars expressed interest in having a presentation on budget and finance as this is generally a weaker area for them. Many of the Jordanian professors reported that they do not have a lot of administrative support within their offices. Mr. Foreman focused the majority of his presentation on budgeting and finance as it is related to USAID project proposals. Mr. Foreman explained that USAID proposals are usually on the more complex side and knowledge in this area would open a wide array of opportunities for the Jordanian faculty.

Dr. Ralph Hall, Associate Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, and Dr. Andy Muelenaer, Professor of Pediatrics, gave a presentation on *Mobilizing Resources for*

Multidisciplinary Development Projects. Dr. Hall and Dr. Muelenaer are both involved in a Virginia Tech Project called TEAM Malawi. The TEAM approach, **T**echnology-**E**ducation-**A**dvocacy-**M**edicine, permits the Virginia Tech Malawi team to respond to needs addressed by community members efficiently, effectively, and in a swift manner. TEAM collaborations blend teaching, research, and service and allow for collaboration across departments and majors.

The final part of the Grant Writing Workshop included a conversation on the identification and processing of requests for proposals facilitated by a panel made up of Jessica Muller, Assistant Director of Operations & Program Development at CIRED, Dr. Larry Vaughan, Director of Program Development at



CIRED, and Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships at the LCI. Bringing over 60 years of combined international development experience, these 3 experts have taken part in numerous multilateral contracts and projects spanning across the globe. The discussion covered in-depth conversation regarding strategies and key points to factor in when determining viability for a project. Ms. Muller and Dr. Vaughan walked participants through the step by step process they utilize at the Center for International Research, Education, and Development when identifying RFP's to bid on and the process the center goes through during the bid process. One common theme throughout the process stood out – accountability amongst team members. Bidding on multimillion-dollar projects is a team effort and requires contributions from a wide array of experts. One of the biggest advantage's universities have when bidding on projects is their access to a large quantity of experts in a wide range of fields.

Panel Four: Refugees and Societies

Moderated by Dr. Max Stephenson, Professor of Public and International Affairs and Director of the Institute for Policy and Governance, Panel Four: Refugees and Societies included presenters: Dr. Rami Assasfah, Professor of Sociology at Mutah University, Dr. Renad Abbadi, Professor of English Language and Literature at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Dr. Muddather Abu Karaki, Professor of Political Science at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Dr. Jorge Iván Bula Escobar, Associate Professor of Economics at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Dr. Sukaina Alzyoud, Associate Professor of Community and Mental Health Nursing at Hashemite University, and Dr. Orhon Myadar, Assistant Professor of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona. Panelists included: Dr. James Bohland, Professor Emeritus in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech, and Dr. Penny Muelenaer, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Virginia Tech Carillion School of Medicine.

Dr. Assasfah presented on a Syrian Refugee Integration program that he proposes implementing. Dr. Assasfah emphasized the crucial need for integration programs into the Jordanian community since 84% of Syrian Refugees living within Jordan are living in host communities rather than refugee camps. Integration of the refugees must include sectors related to health, education and employment. University involvement in the implementation of such a program is a must. An estimated 48% of all Syrian Refugees within Jordan are under the age of 15, so implementation of a program addressing educational challenges related to refugees is essential.

Dr. Abbadi and Dr. Abu Karaki presented on their findings from their investigation of *The Impact of Political Rhetoric on Public Attitudes towards Refugees in Jordan and Development Solutions*. One of the largest issues with providing aid and programs to Syrian Refugees is that most of the refugees are not registered. The number of registered refugees in Jordan sits around 650,000, while it is estimated that another 1.4 million Syrian refugees actually reside in Jordan. The rhetoric towards Syrian refugee has progressively moved more negative in recent years – to the point that the Jordanian Prime Minister announced his country was at capacity and would no longer admit refugees into the country. In their study, they found that 75% of Syrian Refugees

believed that the political statements regarding refugees had caused a shift toward more negative attitudes toward them.

