

13TH ANNUAL **STRANGERS IN NEW HOMELANDS CONFERENCE 2023**

CONFERENCE THEME

*CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN WORLD MIGRATION &
SETTLEMENT IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL CONFLICTS & POST COVID-19*



MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2023

CANADINNS POLO PARK, WINNIPEG, MB, CANADA
1405 ST MATTHEWS AVENUE



**University
of Manitoba**

Faculty of Social Work

www.strangersconference.com

WELCOME ADDRESS



DR. MICHAEL BAFFOE CONFERENCE CHAIR

We are delighted to welcome all of you to the Thirteenth edition of the Annual Strangers in New Homelands: Deconstructing and Reconstructing of 'Home' among immigrants and refugees in the diaspora. This conference is resuming after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our last gathering was in October/November, 2019. The first edition of the conference was in November 2008. It has since grown into a larger annual event bringing together researchers, academics, students, non-governmental organizations, policy makers, front-line newcomer settlement workers, and other practitioners from Manitoba, Canada-wide and beyond.

For many migrants in diaspora, the concept of 'home,' may evoke various levels of confusion, fear, hope, and aspiration. From its onset, this annual event has

served as a platform for very dynamic dialogue toward the understanding of what 'home' means for those in new geographical locations.

With worldwide forced displacement at the highest level ever recorded at 100 million people in 2022 (UNHCR, 2022), this year's conference is held at a critical time in world migration history. Many countries are curbing their refugee programs, securing borders, and attempting to protect their cultures and values from so-called "intrusion" of "aliens". Other countries continue to welcome immigrants and refugees realizing that, after their initial settlement challenges, they contribute more in the long term than they receive in the short term upon arrival in the receiving society.

The Main Theme for this year's conference was chosen to highlight the challenges as well as the opportunities that the spike in global armed conflicts continue to have on world migration and settlement. It also seeks to examine the challenges and opportunities that COVID-19 has presented to the world's migration processes. We encourage conference participants to continue to reflect on these realities in their work with migrant and vulnerable population groups. We further encourage them to explore ways of ensuring that the right interventions are found to meet the migration and settlement needs of the millions of people who are on the move around the world, looking for safer and peaceful new homelands.

The exchanges of ideas and discussions that will take place over the next two days and a half will be imperative to those who design and implement immigration and settlement policies; as well as those who provide services to, and work with, immigrant and refugee communities. These exchanges are more crucial than ever before since they provide the opportunities to think through and possibly propose most needed solutions.

For those of you who were here in previous years, we welcome you back to the 13th edition of the Strangers in New Homelands gathering. For those of you participating for the first time, we welcome you to this conference, to the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, and to the Province of Manitoba. We hope to see you all again at subsequent conferences until we solve, or at least attenuate, the lingering issues and challenges that confront migrants around the world every day.

Thank you, and again welcome.

MISSION STATEMENT

To pursue knowledge and provide accessible and inclusive educational programs that will advance the fields of social work practice and social policy at all levels and that will contribute to the development of societies in promoting respect for human rights and dignity, individual worth and well-being, diversity, social inclusion, and the principles of social justice. To prepare students for ethical, competent, critically reflective, innovative, anti-oppressive, accountable, and effective social work practice at all levels. To create and maintain a learning environment that promotes and supports respect for difference, risk-taking, democratic participation, a spirit of inquiry, equity, innovation, originality, and collaboration. To acknowledge, support, and promote different traditions of knowledge and different methods of knowledge gathering.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Faculty of Social Work is to help create and contribute to a world where there are no great inequalities of wealth or income, where economic and political power is more evenly distributed, where human need is the central value of distribution of society's resources, where diversity of culture is celebrated, where people have greater control over their own lives, and where all persons are afforded maximum opportunity to enrich their physical, spiritual, psychological, and intellectual well-being. Being the only university-based social work program in Manitoba and the largest program in Canada, this vision also includes the Faculty playing a leading role in the socio-economic-cultural development of the Province in particular, but also to Canada and beyond, which is consistent with the University's own vision statement. To these ends, it is necessary that the Faculty become one of the outstanding social work programs in Canada with respect to research, quality education, community service, and the accomplishments of its graduates.

DEAN'S WELCOME



DR. MICHAEL YELLOW BIRD DEAN, FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Dearest Conference Attendees:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Strangers in New Homelands Conference, 2023. The Strangers in the New Homeland Conference is an important venue that helps to support and set the course for advocacy, research, and education to support vulnerable migrant populations. The conference will take place in Treaty I territory, the traditional lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. As a Faculty and University, “We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.”

The Strangers in New Homelands Conference offers an important opportunity for scholars, researchers, activists, community leaders, and social service providers to engage in discussions and collaborations to improve the circumstances of immigrants and refugees. Your participation in this conference will not only create a greater understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants and refugees, it will also provide the opportunity to examine how the members of these groups will make positive contributions to our society.

I thank each of you for attending the conference and bringing your passion and expertise to this gathering. As committed professionals, activists, scholars, and community members, you have the vision, knowledge, and experience to help lead us to an exciting and positive future. You are our greatest asset, and this conference could not be accomplished without your support and leadership.

I sincerely extend my personal respect, gratitude, and thanks to all of you.

Dr. Michael Yellow Bird (Arikara/Hidatsa)

Dean and Professor

Faculty of Social Work

University of Manitoba, MB, Canada

OPENING NIGHT PANEL DISCUSSION 1

PRESENTATION:

Contributors, not parasites: Highlighting the positive contributions of immigrants to their new homelands



DR. DIGVIR S. JAYAS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

On July 1, 2023, Distinguished Professor Dr. Digvir S. Jayas will start as 7th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. On September 30, 2022, he completed a 11.75-year term as Vice-President (Research and International) at the University of Manitoba. Before assuming that position, he was Vice-President (Research) for two years, and Associate Vice-President (Research) for eight years. Prior to this, he was Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Head of the Department of Biosystems Engineering, and Interim Director of the Richardson Centre for Food Technology and Research. Professional Agrologist.

Dr. Jayas has received awards in recognition of his research and professional contributions from the Agriculture Institute of Canada, Applied Zoologists

Research Association (India), American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, Canadian Academy of Engineering, Canadian Society for Bioengineering, Engineers Canada (formerly Canadian Council of Professional Engineers), Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba. In 2022, Dr. Jayas was inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame and the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in recognition of his engineering contributions to grain preservation.



DR. MARLENY BONNYCASTLE

Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, Associate Professor, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work. She is also a Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba Research Associate, and The Small Earth Nepal Adjunct Researcher. Her continuing program of research centers on Community-Based Participatory Research, including social justice, community engagement, development, and mobilization.

She has experience in the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods across several projects focused on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), housing and homelessness, immigrant, and refugees, Indigenous, women, and other structurally disadvantaged groups. Currently, Marleny is participating in the dialogue and pedagogy laboratories of Colombia's Truth Commission.

OPENING NIGHT PANEL DISCUSSION 1



DR. BUSTER OGBUAGU

Dr. Buster Ogbuagu is a Professor of Social Work at the University of St Francis, Joliet Illinois, where he teaches several social work courses across the BSW and MSW curriculum for 15 years. He has also taught Social Work at McGill University, Canada. He holds a BSc. [Hons] in Sociology & Anthropology from the University of Nigeria. He also holds a BSW, MSW and Ph.D. [Double major in Social Work & Integrated Studied in Education] from McGill University, Montreal, Quebec Canada.

His international expertise and experience, including invited lectures, span several countries, including in Clinical practice with families, as a social worker in child protection-Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, Canada. He uses the Family Systems Theories approach to intervene with couples and families in crisis, to provide stability, as well maintain permanency for children under custody and access litigation. He applies the Large Group Intervention-LGI modality in the juvenile justice system, intervening with youth and their families under the meaning of the Young Offenders Act. Dr. Ogbuagu has extensive clinical practice experience in Dual Diagnosis-Polysubstance Dependence and Concurrent Disorder-PDCD, in the context of the DSM 5 parameters. He has documented some of his many activities in several published journal articles and books. He is a co-founder of the Strangers in New Homelands Annual International Conference.

Philosophically and pedagogically, he is passionate about intersectionalities and anti-oppressive epistemologies to social work theories, practice and Empowerment, which underscore and inform his teaching and practice.

OPENING NIGHT PANEL DISCUSSION 2

PRESENTATION:

Canada-US Immigration Agreement and the Third Safe Country Option: Implications for Asylum-seeking and Refugee Protection



DR. STACEY WILSON-FORSBERG

Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Human Rights Program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo Ontario. She is also the outgoing Director of the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa. Stacey has been undertaking qualitative research with immigrants and refugees since 2008. She is presently leading and co-leading several Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)-funded projects focusing on school and labour market transitions of African youth with refugee backgrounds.

She also conducts research with irregular migrants in Mexico and Morocco and is currently working on a SSHRC-funded book project called “Too Perilous to Proceed, Too Ashamed to Return: Life Stories of SubSaharan African Migrants in Morocco” (with Dr. Abderrahman Beggar).



ALASTAIR CLARKE

Alastair has been working with immigrant communities for +20 years and he has been practising immigration and refugee law for +15 years in Ontario and Manitoba. Prior to law school, Alastair lived and worked in various countries in Europe, South America and Asia. He has an insatiable curiosity to learn about different cultures and to connect with individuals.

Alastair works closely with the team at Clarke Immigration Law to help clients navigate the Canadian immigration system. They assist clients in more than 10 languages and they have won numerous awards for their outstanding service.



LOUISE SIMBANDUMWE

Louise is Co-Director at SEED Winnipeg and grassroots community activist. A former refugee, Louise is passionate about human rights and social justice. Her volunteer commitments include the Immigration Partnership Winnipeg Council, the Immigration Matters in Canada Coalition, and the Police Accountability Coalition. She also served on the advisory committee for Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy and the Ministerial advisory committee for Canada's first poverty reduction strategy. Louise has a Bachelor in Commerce from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters in Comparative Social Research from Oxford University.

CONFERENCE OPENING NIGHT PERFORMERS



LUIS FERNANDO HERMIDA CADENA

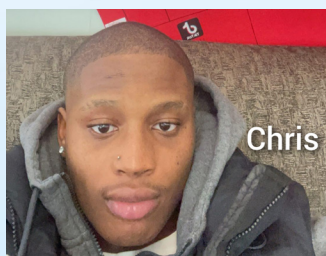
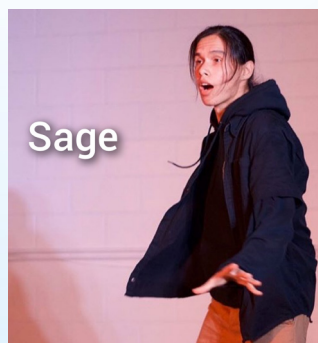
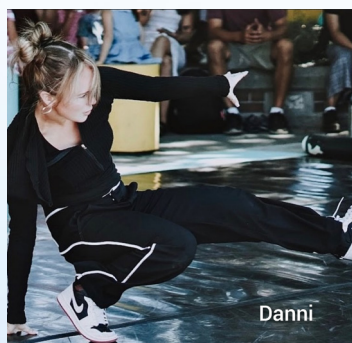
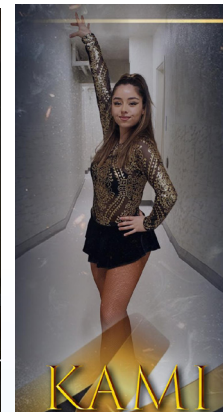
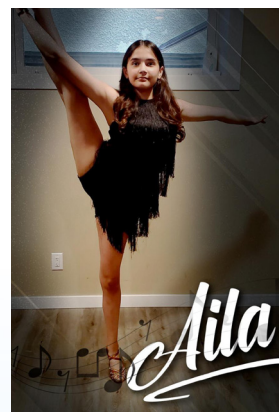
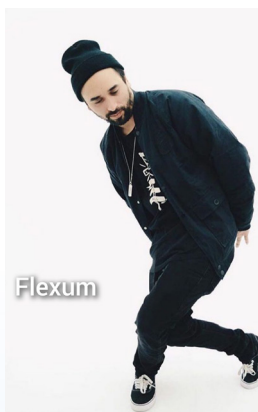
“From the Andes to the Prairies”

Luis Hermida is a songwriter, producer, and researcher born in Bogotá-Colombia. He is a Sound Engineer (University of San Buenaventura in Bogotá-Colombia), Master in Art, University of Brasilia (Brazil), and PhD in Mechanical Engineering (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid-Spain). Luis develops his research with a transdisciplinary approach, focusing on urban soundscape and urban sound management. He works in immersive audio and 360 mix, urban sustainable acoustic, sound quality, and musical acoustics.

