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2015 Migration and Ethnic Relations Graduate Student Conference:
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Migration and Settlement

Conference Program

April 9th 2015
Western University
London, Ontario
10% Canadian or Ugandan Canadian? An Exploration of Identity amongst Ugandan Asian Refugees in Canada

Shezan is a Ph.D. student in the Sociology program and the Migration and Ethnic Relations (MER) at the University of Western Ontario. She holds a Bachelor’s in History and MER (UWO, 2015) and a Bachelor of Arts in History (Queen’s, 2012). Her research interests include: the resettlement of refugees in Canada, Canadian immigration history, digital history, immigrant and refugee integration and community services, and identity studies.

Wajeha Chams, Sociology, Western University

Living In a Transnational World: Identity Negotiation and Formation of Second-Generation Lebanese Young Adults Living in London Ontario

Wajeha Chams is a M.A student in the Sociology program and the Migration and Ethnic Relations (MER) at the University of Western Ontario. She holds a B.A in Sociology from Western and currently completing her M.A and MER program. Her research interests lie in transnational identities, specifically of the children of immigrants, as well as immigrant integration and well being in the host countries.

Jon Malek, History, Western University

Silangan Rising: Integration and Identity in the Winnipeg Filipino Community

Jon Malek is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at Western, and is enrolled in the Migration and Ethnic Relations Collaborative Graduate Program. For the 2014-2015, he is a Research Affiliate at the University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities. His dissertation, “The Pearl of the Prairies: The History of the Winnipeg Filipino Community, 1959-2010,” traces the history of the Filipino community in Winnipeg, and examines the workings of the community in a global, transnational context. Jon is also interested in immigration history, ethnic relations, global Filipino migration, and Asian history. He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Manitoba.

Belinda Ha, Policy Studies, Ryerson University

Integration and Identity among the Second-Generation In Canada

Belinda is a Ph.D. student in the Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora Policies stream of the Policy Studies program at Ryerson University. She holds a master’s in Immigration and Settlement Studies from Ryerson University (2013) and an Honours Bachelor of Journalism (B.J.) and History from Carleton University (2012). Her research interests relate to multiculturalism, second-generation youth in Canada, intergenerational relationships, and immigrant integration.
12:00 - 1:00 PM: Keynote Address  Evelyn Encalada Grez

Organizing Transnational Love among Mexican Migrant Farmworker Women

Evelyn Encalada Grez is an adjunct university professor, transnational community organizer and labour researcher. For over thirteen years she has been working with migrant farmworkers from Mexico and Guatemala in rural Canada and with their families in their home communities. She co-founded the award winning collective called Justice/Justice for Migrant Workers (JAMW) that is at the forefront of the migrant rights movement in the Canada. Evelyn has shared her knowledge as activist scholar for migrant justice in various venues, including at the United Nations in New York and Parliament Hill in Ottawa. She has published with Dr. Kerry Preibisch in “Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society” and “Citizenship Studies.” She has also collaborated with Min Sook Lee on film projects that have given space to migrant farmworkers’ voices and experiences in Canada. She brings her personal life experiences of displacement and migration from Chile to Ottawa. She has published with Dr. Susan Power from Bishop’s University and Dr. Susan Marochko from Western University. Her research interests are in the areas of forced migration, refugee determination, voluntary and non-voluntary forms of return migration, social policy analysis, and critical approaches to social work. Her dissertation will examine the return experiences of individuals refused refugee status in the global North. Jaime is a Course Instructor at McGill and a practicing social worker at The Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario. She has more than ten years of experience in providing frontline support to migrants in a variety of settings.

2:15 - 2:30 pm  Andrea Bobadilla, Health Sciences, Western University

Discursively Constructing The ‘Other’ In the Protecting Canada’s Immigration System Act

Andrea is a PhD student in the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Program in the field of Health Promotion at Western University. After completing her master’s in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Western, she is continuing her research on intersections of Canadian immigration and health policy and its effects on migrant health. Her current research focus includes the health experiences of those in the Caregiver Program and gendered labour migration. Andrea is also part of a project with the School of Occupational Therapy on policies and discourses governing asylum-seeking populations, from which this presentation draws.

2:30 - 2:45 pm  Neil Bilotta, School of Social Work, McGill University

(Post)Colonialism and Refugee Resettlement for Congolese Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URMs) In the Global North

Neil is a PhD student School of Social Work, McGill University. He holds master’s in Social Work (Smith College School of Social Work, USA, 2011) and Public Health -Health Sciences (John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2014). His area of interest lie in Global Social Work, particularly with unaccompanied youth affected by armed conflict, the effects of Eurocentrism on the refugee settlement process, and the agency and autonomy of unaccompanied refugee minors.

2:45 - 3:00 pm  Usman Javad, Political Science, Western University

Religious Persecution of the Ahmadiyya Community in Pakistan

Usman is a MA student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Western Ontario. He holds a Bachelors of Science from the University of Toronto. His research interests lie in the persecution of minorities in developing countries. He will be presenting on the religious persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan.

