



## MOBILIZING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE: REFUGEE RESEARCH IN AN AGE OF DISPLACEMENT

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# Building and Sustaining a Web Platform for Researchers, Teachers, Students, and Practitioners in the Field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

*James C. Simeon*

## Introduction

The field of refugee and forced migration studies is continuing to evolve and to develop as a discipline with its own specialized terminology as well as conceptual, methodological, and theoretical frameworks and approaches (Voutira and Dona 2007). The advent of the Internet and digital technology has made knowledge readily available to all those with access to a computer (Kaplanis 2013). It has also ushered in the era of e-learning and online instruction, revolutionizing the way that people, at all levels, acquire an education (Arskavskiy 2017). Moreover, it has revolutionized social interaction and the exchange of opinions on the issues of the day (Brignall and Van Valey 2005). Take, for instance, the tremendous role social media had in mobilizing support for the demonstrations of the Arab Spring, from 2010 to 2012, which resulted in the disintegration of a number of dictatorial regimes in North Africa and the Middle East (Brown, Guskin, and Mitchell 2012), as well as in contemporary movements such

as Occupy and Black Lives Matter (Waldram 2011; Shafa 2012). The transformation of social interaction through mobile and digital technologies that make new forms of global social justice movements possible, and that have had such a dramatic effect on their societies, has also transformed the way that people conduct research, learn, and obtain a formal education (Hirtz and Kelly 2011; see also chapter 8). All these transformative shifts in social interaction were the impetus for the development of a new web-based platform for refugee and forced migration studies.

The Canadian Association of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS) is an association that is open to students, academics, lawyers, advocates, policymakers, jurists, and members of the public, including refugees; that is, anyone who might have an interest in refugees and other forced migrants. CARFMS is based at the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York University, and holds annual conferences where the latest research findings on refugees and forced migration are presented, debated, discussed, and subject to peer review and assessment (see the introduction). The CARFMS Online Research and Teaching Tools and Practitioners Forum (ORTT&PF) is a multi-functional online research tool that is designed for all those who work in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. The web platform is found on the CARFMS website at <http://carfms.org/> under ORTT and it is directly accessible at <http://rfmsot.apps01.yorku.ca/home/>. The web platform has two components: the ORTT, Online Research and Teaching Tools; and, PF, the Practitioners Forum. The first is an open access website that contains information that is directly relevant for all those who work with refugees and other forced migrants. The second is a closed website that is available only to CARFMS members and offers discussion forums for members to engage in conversations and debates, within their occupational and/or disciplinary field or in a general open forum, as well as to share information about their research and publications, etc. Together they provide a set of tools that can be used by CARFMS members and the general public to learn, conduct research, and instruct others on refugees and other forced migrants.<sup>1</sup>

This chapter will outline the emergence and development of the CARFMS ORTT&PF. It will focus principally on how the ORTT&PF was conceptualized, established, and piloted to build a community of researchers, teachers, and students of refugee and forced migration studies within Canada and abroad. It begins by reviewing the underlying rationale for

the ORTT&PF by examining how e-learning and e-research have emerged as indomitable forces in the Internet and digital age. It will then provide a detailed overview of the origins and the inherent logic and structure of this web platform. In addition, it will address the critical issue of how a web platform of this nature can be made self-sustaining, which is likely the most difficult challenge for any web platform. The next section will examine the current and ever-escalating refugee crisis that underscores the necessity of a web platform of this nature. The ORTT&PF's potential for knowledge mobilization will then be considered as a mechanism for the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the field of refugee and forced migration studies and for the advancement of the rights and protection of all forced migrants and especially refugees. It will conclude by reflecting on the possible future of the ORTT&PF within CARFMS and the field of refugee and forced migration studies and its impact on international and national policies for the realization of the human rights and dignity of all those who are forced to migrate due to threats to their life, liberty, and security as human beings (Feller 2001).

