



# Western

Centre for Research on  
Migration and Ethnic Relations

Colloquium Series

Fall 2024

## “Talking in Circles: Migrant Farmworkers' Housing and the Need for National Standards”

**Dr. C. Susana Caxaj**

For decades, concerns have been raised over migrant farmworkers' housing. While few academic studies have given focused attention to the issue, important stakeholder reports have outlined common substandard conditions and subsequent health and social risks. In 2018, a report commissioned by the federal government concluded that there was a need for greater consistency in housing standards to ensure housing quality for the migrant agricultural workforce. Since then, the federal government has launched several consultations with industry, civil society leaders, academics and migrant farmworkers. Despite statements gesturing towards improving the regulatory regime and standards that guide them, both housing standards and the oversight of housing conditions for this group remains unchanged. Drawing from research with over 150 migrant farmworkers, this presentation will review the most common housing challenges, their risks to health and social wellbeing, and the policy changes required to address them. Ultimately, it is argued that the structural vulnerability imbedded into the design of temporary migration programs must be addressed.



Dr. C. Susana Caxaj is an associate professor and associate director of graduate programs in the School of Nursing at Western University. Her work is focused on housing, health and social care services, and anti-racist initiatives, especially to improve the lives of temporary migrant workers, immigrant, refugee and other underserved populations. Her work has also explored the impact of large-scale mining and colonial legacies on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous populations, especially in Guatemala. She is the daughter of refugees, and a queer Mestiza of Quiche and Kachiquel ancestry. Her work has been funded by SSHRC, CIHR and the Vancouver Foundation and she is a prior recipient of the Canadian Vanier Scholarship and the Outstanding Emerging Scholar Award at Western.

Thursday, October 3, 2024, 4:00 pm,  
Social Science Centre, Room 5220.

All Welcome!