Dr. Bula traveled from the National University of Colombia to present on recent research conducted related to the development of rural areas following the signing of the peace with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) after more than 60 years of conflict. The signing of the peace deal in 2016 was a long-awaited step forward toward de-escalation within the country. One of the key points within the peace agreement was a commitment by the Colombian government to invest heavily in rural development. Dr. Bula emphasized the importance of agricultural and rural development for the progression and growth of the Colombian economy. The results of Dr. Bula's survey showed the following: microcredit for small farmers is essential, strengthening of local institutions will help support local farmers, and policy reform related to gender equality is long overdue.

Dr. Alzyoud presented on the rising health risks associated to Syrian Refugee Camps within Jordan and vulnerable youth populations across the country. Her university is currently working on a project with Purdue University to address the growing concern. The growing threat of infectious disease and antimicrobial drug resistance is becoming a global concern. Given the severe instabilities in the region and the refugee crisis in Syria, Jordan has become an epicenter of a global crisis in health security. Substance abuse is another issue facing vulnerable undereducated populations. Dr. Alzyoud's projects primary focus is educating populations across the spectrum on the effects of substance abuse, infectious disease risk reduction and strategies for lowering risks of disease outbreaks.

Dr. Myadar participated via Zoom from the University of Arizona and presented on her work with refugees currently residing on Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Myadar, along with several of her colleagues, created a program called: *Dismantling Fear: Tucson refugees telling their stories*. The program connects refugees from across the community with one another with the goal of empowering them within their new communities. The hope is that through these individuals' stories, the stigma behind refugees will dissipate and Tucson community members will see that refugees enrich their communities rather than cause harm.

Plenary Session #3

Refugee Integration Workshop

Hosted by the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs

The International Refugee Research project at Virginia Tech brings together faculty, students and alumni with international partners, to study various aspects of refugee integration in local communities. During the June 6 workshop, the research team presented preliminary findings of their research and welcomed the Jordanian delegation and international partners from Germany.

Over the course of three panels, researchers offered findings and work in progress regarding refugee integration in Europe and Asia, North and Latin America, and Jordan and the Middle East. Research ranged from case studies to cohort analyses regarding the migrant journey and the shrinking of their protection space (*Dr. Hamza Safouane, Helmut Schmidt University, Germany*), how refugees are integrated – or not – in European states such as Italy, Greece, Turkey, Spain, France, Austria and Hungary, (*Prof. Yannis Stivachtis and his students Taylor Livelli, Matt Prillaman, Isabelle Wyerman, Virginia Tech*), lessons learned from 40 years of integration in Germany (*Dr. Phillina Wittke, TU Darmstadt University, Germany*) and how the global refugee crisis proves to be a test of our collective consciousness and responsibility (*Prof. Kazuma Matoba, University of Witten-Herdecke, Germany*).

Case studies of indigenous migrant youth from Latin America (*Prof. Rebecca Hester, Virginia Tech and Shannon Guillot-Wright, Penn State*), intentional community building through social and cultural events (*Prof. Katy Powell and her PhD student Katie Randall, Virginia Tech*), local collaboration between government and nonprofit resettlement stakeholders (*Benjamin Troy Garrett*), a case study of Khader El-Yateem's 2017 New York City Council primary campaign (*PhD candidate Jake Keyel, Virginia Tech*), and a social media analysis to assess integration of refugees into host communities (*PhD candidate Claire Kelling, Penn State*) were offered during the second panel.

The final panel featured Jordanian scholars addressing the issue of mental health needs of refugee youth in Jordan (*Prof. Khalid Kheirallah, Jordan University of Science and Technology*), the role of refugee and Jordanian women in building a sustainable Jordanian society (*Prof. Qanita Bani Baker, Jordan University of Science and Technology*), a partnership for digital learning to increase access for Syrian refugees and disadvantaged citizens (*Prof. Wael Al-Qassas, Al Albayt University*), aspects of integration of Syrian refugees into Jordanian society (*Dr. Rami Assasfah, Mutah University*), and the effects of political rhetoric on public attitudes towards refugees in Jordan (*Prof. Renad Abbadi, Prof. Muddather Abu Karaki, and Bassam Abu Karaki, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University*).

Prof. Max Stephenson of Virginia Tech discussed the challenges of investigating refugee agency amidst political and economic discrimination and alienation. Dr. Georgeta Pourchot, the coordinator of the refugee project at Virginia Tech addressed success stories of refugee entrepreneurs and the need to lift these stories up to counter the negativity surrounding refugees in many countries.



