



Resisting  
the  
Disempowering  
Discourses  
that  
Dominate  
Refugee  
Resettlement  
in NZ

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# Refugees

Individuals living outside their country of nationality who are unable or unwilling to return to that country due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

The United Nations 1951 Convention





# Impetus for PhD

Concern over the  
representation of  
resettling refugees &  
resettlement work

‘Trauma’  
Medicine & Media

Pathologizes  
refugees (PTSD)  
&  
resettlement  
workers (VT)



# Neglects:

Discourses of  
Survival & Resilience

Prevalence rates of PTSD

Negative Resettlement  
Experiences

Pre-flight & flight vs.  
post-flight trauma

Personal & Professional  
Growth (VR & VPTG)



# PhD

Foucauldian  
Discourse  
Analysis



Discourse – Power – Subject

Powerful use practices to privilege  
particular discourse(s)  
& produce subjects

How do resettlement workers  
in NZ talk about their work?

Participant characteristics





Acts of  
RESISTANCE (5)  
from  
Former Refugees (2),  
Migrants (2) &  
NZ European (1)  
Engaged in  
Resettlement



Male,  
former refugee,  
engaged  
in a  
practical  
capacity





Female,  
NZ European,  
engaged  
in a  
practical  
capacity



Male,  
migrant,  
engaged  
in a  
therapeutic  
capacity



Female,  
migrant,  
engaged  
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Female,  
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# Conclusion

Resettlement

=

Resilience & Reward

Responsibility for resettlement

Reflect on **'REFUGEE'** words

Recognize how **WE** talk about  
refugees  
has implications for how others  
perceive resettling refugees

**AND**

how resettling refugees  
perceive **THEMSELVES**  
and their **PLACE**  
in NZ society