As a musician and songwriter, Luis has released four albums and participated in various projects as a performer, songwriter, producer, and audio engineer. His songs have been awarded at Colombia's most important folk music festivals

(he won 5 national awards as a songwriter, including the Colombian Andean Music Festival “Mono Núñez”). He is working on his new project: “From the Andes to the Prairies” where Colombian Andean rhythms encounter the sound of the Canadian Prairies.

THE WINNIPEG DANCE COLLECTIVE



INTRODUCING THE WINNIPEG DANCE COLLECTIVE

A collection of Dance Groups and Movement artists across Manitoba who have come together for this specific performance. Featuring the Salsa Dancers of FDMT & World Dance Company, Boma and Afrobeat Dancer, BOSS Crew and 2 world Renowned Bboy(Breakdancers) Majo and Flexum. Here to share the diversity found in Central Canada.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. MICHAEL UNGAR FAMILY THERAPIST & PROFESSOR

Michael Ungar, Ph.D., is a Family Therapist and Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience. His research on resilience around the world and across cultures has made him a highly respected scholar in his field, with numerous educational institutions, government agencies, and not-for-profits relying on his research and clinical work to guide their approaches to nurturing individual, organizational and community resilience.

He is the author of 18 books for parents, educators, mental health professionals, and employers, including his most recent works *Change Your World: The Science of Resilience* and the *True Path to Success*, a book for adults experiencing challenges at work and at home, *Working with Children and Youth with Complex*

Needs: 20 Skills to Build Resilience (2nd Edition), a book for mental health professionals, and *Multisystemic Resilience*, an open access edited volume of chapters originating from a dozen different disciplines. Dr. Ungar has received numerous awards for his scholarship and contributions to his community, including the Canadian Association of Social Workers National Distinguished Service Award, and has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Ungar maintains a blog titled *Nurturing Resilience* on Psychology Today's website.

PRESENTATION:

Nurturing Resilience among Migrant Children and Youth: Discovering Culturally and Contextually Sensitive Pathways to Thriving

With growing interest in the resilience of migrant and refugee children and youth, there is a need for a simple way to think about the complex interactions that predict which children will do well despite the seriousness of the challenges they face. A focus on resilience helps us to understand young people's individual adaptive and maladaptive coping strategies, as well as the social and physical ecologies that facilitate processes associated with resilience as children move within and across borders. Using case examples of children who have been exposed to high levels of adversity such as natural disasters, forced migration, poverty, racism and other types of social marginalization and political conflict, Michael will show how we can assess childhood resilience and use that assessment to guide practice.

He will show that by focusing on resilience instead of psychopathology we are in a better position to design interventions that are sensitive to the individual, family, school and community factors that influence a child's positive psychosocial development. Seven factors common to children who cope well under adversity and avoid problems like depression, PTSD, and delinquency will be discussed. This presentation will also explore ways we can intervene to help migrant and refugee children cope by changing the social and physical environments that surround them.

THURSDAY OPENING PLENARY SPEAKER



DEBBIE DOUGLAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debbie Douglas is the Executive Director of OCASI -the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants. Through her work in the NGO sector and particularly at OCASI, Ms. Douglas has highlighted issues of equity and inclusion including race, gender and sexual orientation within the immigration system and promoted the creation of safe, welcoming spaces within the settlement and integration sector.

A well-known face in Ontario and across the country, Ms. Douglas is often called upon by governments to share her expertise. Ms. Douglas is a member of the Immigration and Refugee Advisory Committee of Legal Aid Ontario and the federal government's National Settlement & Integration Council. She co-chairs the City of Toronto's Newcomer Leadership Table, was appointed as a member of the Province's roundtable on Violence Against Women, and co-chaired the provincial Anti-Black Racism subcommittee.

PRESENTATION:

Borders and Belonging: An Oxymoron?

Canadian history and contemporary narratives on migration call us to examine how we police our geographic and cultural borders. Who is welcomed in and who is not? Who, through legislation, regulation and policies, are welcomed in as family and who remains the perpetual stranger, invited as a guest, but never provided the opportunities to become family, to develop a sense of belonging, to have ownership, to be home.

What do we need to do as civil society to change this narrative, to ensure that all we welcome as guests, as strangers -are proactively supported in their journey to become family?

THURSDAY LUNCHEON PANEL PRESENTATION



HANI A. AL-UBEADY

Hani Ataan Al-Ubeady has extensive experience working with diverse populations in Manitoba. A co-founder of the Ethno-cultural Council of Manitoba-Stronger Together. Hani pioneered and directed the first comprehensive Indigenous Orientation Tool Kit project for the settlement sector in Manitoba and beyond. He is a Certified Canadian Counsellor and Marriage and Family therapist. He is also a regulated Immigration Consultant. Hani has been serving the settlement and integration sector for over 20 years.

His current work as a Cross Cultural Mental Health Specialist with Winnipeg Regional Health facilitates connections and bridges the formal mental health system with ethnically-diverse newcomer population in Winnipeg. Co-founder of COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH ON IMMIGRATION NETWORK (CERI Network), Hani finished his degrees in the fields of Political Science, Religion and Culture, Immigration Consultancy, and Marriage and Family Therapy. His

goal, as a family therapist, is to change the world “one family at a time.”



JESSICA SAUNDERS

Jessica is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and grew up in Cranberry Portage, MB. She practices primarily in the areas of Indigenous law and child, family well-being law. She is a partner of Saunders DeLaronde Law, a law firm founded by all First Nation lawyers. Jessica was called to the Bar in 2011. She has specialized in Indigenous and child protection litigation representing clients from dockets to appeals. More recently, she has shifted the focus of her practice to assisting Indigenous nations in the revitalization and codification of Indigenous laws to form the foundation of laws to be enacted further to an Act respecting First Nation, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families. In this process, she is assisting clients in exercising jurisdiction with respect to child and family services, restoring community processes and empowering community people.

Jessica is working with Swampy Cree nations in northern Manitoba, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and Anishinaabe nations in southern Manitoba and northeastern Ontario. She was an appointed Bencher of the Law Society of Manitoba from 2018 – 2022. She serves as the Vice-Chair of the Law Society’s Indigenous Advisory Committee with Chair, the Hon. Murray Sinclair and is a member of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada’s National Indigenous Advisory Council.

She represents the Law Society of Manitoba as a member of the Judicial Advisory Committee that provides recommendations to the Attorney General of Canada on the federal appointment of Judges in Manitoba. Jessica is also a Board of Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. For the past two years, Jessica has also been an adjunct professor at the University of Manitoba, Robson Hall/Faculty of Law, teaching Aboriginal Peoples and the Law.

CLAYTON F. SANDY

(Biography on next page.)

FRIDAY PLENARY SPEAKER



CLAYTON F. SANDY INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

Clayton Sandy was born in the small town of Hamiota, Manitoba. His home reserve is the Sioux Valley Dakota first Nation, 50kms south of Hamiota. Enfranchisement prevented his family from growing up on the reserve. Having lived his entire life off reserve away from his home community, he too, felt like a stranger in the place where he was born, “the best country in the world to live”, a phrase he has heard too many times to remember. “Best place” for whom? he asked a high school teacher once and nearly got kicked out of class, not to mention the humiliation he received from the class lead by the teacher. Winnipeg has always been a city of multiculturalism, from Folkarama to the Federal Government opening up to receiving many cultures from all over the world that chose Winnipeg as their new home.

PRESENTATION:

“Stranger in My Own Homeland”

Winnipeg is known as the largest Indigenous reserve in Canada with the last census of Winnipeg showing 105,000 Indigenous people living within the perimeter of Winnipeg. Clayton has observed the interaction between Indigenous and Newcomers in the city for several years now. He feels racism is on the upswing for both groups trying co-exist in the same space, both calling Winnipeg home. Clayton feels he spent his career trying to educate non-Indigenous people about the real history of Canada and its treatment of his people. He will share his story of growing up in a place he called home and his struggles with racism from non-Indigenous people and from Newcomers as well.

Wopida Tanka



REMEMBERING ALFRED KOINEH

STRANGERS IN NEW HOMELANDS CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBER

FIVE YEARS ON

Exactly five years ago, on the eve of the 11th edition of your cherished endeavor: organizing the Strangers in New Homelands Conference in October 2018, you painfully departed from our midst. We recall with pride and fond memories, all the work that you did for the struggles of all those who have been on the move, from their original homelands or places of habitual residence looking for new homes as refuge or places to start new lives for better opportunities.

Alfred's whole life, his work and his heart, were dedicated to assisting the needy, the vulnerable and the marginalized in Canadian society. This is what brought him to the Planning Committee for our Conference. He was a regular attendee at the Strangers in New Homelands conferences and became a member of the Planning Committee from 2016. He was a positive addition, and we were blessed with all his efforts in planning the 2017 and 2018 editions of the Conference.

Alfred gave us hope, strength, comfort, wisdom and leadership in time of confusion and trouble. His heart was filled with love and kindness. He was always generous with his time, knowledge and expertise. Alfred touched so many lives, inspired so many of us, and influenced all of us so greatly. His legacy leaves a durable impression on our lives and our community in so many ways.

In the 2018 Conference Program, we dedicated a poem to you that was culled from James Ene Henshaw's Fortune Teller, from the play "This is our Chance". A mighty wind shall blow; A great Rain shall fall; Much harm shall be done; And out of destruction there shall be calm; A mighty wind shall blow, and all shall not be the same. This remain true today, as it was in 2018.

You are truly missed. We will continue to miss you for a very long time to come.

A mighty wind has blown, a great but gentle giant has fallen...and all shall not be the same.

We will continue to keep alive the flame that you lit.

Rest in Perfect Peace, Alfred

Strangers Conference 2023 Planning Committee

OPENING NIGHT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

- 4:00 PM **REGISTRATION**
Lobby - TYC Events Center, Canad Inns Destination Center Polo Park
- 5:45 PM **DINNER**
TYC Events Center
- 6:15 PM **WELCOME ADDRESS**
Dr. Michael Baffoe, University of Manitoba, Conference Chair
- 6:20 PM **OPENING DISCUSSION**
Led by: Dr. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University
The Altering of the Global Migration Landscape: Challenges & Opportunities post COVID-19
- 6:50 PM **ENTERTAINMENT INTERLUDE**
Eugene Baffoe & the Winnipeg Dance Collective
- 7:25 PM **OPENING NIGHT PANEL DISCUSSION**
With Distinguished Prof. Digvir Jayas
Contributors, not parasites: Highlighting the positive contributions of immigrants to their new homelands
Panelists: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba &
Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
- 8:20 PM **MUSIC INTERLUDE**
Dr. Luis Hermida, Songwriter/Producer
From the Andes to the Prairies
- 8:30 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION**
Canada-US Immigration Agreement and the Third Safe Country Option: Implications for Asylum-seeking and Refugee Protection
Panelists: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Wilfrid Laurier University
Alastair Clarke, Clarke Immigration Law
Louise Simbandumwe, SEED Winnipeg
Moderator: Abdikheir Ahmed, AURORA Family Therapy Center

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST Lobby - Ambassador Room 1 & 2
8:30 AM	WELCOME ADDRESS Dr. Michael Baffoe, University of Manitoba, Conference Chair Dr. Michael Yellow Bird, Dean, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
9:00 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Michael Ungar, Dalhousie University <i>Nurturing Resilience among Migrant Children and Youth: Discovering Culturally and Contextually Sensitive Pathways to Thriving</i> Introduced by: By: Prof. Don Fuchs, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
10:00 AM	OPENING PLENARY PRESENTATION Debbie Douglas, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) <i>Borders and Belonging: An Oxymoron?</i>
10:45 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS Ambassador Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4
12:15 PM	LUNCH TYC Events Center
12:45 PM	LUNCHEON PANEL PRESENTATION Panelists: Hani A. Al-Ubeady, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Jessica Saunders, Saunders DeLaronde Law Clayton F. Sandy, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper <i>Reconcili-Action. Moving forward Together</i>
1:40 PM	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS Ambassador Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4
2:45 PM	BREAK
3:00 PM	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS Ambassador Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST Lobby - Ambassador Room 1 & 2
8:30 AM	PLENARY PRESENTATION Clayton F. Sandy, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper <i>Stranger in My Own Homeland</i> Introduced by: By: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
9:15 AM	PANEL DISCUSSION Diwa Marcelino, Migrante Manitoba Judith Oviousun, Canadian Federation of Students; Karen Hamilton, Occupational Health Center <i>Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on newcomers with precarious immigration status</i> Moderated by: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba
10:15 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS Ambassador Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4
12:15 PM	LUNCH TYC Events Center
12:45 PM	FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION Presented by: Playwright Dr. Begoña Echeverria & Director Dr. Annika Speer <i>Picasso presents Gernika</i>
1:45 PM	PANEL DISCUSSION Ambassador Rooms 1 & 2 Panelists: Heather Robertson, AURORA Family Therapy Center Hani A. Al-Ubeady, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Adey Mohammed, AURORA Family Therapy Center <i>Wrap up approach to Newcomer Collaborative Community Mental Health Service: Successes, Challenges & Lessons Learned</i>
2:30PM	BREAK
2:45 PM	CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS Ambassador Rooms 3 & 4
3:30 PM	CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION Ambassador Room 1 & 2