Plenary Session #4

Connecting with Development Organizations

The final day of the conference was held at the Virginia Tech Research Center located in Arlington, Virginia. By having the final session in Arlington, participants from the private and public sector were able to attend and participate in the conference. Representatives from The World Bank Group, the U.S. State Department, and the Embassy of Jordan were in attendance in addition to the participants from the prior sessions.

To begin the morning, Dr. Roop Mahajan, Hester Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Global Ambassador for the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) at Virginia Tech, gave the welcoming address giving his acclaimed *From Jugaad to Black Swan Innovation* presentation. Dr. Mahajan boasts more than 40 years of experience as an innovator, educator, and leader in both the public and private sector. Dr. Mahajan's presentation discusses the need for out-of-the-box solutions with extreme impacts – Black Swan Solutions. A Black Swan event carries 3 distinct characteristics: (1) it is an outlier, (2) it carries an extreme impact, and (3) it has retrospective predictability. The internet and computers are both examples of recent Black Swan innovations. Some of the most influential Black Swan innovations came about at intersections – the coming together of two or more influential forces to create something groundbreaking. As a community we need to create a culture of growth through the empowering of young minds and encouragement of risk taking. By creating a breeding ground for the next Black Swan, we can build bridges to a sustainable future.

Dr. Mark Johnson from the University of Wisconsin-Madison expounded upon his earlier presentation and offered a more in-depth look at the U.S.-Jordan University Cooperation Network and his hopes for the network and its future. The network has the potential to transform U.S.-Jordan University relations and create a hub for collaboration and research not yet in existence. Stakeholders in the network are eager to create further collaboration within the network and many are already in the process

of bidding on grants that would offer the network the monetary kick-start it needs. The U.S. Embassy in Amman has expressed interest and is eager to continue its support of the network and its operations.

8 of the Jordanian presenters took to the podium to present a brief synopsis of their projects and the potential impacts they could have on the Jordanian and Syrian displaced population across the nation. This brief time allowed our participants from the public and private donor sector to hear directly from academic faculty from within the country of Jordan and it allowed the Jordanian faculty an opportunity to express their thoughts to the donor agencies directly. The presentations sparked interesting, productive conversation across the room between our Jordanian faculty, donor agencies and representatives from Virginia Tech.



Dr. Van Crowder, Executive Director of the Virginia Tech Center for International Research, Education, and Development, presented to the donor agencies current work his office is undergoing and his hopes for the center's future. One of the more unique things about Dr. Crowder's position is that he has the ability to continue the work he did for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) from the University level offering him direct access to tools and resources in every field imaginable.

Our morning session of presenters continued with 4 guest presenters from The World Bank Group. The World Bank has set two ambitious goals it seeks to achieve by 2030: (1) reduce the percentage of people living in extreme poverty to 3% by the year 2030 and (2) increase the income of the bottom 40% of the population in each country.

Dr. Dina Abu-Ghaida, Lead Economist in the Education Global Practice for The World Bank Group, gave a presentation titled, *Educating the Forcibly Displaced: The Role of the World Bank*. Dr. Abu-Ghaida gave a brief overview of how the bank operates in relation to operations and lending before diving into her presentation. Dr. Abu-Ghaida presented on rationale the bank utilizes when determining the need for intervention to include the increasing number of individuals affected by extreme poverty and its relation to increasing displaced populations across the globe. World Bank Education Global Practice priorities include: (1) building inclusive and adaptable education systems in fragile and adverse environments, (2) strengthening skills and resilience of individuals whose lives and education are affected by adversity, and (3) improving education services for displaced populations and host communities.

Dr. Ellen Hamilton, Lead Urban Specialist for the Middle East and North Africa Unit, Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice at The World Bank Group, gave a presentation on, *Cities of Refuge in the Middle East: Bringing an Urban Lens to the Forced Displacement Challenge*. Dr. Hamilton's presentation offered 5 key messages from the perspectives of receiving towns and cities. The first message being "Urbanization of Displacement Calls for a Different Approach." 26% of all displaced people live in the MENA region and, of those, 80-90% of forcibly displaced in MENA live in towns and cities. Rapid population growth strains urban service provision and overwhelms housing and employment markets. The third point presented by Dr. Hamilton is that "One Size Does Not Fit All." Receiving cities are placed into four categories: (1) cities with localized displacement impact, (2) cities under widespread stress from displacement, (3) cities and towns heavily affected by conflict damage, and (4) urbanizing camps. Each of these city types require their own unique response in terms of resources and urbanization strategies.