## e-Learning in the Digital Age

The transformation of society through information technologies has resulted in significant changes in modern life. As Robert Hassan (2008) has noted in *The Information Society: Cyber Dreams and Digital Nightmares*, “Many prominent theorists have argued it [the information society] to be the most profound and comprehensive transformation of economy, culture and politics since the rise of the industrial way of life in the eighteenth century.” Others have emphasized that we now live in a “global information society” characterized by a knowledge economy that provides a new opportunity to harness the massive flows of information. Policymaking and decision-making will be routinely informed by what some have identified as “intelligent development” (Wilson, Kellerman, and Corey 2013, 192). An obvious indication of this profound change is the development of Search Engine Optimization (SEO). With the proliferation of data on the Internet, one concern is how to ensure that search engines find your website. SEO has emerged as a key tool to improve the visibility of websites (Grappone and Couzin 2011).

Web searching has become an everyday activity for people who have access to a computer. As access to information has become easier, the nature of learning and understanding has also adapted to the new circumstances of our interconnected world. As several scholars point out: “Advances in information technology, coupled with the changes in society, are creating new paradigms for education. Participants in this new educational paradigm require rich learning environments supported by well-designed resources” (Reigeluth and Khan 1994). Khan (1997) emphasizes that “the Web, as a medium of learning and instruction, has the potential to support the creation of these well-designed resources.” Our ORTT&PF website is very much in keeping with the emergence of the new medium of learning, instruction, and training via the Web. However, we are mindful of the fact that “technology must serve learning needs and not the other way around,” yet, at the same time, we are of the opinion that “technology and the Internet are innovative forces that interact with pedagogy in creative ways” (Rudestam and Schoenholtz-Read 2010).

The development of an extensive list of e-learning and e-research materials on refugee and forced migration issues will be a welcomed addition to the online instructional materials for all higher educational instructors who are teaching courses in this field. The potential for the use of the ORTT&PF as a support for conducting research and teaching on refugees and forced migrants is enormous (Markauskaite 2011). It can also have a tremendous benefit for all students—whether they are new to the field, a long-time student in advanced graduate studies, or the experienced and accomplished researcher, as well as all those in-between—in advancing their own work in the emerging field of refugee and forced migration studies.

## The Origins and Ongoing Development of the ORTT&PF

The ORTT&PF was the outcome of discussions that the author had, as the incoming president of CARFMS in 2011, with the previous president of the association, professor Christina Clark-Kazak. The idea for an online research and teaching tool seemed to flow naturally with what other organizations and professional associations were doing or considering doing at the time.<sup>2</sup> It was also consistent with the core mission of CARFMS as set out in its by-laws under mandate and purposes and objectives. Indeed,

it could be argued that a web platform would in fact be indispensable for achieving the association's mandate, purposes, and objectives. There was also broad-based consultation with key members of the CARFMS Executive who immediately saw the value of such a website and indicated that they would not only support such a website but also directly participate in its development and launch.

### *The Founding of the ORTT&PF*

One of the traditions of the incoming CARFMS president is to identify an initiative that they would like to work on during their term that would benefit the association as a whole. I suggested that the development of the ORTT&PF would be the project that I would like to implement during my term in office. In the interim, I also approached Sanja Begic, Learning Technology Support Specialist, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS) at York University—with whom I had collaborated on several previous research projects—to discuss how the website should be designed, structured, and developed over time. It was agreed that the web platform would be developed in two parts: the ORTT and the PF. The proposal was then presented to the CARFMS executive who fully approved it. A committee to oversee the development of the website was struck and several members of the CARFMS executive agreed to serve on it. The committee met on a monthly basis from 2012 to 2015. During that time, the overall design of the web platform was agreed upon such that the ORTT would be an open access website and the PF would be the CARFMS members-only portion of the website.

This dual design, with open and closed access sites, was agreed to for several reasons. The principal reason was that the ORTT should be free for the public at large and would be an excellent way of profiling CARFMS and the work it was doing and advancing in the way of “promoting and supporting excellence in refugee research and teaching in refugee and forced migration issues” (CARFMS/ACERFM by-laws, article 3.1). The PF would be the site for CARFMS members to engage in discussion and debate on those issues and concerns relevant to the association, to encourage information exchange among the members of the association, and to help to foster research collaborations in the field. One of the concerns of the CARFMS executive at the time was attracting individuals to join CARFMS, a relatively new association, by identifying clear benefits of

membership. The ORTT&PF was something that filled this need nicely as the PF was available to CARFMS members in good standing only, that is, those members who had paid their membership fees.