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

- SESSION 1**
ROOM 1 *Re-imagining the convoluted plight of refugee, immigrant and undocumented immigrant women: Implications for the Reauthorizations of the violence against women's Act of 1944 in the United States*
Presenter: Prof. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis
Moderator: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Wilfrid Laurier University
- SESSION 2**
ROOM 2 *Welcome, "Ahlan, Wa Sahlan": Stories of "welcoming experiences in Canadian schools for a newcomer*
Presenter: Izzedin Hawamda, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Judy Williams, Province of Manitoba
- SESSION 3**
ROOM 3 *Canada Home Community of Practice: No longer feeling as Strangers in a new Homeland*
Presenters: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, Esther Araba Mensah, & Anne Oserin-Pinnock, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Marva J. Ferguson, Mount Royal University
- SESSION 4**
ROOM 4 *Can we forgo our attachments to socially-constructed identities?*
Presenter: Sabena Singh, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Omar Abdullahi, City of Winnipeg

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 11:40 AM - 12:10 AM

- SESSION 5**
ROOM 1 *Letting go yet holding on: Raising "sons" for a changing world through trepidation and building resistance*
Presenters: Marva J. Ferguson, Mount Royal University & Aubyn S. Ferguson, Jamaica Hockey Federation
Moderator: Prof. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis
- SESSION 6**
ROOM 2 *Refugee communities' space in post-COVID Southern California: Between physical survival and social empowerment*
Presenter: Dr. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University
Moderator: Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- SESSION 7**
ROOM 3 *Towards a desirable form of sustainable resettlement projects: Perspectives from the Bui Hydro Electric Dam Project in Ghana*
Presenter: Ata Senior, McGill University
Moderator: Richard Baffo Kodom, University of Manitoba
- SESSION 8**
ROOM 4 *Immigrants or settler colonialists: Navigating a strange identity in the new homeland*
Presenter: Nabila Huq, Queen's University
Moderator: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

LUNCHEON PANEL PRESENTATION - 12:45 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

PANEL

TYC CENTRE

Reconcili-Action. Moving forward Together

Presenters: Hani A. Al-Ubeady, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Jessica Saunders, Saunders DeLaronde Law

Clayton F. Sandy, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper

Moderator: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

SESSION 9

ROOM 1

Hunting migrants: Catching the Big Fishes in the Muddied Marshlands

Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Nuruzzaman Khan, University of Manitoba

Moderator: Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei, Memorial University of Newfoundland

SESSION 10

ROOM 2

Refugees in transition, challenges for asylum-seeking in host/receiving societies: The case for Liberian refugees at the Gomoa-Buduburam refugee camp in Accra, Ghana.

Presenter: Nancy Eleanor Reeves, Memorial University

Moderator: Johnson Boateng, University of Manitoba

SESSION 11

ROOM 3

Preferences and access to childcare programs: The experiences of newcomers in Regina, Saskatchewan

Presenters: Dr. Charles Gyan, McGill University, Daniel Kikulwe, York University;
Christine Massing, Crystal Giesberg & Needal Ghadi

Moderator: Marva Ferguson, Mount Royal University

SESSION 12

ROOM 4

Chasing scorpions across North Africa: Ethical reflections on life story research with irregular migrants

Presenter: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Wilfrid Laurier University

Moderator: Dr. Michael Baffoe, University of Manitoba

THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 2:15 PM - 2:45 PM

- SESSION 13** *Pathway to professional prosperity as an immigrant in Canada*
ROOM 1 Presenter: Juanita DeSouza-Huletey, Dynamic Solutions Consulting Group
Moderator: Dr. Karen Cyrus, Wilfrid Laurier University
- SESSION 14** *Exploring post-traumatic growth among immigrant and refugee population groups in Winnipeg, Canada*
ROOM 2 Presenter: Johnson Boateng, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Abdikheir Ahmed, AURORA Family Therapy Center
- SESSION 15** *Integration of cultural competency and professionalism approach breaks cultural barriers for perinatal refugee women's transition and challenges to asylum-seeking*
ROOM 3 Presenter: Dr. Paula Ugochukwu Ude, Concordia University
Moderator: Prof. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba
- SESSION 16** *Refugee Youth with interrupted schooling in smaller communities: Challenges, successes and promising practices*
ROOM 4 Presenters: Dr. Kimberly Browning & Dr. Ray Silvius, University of Winnipeg
Moderator: Dr. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

- SESSION 17** *COVID-19 and food insecurity among African- Canadian identified (ACBI) households in Waterloo Region, Canada.*
ROOM 1 Presenters: Dr. Funke Oba, Toronto Metropolitan University, Dr. Elizabeth Oyiango, University of Alberta & Hallima Fuller, Wilfrid Laurier University
Moderator: Aklilu Teferi, University of Manitoba
- SESSION 18** *From resolution to transformation: Addressing workplace racialized violence towards im/migrant homecare workers in Manitoba*
ROOM 2 Presenters: Mehmet Yavuz, University of Manitoba & Dr. Mary Jean Hande, Trent University
Moderator: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Wilfrid Laurier University
- SESSION 19** *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder among adolescents and youth in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp: Use of social determinants of health framework*
ROOM 3 Presenter: Dr. Edson Chipalo, Lewis University, IL, USA
Moderator: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis
- SESSION 20** *Part of the Solution, Not the Problem: Recommendations for welcoming internationally-trained physicians and nurses into Canada's health care sector*
ROOM 4 Presenters: Monika Feist, Success Skills Center & Dr. Sahar Zohni, National Newcomer Navigation Network
Moderator: Dr. Carlos Parra, La Sierra University

FRIDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL DISCUSSION - 9:15 AM - 10:15

- SESSION 21** *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on newcomers with precarious immigration status*
ROOM 1 & 2 Presenters: Diwa Marcelino, Migrante Manitoba, Judith Oviousun, Canadian Federation of Students & Karen Hamilton, Occupational Health Center
Moderator: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

- SESSION 22** *The Necropolitics of Covid-19 and pandemic social work: Unsettling the politics of care*
ROOM 1 Presenter: Dr. Paul Banahene, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Moderator: Dr. Hai Luo, University of Manitoba
- SESSION 23** *From Kabul to Canada. Highlighting the experiences of the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Program*
ROOM 2 Presenters: Shakila Atayee, Afghan community Representative/Aurora Family Therapy Centre, Nilofar Bereki, Newcomer Afghan Refugee, & Abdikheir Ahmed, Aurora Family Therapy Centre
Moderator: Dr. Charles Gyan, McGill University
- SESSION 24** *We too sing, O CANADA: Black spaces in Ivory Towers*
ROOM 3 Presenter: Dr. Karen Cyrus, Wilfrid Laurier University
Moderator: Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Wilfrid Laurier University
- SESSION 25** *Wounded healers: Afrocentric methods in research with Black populations in Saskatoon*
ROOM 4 Presenter: Dr. Funke Oba, Toronto Metropolitan University, Hallima Fuller, Wilfrid Laurier University & Dr. Elizabeth Oyiango, University of Alberta
Moderator: Aklilu Teferi, University of Manitoba

FRIDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 11:05 AM - 11:35 AM

SESSION 26 *We're all getting older, aren't we? Intersection of aging and immigration*

ROOM 1
Presenters: Dr. Hai Luo, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Dr. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba

SESSION 27 *"I'm not a human being": The impact of a dual contextual setting of culture for self-definition of immigrant women in IPV relationships in Canada*

ROOM 2
Presenter: Dr. Bolaji Akinyele-Akanbi, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, University of Manitoba

SESSION 28 *Community-engaged research to support African youth with refugee backgrounds*

ROOM 3
Presenters: Jeremy Horne, Former Director of Adventure4Change, Waterloo ON,
Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg & Suman Mondal, Wilfrid Laurier University
Moderator: Marva Ferguson, Mount Royal University

SESSION 29 *Strategies to address transitional challenges of newcomer youth in higher education in Canada: A look at the ecological systems theory*

ROOM 4
Presenters: Richard Baffo Kodom & Md. Nazim Mahmud, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Judy Williams, Province of Manitoba

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 11:40 AM - 12:10 PM

SESSION 30 *From Discourse to Action: An integrative response of the Elmwood Community Resource Centre Settlement program to Covid-19 related challenges of newcomers*

ROOM 1
Presenters: Guyaatu Boru & Jonathan Worae, Elmwood Community Resource Center, Winnipeg
Moderator: Dr. Bolaji Akinyele-Akanbi, University of Manitoba

SESSION 31 *Labour market integration of newcomers to Canada: The Perspectives of Newcomers in a small urban center*

ROOM 2
Presenters: Dr. Charles Gyan, McGill University; Dr. Daniel Kikulwe, York University, Needal Ghadi, Christine Massing; Crystakl Giesbrecht
Moderator: Prof. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba

SESSION 32 *Universal human rights values: The key pillar in addressing and overcoming systemic racism framed within white supremacy in western societies*

ROOM 4
Presenters: Dr. Christine Lwanga, Richard Baffo Kodom, & Esther Araba Mensah, University of Manitoba
Moderator: Esther Araba Mensah, University of Manitoba

SESSION 33 *Welcoming the Stranger: Hospitality as Radical Openness to the Other*

ROOM 3
Presenter: Dr. Camillus O. Njoku, Loyola University Chicago
Moderator: Abdikheir Ahmed, Aurora Family Therapy Centre

FRIDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION - 12:45 PM - 1:30 PM

FILM *Picasso presents Gernika*

TYC CENTRE FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION

Playwright Dr. Begoña Echeverría and Director Dr. Annika Speer will screen their 35-minute film *Picasso Presents Gernika*, based on their staged reading at United Nations Headquarters (NYC) on June 20, 2022, to commemorate World Refugee Day. *Picasso Presents Gernika* explores the child refugee crisis caused by Hitler's 1937 bombing of the Basque town Gernika.

Moderator: Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, University of St. Francis

PANEL DISCUSSION - 1:45 PM - 2:30 PM

SESSION 34 *Wrap up approach to Newcomer Collaborative Community Mental Health Service: Successes, Challenges & Lessons Learned.*

ROOM 1 & 2

Presenters: Heather Robertson, Director of Mental Health Services, AURORA Family Therapy Center, Hani Ataan Al-Ubeady, Cross-Cultural Mental Health Specialist, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, & Adey Mohammed, Community Mental Health Service Facilitator, AURORA Family Therapy Center

Moderator: Abena Adobea Boateng, University of Manitoba

CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS - 2:45 PM - 3:15 PM

SESSION 35 *Identifying challenges/barriers for African-Australian young people accessing support services*

ROOM 3

Presenter: Dr. Mathew Mabefam, University of Melbourne, Australia

Moderator: Dr. Funke Oba, Toronto Metropolitan University

SESSION 36 *Newcomer Settlement in Rural Manitoba Initiative: Role of MIIC-Welcome Place, Challenges & Opportunities*

ROOM 2

Presenter: Ahmed Elmi & Shakila Atayee, Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council

Moderator: Prof. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba

SESSION 37 *Community Based Grassroots Innovation: Combining Technology and Grassroots community organizing to support clients during a pandemic*

ROOM 4

Presenter: Anne Oserin-Pinnock, Fathima Fazla Ashraff, & Jenna Holowachuk, Elmwood Community Resource Center

Moderator: Dr. Christine Lwanga, University of Manitoba

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1

Reimagining the Convolutd Plights of Refugee, Immigrant and Undocumented Immigrant Women: Implications for the Reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women's Act of 1994 in the United States.