Dr. Michaela Johanna Weber, Operations Officer, Strategy, Portfolio, and Monitoring, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions at The World Bank Group, presented on,

Analysis of Aggregator Companies to Encourage Inclusiveness and Growth for Job Generation for Female Producers and Entrepreneurs. Dr. Weber explained that their initial focus was on 3 main industries: (1) fashion and home décor, (2) design led industries, and (3) digital disruptors. In the beginning of the study the bank identified 3 aspects of their conceptual frameworks: (1) industry segmentation, (2) value chain, and (3) management model. The bank identified 5 successful or growth aggregators to participate in their case study and utilized the following impact indicators: cumulative revenues, cumulative number of artisans, percentage of female artisans, and carbon footprint. By the end of the case study, the bank had revised their conceptual framework to include these four points: (1) firm-level strategic management, (2) global value chain management, (3) business and digital environment and innovation ecosystem, and (4) financial solutions. In total, 78 firms have been reached through World Bank Group outreach and, among those, 39 participated in a survey revealing fast growing firms are producing in 25 countries across the globe.

Dr. Janssen Teixeira, Senior Education Specialist for the World Bank's Education Global Practice at The World Bank Group, gave a presentation on a project he was a part of titled, *An Innovative Social Impact Bond to Maximize Financing for Early Childhood Development in Lagging Regions of Uzbekistan*. A Social Impact Bond (SIB) is a financial contract by which investors provide upfront funding to deliver social interventions and the outcome funder (public sector agency) repays them if the agreed outcomes are achieved. Impact Bonds are a financial contract that combines performance-based payments with market discipline while transferring the risk of program failure from the public sector to the private sector. Some of the benefits of utilizing impact bonds include: bringing private capital investments to social programs, connecting performance outcomes to financial return, and providing robust analysis and strong evidence on data and attribution. The SIB in Uzbekistan Dr. Teixeira discussed was specifically focused on the start-up and improvement of preschools across the nation. 50% of the social impact bond funded preschools were to be located in lagging regions of Uzbekistan previously identified. The SIB had a specific requirement detailing that a certain percentage of disadvantaged children were to be admitted at no cost.

To close out the final morning session, Ali E. Lejlic, Deputy Director, Office of Press & Public Diplomacy for the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau of the United States Department of State, offered a brief message of ongoing state department projects being conducted in Jordan. Mr. Lejlic emphasized the United States position and wishes to reinforce and build upon relationships with local partners in country. Mr. Lejlic encouraged university partners to reach out and get involved as much as possible with ongoing projects being conducted in country. Mr. Lejlic concluded his time with an encouragement for all Jordanian faculty members in attendance to submit proposals for their projects to the U.S. Embassy in Amman and to continue seeking funding for their projects through other donor agencies – both private and public.

Following the conclusion of the morning session with the donor agencies, the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs hosted a final afternoon session bringing together scholars from Germany, Jordan and the United States to discuss ideas and projects that may improve the development of policy in response to forced displacement of populations.



Annex 1: Conference Agenda

CONFERENCE ON INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY RESPONSE TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT

– AGENDA –
June 4 – 7, 2019

A collaborative event organized by Virginia Tech's Language and Culture Institute (LCI) with the generous support of Outreach and International Affairs, the Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) and the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) at Virginia Tech.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