## The Structural Framework of the ORTT&PF

The ORTT is designed specifically to help further research and teaching in refugee and forced migration studies. It is structured around a number of core knowledge systems: the glossary of terms; key concepts; methodological approaches; and theoretical frameworks. Each of these, in turn, is designed along a consistent structural format that includes six elements:

1. Definitions;
2. Examples and/or Illustrations;
3. Other Useful Sources;
4. Bibliography;
5. Case Law;
6. Other Related Terms.<sup>3</sup>

The content for terms under each of the core knowledge systems is slowly being built. It is a labour-intensive exercise that will require considerable time to complete in its entirety. However, it should be noted that in order to maintain the relevance of this website it must be under constant development and revision to keep the information as current as possible. In short, it will require ongoing updating and routine maintenance throughout its existence. This is, of course, inevitable given the constant change and flow of information, new discoveries, and developments in the field of refugee and forced migration studies.

The ORTT also includes several other important categories: organizations; programs and courses; and lesson plans. Each of these categories follows its own format for obvious reasons. However, we consider them to be just as essential for those who wish to be fully apprised of the field of refugee and forced migration studies. While the Organizations and

Programs & Courses provide a listing of some of the key organizations and the university degree programs and courses that are offered, the Lesson Plans is an entirely different category. The Lesson Plans at present includes an experiential education assignment that can be used by those who teach a course(s) on refugee and forced migration in post-secondary institutions in Canada or abroad (CARFMS, ORTT, lesson plans 2017).

### *The Experiential Education Assignment*

The ORTT experiential education assignment was first developed and piloted by Professors Idil Atak (Department of Criminology, Ryerson University) and Nanette Neuwahl (Faculty of Law, University of Montreal). It was subsequently further refined by Professor Atak for her fourth-year seminar class. Several other professors teaching in the field have now applied the assignment, including me. This is not only an experiential education assignment for students, but also a way of preparing content for the ORTT website. Students are assigned terms from a glossary of terms or concepts to work on using the six-element template outlined above. They are typically assigned two or three terms as part of their assignment for their course. The assignment is graded and returned to the students and those students who wish to make the suggested corrections to their assignment and have it submitted for posting on the ORTT website can do so. All those assignments that are submitted by students are further reviewed, and often amended before being approved.

All those instructors who have used this assignment have reported that students find it to be an interesting and rewarding experience. It gives them an opportunity to explore key terms in the field of refugee and forced migration studies in detail and it also gives them an opportunity to see their work added to the ORTT. It is their contribution to the development of the ORTT&PF web platform and to the development of the field of refugee and forced migration studies. So, in this sense, the students have an opportunity to work on an active and “live” research project.

Students’ reactions to this assignment have been overwhelmingly positive. The feedback has been used to refine the experiential education assignment further and to make it as deep a learning experience as possible for the students in the course. Students are not required to submit their work for posting on the ORTT website. This is entirely an optional undertaking by students who may choose not to revise their assignment

and submit it for possible posting on the website. We encourage other instructors to join us in adopting this experiential education assignment for their courses to help to build the ORTT.<sup>4</sup>

### *Funding Applications*

We have attempted to raise funds for the ongoing development of the ORTT&PF through minor and major research grants.<sup>5</sup> Some funding has been raised for this purpose, although major funds have yet to be secured; but we remain hopeful. The need for such an online learning, teaching, and research tool has been amply demonstrated over the last number of years. The formal and informal feedback that we have received from researchers, librarians, and administrators has been uniformly positive. All those who have visited the ORTT website have said that it is intuitive, interesting, and provides a useful resource for students, instructors, practitioners, and researchers alike.

