STRANGERS IN NEW HOMELANDS
CONFERENCE 2015

NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2015

RECOGNIZING INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AS
VITAL BEDROCKS FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

University of Manitoba
CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON

DR. MICHAEL BAFFOE
Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba

International conference dedicated to examining how immigrants and refugees deal with life changes.

We are delighted once again to welcome you all to the 2015 edition, the 8th in our series of our annual conference, Strangers in New Homelands: Deconstructing and Reconstructing of ‘Home’ among immigrants and refugees in the diaspora. The Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba is proud to present this unique opportunity to help gain relevant insights and knowledge into current immigrant and refugee issues around the world.

This two-day event, began modestly in 2008 and has now grown into a larger annual event bringing together researchers, academics, students, non-governmental organizations, front-line immigrant and refugee settlement workers and government representatives from various parts of the world and, notably from the Province of Manitoba to dialogue and share ideas on current migration, settlement and integration trends and best practices. To a very large extent, we are proud to say that these annual gathering and exchanges have been largely fruitful.

This year’s conference is being held at a very critical time in world migration history. The world has been witnessing an unprecedented displacement and movements of people from their homes into other countries, especially to Europe seeking safety as well as better life conditions. The images of these mass movement are sometimes nerve-wrecking and difficult to watch. This is a new form of diasporic movement in which desperate people are challenging the existing national borders of nation states. This challenge has brought out the best and worse in some of the nation states: some have received and welcomed these desperate people with open arms while others have shut their borders with barbed wires and left the desperate people to their fate.

The concept of “diaspora” suggests the spread or scattering of a specific population or race of people to different and far-flung places throughout the world. There are several push and pull factors responsible for the increasing waves of out-migration of people to new societies. Most significant among these push factors are political instability; repressive or oppressive state policies, economic hardships, and lack of personal advancement. Most of the current wave of migrants and refugees desire to seek and settle in “new homelands” in the more advanced metropolitan centers of Europe, North America and Australia because of the same conditions outlined above as well as for better economic and educational opportunities. These are the same conditions that forced people to move around the world in years gone by which were then acceptable.

For many of these immigrants and refugees in this new diasporic movement, this yearning for “new homelands”, the concept around which this conference has revolved, evokes confusion, fear, confusion, hopes, and aspirations. Many have died trying to reach these new homelands. It is within this current context that this year’s conference is so pertinent. Our discussions over the next two days will examine some of the challenges involved in the current diasporic movements: the challenges of entry, hostilities, welcome, settlement, and integration into the new homelands that these migrants seek.

World migration is now a reality. The artificial borders of nation states are being challenged. It is an undeniable fact that both migrants and the host societies, the “new homelands” into which the migrants seek to settle need each other for their mutual benefits. The diversity that they bring should be seen as assets, which can enrich the host societies as well. It is therefore pertinent to find innovative ways for meeting these new challenges. Erecting barbed wires and pushing desperate people into the cold will not solve the current problem of mass migration of people seeking safety and new lives. The exchanges of ideas and discussions that will take place at this conference will be essential for those who design and implement immigration and refugee policies and settlement, as well as those who provide services to, and work with, immigrant and refugee groups.

For those of you who were here in previous years, we welcome you back. For those of you participating for the first time, we welcome you to this conference, to the University of Manitoba and to the Province of Manitoba. We hope to see you all again at subsequent conferences.
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DR. JIM MULVALE
Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba

I welcome you on behalf of the Faculty of Social Work to the 8th Conference on Strangers in New Homelands. This annual event is a key part of our Faculty’s work to fulfill our academic mission of advancing scholarship and helping to build strong communities, and we are very pleased to host it once again.

The issues that you are tackling at this conference – human migration, refugee crises, and how to welcome newcomers into tolerant, culturally pluralistic, and resilient communities – have been top of mind in Canada lately. Too often have some politicians and a section of our population mongered fear and engaged in ‘othering’ of those who are newly arrived or who are marginalized from the centres of power and wealth. We have much work to do in Canada to reclaim and extend our reputation as a country that is proudly multicultural and strong in our diversity.

I commend Dr. Michael Baffoe and our many colleagues who have planned and organized this year’s conference. I am confident that all of you who are participating will have stimulating and fruitful discussions, and will take away much that is of value in understanding human migration and what we can do to build welcoming, diverse, and strong communities.

Dr. Jim Mulvale
Dean
Faculty of Social Work
MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

Faculty of Social Work Mission Statement
To pursue knowledge and provide accessible and inclusive educational programs that will advance the fields of social work practice and social policy at all levels and that will contribute to the development of societies in promoting respect for human rights and dignity, individual worth and well being, diversity, social inclusion, and the principles of social justice. To prepare students for ethical, competent, critically reflective, innovative, anti-oppressive, accountable, and effective social work practice at all levels. To create and maintain a learning environment that promotes and supports respect for difference, risk-taking, democratic participation, a spirit of inquiry, equity, innovation, originality, and collaboration. To acknowledge, support, and promote different traditions of knowledge and different methods of knowledge gathering.

Faculty of Social Work Vision Statement
The vision of the Faculty of Social Work is to help create and contribute to a world where there are no great inequalities of wealth or income, where economic and political power is more evenly distributed, where human need is the central value of distribution of society’s resources, where diversity of culture is celebrated, where people have greater control over their own lives, and where all persons are afforded maximum opportunity to enrich their physical, spiritual, psychological, and intellectual well-being. Being the only university-based social work program in Manitoba and the largest program in Canada, this vision also includes the Faculty playing a leading role in the socio-economic-cultural development of the Province in particular, but also to Canada and beyond, which is consistent with the University’s own vision statement. To these ends, it is necessary that the Faculty become one of the outstanding social work programs in Canada with respect to research, quality education, community service, and the accomplishments of its graduates.
OPENING REMARKS

HON. ERNA BRAUN
Minister of Labour and Immigration, Province of Manitoba

Hon. Erna Braun was first elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rossmere in 2007. She was appointed Minister of Labour and Immigration by Premier Greg Selinger on October 18, 2013. Prior to her election, Erna served as a Teacher for 34 years as well as a Curriculum Consultant for the Manitoba Department of Education. An active member of the teaching profession, she served on the executives of the Winnipeg Teachers’ Association (WTA) and the Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS). Erna was elected WTA President in 1989-1990 and 2005-2007. During her time with MTS, Erna was a member of the MTS Long Term Disability Board (LTD) and chaired the MTS Collective Bargaining Committee. Erna has also served as NDP caucus chair from 2008 until 2012 and chaired the Special Committee for Senate Reform of the Legislative Assembly.
Professor George Jerry Sefa Dei is a renowned educator, researcher and writer who is considered by many as one of Canada’s foremost scholars on race and anti-racism studies. He is a widely sought after academic, researcher and community worker whose professional and academic work has led to many Canadian and international speaking invitations in US, Europe and Africa. Currently, he is a Professor of Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT). He is also the Director for the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies at the University of Toronto, Canada. In August of 2012, Professor Dei received the honorary title of ‘Professor Extraordinariire’ from the University of South Africa, [UNISA].


Currently, Professor Dei co-Chairs, The African Community Networking Committee in Toronto, an organization dedicating to the economic and social enhancement of African peoples in Canada. He was the First President of the Ghanaian-Canadian Union, an umbrella group of Ghanaian-Canadian cultural, ethnic and religious associations in Ontario. He is on the Board of the AfroGlobal TV, and the National Scholarship Fund (formerly Harry Jerome Awards) of the Black Business and Professionals Association (BBPA). Professor Dei was a member of the City of Toronto Mayor’s Roundtable on: ‘Children, Youth and Education’; and also, the “Postsecondary Education Advisory Committee on First Generation Students”.