CIRED CONFERENCE ROOM, 526 PRICES FORK ROAD

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Eid ul-Fitr Prayer & Service <i>Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg, VA</i>
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Conference Registration <i>Light refreshments</i>
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Welcome Address Dr. Guru Ghosh, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, Virginia Tech
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Introduction & Overview of Proceedings Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships, US-UCN Secretariat, Language and Culture Institute (LCI), Virginia Tech
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) Dr. Van Crowder, Executive Director, CIRED, Virginia Tech
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	World Bank Operations in Jordan Dr. Juan Manuel Moreno, Senior Education Specialist, Department of Middle East and North Africa, World Bank; <i>Via Zoom</i> Questions and Discussion
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	US-Jordan University Cooperation Network (UCN) Dr. Mark Johnson, Visiting Scholar, Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fulbright Policy Specialist 2019, U.S. Embassy Amman and Hashemite University
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch at CIRED's library.
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Panel One: Capacity Building for Youth, Women, and Communities <i>Moderator: Dr. Georgeta Pourchot, Refugee Project Coordinator, Adjunct Faculty, Government and International Affairs, Virginia Tech</i> Supporting the role of refugee and Jordanian women in Jordanian society to participate in sustainable development – Dr. Qanita Bani Baker, Assistant Dean, Department of Computer Science, JUST SHE-WILL-INNOVATE: Empowering female Syrian refugee higher education students in Northern Jordan with innovation capacities – Dr. Mwaffaq (Mof) Otoom, Associate Professor of Computer Engineering, Director of International Relations and Projects, Yarmouk University

	<p>The TEAM Approach – Dr. Andre Muelenaer, Professor of Pediatrics, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Virginia Tech</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, Director, Women & Gender in International Development, CIRED, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Tom Archibald, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Hani Saoub, Dean of the School of Agriculture, University of Jordan</i></p> <p>Questions & Discussion</p>
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Coffee Break
2:45 PM – 4:30 PM	<p>Panel Two: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Agricultural Research and Transformation</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Luke Juran, Assistant Professor of Human Ecology of Water, Department of Geography, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p>WASH working group: Response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan with respect to WASH challenges – Dr. Ahmad Al Tarawnah, Water and Sanitation Officer, UNICEF; <i>Via Zoom</i></p> <p>Citizen science to monitor water quality in underserved communities and emergencies: Tools and protocols from the US experience – Dr. Siddhartha Roy, Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech</p> <p>Food security and community empowerment for disadvantaged and displaced populations in Jordan – Dr. Jennifer Kushner, Assistant Director, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences CALS Global, University of Wisconsin-Madison</p> <p>Questions and Discussion</p>
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	<p>Panel Three: Digital Innovation & Technology</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ashley Taylor, Director, Pathways for Future Engineers, Center for Enhancement of Engineering Diversity, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Engineering Education, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p>Digital innovation as a tool to empower vulnerable youth in Jordan – Dr. Khalid Kheirallah, Department of Public Health, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)</p> <p>Partnership for digital learning and increased access program (PADILEIA) for Syrian refugees and disadvantaged citizens – Dr. Wael Al-Qassas, Information Technology, Al Albayt University</p> <p>Peer effects in job search for Saudi youth - Abdelaziz (Zizo) Alsharawy, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Jim Egenrieder, Director, Thinkabit Lab, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Amr Hilal, Head Coordinator, Informatics Lab, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p>Questions and Discussion</p>
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Closing Remarks & Next Steps

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Dr. Van Crowder, Executive Director, CIRED, Virginia Tech

Dinner at 622 North
622 North Main St. Blacksburg, VA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

CIRED CONFERENCE ROOM, 526 PRICES FORK ROAD

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration
Light refreshments

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Panel Four: Refugees and Societies

Moderator: Dr. Max Stephenson, Professor of Public and International Affairs, Director of the Institute for Policy and Governance, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech

Sociological analysis of the Syrian refugee crisis in terms of the factors of expulsion from the original society and their social integration in Jordanian society. Proposal to achieve their proper integration – Dr. Rami Assasfah, Department of Sociology, Mutah University

The impact of political rhetoric on public attitudes towards refugees in Jordan – Dr. Renad Abbadi, Professor, Department of English Language & Literature, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University and Dr. Muddather Abu Karaki, Professor, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University.

