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Facilitators Notes and Discussion Questions

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Facilitator Notes and Discussion Questions

Session I: History and Context - Worcester and Central Massachusetts

Presentation and Warm-up Discussion

1. Noa presents a history of forced migration and settlement in Worcester (10 minutes)
2. Anita gives instructions for participants to stay at their tables to discuss the questions
3. Participants spend 15 minutes in discussion with each other (15 minutes)
4. Anita facilitates tables to report back (10 minutes)
5. Noa leads all-group discussion of themes (10 minutes)

Key Questions for Discussion (each table gets one question):

- What are some additional categories of displaced people, forced migrants, and other people in refugee-like situations from the historical record of Worcester?
- What types of support and help do we know of that was available for earlier groups of forced migrants?
- What do we know of early practices and expectations of refugee/forced migrant integration in Worcester and in the United States?

Session II: Methods and Ethics of Community-engaged Work with Refugees

Facilitators: Noa, Sarah, Anita

1. Share key questions
2. Small-group deliberation on nature of problem and ethical practices (25 min)
3. Plenary discussion (20 min)

Key questions for discussion (2 questions for 2 groups, other two for other groups):

- What are some ways in which community-engaged scholarship and engagement might include certain assumptions about how integration works in cities?
- How would our community-engaged practices be different if we took into consideration the transnational networks and ongoing relationships to mobility among community members from refugee backgrounds?
- How might we as community-engaged scholars and students rethink the role of community development and community organizing practices in ways that center the experiences of forced migration and the complex relationship between refugees and racialization?
- What might be some practical differences between centering diversity and a refugee-centered approach when it comes to community engaged scholarship and practice?

Session III: Mapping and Counter-Mapping of Forced Migration in Worcester

Facilitators: Noa, Sarah, Anita

1. Share key questions
2. Small-group deliberation on nature of problem and ethical practices (25 min)
3. Plenary discussion (20 min)

Key questions (2 questions for 2 groups, other two for other groups):

- As university educators and students, do we have a role in bridging legal/policy categories of forced migrants, and sociological/experiential categories of forced migrants?
- How do we understand and balance among the needs and interests of different stakeholders in engaged work with forced migrant communities?
- How might we bring a historical understanding of forced migration, integration and belonging to our work with forced migrant communities?
- How might we incorporate receiving (settled) communities in our engaged research with forced migrant communities?