Violence against women exists, is entrenched and shares commonalities among all cultures and societies, regardless of their level of civilization or the lack thereof. This Act, which in some societies has now been recognized, therefore currently perceived, defined and interrogated as socially problematic is committed mostly by men, especially intimate partners and significant others, regardless of demography. Violence Against Women as an aberrant type of relationship interaction exists as a phenomenon that has largely been socially constructed, perpetrated, sustained and reproduced mostly by men. Although, and as a gender discourse, all women are recipients or potential recipients of violence perpetrated predominantly by men, however, new immigrant and refugee women remain at the apex as recipients of all sorts of violence, especially Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Method: This study applied phenomenological interviews to explore how violence, particularly IPV against refugee women, including how the risk and propensities are further heightened and complicated by subjectivity labels. These labels include gender, race, socioeconomic, including undocumented immigrant status and language in host countries and continents, such as the United States, Canada and Europe. Results: The study found that IPV has serious ramifications for the physical and mental health of all affected women and their children, but presents a specially complicated problem for refugee and undocumented immigrant women, as they strive to adapt to their host countries and environments.

Dr. Buster Ogbuagu is a Professor of Social Work & Public Policy at the University of St Francis, Joliet, Illinois. He holds a BSc. [Hons] in Sociology & Anthropology from the University of Nigeria, a BSW, MSW and Ph.D. from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Dr. Ogbuagu has served as the Chair of the Department of Social Work & Philosophically, he is passionate about intersectionalities and anti-oppressive epistemologies to social work practice, which underscore and inform his teaching and practice. His ongoing research and professional interests includes Social Policy/Welfare, Ethics, Race, Anti-Oppression, Minority & Gender Issues, Refugees, Refugee/Resettlement/Transnational migration, Community Organizing, Advocacy & Child Protection.

SESSION 2

"Welcome" Ahlan Wa Sahlan": Stories of "Welcoming" experiences in Canadian schools for a newcomer

My Canadian education journey began as a teenage refugee from Palestine in 2004. Soon after my family and I arrived in Canada I was placed in an English as an Additional Language class, along with eight other refugee students. As refugees, we were treated very differently by the other students in our high school. We always watched life from the sidelines and were never invited to be part of the school community. I remember going to school events and standing at the gym door, afraid to enter because the other students would make fun of how I spoke "broken" English. Many of my EAL classmates eventually dropped out of school and looked for belonging somewhere else. I know that many of the newcomer students I teach today feel the same way I felt when I arrived in Winnipeg. In this presentation, I share stories of my journey to Canada with my students, hoping to create space for their stories.

Izzeddin Hawamda was born and raised in a rural village just outside of the city of Nablus in the West Bank, Palestine. He has lived in Canada for over 15 years and currently works as a high school teacher. He is currently working toward a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba. Izzeddin, along with Jewish-Canadian, and Quaker colleagues, is a co-founder of (Gaser/Bridge) and has been speaking publicly about the power of dialogue and the importance of sharing, listening, and respecting diverse perspectives and narratives. Izzeddin is also working to develop opportunities for Indigenous students and newcomer students to share spaces and stories in an effort to build bridges and break down the barriers.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 3

From Uncertainty to Unacceptance; The Roles of Educators in the Expedition of Immigrants and Refugees.

Settling in a new environment may mean different things to different people. While it is often a hard choice for some people, it might be a source of excitement and relief to others. Meanwhile, this fear is aggravated by oblique reception and acceptance, unequal social structures, discrimination, and racism against their values, principles, and religions. Studies showed that Immigrants and refugees especially Muslims often experience unstable social support and relationships as they are trying to navigate the new environment, and this weakens their settlement and makes them more vulnerable (Kahn, 2015). With the world continuously witnessing a growing number of human migrations and displacement, it is important to increase people's level of awareness and enlightenment on the significance of social and economic equality, inclusion, and diversity. Therefore, this paper aimed at exploring the experiences of immigrants and refugees from their home countries to their new homelands, and the roles educators can play in their settlement journey.

Rosheedat Adeniji is a first-year full-time Ph.D. student of the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. She has bachelor's and master's degrees from the Department of Adult Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her research interest is in educational leadership, administration, and psychology. She is a permanent resident of Canada who came to Manitoba in March 2021.

SESSION 4

Can we Forego our Attachments to Socially-constructed Identities?

Our sense of belonging is shaped by various factors, one of which is identity. The complexities of socially, economically and politically constructed identities can weigh heavily on our psyche. The quest to feel a sense of belonging is complex for those who find themselves in post-colonial and settler states where they are confined by geographical boundaries imposed by colonial histories. This is particularly difficult when individuals straddle multiple identities that are labelled as non-dominant. This paper examines needs-based identity theory from the discipline of Peace and Conflict Studies. Identity is used as a tool to exacerbate divisiveness and arguably instigate conflict. Therefore, peace strategies that stem from this theory are prone to failure. Drawing on my experiences in my own quest to feel a sense of belonging in Canada, I share how I have learned to disengage from the external narratives that erode my sense of belonging and instead focus on an internal dialogue that cultivates harmony and oneness.

Sabena Singh is a Ph.D. student in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Arthur V. Mauro Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of Manitoba, Canada. She has scholarly and personal interests in decolonization, non-violence and spiritual approaches and practices to peace and peace research. She holds a B.Ed. and M.Ed. from the University of Manitoba, where her topics of interest included anti-racist education, immigration, program planning and social and public policies. She has worked in the field of adult education for over 20 years with experience in South East Asia, Latin America and Canada. She also served as the Education Director for an adult literacy program, a Curriculum Consultant for Intercultural Teaching & Learning at Red River College, both in Winnipeg, Canada. She is currently employed at Indspire as Program Coordinator for an Indigenous Teacher Education Program in Winnipeg, Canada.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 5

Letting Go Yet Holding On”:-Raising “Sons” for a Changing World through Trepidation and Building Resistance

Sports programs in Westernized countries have become a multi-million industry. Coveted sports scholarships have the intent of providing students with academic and economic opportunities to achieve their hopes and dreams that may be limited in their home country. While sports programs have evolved, there exists ongoing racial barriers in the education programs such as the myths and stereotypes about Black athletes (Sails, 1993;). With limited preparation, students are forced to navigate the negative assumptions in education programs as well as racially charged societies while international students struggle to find adequate and culturally appropriate support systems at universities and colleges. The goal of this presentation is to share the personal political and success of coaching “Sons” who experienced challenges in International Sports Programs, and the importance of speaking with racialized students, university administration, and educators to develop appropriate solutions to work towards the development of a more diverse and sustainable program.

Marva J. Ferguson is a social worker, advocate, and educator. A Ph.D. candidate at Memorial University, she is a graduate of the University of Calgary and holds a BSW and MSW in social work specializing in Leadership in Human Services, a certificate in Disaster Management, and a trainer/facilitator in Mental Health First Aid and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Marva’s current interest is in anti-Black racism, anti-oppression, and critical race theory approaches to social work practice. Marva’s current research interest is in sequence migration with a focus on The Personal Stories of Jamaican Adults who migrated to Canada as Children. Other teaching and research interest include: “Voices of Immigrants and Refugees in Disaster Management”; “Equity in Education”; “Transnational Feminisms”; “The Role of Parents/Grandparents in Family Structures”; “Gender and Sexual Diversity.”

Aubyn S. Ferguson holds a Bachelor of Public Administration from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Kingston Jamaica, and is a Construction Technician. Aubyn is a former national field hockey player, and captain at both junior and senior levels where he represented Jamaica at regional and international games. He is also a National Accredited Coach with the Jamaica Hockey Federation, and has coached athletes at national, regional and international games. Aubyn is also a member of the International Hockey Federation- Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) where he completed the Train the Trainer Program. Aubyn believes in volunteerism and is a mentor to several “sons” at his Alma Mater, Jamaican College High School, Kingston Jamaica.

SESSION 6

Refugee Communities Space in Post-COVID Southern California: Between physical Survival and Social Empowerment

In this presentation I focus mainly on faith organizations as I explore the sense and/or the level I am arriving from Central America. Of course, a specific survey was developed for the organization, and another one to gather information from the migrants themselves. Using a qualitative approach, I have found a level, not only of disengagement but also of what I perceive as resistance. The assumption stemming from my prior study in CDMX during the summer of 2019 was that everyone would be willing to collaborate. In addition, lately, migrants coming across the southern U.S. border are no longer only those coming from Central America. Instead, there is an exponential increment of those migrants arriving through Mexico coming from Ecuador, Venezuela, Cuba, etc. In fact, there is a growing number of them arriving from Haiti. Granted, most if not all of those mentioned above arrived through the southern border, and were in shelters in Mexico. Also, the U.S. government regulations enacted, and currently being revised (i.e. title 42), are not necessarily beneficial to new arrival across the southern U.S. border. Therefore, conducting this study across the border into the U.S. presents a different set of challenges. For this presentation I will focus on the intentional privacy, personal secrecy, and social invisibility involved in the process of social empowerment of refugees in new homelands.

Dr. Carlos Parra, is a tenured Professor of Spanish, and Chair of the World Languages Department & ESL Program at La Sierra University, in California-U.S. He has also chaired the La Sierra University Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEI). His research focuses on areas of cultural and interdisciplinary studies directly related to the immigration experience, Diasporas, identity, nostalgia, and development of Spanish-speaking communities in the U.S. He has published in Canada, France, UK, and U.S. In a recent publication, “Hanging on to Hope in a Mexican Migrant Shelter: The Empowering Potential of Albergue Tochan,” (2021) in the Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg* and Dr. Parra address the empowering factor of the shelter’s setting as refugees gain some control over their lives as they hopefully wait in Mexico, while dreaming of being on their way to the U.S.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 7

Towards a desirable form of sustainable resettlement projects: Perspectives from the Bui Hydro Electric Dam Project in Ghana

There is ample evidence to suggest that effective planning and tailoring resettlement schemes to the needs and circumstances of displaced population are more likely to satisfy the target population. Therefore, stakeholders' satisfaction is regarded as an integral element in efforts to sustain the benefits and minimize the negative impacts resulting from resettlement projects. Despite the importance of understanding stakeholders' satisfaction with resettlement projects, the topic is not well explored in the developing country context. Studies exploring stakeholders' satisfaction with resettlement projects tend to focus on developed nations and because the social-economic and cultural contexts differ, these studies may have limited contextual relevance for nations in the Global South. To address this research gap, this presentation will highlight exploring stakeholders' satisfaction with the Bui Dam Resettlement Project in five resettled rural communities in Ghana. Using the political economy theory as a philosophical lens, the study employed mixed methods and qualitative approaches to analyze household surveys and institutional interviews respectively. The study found that whilst the resettled population were satisfied with the new typology of housing and an improvement in the state of socio-economic infrastructure provided, they were generally unhappy about their limited access to productive assets and the low compensatory packages given them. The study recommends therefore that policymakers must carefully review and systematically integrate compensation issues and make provisions for adequate productive assets into future resettlement policies. This would enhance acceptability, satisfaction and sustain the benefits of resettlement projects.

Ata Senior is a Doctoral Student at the School of Social Work, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Development Planning as well as a Master of Science in Development Policy and Planning, both from the Department of Planning, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. His research interest is on sustainable development, with emphasis on water and climate change governance and policy, social sector policy and planning and environmental policies. This experience has enabled him to acquire relevant skills and techniques in policy formulation, policy implementation and policy evaluation and/or termination. His areas of interest spans from sustainable livelihoods, sustainable resettlements, water resource governance, pro-environmental behaviour, climate compatible development and social policy planning.

SESSION 8

Immigrants or Settler Colonialists?: Navigating a Strange Identity in the New Homeland

Exploring the relationship between Peoples of Colours (PoC) and Indigenous peoples in the land now called Canada is a research area of interest in academia that emerged only in the twenty-first century. In my research, I attempt to understand if solidarity between new Canadians of non-White ethnicities and sovereign Indigenous nations in Canada is a true possibility or a paradox. I ask why Indigenous characters barely make any appearance in fiction and creative non-fiction penned by non-White New Canadians and why literary writers of these backgrounds barely reflect on their relationship to settler colonialism. I argue that consumed with anxieties and settlement challenges in the new homeland, New Canadians can afford to make little space for any alternative emotion other than gratitude for Canada, the settler state. Finally, I draw upon Himani Bannerji and contemplate on the necessity of critical gratitude for immigrants.