Professor Dei is the recipient of many awards. He received the 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award at OISE, University of Toronto for excellence in teaching over the years. He is also the 2014 recipient of the Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize from the University of Toronto for his internationally recognized work on anti-racism and social justice. His other awards include ‘The ‘Race, Gender, and Class Project Academic Award, 2002’ in New Orleans. He also received the ‘African-Canadian Outstanding Achievement in Education’ from the Pride Magazine in Toronto in 2003, and the City of Toronto’s ‘William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations’ 2003.
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Rethinking Diversity, Difference and Social Inclusion and the Urgency of Going Beyond Official Multiculturalism

This presentation revisits Canadian multiculturalism and multicultural policy, highlighting what a critical anti-racism gaze brings to the discussion as far as genuine social inclusion is concerned. Pertinent issues relating to social diversity, individual and collective rights, citizenship and state responsibilities and the possibilities for social change are touched upon. The discussion is placed within the contexts of the existing relationships and connections between the nation-state, racialized bodies, immigration and nation-building projects, and the location of Aboriginal/Indigenous peoples.

It is opined that in an era remarkably different in its celebration of difference and diversity there are five core philosophical principles/standpoints for reframing social inclusion – namely, the politics of linking identity and knowledge; cultivating “diverse communities”; pursuing radical inclusion; challenging the depoliticization of difference; and, the relevance and importance of going beyond politics of liberal pluralism (recognition and redistribution) to anti-colonial configurations of power.

The discussion is informed by the urgency of some key questions: For example: how do we frame an inclusive [anti-racist/anti-colonial] global future and what is the nature of the work required to collectively arrive at that future? What sort of education [broadly defined] should be taking place in our schools and communities today? What are we going to do with our education as learners? How do we ‘re-fashion’ our role as members of diverse communities to create a more relevant understanding of what it means to be human? How do we equip ourselves using multiple lenses of critical inquiry? And, how do we bring sanctity and humility [of knowing] to our work?

I conclude that addressing these questions help give voice and agency to the lived experiences of Indigenous, racialized, and immigrant groups and to situate them at the center of the discussions about social inclusion and national belonging.
OPENING DAY PLENARY SPEAKER

PROF. NANCY MARIE ARTHUR
Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary

Dr. Nancy Arthur is a Canada Research Chair in Professional Education. She began her academic career as a counsellor and later as the co-ordinator of international student services at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Her current research and teaching focus on professional education, career development, multicultural counselling, and international transitions. Dr. Arthur’s research focuses on investigating how professionals adapt to shifting roles and responsibilities in a global context, and how they engage in social justice through professional practice. Dr. Nancy Arthur is interested in how professionals respond to global forces in the work environment, and how professionals are educated to adapt to shifting roles and responsibilities in our global society. Related to this is her research on the ways that people manage international transitions in living, learning, and working across cultures.

Her books include Counseling International Students; Case Incidents in Counseling for International Transitions, and she co-edited the award-winning book, Culture-Infused Counselling. She serves on the Board of Governors for the Canadian Career Development Association and the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance. She is currently undertaking the following Projects such as: Counsellor Practices for Multicultural Counselling and Social Justice (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada), International Student Transitions to Working and Living in Canada (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada), and Client Engagement in Interdisciplinary Pain Management Programs Orion Health.

Dr. Arthur offers her expertise to a variety of public and private sector organizations across Canada and internationally. She supports the professional education of counsellors, career development practitioners and other helping professionals through the development and delivery of curriculum and training workshops. She has developed and delivered graduate level curriculum for delivery in distributed learning formats. She is an Associate Fellow in the Institute for Employment Research, The University of Warwick. Dr. Arthur is a registered psychologist in private practice with Calgary Psychology Group.

PRESENTATION

International Student: Beyond Recruitment to Integration and Immigration

Perspectives about international students in Canada and in other countries have changed considerably during the last two decades. International students are an integral part of internationalization strategies in higher education and there are growing numbers of younger international students in high schools. Once considered to be temporary sojourners, international students are now viewed as preferred immigrants due to the experience that they bring from their home countries and the local education and cultural experience that they gain in local settings.

Many international students pursue education in Canada with the priority goal of furthering their employment success upon graduation. Although the majority of international students return to their home countries, Canada has one of the highest rates of international students working and staying in Canada post-graduation. Many international students seek Canadian work experience to enhance their credentials and such experience weighs heavily in their decision-making to pursue immigration in Canada or to return to their home countries. Yet, the road to employment and immigration is not straightforward as many international students deal with a wide range of barriers related to cultural, employment, and social integration.

In this presentation, I will discuss a model to understand the nature of international student transitions and outline some of the innovations in service provision needed to support their transitions from higher education to employment. As governments of many countries focus on international students within strategic policy directions for immigration and economic growth, there are serious questions to be asked about who is responsible for their integration and fostering a positive sense of belonging in Canada.
Dr. Arthur Miki has had a distinguished career as an educator and community activist. He has worked to promote improved race relations and to increase awareness of human rights issues in Canada. Dr. Miki attended both the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba, receiving a graduate degree in education at the latter institution. He was an elementary school teacher, later serving as principal in several schools over a period of 18 years. Dr. Miki dedicated a considerable amount of time in promoting positive race relations and greater understanding between peoples. Formerly the vice-chairperson and he is now advisor to the Canadian Race Relations Foundation located in Toronto, and currently president of the Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba and president and founder of the Asian Heritage Society of Manitoba.

Dr. Miki is an active leader in the Japanese Canadian community having served as president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians from 1984-1992. He led the negotiations for a just redress settlement achieved on September 22, 1988 for Japanese Canadians interned during the Second World War. He was a director on the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation that was established in 1989 to administer the $12 million fund as part of the redress settlement. Dr. Miki was Citizenship Judge for Manitoba and Saskatchewan from 1998 to 2008. He was a part time lecturer at the University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Education until last year.

He is author of a book, Japanese Canadian Redress Legacy: A Community Revitalized (2003) and co-author of Shaku of Wondrous Grace: Through the Garden of Yoshimaru Abe (2007). In 1991, he received this country’s highest recognition, a Member of the Order of Canada. In October 1999, he received an Honourary Doctorate degree from the University of Winnipeg. He was awarded the Order of Manitoba in July 2012.

This presentation will focus on the ongoing struggle for Japanese Canadians to gain acceptance and equality in a country that in the early days discriminated against Asians. In 1885 the Provincial Government passed legislation denying Japanese the right to vote regardless of whether they were born here or not. In 1908 Tomekichi Homma challenged the law. Many Japanese Canadians volunteered to fight for Canada during World War I despite the fact that they were not citizens. However after the war, the veterans pushed the provincial government for the right to vote. It wasn’t until 1931 that surviving Japanese Canadian veterans were finally given the franchise, the only group in the Japanese Canadian community who could vote. In 1936, the Japanese Canadian Citizens’ League was formed by Canadian born Japanese, to seek full right of citizenship, including the franchise.

During the Second World War 22,000 Canadians of Japanese ancestry had a curfew imposed upon them and the Orders-in-Council passed under the War Measures Act forcibly removed them from the West Coast of Canada, their properties were confiscated, and placed into internment camps in interior British Columbia, or sent to sugar beet farms in Alberta and Manitoba and some to Prisoner-of-War camps in Northern Ontario. This action by the Canadian government removed their basic civil, legal and human rights thus relegating Japanese Canadians to enemy aliens. After the war some 4000 Japanese Canadians were exiled to Japan while the rest were dispersed across Canada but had to live east of the Rockies if they wanted to remain in Canada.

In 1944 the federal government passed a new law denying the vote to those who were ineligible to vote in previous elections. This law was intended for Japanese Canadians who were now living outside of British Columbia. In 1949 Japanese Canadians finally enjoyed full democratic rights. The struggle for redress in the 1980s was to become the struggle to regain equality. Finally on September 22, 1988 the Canadian government officially acknowledged that the government was wrong in what they did to Japanese Canadians during wartime. The apology and acknowledgement was seen by many Japanese Canadians as the time they regained equality amongst its Canadian peers.
Estelle's academic career was riddled with detours. She hated school, so much so, that she was twice asked to leave different high schools owing to her poor academic performance and cavalier attitude. A few years later, not knowing what to do and with the responsibility of raising two young girls, Estelle became a school bus driver. All that changed one day when one of the school administrators told her that she should be a teacher, and that very short conversation changed her life.

While driving bus, she completed her BA at the University of Winnipeg, followed by her Degree in Education. While teaching, she continued her pursuit of collecting degrees by completing a Post Baccalaureate in Education followed by a Master's degree in Educational Administration, both at the University of Manitoba.

