



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

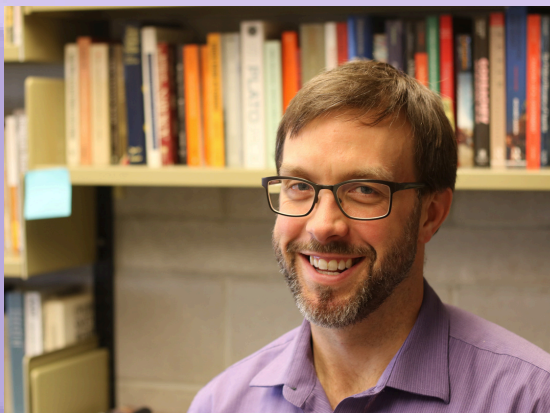
Colloquium Series

Fall 2024

“The Long Road to Welcoming Communities? Newcomer Settlement, Integration and Inclusion in Canada's Smaller Centres”

Dr. Ray Silvius

This talk offers highlights from multiple research projects in which I analyze the organization of direct and indirect services for newcomer settlement, integration, and inclusion in Canadian, and particularly Manitoba's, 'smaller centres.' Here, I further consider who performs the 'work it takes to welcome newcomers' in Canada's smaller centres within a national context of 'Welcoming Communities' governance and ideational structures. To govern newcomer settlement, integration and inclusion in a (neo-)liberal governance framework, the Canadian federal government delegates critical responsibilities to other governmental, non-governmental and private agencies. 'Welcoming Communities' efforts, therefore, are simultaneously national and local in scope, and the national context for facilitating such 'place-based' initiatives has been some time in the making. While the federal government sets the parameters, mandate, and capacity for the settlement sector through funding decisions and guidance, the act of building 'Welcoming Communities' occurs by leveraging vast contributions across Canadian society as a whole and mobilizing communities towards this end. To illustrate this argument, I demonstrate the history and structure of Canada's Welcoming Communities initiatives, Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs), and formal and informal service delivery as it pertains to 'place-based' efforts in Canada's smaller centres, drawing on my research on service provider organizations (SPOs) and community-based newcomer service provision in Manitoba.



**Thursday, November 7, 2024,
4:00 pm, Social Science Centre,
Room 5220.
All Welcome!**

Dr. Ray Silvius (he/him) is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He is the lead of the Migration in Remote and Rural Areas Network (MIRRA Network; (<https://mirranetwork.ca/>)) and the Community Engaged Research on Immigration Network (CERI Network; <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/ceri-network/>)).

Dr. Silvius is a Political Science specializing in Global Political Economy and Migration scholarship and has two decades worth of experience in community-engaged migration research. His research interests include applied and community-engaged research on migration; newcomers' access to social, political, and economic resources; the concept of Welcoming Communities and associated practices; the Political Economy of refugees, home, and migration; and macro-structures within the global political economy.