



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Winter Colloquium
Series 2020**

Dr. Chantal Tetreault



Dr. Chantal Tetreault is a linguistic and cultural anthropologist at Michigan State University whose scholarship has focused on issues of migration and social change in France. Tetreault's past research addressed the interactional styles whereby French adolescents of Algerian descent construct and express their emergent identities as Arab Muslims and French youth. This research is showcased in her 2015 book, a cultural and linguistic ethnography entitled, *Transcultural Teens: Performing Youth Identities in French Cités*. More recently, she has partnered with Dr. Farha Abbasi (Psychiatry MSU) to focus attention on Muslim women's ethical and emotional labor in the context of the rise of right-wing politics in France and the United States.

“What is Arabic Good For? Future Directions and Current Challenges of Arabic Language Educational Reform in France”

Currently, only 0.2% of all middle and high school students who take a second language in France have access to Arabic, despite it being the second most widely spoken language. This talk addresses the political, cultural, and educational stakes in the current public French debate about the value of Arabic. The presentation will investigate the types of discourses, institutional gatekeepers, and practitioners that comprise the Arabic educational landscape in France to analyze the ways that Arabic is taught and not taught. This talk will contextualize the French cultural impasses on Arabic language educational reform in terms of the rise of right-wing Islamophobic political discourses. The importance of these conversations goes beyond the scope of language instruction to entail changing understandings of French identity in the context of immigration, globalization, and post-coloniality.

Thursday, March 12, 2020

4:00 pm, SSC 6210

Refreshments at 3:30pm in SSC 6256

All Welcome!

For More Information email: mer@uwo.ca