Nabila Huq is a first-generation immigrant and a Ph.D. student in the program of Cultural Studies at Queen's University in Canada. She is an aspiring writer. She is interested in exploring the relationships and interactions between Indigenous peoples and Peoples of Colours in Canada. She is keen on understanding multi positionalities of both individuals and peoples within the given border of a state and if and/or how these different positionalities are conflicting or complimentary to one another. She enjoys having a strong cup of black tea mixed with the right amount milk and with a bite of Bannock.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 9

Hunting Migrants: Catching the Big Fishes in the Muddied Marshlands

Human migration is as old as human history. As human civilizations progressed, complex social, political, and economic institutions were created, which complicated the nature and dynamics of human migration (Hear, 2010). Human migration has significant implications for the sociopolitical and economic conditions of migrant-receiving and sending countries as well as for the migrants themselves (De Jong et al., 2002). This presentation will present a study and our analyses of secondary data that suggest that despite the pull factors from the receiving countries, individuals and families, who have a stable life in their countries of origin do not intend to migrate. Whenever these individuals and families experience the risk of displacement due to catastrophic events such as civil war, political violence and insecurity, extreme environmental pollution, and enduring natural disasters due to climate change, they decide to migrate. Hence, the receiving countries take the advantage of these catastrophic events and pull skilled migrants to meet their labour demand. We coin this condition as 'hunting migrants' and 'catching the big fishes in the muddied marshlands' by using an analogy of community fishing in many Asian and African countries.

Mohammad Nuruzzaman Khan is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Khan's research broadly focuses on economic and ecological justice for marginalized populations. His research interests include economic well-being, financial capability, immigration, decolonization, and the differential impacts of environmental pollution and climate change on vulnerable populations. Dr. Khan has been involved in anti-poverty advocacy for several years. In an SSHRC-funded research project, Dr. Khan is currently engaged in studying the economic well-being of immigrants in Manitoba."

SESSION 10

Refugees in transition, challenges for asylum-seeking in host/receiving societies: The case for Liberian refugees at the Gomoa-Buduburam refugee camp in Accra, Ghana.

Since the inception of the term refugee in the 17th century, upon which the notion of sovereignty was born and displaced populations assigned to territories, refugee transition in the host country has been a longstanding issue (Idu & Mora, 1996). The geopolitical context of refugees fleeing for their safety due to civil strife and other forms of violence is becoming more alarming (Milner, 2009). An ironic twist to this global refugee movements is the fact that host countries fear that fleeing refugees could cause political anarchy in their (host society) territories. This presentation will discuss findings from my Ph.D. research about Liberian refugees' experiences at the Gomoa-Buduburam Refugee Camp in Accra, Ghana. The discussion will center around host country issues, reception (positive and negative) and participants' perceptions of UNHCR service and care, including the implementation of the UN 1951 Convention on the rights of refugees.

Nancy Eleanor Reeves is a Liberian Refugee who immigrated to Canada in 2000 with the sponsorship of the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) after living for ten years at the Gomoa-Buduburam Refugee Camp in Accra, Ghana. Nancy has, since resettling in the host society, Canada, in the face of all the odds and barriers, managed to obtain Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work from the University of Manitoba, and currently is a Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work Education with a research focus on trauma and war at Memorial University in Newfoundland. She has been a College Professor and University Lecturer in Social Work and Human Services since 2008. Nancy is also a Clinical Therapist and recently the Interim Director of Equity, Diversity Inclusion, and Anti-Racism at the University of Waterloo and THE Executive Director of Global Education Consulting and Counselling Services.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 11

Preferences and Access to Childcare Programs: The experiences of Newcomers in Regina, Saskatchewan

Childcare programs enable newcomers' adaptation and integration to life in the host country by allowing them to access employment and educational opportunities while building new social networks. Newcomer children's participation in quality childcare programs also fulfills their right to education and care while enhancing their development, learning, and future success in school. In a context where affordable, subsidized childcare options are limited, newcomers are particularly disadvantaged in their access to formal childcare programs due to linguistic, cultural, and administrative barriers. Reporting on part of a larger convergent mixed-methods study focused on the post-migration barriers to integration experienced by newcomers to Canada in a smaller urban centre, this presentation will highlight newcomer families' preferences and access to childcare. The presentation will conclude with the implications of access or thereof to newcomer families' full and meaningful participation in their new community and suggest the need for culturally and linguistic responsive care options.

Dr. Gyan holds a PhD in Social Work and a Master of Philosophy degree in Social Work. He is an Assistant Professor at McGill School of Social Work and has previously served at the University of Regina and Wilfrid Laurier University. Dr. Gyan is a fellow of Canadian research centers, focusing on social policy, contemporary Africa, and community health. His research challenges oppressive discourses and promotes inclusion through social policies, community development, and program evaluation. Christine Massing, Crystal Giesberg & Needal Ghadi

SESSION 12

Chasing Scorpions Across North Africa: Ethical Reflections on Life Story Research with Irregular Migrants

Within the international context of restrictive systems of externalized border management stranding migrants in the transit spaces of North Africa, in this presentation two researchers will reflect upon the ethical challenges they encountered while collecting life stories of irregular Sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco and the Disputed Territory of Western Sahara. The reflections are based on field notes and excerpts from unedited transcripts of daily debriefing sessions that the researchers undertook together. The sessions were audio-recorded and transcribed into written notes. The materials reveal their thoughts and feelings as they grappled with the ethics of keeping their research participants ("Narrators") safe, working with community organizations on the ground, attempting to conduct interviews as humanely as possible, while also managing and concealing their own emotions.

Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Human Rights Program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo Ontario. She is also the outgoing Director of the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa. Stacey has been undertaking qualitative research with immigrants and refugees since 2008. She is presently leading and co-leading several Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)-funded projects focusing on school and labour market transitions of African youth with refugee backgrounds. She also conducts research with irregular migrants in Mexico and Morocco and is currently working on a SSHRC-funded book project called "Too Perilous to Proceed, Too Ashamed to Return: Life Stories of Sub-Saharan African Migrants in Morocco" (with Dr. Abderrahman Beggar).

Dr. Abderrahman Beggar

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 13

Pathway to Professional Prosperity as an Immigrant in Canada

The pathway to professional prosperity as an immigrant in Canada can be challenging, and not a straight line. It is full of twist and turns, setbacks, emotions, fear, doubt, and uncertainty but it is achievable with the right tools and resources. In this session Juanita shares her key professional experiences and journey over the last 32 plus years as an immigrant in Canada. She explores the factors that contribute to the success of immigrant professionals in Canada, including integration, cultural awareness, language proficiency, networking, mentorship, and sponsorship. The session also examines the barriers that many immigrants face, such as discriminatory hiring practices, the lack of recognition of foreign credentials, conscious and unconscious biases. To overcome some of these barriers, Juanita shares her unique path of becoming a professional and offers practical advice and strategies, on how to assimilate into the culture and business world in Canada.

Juanita De-Souza-Huletey is the founder and CEO of Dynamic Solutions Consulting Group Inc. (DSI). She is a trailblazer and has touched the lives of many since her arrival in Canada 30+ years ago as an Intern with IBM Canada Ltd. She wears many hats: as an industry and community leader, speaker, educator, mentor, life coach, and patron. She has 25 plus years of leadership experience in Enterprise Information Technology (IT), most notably being the Divisional Head of IT at the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) and a member of the WPS Executive Management Team. Juanita dedicates her time as a knowledge philanthropist on a number of boards including Board of Governors University of Manitoba, founding member of Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) Western Canada, Patron of Ghana Mission Queen Girls Up (UN Foundation), St. Paul High School Board of Directors, and Red River College Polytechnic industry advisor for the IT Strategic Council and Chair of both Project Management and BIT Advisory Committees. As a mentor, coach and speaker she radiates a deep passion for empowering women/girls in STEM, and helps new immigrants integrate successfully into Canadian culture.

SESSION 14

Exploring post-traumatic growth among immigrant and refugee population groups in Winnipeg, Canada.

Canada has been one of the most notable countries in the world for welcoming immigrants and refugees. It is estimated that 250,000 newcomers arrive in Canada each year. The province of Manitoba has been one of the landing locations in the country. Between July 2020 and June 2021, Manitoba recorded 10194 newly arrived immigrants. In addition to attracting newcomers to small towns and rural communities, the plan also focuses on attracting newcomers across the country. The number of mental disorders among immigrants and refugees, including PTSD, depression, suicidality, addiction, and chronic pain, is astonishing. People are traumatized but also develop post-traumatic growth due to adversity which refers to developing self-understanding, positive life views, and relationships with others following a traumatic experience. This study explores how refugees and immigrants understand, process, overcome, and grow from the trauma and adversity they experience.

Johnson Boateng is pursuing a doctoral degree in social work at the University of Manitoba. He is also employed by the Shared Health Crisis Stabilization Unit (Winnipeg) as a Clinical Team Lead. His interests include mental health among immigrants and refugees, indigenization and decolonization of mental health services in Canada, and global issues related to migration.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 15

Integration of cultural competemility and professionalism approach breaks cultural barriers for perinatal refugee women's transition and challenges to asylum-seeking

Promoting access to culturally and equitable care for refugees is a global priority that needs to be attained to improve help-seeking among perinatal refugee women. Cultural barriers and a breach in the professional-client relationship (such as lack of trust, stigmatization and discrimination) show evidence of intersectionality risk factors to perinatal refugee women's reluctance to seek help from professionals during asylum-seeking (Park et al., 2017). As the number of perinatal refugee women and babies/infants born as refugees increase, so does the need to learn how to work with them to improve their emotional and socioeconomic well-being. "Cultural competemility and professionalism approach" is an innovative approach that teaches professionals a step-by-step approach they can utilize to infuse cultural humility into cultural competencies, knowledge, skills and practice when helping perinatal refugee women achieve success in their transition and asylum-seeking. Applying this approach helps break cultural barriers, build trust, and strengthen professional-client relationships during asylum help-seeking interactions.

Sis. Paula Ugochukwu Ude, is an Assistant Professor of Master Social Work at Concord University, Athens, West Virginia. Prior to her current position, Dr. Ude gained many years of experience in the social work practice field (case management and clinical work). As a missionary and social worker, she practiced in rural communities in Nigeria, Saint Lucia and the United States with children and families. Her practice and research work centre on women, maternal and child mental health, especially women in the diaspora living in rural settings. To help promote innovation in social work practice with perinatal immigrant women, Dr. Ude developed and suggested an integration of a "cultural competemility and professionalism approach to help improve the social work intervention and service delivery among immigrants and the diverse population, especially those living in rural communities.

SESSION 16

Refugee Youth with Interrupted Schooling in Smaller Communities: Challenges, Successes and Promising Practices

The purpose of the study was to examine the experiences of older refugee youth with interrupted schooling and to gather insights from educators, school administrators, and Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) with a view to identifying existing and promising practices for better-supporting refugee youth. Data was collected in the spring of 2022 and included semi-structured interviews with refugee youth, school administrators, and educators. Data analysis shows that due to strong community support networks and local immigration partnerships, refugee families were warmly welcomed into smaller communities. While refugee youth experience many challenges with resettlement and integration, they demonstrated much resiliency, a determination to succeed, and held high aspirations for their future. In addition to gaps in services and supports, the study identified a culture of inclusion based on the perspectives of educators, administrators, SWIS, and government support documents, as well as several school-based program models, approaches and strategies that assist with refugees' social, academic, and emotional integration.

Dr. Kimberly Browning has an extensive background working in the K-12, post-secondary, and international education fields in both the public and private sectors. She received her PhD from the University of Manitoba in 2018. Her research interests include prior learning assessment and recognition, foreign credential recognition, international education policy, and refugee resettlement. She most recently worked as a Research Associate at the University of Winnipeg.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 17

COVID-19 and Food Insecurity Among African- Canadian Identified (ACBI) Households in Waterloo Region, Canada.

The intersections of race, gender, class, and other social determinants of health are laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic which exacerbated the adverse realities of vulnerable, racialized populations globally. This study sought to bridge the gap in knowledge about food security experiences of African Caribbean Black Identified households in Canada's Waterloo region. Findings from this study have the potential to inform meaningful recommendations to better prepare for future emergencies. The preliminary findings show that ACBI families faced various types of fear, social isolation, anti-Black racism, discrimination, and alienation as well as mental and physical health challenges. ACBI households were particularly affected by closure of food banks, schools, churches, and mosques and reduced access to affordable healthy ethnic food, and community gardens. However, they also demonstrated strategic resistance and coping mechanisms, social solidarity, backyard gardening and produce sharing. We therefore argue the importance of socially and culturally relevant initiatives that harness community cultural capital. The voices of lived experience will be illuminated and amplified to ameliorate inequitable outcomes and ensure cohesive community living through academic and community friendly publications, policy briefs, and training workshops.