### *The Practitioners Forum Dialogue and Posting Rules*

The PF is still being piloted and has been much slower to develop for several reasons. There was some reluctance to launch this website until we had developed it further and, most importantly, we had a set of rules for how the website should be used. There are now six rules outlining the expectations of CARFMS members who wish to use the website. The basic principle is summarized as follows: “We fully expect that all CARFMS members will use the Practitioners Forum respectfully, responsibly, fairly, and with the fullest courtesy and thoughtfulness possible to everyone, whether they are members of CARFMS or not” (CARFMS Practitioners Forum 2017). The ORTT&PF collaborators took some time to develop and approve the rules that govern the conduct of CARFMS members’ use of the PF. One concern was that the association not incur any liability should a CARFMS member(s) misuse the PF, either intentionally or unintentionally. We are now satisfied that the appropriate approval and monitoring processes are in place. However, we are also mindful of the possibility of human error and are proceeding at a deliberately slow pace to prevent this from occurring. At the last three CARFMS annual conferences we invited members to register for the PF, but the enrolment has been disappointingly low. It is not entirely apparent why this is the case, but we are nonetheless hopeful that CARFMS members will eventually routinely, and by virtue of their

CARFMS membership, be automatically registered for the PF. This would entail the merging of the CARFMS membership list with PF website. It would also entail that a certain portion of the business of CARFMS could be conducted on the PF, such as votes on items between annual general meetings or the discussion of relevant public policy issues of the day as they emerge and evolve in real time. Some of the associational business of CARFMS could then be conducted through the PF, in addition to its more general functions as an occupational and disciplinary forum and a networking site for building research partnerships and projects. In short, the PF would become the CARFMS members' website for conducting the business of the association.

### *The Long-Term Sustainability of the ORTT&PF*

Several factors are necessary for the long-term sustainability of the ORTT&PF. The first is obvious: the overall utility of the web platform for the needs of anyone who is working in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. It is important to acknowledge that even if the ORTT&PF obtains a large grant to accelerate the development of the web platform that this will not guarantee its long-term sustainability; the initiative will have to become self-sustaining. This is a general problem for all web platforms (see, for example, chapters 9 and 10).

One way of helping to make the ORTT&PF, or any web platform like it, self-sustaining is to ensure it is based within a viable organization or association. The fact that the ORTT&PF is part of CARFMS helps to ensure its long-term sustainability because it has an organizational foundation from which to draw, as required. Another important factor would be to provide volunteer support. This is the very basis on which Wikipedia and other platforms like it are built. Take, for instance, the experiential education assignment, outlined above, that not only benefits students by providing them with the opportunity to contribute to providing content to the ORTT but, at the same time, allows the student to learn a great deal about the terminology in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. It is a “win-win” situation for all concerned: the ORTT&PF gains new content and the students have an opportunity to learn about the field and work on a “live” research project that is developing research and teaching materials for those working on forced migration and refugee issues. It is not often that undergraduate or graduate students in the social sciences have an

opportunity to make a direct contribution to an ongoing research project. In this sense, those who make a voluntary contribution to the ORTT&PF not only benefit directly; their voluntary contribution also benefits the general welfare of the intellectual and research community.

Another way that the ORTT&PF can become self-sustaining is for those who offer degree or diploma programs and courses in the field of refugee and forced migration studies to have their institutions listed in the “Programs & Courses” section. Indeed, with this initiative the more collaborators involved the better. In this regard, the CARFMS ORTT&PF committee must constantly promote the platform at every opportunity in order to attract widespread use of and support for its ongoing development. Sustainability would be achieved through a direct contribution from CARFMS to hire a full-time or part-time ORTT&PF manager to ensure that the web platform is constantly developed and refined.

## The Growing Refugee Crisis and the Field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

One of the major chronic crises of our time is that millions of people across the globe have been uprooted from their homes, communities, and countries and forced to seek asylum abroad. In 2017, 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced, the highest number on record (UNHCR 2018). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) Global Forced Displacement 2014 annual report pointed out that: “The year 2014 has seen continuing dramatic growth in mass displacement from wars and conflict, once again reaching levels unprecedented in recent history. One year ago, UNHCR announced that worldwide forced displacement numbers had reached 51.2 million, a level not previously seen in the post-World War II era. Twelve months later, this figure has grown to a staggering 59.5 million, roughly equaling the population of Italy or the United Kingdom. Persecution, conflict, generalized violence, and human rights violations have formed a ‘nation of the displaced’ that, if they were a country, would make up the 24th largest in the world” (UNHCR 2014, 5). The situation has not improved in the intervening years: by the end of 2016, there were 65.6 million people of concern to the UNHCR (UNHCR 2017). And, as noted above, the current figure now stands at over 68.5 million forcibly

displaced people in the world today (UNHCR 2018). In this context, a digital platform dedicated to the protection and plight of refugees and other forced migrants, through the promotion of research and teaching on all aspects of this phenomenon, would fill an important and growing need.