3:15 - 3:20 am  Break 3

3:20 - 4:15 PM: Panel IV: Settlement and Well-Being

Discussant: Dr. Suzanne Huot
Assistant Professor School of Occupational Therapy
Member of London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership

3:20 - 3:35 pm  Natalia Lapshina, Psychology, Western University

Perceived Mental Health and Well-Being of Canadian Immigrants

Natalia is a Ph.D. student in Psychology and the Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations (MER) at the University of Western Ontario. Her research focuses on prejudice and employment discrimination against immigrants in Canada and mental health outcomes.
3:35 - 3:50 pm  Amani Elrofaie, Education, Western University

Socioeconomic Status, Family Relationships, and Parental Education as Determinants of Mental Health Symptoms in Diverse First, Second, and Third Generation Groups of Children

Amani is a MA Education candidate at Western University's Faculty of Education. She is an Ontario-certified teacher with a Bachelor of Education (Western U, 2013) and a Bachelor of Health Sciences with a minor in Creative Writing and Rhetoric (Western U, 2012). Her research interests lie in the expressions of child psychopathology among multi-cultural and multi-immigrant generation groups of children. Amani is involved in the Single Ceiling Project, a collaborative initiative between Western's Faculty of Education, the Children's Aid Society, Thames Valley District School Board, Merrymount Family Support Centre, and other community organizations to build capacity and foster mental health promotion, early prevention, and intervention for children.

3:50 - 4:05 pm  Mikaela Burgos, Education, Western University

Experiences of Newcomer Youth in the Home Environment

Mikaela is an M.A. student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Western Ontario. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Her research interests lie in immigrant integration, mental health, trauma and culture, and community-based research.

4:15 - 4:20 am  Break 4


Discussant: Dr. Audra Bowles
Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, Western University

CIBC Faculty Fellow

4:20 - 4:35 pm  Kwan Ho Leung, Policy Studies, Ryerson University

Migrant Workers as Public Goods

Kwan Ho is a first-year PhD student in the interdisciplinary Policy Studies at Ryerson University. His main interests are Philippine women's labour migration experience as well as the relationship between migrant workers and their home countries. Prior to his current studies, Kwan Ho has received masters' degrees in Immigration and Settlement Studies (Ryerson, 2013), Theological studies (University of St. Michael's College, 2013), Psychology (Wayne State University, 1995), and Economics (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1991). Kwan Ho is also a full-time faculty member at George Brown College.

4:35 - 4:50 pm  Miguel Cardoso, Economics, Western University

A Study of International Migration: Looking Beyond OECD Countries

Miguel is a 3rd year Ph.D. student in the Economics Department at the University of Western Ontario. He holds a master's in International Economics and Finance (Ryerson, 2011). His research interests lie in migration, international trade and labour economics.

4:50 - 5:05 pm  Awish Aslam, Sociology, Western University

Good Luck Hunting: An Examination of the Labour Market Integration of Second Generation Ethnic Minority Immigrants

Awish is a first year MA student in the Sociology program and the Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations (MER) at the University of Western Ontario. Her research interests include the areas of education, labour market integration, race-ethnicity, the experiences of second-generation immigrants, and school-work transitions.

5:15 - 5:20 pm  Break 5

10:15 - 10:45 AM: Panel II: Mobility for Education and Institutional Change

Discussant: Dr. Paul Tarc
Assistant Professor, Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies - CPELS Cluster, Faculty of Education, Western University
Coordinator of International Education Specialization in Master of Professional Education

10:15 - 10:30 pm  Rashed Al-Haque, Education, Western University

Acculturative Stress and Nigerian International Students

Rashed is a Ph.D. student in the Policy Studies Immigration Settlement and the Diaspora program at Ryerson University. He holds a Masters of Social Work Child and Family (University of Toledo), and Bachelors of Social Work (Ryerson University). His research interests lie in Nigerian international student's migration to Canada, acculturative stress, social network, and mental health.

10:30 - 10:45 am  Phillipa Myers, Education, Western University

The Experiences of Latin American Students in Ontario Schools: Foundations for Future Research

Phillipa is a Ph.D. student in the Faculty of Education. She holds a masters of Professional Studies in Education from the State University of New York at New Paltz (2007). As well as a Bachelors of Education from York University and an Advanced Bachelors of Education from Nipissing University (2004). Her volunteer work includes her role as Vice-Chair of the Education Sub-council of the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership. A former Ontario teacher, Phillipa's research interests focus on equity and social justice issues of immigrant students in schools.

10:45 - 11:00 am  Rashed Al-Haque, Education, Western University

Exploring the Relationship between Canadian Federal Citizenship and Immigration Policy and the Internationalization of Higher Education

Rashed is a PhD Candidate at Western University's Faculty of Education. He is enrolled in the faculty's Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies cluster and is interested in the internationalization of higher education. His doctoral research examines the relationship between federal citizenship and immigration policy and the internationalization of higher education in Canada. He is also interested in the leadership practices of university administrators and global citizenship education within universities. Rashed is originally from Bangladesh and moved to Canada at the age of 18 after growing up in Kuwait.

11:00 - 11:15 am  Marion Ink, Sociology, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris

Studying the Formation of Cliques in International Student Houses: Comparative Ethnographical Researches in Paris, Chicago and Tokyo

Marion is a PhD fellow in Sociology at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, in Paris. She has been invited by Professor Jeffrey Reitz, from the programme Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism studies at the University of Toronto for the winter semester 2015. Since her Master degree, she has been researching on the social experiences of living together in international student houses. She has been leading ethnographical works in the International House of Paris, the International House of Chicago and the Graduate House of Toronto.

11:15 - 11:30 am  Abhilasha Duggal, Education, Western University

Encouraging Diversity and Multiculturalism in London, Ontario: A Case Study of Two Elementary Schools

Abby is currently a doctoral student at the Faculty of Education program at Western University. She holds a Master of Education (2014, Western University), and a Masters of Arts in Public Policy (2002, University at Stony Brook). She was a former elementary school teacher in New York City. Her research interests lie in immigrant integration, theory and practice of multiculturalism, educational policy, leadership, inclusive education, critical race theory, equity and social justice.

11:45 - 12:00 am  Break 2