For seven years Estelle taught grades 5 through 12, observing along the way that many students were becoming outliers because they did not believe that they were valued. For many of these students, their differences caused them to be excluded from the general student population, and slowly and sometimes painfully they disappeared from the school system. Estelle then spent the following eighteen years as a school administrator with the last twelve years as a high school principal, always searching for ways to engage every student so that they would stay in school.

Estelle realized early on that it is not enough to teach students what to think but it was more important to teach them how to think. It quickly became evident to her that the educational system was not adapting at the speed that the world was evolving. She decided to change the culture of her high school to one that focused on social justice and environmental sustainability. In order to achieve these goals, the school joined the UNESCO ASPnet Schools of Manitoba.

Currently her focus is on engaging citizens in critical dialogue on ethical issues. Examples include: the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties’ Ethics Slam, USA National High School Ethics Bowl, and the brand new Ethics Cafe, all in partnership with the University of Manitoba Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics. As a board member of the Rotary World Peace Partners, Estelle was responsible for designing a week-long, human rights awareness program for high school students, a joint effort with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. She also is a member of the University of Winnipeg Global College Advisory Council. Her time is also spent engaging the public in being part of the Rotary World Peace Partners Peace Days, helping facilitate the UNESCO and Rotary Reaching Beyond Our Borders project with a school in Cleves, Ohio, and assisting the Canadian UNESCO Aspnet School network plan of the 2016 International UNESCO conference.

PRESENTATION

A Welcoming School is an Inclusive School

It is not enough to invite new students into a school; it is necessary to teach the whole school and community how to welcome them in. For the majority of newcomers with children, schools are the first public institutions that families need to learn to navigate. They want what every family desires for their children, acceptance, inclusion and a bright future. We need to approach each newcomer family on an individual level with respect and support to make their transition into our educational system as seamless as possible. We need to realize that academic success can at times be very different from student to student and each individual journey needs an advocate. But there is another aspect that is often overlooked and that is the very cultural fabric of what it means to be an inclusive school community, a school that embraces each human right as part of their mission statement. The focus of the school plan should be aligned with the promotion of human rights, from lesson plans, school events, parent council action, teacher professional development and community awareness. Often we function in a vacuum, unaware of what has been done and what still needs to be accomplished. This can lead to inefficiencies and, at times, omissions in providing support. As a collective group, we need to be united in vision, united in planning and united in delivery the moment a newcomer enters our community.

We need to be aware of the right of each individual to be who they should be and not who we want them to be. Our past is filled with enough sorrow because we imposed and oppressed instead of celebrating and encouraging diversity. The past should have at least taught us to listen, observe and understand the voice of a newcomer. Are we listening?
Dr. Shauna Labman is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. Her research areas include immigration, refugee law, human rights, citizenship, and international law. She focuses on the layered influences of law on public policy and government positioning through the intersection of international rights, responsibility and obligation in the absence of a legal scheme for refugee resettlement. She has written and spoken extensively on refugee resettlement and private sponsorship. Professor Labman co-founded the Migration Law Research Cluster housed at Robson Hall and previously worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi, India.

Dr. Joseph Garcea is the Department Head of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. His research and publications have focused on policy areas such as multiculturalism, immigration, citizenship, and multi-level governance and partnerships in the immigration and integration sector. He has written reports for the City of Saskatoon on building capacity in the immigration and integration sectors. He served as a Domain Leader for the Politics and Citizenship Domain for the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration (PCRERII). He is currently Chair of the Executive Committee for Immigration Research West (IRW), and Co-PI for the Community Consultations on Settlement and Integration in Saskatchewan.

Michael Casasola is a Resettlement Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ottawa. He has been working with UNHCR since 2002 and prior was the Director of the R.C. Diocese of London - Refugee Office for eleven years. Throughout these years he has been actively involved nationally and internationally in refugee resettlement policy development and has visited UNHCR operations in the Middle East, Africa and the Americas. He oversaw the completion of UNHCR’s handbook, Refugee Resettlement: An International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration. He has also written a number of articles on Canadian resettlement including co-authoring “Canada’s private sponsorship of refugees program: A practitioners perspective of its past and future” in the Journal of International Migration and Integration.
JUDE KASAS
Syrian Assembly of Manitoba

Jude Kasas is a member of the Syrian Assembly of Manitoba (SAM). He was born in Syria and has been living in Canada since 1999. He is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and currently works as a Product Development Systems Analyst for Monteris Medical. He is the Principal Administrator for the Syrian Assembly of Manitoba (SAM). He also serves on the Board of Community Alive and Youth Awakening in Winnipeg and volunteers for the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC).

RITA CHAHAL
Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council

Rita Chahal, a graduate of Dalhousie University, is the Executive Director of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC). Prior to joining MIIC in 2013, Rita served as General Manager of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce. She also served as Executive Director of Women in Media Foundation, and Employment Projects of Winnipeg. In 2007 Rita was appointed by the Minister of Culture and Heritage to serve on the board of Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation. Born in India, Rita immigrated to Canada with her parents in the mid-sixties and first settled in Prince Edward Island. As one of the first East Indian families to arrive in the east coast, she and her family lived and understand the immigrant experience.

ABDIKHEIR AHMED
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM)

Abdikheir Ahmed is the Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (IPW) Coordinator at the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. He has previously served as the Executive Director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) Inc. Abdi has a Master’s degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia where he studied on a Rotary Peace Fellowship. He immigrated to Canada in 2003 where he joined the University of Winnipeg to study International Development graduating in June 2006 with a four-year BA as a student of high distinction. Abdi has extensive experience working with immigrant and refugee communities in Winnipeg’s inner city focusing mainly on settlement issues, gang and street crime prevention and refugee supports. He has interests in immigration and settlement, inland refugee claimants and gang and street crime prevention among newcomer youth. He is a passionate advocate for the needs of immigrants and refugees in Canada and serves on a number of boards of organizations serving immigrant and refugee communities in Winnipeg.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Thursday, November 5th, 2015

OPENING SESSION
Killarney Room (210), 2nd Floor, University Centre, University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM  REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
Killarney Room, 2nd Floor University Centre

8:45 AM  WELCOME & GREETINGS:
Dr. Michael Baffoe, Conference Chair,
Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba

WELCOME REMARKS:
Dr. Jim Mulvale, Dean, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
Dr. Janice Ristock, Associate Vice-President (Research), University of Manitoba
Hon. Erna Braun, Minister of Labour and Immigration, Province of Manitoba

9:15 AM  INTRODUCTION OF KEY-NOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University

9:20 AM  KEYNOTE SPEECH:
Prof. George J. Sefa Dei,
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
Topic: Rethinking Diversity and Inclusion and the Urgency of Going Beyond Official Canadian Multiculturalism.

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM  OPENING PLENARY PRESENTATION:
Prof. Nancy Marie Arthur, University of Calgary
Topic: International Student: Beyond Recruitment to Integration and Immigration

11:10 AM -12:15 PM  CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS
Neepawa Room (214), Russell Room (220) & St. Anne Room (224A)

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  LUNCH
Killarney Room, 2nd Floor University Center

1:00 PM - 1:45 PM  LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:
Dr. Arthur Miki, Japanese Canadian Association of Manitoba
Topic: The Struggle for Equality: Seeking the Franchise

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS
Neepawa Room (214), Russell Room (220) & St. Anne Room (224A)
# Concurrent Presentations

## 11:10 AM - 11:40 PM

### SESSION 1

**Room 214**

- **Presenters:**
  - Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis
  - Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University-Harrisburg
  - Dr. Michael Baffoe, University of Manitoba

  *The Inconvenient Truth: Diversity Inclusion as Sine Qua Non for Modern day Academia in the Era of Globalization*

- **Moderator:** Dr. Consoler Teboh, St. Cloud State University

### SESSION 2

**Room 220**

- **Presenters:**
  - Marleny Bonnycastle & Colin Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba

  *Refugees and Agency: Social Policy and Feminist Contexts*

- **Moderator:** Dr. Shirley Chau, University of British Columbia

## 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM

### SESSION 3

**Room 224**

- **Presenter:**
  - Dr. Angelica Salas, NEEDS Center, Winnipeg

  *Professional Growth or Career Suicide? A Look at the Plight of Professional Immigrants in Winnipeg, Manitoba*