Dr, Funke Oba, is an Associate professor and Graduate Program Director, school of social work, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) and adjunct Professor with University of Regina and Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU). Dr. Oba promotes reciprocal North South collaborations and anti-colonial, contextualized social work practice. She is a member of the Academic network of York University's Youth Research hub (YouthRex) and advisor/ director of several youth serving organizations. Funke Oba founded CARE for Black youth Waterloo in 2015. Her research and practice interests include anti-Black racism, racial justice, community action, Black youth educational outcomes, child welfare, and domestic violence prevention framed by cultural capital lens. Dr. Oba who has received teaching awards from TMU and WLU, engages actively in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Her work as an African Diaspora visiting scholar and Carnegie fellow at the university of Lagos, Nigeria, underscores the international relevance of her scholarship

Elizabeth Oyiango, Assistant Professor, healthy and sustainable communities, School of Public Health, University of Alberta

Halima Fuller is a PhD candidate in Human Relationships: Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy at Martin Luther University College, Wilfrid Laurier University. She has more than a decade of volunteer and work experience supporting refugees and immigrants in Kitchener Waterloo, Ontario where she resides. She is a clinical therapist who works with families, couples, individuals, and immigrant children.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 18

From resolution to transformation: Addressing workplace racialized violence towards im/migrant homecare workers in Manitoba

Three years into the pandemic, Manitoba's homecare system has emerged more fragmented and under-resourced than ever. With an aging population and chronic healthcare staffing shortages, im/migrant care workers are in urgent demand and play an essential role as critical contributors to Manitoba's healthcare system. Nevertheless, these workers were effectively ignored in Manitoba's official COVID-19 responses and their working conditions have worsened during the pandemic. This presentation draws on a qualitative research project, partnered with Migrant Manitoba, that used intersectional and community-driven approaches to investigate the working conditions and experiences of im/migrant homecare workers during the pandemic. This presentation will apply Peace and Conflict Studies scholar Johan Galtung's concepts of negative peace (absence of direct violence) and positive peace (absence of structural violence) to theorize themes of racialized violence that workers shared in their interviews. We argue that while structural and policy changes leading to reduced immigration and employment precarity are critically important for enabling workers to challenge experiences of racialized violence, transformative change requires ongoing community-engaged anti-racism/pro-immigration cultural programming and rigorous enforcement of progressive employment and immigration policy changes.

Presenters: Mehmet Yavuz is a doctoral candidate (ABD) in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manitoba. Mehmet has been the recipient of prestigious fellowships and awards including the Berdie & Irvin Award in Peace and Conflict Studies and the 2021-2022 Rabbi Michael Melchior Peace and Conflict Studies Fellowship in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Arthur V. Mauro Institute for Peace and Justice, St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba. Mehmet's doctoral research investigates queer people's perceptions and experiences of peacebuilding and social justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the political queer presence after the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement.

SESSION 19

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Among Adolescents and Youth in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp: Use of Social Determinants of Health Framework

Studies suggest that exposure to violence, food insecurity, and other resettlement stressors are potential risk factors for PTSD in humanitarian settings. The present study utilized the social determinants of health (SDH) framework to see whether indicators of the framework impact PTSD among adolescents and youth living in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. Methods

This study was drawn from the 2018 Preventing Against Violence and Children Survey (PVACS) study conducted in schools in the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp (N=711; aged 11-27). A linear regression model was used to examine the association between SDH (i.e., food security, social support, disability, safety, and exposure to lifetime violence) and PTSD scores among adolescents and youth in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. Results showed that older age ($\beta=0.40$), being male ($\beta=1.28$), being Congolese ($\beta=-1.18$), having food security ($\beta=1.88$), and disabilities ($\beta=0.97$), being unsafe ($\beta=1.28$) were significantly positively associated with PTSD among adolescents and youth. This study demonstrates that SDH contributes to the risks of PTSD in adolescents and youth in the camp. Humanitarian agencies should focus on increasing social support to curb food insecurity and other stressors, as well as interventions to prevent violence and reduce PTSD for adolescents and youth in the camp.

Edson Chipalo, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at Lewis University. Prior to joining academia, Chipalo worked with refugees and immigrants in New York City. He also worked as a Children's mental health clinician for Akeela Inc in Ketchikan, Alaska, USA. While in Alaska, he also worked as an emergency psych clinician at Peace Health Hospital, providing suicide crisis interventions. Chipalo's research focuses on examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and mental health outcomes for adolescents and youth in low-income and middle-income countries, including refugees living in humanitarian settings. Chipalo, Graduated with his Bachelor of Science (Social Work) from The College of Saint Rose, a Master of Science (Social Work) from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from The University of Alabama, USA.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 20

Part of the Solution, Not the Problem: recommendations for welcoming internationally trained physicians and nurses into Canada's health care sector

There is mounting pressure on the Canadian health care system to address health care labour market shortages. Despite being highly skilled and experienced, less than half of Internationally Trained Physicians (ITPs) and Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) who immigrate to Canada are practicing in their profession. The process for an ITP and IEN to become licensed is complex, expensive, and province-specific, fraught with systemic barriers and bias. At a time where nurses and physicians are needed on the frontline, it is critical that Canada improve existing processes and adopt innovative approaches that respects the skills and experience IENs have and will bring with them into the health care system. From September 2022 to March 2023, N4 convened key stakeholders through its intersectoral Community of Practice model to form pan Canadian recommendations to improve the pathways to optimal employment for ITPs and IENs. This workshop will present key findings from a pan-Canadian stakeholder outreach that engaged over 74 organizations who interface with ITPs and IENs along their pathway to licensure. Participants will gain an understanding of the barriers and facilitators to ITP and IEN licensure in Canada. The session will highlight implementable best and promising practices to address the systemic barriers and inherent bias which are preventing these valued immigrants from contributing to healthcare capacity and sustainability.

Monika Feist, is the CEO of Success Skills Centre, a non-profit organization that focuses on recognizing the skills, training and education of immigrant professionals and skilled workers, leading to workplace participation appropriate to their credentials.

Dr. Sahar Zohni, Manager of National Newcomer Navigation Network, has a Master's and Doctorate Degree in Pediatrics from Alexandria University in Egypt. She has 25 years of clinical experience as a clinician, lecturer, and researcher at El-Shatby Pediatric University Hospital, Egypt During that time, she managed the Pediatric Intensive care and Renal Units. She then worked as a Pediatric Nephrology Specialist at Nottingham City Hospital, England. Upon completion of her Master of Health Administration, University of Ottawa, Sahar led roles in quality improvement patient experience, including building the hospital's participation in the Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS) Program. Sahar now leads the N4 team in reaching their goal to create a national network aimed to improve the experience of newcomers in navigating Canada's complex health and social services.

SESSION 21

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Newcomers with Precarious Immigration Status

This panel will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on newcomers with precarious immigration status in Manitoba, particularly migrant workers, international students, and undocumented residents. The pandemic disproportionately affected low-income, racialized communities. For those with precarious immigration status, it was a human rights catastrophe. Panelists will share their experience working with these communities throughout the pandemic and their efforts to affect policy change to address the needs of people with precarious immigration status, including the Health Care for All campaign and the Alliance for Gender Justice in Migration.

Diwa Marcelino, is an organizer with Migrante Manitoba, a grassroots organization advocating for the rights and welfare of migrant workers and their families. He has been working with migrant workers for the last 21 years in Ontario and Manitoba. Diwa is also the vice-chairperson of the Council of Canadians, a grassroots organization challenging corporate power and advocating for people, the planet and our democracy. He is also a steering committee member of KAIROS, an ecumenical organization promoting ecological justice and human rights.

Judith Oviosun, is the National Advocacy Campaigns Coordinator and Education Officer with the Canadian Federation of Students. She is a grassroots community advocate and public speaker with expertise in healthcare, immigration, nutrition, and human rights issues. Judith has a Bachelor's degree in Human Nutritional Science from the University of Manitoba and is currently finishing her Immigration Consultancy Program from Queens University. Judith is committed to improving the lives of marginalized and underserved communities and has spearheaded several successful campaigns aimed at improving access to education, healthcare, promoting immigration reform, and protecting the rights of migrants and refugees.

Karen is a social worker and Program Coordinator at the Occupational Health Centre, a community health centre focused on workers' health, where she has many years of experience working with newcomer and migrant communities. She is the former Co-chair of the Migrant Worker Solidarity Network, a volunteer group that supported migrant farmworkers in Manitoba. In her earlier years of social justice work, Karen played a leadership role in Canadian solidarity work with progressive social movements in El Salvador.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 22

The Necropolitics of Covid-19 and Pandemic social work: Unsettling the Politics of care

Black, Indigenous and working-class people were exposed and less protected from the Covid-19 virus, and, once infected, were more likely to die because of racial gaps in to access quality health care in Canada and in the United States. This paper critically examines the necropower, necrocapitalism and necropolitics of race and class-based healthcare systems under the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on media coverage, literature review, and other public health data, the paper engages the question: 'Under what practical conditions were the right to live and to die unfolded during COVID-19? The paper argues that in a world of visceral anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and anti-poor racism, social work must pursue a world that materially, discursively, and ideationally unsettled care and care politics, else what we witnessed during the pandemic would continue and worsen.

Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei is an Associate Professor and the Interim Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research) at Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was previously the Interim Dean of the School of Social Work, Memorial University. Dr. Adjei received his undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of Ghana, and his Master and PhD degrees from the University of Toronto specializing in Social Justice Education. An Award-winning scholar, a skillful academic and a respected researcher and a public speaker, Dr. Adjei's expertise is in the areas of equity, diversity, inclusion, indigenization, and anti-Black racism education. A committed community builder, Dr. Adjei serves on several committees such as the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Provincial Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, the Newfoundland and Labrador RCMP Black Engagement Steering Committee. He also serves as the Director of the Ghanaian Community of Newfoundland and Labrador Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of Ghana Union of Canada. He was a member of Health Accord NL Task Force Education Working Group. In 2022, he was honored as one of the Most Inspiring Immigrants in Atlantic Canada.

SESSION 23

From Kabul to Canada. Highlighting the experiences of the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Program

In August 2021, the government of Canada created the Afghan Operations Initiative with a commitment 40,000 Afghan nationals through several special programs. As of May 11, 2023, just over 31,000 Afghan nationals had arrived in Canada. This workshop will provide an overview of the experiences of Afghan refugees from their escape to Resettlement in Canada. Further, we will examine the government of Canada's commitment to resettle Afghan refugees, the pace of resettlement and comparisons with Canada's response to other refugee emergencies.

Shakila Atayee is originally from Afghanistan and came to Canada as a government-sponsored refugee. Shakila is currently studying social work at the University of Manitoba. Shakila works at Welcome Place (MIIC) in the capacity as a settlement counsellor and One Year Window counsellor. Also, Shakila is very active in the community and advocate for newcomers' rights.

Nilofar Bereki, Newcomer Afghan Refugee

Abdikheir Ahmed, Aurora Family Therapy Centre

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 24

We too sing, O CANADA: Black spaces in Ivory Towers

In his famous poem which comments on Black life in the United States in the 1920s, Langston Hughes alludes to a situation that is true for many racialized minorities in Canada today: a lack of representation in Canadian curricula, as well as the outsider position of Canadian students and faculty of African descent who are routinely silenced, ignored, and denied opportunities for advancement in white institutions. Many scholars have attested to the significance of cultural representation and other self-affirmative activities on learning and mental health of students, the absence of which is a “psychological threat that undermines learning and performance” (Cohen & Sherman, 2014). What can we learn from history about the ways that persons of African descent thrived in a hostile environment? A survey of primary documents in Black archives and collections reveals one strategy that Black Canadians have used for self-affirmation and resilience: they created their own spaces. The narratives and commentary of participants in these spaces also provide unique insight into the relevance of these spaces to their well-being. Using Michel Foucault’s concept of heterotopia to describe three images of Black spaces in Canadian archives: a baseball team, a gospel choir, and a Black music workshop. First, I will explain the concept of heterotopia; second, I will describe the context of the three, this presentation will explain how the images capture a world within a world to explain the importance of participation and performance in positive Black spaces in the past and today.