Perspectives and determinants of rural development in a conflict scenario. A case study: Colombia's central region – Dr. Jorge Iván Bula Escobar, Associate Professor, School of Economics, Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

Service learning for improving livelihood of displaced families and communities in Jordan: Infectious diseases and substance use – Dr. Sukaina Alzyoud, Associate Professor, Department of Community & Mental Health Nursing, Hashemite University

Dismantling fear: Voices of Tucson's refugee community – Dr. Orhon Myadar, Assistant Professor, School of Geography and Development, University of Arizona; *Via Zoom*

Panelists:

Dr. James Bohland, Professor Emeritus, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech

Dr. Penny Muelenaer, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, VT Carilion School of Medicine, Visiting Associate Professor, Paediatrics/Chile Health, Busitema University, Mbale, Uganda

Questions and Discussion

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Coffee Break

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

International Relations Office Activities in Cross-Cultural Exchange and Positive Youth Development

Dr. Bassam Abu Karaki, Director International Relations Office, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Pursuing Donor Funding

Joshua Anderson, Director of Business Development, CIRED, Virginia Tech

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Preparing Budgets for Grant Proposals Jim Foreman, Associate Director of Finance and Administration, CIRED, Virginia Tech
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Mobilizing Resources for Multidisciplinary Development Projects Dr. Ralph Hall, Associate Professor, Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Tech Dr. Andre Muelenaer, Professor of Pediatrics, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Virginia Tech
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch at Multi-Purpose Room
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Questions and Discussion; Case Study
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Identification and Processing of Requests for Proposals Jessica Muller, Technical Assistance Project Coordinator, CIRED, Virginia Tech Dr. Larry Vaughan, Director for Program Development, CIRED, Virginia Tech Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships, US-UCN Secretariat, Language and Culture Institute (LCI), Virginia Tech
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Working Sessions
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing Address – Virginia Tech in MENA Dr. Khaled Hassouna, Associate Director for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Initiatives and Curricula Development, CIRED, Virginia Tech Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships, US-UCN Secretariat, Language and Culture Institute (LCI), Virginia Tech
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner at The Blacksburg Tavern <i>103 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA</i>

REFUGEE INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

VIRGINIA TECH SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The third day of the conference is hosted by SPIA. The purpose of the workshop is to present status of research on projects related to refugee integration, as part of the international refugee research project.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM AT NEWMAN LIBRARY

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Welcome and Brief Update on the International Refugee Research Project Dr. Georgeta Pourchot, Refugee Project Coordinator, Adjunct Faculty, Government and International Affairs, Virginia Tech
10:10 AM – 10:15 AM	Participant Introductions All
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	Panel One: Refugee Integration in Europe and Asia <i>Moderator: Dr. Max Stephenson, Professor of Public and International Affairs, Director of the Institute for Policy and Governance, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech</i> Migrant categorization and the global reduction of the protection space: A reflection on the collectivization of the refugee status – Dr. Hamza Safouane, Research Associate, Helmudt Schmidt University, Germany

	<p>40 Years of experience and no lessons learned: Germany – Phillina Wittke, Virginia Tech-TU Darmstadt Liaison Office, Darmstadt University, Germany</p> <p>The refugee crisis as a test for our collective conscience: Global perspective-taking and witnessing – Dr. Kazuma Matoba, Apl. Professor, Cultural Reflection Studies, University of Witten-Herdecke, Germany</p> <p>Integrating refugees into European societies: Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, France, Austria and Hungary - Dr. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, International Studies Program, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech <i>Taylor Livelli, Matt Prillaman, Isabelle Wyerman</i></p>
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Coffee Break
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<p>Panel Two: Refugee Integration in North and Latin America <i>Moderator: Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships, US-UCN Secretariat, Language and Culture Institute (LCI), Virginia Tech</i></p> <p>Forced migration and integration: A case study of Indigenous migrant youth from Latin America – Dr. Rebecca Hester, Associate Professor, Department of Science, Technology and Society, Virginia Tech and Dr. Shannon Guillot-Wright, Post-doctoral Researcher, Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, Penn State</p> <p>Resettlement stories in the United States: Intentional community building and narrative as Data – Dr. Katy Powell, Director, Center for Rhetoric in Society, Department of English, Virginia Tech and Katy Randall, Doctoral Candidate, Rhetoric and Writing, Department of English, Virginia Tech</p> <p>Aspects promoting community inclusion for refugees: Collaboration between government and non-profit resettlement stakeholders locally - Benjamin Troy Garrett, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech</p> <p>Yalla Vote: A case study of Khader El-Yateem’s 2017 NYC City Council primary campaign - Jake Keyel, Doctoral Candidate, Planning, Governance, and Globalization, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech</p> <p>Using social media data to assess integration of refugees into host communities - Claire Kelling, Distinguished Graduate Fellow, Doctoral Candidate, Statistics and Social Data Analytics, Penn State</p> <p>What should guide refugee integration in employment policy and labor practices? Applying a data-driven policy rubric to employment of people seeking refuge – Dr. Eli C.S. Jamison, Assistant Professor of Practice, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech and Dr. Christian Matheis, Visiting Assistant Professor of Justice and Policy Studies, Guilford College</p>
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	<p>Panel Three: Aspects of Refugee Integration in Jordan and the Middle East <i>Moderator: Dr. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, International Studies Program, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p>Understanding mental health needs of refugee youth: A gateway to achieving sustainable human development in Jordan – Dr. Khalid Kheirallah, Department of Public Health, JUST</p>