- **Moderator:** Dr. Maria Cheung, University of Manitoba

### SESSION 4

**Room 214**

- **Presenter:**
  - Jason Kim, University of Manitoba

  *The Power of Leisure in Managing Acculturation Stress for Immigrants in Canada*

- **Moderator:** David Sullivan, University of Manitoba

### SESSION 5

**Room 220**

- **Presenters:**
  - Prof. Tuula Heinonen & Dr. Regine King, University of Manitoba


- **Moderator:** Prof. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba

### SESSION 6

**Room 224**

- **Presenter:**
  - Prof. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University

  *Moving Forward Looking Back: Memory and Nostalgia in First Generation Hispanics/Latinos*

- **Moderator:** Kelly Scott, University of Manitoba
LUNCHEON PRESENTATIONS

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM LUNCH  1:00 PM - 1:45 PM LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

Room 210
Killarney

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:
Dr. Arthur Miki, Japanese Canadian Association of Manitoba
Topic: The Struggle for Equality: Seeking the Franchise
MODERATOR: Dr. Maria Cheung, University of Manitoba

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

SESSION 7
ROOM 214
Neepawa

PRESENTER:
Dr. Cathy Rocke, University of Manitoba
Intergroup Dialogue: Paths to Reconciliation
MODERATOR: Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei, Memorial University

SESSION 8
ROOM 220
Russell

PRESENTER:
Dr. Shirley Chau, University of British Columbia
The Health and Wellbeing of Immigrants in Mid-Sized Cities: The Case of Kelowna, BC
MODERATOR: Dr. Judy Hughes, University of Manitoba

SESSION 9
ROOM 224
St. Anne

PRESENTER:
Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis
Reconsidering the Concept of Social Exclusion: The Future Impact of Latino Youth Population Growth in the Sociopolitical Dynamics of the United States
MODERATOR: Prof. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University
CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM

SESSION 10
ROOM 214
Neepawa

PRESENTER:
Dr. Kyung-Mee Choi, University of St. Francis
Korean Immigrant Women’s Intergenerational and Intercultural Conflict with Their Children in the Diaspora

MODERATOR: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis

SESSION 11
ROOM 220
Russell

PRESENTER:
Carina Blumgrund, Jewish Child & Family Service
The Community Professional Connections Program: Professional Networking with a Community Building Approach

MODERATOR: Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University-Harrisburg

SESSION 12
ROOM 224
St. Anne

PRESENTERS:
Dr. Marlene Pomrenke & Prof. Tuula Heinonen, University of Manitoba
Building ‘Nests’ for adopted children from Africa: Views from service providers

MODERATOR: Dr. Sylvester Lamin, St. Cloud State University

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

SESSION 13
ROOM 214
Neepawa

PRESENTER:
Jason Kim, University of Manitoba
Mini U Brochure as Their Way to Reproduce Racial Exclusion & Whiteness at the University of Manitoba?

MODERATOR: Prof. Tuula Heinonen, University of Manitoba

SESSION 14
ROOM 220
Russell

PRESENTER:
Dr. Pierre Nzokizwa, Southern Adventist University
A Review of Practice and Policies on Mental Health Needs of Refugees in the United States: The Example of Burundian Refugees

MODERATOR: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis

SESSION 15
ROOM 224
St. Anne

PRESENTER:
Aneh Fondong Emile
Housing Barriers for African Migrants in Cameroon

MODERATOR: Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University-Harrisburg
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, November 6th, 2015

OPENING SESSION
Killarney Room (210), 2nd Floor, University Centre,
University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM
REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
Killarney Room, 2nd Floor University Centre

8:45 AM
OPENING REMARKS:
Dr. Michael Baffoe, Conference Chair,
Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba

9:00 AM
SECOND DAY PLENARY PRESENTATION:
Estelle Lamoureux
Topic: A Welcoming School is an Inclusive School

10:00 AM - NOON
CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS
Neepawa Room (214), Russell Room (220) & St. Anne Room (224A)

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM
LUNCH
Killarney Room, 2nd Floor University Center

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM
LUNCHEON PANEL PRESENTATION:
Topic: Knocking on National Doors Uninvited: The Migrant and Refugee
Crisis in Europe and Global Implication
Dr. Shauna Labman, University of Manitoba,
Michael Casasola, UNHCR
Dr. Joesph Garcea, University of Saskatchewan
Jude Kasas, Syrian Assembly of Manitoba
Abdikheir Ahmed, IRCOM
Rita Chahal, MIIC

2:30 PM - 3:15 PM
CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS
Neepawa Room (214), Russell Room (220) & St. Anne Room (224A)

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM
CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION
Killarney Room, 2nd Floor University Center
# CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

## 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

**SESSION 16**  
**ROOM 214**  
**Neepawa**

**PRESENTER:**  
Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei, Memorial University  
Secularization of Social Work Profession: A Smart Professional Move or a Faustian Bargain?

**MODERATOR:**  
Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University-Harrisburg

**SESSION 17**  
**ROOM 220**  
**Russell**

**PRESENTERS:**  
Dr. Shirley Chau, University of British Columbia  
Dr. Judy Hughes, University of Manitoba  
Dr. Maria Cheung, University of Manitoba

Perspectives of Economic Integration in Canada Among Immigrants from Mainland China:  
Does Guanxi Matter?

**MODERATOR:**  
Prof. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University

## 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM

**SESSION 18**  
**ROOM 224**  
**St. Anne**

**PRESENTERS:**  
Warda Ahmed, University of Manitoba, &  
Damien Leggett, West Central Women’s Resource Centre

Worlds away: The Struggle for Intercultural Experience in a Not-for-profit Setting

**MODERATOR:**  
Dr. Joe Garcea, University of Saskatchewan

**SESSION 19**  
**ROOM 214**  
**Neepawa**

**PRESENTERS:**  
Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg & Dr. Edward Shizha, Wilfrid Laurier University

Enhancing Access to Post-Secondary Education for Male African Youth in Southern Ontario:  
Research Design and Preliminary Results

**MODERATOR:**  
Prof. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba

**SESSION 20**  
**ROOM 220**  
**Russell**

**PRESENTERS:**  
Tatiana Murray & Johnson Boateng, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Cultural and systemic stigma within mental health: Integrating alternative approaches

**MODERATOR:**  
Dr. Michael Baffoe, University of Manitoba

**SESSION 21**  
**ROOM 224**  
**St. Anne**

**PRESENTERS:**  
Dr. Sylvester Amara Lamin, Dr. Consoler Teboh, St. Cloud State University &  
Dr. Sarah Cassell, Regions Hospital, St. Paul, MN

Effects of Ebola on Immigrant Students in the Diaspora: Psychological and Stigma Related Perspectives

**MODERATOR:**  
Dr. Regine King, University of Manitoba
CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

II:30 AM - NOON

SESSION 22
ROOM 214
Neepawa

PRESENTER:
Dr. Christine Morrison, Holding Hope Foundation, Nigeria
A Diverse workforce as a positive Driver for Economic Growth and International Trade

MODERATOR: Dr. Buster Ogguagu, University of St. Francis

SESSION 23
ROOM 220
Russell

PRESENTER:
Nancy Eleanor Reeves, Sheridan College of Applied Learning and Technology
Taking a critical look at voluntary and involuntary UNHCR repatriation of refugees to their original homelands: The case of Liberian refugees at the Gomoa Buduburam refugee camp in Ghana.

