



NEWCOMER RESEARCH NETWORK

Mobilizing Knowledge on Newcomers Symposium 2021

October 15, 2021
Online Symposium | Calgary, Alberta

ucalgary.ca/newcomerresearch

Welcome

Welcome to the second Mobilizing Knowledge on Newcomers Symposium, an event organized by the University of Calgary's Newcomer Research Network! We, the Symposium's co-organizers, are delighted with the breadth of knowledge and experiences that will be shared throughout the day. We hope that this event, like our last one in 2019, will encourage stakeholders from a range of sectors to engage in learning and discussing issues faced by our newcomer communities. Our ultimate goal is to establish a research agenda for future reciprocal knowledge engagement activities and research partnerships.

Today's presentations will highlight community-engaged research on newcomers and showcase the work of community partners, service providers, and researchers. We hope that the question-and-answer periods will provide you with opportunities to connect and more deeply discuss current work and future collaborations.

The Symposium is sponsored by the Newcomer Research Network at the University of Calgary and a generous Partnership Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), which supports the research and engagement towards a Community-Based Knowledge Mobilization Hub (CBKMH) initiative. We would like to thank our partners for their support of this initiative. They include Alberta International Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA), Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth (CBFY), Calgary Catholic Immigrant Society (CCIS), Calgary Local Immigration Partnership (CLIP), Centre for Newcomers (CFN), Immigrant Services Calgary (ISC) and the Immigrant Education Society (TIES). We would also like to thank our project coordinators, Ms. Didem Erman and Dr. Nashit Chowdhury, for their diligence and dedication to the event. Without them this event would not have been possible.

Special thanks also go to every one of you who is participating in this event and working to better understand and improve the lived experiences of newcomers. While we wish that we could all gather in person, please remember that we recognize the important work you are doing.

Tanvir Turin Chowdhury
Associate Professor
Cumming School of Medicine

Mary Grantham O'Brien
Professor of German
Faculty of Arts



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Schedule at a Glance

Zoom room 1: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/93317423812> (Passcode: nrn2021)

Zoom room 2: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/94988092887> (Passcode: nrn2021)

Friday, October 15

09:00 a.m. – 09:15 a.m.	Opening	Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021
09:15 a.m. – 09:55 a.m.	Keynote	Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021
09:55 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Transition Break	
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Parallel sessions – Oral Presentations	9 Presenters – Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021 9 Presenters – Zoom Room 2 Passcode: nrn2021
12: 15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch	
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	University and Community Partnerships for Research and learning	Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021
1:00 p.m. – 02:00 p.m.	Parallel sessions – Poster Presentations	12 Presenters – Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021 11 Presenters – Zoom Room 2 Passcode: nrn2021
02:00 p.m. – 02:30 p.m.	Round Table for Future Steps	Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021
02:30 p.m. – 03:30 p.m.	“Work in progress” consultation panel	Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021

Sessions

Friday, October 15

Time	Plenary Session Zoom Room 1 (Passcode: nrn2021)
09:00 a.m.	Opening: O'Brien, Walsh and Chowdhury
09:15 a.m.	<i>Keynote/Speaker:</i> Reflections on Conducting Research with Immigrant and Refugee Communities, Dr. David Este
09:55 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Transition Break

Parallel sessions – Oral Presentations

Time	Education & Grassroot Community Engagement: Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021	Social and Health Care & Resettlement and Integration: Zoom Room 2 Passcode: nrn2021
10:00 a.m.	A systematic integrative literature review of the benefits, challenges, and approaches towards a community-based knowledge engagement hub – Brar, Chowdhury, Khalid, O'Brien, Walsh and Chowdhury	Creating Health Equity in Cancer Screening (CHECS): Developing strategies for underscreened populations through community engagement – Boothby, Sebastian, Khan, Patterson and Yang
10:15 a.m.	The experience of a newcomer leading a grassroots community project: the immigrant community garden – Rodriguez	Survivors of Daesh: Characterization of Health Conditions Among Yazidi Refugees Resettled to Canada – Hassan, Almasri, Talavlikar, Aucoin, Grewal, McBrien, Ronksley and Fabreau
10:30 a.m.	Understanding Housing Inequities through the Lens of Anti-Black Racism in Canada and their Implications for Refugee Mental Health – King and Rwigema	"Hear me to know what matters": Insights to action addressing inequities of COVID19 care experienced by the socially vulnerable – Chakraborty and Coakley

10:45 a.m.	A Critical Incident Study Examining the Factors That Influence Child Language Brokering in 5 Arabic-Speaking Newcomer Families and the Application of the Findings to an Educational Workshop Series – Amer, Katoue, Kassan, Henry, Amery, Suva and Zak	Utilization of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) for COVID-19 response in multi-cultural communities – Lake, Chowdhury and Ramirez Cerino
11:00 a.m.	Addressing the Changing Needs of Immigrant and Refugee Seniors Before and During COVID 19 – Celis and Basnet	A Case Study of the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Response: Serving Racialized Immigrant Communities – Suva, Liu, Sigurdson and Torio
11:15 a.m.	“There must be a system in place to help them succeed in school.”: Patterns of systemic racism in refugee education experiences – Meza-Tejada, Khan, El-Lahib, Parada and Kusari	Adapting and developing child health knowledge translation tools for diverse communities: exploring cultural considerations and end-user preferences – Elliott, Scott, Wright and Hartling
11:30 a.m.	Challenges of Inclusion of Muslim Female Students in Social Work Programs in Western Canada – Salim and Walsh	Exploring Culturally Appropriate Ways of Supporting Newcomers to Canada: A Collaborative Family Intervention Model for Child Protection – Torres, Fernandez, Campbell, Chiu, Nutter and Jhinger
11:45 am	Familial experiences with school integration: An arts-based engagement ethnography – Zaidi, Kassan, Trussler, Mukred, Zak and Khan	Human Trafficking in Newcomer Populations: Prevention, Intervention, and Research – Warnock
12:00 pm	Settlement and Integration of Skilled Immigrants: Implications for Social Work Education and Field Training – Kaushik	New Immigrant Workers and their perspectives on the occupational health and safety aspects of their jobs – Shankar and Joseph
12: 15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch	
Time	Plenary Session Zoom Room 1 (Passcode: nrn2021)	
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	University and Community Partnerships for Research and Learning – Pearce, O’Connell, Sherriff, Wilkinson-Houghton, Milnes, Fung	

Parallel sessions – Poster Presentations

Time	Education & Grassroot Community Engagement: Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021	Social and Health Care & Resettlement and Integration: Zoom Room 2 Passcode: nrn2021
1:00 p.m.	Scaling the Great Wall of Canada: Technological solutions for more accessible and equitable language proficiency testing – Tweedie, Kiani and Tabassum	Use of Social Media and Community Outreach for Immigrant Youth Recruitment during Covid-19 – Ardebili, Ereyi-Osas, Razavi, Erman and Chowdhury
1:06 p.m.	Chinese student newcomers' transition to a Canadian postsecondary EAP program: pre- and post-departure comparison – Lin	Moving towards online youth engagement through innovative approaches during the Covid-19 pandemic – Lee, Erman and Chowdhury
1:12 p.m.	Resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic: Vulnerabilities and capacities of international students – Khalid, Naidu and Chowdhury	Implementing Student Feedback and Youth Engagement in the RISE Summer Curriculum: A Comparative Analysis – Kalifa, Eboigbodin, Sekandary, Shroff, Luu, Erman and Chowdhury
1:18 p.m.	Multicultural and Social Justice Counselling Competencies in Psychology Training: A Study on How to Transfer Knowledge into Practice with Newcomer Communities – Kenny, Martin, Jafari, Kassar and Arthur	When Cultures Clash: A Critical Review of Dilemmas, Policies, and Practices Surrounding Hymenoplasty in Diasporic Destinations and An Urgent Call for A Patient-centred and Culturally Sensitive Solution. – Zare and Cresswell
1:24 p.m.	Welcoming Newcomers with Open Arms: CBE Welcome Centre Partnerships – Rachid, Schmidt and Pearse	Correlates of outdoor time in children from families speaking non-official languages at home: a multi-site Canadian study – Nayakarathna, Patel, Currie, Faulkner, Riazi, Tremblay, Trudeau and Larouche
1:30 p.m.	Mapping the Research Landscape of Older Newcomer Housing Insecurity and Homelessness in	Asking Youth: Understanding the Sociocultural Factors that Impact Immigrant Youth Mental Health –

	Canada – Kaushik, Hoselton and Walsh	Adel, Adeboye, Paltzat, Senjar, Davarani, Hassan, Lu, Lee, Singh, Erman and Chowdhury
1:36 p.m.	Migrant-migrant philanthropy and the development nexus in countries of resettlement – Warri and Chikadzi	COVID-19 Vaccine Information Seeking Behaviour in Elderly Punjabi Immigrants in the Greater Toronto Area – Thandi, Chowdhury and Chowdhury
1:42 p.m.	Alternative career opportunities available for internationally trained physicians living in Canada: an overview of the job profiles – Sikdar, Chowdhury, Lake and Chowdhury	Promoting cancer screening literacy through faith-based organizations: Perspectives of Muslim Imams – Khalid, Haque, Alvi, Ferdous, Genereux, Chowdhury and Chowdhury
1:48 p.m.	University of Calgary Anti-Racist Engagement: How Students Recognize Racism and Engage in Anti-Racist Practices – Salem, Haque, Hussein and Chowdhury	Factors associated with sharing health information in ethnocultural communities: A rapid review – Naeem
1:54 p.m.	One-and-a-half Generation Filipinx Youth in Metro Vancouver: Narratives of Negotiating Ethno-Cultural Identities – Maria Socorro Mangila-Nguyen and Christine Walsh	Identifying mental wellbeing needs for non-health essential workers during recent epidemics and pandemics: An integrative review – Chowdhury, Kainth, Godlu, Farinas, Sikdar, Lake and Chowdhury
02:00 p.m. – 02:30 p.m.	Roundtable Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021 <i>Mobilizing Knowledge on Newcomers: Future Steps</i>	
02:30 p.m. – 03:30 p.m.	“Work in progress” consultation panel Zoom Room 1 Passcode: nrn2021	
	Racism in Canadian Media as a Social Determinant of Refugee Psychosocial Wellness – Naidu, Paolucci and Chowdhury	
	Vulnerabilities and Capacities of Filipino Workers Quarantining During Workplace COVID-19 Outbreaks in Cargill, Alberta – Patria, Fernandez and Chowdhury	
	The Role of Ethnic Media in Promoting Health Literacy among Canadian Minorities – Tayyab, Chowdhury and Chowdhury.	