	<p>Refugee entrepreneurship and integration: Voices from the Middle East – Dr. Georgeta Pourchot, Refugee Project Coordinator, Adjunct Faculty, Government and International Affairs, Virginia Tech</p> <p>Supporting the role of refugee and Jordanian women in Jordanian society to participate in sustainable development – Dr. Qanita Bani Baker, Assistant Dean, Department of Computer Science, JUST</p> <p>Building entrepreneurship capacities for Syrian and Jordanian higher education students – Dr. Mwaffaq (Mof) Ootom, Associate Professor of Computer Engineering, Director of International Relations and Projects, Yarmouk University</p> <p>Partnership for digital learning and increased access program (PADILEIA) for Syrian refugees and disadvantaged citizens – Dr. Wael Al-Qassas, Information Technology, Al Albayt University</p>
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Coffee Break
2:45 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>Panel Three Reconvenes</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, International Studies Program, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech</i></p> <p>Sociological analysis of the Syrian refugee crisis in terms of the factors of expulsion from the original society and their social integration in Jordanian society: A proposal to achieve their proper integration – Dr. Rami Assasfah, Department of Sociology, Mutah University</p> <p>Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan – Dr. Max Stephenson, Professor of Public and International Affairs, Director of the Institute for Policy and Governance, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech</p> <p>The impact of political rhetoric on public attitudes towards refugees in Jordan – Dr. Renad Abbadi, Professor, Department of English Language & Literature, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University and Dr. Muddather Abu Karaki, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University</p> <p>Service learning for improving livelihood of displaced families and communities in Jordan: Infectious diseases and substance use – Dr. Sukaina Alzyoud, Associate Professor, Department of Community & Mental Health Nursing, Hashemite University</p>
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Roundtable Discussion: Moving forward with international research collaborations
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Dinner
5:15 PM	Adjourn
6:00 PM	Campus Connect Bus departs from the Inn at Virginia Tech and arrives around 10:30 PM @ Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston (4610 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA).

CONNECTING WITH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The final day of the conference is a joint event of LCI and SPIA designed facilitate potential collaboration with development organizations based on UCN's investment proposals and other initiatives.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 – PART 1

FOGGY BOTTOM ROOM, VRTC

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration <i>Light refreshments</i>
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Welcome Address: From Jugaad to Black Swan Innovation Dr. Roop Mahajan, Hester Chair Professor, Hester Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Global Ambassador for the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS), Virginia Tech Questions and Discussion
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Rethinking U.S.-Jordan Cooperation in Higher Education and Research: Principles of the University Cooperation Network (UCN) Dr. Mark Johnson, Visiting Scholar, Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fulbright Policy Specialist 2019, U.S. Embassy Amman and Hashemite University
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Synopsis of Conference Proceedings Presentations by Jordanian Scholars – Proposals, Conclusions, and Recommendations
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Overview of CIRED's Mission and Plan of Work in MENA Dr. Van Crowder, Executive Director, CIRED, Virginia Tech
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM	World Bank Operations on Education and Forced Displacement: An Overview Building partnerships with institutions of higher education – Dr. Dina Abu-Ghaida, Lead Education Economist and World Bank Focal Point for Higher Education in Fragile States, The World Bank. Cities of refuge in the Middle East: Bringing an urban lens to the forced displacement challenge – Dr. Ellen Hamilton, Lead Urban Specialist, Middle East and North Africa Unit, Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank Analysis of aggregator companies to encourage inclusiveness and growth for job generation for female producers and entrepreneurs – Dr. Michaela Johanna Weber, Operations Officer, Strategy, Portfolio, and Monitoring, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions, World Bank An innovative social impact bond to maximize financing for early childhood development in lagging regions of Uzbekistan – Dr. Janssen Teixeira, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank's Education Global Practice, World Bank Questions and Discussion
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	U.S. Department of State Programs in Jordan and the Region: An Overview Ali E. Lejlic, Deputy Director, Office of Press & Public Diplomacy, Near Eastern Affairs Bureau, U.S. Department of State
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	United States Agency for International Development Education Reform in Jordan: An Overview