MODERATOR: Dr. Joe Garcea, University of Saskatchewan

SESSION 24
ROOM 224
St. Anne

PRESENTER:
Holly Bressler, Regina Open Door Society
Lives Disrupted: Resettlement Stories of Men Leaving War Torn Countries

MODERATOR: Dr. Consoler Teboh, St. Cloud State University

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM LUNCH

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM LUNCHEON PANEL PRESENTATION

LUNCHEON PANEL PRESENTATION:
Topic: Knocking on National Doors Uninvited: The Migrant and Refugee Crisis in Europe and Global Implication

Dr. Shauna Labman, Law Faculty, University of Manitoba, (Chair)
Michael Casasola, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Dr. Jessph Garcea, Dept. of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan
Jude Kasas, Syrian Assembly of Manitoba
Abdikheir Ahmed, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM)
Rita Chahal, Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC)

MODERATOR: Dr. Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba
CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

SESSION 25
ROOM 214
Neepawa

PRESENTER:
Dr. Sylvester Lamin, St. Cloud State University
Meeting the Challenges of Aging in the Diaspora: Narratives of Older African Muslim Women in Central Minnesota

MODERATOR: Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University-Harrisburg

SESSION 26
ROOM 220
Russell

PRESENTER:
Abel Pami Geya, P & T Legal Consultants, Cameroon
A Diverse Workforce as Positive Driver for Economic Growth and International Trade: The Cameroonian Experience

MODERATOR: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Wilfrid Laurier University

SESSION 27
ROOM 224
St. Anne

PRESENTER:
Olga Radzikh, University of Manitoba
Social Work Students’ Perspectives on Anti-oppressive Practice with Immigrants and Refugees

MODERATOR: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

SESSION 28
ROOM 214
Neepawa

PRESENTER:
Abel Pami Geya, P & T Legal Consultants, Cameroon
A Diverse Workforce as Positive Driver for Economic Growth and International Trade: The Cameroonian Experience

MODERATOR: Dr. Kyung-Mee Choi, University of St. Francis

SESSION 29
ROOM 220
Russell

PRESENTER:
Franklin Agbor, Cameroon
Cultural Diversity and Globalization

MODERATOR: Dr. Consoler Teboh, St. Cloud State University

SESSION 30
ROOM 224
St. Anne

PRESENTER:
Dr. Maria Cheung, University of Manitoba
Mindfulness and diversity: An experiential learning

MODERATOR: Nancy Eleanor Reeves, Sheridan College of Applied Learning & Technology
STRANGERS CONFERENCE PRESENTATION
ABSTRACTS 2015
ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1

The Inconvenient Truth: Diversity Inclusion as Sine Qua Non for Modern day Academia in the Era of Globalization

Despite the speed of intensity of globalization and the growing interconnectedness among nations of the world, the concept of diversity inclusion in academia has not been fully embraced. It is pertinent to recognize the need for giving epistemological diverse voices meaningful opportunities in the academia. Within this context this study explores how educators, learners, activists, policy makers and curriculum developers in the Western world can embrace the powerful yet untapped gem of the concept of diversity inclusion to expand the repertoire of knowledge construction and reproduction in academia to move beyond the ‘conventional wisdom’ of the Western pedagogic creed. It examines characteristics of globalization, what diversity inclusion means, why we need to address diversity inclusion, and makes recommendations that aim to promote equity in the arena of current and future knowledge construction and reproduction in research in academia.

Presenters: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis, Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Penn State University-Harrisburg, Dr. Michael Baffoe, University of Manitoba

SESSION 2

Refugees and Agency: Social Policy and Feminist Contexts

The massive influx of refugees today puts pressure on receptor countries providing essential assistance. By responding only to their singular victimization identity, there is a risk of ignoring women and men’s agency and their rights to be treated with dignity. To give insight into how social work practice may help to counter this, this presentation explores the mechanisms by which refugees may exercise agency to learn, build knowledge and transcend the limitations of their situations. The presentation draws on the results of two research projects, one with Colombian women and another with South Sudanese women. In-depth interviews, focusing on appreciative questions were the primary method of data collection. Appreciative dialogues helped to engage women in recovering, reflecting on and appreciating their experiences as residents in Colombia and South Sudan, being displaced to other cities and/or countries and then living as refugees in Canadian cities. Using the model and examples from the two research projects, we offer insight regarding the transformative potential of constructing agency within our collective work with people in ways that are positive and affirmative. In addition, we will caution about the risks of being co-opted by the current neo-liberal agenda, including becoming its naïve promoters.

Presenters: Marleny Bonnycastle & Colin Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba

SESSION 3

Professional Growth or Career Suicide? A Look at the Plight of Professional Immigrants in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Stepping on Canadian soil is a dream come true to immigrants. Manitoba, through its Provincial Nominee Program, has welcomed hundreds of families to reside in the province. Internationally-educated and trained engineers, physicians, professors, and bankers have come to Manitoba with their families, bringing with them almost everything they earned and saved for. They hope to practice their profession and continue building their career; they need however to prove their worth by providing documents and going through medical and language tests, apply for accreditation, or go back to school, to get a job in line with their previous work only to be struck by the heartbreaking reality that they could not (at least not immediately) do so. Some go back to school, but most immigrants, whose main priority is to get a job and provide for their families, end up working entry-level jobs. They keep in mind that the job is only temporary, and they would eventually get certified to rebuild their career. Several months/years and a handful of entry-level jobs later, they find themselves trapped, lost, and feeling de-professionalized by the same society they hoped to help them advance professionally and personally. Have they committed career suicide? Or they just need a 360-degree shift in their career plan?

Presenter: Dr. Angelica Salas, NEEDS Center, Winnipeg
The Power of Leisure in Managing Acculturation Stress for Immigrants in Canada

The experience of acculturation stress during immigrants’ adaptation to a host country poses a special challenge for their health, well-being, and quality life because of their marginalized positions in their dominant country. The aim of this study was to test the hypothesis that leisure meanings buffer against the adverse effects of acculturation stress on the psychological and sociocultural adaptation of Korean immigrants to Canada. The findings show that overall, acculturation stress was significantly associated with lower life satisfaction and self-esteem, poorer mental health, and more difficult sociocultural adaptation. Contrary to the hypothesis tested, the study only supported the main effects of leisure meanings on life satisfaction and self-esteem, but did not provide evidence for the moderating effects of leisure meanings to buffer against acculturation stress on adaptation. The conclusion of this study is that meaning-making through leisure is culturally grounded, and leisure-generated meanings in life appear to be a good predictor of positive life satisfaction and self-esteem among a sample of Korean adults. This research makes contributions to both the knowledge production and practical implications for not only leisure practices but also for Canadian society.

Presenter: Jason Kim, University of Manitoba

SESSION 5

Bringing home, home: Place-making and therapeutic landscaping through cultural rituals and practices among African refugees in Winnipeg

By 2014, the world refugee population reached a staggering 59.5 million (UNHCR, 2014). Refugees’ lives are shattered by experiences of torture and traumas caused by bloodshed, displacement, hunger and terror. Survivors who become refugees or asylum seekers in Western countries face additional stressors of adjusting to a new culture, language, and the demands and expectations of a new society. Particular pre-and post-migration factors affect African refugees in different ways than refugees from other regions because these factors are often combined with with racism and discrimination. There is a lack of empirical data on the best coping strategies that help African refugees to alleviate their mental health problems in Winnipeg. To fill this gap, we used a photovoice approach to explore the stressors facing this population and the strategies they use to cope. They related experiences of settlement in Winnipeg through photographs they took and presented in group sessions. This presentation focuses on how African refugees cope with stressors through cultural expressions, social connections, spirituality, rituals and celebrations they continued in their new country. Maintaining ties to their former homelands and cultures help them to survive in Winnipeg, the place where they now make their homes. Practice and policy implications are discussed.

