



## Research Symposium

We are pleased to invite you to a one day Research Symposium on Refugees - **From margins to centre: Integrating victims of torture and political oppression**. This all-day symposium is being organized in collaboration with Wellesley Institute, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, and Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and George Brown College. It will take place on **7th June 2017, Wednesday** at George Brown College, Toronto, Canada, 290 Adelaide Street, Room #406 from 8:30-4:30. The title of the symposium is:

### **“Impact of Education on Social Inclusion for Refugees”**

This research symposium will bring together researchers from across education, health, human rights and other disciplines, to exchange ideas, promote research, education, discussion and facilitate collaboration in the field of refugee education and social inclusion.

#### **The research symposium will:**

1. Share lessons from the research on integrating refugees into Post-Secondary Education
2. Create a dialogue on needs, barriers facing the refugees and new immigrants and facilitators to inform policy changes

#### **Welcome by George Brown College President- Anne Sado**

**Opening Remarks by Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture - Mr. Mulugeta Abai** has been the Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) Toronto, Ontario, for the last 22 years. Mulugeta has been a leader in designing and developing innovative programs that support the independence and full participation of survivors of torture and their families in all aspects of Canadian society.

Mulugeta has extensive experience in refugee protection and settlement, organizational/program development, media relations and has worked in the public, private and community sectors.

Mulugeta Abai, has developed training materials, written several articles for use by all community members that work with refugees who are Survivors of Torture, genocide, War and crimes against humanity. He is regularly called upon locally, nationally and internationally to

share his innovative approach to help towards meaningful resettlement and integration of survivors of torture and their families.

Currently, Mulugeta is a member of the Ontario Special Advisory table on Settlement, Housing and Municipal Support, Ontario Health Working Group of the Special Advisory Table on Syrian Refugees Resettlement, Member of the Toronto African Leadership Table and representing Canada as Council Member and member of the Health Advisory of the International Rehabilitation Council on Torture.

Mulugeta is a passionate defender of social justice and human rights, not just for refugees and immigrants alone, but for all. Mulugeta has received the Bhayana Family Foundation Award from United Way of Toronto in recognition of his contribution for innovative ideas and solutions that advance the mission of the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture.

#### **Keynote Address Moderated by Dr. Jaswant Bajwa**

**Keynote Address - Dr. Kwame McKenzie**, will be the keynote Speaker. Dr. Kwame McKenzie is CEO of the Wellesley Institute. He is an international expert on the social causes of illness, suicide and the development of effective, equitable health systems. He serves as a commissioner on the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

As a physician, researcher and policy advisor, Dr. McKenzie has worked to identify the causes of illness and in cross-cultural health for over two decades. He is an active, funded researcher of social, community, clinical and policy issues with nearly 200 academic publications including five books.

In addition to his post at Wellesley Institute, Dr. McKenzie is the Director of Clinical Health Equity at CAMH. He is a full Professor and the Co-Director of the Division of Equity Gender and Population in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto.

Dr. McKenzie sits on the Boards of the United Way Toronto and the Ontario Hospitals Association. He is a Senior Fellow at Massey College.

Dr. McKenzie is a member of the Ontario Government's Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council and sat on the Expert Advisory Group for Ontario's Homelessness Strategy alongside numerous other committees. He has a respected track record for setting up award-winning services, training clinicians and researchers, offering clinical care to some of the most marginalized patients and helping to develop health policy for Governments in Canada, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the United States.

Dr. McKenzie completed his medical training at the University of Southampton and was trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry and Harvard University.

**Education, Health and Social Inclusion Panel–  
Moderated Dr. Kwame McKenzie**

**Panelists-**

**Dr. Hynie** is a faculty member in the Department of Psychology, the Centre for Refugee Studies and the York Institute for Health Research at York University, where she leads the Program Evaluation Unit. She is also President of the *Canadian Association of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (CARFMS)*. Dr. Hynie's research focuses the development and evaluation of interventions that can strengthen social and institutional relationships to improve health and well-being in different cultural, political and physical environments. She is particularly interested in social integration and inclusion in situations of social conflict or forced migration. Her work in Canada, Rwanda, Kenya, India and Nepal has been funded by *Grand Challenges Canada*, the *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*, and the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*. Dr. Hynie is currently leading a CIHR funded longitudinal study comparing support needs and integration pathways for Privately Sponsored and Government Assisted Refugees in B.C., Ontario and Quebec, and exploring how integration outcomes impact their long-term health.

