

OWSD presents



# Sustaining knowledge during crises: Gender and displacement in science

23-24 April 2026 | Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, Italy



## Day 1 – Conference Programme

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Conference Opening</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Welcome – Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio, Presidente emerito, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei &amp; OWSD Ambassador</li><li>– Welcome – Prof. Marcelo Knobel, TWAS- UNESCO Executive Director</li><li>– Welcome – Dr. Tonya Blowers, OWSD Coordinator</li><li>– Overview of conference objectives &amp; structure – Sena Galazzi, OWSD Technical Advisor</li></ul>
10:00 – 11:20	<b>Panel 1</b> <i>Sustaining science in times of war: gender, displacement, and scientific survival</i> <b>Focus:</b> <i>How women scientists sustain research, leadership, and knowledge production during acute conflict and war, drawing on comparative evidence.</i> <b>Chair:</b> Wyvine Ansima Bapolisi <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw:</b> <i>Sustaining Science in Times of War - Gender, Displacement, and Comparative Evidence from Conflict-Affected Countries – the case of Myanmar</i></li><li>– <b>Hazir Elhaj:</b> <i>Sustaining Science in Times of War - Gender, Displacement, and Comparative Evidence from Conflict-Affected Countries – the case of Sudan</i></li><li>– <b>Yuliia Shevchenko:</b> <i>Holding ground across the divide: Ukrainian women scientists who remained and those displaced</i></li><li>– <b>Faten Tahseen Akkawi &amp; Ola Anabtawi:</b> <i>War, Siege, and Academic uncertainty: Impacts on the educational and professional lives of Palestinian women scientists</i></li></ul>
11:20 – 11:35	Coffee break

11:35 – 12:55	<p><b>Panel 2</b> <i>Camps, aspiration, and education pathways under displacement</i></p> <p><b>Focus:</b> Educational trajectories, aspiration, and access to higher education for displaced women and girls.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Yuliia Shevchenko</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Wyvine Ansima Bapolisi:</b> <i>Impact of displacement and migration on Congolese women’s participation in science: a mixed methods approach</i></li> <li>– <b>Niang Sian Lawh Lun:</b> <i>Gendered Expectations and Educational Pathways: Why Displaced Chin Girls Continue or Drop Out of University After the Myanmar Coup</i></li> <li>– <b>Ernest Onguko Esiabia:</b> <i>Unheard and Undervalued: Mapping the Scientific Aspirations of Displaced Women in Kenya</i></li> <li>– <b>Erin Hayba Buisse:</b> <i>Refugee aspirations for higher education: Navigating disadvantage in Kakuma camp, Kenya</i></li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Methodological Roundtable</b> <i>Humanising research in displacement contexts: ethics, positionality, and innovation in interpretive qualitative research</i></p> <p><b>Focus:</b> A dedicated space to reflect on ethical research practice, researcher positionality, and methodological innovation in conflict-affected contexts. The session explores tensions between scientific credibility, personal investment, and vulnerability among displaced and conflict-affected researchers. Speakers discuss reflexive qualitative methodologies that support practice-based analysis of everyday experiences.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Sena Galazzi</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw</li> <li>– Kiara Castaman</li> <li>– Alaa Assani</li> <li>– Wyvine Ansima Bapolisi</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 – 16:45	<p><b>Panel 3</b> <i>Protracted conflict, participation, and wellbeing</i></p> <p><b>Focus:</b> Long-term displacement, participation in science, and the gendered dimensions of wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Ernest Onguko Esiabia</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Alaa Assani:</b> <i>Claiming Women voices in Exile: Syrian Women Scientists’ Experiences of Displacement and Scientific Work</i></li> <li>– <b>Eke Ogbu Eke:</b> <i>When the Lab Becomes a Refugee Camp: Experiences of Internally Displaced Female Science Undergraduates in North-East Nigeria (2015–2025)</i></li> <li>– <b>Huda Omer Basaleem &amp; Thana Shuga Aldeen:</b> <i>Women Scientists under Protracted Conflict in Yemen: Internal and External Challenges, Achievement and Future Aspiration</i></li> <li>– <b>Nefin Wajih Shalalfeh:</b> <i>Sustaining Scientific Work Under Displacement: Lived Experience and Leadership of Palestinian Women Scientists in Crisis Settings</i></li> <li>– <b>Hdeel Alamin:</b> <i>Maintaining vaccine access during conflict and displacement: lessons from solar-powered refrigeration in Sudan</i></li> </ul>
16:45 – 17:00	Day 1 Synthesis and reflections – Tonya Blowers & Sena Galazzi

## Day 2 – Conference Programme

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome Remarks – Day 2</b>
09:15 – 10:50	<p><b>Panel 4</b> <i>Host systems, institutions, and the production of (dis)advantage</i></p> <p><b>Focus:</b> <i>How host-country institutions, policies, and academic systems shape opportunity, marginalisation, and knowledge continuity for displaced scientists.</i></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Nadia Ayub</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Kiara Castaman:</b> <i>Professional Marginalization After Displacement: Gendered Academic Careers of Venezuelan Women in Peru</i></li> <li>– <b>Monica Tassaduque:</b> <i>The Accumulation of (Dis)Advantages: Displaced Students, Gender and the Production of Scientific Knowledge in Italy</i></li> <li>– <b>Amna Mehmood:</b> <i>Sustaining STEM and Life Sciences Capacity During Crises: A Gender-Responsive Framework Centered on Afghanistan</i></li> <li>– <b>Rana Dajani:</b> <i>From Displacement to Influence: Gender, Diaspora Networks, and Transforming Science in Crisis</i></li> <li>– <b>Aicha Adoui:</b> <i>Epistemic Displacement: Gender, Scientific Identity, and Knowledge Continuity Under Conditions of Forced and Structural Mobility</i></li> </ul>
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Empirical Roundtable</b> <i>Programmes and institutions sustaining STEM capacity during crises share their experiences of sustaining knowledge in times in crisis – OWSD WISDOM Partners &amp; Beyond</i></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Tonya Blowers</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Osman Gultekin</b> <i>From Education to Empowerment: How the WISDOM Programme Advances Peace and Inclusion for Refugee Women in STEM at Istanbul Aydin University, Turkiye</i></li> <li>– <b>Rasmi Jamil Meqbel</b> <i>Sustaining Scientific Knowledge and Leadership among Displaced Women Scientists: Insights from the WISDOM Programme at Hashemite University, Jordan</i></li> <li>– <b>Sheila Niinye Twinamatsiko</b> <i>Supporting displaced women in science through the WISDOM Programme at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda</i></li> <li>– <b>Ester Gallo</b> <i>From Emergency to Institutionalised Care Towards a Gendered Approach to Displaced Scientists in Higher Education - University of Trento, Italy</i></li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Film screening:</b> stories in motion – research across displacement
12:30 – 12:45	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Framing a pathway going forward - Tonya Blowers & Sena Galazzi
12:45 – 14:00	Networking Lunch