It is important to acknowledge that this field of study is relatively new. For instance the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York University, the second oldest research institution dedicated to the study of refugees, was founded in 1988 (CRS 2017). Given the fact that the discipline of refugees and forced migration studies is relatively new, it is still emerging as an academic field of study. However, as in every field of study and practice, there are debates and discussions about the future of the discipline. This is perhaps even truer of refugees and forced migration studies given that the nature of the field itself is so focused on addressing the protection concerns of those who are seeking asylum (Chimni 2009).

It is equally important to note that the field of refugee and forced migration studies is both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary in nature. It draws upon a vast array of disciplines to analyze the situation of asylum seekers and those persons whose most fundamental human rights and dignity as human beings have been severely breached or violated. As with every field of study, refugee and forced migration studies is no different and requires a clear delineation of its basic parameters and central concerns. The ORTT&PF promises to make an important contribution in this regard as it provides a detailed catalogue of the central terms, concepts, methods, and theoretical frameworks within this field of study (see also chapter 13). The advancement of international protection for the world's refugees should be the underlying concern for those who are working in the field of refugee and forced migration studies (Souter 2013) and the ORTT&PF is one such mechanism to help realize this most worthy objective.

The potential of the ORTT&PF lies not only in the provision of useful and authoritative information that could be used by those who are teaching courses in refugee and forced migration studies but also in the ability to draw on the wide range of expertise within the membership of CARFMS and among those willing to participate in the practitioners forum. The practitioners forum will provide the means by which participants can dialogue with each other on the issues and concerns of the day or to make connections with other researchers who are working on common research questions and problems. The practitioners forum

will function essentially as a network of scholars, researchers, teachers, practitioners, policymakers, students, and other professionals who desire to share information, knowledge, and understanding on one of the most important international human rights issues of our time. Further, in this regard the PF would be an ideal complement to the Refugee Research Network (RRN) web platform (see chapter 9).

## Knowledge Mobilization

The ORTT&PF is premised on the construction of a “one-stop” website that is a knowledge mobilization platform *par excellence*. It strives to provide the latest detailed information on the basic terms, concepts, methods, and theories currently extant, along with other essential details regarding refugee and forced migration studies, and most importantly it provides an interactive platform for practitioners within and across disciplines to engage in ongoing discussions on pertinent and relevant matters. Despite the fact that the ORTT&PF is a superb knowledge mobilization device in and of itself, we have also undertaken a number of measures to ensure that it is disseminated as a research and teaching tool with a highly interactive forum that will promote the ongoing sharing of information and best practices amongst the community of scholars and practitioners working in the field—and especially among those who are members of CARFMS and/or the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) (IASFM 2017).

The ORTT&PF has been routinely featured at both CARFMS annual conferences and IASFM biannual conferences. The ORTT&PF tries to stay abreast of the latest developments in the field of cloud computing and web-based platforms for research, teaching, learning, and the dissemination of knowledge on refugee and forced migration studies. The panel sessions and roundtables that have been held at the CARFMS and IASFM conferences have been very helpful in disseminating information about the ORTT&PF and its capabilities to members of these respective associations. It has also proved useful in recruiting those who are interested in contributing to the development of the ORTT&PF as one of the foremost web-based platforms of its kind for the advancement of research, teaching, and learning in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. In addition to presenting annual reports about the initiative, we have considered

producing a quarterly e-newsletter on the latest developments and additions and to highlight particularly interesting facts and figures on research and teaching in the field. Going forward, such a project would endeavour to highlight some of the foremost researchers and teachers—at all levels of the educational system—in the field by posting their publications on the ORTT&PF website, along with those of our collaborators including the Emerging Scholars and Practitioners on Migration Issues (ESPMI) network (see chapter 10). We will also strive to develop an academic publication series with a well-respected international publisher based, in part, on a symposium that will examine the most interesting developments in cloud computing and the development of hardware and software that can extend the impact and reach of the ORTT&PF to its principal audiences: the researcher/investigator, educator/instructor, student/learner, public and private policymakers, whether they are local, national, regional, or international, and of course refugees and other forced migrants themselves. We will also seek to publish an edited volume, based on the best papers delivered at our proposed annual symposium and supplemented with other contributions from well-known and respected academics in this field.