Empowering immigrant community through ownership, control, possession and utilization of data: Community Based Health Data Cooperative – Tahir, Chowdhury and Chowdhury.

Developing a program of research at the grassroots community level through meaningful community engagement – Chowdhury

Community Scholar & Citizen Researcher involvement for knowledge co-creation knowledge – Chowdhury

Individual-, community-, and organizational health literacy: the need of centralized, integrated, and multifaceted health & wellness literacy efforts for racialized/immigrant communities – Chowdhury, Chowdhury and Petermann.

Plenary Presentations

Reflections on Conducting Research with Immigrant and Refugee Communities

9:15-9:55 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Presenters | *David Este*, University of Calgary, Professor Emeritus of Social Work

Abstract | During my career with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary, most of the research that I engaged in focus on different areas/domains related to the immigrant/refugees primarily in Calgary as well as urban centers such as Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Winnipeg.

In this presentation I will share the following:

1. Introduce myself and briefly talk about how I got started doing research with these communities
2. Talk about my research experience: This will include introducing some of the projects I have undertaken, the populations who have been involved in the various studies and some of the specific areas of focus.
3. Reflect on lessons learned in conducting research with immigrant and refugee communities

University/ Community Partnerships for Research and Learning

12:45- 1:00 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Presenters | Alyse Pearce, Jessica O'Connell, Laurel Sherriff, Natalie Wilkinson-Houghton, Travis Milnes, Joanne Fung

Abstract | In this presentation, representatives from the Knowledge Engagement team, the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies will share the many ways that community organizations and the University can partner for research and learning opportunities. This session will be of interest to representatives from community organizations as well as University faculty and staff. By the end of the session, participants will understand options for partnership in the areas of graduate internships, work integrated learning, capstone courses, and research projects. Participants will also learn of support services for their partnered endeavours and who to contact for more information.

Alyse Pearce, Knowledge Engagement Coordinator, Research Services | alyse.pearce@ucalgary.ca
Contact me about matchmaking and collaboration support for community-partnered research projects.

Jessica O'Connell, Manager, Experiential Learning, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning | jessica.oconnell@ucalgary.ca

Reach out to me to learn more about experiential learning and our Office at UCalgary! I can support or connect you to individuals and units across campus that support all types of experiential (EL) or work-integrated learning (WIL)! I can support with partnership brokering or connections, supporting evaluation and reporting needs for all courses or programs with EL/WIL, value-add wrap around skills modules or pedagogical supports for new and existing courses. If you are interested in partnering with UCalgary in EL, or are faculty/staff interested in learning more about our Office, I'm happy to help!

Laurel Sherriff, Community-Engaged Learning Specialist, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning | laurel.sherriff@ucalgary.ca

Contact me about curricular and co-curricular community-engaged learning, course design & integration, identifying and developing community partnerships for teaching and learning, CEL project development, assessment & evaluation, and critical reflection.

Natalie Wilkinson-Houghton, Business Development Specialist, Faculty of Graduate Studies | nw.houghton@ucalgary.ca

Contact me about engaging with graduate student interns and tapping into the talent of tomorrow's leaders and innovators.

Travis Milnes, Specialist, Campus as a Learning Lab, Office of Sustainability | travis.milnes@ucalgary.ca

Students, staff, faculty, and community members can contact me about getting involved in sustainability-focused experiential learning opportunities and how to bring their sustainability ideas to life.

Joanne Fung, Program Coordinator, CDCl, Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning | funj@ucalgary.ca
Contact me about undergraduate research initiatives in the College of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation.

Oral Presentation Abstracts

A Systematic Integrative Literature Review of the Benefits, Challenges, and Approaches towards a Community Based Knowledge Engagement Hub

10:00 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Jasleen Brar, Nashit Chowdhury, Ayisha Khalid, Mary O'Brien, Christine Walsh, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Current knowledge production, mobilization, and translation efforts are concentrated in academic institutions. Knowledge engagement/mobilization hubs allow for interdisciplinary collaboration between knowledge producers, mobilizers, and users to develop more relevant and effective research practices as well as increase community capacity in terms of knowledge production.

Objective: To summarize existing primary literature on knowledge hubs and to identify the benefits, challenges, and ways to address challenges when developing knowledge hubs.

Methods: This study followed an integrative, systematic literature review design. We identified admissible studies based on predetermined inclusion criteria, followed an open coding method to conduct a thematic analysis, summarise, and report the results.

Results: Knowledge hubs have a multitude of benefits for the key stakeholders involved: academics, communities, service providers, and policy makers. From improving dissemination processes, more effective community interventions, informed care, to newly developed policy assessment tools, knowledge hubs allow for varied benefits for the diverse collaborators involved. Challenges when developing knowledge hubs are generally present for the whole group of stakeholders, rather than for individuals, and typically pertain to funding, resources, and conflicting perspectives. Thus, as challenges affect most stakeholders together, strategies to address these difficulties are best executed in partnership rather than individually.

Conclusion: This study informs the development of future knowledge hubs through identification of the benefits, challenges, and strategies to mitigate challenges when developing knowledge hubs. This study addresses a literature gap regarding comparisons of knowledge hubs and stakeholder experiences.

The Experience of a Newcomer Leading a Grassroots Community Project: The Immigrant Community Garden

10:15 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Celina Boothby, Sneha Sebastian, Samina Khan, Kara Patterson, Huiming Yang

Abstract | Background: From 2012 to 2017 the Lethbridge College held a community garden in collaboration with Lethbridge Family Services and a group of Bhutanese refugees. However, in 2018, the project stopped, and the Bhutanese community did not find an alternative space to continue gardening.

Approach: An international student, recently arrived in Canada, led the creation of a network that aimed to facilitate gardening space to immigrants and create a new community garden that prioritizes the participation of newcomers and vulnerable populations from the immigrant community.

Observations: Communication with the local organization was initially difficult. Trust was faster build when larger meetings were held with previously known local leaders and organizations. Then, each part worked autonomously toward common goals.

Conclusions: Having a newcomer starting a local network is a complex endeavour. Familiarity and trust are essential elements in collaboration. Sharing orchestration with local leaders and organizations represents a shortcut to networking and action.

Understanding Housing Inequities through the Lens of Anti-Black Racism in Canada and their Implications for Refugee Mental Health.

10:30 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Regine King, Marie-Jolie Rwigema

Abstract | Background: The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has recognized that anti-Black racism is a significant determinant of mental health and well-being. While issues of housing and racism has been extensively discussed, the interactive effects of anti-Black racism, housing and mental health have not called enough attention.

Methods: We used Group Concept Mapping methods to bring together a total of 174 stakeholders including community leaders, volunteers, and service providers to synthesize ideas of actions that need to be taken to promote the health and mental health of Black refugees in Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta. The generated idea statements were further sorted and rated in order of importance and ideas seen in action (or implementation) by a group of 51 participants.

Results: In this presentation, we will present the findings that emphasize the close connection between housing, anti-Black racism, and mental health. We found that when ranking which social determinants were most important in addressing the mental health of Black refugees in Canada, there were significant discrepancies between the perceptions of Black community members as compared to the perceptions of professional service providers. Specifically, community leaders and informal support persons with lived experience of anti-Black racism ranked housing as one of the most important and least addressed issues in terms of mental health equity for Black communities, while service providers ranked it as one of the least important and most addressed issue.

Conclusion: Our presentation will discuss the relevance and implications of these discrepancies among stakeholders. Housing is a significant mental health and racial equity issue. Associated recommendations for policy makers and practitioners grounded in the needs and perspectives of Black newcomers living in Canada will be discussed.

A Critical Incident Study Examining the Factors That Influence Child Language Brokering in 5 Arabic-Speaking Newcomer Families and the Application of the Findings to an Educational Workshop Series.

10:45 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Walaa Katoue, Anusha Kassan, Geneca Henry, Erica Amery, Cesar Suva, Michelle Zak

Abstract | A key factor in the integration of newcomers in Canadian society is in their capacity to overcome the language barrier and to communicate effectively. While many newcomers work hard to increase their acquisition of the English language, their children often learn English at a faster rate and essentially become their translators. This common practice is known as Child Language Brokering (CLB) and can take place in a variety of settings (medical, legal, educational, etc.).

To better understand this phenomenon, we designed a study aimed at understanding the psychological, interpersonal, and societal impacts which influence CLB among newcomer families. Specifically, we employed the Enhanced Critical Incident Technique to investigate the factors that help, hinder and are desirable in the promotion of CLB. We collected data with five Arabic speaking families, conducting an in-depth semi-structured qualitative interview with one parent and one child.

Analysis of the interviews yielded over 33 critical incidents, including factors such as language proficiency, relational quality, affective reactions and psychological attributes. The results from this study were used to produce the content for a series of workshops on CLB hosted by a local settlement and educational center for newcomers. The objective of the program was to improve the CLB experience for newcomers, facilitate the enhancement of family dynamics, and aid in their acculturation by offering guidance to families as they navigate Canadian society.

Addressing the Changing Needs of Immigrant and Refugee Seniors Before and During COVID-19

11:00 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Sherrisa Celis, Sabita Basnet

Abstract | Introduction: Older adults are vulnerable, specifically the older immigrant population. Based on the 2016 census, 31% of the total seniors' population over 65 year old are immigrant seniors. It is not easy for newcomer seniors to adapt in a new environment specially if they do not have the support needed. There are various factors that make the life of newcomer seniors very challenging: language, finances, transportation, housing, access to services, to name a few. Without the proper support, it leads to isolation and sometimes to elder abuse. We need to understand the story of the immigrant seniors to serve them better.

