



Western Centre for Research on Migration & Ethnic Relations



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Damaris Rose is a Professor of urban and social geography at the INRS University in Montréal. Her main research areas are: social change in urban neighbourhoods, housing, and the urban dimensions of immigrant settlement in major cities. For publications and recent research projects, see www.ucs.inrs.ca/damaris-rose. She teaches graduate courses in urban social policy and qualitative research methods. She is coordinator of the “Housing, neighbourhoods, and urban environment” research domain of the Québec Metropolis Centre, one of the five Canadian centres of excellence of the Metropolis Project.

Critical Research Agendas within the Metropolis Project: Reflections on a Study of Precarious Housing and Hidden Homelessness among Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigrants in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver

This presentation draws on the guest speaker’s recent experience leading the Montréal component of a research project (2010-2011) stemming from a national proposal call under the auspices of the Metropolis Project in collaboration with the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat of HRSDC. The proposal call and the project we developed in response to it were premised on the idea that immigration status on arrival was likely to make a difference to newcomers’ housing careers and to the likelihood of experiencing housing vulnerability or “hidden homelessness”. Notably, those making inland refugee claims face precarious immigration status over a protracted period of time, which is likely to affect their labour market integration, while since the 2001 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act the share of “multiply-disadvantaged” individuals among those arriving as government assisted refugees has been increasing. The study also set out to compare the situation in Canada’s three major gateway cities on account of their housing market differences, which might be expected to affect local outcomes. The presentation will focus on the research process as well as on key findings. The study was challenging due to a very tight time frame in which to consolidate relationships of trust and negotiate the study design and field work protocols with the newcomer settlement assistance agencies who partnered with us to conduct questionnaire and focus groups with their clients. The prior involvement of the researchers and the major community partners in each city in the discursive spaces and local and national communities of practice built up over a lengthy period of time within the Metropolis Project was no doubt crucial to the success of the study. As we move from completing the research to the “knowledge mobilization” stage we find ourselves raising policy research issues that go beyond the initial frame of reference of the study, in regard to “mainstream” housing policy priorities and in regard to the social citizenship of refugee claimants.

Thursday, March 29, 2012

4:00pm – SSC 5220

Refreshments 3:30pm – SSC 5230