Presenter: Prof. Tuula Heinonen & Dr. Regine King, University of Manitoba

SESSION 6

Moving Forward Looking Back: Memory and Nostalgia in First Generation Hispanics/Latinos

Hispanics/Latinos are the fastest growing segment in the U.S. Clearly, such increment is not simply caused by immigration but by the settling down of their offspring. The nation’s Latino population has grown 57% since 2000, when Latinos numbered 35.3 million. Latinos accounted for most of the nation’s growth - 56% - from 2000 to 2010” (L.A. Times, July 8, 2015). In this presentation, we will explore memory as the constant for identity formation in a struggle for inclusion. We will also look at nostalgia as a reminder of “home” in the “new home,” and as an individual factor in the process of acculturation and integration in a new and constantly changing society. Both notions will be addressed based on the following: a self-perceived notion of nostalgia that challenge society’s general assumption of representation; a notion of archive and memory placed in motion regardless of individual's intention; a clear notion of displacement that impacts a desire for individual success; the role of a perceived cultural identity notion within the Hispanic/Latino communities; and finally, a body of knowledge as preserved and promoted individually and collectively in these same communities

Presenter: Prof. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University
SESSION 7

Intergroup Dialogue: Paths to Reconciliation

The distorted history that most Canadians continue to be taught in secondary schools across Canada perpetuates the myths and stereotypes that exist today against Aboriginal people (Adams, 1989; Clark, 2007; Littlechild, Sinclair & Wilson, 2015). This lack of knowledge of Aboriginal people and their history in Canada also extends to new immigrants to Canada. Dialogue groups held in Vancouver in 2010 between First Nations, urban Aboriginal people, and immigrant communities, identified that many new immigrants had developed stereotypes of Aboriginal people based on the lack of knowledge of the history of both communities (Suleman, 2011). Intergroup dialogue is a facilitated learning experience that brings together individuals from two or more social identity groups over a sustained period of time. The groups are co-facilitated by trained facilitators who represent the identities within the group. Comprehensive research on the efficacy of intergroup dialogue has found that past participants increased their intergroup understanding, had more positive intergroup relationships and were more willing to engage in intergroup action to address oppression (Gurin, Nagda & Zúñiga, 2013). This presentation will review the current development of an intergroup dialogue initiative at The University of Manitoba. It is hoped that this model will be used not only on campus but within local organizations and the community to help bridge the divide that remains between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Presenters: Cathy Rocke, University of Manitoba

SESSION 8

The Health and Wellbeing of Immigrants in Mid-Sized Cities: The Case of Kelowna, BC.

Studies of immigrants and their health have predominantly come from large city centers such as Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver (MTV). These studies provided an important foundation for understanding the demographic make-up of immigrants in those centers. The increased flows of immigrants in Canada over the past decades has also expanded the spread of settlement from large urban city centers (e.g., MTV) into midsized cities such as Kelowna, BC. The current presentation presents the results of a large, community-based survey conducted with a sample of 314 people who self-identified as immigrants in Kelowna. Respondents completed a lengthy self-report questionnaire containing questions related to immigration history, housing, education credentials, health status and functioning, mental health, food security, belonging, and other topics related to quality of life. Results will be presented comparing responses between men and women, and other dimensions. The implications of the survey findings for service programs and delivery to support settlement of immigrants and integration from a life-course approach will be discussed.

Presenters: Dr. Shirley Chau, University of British Columbia

SESSION 9

Reconsidering the concept of social exclusion: The future impact of Latino youth population growth in the sociopolitical dynamics of the United States

The Latino population as a percentage of the entire United States stands at 15.4 percent, in addition to having one of the youngest and by implication, fastest-growing populations in the country. In this dispensation, the growth of Latino youth aged 15 to 24 seems to have leveled off in the course of a decade. However, at over 22 percent between 2000 and 2008, the population of those aged 14 years and younger is burgeoning exponentially to the tune of over 3 million. At their rate of growth, they stand to become the majority population, with implications for controlling the political and social power base in the near future. Demographic projections for 2050 are that Latinos will constitute 30 percent of the entire United States population. This study and its accompanying presentation explore the increasing and inevitable presence of Latino youth and Latino population in the United States. The Latino population growth, as the study finds, has implications for the social, economic and especially political future of the country, given their current untenable [poverty] but inevitable [population growth] status. It explores some of the reasons for their straitened conditions and proffers solutions that aim to address the imbalance and inequities, which if not resolved stand to promote dire geo-social, geo-political and economic consequences for the United States as nation.

Presenter: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis
Korean Immigrant Women’s Intergenerational and Intercultural Conflict with Their Children in the Diaspora

Korean immigrants have unique cultural manifestations of mental health which are associated with traditional values such as interdependent collectivism, submissive female roles, filial piety, family harmony, saving face, and stigma toward mental illness. In addition to cultural characteristics, Korean immigrants’ mental health is influenced by the individual’s personal attributes such as gender, age, length of immigration, acculturation degree, English proficiency, self-identity, self-esteem, and socioeconomic status. Previous studies have identified that Korean immigrants suffered more multiple psychological distresses and had a higher level of depression than any other ethnic subgroup. The high level for depression among Korean immigrant women has a strong connection to a unique Korean culture-bound syndrome known as hwa-byung, literally “anger illness.” Illustrating the cases of Korean immigrant women, this study demonstrates how this individual develops and exhibits the hwa-byung syndrome and disentangles her repressed multi-layered emotions through hanpuri, which is a traditional healing process in Korea. From this case illustration, mental health professionals may gain insight into how their culture-bound syndrome is interrelated to their relationship with their husbands, based on the patriarchal structure and to their intergenerational and intercultural conflict with their children.

Presenter: Dr. Kyung-Mee Choi, University of St. Francis

The Community Professional Connections Program: Professional Networking with a Community Building Approach

This interactive workshop seeks to share information about the Community Professional Connections (CPC) program, a program of Newcomer Services at Jewish Child & Family Service. The workshop will consist of three parts: A) an overview of the CPC program, which aims to assist immigrant job seekers in their professional networking and labour market integration efforts. The CPC program links immigrant job seekers with established professionals from their same/related field for a 1-time consultation on their job search/career options. B) Small group discussion on how this model could be replicated in other contexts with different community groups. It will conclude with questions comments and discussions with participants.

Presenter: Carina Blumgrund, Jewish Child & Family Service

Building ‘Nests’ for adopted children from Africa: Views from service providers

This presentation will discuss the views and services of those who help to facilitate international adoptions from Africa. It is suggested that we have entered into the fifth wave of intercountry adoptions from Africa (Davis, 2011). In order to adequately understand how to help children from Africa coming into this country to integrate successfully into Canadian society, more information is needed. As a starting point we interviewed service providers and others who have facilitated intercountry adoptions from Africa. These included paid professionals from agencies specializing in intercountry adoptions as well as volunteers and those who understand the realities of how African children come to Canada. The challenges encountered by the adoptive parents and children included language barriers, post-placement support services, as well as the initial hurdles of immigration and wait-times experienced through the process. As there is little or no government support for these intercountry adoptions, it is incumbent upon the adoptive families and other interested parties, including family members, to research and find their way through the bureaucratic maze of this process. While the journey for these children may have varied routes they all come to a new and different country. This entails acculturation struggles as they experience a new definition of ‘home.’ Our presentation will explore how this new ‘home’ or ‘nest’ can be strengthened.

Presenter: Dr. Tuula Heinonen & Dr. Marlene Pomrenke, University of Manitoba
SESSION 13

Mini U Brochure as Their Way to Reproduce Racial Exclusion & Whiteness at the University of Manitoba?

Despite the saturating influence of visuals in everyday life, the study of them has been underdeveloped, and trivial visuals can blind us from seeing the hidden dominant stories. One of these spaces we examined was the mini u brochure (offering sport and academic programs for young people through the University of Manitoba) whose publication practices seemingly reproduce racial inequalities in Winnipeg, recently recognized by Maclean's Magazine as the most “racist” city in Canada. The purpose of this research was to critique the publication's narrow visual representations and social exclusion and to call for social change by analyzing visual images and texts from the 2015 Mini U brochure, in stark contrast to the Universities’ efforts towards advancing cultural diversity on campus. Contemporary racial expressions tend to be indirect and invisible to perpetrators so that racism exists in many intricate forms in a major Canadian University that purports to be on the cutting edge of nurturing diversity. The culturally diverse production of a socially reflective Mini U brochure along with Governmental policy change will be critical components towards combating racism and achieving social inclusion.

Presenter: Jason Kim, University of Manitoba

SESSION 14

A Review of Practice and Policies on Mental Health Needs of Refugees in the United States: The Example of Burundian Refugees

Studies of immigrants and their health have predominantly come from large city centers such as Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver (MTV). These studies provided an important foundation for understanding the demographic make-up of immigrants in those centers. The increased flows of immigrants in Canada over the past decades has also expanded the spread of settlement from large urban city centers (e.g., MTV) into midsized cities such as Kelowna, BC. The current presentation presents the results of a large, community-based survey conducted with a sample of 314 people who self-identified as immigrants in Kelowna. Respondents completed a lengthy self-report questionnaire containing questions related to immigration history, housing, education credentials, health status and functioning, mental health, food security, belonging, and other topics related to quality of life. Results will be presented comparing responses between men and women, and other dimensions. The implications of the survey findings for service programs and delivery to support settlement of immigrants and integration from a life-course approach will be discussed.