Methods: The Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) has two seniors programs that work collaboratively to enhance seniors' connections and maximize resources. The programs involve immigrant seniors and the broader community in a variety of educational and social events, volunteerism and special projects. It also matches newcomers with volunteers to support the resettlement and integration process. New immigrant seniors (permanent residents/refugee claimants) are also supported towards social engagement and English language learning.

Results: COVID 19 has greatly impacted the seniors and claimed lives. As the pandemic evolves, CCIS continues to serve the vulnerable older adults. It continues to strengthen its objective of reducing social isolation by providing emotional support to immigrant seniors through the various online platforms. COVID 19 likewise brought positive outcomes based on the stories of the seniors. Many of them are happier because they are spending more time with their family and have enough time for self-care.

Conclusion: CCIS is serving the immigrant seniors through serving culturally sensitive programs. These services were continued through the COVID 19 pandemic situations also.

“There Must Be a System in Place to Help Them Succeed in School.”: Patterns of Systemic Racism in Refugee Education Experiences

11:15 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Samantha Meza-Tejada, Maimuna Khan, Yahya El-Lahib, Henry Parada, Kaltrina Kusari

Abstract | Background: In this presentation, we share stories from refugees of war-torn countries and settlement service providers in Calgary, Alberta that participated in the Journey Home Project.

Methods: Examined from critical feminism and human security theoretical frameworks, this project used institutional ethnography, interviews and focus groups to map out the settlement journey and interrogate the ways refugees from war-torn countries are constructed, interpreted, and managed.

Results: Findings suggest that struggles faced by refugees to learn the English language, attend primary and secondary schooling, and advance their education in Canada is directly related to their subjectivities as displaced refugees. Our findings suggest that patterns of systemic racism exist within the educational system and services in ways that shape the access to educational opportunities that refugees obtain, and which limits their chances of academic success and integration. Our findings also display the homogenous construction of refugees’ academic attainment opportunities that then generate pre-determined expectations and the ways their academic knowledge and skills are measured and qualified by educational systems and services.

Conclusion: We conclude this presentation by summarizing our key findings and offering recommendations for social work and other helping professions involved in settlement and integration practices to resist systemic racism and change the narrative about refugee’s educational experiences in Canada.

Challenges of Inclusion of Muslim Female Students in Social Work Programs in Western Canada

11:30 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Saleema Salim, Christine Walsh

Abstract | Introduction: Canada is known globally as a multicultural country, yet multiple studies have indicated that Muslim Canadians believe discrimination, based on their religious beliefs, is common. What is less well-understood is the experience of discrimination of Muslim students in post-secondary settings, particularly in social work.

Research Questions: What are the experiences of Muslim female students with regards to discrimination inclusion/exclusion, social justice, and equity in social work programs in Western Canada? How do the experiences of Muslim female students in social work programs in Western Canada impact their lives?

Methods: The study used a qualitative descriptive phenomenological design. Twelve Muslim female students currently enrolled in or recent graduates (within the past two years) of university social work programs in Western Canada were recruited using convenience sampling methods. Semi-structured exploratory interviews were conducted between September and November 2020 and the phenomenological approach was used for data analysis.

Results: Study participants identified experiences of exclusion, stereotyping, and discrimination. A number of challenges, such as the lack of diversity, lack of awareness by professors and students were faced by Muslim female students. These findings could better inform educators and policymakers in formulating culturally appropriate policies to increase diversity and inclusion and to promote inter-cultural education in Canadian Universities.

Familial Experiences with School Integration: An Arts-based Engagement Ethnography

11:45 AM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Rahat Zaidi, Anusha Kassan, Patti Trussler, Rabab Mukred, Michelle Zak, Mahnoor Khan

Abstract | Within 15 years, Statistics Canada (2017) predicts that more than 30% of individuals living in Canada will be part of a visible minority. The education system plays an important role in the overall experiences of this demographic, and particularly their children, often identifying the school as their initial point of personal contact with their host country. Using an arts-based engagement ethnography, a methodology designed to engage participants more meaningfully in order to capture their cultural practices and social lives in the context of their complex experiences the study explores newcomer familial experiences during the COVID-19 epidemic as they set up their lives in Canada, specifically within the context of school. Six families participated in the study. They had immigrated from Ethiopia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Yemen, and Syria. The principal objective of this study was to provide context to ignite a dialogue within the educational community by repositioning newcomers' narratives. This involved having them focus on recounting their experiences through a strength-based lens. Results indicate families were motivated to share their experiences, and established positive connections to the school, which provided them with a sense of belonging and purpose, while also nurturing their well-being and mental health. This indicated a promising point of entry for newcomer youth and their families. There was a sense of identity, purpose, religious beliefs, and solid relationships within the community. Where the responses were negative, they ranged from misunderstandings of school/cultural expectations to issues of identity, and challenges fitting in with the new community and culture. Systemic implications of this research include the criticality in addressing the academic and psychosocial needs of newcomers (e.g., improving teacher training/preparation programs). This can be accomplished by increasing awareness of newcomer families' lived experiences, creating programming that is holistic, and providing additional supports to help newcomers overcome anxiety and isolation.

Settlement and Integration of Skilled Immigrants: Implications for Social Work Education and Field Training

12:00 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Vibha Kaushik

Abstract | Background: To assist immigrants and to advocate for them, it is very important for social workers to be aware of the challenges faced by various classes of immigrants. Skilled immigrants are economically motivated, professionally trained and vocationally oriented; however, many face significant challenges in their social and economic integration in Canada.

Methods: This is a mixed methods study that examines the settlement and integration needs of skilled immigrants. Qualitative data provides an in-depth exploration of the settlement and integration needs of skilled immigrants as understood by immigrant serving agencies, and the quantitative data focuses on gaining an understanding about the areas of unmet settlement and integration needs as experienced by skilled immigrants. Analysis focuses on understanding the settlement and integration needs of skilled immigrants and identifying the gaps in services offered by the major immigrant serving agencies in Calgary.

Results: Findings enhance our understanding of challenges faced by skilled immigrants and highlight the need of raising awareness of the current issues and systemic barriers faced by skilled immigrants resulting in underemployment, eventually leading to the brain-waste of highly educated and professionally well-experienced immigrants.

Conclusion: Implications of findings for social work education and training, including field education will be discussed and recommendations will be made for social work programs and field training. The paper argues that social work must re-examine the curricula and emphasizes the need to develop creative field training opportunities to prepare future social workers for supporting skilled immigrants as they seek to settle and integrate in Canada.

Creating Health Equity in Cancer Screening (CHECS): Developing Strategies for Underscreened Populations through Community Engagement

10:00 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Celina Boothby, Sneha Sebastian, Samina Khan, Kara Patterson, Huiming Yang

Abstract | Background: The East and Northeast areas of Calgary, Alberta experience higher material deprivation and lower breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening rates. This project aimed to reduce inequities in cancer screening in these areas by engaging with community members and health workers to better understand reasons and motivations for screening for cancer. The results of this engagement informed the co-design of an outreach strategy aimed at increasing cancer screening awareness, and ultimately participation.

Methods: Community members and health workers were recruited through Facebook and partner organizations and participated in virtual focus groups and interviews, respectively. Focus groups were provided in five different languages: Malayalam, Punjabi, Urdu, Tigrinya, and English. Qualitative analysis of the engagement results was completed using NVivo software and was coded independently by two researchers using an inductive approach.

Results: Fourteen focus groups were conducted with 69 participants. Fifty-one were South Asian, 13 Caucasian, and five East African. There were 57 females and 12 males aged between 25 and 60 years (average 45). Five themes were identified: knowledge, benefits vs. harms, motivations & deterrents, health information, and awareness. Fifteen interviews were conducted with 21 participants from varied health professions. Four themes were identified: cultural differences, who/how provide information, make education relatable, and make education accessible. Conclusion. Utilizing the feedback from the engagement, a multi-component outreach strategy was co-designed and included a translated awareness-building video series, a social media campaign leveraging partner channels, and a health worker information package with resources to assist with informed cancer screening discussions.

Survivors of Daesh: Characterization of Health Conditions among Yazidi Refugees Resettled to Canada

10:15 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Nour Hassan, Annalee Coakley, Ibrahim Almasri, Rachel Talavlikar, Michael Aucoin, Rabina Grewal, Kerry McBrian, Paul Ronksley, Gabriel Fabreau

Abstract | Background: Yazidi refugees, an ethno-religious minority from Iraq and Syria, were resettled to Canada between 2017 and 2018 after experiencing mass displacement, genocide, and enslavement by the Islamic State (Daesh). The health status of resettled Yazidi refugees is unknown. We characterize the mental and physical health conditions of Yazidi refugees in Calgary.

Methods: We performed a cross-sectional study of resettled Yazidi refugees seen between 2017 and 2018 at the Mosaic Refugee Health Clinic in Calgary, Canada. Sociodemographic and medical diagnosis data were extracted through chart review of electronic medical records. We investigated the sociodemographic characteristics and prevalence of physical and mental health conditions stratified by age groups and by sex among adults. We then conducted an exploratory analysis consulting five expert clinicians to identify specific health conditions that may be linked to Daesh exposure.

Results: We included 242 Yazidi refugees with a median age of 19.5 [IQR 10-30] years and 58.3% were female. Approximately half (51.2%) of the sample had direct exposure to Daesh. The most prevalent diagnoses were symptoms and signs (ICD10 chapter 18, 49.6%), nutritional diseases (37.8%), mental and behavioral disorders (33.5%), infectious diseases (30.9%), and musculoskeletal diseases (28.7%). Through clinician consensus, conditions of mental health (32.2%), suspected somatization (48.3%) and sexual and physical violence (11.3%) were identified as likely attributable to Daesh exposure.

