

GENEVA CENTRE OF
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

CENTRE D'ÉTUDES
HUMANITAIRES GENÈVE

Achievements

July 2021 / December 2021

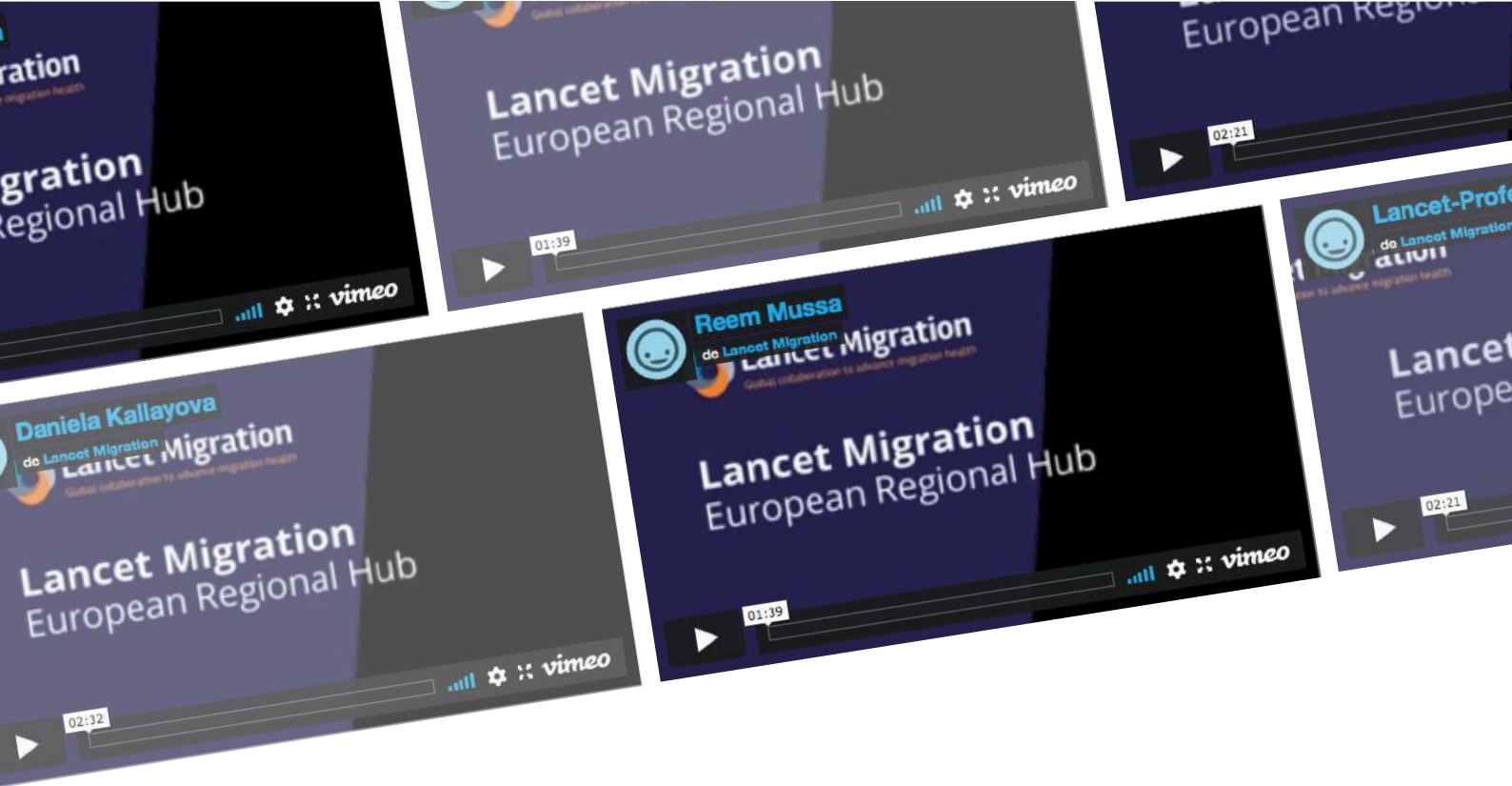
A Joint Centre of



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

THE
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE
GENEVA

—
INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



Lancet Migration European Regional

The [new Lancet Migration European Regional Hub](#), co-led by Lancet Migration and our Centre, was launched in the Summer of 2021 with the aim to make a positive impact on the lives of people who migrate to or within Europe, through multidisciplinary research, as well as leadership, engagement, dissemination of research, and advocacy.

