

**The Johannesburg Principles**  
**Building Equitable and Effective Partnerships for Migration Research**

The Johannesburg Principles are derived from a collaborative workshop which brought together colleagues from Africa, Europe, Asia and the Middle East to co-produce interdisciplinary guidelines for equitable and sustainable partnerships in migration and forced displacement research. This workshop built upon a series of Global Migration Conversations (GMCs) led by the London International Development Centre’s Migration Leadership Team which were held in diverse locations including Delhi, Nairobi, New York, Beirut, Glasgow, Thessaloniki and Medellin in 2018-2019. Regional in nature, these conversations held in collaboration with a range of partner organisations, involved over 400 migration and forced displacement scholars, practitioners, policy makers and funders working on internal and cross border migration and across disciplines including economics and urbanization, development, education, public health, geography, law and the arts. The Johannesburg Principles reflect a consensus on the need to strengthen research partnerships around core principles of equity, meaningful participation and shared power in decision making for good quality migration research.

<b>Principles</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Given existing power imbalance in the way migration research priorities are set, diversify agenda setting at all levels.	Foster greater transparency in funding process in relation to the identification of the parameters of funding calls, setting of research agendas, assessment and decision-making processes.
	Challenge how research problems are defined recognising the value of local research in shaping global agendas.
	Encourage funders and researchers away from ‘parachuting’ research models to reflect greater faith and trust in local research.
	Challenge perceptions of corruption and mismanagement which prohibit or constrain the de-centring of research.
	Have diverse and inclusive panels to set funding calls and review applications.

<p>2. In a context where research is increasingly being driven by policy priorities, ensure that this is not detrimental to curiosity driven research.</p>	<p>Build time into research design to think together and recognise the value of ‘slow scholarship’.</p>
	<p>Recognise the value of longitudinal research.</p>
<p>3. Given the complexities of situations of migration, promote and value innovative and unconventional research thinking and design across disciplines.</p>	<p>Take risks and be innovative in responding to shifting migration research landscape.</p>
	<p>Acknowledge when things do not go according to plan and learn from ‘failure’</p>
<p>4. To avoid the dominance of certain languages in migration knowledge production and dissemination, value often hidden work in different languages to frame more plural understandings of migration.</p>	<p>Foster a multilingual approach which does not always start with English.</p>
	<p>Funding for interpretation and translation not only of primary research but also existing scholarship and data sets so as to challenge the hegemony of anglophone scholarship.</p>
<p>5. In an increasingly inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral migration research landscape, recognise and ensure complementarity of knowledge, skills and experience of all partners at all stages of research.</p>	<p>Produce a checklist of capacities (e.g. methodological expertise, expertise in the local context) of all team members.</p>
	<p>Encourage knowledge and data exchange across different actors and projects working in the migration research space.</p>
	<p>Promote a culture of on-going and reflexive learning and training opportunities for research partners.</p>

<p>6. Given the power imbalances and hierarchical practices that infuse, and are embedded in, project design and implementation, promote transparency and clear communication in migration research through inclusive dialogical spaces founded on mutual respect, feedback and self-reflection.</p>	<p>Build space and time in funding applications to constructively engage in difficult conversations about existing power dynamics even if they are uncomfortable.</p>
	<p>Flexibility in research design to allow for accommodation and incorporation of feedback.</p>
	<p>Promote self-reflection particularly among northern scholars to recognise different forms of expertise.</p>
<p>7. Recognising the increasing precarity of many involved in migration research, knowledge production and dissemination, promote solidarity and generosity in partnerships, particularly by those in senior and secure positions, to push back against coercive practices.</p>	<p>Ensure that ECRS are included and costed into the entire duration of projects.</p>
	<p>Writing time should be costed into research grant applications to provide dedicated space and time to write.</p>
	<p>To write in ways which are inclusive, and attentive to audiences.</p>
<p>8. Taking account of the increase in project scale and funding for migration research, ensure the necessary division of labour and adequate resourcing for research, management and dissemination across all partners.</p>	<p>Standardize practices for compensating and treating research participants so that they feel equally valued.</p>
	<p>Establish clear and accountable delineation of responsibilities and chain of command in the research team which ensures all partners have a voice.</p>
	<p>Invest in project management and facilitation to ensure effective as well as equal working, to establish common parameters and build trust.</p>
	<p>Build in proper funding for administrators.</p>

	Construct check list of appropriate and accessible technological support for international and/or mobile teams.
9. Recognising the importance of mobility in migration research, challenge restrictive and unjust immigration and visa regimes.	Foster and advocate a culture of mobility of people and ideas to redress the north-south imbalance in academic mobility.
	Hold conferences in countries where the majority of participants can travel to.
	Support Southern scholars to conduct research and teach in the global North as part of equitable partnerships.
10. Ensure that the voices of migrants are central to all research activities from identification of research agendas, analysis and ‘solutions’.	Enable ERCs to be able to speak outside of the local.
	Advocate for migration and refugee scholars.