Conclusion: Yazidi refugees resettled to Calgary are mentally, socially, and clinically complex. Given the high prevalence of both physical and mental health conditions, healthcare delivery for this traumatized population requires a holistic multidisciplinary approach.

"Hear Me to Know What Matters": Insights to Action Addressing Inequities of COVID-19 Care Experienced by the Socially Vulnerable

10:30 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Saugata Chakraborty, Annalee Coakley

Abstract | It has been said that COVID-19 places us in the same storm, but in different boats. High River meat packing plant COVID19 outbreak in April 2020 is a study on how socio-ethno-economic factors can play a vital role in COVID-19 spread. 1,560 cases were linked to the plant with 936 employees (out of 1,700) testing positive. Many meatpacking plant workers are newly arrived immigrants and temporary foreign workers. An innovative care pathway (ECIP) emerged to rapidly close the existing gap between primary care and social support agencies to successfully mitigate the spread. Nearly 2,163 households were addressed. 98% of COVID+ employees never saw acute care. Co-designed recruitment strategies with patient advisors played a vital role in gaining trust among impacted communities to share their socio-clinical care experiences. Crucial insights from 41 patient stories were a significant motivator in harnessing the collective potential through collaboration between Government of Alberta, Primary Care Networks and Alberta Health Services in arranging on-site vaccinations at 5 meatpacking plants in the Calgary Zone. Over 3,000 workers were efficiently mass vaccinated in a span of 7 days. Patient experience was overwhelmingly positive. Importantly, ease of vaccine access is trending to be a factor that may positively impact vaccine hesitancy.

Utilization of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) for COVID-19 Response in Multi-cultural Communities

10:45 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Deidre Lake, Nashit Chowdhury, Edna Ramirez Cerino

Abstract | The dissemination and consumption of misinformation referred to as the ‘infodemic’ spiked exponentially since the COVID-19 pandemic. The Internet, social media, and other communication platforms have eroded traditional health communication strategies by allowing misinformation to diffuse faster than ever before. This infodemic has made public health communication extremely difficult, especially in the multi-cultural Canadian population fabric largely due to language and cultural differences.

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are those who received their medical training outside North America are mostly underutilized. The majority of them are immigrants from various socio-cultural backgrounds. Having formal medical training, years of experience, and diverse backgrounds made them a perfect fit for supporting the COVID-19 response for various ethnic communities in Canada.

The Alberta International Medical Graduates Association (AIMGA) is a non-profit organization funded to support the integration of IMGs in their professional integration. At the onset of the pandemic, AIMGA sought opportunities in community where IMGs could provide supports towards the fight against COVID-19. AIMGA was initially called upon by Alberta Health Services to support employees and their families in meatpacking plants where large outbreaks had occurred. AIMGA’s COVID Response team was formed which has grown to include over 125 members.

The IMGs have worked as health brokers/navigators in collaboration with newcomer service provider organizations, provincial health service providers, primary care networks, and employers. They have supported activities of the Calgary East-zone Newcomers Collaborative (CENC), ActionDignity, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS), and other organizations by providing multi-lingual COVID-19 educational supports, evidence-based vaccine-related information, updates on the changing public health restrictions and the provincial vaccine rollout, along with informational sessions (Q&A sessions, presentations, townhalls) on COVID-19 and the vaccines. They made calls to employees and newcomer clients to address COVID-19 concerns and vaccine hesitancy. They’ve worked in the community and supported vaccine clinics to increase vaccine uptake. AIMGA also supported the onboarding of over 80 IMGs employed by Alberta Health Services as contact-tracers who played a crucial role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta.

This model of the utilization of IMGs in the community is unique across North America and has proven effective. In this session, we will explore the model further, the impact on the community, lessons learned, and future applications to support communities and our healthcare system.

A Case Study of the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Response: Serving Racialized Immigrant Communities

11:00 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Cesar Suva, Jingzhou Liu, Erika Sigurdson, Jeremy John Escobar Torio

Abstract | Drawing on Calgary East-Zone Immigrants Collaborative (CENC) as a case study, this research examines the role of settlement organizations as part of the collaboration in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Calgary. Adopted a community-based and cross-sectoral model of crisis response that addresses community connections (Eisenman et al., 2007; Leong et al., 2015) and temporary partnerships between multiple stakeholders (Bryson et al., 2006), findings in this study highlight the following perspectives: First, settlement organizations have a culturally diverse, multilingual staff, and extensive experience communicating with non-English speakers, crucial resources that were mobilized and translated for COVID-19 crisis response. These contexts facilitated CENC to demonstrate services with linguistic and cultural capacities, offer culturally appropriate food delivery, and provide culturally competent financial assistance and guidance. Second, settlement organizations between state agencies and grassroots communities were formed through one-on-one and small group conversation initiatives and pivoted for facilitating a crisis response to form long-established trust relations with immigrant communities. Thirdly, the CENC response involved in large part a repurposing of settlement organizations' existing logistical and technological capabilities or infrastructure from financial literacy and job training services to public assistance benefits and unemployment support services, database infrastructure to referral systems, and catering to food delivery to meet shorter-term needs brought on by the pandemic. This study concludes that public agencies' rapid crisis response support merged with settlement organizations' settlement support for more integrated services that were responsive to urgent needs unique to the COVID-19 pandemic and particular to specific needs unique to immigrant communities.

Adapting and Developing Child Health Knowledge Translation Tools for Diverse Communities: Exploring Cultural Considerations and End-User Preferences

11:15 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Sarah Elliott, Shannon Scott, Kelsey Wright, Lisa Hartling

Abstract | Background: Exploring cultural considerations for adaption and development of knowledge translation tools (KT) may promote relevance for previously underserved knowledge users. Our objective was to explore and understand considerations for cultural adaption of our co-developed parent KT tools for French, Filipino, Indigenous and Somali communities.

Methods: For French and Tagalog speaking parents, we showed them a culturally and linguistically adapted whiteboard animation video on croup and conducted interviews to understand its relevance and usability. To assess usability of KT tools for Somali and Indigenous parents, community healthcare providers and knowledge brokers were interviewed for their perspectives on several KT tools varying in format. Interview audio recordings were transcribed verbatim, and analyzed for relevant themes using thematic analysis.

Results: 13 French and 13 Filipino parents completed the usability survey and were interviewed. 18 healthcare providers who serve Indigenous families, and 13 healthcare providers who serve Somali families participated in interviews. All groups reported that the KT tools would be most successful with audio in the native languages of the communities served. Participants cautioned using verbatim vocabulary and suggested that cultural competency and understanding of health language was essential for high quality translations. Participants emphasized the importance of assessing access to services and resources in the target knowledge users and matching visuals in KT products to more broadly represent the community.

Conclusion: Participants suggested that culturally and linguistically adapted KT tools improved relatability and communication of health messages, which is an important consideration for the development and adaption of future KT products.

Exploring Culturally Appropriate Ways of Supporting Newcomers to Canada: A Collaborative Family Intervention Model for Child Protection

11:30 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Sara Torres, Stephanie Fernandez, Kathi Campbell, Yvonne Chiu, Monique Nutter, Harleen Jhinger

Abstract | Background: The newcomer communities in the Edmonton region identified the gaps in their experience with Children’s Services including the need for cultural and linguistic interpretation and support systems when dealing with child welfare authorities. The Collaborative Family Intervention Model between the Multicultural Health Brokers Coop (MCHB) and the Edmonton Region’s Children’s Services examined in this presentation seeks to respond to the call from the communities to fill those gaps. This presentation is part of a larger research project exploring the ‘intermediary’ role that Cultural Brokers play in negotiating the relationship between newcomer families and child welfare workers.

Methods: We analyzed 61 Collaborative Family Intervention Model documents using a Grounded Theory approach, which shed light on how the Collaborative Model emerged, its transformation over the last decade, and its current capacity to respond to newcomers dealing with child protection.

Results: Preliminary results elucidate: the social factors that bring newcomer families into contact with child welfare authorities (poverty, violence against women); the key elements of the practice of MCHB Cultural Brokers and Children’s Services workers, which help prevent entry or re-entry of children into provincial care (building trust); the past and current policies of MCHB and Children’s Services (joint protocols); and, future plans to expand the Collaborative Model.

Conclusions: Analysis to date indicates that the Collaborative Model is generally meeting the needs of newcomer communities, but external and internal factors ought to be addressed to better support these communities and better prevent the entry or re-entry of children and youth into provincial care.

Human Trafficking in Newcomer Populations: Prevention, Intervention, and Research

11:45 AM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Amanda Warnock

Abstract | The Action Coalition on Human Trafficking (ACT Alberta) is Alberta's oldest longest standing anti-human trafficking organization, providing victim services and collaborating with local, provincial, and national partners to identify, respond to, and prevent human trafficking now and in the future. We operate on an evidence-based, person-centered, and human-rights mandate that is inclusive to all communities, persons, and experiences - remaining respectful and accountable to vulnerable populations who are most at-risk of human trafficking and related exploitation.

This presentation aims to address human trafficking prevention, intervention, and research efforts in newcomer populations - with special emphasis on policy and program activities intended to identify and respond to cases within (and in transit to) Canada. Attendees will learn how to best protect the health, wellness, and safety of vulnerable and trafficked persons, and how to effectively advocate for responsible and respectful responses.

The presentation will be broken into fourths, as reflected in the following template:

Background: Introduction to human trafficking; specific vulnerabilities within newcomer populations; trends, typologies, and incidence of human trafficking in Alberta

Methods: Canadian responses and legislation to combat human trafficking; assessments, screening tools, and best practice guidelines (including ACT Alberta's process); engaging with vulnerable communities and partner organizations

Results: Identification of clients' needs and barriers to care; service gaps and areas for improvement; successes and challenges working with newcomer populations

Conclusion: possible solutions to best support victims in a trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and empowered way; suggestions include recommendations for policy, programs, and research.