A number of our Task Force members shared their thoughts on the topic and their vision for the Hub in a range of short [videos](#).

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‘Nearly 10% of the WHO European Region is comprised of international migrants, ranging upwards of 50% in some countries. With increases in human mobility and mass migration, and the unequal effects experienced by COVID19 and other health issues, it is important now more than ever to come together as a region to study and improve the health of migrants’.

**Professor Bernadette Nirmal Kumar, Hub Co-Chair and Co-Lead European Regional Hub;
Norwegian Institute of Public Health**

‘This hub gives us optimism that we are not alone in this struggle. We are not alone in dealing with people in need. The hub will allow better analysis and documentation, and also better solutions. This is an opportunity we need to maximise all together’.

Dr Apolostolos Veizis, Executive Director, INTERSOS Greece

The Lancet Migration Regional Hub, is a sustainable platform for research and policy action between and within sectors, to amplify existing work and advocacy across the European region. We will promote diversity in gender, geography, and disciplines across the region and sectors and bridge gaps in migration health-related research topics.

Professor Karl Blanchet, Hub Co-Chair & Director, Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies



Our Centre in the Media

A UN-backed conference called for \$600 million in humanitarian funding for Afghanistan on 13 September 2021. (Denis Balibouse/REUTERS)

In 2021 our Centre appeared in the media, and contributed to papers and articles on numerous occasions. A full list can be found at: <https://humanitarianstudies.ch/media-coverage/>

Some examples include

- [Afghanistan needs international support. But what kind?](#)
- [Sanctions on Afghanistan. Why less is more](#)
- [Access to Vaccines is a Human Right](#)
- [Humanitarian Communications – A double-edged Sword?](#)
- [A recipe for disaster: Covid-19 and chronic diseases amid humanitarian crises](#)

Papers & Journals

Alex Odum, Rosemary James, **Audrey Mahieu**, **Karl Blanchet**, Chiara Altare, Neha Singh and Paul Spiegel, [Use of COVID-19 evidence in humanitarian settings: the need for dynamic guidance adapted to changing humanitarian crisis contexts](#), *Conflict and Health*, **November 2021**.

Bernadette N Kumar, Sally Hargreaves, Charles Agyemang, Rosemary A James, **Karl Blanchet**, Laurence Gruer, [Reducing the impact of the coronavirus on disadvantaged migrants and ethnic minorities](#), *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 31, Issue Supplement_4, November 2021, Pages iv9–iv13.

David James Cantor, Jina Swartz, Roberts Bayard, Aula Abbara, Alastair Ager, Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, **Karl Blanchet**, Derebe Madoro Bunte, John Bosco Chika Chukwuorji, Nihaya Daoud, Winifred Ekezie, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, Kiran Jobanputra, Nino Makhashvili, Diana Rayes, Maria Helena Restrepo-Espinosa, Alfonso J. Rodriguez-Morales, Salami Bukola, James Smith, [Understanding the health needs of internally displaced persons: a scoping review](#) *Journal of Migration and Health*, 2021, 100071.

Haar, R.J., Read, R., Fast, L. et al. [Violence against healthcare in conflict: a systematic review of the literature and agenda for future research](#). *Conflict Health* 15, 37 (2021).

A list of publications and articles is available [here](#).

How can academia support the humanitarian sector to develop capacity at the local level?