Dr. Karen Cyrus is an ethnomusicologist with an interest in pan-African children’s repertoires, gospel music repertoires, community music practices and social justice in music education. She is an Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Music. Karen is a former postdoctoral fellow of Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) where she worked on a project called Mapping Ontario’s Black Archives. There she became intrigued with the images and representations of Black lives in the archives and continues to support the project as a research fellow.

SESSION 25

Wounded Healers: Afrocentric Methods in Research with Black Populations in Saskatoon

Economic stimulation requires a well-educated workforce and post-secondary education (PSE) is key to employment, and productivity. This presentation discusses how racism shapes schooling experiences of Black youth in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, one of Canada’s fastest-growing provinces. This qualitative study framed by critical race and Afrocentric theories utilized Afrocentric Sharing Circles (ASC) and semi-structured interviews, to explore experiences of Black youth and their families. The study found that Black youth seldom had Black teachers or Black curriculum content, and schools failed to embrace Black parents as partners who have worth or socio-cultural capital. Social workers, guidance counselors, and settlement workers need training to promote equitable educational outcomes rather than inhibiting Black youth’s PSE aspirations. Disrupting the normalization and universalization of Eurocentric worldviews can ensure Black youth schooling experiences mirror the province’s claims of being welcoming. Changes in hiring, curriculum, and training of school social workers, settlement workers, and administrators are recommended to promote belonging and equity for Black youth in the host community of Saskatoon.

Dr. Funke Oba is an Associate Professor, and Graduate Program Director, School of Social Work, Toronto Metropolitan University, Ontario, Canada

Hallima Fuller, is a Doctoral Candidate, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada

Elizabeth Oyiango, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Alberta

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 26

We're all getting older, aren't we? Intersection of aging and immigration

Culture is the context within which people live and age. The construction of the meaning of life, especially later life, is a fascinating and essential topic that matters to most individuals. Dislocation from homeland in old age, through immigration, pulls older adults out by the roots from the land they have lived in for most of their lives. There are also immigrants who had arrived at a younger age then grew old in the new homeland. Exploring the relationship between aging and culture can help us identify what is culturally determined and what is age determined in immigrants' later life. The presentation will elaborate on various theories that depict the interactions between aging and a (minority) culture as well as analyze the logic underneath the theories. The researcher will also discuss the challenges of supporting rationalized older adults and conclude with implications and recommendations for policy makers and service providers.

Dr. Hai Luo is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. Her work addresses social and health issues of older adults of diverse cultural backgrounds and the implications to social theory and social work practice. Her research and publications include cross-cultural aging, Indigenous aging, sexuality and older adults, gambling in older adults, elder abuse, and social capital and social support for older adults. She currently is involved in local and international projects to study the impact of COVID-19 on long-term care facilities and Indigenous older adults, cross-cultural active aging, Indigenous older adults in economic and community development, mental health and substance abuse in older adults, and transformation of nursing home. Dr. Luo is active in gerontological education in higher education and international teaching and research collaboration. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Manitoba Association of Social Workers.

SESSION 27

"I'm not a human being": The impact of a dual contextual setting of culture for self-definition of immigrant women in IPV relationships in Canada

Violence against women continues to be a concerning phenomenon across cultures. According to the World Health Organization (2021), one in three women globally has experienced intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual assault (NPSA). While women and girls have become weapons of war in conflict zones because of their gender, transitioning from violent zones to the supposed safe countries still seems not to provide enough safety for immigrant and refugee women. The practicing cultures of immigrant and refugee families and that of their host countries persist in the continued perpetuation of their oppression. This presentation describes some of the findings from a study on the violent experiences of immigrant and refugee women across borders and how their operation within the culture they brought to Canada and the Canadian culture influences how they define themselves. The findings also show the differences in the severity of violence against immigrant and refugee women during pre- and post-migration periods. The study recommends a PMP model (Pre-Migration, Migration, and Post-migration) assessment and intervention for a holistic understanding of immigrant and refugee women's violent experiences across borders.

Dr. Bolaji Akinyele-Akanbi is an Assistant Professor at the faculty of social work, University of Manitoba. She teaches at Fort Garry Campus. Dr. Akinyele-Akanbi's teaching and research are grounded in anti-colonial and African feminist perspectives. Her research focus includes immigrant and refugee issues, health and mental health issues, community-based research, intimate partner violence/family violence, social work and spirituality, and racial injustice. Her email address is Bolaji.Akinyele-Akanbi@umanitoba.ca.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 28

Community Engaged Research to Support African Youth with Refugee Backgrounds

Our multi-site national study is exploring how the school experiences of African refugee youth impact their decision to pursue college and university, is supported by several community organizations across Canada that work on the ground with some of the most vulnerable populations. They are a critical resource in the lives of these families, serving to fill gaps in public education and social welfare. Conducting research with these organizations is an immense privilege. However, it is not a straightforward process of collecting data and publishing peer-reviewed papers. Community engaged research is a messy, misunderstood, and extremely time-consuming endeavor involving a layer of research ethics that Research Ethics Boards often discount and an array of expenses that funders such as SSHRC do not like to reimburse (for example, building trust often involves sharing food, lots of food). The outcomes of community engaged research, however, makes these endeavors worthwhile. Our presentation will describe how we undertake this project together and we will present some of the early findings of the project.

Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Human Rights Program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo Ontario. She is also the outgoing Director of the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa. Stacey has been undertaking qualitative research with immigrants and refugees since 2008. She is presently leading and co-leading several Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)-funded projects focusing on school and labour market transitions of African youth with refugee backgrounds. She also conducts research with irregular migrants in Mexico and Morocco and is currently working on a SSHRC-funded book project called “Too Perilous to Proceed, Too Ashamed to Return: Life Stories of SubSaharan African Migrants in Morocco” (with Dr. Abderrahman Beggar).

Jeremy Horne, Former Executive Director of Adventure4Change - A graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, Masters of Social Work program, Jeremy Horne has a life- time of experience in mentoring, advocating and championing the cause of the ‘little guy’. He is deeply and actively committed to making a difference in his local (Waterloo), and global community, always willing to share his experiences with those willing to learn, adapt and invest in enduring transformation. Jeremy is always dreaming of new things and new ways.

Suman Mondal is in the Master of Arts in Criminology Program, at Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford). His research interests include the construction of deviance and criminality of marginalized individuals and groups, international human rights violations, social exclusion, and media representation and portrayals of crime, individuals, and groups. Suman is assisting with a federal research study, which is analyzing the postsecondary transition of African refugee youth across Canada, led by Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 29

Strategies to Address Transitional Challenges of Newcomer Youth in Higher Education in Canada: A look at the Ecological Systems Theory

While various efforts have been made to integrate newcomer youth into the educational systems of Canada, many continue to encounter unique transitional challenges. This has resulted in many dropping out of school or having difficulties coping with this new system of education that is different from their countries of origin. Whereas newcomer youth are heterogeneous, transitional services to support their needs must be multidimensional, comprehensive and consider demographic information, policies and actors that offer these services. Although institutional/educational policies and support systems are important for successful transition into the educational system as it could encourage enrollment, attendance and retention, there is a dearth of literature on the use of the tenets of ecological systems theory to understand the transition of newcomer youth. Adopting the tenets of the ecological systems theory, this presentation examines (a) circumstances surrounding the movement of newcomer youth to Canada (b) the challenges newcomer youth encounter in their transition into educational systems (c) factors that could support a more holistic transition and (d) strategies to promote a comprehensive transition of newcomer youth in educational system. Additionally, research gaps on transition of newcomer youth into the educational systems will be discussed by considering their implications for policy, education, research and practice.

Richard Baffo Kodom is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba, Canada. He holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree (M.Phil) in Social Work from the University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. Richard's research interests include international migration, family welfare, disability, and healthcare. After the PhD program, Richard aspires to become one of the outstanding social work scholars in the area of teaching, research and community service.

Md Nazim Mahmud is an immigrant student pursuing his Ph.D. in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. His area of interest includes open and distance education, educational technology, multicultural and critical pedagogy, educational oppression, leadership in education, social justice and democracy education for human rights, and language education. He is interested in working on the evolving issues around pedagogy, especially in secondary and post-secondary, which is crucial for both internal and external education stakeholders in terms of reaping the actual benefit of education. His Ph.D. study is, therefore, to contribute to the scholarship of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) targeting racialized immigrant and racialized international students.

SESSION 30

From Discourse to Action: An integrative response of the Elmwood Community Resource Centre Settlement program to Covid-19 related challenges of newcomers.

The burgeoning research on the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed its drastic impacts in Western societies. Research documents the profound effects of Covid-19 on the settlement experiences of refugees and skilled permanent residents in terms of their mental health, accessing healthcare, academic/language challenges, economic-related challenges, and housing challenges among others impacting their ability to integrate into a new environment. This presentation encapsulates how community-based organizations came together to respond to the increasing needs of communities. The Elmwood community resource center will share how the Newcomer Zone Settlement (NZS) department framework of providing integrated services in response to the varied dimensions and complexity of newcomer family concerns during the heightened period of the pandemic and post-pandemic. This presentation showcases how NZS provides integrated services using an intersectional approach in order to promote the aspect of social determinants of health (i.e. housing, income level, education etc.) for newcomers in Elmwood.

Guyaatu Boru is Settlement Manager at Elmwood Community Resource Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She holds a BA in Human Rights, Political Studies & Conflict Resolutions from the University of Winnipeg. She is interested in the integration of newcomers and refugee youth experience into educational systems.

Jonathan Worae is a settlement worker with the Elmwood community resource centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He holds MA from the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Manitoba. He is interested in international students' higher education, and the settlement and integration experiences of international students and newcomers.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 31

Labour market integration of newcomers to Canada: The perspectives of newcomers in a smaller urban center

In Canada, newcomers are often faced with many challenges when integrating into the labour market. This presentation will focus on a study that examined the labour market integration experiences of newcomers in Regina, Saskatchewan. Data was collected using a structured survey which was made available in several languages. A total of 305 (n=305) newcomers participated in this study. It was found that length of stay in Regina, level of education, having children, and lack of access to transportation had a strong relationship with newcomers' labour market integration ($p < 0.01$). Specific barriers that were found to affect newcomers included language, access to a vehicle, lack of Canadian work experience, and credentials. The implications of these challenges for the well-being of newcomers and their contribution to the Canadian economy will be highlighted in this presentation.

Daniel Kikulwe, Charles Gyan, Needal Ghadi, Christine Massing, and Crystal J. Giesbrecht

SESSION 32

Universal Human Rights Values: The key pillar in addressing and overcoming systemic racism framed within white supremacy in western societies.

Racism is a historical and a persisting social problem. While 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and some progress has been achieved towards the elimination of discrimination, immigrants from formerly colonized countries as well as the First Nations people continue to experience oppression and domination from systemic racism. This workshop will highlight how the human rights framework can be employed to address and overcome racism at the personal, community and institutional levels. The workshop will include a short presentation from three scholars and community leaders on skills, practice theory, and policy changes necessary towards the eliminate racism. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and to share strategies based on their lived experience.

Dr. Christine Lwanga is an Adjunct Professor and Research Fellow at the Faculty of Social Work – Graduate Programs & Research, University of Manitoba. She is interested in human rights -based research, policy, and development work with a focus on the promotion of the equality of human dignity and worth, and the elimination of systemic racism and other forms of oppression and domination. Dr. Lwanga highlights the role of universal human rights values in social justice work and employs critical race and social theory, systems and post-modernism dialectical analysis, and impact evaluation as part of evidence-based practice. She identifies them as critical strategies that can ensure sustainable development for racialized and other marginalized groups within the context of the history, persisting and dynamic nature of oppression/domination. She is currently Co-Leading a MITACS BSI project at U of Manitoba.

Richard Baffo Kodom is a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. He holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree (M.Phil) in Social Work from the University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. Richard's research interests include international migration, family welfare, disability, and healthcare. Currently, Richard is working as a Sessional Instructor and Intern for MITACS BSI project. After the PhD program, Richard aspires to become an outstanding social work scholar in teaching, research, and community service.