New Immigrant Workers and their Perspectives on the Occupational Health and Safety Aspects of their Jobs

12:00 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Janki Shankar, Shawn Joseph

Abstract | Background: New immigrants make an essential contribution to Canada's economic and social development. They not only fill in the gap in the labor force arising from a decline in Canada's working age population, but contribute to Canada's economy by paying taxes, spending money on goods, housing and transportation. Yet new immigrants are one of most vulnerable sections of the Canadian society. Unable to gain entry into Canada's strictly regulated professions and trades, several skilled and qualified new immigrants take up precarious jobs without adequate training, thereby increasing their risk for occupational injuries and illnesses when compared with native-born workers often doing the same job in the same industry.

Methods: In-depth qualitative interviews (n= 40) were conducted with new immigrant workers from a range of industries operating in two cities in Alberta, to learn more about their work conditions. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results: Findings reveal several safety concerns that the study participants had and the impact of these on their health and well-being. Conclusion: Based on the insights of study participants, policies and practices are proposed that will lead to improved occupational health and safety outcomes for new immigrant workers.

Poster Presentation Abstracts

Scaling the Great Wall of Canada: Technological Solutions for More Accessible and Equitable Language Proficiency Testing

1:00 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | M. Gregory Tweedie, Saina Kiani, Anika Tabassum

Abstract | This presentation refers to the current language testing regime as "The Great Wall of Canada" to describe the barriers of cost, time and effort newcomers face, caused by language proficiency testing. The presenters will introduce a machine learning and data-driven software application, arising out of our research in language test variability, which aims to reduce the burdens of cost and time to newcomers. Through the predictive capability of machine learning algorithms, users of the application may access an estimate of relative success in language proficiency test type, test score, test location, and test preparation. This presentation will introduce the research background and context leading to the development of the software application. An overview of machine learning (ML) technologies will follow, accompanied by an explanation of how ML functions in recognising predictive patterns in newcomers' self-reported language test data. The presenters will also discuss critical questions regarding ML's predictive capacity for language test takers and test users, including algorithmic bias in digitizing linguistic prejudice, and matters of data privacy.

Chinese Student Newcomers' Transition to a Canadian Postsecondary EAP Program: Pre- and Post-Departure Comparison

1:06 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Chuanmei Lin

Abstract | The study investigates the cultural and linguistic lived experiences of Chinese international student newcomers in a Canadian postsecondary English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program and whether or not intercultural transformations occur in English learning. As Chinese English learners are immersed in the Canadian tertiary education settings, their normative assumptions about knowledge will be challenged. However, they have experienced an integration by applying different biculturalism strategies, which is characterized by selective acculturation (Schwartz, Ángel Cano, & Zamboanga, 2015). In this study, Chinese-dominant biculturalism marks a simultaneous response to the host culture when participants have limited English proficiency and little contact with the Canadian larger society; while Canadian-dominant biculturalism contains a fluctuate psychological adjustment of loss-transformation-reclamation after participants experienced marginalization. This article aims to delineate Chinese students' transition trajectories for home and host educational authorities to understand and provide pre-departure and post-departure support to the Chinese students as they will complete their studies internationally.

Resilience during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Vulnerabilities and Capacities of International Students

1:12 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Ayisha Khalid, Jessica Naidu, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the vulnerabilities of marginalized groups such as migrants, ethnic minorities, and low socioeconomic populations. International students are often members of these marginalized groups. Yet, international students' vulnerabilities and capacities during disasters remain overlooked. The aim of this study was to explore the material, social, and attitudinal vulnerabilities and capacities of international students studying at a postsecondary institution in Calgary, Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: We conducted a qualitative descriptive study involving 11 semi-structured interviews with international students who were studying at a postsecondary institution in Calgary at the time the pandemic disrupted in-person learning. Data were analyzed using deductive thematic analysis and guided by the Capacities and Vulnerabilities Analysis framework.

Results: International students' material vulnerabilities included balancing finances, housing conditions, lack of information, food inaccessibility, reliance on public transport, and poor mental health. Social vulnerabilities included lack of social support, culture shock, and racism, and attitudinal vulnerabilities included feeling there is "nowhere to go", feeling like a burden, and perceiving Canada as safe. Material capacities included financial support, knowledge about pandemic, and mental health supports. Social capacities included local social support and multilingualism, and attitudinal capacities included resilience, religious and spiritual beliefs, the perception that "it's not just about you", and reflexivity.

Conclusion: While international students were vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, their capacities uniquely facilitated their ability to cope. International students' capacities should be leveraged in disaster responses to sustainably alleviate their vulnerabilities.

Multicultural and Social Justice Counselling Competencies in Psychology Training: A Study on How to Transfer Knowledge into Practice with Newcomer Communities

1:18 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Veronica Kenny, Emma Martin, Helia Jafari, Anusha Kassan, Nancy Arthur

Abstract | Background: Multicultural and social justice counselling competencies represent cornerstones in the discipline of psychology. However, such competencies remain at the conceptual level and graduate students have reported gaps in transferring knowledge into practice (Brown, Collins, & Arthur, 2014; Collins, Arthur, Brown, & Kennedy, 2014). Some psychologists also resist incorporating social justice into their professional identity (Fouad, Gerstein, & Toporek, 2006; Kennedy & Arthur, 2014), which is problematic when supervising newcomer students and/or working with newcomer clients.

Aims: The goal of this study was to identify critical components involved in the development of students and supervisors' multicultural and social justice counselling competencies in order to prepare them to work with diverse clients, such as those from newcomer communities.

Methods: An Enhanced Critical Incident Technique (ECIT; Butterfield, Borgen, Maglio, & Amundson, 2009) was utilized to understand factors that help, hinder, and are desirable in the development of students and supervisors' multicultural and social justice counselling competencies.

Results: The results revealed 69 critical incidents, which included five categories: Supervisee, Supervisor, Practicum Site, Counselling Psychology Program and Time. Each category included subcategories and results show that there are multiple factors that impact the development of culture-infused counselling supervision. It is imperative that we address multicultural and social justice awareness and competence at all levels of development if we are to prepare counselling students to work with newcomer clients.

Conclusion: This study has implications for psychology programs who are tasked with infusing training in the area of multicultural and social justice counselling competencies. Specifically, the study will inform professional development and training, and service delivery for those who work in multicultural settings and for those who support newcomers.

Welcoming Newcomers with Open Arms: CBE Welcome Centre Partnerships

1:24 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Moe Rachid, Bobby Schmidt, Sandy Pearse

Abstract | For many years, the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) Welcome Centre (formerly known as Kingsland) has been the first line of reception for Calgary newcomer-families and has assisted them in creating strong community ties. The CBE Welcome Centre and its partners provide invaluable services to immigrants and refugees in terms of school registration, social support, and full integration that expedites the families' ability to find work, seek medical care, and benefit from government programs and resources.

The processes are quite simple yet robust in that families are guided through every step while receiving wrap-around supports tailored to their needs. In the spirit of "Mobilizing Knowledge on Newcomers", the poster will feature the processes and partnerships between the CBE Welcome Centre and service-providing partners:

- Calgary Catholic Immigrant Society which oversees the Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre; and
- Immigrant Services Calgary which supports with language and numeracy assessments of learners while also connecting parents to Gateway (a community of collaborative organizations and partners that offers newcomers one landing place to connect them to a variety of needs-based services).

The poster will also highlight other CBE supports such as Diversity Learning Support Advisors who provide culturally and linguistically appropriate professional services, Language Interpreters, and the CBE Literacy, English and Academic Development (LEAD) program. The CBE English Language Learning Specialist determines which newcomers are best suited for this specialized program. In LEAD, students with limited formal schooling receive intensive supports and services in a sheltered, trauma-sensitive setting.

Mapping the Research Landscape of Older Newcomer Housing Insecurity and Homelessness in Canada

1:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Vibha Kaushik, Jill Hoselton, Christine Walsh

Abstract | Background: Canada's older adult population is expected to grow more than double over the next few decades. Canada's newcomer population is also growing rapidly. Mirroring the pattern of population growth, the population of older newcomer is also expected to increase rapidly. Studies have found important linkages between newcomers, housing instability, and vulnerability to homelessness. Most of this research, however, has focused on younger cohorts of newcomers, largely excluding older newcomers. Available research supports that older newcomers are more likely to live in poverty and face systemic challenges in accessing services than younger newcomers or Canadian-born.

Methods: The purpose of this literature review is to: (1) to gain an understanding of the existing research and debates surrounding the topic of housing insecurity and homelessness among older newcomers in Canada, (2) to establish if housing insecurity and homelessness among older newcomers has received appropriate attention in the academic literature and public policy statements in Canada, and (3) to create a discourse designed to inform future academic research.

Results: The review highlights the relative neglect by the research community of the issue of homelessness among older newcomers in Canada. This review establishes an urgent need to document the current state of homelessness among older newcomers in Canada and to listen to the voices of older newcomers who are experiencing, or have experienced, housing insecurity or homelessness.

Conclusion: We conclude with a call for a significant discussion of housing insecurity and homelessness among older newcomers in Canada and to mainstream this discussion.

Migrant-Migrant Philanthropy and the Development Nexus in Countries of Resettlement

1:36 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Ajwang Warria, Victor Chikadzi

Abstract | Background: Philanthropy as part of the cultural fabric of many communities is influenced by complex individual, communal and socio-cultural dynamics. Immigrants have long maintained substantial ties to their communities of origin with diaspora philanthropy growing. However, one of the most familiar but least understood giving/engagement is among migrants in countries of resettlement. Although it is not a new phenomenon, this area has received less attention from practitioners, researchers and policy makers. This paper aims to bridge the gaps by highlighting migrant-led giving and its role in development and integration.

Methods: The study applied a qualitative approach. Data was collected from migrants through interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results: Preliminary findings from the study indicate that the philanthropic activities and contributions vary and may be of monetary and/or intangible forms. Furthermore, transnational migrants who have achieved success are more likely to help fellow migrants. The challenges involved in migrant-migrant assistance includes how to achieve scale, sustainability and agenda setting especially if giving is to be measured against their impact on development and integration.

