Colloquium Series

Western Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations

Date: February 1, 2024 4-5 PM

By 2018 Venezuela's on-going economic collapse had resulted in the emigration of over 5 million people, many of whom fled by foot. Colombia, its nearest neighbour, received a plurality.

In 2021 Colombia's President Duque made the controversial decision to grant legal status to over 1.8 million undocumented Venezuelan migrants living in Colombia. Protection included immunity from deportation, access to the legal labour market, as well as public health care, education, and other social services. Public agencies have collected rich administrative data on the identities and trajectory of this migrant population.

In partnership with Global Affairs Canada and Alinea International, Audrey Wubbenhorst and Colin Decker are assisting Colombia's Department of National Planning in the construction of a new center of excellence, The National Migrant Observatory, that will store, analyze, and communicate this data to policy makers and international stake holders. This presentation will discuss the strategic, organizational, statistical, and communication challenges and opportunities of working with rich migration data in a public context.

Speakers

Colin Decker is a Canadian statistician, researcher, and digital data expert with an extensive background spanning over 15 years in analytics. He has expertise in statistical analysis across numerous sectors, including healthcare, life insurance, pharmaceuticals, animal health, education, the justice system, academia, banking, and finance.

As a consultant for Alinea's TAP-EDM initiative, Colin Decker works collaboratively with Colombia's National Planning Department (DNP) and the Colombian Observatory for Venezuelan Migration (OMV) to provide technical assistance to design and implement a digital and automated system for the collection, management, monitoring, dissemination, and analysis of migration data from different sources at the national and territorial levels.

Based in Toronto, Colin is a statistical consultant and a lecturer at the University of Toronto. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Statistics at the University of Toronto. Before his doctoral studies, Colin obtained an MSc in Statistics, an MSc in Mathematics, and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Toronto.

Audrey Wubbenhorst is a governance, policy, equity, diversity, and inclusion expert. With over 20 years of experience and a passion for effective communication, Audrey has had the privilege of working with various clients and organizations, taking on projects that span different areas, such as governance and diversity. She has worked with organizations to assess board effectiveness, developed governance structures, and embedded equity, diversity, and

inclusion into those practices.

As a consultant for the TAP-EDM initiative, she works collaboratively with Colombia's National Planning Department (DNP) and the Colombian Observatory for Venezuelan Migration (OMV) to provide technical assistance to design and implement a digital and automated system for the collection, management, monitoring, dissemination, and analysis of migration data from different sources at the national and territorial levels.

Audrey's work focuses on migration data analysis. She is driven by the desire to identify any gaps or barriers that impede the successful integration of migrants into society and determine which policy changes may be necessary. Ultimately, she hopes to develop a model to implement in future scenarios, providing a valuable framework for similar situations worldwide.

Based in Oakville, Audrey is a professor teaching communication at Humber College. She has a Master of Arts in Communications and a Master of Business Administration. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from McGill University and has a certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from St. Michael's College (University of Toronto). Audrey has also completed her ICD.D. designation with the Rotman School of Management. She has authored a textbook on human resources strategy and a book on critical data literacy.