Esther Araba Mensah is a PhD. 2nd year Student at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. She serves as a Research Assistant, a Sessional Instructor and a MITACS Business Strategy Intern at the Faculty of Social Work.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 33

Welcoming the Stranger: Hospitality as Radical Openness to the Other

Immigration can be forced or not forced. There are multiple factors that can cause people to leave their home and migrate to a foreign place. International conflicts, political persecutions, increasing global capitalist economic turmoil, and climate change force many to migrate to other countries in search of refuge, asylum, or work. Under the current climate of ongoing immigration crisis and rhetoric taking place in some receiving countries, the question remains: when new migrants, as strangers, show up in the country of their destination, how are they received? Are they rejected or simply tolerated rather than welcomed? Nowadays, an increasing hostility in the form of racism and xenophobia is directed toward immigrants. Such hostility tends to undermine attempts to display humanity for the Other in times of crisis. Using a hospitality discourse, this presentation will engage the works of feminist theorists, such as Seyla Benhabib, Margaret Urban Walker, Iris Marion Young in relation to issues of identity, inclusiveness, and embodiment. It will also articulate how a feminist hospitality offers conceptual tools for integrating a moral disposition toward the stranger Other with a radical openness funded by a vision of relationality.

Camillus O. Njoku, Ph.D. is currently doing a postdoctoral program in Sociology at Loyola University Chicago. For several years, he worked in the pastoral ministry in Nigeria before immigrating to the United States. As an immigrant, who has experienced the immigration system in the U.S. He has worked with immigrants in ecclesiastical, health care, and academic settings as a pastor, chaplain, and adjunct professor. A part of Dr. Njoku's dissertation focused on hospitality as a model for negotiating the boundaries of difference without doing violence to the Other through thematization or subjection to the regime of sameness. Dr. Njoku advocates for a hospitality that is humanizing and liberator.

SESSION 35

Identifying challenges/barriers for African-Australian young people accessing support services

It is sometimes challenging for young people from migrant backgrounds to identify, access, navigate and utilise mainstream support services in Australia. Moreover, there are numerous socio-cultural and post-settlement differences between migrant populations. While there is some scholarship on why and what particular challenges migrant young people face, the work has not been collated and reviewed to identify important themes. This research specifically focuses on young people of African heritage, a relatively new migrant group in Australia. First, we explored the literature on help-seeking behaviours among African young people in Australia. Second, we explored literature on best practices for working with African-Australian young people and how mainstream social services (i.e., youth and family services) could be tailored to this cohort. Findings noted that African-Australian young people were generally unfamiliar with the contexts within which these services exist, and some were unaware that there was often help available if they needed it. Second, we identified that there were young people who were aware of existing services yet were reluctant to seek such assistance, due to stigma, perceived racism, bullying, lack of cultural competencies, and financial costs. We also identified several directions for best practices and strategies to address help-seeking barriers including counteracting community stigmas, increasing mental health literacy, growing the cultural competency of health service providers and perceived trustworthiness, and managing financial barriers to accessing services.

Dr. Matthew Mabefam is a lecturer at the University of Melbourne with a specialisation in Africa and African Diasporic Development. He holds a PhD in Anthropology and Development Studies from the University of Melbourne. He also holds a Master of Philosophy and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degrees from the University of Ghana. With expertise in development-oriented research, policy and practice with grassroots development organisations and government departments in Africa and abroad, Matthew has a passion to amplify the role of Africa in global development.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 34

Wrap up approach to Newcomer Collaborative Community Mental Health Service: Successes, Challenges & Lessons Learned.

In the Spring of 2018, VIRGO Planning and Evaluation Consultants provided the Manitoba Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness with a report, entitled Improving Access and Coordination of Mental Health and Addictions Services: A Provincial Strategy for all Manitobans. Acting on the recommendations of this report, the government of Manitoba rolled out funding to a number of new and existing initiatives that provide mental health and addictions services to communities.

The Newcomer Collaborative Community Mental Health Service, out of Aurora Family Therapy Centre, was launched in April 2020 as one of these initiatives and focuses on integrating several of the recommendations from the new provincial strategy. The program aims to better meet the needs of newcomers to Manitoba by improving access to existing mental health services, decreasing issues related to inequity within the health system and providing trauma-informed and culturally appropriate supports. The program utilizes existing relationships with various ethno-cultural communities and partnerships within the formal mental health system and settlement sector to provide comprehensive mental health support including long-term trauma therapy for children, youth, adults and families, access to psychology and psychiatry services, case management and system navigation. This presentation will provide additional information on the services offered through this project in addition to some of the successes, challenges and lessons learned to date.

Presenters: Heather Robertson is the Director of Mental Health Services at Aurora Family Therapy Centre and oversees the delivery of clinical services to a diverse range of individuals, couples, and families throughout Manitoba. She has over 15 years of experience in the settlement sector including program development and delivery, psychosocial support, mental health, advocacy, and clinical services. Heather believes strongly in the power of safe and genuine connections and works from a trauma-informed and attachment lens. She also runs a small private practice and aims to help build resilient individuals, families, and communities. Heather completed her Bachelor of Social Work (2005) at University of Manitoba and her Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy (2018) at the University of Winnipeg. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Hani Ataan Al-Ubeady, Cross-Cultural Mental Health Specialist, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Hani Ataan has extensive experience working with diverse populations in Manitoba. A co-founder of the Ethno-cultural Council of Manitoba-Stronger Together. Hani pioneered and directed the first comprehensive Indigenous Orientation Tool Kit project for the settlement sector in Manitoba and beyond. He is a Certified Canadian Counsellor and Marriage and Family therapist. He is also a regulated Immigration Consultant. Hani has been serving the settlement and integration sector for over 20 years.

Adey Mohamed is a Social Worker and PhD student in the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at the University of Manitoba. Her area of study as PhD student is intra- and inter-ethnic conflict, indigenous peacebuilding, and contemporary peacebuilding approaches. She has been involved as a community researcher and currently works at Aurora Family Therapy Centre as Program Facilitator in the Newcomer Collaborative Community Mental Health Service/ Vicarious Trauma Facilitator and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority as a Health Coordinator Lennox Bell Place.

ABSTRACTS

SESSION 36

Newcomer Settlement in Rural Manitoba Initiative: Role of MIIC-Welcome Place, Challenges & Opportunities

Canada's immigration policies allow Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents to be reunited with members of their families living abroad through the generous family reunification program. A major component of the reunification is done through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program. The Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC) as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), partners with individual co-sponsors and community organizations in Winnipeg, Manitoba to facilitate refugee family members in abroad to reunite with their family members in Canada. Our sponsorship is largely characterized as a family-linked, given the significant role that families and relatives in Canada play in the sponsorship process and refugee resettlement in Canada. This presentation will highlight the support and programs that MIIC offers to permanent residents who arrived in Canada as resettled refugees and sponsor their immediate family members who were declared on the sponsorship application but were unable to accompany them to Canada at the time of resettlement. This is done under the One Year Window Provision of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act., as well as other settlement services we provide.

Ahmed Elmi is a graduate of the Master of International Public Policy at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. He has experience in settlement and sponsorship sectors and is passionate about refugee and immigrant issues. He has co-authored a policy brief about Scaling Canada's Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) Model for Proactive Refugee Resettlement. Mr. Elmi is currently a Sponsorship Services Counsellor at Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC). He is largely involved in training and capacity development to private sponsors and connect them with available settlement and integration services to help sponsors better support the integration of the refugee(s). Elmi has extensive experience in policy research, program development and evaluations, project management and communications.

Shakila Atayee is originally from Afghanistan and came to Canada as a government-sponsored refugee. Shakila is currently studying social work at the University of Manitoba. Shakila works at Welcome Place (MIIC) in the capacity as a settlement counsellor and One Year Window counsellor. Also, Shakila is very active in the community and advocate for newcomers' rights.

SESSION 37

Community Based Grassroots Innovation: Combining Technology and Grassroots community organizing to support clients during a pandemic

What do you get when you combine rising food prices, housing insecurity, and migration during a worldwide pandemic? Community Based Grassroots Innovation. From virtual and mobile counselling, the creation of basic needs supply systems, to the personal touches during a time of isolation, clients remained at the center of our focus and were the reasons for our innovation. Through a holistic wrap around approach based in anti-oppressive, trauma informed work, Elmwood Community Resource Center (ECRC) strives to offer culturally sensitive supports and services that recognizes the individual and the unique journey that they took to get to us, and the ways that we will work hand in hand to create sustainable change for themselves and their families. In this presentation, we will be discussing challenges that our centre faced, the lessons and stories that were told, and the strategies we implemented as we continued to serve the community throughout the pandemic. We will discuss the hidden challenges of providing services to individuals experiencing gender-based violence and isolation, bridging barriers to youth engagement and building community connections to create a community wide network of support and collaboration.

Anne Oserin-Pinnock – Anne is the Community Engagement Co-ordinator at Elmwood Community Resource Center (ECRC). In her earlier role as the Programs Director, she oversaw the settlement program, youth afterschool programmes, community and family programs and provided support to the counselling team before stepping back to complete her Masters in Social Work at the University of MB.

Fathima Fazla Ashraff – Fazla is a Family counsellor at Elmwood Community Resource Center specializing in working with couples and families. Fazla holds a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Winnipeg.

Jenna Holowachuk – Jenna is the Elmwood Mental Wellness Co-ordinator and the lead for the Elmwood Mental Wellness Coalition, a consortium of non-profit organizations, educational institutions and community leaders dedicated to improving mental health outcomes in the Elmwood community. Jenna holds a Child and Youth Care Diploma and a Bachelor in Family Social Sciences.

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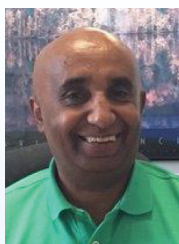
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Strangers in New Homelands Conference Committee extends its sincere gratitude to the Dean, members and staff of the Faculty of Social Work, and Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba for their continued support of this annual conference. We particularly wish to recognize the dedication and steadfast support over the years by members of our Conference Planning Committee: Dr. Lori Wilkinson, Dr. Lewis Asimeng-Boahene, Dr. Buster Ogbuagu, Dr. Carlos Parra, Dr. Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Dr. Marleny Bonnycastle, Marva Ferguson, Aklilu Teferi, and Dr. Charles Gyan. We acknowledge the dedicated contributions of our Community and Agency Partners: Omar Abdullahi, Abdkheir Ahmed, Judy Williams, Aklilu Teferi, and Muuxi Adam.

We salute and extend our gratitude to our Conference collaborating partners, AURORA Family Therapy Center, and Manitoba Ethnocultural Council - Stronger Together. We also wish to express our gratitude to all our Conference volunteers for their invaluable contribution to the organization of this year's conference.

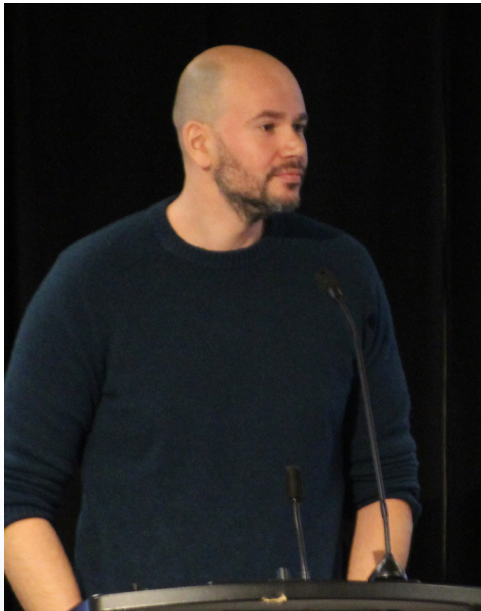
To all conference presenters and participants who traveled from far and near to be part of this conference, we thank you for your invaluable contributions. Finally, we recognize the untiring efforts of our University of Manitoba General Office staff especially Karen Grenfell, Melanie Jung, Anita Bhinder, and Nyoman Klassen for coordinating the logistics for this conference.

To our Communications Coordinator, Berea Henderson, we owe you many thanks for your painstaking work in the design and layout of the Conference program and materials.

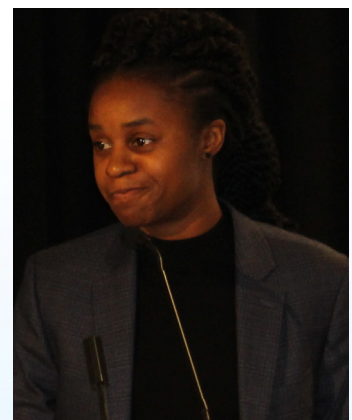
See you all again in October 2024. A la prochaine!

Dr. Michael Baffoe
Conference Chair

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*For more information on future
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