Conclusion: Migrants in countries of resettlement are emerging as the new philanthropists - acting as social innovators, change agents and improving the lives of other migrants through migrant-led initiatives. Migrants' inclination toward giving back can benefit their adopted countries – as it can promote acceptance and inclusiveness and provide a source of positive shared experiences. Governments should explore points of overlap and those that could potentially offer opportunities for collaboration and open up new ways of thinking.

Alternative Career Opportunities Available for Internationally Trained Physicians Living in Canada: An Overview of the Job Profiles

1:42 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Saif Sikdar, Nashit Chowdhury, Deidre Lake, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Internationally trained physicians (ITPs) or international medical graduates (IMGs) living in Canada are those who have received their academic and professional training outside of Canada or the USA. Current rules and regulations have made it extremely difficult for IMGs to get the license to practice in Canada as a physician regardless of their citizenship status and level of training. After going through a highly competitive process, approximately only 15% of Alberta IMG applicants obtain a residency position based on the number of seats allocated to IMGs via AIMGP (263 eligible candidates; 39 seats). This bottleneck situation and the time and cost of re-applying gradually increase frustration among IMGs. Our interest was to look at the employment situation of IMGs in Canada and what viable pathways existed for them if interested in pursuing an alternative career in health. Our research was conducted to identify the factors that IMGs took into consideration when exploring an alternative career and to identify suitable alternative career pathways available for IMGs within Canada in order to advise them accordingly.

Methods: To begin with, we conducted a survey on IMGs regarding their interests in and preferences for alternative careers. Keeping the survey results in mind, we searched for job advertisements and systematically reviewed job descriptions and their qualifications (i.e. regulated versus non-regulated). We also conducted focus groups to extract the key decision-making factors for IMGs in order to identify the alternative jobs that match their interest and skills.

Results: In total, we have identified 192 unique job positions comprising 47 NOC codes that could be suitable for IMGs seeking to begin an alternative career based on the short, intermediate, and long-term goals. These jobs primarily fall into two different categories: clinical (35.42%) and non-clinical (64.58%) jobs. Interestingly, we have found that around 7.35% of clinical and 29.84% of non-clinical job categories do not require any sort of license or approval from any regulatory bodies. Although most other jobs require a certain level of training, certificate, or license from the respective licensing authorities, obtaining those regulatory approvals is more tangible compared to the license to practice as a physician. Strikingly, there are approximately 17.71%, 51.04%, 29.17% and 2.08% unique categories that fall into the entry, middle, and senior-level job positions. We have further classified these job categories according to the job searching preferences of IMGs and collected information on how to qualify for these jobs.

Conclusion: Although more work in this area is needed to integrate IMGs with the job market, we expect that our findings and resources will help IMGs decide on alternative career pathways.

University of Calgary Anti-Racist Engagement: How Students Recognize Racism and Engage in Anti-Racist Practices

1:48 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Jenna Naja Salem, Sarika Haque, Sara Abou Hussein, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Racism is the oppression of people based on race in a society favoring people of another race. Racism exists on a spectrum and is expressed in many forms including beliefs, attitudes, and stereotypes, etc. The purpose of this study was to determine how the undergraduate students at the University of Calgary (UCalgary) act against racism.

Methods: We conducted a survey using an Anti-Racism Action Scale (ARAS), an 18-item measure, containing three subscales: Interpersonal action, Communal Action, and Political Change, the first two being of focus. Participants (n=306) were recruited primarily through social media to complete the online survey. Descriptive analysis for students' knowledge, practices, and related variables was conducted.

Results: Respondents were of diverse background, including 36.9% Asian/South Asian, 21.9% Arab/Middle Eastern, 16.0% White/European, and 4.2% Black. Among respondents, the majority were females (64.4%). More than 2/3rds of participants reported practicing interpersonal anti-racism actions including talking with friends about issues of race, ethnicity, discrimination and/or segregation (78.7%), and challenging or checking oneself (72.5%), family members (67.6%), or friends (64.4%), when using a racial slur or making a racial joke. On the contrary, low participation was observed at the communal level action; roughly a 1/3rd of participants attended a meeting on an issue related to race, ethnicity, discrimination, and/or segregation (37.9%), and joined a club or group working on issues related to race, ethnicity, discrimination, and/or segregation (26.5%).

Conclusion: Overall, there were decent amounts of interpersonal action, but more communal level participation is needed to combat racism.

One-and-a-half Generation Filipinx Youth in Metro Vancouver: Narratives of Negotiating Ethno-Cultural Identities

1:54 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Maria Socorro Mangila-Nguyen, Christine Walsh

Abstract | Filipinx migration in Canada, one of the top three sources of new immigrant families in metropolitan communities (Statistics Canada, 2017), is diverse. However, most studies feature adults or service providers. In my narrative inquiry I engaged five one-and-a-half generation (1.5G) Filipinx youth to explore their storied lives of negotiating their ethnic identities in Metro Vancouver. The purpose of this narrative inquiry was to gain insights into the impact of migration and acculturation on Filipinx youth who straddle their country of origin and host country. I focussed on their experiences and capacities to develop and negotiate their identities in various sites of interactions including the nuclear and extended families, peers, school, and larger communities.

Narrative inquiry enabled me to facilitate a respectful process with the participants to tell their stories at their level of readiness in ways that make sense to them, including through art or music or in first languages. This process of unravelling storied lives of young people revealed narrative threads that weave through the stories including tensions in the nuclear and extended families, challenges in seeking help in high school and learning to negotiate their ethnic identities. How the participants shared their stories and manifested their emotions gave insights to disruptions of attachment to the sponsoring parent and primary caregiver(s) in the Philippines. This study reflects the impact of time to reunification of families through migration, personal and social interactions in the sites of interactions. The stories can also inform sponsoring parents, school boards, and various communities on how to engage 1.5G youth in Metro Vancouver.

Use of Social Media and Community Outreach for Immigrant Youth Recruitment during COVID-19

1:00 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Aria Ahadzadeh Ardebili, Whitney Ereyi-Osas, Omar Razavi, Didem Erman, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: When starting any program, it is essential to have an efficient approach of recruitment among your target population. We outline below the approach employed for recruiting immigrant and refugee teens between the ages of 14 and 18 for the Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE) for Health and Wellness summer program.

Methods: We planned for a multi-pronged approach as we anticipated that this approach would be able to touch the largest number of youths, thus increasing our likelihood of having participants. As such, we aimed at placing our recruitment materials in schools, community activities, and social media. We expected that these would be the highest viewed areas during Covid-19. In schools, posters were placed within hallways and were shared by RISE youth volunteers. Social media was employed through the use of weekly Instagram posts regarding health matters and through triweekly stories endorsing the program. Finally, RISE posters had been sent to community and cultural groups throughout Calgary for their distribution.

Results: More than 20 students applied to participate at the beginning of the year whereas only 9 completed the program indicating that some methods were more effective than others. The specific factors are yet to be known and will be found through future focus groups.

Conclusion: Feedback from youth regarding the approach is still needed to understand the most effective approaches used. However, it should be noted that a number of other approaches, such as promotion through a central website and parental engagement, should be taken in the future.

Moving towards Online Youth Engagement through Innovative Approaches during the COVID-19 Pandemic

1:06 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Sukyoung Suzie Lee, Didem Erman, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Introduction: Despite a growing number of immigrants and refugee (IR) youth, a limited knowledge exists concerning the challenges that these youth face that can impact their health. We aimed to address this knowledge gap in two ways. Firstly, we conducted summer education programs for IR youths to increase their knowledge of health and wellness. Secondly, we conducted focus groups and questionnaires with the participants to learn about their challenges. Due to the epidemic of COVID-19, we transitioned to online learning, which required us to come up with creative ways to engage the students.

Methods: We explored a variety of tools by searching for online resources and compiling a list of virtual technologies. We chose and developed our learning innovations based on its capability to engage learners and encourage discussions.

Results: We utilized virtual human libraries to connect learners with diverse community members and hear their lived experiences. Simulations allowed students to experience first-hand and contextualize the learning materials. Lastly, games motivated students to interact with each other and with the lesson in an engaging way.

Conclusion: The pandemic encouraged us to adopt new ways to carry out our learning program and research. Through the experience, we learned that diversified and interactive learning activities are essential for participant engagement, and virtual environment provides the opportunity to connect with diverse individuals. However, online learning may have reduced accessibility for students who do not have the suitable technology or environment. In future, we will address this limitation by making asynchronous study materials available.

Implementing Student Feedback and Youth Engagement in the RISE Summer Curriculum: A Comparative Analysis

1:12 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Amira Kalifa, Maya Eboigbodin, Sanam Sekandary, Jovita Shroff, Thompson Luu, Didem Erman, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Introduction: The RISE program aims to engage with immigrant-refugee community youth to promote health champions and health literacy within their respective communities. We compared the RISE summer curriculum from the past five years to assess how the program has engaged with youth participants and integrated student feedback to improve the curriculum.

Methods: We conducted a comparative analysis of the RISE curriculum spanning 2017 to the present-day to evaluate the impact of our community-based approach on the formation of the following years curriculum. Learning objectives, lesson plans, and materials utilized during sessions each summer were compared to observe the changes made based on student feedback.

Results: Analysis revealed three major themes. First, there was a shift in session topics from more general (i.e., biotechnology) to topics that directly impact the lives of the youth (i.e., sessions on intergenerational trauma and racism). Second, though not all topics were changing across the years (i.e., coping with mental health and nutrition), the objectives and activities were being modified in a more age-appropriate manner and these topics were addressed in a multicultural way. Lastly, sessions were developed in a more participant-orientated way such that the goals of each session were not merely to impart knowledge but also incorporate skill-building exercises.

Conclusion: In the future, it may be worth investigating methods that measure health literacy levels of participants and how they have applied this knowledge within their communities. With these implementations, the RISE program will further empower immigrant and refugee youth towards community health and wellness.