**Dr. Don Dippo** is a University Professor in the Faculty of Education at York University. His interests include: the social and political organization of knowledge, environmental and sustainability education, global migration and settlement; university/community relations; and teacher education. Together with Professor Wenona Giles, he co-directs the Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project, a Global Affairs Canada (GAC) funded initiative designed to bring post-secondary education opportunities to people living in the Dadaab refugee camps in northeastern Kenya. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University and is on the Board of Directors of Success Beyond Limits, a not-for-profit, community-based organization that supports high school age youth in Toronto's Jane/Finch community.

**Dr. Yogendra B. Shakya, PhD** works as the Senior Research Scientist at Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services and has a cross appointment (status only) as Assistant Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Dr. Shakya's research focuses on examining how critical determinants (job insecurity, poverty, discrimination, social isolation/exclusion, language barrier etc.) affect health/wellbeing and healthcare access for vulnerable communities including racialized groups, immigrants and refugees. His research and advocacy work is geared at advancing health equity and community empowerment. He has led a number of studies on precarious employment, migration and health, refugee mental health, post-migration changes in family relationships and responsibilities, role of newcomer and refugee youth in resettlement, and impact of systemic racism/racialization. Yogendra is recognized champion of community-based research (CBR). He

has developed a wealth of resources on CBR and trained hundreds of community members to become critical researchers and agents of change.

**Dr. Jaswant Kaur Bajwa** is a Professor and Research Coordinator in the Centre for Preparatory and Liberal Studies (CPLS) at George Brown College. In her work as academician, clinician, anti-violence advocate, and community researcher she uses an intersectional lens and is passionate about the use of education as a tool for social change and empowerment. Both her research and practice since the early 1990s have focused on the impact of violence and mental health issues on learning and the educational changes (both at micro and systemic levels) that need to be made in order to foster a safe and inclusive learning environment for students. She has worked with students with histories of violence, refugees, people marginalized as a result of mental health issues and other systemic barriers. In her role, she provides leadership to staff and students and is responsible for the development of the research capacity within the division. She leads number of research projects at the college, including the project funded by SSHRC on Integrating Refugees in Post-Secondary Education. She has a PhD in Clinical Psychology with the focus on psychological burnout in caring professionals.

### **Global Economy and Human Rights Panel**

**Moderated by - Don Dippo**

**Dr. Jennifer Hyndman** is Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, where she is also Professor in the Department of Social Science. As a geographer, her research focuses on the geopolitics of forced migration, the biopolitics of refugee camps, humanitarian responses to war and displacement, and refugee resettlement in North America. Her most recent book is *Refugees in Extended Exile: Living on the Edge*, with Wenona Giles (Routledge, 2017). Hyndman is author of *Dual Disasters: Humanitarian Aid after the 2004 Tsunami* (2011), *Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism* (2000), and co-editor with W. Giles of *Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones* (2004). She has written several dozen articles, chapters, and policy papers, and is producer of two short films.

**Rana Khan** is a human rights lawyer with a keen interest in and commitment to refugee protection, in particular the issues of detention, women and children. Following her call to the Ontario Bar in 1993, Rana worked in private practice before joining the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1994. Since joining the UNHCR Rana has worked as the Legal Officer for the region of Ontario covering all aspects of refugee protection, policy and practice. She is the UNHCR lead in Canada on the Global Detention Strategy – Beyond Detention, and Gender and Children issues. In addition, Rana has participated in some of the organization's international operations for refugee protection and humanitarian assistance. In 1998, Rana went on mission to Luau, Angola as part of a technical team that conducted refugee status determinations of Rwandan refugees and in 1999, she undertook a mission to Kosovo as UNHCR Protection Officer.

While continuing her work as Legal Officer with the UNHCR in Toronto, Rana is active in building and maintaining close working relationships with both government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO) nationally and regionally.

**Dr. Ezat Mossallanejad** holds a Ph.D. degree in political economy. He has worked as Editor-in-Chief of Zagros Editions since December 2010. He has served as a Youth Counsellor with St. Christopher House, and as the Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service-Canada. At present, he works as a full-time trauma counsellor and Policy Analyst with the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT). He has served on the Boards of the Refugee Update, Inter-Church Committee for Refugee and the Canadian Centre for International Justice (CCIJ). He is the author of books such as *Torture in the Age of Fear* (2005), *Religions and the Cruel Return of Gods* (2014) and *Crime and Punishment in Islam* (2015) and a former professor of Seneca College. He has also worked with several UN bodies in connection with refugee protection and eradication of torture. In my mission to protect refugees and survivors of torture, he has travelled to different countries including USA, Mexico, Rwanda, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, Nigeria, Uganda, Thailand, India and Cyprus.