Prof Karl Blanchet and our Head of Learning, Dr Valérie Gorin, were interviewed by NewsSpecial Magazine to discuss how the localisation of humanitarian programmes can help mitigate the sector's impact on climate change.

<https://www.unige.ch/formcont/promotions/academia-humanitarian-sector>



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



ICRC

Our achievements

New Open — Access Course on Research for Humanitarians

A new **MOOC** (Massive Online Open Course) on **Operational research for Humanitarians** is under production with the support of the MOOC team of the University of Geneva and coordinated by [Benjamin Schmid](#). Developed in coordination with **Aga Khan University** and **ICRC**, will be launched in **May 2022**.

This free course will help humanitarian professionals identify the benefits of conducting research in humanitarian settings, develop clear and realistic research questions, clarify different methodologies and look at how research can be translated into knowledge. A section of the MOOC will focus on the Humanitarian Encyclopedia project and approach. This project supports the MOOC financially thanks to the generous support of the German Foreign Office Minister and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

2021 MAS Students Copyright: Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies





2021 MAS Students Copyright: Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies

— COVID-19

Course adaptations

The response to many courses going online was very positive, both from students and partners alike. As a result, the strategic decision was made to keep the majority of courses online going forward, to make them more accessible to humanitarian professionals, wherever they are based worldwide. However, our Diploma in Humanitarian Action remains residential in Geneva, as this course is also part of our new blended Masters (a mix of residential and online) which started in September 2021.

All full list of future courses for 2022-2023 can be seen [here](#).

New MAS format

Our achievements

Our **Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Action** has evolved into a blended course. Term one is residential in Geneva, and the other terms are online. This allows students to benefit from learning together in person over a four-month period, and then continue this class and peer learning remotely thereafter. This flexibility offers the best of both worlds, the chance to interact with fellow students, but at the same time the remote part allows students to juggle the workload with other commitments. Students can still opt for two durations: continuous learning over a 14-month period, or a flexible option over 36 months.



New Members of the Board of Directors

We welcomed three new members of our [Board of Directors](#): Alexandra Calmy, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva; Head of the HIV/AIDS Unit, University Hospital of Geneva;
Barbara Dätwyler, Head of the Multilateral Division, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;
Mohini Ghai Kramer, Global Head of Learning and Development, International Committee of the Red Cross.

Afghanistan



Professor Karl Blanchet with His Excellency Dr Majrooh, Minister of Health. Photo credit: Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies

Several faculty members wrote opinion pieces and gave interviews on the crisis in Afghanistan that unfolded in the second half of 2021. You can find a summary of the articles at:

<https://humanitarianstudies.ch/afghanistan-crisis-media-coverage/>

Before the crisis, Professor Karl Blanchet visited Afghanistan to meet with high level officials in the Afghanistan Health Ministry, and while things are now on hold in country at the moment with respect to research, Professor Blanchet is working with WHO and other partners to develop future strategies for healthcare delivery and protection.



Data, evidence and attacks on healthcare

We participated in the first-ever [Analysis and Evidence Week – Data, data, data...but then what?](#) Event organised by our partner, the International Committee of the Red Cross. Our Researcher Audrey Mahieu, with Dr Sayel Jalal and Dr Samim Muneer, presented preliminary findings of the [Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare \(RIAH\) project](#). More information [here](#).



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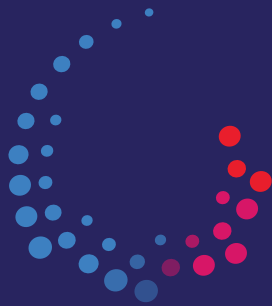
Humanitarianism

— Humanitarian Encyclopedia

The [Humanitarian Encyclopedia](#) launched a weekly newsletter, Concepts & Community, with spotlights on key concepts such as impartiality and humanity and new data visualisations. The most recent concept explored was [humanitarianism](#).

To get the best access to the Humanitarian Encyclopedia platform and all its features sign up to the newsletter or create an account on the Humanitarian Encyclopedia website.

<https://humanitarianencyclopedia.org/home>



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