All ORTT&PF collaborators will be encouraged to prepare and to submit academic journal articles, on either an individual or a collective basis, on the ORTT&PF and its development and contribution to the field of refugee and forced migration studies. Our goal will be to publish in at least one academic journal article each year. We have already presented our ORTT&PF website at four consecutive CARFMS annual conferences, 2012 to 2015, and at two consecutive IASFM biennial conferences, 2012 and 2014. Finally, we will continue to hold roundtables, panel sessions, and demonstrations of the ORTT&PF at future CARFMS and IASFM conferences.

## Conclusions

The ORTT&PF is a major innovation for the field of refugee and forced migration studies. It is geared to utilizing fully digital and interactive technologies to facilitate e-learning and e-research that can be offered to all those working within this field and to the public commons. Beyond the influence of technology, the growing global refugee crisis underscores the significance of this initiative not only to understand this phenomenon but

also to address the human misery and suffering that it entails. The ORTT is an online, open-source platform that is already available and has been tested, in part, by academics, researchers, practitioners, students, and asylum advocates. The PF has been made available to all members in good standing in CARFMS and provides an exemplary opportunity for dialogue, discussion, and debate on the issues that matter the most to those in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. It further provides a superb networking opportunity that promotes collaboration and ideational synergies among all CARFMS members in a closed sheltered and protected environment within the context of fulfilling the mandate and the purposes and objectives of CARFMS in advancing the human rights of all forced migrants, including refugees. Perhaps the platform's greatest potential is its capacity to stimulate research interest and collaborations that could lead to contributions to public policy and the welfare and well-being of refugees and other forced migrants.

The overriding objective of the ORTT&PF is to bring together the broad and diverse field of refugee and forced migration studies and practice in order to address the plight of refugees and other forced migrants, and to protect their rights. To do so, the ORTT&PF must make itself self-sustaining in order to be in a position to develop continually and maintain its relevance and utility to all, whether they are members of CARFMS or not. In order for this to happen it must become fully integrated with CARFMS, so that it is a central feature of the association and is supported by it both in terms of financial as well as material resources.

## Notes

- 1 For a brief introduction, see: "Online Research and Teaching Tools and Practitioners Forum (ORTT & PF), CARFMS Newsletter 4 (2013): 4, <http://carfms.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/CARFMS-Newsletter-Spring-2013-Issue-4.pdf>. (Accessed 8 July 2017) and James C. Simeon, "CARFMS ORTT & PF Web Platform: Helping to Keep All CARFMS Members Ahead of the Curve," CAREMS Newsletter Winter 2017, no. 8, 8–10. <http://carfms.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CARFMS-newsletter-winter-2017.pdf>. (Accessed 8 July 2017)
- 2 There are a number of these websites including the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Policy and Administration's (CAPPA) and the University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Governance's Public Policy and Governance Portal that is now called the Atlas of Public Management, <http://www.atlas101.ca/pm/>. See also the Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Workshop, <http://www.yorku.ca/>

- ciirl/2008/, the Critical Issues in International Refugee Law Workshop II, <http://www.yorku.ca/ciirl/>, and the War Crimes and Refugee Status Conference, <http://www.yorku.ca/wcrs/conference/resources.html>, Resources pages. I had a direct hand in the design and development of these three websites and a number of others. The Refugee Research Network (RRN) also influenced the design of CARFMS ORTT&PF. (Accessed 12 July 2017)
- 3 For instance, see the ORTT-CARFMS, Glossary of Terms, “Citizenship,” <http://rfmsot.apps01.yorku.ca/glossary-of-terms/citizenship/>.
  - 4 For anyone who wishes to do so, please notify me at my York University email address, [jcsimeon@yorku.ca](mailto:jcsimeon@yorku.ca).
  - 5 ORTT&PF collaborators have submitted applications for major research grants to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and despite the fact that external assessors gave the grant applications positive reviews they were not funded. Minor internal research grant funding has been provided by York University. YorkU has also supported this project through the provision of technical expertise and hosting the web platform on its servers. We are most grateful to York University for its ongoing support for the development of this web platform.

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