Presenter: Dr. Pierre Nzokizwa, Southern Adventist University

SESSION 15

Housing Barriers for African Migrants in Cameroon

Finding suitable and affordable housing is one of the major concerns facing African migrants in Cameroon. This paper is on housing affordability and community integration for African refugees and migrants. This research seeks to address the relationship between housing and integration and the implications for African community settlement in Cameroon. The paper addresses the housing barriers experienced by African migrants in Cameroon and how these barriers affect their ability to obtain housing. It explores specific barriers to obtaining accessible and affordable housing such as social isolation and lack of social and financial capital, the absence of relevant work experience, language difficulties, lack of a driver's license and access to personal transport. These barriers pose significant implications for African migrants' attempts to establish their legitimate place in the wider Cameroonian community. The researcher explores the housing issue and offers a broader understanding of the contemporary Cameroonian housing situation in relation to African migrants' housing conditions.

Presenter: Aneh Fondong Emile
SESSION 16

Secularization of Social Work Profession: A Smart professional move or a Faustian Bargain?

As social work moved into a period of modernity, it allied itself with scientific school of thought, arguably embracing a rational, linear, reductionist view of the world. This movement towards securing professional credibility amongst social sciences and medical professions has acted to dissolve spirituality education and practice approaches within the social work profession, further bolstering narrowed conceptualizations of the value of spirituality in social service (Hugen, 2008; Moss, 2005). Consequently, the social work profession has undermined religious insights at the preferential acceptance of separating the sacred and the secular (Hugen, 2008). Using a qualitative semi-structured interview of twenty Ghanaian-Canadian Social workers from the Greater Toronto Areas of Canada and an ancient legend about Dr Faust, who supposedly traded his soul for unlimited knowledge and worldly pleasure, this presentation critically examines whether a perceived secularization of social work profession has been in the interest of the profession or has come at emotional and spiritual cost. From the analysis of the voices of Ghanaian-Canadian social workers, there is an erroneous impression that social workers who are spirituality centered in practice are somehow less professional. Responses from Ghanaian social workers clearly show the risk, tension, and dilemma of having spirituality in social work profession, yet they equally show how spirituality in social work profession can strengthen working relationships between practitioners and service users as well as help practitioners to effectively protect themselves against professionally related stresses.

Presenter: Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei, Memorial University

SESSION 17

Perspectives of economic integration in Canada among immigrants from Mainland China: Does guanxi matter?

It is important for immigrants to be economically and socially integrated in their communities society to encourage harmony and belonging in Canada. Social networks and relationships underlie belonging and community building, and supposedly, integration. Guanxi is a Chinese term referring to “relationships” and is similar to the concept of social capital, which emerge from productive social networks. The current presentation presents findings from a SSHRC-funded study that interrogated the qualities of ethno-specific culture in the development of social capital within the settlement experience of Canadians who immigrated from Mainland China since 2009. A central focus of the study is the relevance of guanxi/social capital in the economic integration of immigrants from Mainland China. Guanxi was generally important in Canada, just as it was in China. These findings have relevance for understanding settlement and integration in Canadian society and will be discussed along with length of settlement, settlement-attitude, and social factors that shape the participants’ perspectives and experience of achieving economic integration in Canada.

Presenters: Dr. Shirley Chau, University of British Columbia, Dr. Judy Hughes & Dr. Maria Cheung, University of Manitoba

SESSION 18

Worlds away: The struggle for intercultural experience in a not-for-profit setting

What does it look like when Newcomer and Indigenous communities collide, vying for the same limited resources in an underserviced community? Peering through the lens of front-line service providers, this workshop will help participants understand the reality of intercultural racism, systemic barriers that promote isolation, and the challenges of meeting the needs of marginalized groups in the context of a women’s centre in the struggling West Central neighbourhood of Winnipeg.

Presenter: Warda Ahmed, University of Manitoba, & Damien Leggett, West Central Women’s Resource Centre
ABSTRACTS

SESSION 19

Enhancing Access to Post-Secondary Education for Male African Youth in Southern Ontario: Research Design and Preliminary Results

As African public intellectuals and allies working with the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa, Wilfrid Laurier University, we have a stake in the African communities of Southern Ontario. We have anecdotally observed disproportionately high school drop-out rates among male African youth in both our professional and personal lives and feel that it is our responsibility to address this issue. Male African youth represent a particularly vulnerable population due to the ways in which their masculinity is socially constructed within a Canadian context. Many male African youth experience themselves as being on the periphery of society. Male African immigrant and refugee youth face unique concerns that are not shared by all male Black youth in Canada. Due to the specificity of concerns faced by male African youth, there is a pressing demand for more research that closely examines their experiences. In this presentation we will provide a brief overview of the research design and preliminary results of our SSHRC-IDG funded participatory research study, which aims to better understand the role played by acculturation, cultural capital, and masculinity in first generation male African immigrant and refugee youth's efforts to access post-secondary education in Southern Ontario. Following our brief overview we look forward to discussing the project and receiving feedback from conference participants on our participatory research design and interview questions.

Presenter: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg & Dr. Edward Shizha, Wilfrid Laurier University

SESSION 20

Cultural and systemic stigma within mental health: Integrating alternative approaches

This presentation explores the multitude of challenges that are faced by ethnic minorities within Canada that create barriers to them seeking and receiving mental health services. We present a review of the literature on the development and impacts of stigma, within cultural communities is reviewed to demonstrate how these constructs can negatively shape the conceptualization of mental illness. We explore the mutually influential components between stigma, individual worldviews (inclusive of beliefs and values) and those entrenched within our current mainstream medical health system. It is proposed that these interactions are creating significantly negative relationships between ethno-cultural minorities and the mental health system, encouraging them to detour away from pursuing support and treatment. Concepts of recovery are examined, as we consider who defines and controls this process and its impacts on service users. To address the presented challenges, we review promising alternative approaches and treatments that are more inclusive of and responsive to different cultural identities. The presentation will conclude with recommendations for further consideration to be placed on proposed alternatives to aid in reducing disparities and addressing diversity in mental health care.

Presenters: Tatiana Murray & Johnson Boateng, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

SESSION 21

Effects of Ebola on Immigrant Students in the Diaspora: Psychological and Stigma Related Perspectives

Although the death toll of the Ebola virus (9,729 people) that created havoc worldwide has subsided, its effects continue to plague those in the diaspora who in one way or the other lost family members and friends to the disease back in Africa. Students from the hard hit countries such as Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Mali who study in the Midwestern Region of the United States are faced with tremendous amounts of psychological as well as stigma related problems. Psychologically, they suffer from loss and lack of closure because even if they could afford to travel, they were unable to see their loved ones before they succumbed to the virus. Stigmatically, they were treated as though they themselves carried the disease. Both of these challenges continue to hinder adjustment and coping as well as their school grades. This presentation is a case study of 15 West African students who still face these challenges to date. We suggest on the one hand that educating members of the host communities about the realities of the disease will go a long way to cure the stigma, and on the other hand, grief counseling as well as visiting their home countries will help alleviate the psychological problems of loss and lack of closure.

Presenter: Dr. Sylvester Lamin, Dr. Consoler Teboh, St. Cloud State University & Dr. Sarah Cassell, Regions Hospital, St. Paul, MN
SESSION 22

A Diverse Workforce as a Positive Driver for Economic Growth and International Trade

This presentation seeks to establish the positive effect of a diverse workforce as it relates to economic growth and International trade. The movement of migrants has increased along the world’s population and this has sparked both negative and positive responses all over the world. The earth is clearly a diversified village because of obvious differences in racial or ethnic classifications, age, gender identity, religion, philosophy, physical abilities, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, intelligence, genetic attributes, behavior and other identifying features. According to Gillian B. White, diversity is more than just differences in race and gender. It means your background based on previous work experience, where you were born and raised, and any unique factors that contribute to your personality and behavior. Diversity is simply the key to economic growth and international trade and this is premised on the increase in the inclusiveness of a diverse workforce for utmost benefits. Increase in capital stock, advances in technology and improvement in the quality and level of literacy are considered to be the principal causes of economic growth and international trade. It is hoped that diversity will be built into recruitment, planning, strategy, decisions and partnerships on a global scale in the work place for maximum results and positive impact.