When Cultures Clash: A Critical Review of Dilemmas, Policies, and Practices Surrounding Hymenoplasty in Diasporic Destinations and An Urgent Call for A Patient-centred And Culturally Sensitive Solution

1:18 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Somayyeh Zare, James Cresswell

Abstract | Hymenoplasty is increasingly demanded by women with Islamic backgrounds to meet chastity expectations of virginal bleeding on one's wedding night. This procedure has been surrounded by debates and dilemmas in diasporic destinations. Overall, I will show intercultural insensitivity and confusion surrounding this procedure that highlights an urgent need to consider relationally sensitive and patient-centred solutions. This presentation firstly examines the existing scholarship on the topic to outline current debates about hymenoplasty from medical, ethical, and feminist perspectives. Second, reviewing the studies on the practice of hymenoplasty in different diasporic communities portrays how, in the absence of clear policy and public practice guidelines, the requests for this procedure are dealt with in strikingly various means among healthcare professionals, resulting in the non-systematic and, in some cases, inadequate provision of care. Third, adopting a cultural lens, I dispute the arguments against hymenoplasty and highlight the necessity of both long-term and short-term best practices aimed at ensuring optimal care. And fourth, describing a patient-oriented protocol developed and practiced in the Netherlands as an exemplar, I show how community-researcher partnerships can efficaciously impact policy and practice that contributes to the quality care.

Correlates of Outdoor Time in Children from Families Speaking Non-Official Languages at Home: A Multi-Site Canadian Study

1:24 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Ransimala Nayakarathna, Nimesh Patel, Cheryl Currie, Guy Faulkner, Negin Riazi, Mark Tremblay, Francois Trudeau, Richard Larouche

Abstract | Background: Previous research consistently shows that outdoor time is associated with higher physical activity and children from ethnic minority groups spend less time outdoors. Using data collected in three regions of Canada we explored the correlates of outdoor time among children, who spoke a non-official language at home.

Methods: 1,699 children were recruited from 37 schools stratified by area-level socioeconomic status and type of urbanization. This analysis included 478 children who spoke a non-official language at home. Children's outdoor time and data on potential correlates were collected via child and parent surveys. Weather data was collected from Environment Canada. Gender-stratified linear multiple regression models examined the correlates of outdoor time while controlling for child age and sampling variables (site, urban-type, socioeconomic status).

Results: In boys, higher independent mobility, higher ambient temperature, mobile phone ownership, having younger parents, and having parents who biked to work were associated with more outdoor time. Boys living in suburban (vs urban) areas spent less time outdoors. The association between independent mobility and outdoor time became weaker with increasing age for boys. Girls spent less time outdoors when parents had a high school or lower education level and when parental perceptions of neighborhood safety and neighborhood cohesion were low.

Conclusions: Correlates of outdoor time differ according to gender among non-official-language speaking children in Canada and span through the social-ecological model. If confirmed in future studies, these findings would underscore the need for gender-sensitized interventions to increase children's outdoor time at individual, family, social and physical environmental levels.

Asking Youth: Understanding the Sociocultural Factors that Impact Immigrant Youth Mental Health

1:30 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Adibba Adel, Ini Adeboye, Kaitlyn Paltzat, Karam Senjar, Kim Davarani, Nour Hassan, Sophia Lu, Sukyoung Suzie Lee, Shaminder Singh, Didem Erman, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Introduction: Immigrant and refugee youth comprise one of the largest growing groups in Canada. Studies have shown that immigrant and refugee youth are especially vulnerable to psychosocial problems and deal with unmet health needs. However, the unique health challenges immigrant and refugee youth face remain largely understudied. This study aimed to better understand the social and cultural factors that impact the mental health of immigrant youths.

Methods: We conducted 3 semi-structured focus group discussions with 15 high school immigrant youths (14-18 years old, 9 female and 6 male), of African, Asian, and Middle Eastern ethnicities. All participants were part of the Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE) for Health and Wellness, a community youth engagement for health promotion program in Calgary. Deductive thematic analysis was performed. We used NVivo Software for the analysis process.

Results: The participants' mental health was primarily affected by external stressors of cultural stigma, parental expectations, and a lack of mental health knowledge. Parental pressure was a significant factor in impacting mental health due to cultural and intergenerational differences. Parental tactics such as comparing hardships were common inhibitors of healthy discussions on mental health.

Conclusion: The feedback from the focus groups revealed the sociocultural factors that contribute to the mental health challenges of immigrant youth. Health promotion initiatives like RISE for Health are necessary to encourage conversations to help destigmatize mental health. While helpful in determining some situational factors, future focus groups should consider additional facets that could influence mental health.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Seeking Behaviour in Elderly Punjabi Immigrants in the Greater Toronto Area

1:36 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Guramrit Thandi, Nashit Chowdhury, Tanvir T. Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Health disparities among ethnic communities have become more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and misinformation has become prevalent in media. Health information sources play a key role in addressing health care disparities experienced by immigrants. The objective of this study was to understand elderly Punjabi immigrants' COVID-19 vaccine-related information-seeking behaviour in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ontario.

Method: 341 elderly Punjabi immigrants from the GTA were surveyed about their COVID-19 vaccine information-seeking behaviour, including where they obtain vaccine-related information from, why they sought information from their chosen sources, and barriers to obtaining information. The data collected were analyzed to determine major findings about sources of COVID-19 vaccine information in relation to age, education, and years since immigration.

Results: The study included 218 males and 123 females, with a mean age of 67.7 years (standard deviation \pm 12.1). 56.6% of participants did not complete high school and 83.9% of participants were retired. Participants' most preferred source of COVID-19 vaccine-related information was television (25.6%), followed by interpersonal communication with family/friends (22.1%), and social networking sites (11%). Preferred sources and information-seeking behaviour varied with age, education, and years since immigration to Canada. Participants of higher age, lower education, and shorter time since immigration were less likely to use reliable government sources and more likely to use interpersonal communication.

Conclusion: In the long term, identified sources of information can be used to educate and share accurate health and wellness information to older Punjabi immigrant populations, ultimately decreasing health disparities and improving health literacy.

Promoting Cancer Screening Literacy through Faith-Based Organizations: Perspectives of Muslim Imams

1:42 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Ayisha Khalid, Sarika Haque, Saad Alvi, Mahzabin Ferdous, Olivia Genereux, Nashit Chowdhury, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Immigrants tend to have lower rates of cancer screening. Inequity in screening rates may stem from socio-cultural barriers and religious misinterpretations, both of which can be influenced by faith-based organizations and religious leaders. The aim of this study was to explore the knowledge and attitudes held by Muslim religious leaders, or Imams, about cancer screening, as well as the role they perceive they can play in improving cancer screening health literacy among South Asian Muslim immigrant women.

Methods: We conducted interviews with eight imams from faith-based organizations in Calgary, Canada. Participants' knowledge and attitudes were inductively summarized using descriptive analysis, while practices were deductively thematically analyzed using the Socioecological Model and the Communication for Development approach.

Results: We found participants mostly had some knowledge of cancer but lesser knowledge of different screening tests and of low screening rates among immigrants. Participants identified a lack of information about the healthcare system as the major barrier to cancer screening among immigrants and discussed the impact of culture and religion on screening. Participants proposed that their role as a speaker in the community, role in faith-based organizations, access to large facilities and crowds, and collaboration with universities and healthcare professionals would be fruitful in promoting cancer screening among South Asian Muslim immigrant women.

Conclusion: Imams were highly supportive of incorporating health messaging into faith-based messaging. Future work should focus on collaboration between religious leaders and health professionals as recommended in this study.

Factors Associated with Sharing Health Information in Ethnocultural Communities: A Rapid Review

1:48 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Iffat Naeem

Abstract | Health information generation and flow are controlled by the patient or participant; however, there is a lack of understanding about the factors that influence willingness to share health information. : The objectives of this review are to: 1) identify peer-reviewed literature that reported factors associated with health information sharing; 2) organize factors into cohesive themes, and present a narrative synthesis of factors related to willingness to share health information. This review uses a rapid review methodology to gather literature regarding willingness to share health information within the context of eHealth, which includes electronic health records, personal health records, and mobile health information, general health information, or information on social determinants of health. The data abstraction process utilizing thematic analysis. Twenty-six research articles met our inclusion criteria and were included in the qualitative analysis. The themes explored in this study emphasize the importance of trust at multiple levels in order to develop effective information exchange partnerships. In the case of improving precision healthcare, addressing the factors presented here that influences willingness to share information can improve sharing capacity for individuals and allow researchers to re-orient their methods to address hesitation in sharing health information.

Identifying Mental Wellbeing Needs for Non-Health Essential Workers during Recent Epidemics and Pandemics: An Integrative Review

1:54 PM | [Zoom Room 2](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Nashit Chowdhury, Ankit Kainth, Atobrhan Godlu, Saif Sikdar, Deidre Lake, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Non-health essential workers such as food and meat processing plants, warehouses, grocery stores and others also played crucial roles during the pandemic and were largely affected by the pandemic. However, there were fewer studies among them on how COVID-19 affected these non-health essential workers physically and mentally.

Objective: We intended to conduct an integrative review to identify the current research evidence on the mental wellbeing of non-health essential workers during and after recent epidemics and pandemics.

Method: We have followed Whitemore and Knaf's (2005) methodology for integrative review. After identifying the problem, we did a systematic search to capture relevant studies. We have searched both academic (MEDLINE, PsycInfo, CINAHL, Sociological abstracts, and Web of Science) and grey literature (Google Scholar) databases. We looked for articles describing any mental health-related issues/interventions on essential workers during the past epidemics and pandemics since 2000 (Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, H1N1 Influenza, Ebola, Zika virus, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, and COVID-19).

Results: Of 7,932 articles found, 39 articles were included for the review. 20 studies were quantitative, 14 studies were qualitative, and five studies were mixed. Most of the studies regarding COVID-19 were conducted during March-June 2020 (28 out of 39) and almost all articles were about COVID-19 except one on Ebola. Mostly commonly explored mental health issues were stress and anxiety. Occupations explored included retail workers, farmworkers, social workers, and more.

