Integrating Lives and Livelihoods in Northern Kenya: Periodic Shake-Up or a New Paradigm in Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Settlement?

Current relief provisioning and refugee settlement programs are now seen as unviable and unsustainable by relief organizations (e.g. UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNDP). Emerging consensus on the need for integrated social economies calls for a new paradigm in relief and refugee management. This talk summarizes the results from ethnographic research on informal integration of refugee-host community social economies in Kakuma, northern Kenya, and elaborates on alternative approaches to relief based on this research proposed in a UN/The World Bank/University of Notre Dame partnership.