Presenter: Dr. Christine Morrison, Holding Hope Foundation, Nigeria

SESSION 23

Taking a critical look at the voluntary and involuntary policy of the UNHCR repatriation of refugees to their original homelands: The case of Liberian Refugees at the Buduburam Refugee camp in Ghana.

The repatriation of Refugees from their countries of asylum may not seem as easy as policy appears to want us to believe. The brutal civil war that ranged in Liberia in the 1980s and 1990s drove thousands of Liberian refugees to settle in a refugee camp in Ghana. In the mid-2000s, the Ghana government, in collaboration with the UNHCR started a mass repatriation of these refugees back to Liberia. The repatriation created a lot of problems for the returning refugees. The exercise has unearthed the need for a deeper look at the challenges inherent in these repatriation exercises. This presentation will discuss some of these challenges involving the repatriation of Liberian refugees from the Gomoa Buduburam Refugees camp in Ghana to Liberia after decades of civil war.

Presenter: Nancy Eleanor Reeves, Sheridan College of Applied Learning and Technology

SESSION 24

Lives Disrupted: Resettlement Stories of Men Leaving War Torn Countries

This paper presents a narrative, holistic content perspective that uncovers themes, throughout the narratives of men who have fled war-torn countries and resettled in Regina, Saskatchewan. Using an ecological perspective to analyze and interpret findings this study uncovers themes of war and loss of freedom prior to fleeing. Meanwhile, during transition, each of the men describes harrowing details of their journey complicated by the uncertainty of their futures. They share unique stories, one man, shares his experience fleeing from Burma to Thailand and spending nearly 10 years in a refugee camp. The men’s stories illustrate an immense resilience in their willingness to access support from family, friends and community settlement services. Stability, in each of these men’s lives is a triumph of success after overcoming the atrocities of war. Telling and sharing these stories of war and resettlement ensure the hardship and struggle of survivors of war are recognized and never forgotten.

Presenter: Holly Bressler, Regina Open Door Society
SESSION 25

Meeting the Challenges of Aging in the Diaspora: Narratives of Older African Muslim Women in Central Minnesota

In the last 30 years many older African Muslim women have immigrated to the United States to join their children through resettlement programs, family reunions or as visitors or tourists on B1 and B 2 visas and subsequently overstay. Indeed aging in the “other world” (A developed country like the USA) brings in many challenges for many older African Muslim women. Many elderly African Muslim women may feel the pinch of the lack of social integration. This session will present results from a study that looked at social theories of aging such as activity theory, continuity theory, disengagement theory and aging in place and through the use of in-depth interviews explores the lived experiences of the participants. The criteria for participation were as follows: female, above 65, reside in Central Minnesota and living with an adult child. The study will bring to the fore some of the problems this aging population encounters so that human services agencies could be able to provide the care they need as they age in the diaspora.

Presenter: Dr. Sylvester Lamin, St. Cloud State University

SESSION 26

Housing pathways for Central African refugees in Cameroon: towards an understanding of African refugee housing issues

Central African migration to Cameroon has increased significantly since 2000 due to political unrest and civil wars in this region. Recent studies of Central African migrants have focused on employment, mental health and education issues with modest or no reference to how housing problems matter for durable settlement of refugees, or the relation of housing to health and education. Housing affordability is a major concern for all Cameroonians but especially for the newly emerging refugee community. This paper discusses the predicament of Central African refugees as Cameroon faces a profound decline in housing affordability. The research seeks to explore the current and future housing needs of refugees in relation to family size, transport, work, health, education, community integration and income. Most of these refugees come from low socio-economic status backgrounds and many depend on social security payments. In many cases their ambitions for suitable housing are untenable. This paper discusses the salience of communicative planning theory and a case study methodology to engage with refugee settlement experiences. We are seeking a sociological understanding of African housing issues to inform creative policy options for settlement planning.

Presenters: Eunice Anwi Mukoro

SESSION 27

Social Work students’ perspectives on anti-oppressive practice with immigrants and refugees

Anti-oppressive practice is a commonly accepted concept in social work education that concentrates on alleviating oppression and advancing social justice. The goal of this presentation is to highlight social work students’ perspectives on anti-oppressive practice with immigrants and refugees and to uncover their experiences of anti-oppressive practice in the field and classrooms. This presentation is from a comparative case study based on photovoice conducted with a diverse group of graduate and undergraduate social work students from Canada and Finland.

Presenter: Olga Radzikh, University of Manitoba
ABSTRACTS

SESSION 28

A diverse workforce as positive driver for economic growth and international trade: The Cameroonian Experience

Diverse workforce is the similarities and differences among employees in terms of age, cultural background, physical abilities and disabilities, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. As workforce demographics shift and global market emerge, workplace diversity inches closer to becoming a business necessity instead of a banner that companies wave to show their commitment to embracing differences and change. This presentation takes a look at the positive aspects of diversity in the workplace from a Cameroonian perspective.

Presenter: Abel Pami Geya, P & T Legal Consultants, Cameroon

SESSION 29

Cultural Diversity and Globalization

The advancement of technology has dissolved international boundaries and reduced the world to a global village providing an enabling environment for integration and globalization. Globalization can be an empowering entity for any nation. It can interconnect the world, support economic development, provide information and assist in nation building through the diversity in manpower. However, there is still a paradoxical dichotomy, when it comes to cultural diversity and globalization. On one hand, globalization has the potential to mobilize and empower people, provide a means for self-representation, support a collective identity through socialization and provide employment opportunities. On the other hand, it has the ability to disempower people by misrepresentation, provide a process for further colonization, and propel the loss of group identity. It may also culminate to increase in cultural diffusion, cultural conflicts and neutralization of the indigenous culture. In some cases, cultural groups are deprived of autonomy and identity. This presentation will offer an in-depth analysis of the topic and suggest that every nation needs to become relevantly conscious of the implications of these cultural dynamisms.

Presenter: Franklin Agbor, Cameroon

SESSION 30

Mindfulness and diversity: An experiential learning

Mindfulness is gaining popularity in various academic disciplines including social work, psychology and education. There is much empirical evidence of the benefits of mindfulness on improving one’s physical and mental health, cognitive functioning and preventing clinical disorders like anxiety and depression. The author’s area of interest is to explore the connection of mindfulness and human rights awareness. In this presentation, I’ll address mindfulness as a common language for diversity. The here-and-now focus and silence in meditation connect people from diverse ethnic and spiritual backgrounds to establish connectedness and awareness. Through experiential learning, I’ll guide the participants to experience the Falun Gong exercises and debrief the attainment of mindfulness through this experience to appreciate diversity. Falun Gong is a mind-body Eastern meditative spiritual cultivation practice grounded in Buddhist and Taoist philosophies. It is now practised in over 100 countries.

Presenter: Dr. Maria Cheung, University of Manitoba
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NOVEMBER 6, 2015 - 7:00 PM to 12:00 AM
Epiphany Lutheran Church
200 Dalhousie Drive

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We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the Dean, members and staff of the Faculty of Social Work, and Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba for their support for this conference. We particularly recognize the untiring efforts of our General Office staff; Shedimor Sevillo, Teresa Albinet-Lecocq, and our Communications Assistant, Berea Henderson, for coordinating the logistics for this conference.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the volunteers for their invaluable contribution to this year’s conference organizing. To all conference presenters and participants who traveled from far and near to be part of this conference, we thank you for your invaluable contributions.

See you all again in October 2016. À la prochaine!

CONFERENCE BOOK

SETTLERS IN TRANSITION: PATHWAYS AND ROADBLOCKS TO SETTLEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP OF NEW COMERS IN NEW HOMELANDS

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Settlers in Transition is a peer-reviewed compilation of proceedings from the 2013 and 2014 editions of Strangers in New Homelands Conference. It was edited by Drs. Michael Baffoe (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg), Lewis Asimeng-Boahene (Penn State University-Harrisburg and Buster C.Ogbruagu (University of St. Francis, Joliet, Ill)

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