	Dr. Stefanie Kendall, Regional Education Officer, Middle East Regional Platform, USAID
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Questions and Discussion
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Final Words and Wrap-Up Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships, US-UCN Secretariat, Language and Culture Institute (LCI), Virginia Tech

Participants are invited to attend the following event organized by the School of Public and International Affairs. This event brings together scholars from Germany, Jordan and the United States to discuss ideas and projects that may improve the development of policy in response to forced displacement of populations.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 – PART 2

FALLS CHURCH ROOM, VTRC

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Registration
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	Welcome and Introductions Dr. Joel Peters, Director (Interim), School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Keynote Address - The refugee crisis as a test for our collective conscience: Global perspective-taking and witnessing Dr. Kazuma Matoba, Apl. Professor, Cultural Reflection Studies, University of Witten-Herdecke, Germany Questions and Discussion
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	Lunch
2:15 PM – 4:00 PM	Roundtable Discussion – Ideas and Projects to Improve the Development of Policy in Response to Forced Migration Supporting the Role of Refugee and Jordanian Women in Jordanian Society to Participate in Sustainable Development – Dr. Qanita Bani Baker, Assistant Dean, Department of Computer Science, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Digital Innovation as a Tool to Empower Vulnerable Youth in Jordan – Dr. Khalid Kheirallah, Department of Public Health, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) The Maximized Threat and Minimized Benefit of the Refugee Discourse – Dr. Kazuma Matoba, Apl. Professor, Cultural Reflection Studies, University of Witten-Herdecke, Germany Resettlement Stories in the United States: Intentional Community Building and Narrative as Data – Dr. Katy Powell, Director, Center for Rhetoric in Society, Department of English, Virginia Tech and Katy Randall, Doctoral Candidate, Rhetoric and Writing, Department of English, Virginia Tech
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Roundtable Discussion – Impacting Policy Moderator: Dr. Joel Peters, Director (Interim), School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech

Annex 2: List of Attendees

Speakers:

Guru Ghosh
Van Crowder
Don Back
Joel Peters
Roop Mahajan
Mark Johnson
Qanita Bani Baker
Mwaffaq Ootom
Andy Muelenaer
Ahmad Al-Tarawnah
Jennifer Kushner
Khalid Kheirallah
Wael Al-Qassas
Abdelaziz Alsharawy
Rami Assasfah
Renad Abbadi
Muddather Abu Karaki
Jorge Iván Bula Escobar
Sukaina Alzyoud
Orhon Myadar
Bassam Abu Karaki
Joshua Anderson
Jim Foreman
Ralph Hall
Jessica Muller
Larry Vaughan
Hamza Safouane
Phillina Wittke
Kazuma Matoba
Yannis Stivachtis
Rebecca Hester
Katy Powell
Benjamin Troy
Jake Keyel

Claire Kelling
Eli C.S. Jamison

The World Bank Group:

Juan Manuel Moreno
Dina Abu-Ghaida
Ellen Hamilton
Michaela Johanna Weber
Janssen Teixeira

U.S. State Department:

Ali E. Lejlic
Shannon Quinn

Panelists:

Maria Elisa Christie
Tom Archibald
Hani Saoub
Jim Egenrieder
Amr Hilal
James Bohland
Penny Muelenaer

Moderators:

Luke Juran
Ashley Taylor
Max Stephenson

Planning Committee:

Patricia Parera
Georgeta Pourchot
Khaled Hassouna
Jess Agnew
Ben Sanders
Siddhartha Roy