**Francisco Rico-Martinez**- Arriving in Canada as a refugee nearly 28 years ago, he has dedicated his life to support diverse migrant populations. He is currently the co-director of FCJ Refugee Centre, a grassroots organization that strives to meet the diverse needs of uprooted people, particularly refugee claimants and people without status. He is currently the Technical Secretariat of the “Red Regional de Organisations Civiles para las Migraciones” (RROCM), representing the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Francisco has been a member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) since 1990, he was co-chair of the inland protection working group, member of the overseas protection working groups, as well as the past president. Francisco has been a member of the Toronto Refugee Affairs Council since 1991, as well as he was the Toronto regional representative on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants.

Francisco Rico-Martinez worked as a part-time professor at Seneca College and the University of Manitoban, where he taught on refugee and immigration issues and policy. He also taught at the University of El Salvador on human rights and ethics. He had appeared as Expert Witness in multiple occasions before the **Standing Committee on Immigration and Citizenship of the House of Commons** on immigration and refugee related issues.

Francisco is the recipient of the Community Leadership in Justice Fellowship of the Ontario Law Foundation for 2007, as well as the 2001 City of Toronto William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award and the YMCA Peace Medallion in 2006. In June 2013 he received the Pioneers for Change Award as a recognition of all the contributions he made in the areas of Literacy and Access to Information for different communities.

Francisco has a long history of refugee advocacy and volunteer activity on behalf of victims of human rights violations. Currently, Francisco is profiled as a human rights advocate from Central America in the Immigration Section of the Canadian Human Rights Museum.

### **Citizenship, migrants and refugees Panel** **Moderated by Dr. Sean Kidd**

**Dr. Sean Kidd** is a Clinical Psychologist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and a Clinician Scientist in CAMH's Complex Care and Recovery Program. He is also Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. The focus of Dr. Kidd's career has been upon marginality and service enhancement. The populations of focus, often overlapping, are homeless youth and individuals with severe mental illness. Specific domains of contribution include international recognition for his research into youth homelessness, extensive work in developing and testing psychiatric rehabilitation interventions in the area of psychosis, and examining social inclusion among marginalized populations.

**Mbalu Lumor** has been working with the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) for over a decade as a children/youth Trauma counselor and currently manages the Community Engagement program at CCVT. She has extensive experience working with diverse groups, providing both settlement and trauma related counseling to refugee and immigrant populations, program design, evaluation and capacity building trainings. She graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours.BA degree in Sociology. Mbalu is passionate about social justice, public education and human rights.

**Tanya Aberman** is the Research and Project Coordinator at the FCJ Refugee Centre where she focuses on intensive case management, access to education and community-based program development. She is also a PhD Candidate in Gender Feminist and Women's Studies at York University.

**Afsoon Houshidari** arrived in Canada as a child refugee, after she and her family fled the persecution of Baha'is in Iran in the 1980s. Afsoon is passionate about cross-cultural integration and migration issues, and has shared her story as a speaker and storyteller with audiences across the world, including at the UNHCR in Geneva. Afsoon recently took up the post of Legal Counsel at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, after spending a decade as a lawyer for Canada's Department of Justice, where she specialized in refugee, immigration and human rights law. She is actively engaged in the field of human rights at both the grass-roots and international level.

### **Panel of Refugee Students**

**Moderated Dr. Kwame McKenzie**

*World University Service of Canada, Student Refugee Program at York University*

*SSHRC program participants*

### **Wrapping Up**

**Dr. Susan McGrath**, C.M. is Professor at the School of Social Work, York University where she served as Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies from 2004-2012. She has been actively engaged with local and global NGOs including the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) and the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). Her research interests include community and social development, critical social work and refugee studies. She is currently leading three major research initiatives, all funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Canada (SSHRC): 1) a collaborative social work project with the School of Social Work at the University of Rwanda; 2) the global Refugee Research Network of refugee researchers and practitioners; and, 3) a 'big data' initiative studying indicators of forced displacement in Iraq. She is also co-PI of a Canadian Institute for Health Research Grant studying the health outcomes of Syrian refugees in three Canadian provinces. Professor McGrath was awarded the 2015 SSHRC Partnership Impact Award: "Her consistent success over the past decade in forging innovative, interdisciplinary, equitable and cross-sector partnerships has revolutionized the study of refugees and forced migration". In 2014, she was invested into the Order of Canada in recognition of her outstanding achievement in research and policy on refugee rights and for fostering collaboration amongst scholars in her field.

**Regular Registration Fee is \$75.00.**

**Registration Link is**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-impact-of-education-on-social-inclusion-for-refugees-tickets-30225078022>



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada