

Prof Olivier STERCK (University of Antwerp and University of Oxford)

Nov 4 Wed

4-5:30pm

title: Humanizing Data: Representative Storytelling in a Refugee Camp

abstract:

Refugee Stories provides a data-driven insight into the lives of people living in one of the world's largest refugee camps, Kakuma, in Kenya. While media in wealthy countries often portrays refugees through extreme narratives—either as criminals, victims, or exceptional success stories—the reality is far more complex. Our project introduces a novel methodology that integrates qualitative and quantitative methods to enable data-driven storytelling. We began by collecting survey data on the socio-economic lives of households in Kakuma. Then, together with refugee filmmakers, we interviewed nine households, representing income levels from Rose at the 10th percentile to Maker at the 90th. We decided to use film so refugees could tell their stories in their own words.