



**CCIS** | Center for Comparative  
Immigration Studies

## **Global Regimes of Closure: Concepts and Methods for Exploring Connections between Novel Mixed Migration Routes and Frustrated Mobility Aspirations**

Thursday, February 10, 2022 | 10:00AM - 11:30AM

This will be a Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Event | ERC Conference Room 115



### **Craig Smith, PhD**

Craig Damian Smith is a Senior Research Associate at the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration & Integration at Ryerson University, an Affiliate at the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego. His research examines the international politics of irregular migration, migration governance, and refugee integration, and combines qualitative field research with national and global migration data.

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This paper presents the author's "Global Regimes of Closure" (GRC) framework, defined as “the accumulation over time of global visa restrictions for countries with high migration potential, narrow access to international protection, and controls on established mixed migration routes.” The framework is derived from a two-year research project on novel mixed migration to Canada from 2016 to 2020, and situate intercontinental irregular migration to the Western hemisphere in the context of post 2015-16 changes to global migration governance. Visa data and interviews with 300 asylum seekers found strong correlations between Canadian and European visa rejections and nationalities in Canadian asylum statistics. A significant number from the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia were previously rejected from legal migration channels or pushed back on irregular routes, and undertook long and complex journeys to join routes through Latin America to reach the U.S. and Canada. The next phase of the research agenda seeks to develop a comprehensive dataset to explore global relationships between bilateral visa application and acceptance rates, asylum statistics, refugee resettlement statistics, and changes to mixed migration routes. The goal is to present the GRC framework, and explore analytic and methodological considerations to prepare an open-source dataset for migration scholars.

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