Conclusions: This integrative review provides insights into how COVID-19 may affect the mental health of non-health essential workers that will help us develop strategies to provide support to them.

Towards an Immersive Cultural Sensitivity Training Environment: Background Discourse Analysis Supporting a Community Initiative

Author | James Cresswell, Douglas Li, Sinela Jurkova

Abstract | One of the most significant aspects of cultural sensitivity is awareness of microaggressions, which are seemingly minor interpersonal actions which inadvertently reinforce societal stereotypes and norms by reminding their targets of their lower status in society. They are important for sensitivity training because they can lead to a sense of marginalization and have negative social and mental health impacts on the targets. The use of virtual reality (VR) technologies has the capacity to stimulate and immerse learners in content so that they can grasp content faster and cultivate better empathy. Currently, there is a gap among researchers, community agencies, and technology development companies. Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) formed a partnership with Red Iron Labs and researchers to fill this gap. The goal of this project was to use qualitative research that can catalogue and systematically present microaggressions to develop a VR cultural sensitivity training prototype. We used qualitative interviews with recorded audio and video as a means to develop content to develop material for the VR training module. Discursive psychology is a qualitative approach that focusses on language-use as a kind of interpersonal action and it is a method for systematically analyzing how talk and narratives are constructed, which means that it makes tacitly enacted micro-behaviours a point of focus. The presentation will present some of the results but will focus on the process of forming a generative partnership that will lead to innovative uses of technology for the social good.

Work in Progress Abstracts

Racism in Canadian Media as a Social Determinant of Refugee Psychosocial Wellness

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Jessica Naidu, Elizabeth Oddone Paolucci, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: The Mental Health Commission of Canada states that we have a responsibility to foster incoming refugees' mental health and wellness. Recently, western countries have demonstrated a pattern of increasing hesitance to accept refugees as full members of society, which is arguably related to the racialization of refugees. For example, media portrayals of refugees have constructed them as hidden terrorists, bogus claimants, and sources of disease/risk. Research shows that racism negatively impacts health; thus, the constructs above may have detrimental impacts on refugee health and wellness.

Methods: We aim to investigate the impact of refugee media constructs on the psychosocial wellness of refugees through a systematic literature review. We will do this through a comprehensive, systematic search of peer reviewed, published, academic journal articles using databases such as PubMed, EMBASE, MEDLINE, and CINAHL. We will search for articles published in North America for the past 10 years and will use the SPIDER framework to guide our search and synthesis. Two reviewers will screen the titles and abstracts as well as the full texts of the articles that are selected for further review.

Expected results: This research will contribute to the literature demonstrating how discourse impacts our knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour, reinforcing racist perceptions and power structures that often contribute to inequities in health and wellness. It will also inform approaches to community mental health promotion for refugees. Our findings may impact health and social services policy and practice within health organizations and community-serving agencies that work with refugees.

Vulnerabilities and Capacities of Filipino Workers Quarantining During Workplace COVID-19 Outbreaks in Cargill, Alberta

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Maria Teresa Patria, Stephanie Fernandez, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Enacting public health measures were critical to control the spread of COVID-19 and to protect those at high risk for serious health outcomes. According to the State of Public Health in Canada 2020, the many impacts of COVID-19 can be examined as being direct (i.e., from infection with SARS-CoV-2) and indirect, (i.e., those arising from the public health measures). This study aims to explore the impact of quarantining of Filipino workers during COVID-19 outbreaks in Cargill, AB. It will examine at how the community demonstrates resiliency by identifying their capacities and vulnerabilities that were amplified.

Methods: We will conduct a semi-structured interview with the Filipino workers who were quarantining during the COVID-19 outbreak in Cargill meat processing plant. We will use the Capacities and Vulnerabilities Analysis Framework as a guide to analyze the data by deductive thematic method.

Expected results: This study will reveal the vulnerabilities and capacities of the community in terms of their physical, social and motivational domains.

Conclusion: This study hopes to find sustainable solutions to better meet the needs of workers during quarantining and future high scale health risk exposure. It will inform the policy decision makers in both the public health and business sectors in designing more responsive public health measures in preventing future outbreaks.

The Role of Ethnic Media in Promoting Health Literacy among Canadian Minorities

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Temoor Tayyab, Nashit Chowdhury, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Health literacy is an extremely valuable concept as it allows individuals to utilize and understand health information and services to make the best decisions for themselves. However, previous studies indicate that immigrants tend to have low health literacy that adversely affects their health at some point in their lives. Currently, there is a growing emphasis by national institutions and health organizations, including the Canadian Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to improve health literacy and overcome the underlying barriers that this has on health disparities among various groups in Canada. This requires an emphasis on working within the communities to expand the current knowledge on how health literacy is impacting minorities, and what interventions can be taken to resolve this issue. One logical extension of this idea is to take a closer look at ethnic media in the forms of television, radio, podcasts, newspapers, or social media outlets, as many immigrants and minorities use these media systems as the primary source of information. As such, the purpose of this study is to establish the extent to which ethnic media in Alberta are promoting health literacy and education, the effectiveness of these mechanisms, and the role they perceive they can play in improving health literacy among ethnic minorities.

Methods: This study was organized using the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Model. We compiled a sampling frame of operating ethnic media based on a selecting criterion which included ethnic media outlets that must present at least some information in the home country language, must at least have some form of media that functions in Alberta, and cannot include social media content produced by sole individuals operating on social media websites. We will conduct semi-structured interviews with the selected ethnic media online. We will inductively summarize the participants' knowledge and attitudes using descriptive analysis, and practices will be thematically analyzed deductively using the Sociological Model and Communication for Developmental approach.

Expected results: We expect to find results that indicate that most ethnic media members believe they should be playing a crucial role in improving health literacy among ethnic communities, but strongly feel that they are currently not doing enough and are uncertain of how to approach this issue. We expect that recommended future direction of this work will focus on potential mechanisms that can allow ethnic media to effectively engage with their audiences to promote health literacy.

Empowering Immigrant Community through Ownership, Control, Possession and Utilization of Data: Community Based Health Data Cooperative

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Masooma Tahir, Nashit Chowdhury, Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Canadian immigrant populations come from diverse ethno-geographical backgrounds and exhibit differences in their culture and understanding of health and wellness. It is imperative to collaborate and empower these diverse communities. This can be achieved through establishing a health data cooperative (HDC) that allows the availability of the valuable data for societal purposes. HDC is a health data bank where cooperative members collect, store, use and share health-related data (e.g., health condition, lab results, social determinants of health data, etc.). The aim of this review is to analyse the feasibility of immigrant based HDC model through conducting stakeholder and customer discovery interviews to gain insights and conduct early-stage assessments determining sustainability and scalability of the HDC.

Methods: We propose to undertake a comprehensive environmental scan including stakeholder analysis to conduct key-informant interviews. Through the interviews, we will gather feedback and research existing models of cooperatives to develop the HDC framework.

Expected results: Through this comprehensive environmental scan, we are hoping to engage stakeholders and explore key components such as ethical & legal frameworks, organization management, data security, privacy, computing science, knowledge mobilization, and community development. We believe by enabling the immigrant communities has the potential to promote health equity through empowerment (enhance individual competence & self-esteem, increase community action & participatory learning exercises).

Conclusions: The results of this project are an informative first step to launch a pilot HDC model in immigrant communities. Moreover, further research on scalability and performance would be required as the HDC model becomes operational.

Developing a Program of Research at the Grassroots Community Level through Meaningful Community Engagement

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Studies have attempted to identify the barriers to equitable health and social care access and recommend solutions, however, a community participatory approach where the co-creation of the knowledge on the issues and the solutions happens through meaningful community engagement appears to be scant. Top-down approaches where the researchers and policymakers 'prescribe' solutions are rather common than a more effective and community-centred approach where the community and researchers work hand-in-hand to identify the problems and co-develop the solutions and recommend policy changes.

Methods: In this presentation, we reflect on a comprehensive community-engaged research approach that we undertook to identify the barriers to primary care access among a immigrant community in Canada.

Expected results: This article informs the experience of our program of research that entails our understanding of how to engage community-based research among immigrant communities that meaningfully interacts with the community and the findings and the outcomes of the research are driven by the community. We strived towards continuous engagement, mass member outreach, community capacity building, and active knowledge dissemination.

Conclusion: Employing the principles of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Human Centered Design (HCD), and Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) we have established this pragmatic research program approach where meaningful community engagement is at the core.

Community Scholar & Citizen Researcher Involvement for Knowledge Co-Creation Knowledge

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Tanvir Turin Chowdhury

Abstract | Background: Researchers need to observe complex problems from various angles and contexts in order to create workable, effective, and sustainable solutions. For complex societal problems including health and socioeconomic disparities, cross-sectorial collaborative research is crucial. While the knowledge is created for the benefit of the community, the community is generally less involved in the research process. Often, they are engaged to collect data or for consultancy and knowledge dissemination purposes, however, they are not involved in the research process including but not limited to developing a research question, using research tools such as conducting focus groups, analysis and interpretation.

Methods & observations: To be involved on these levels there is a need for building community capacity for research. However, due to a lack of funds, resources, and interest to build the capacity from both the research and community ends, deeper and meaningful community engagement in research becomes less viable. In this article, we reflect on how we have designed our program of research from involving the community members at different levels to building capacity with them. The activities community members participated in based on the need and their capacity were described. The capacity-building strategies for each level of engagement for the communities were also outlined.

Conclusion: Community member involvement in research allows meaningful interaction across various actors around a particular real-world problem through a process of mutual learning. This builds a sustainable, trust-based partnership among the stakeholders and a thorough understanding of the problem through a solution-oriented lens.

Individual-, Community-, and Organizational Health Literacy: The Need of Centralized, Integrated, and Multifaceted Health & Wellness Literacy Efforts for Racialized/Immigrant Communities

2:30 – 3:30 PM | [Zoom Room 1](#) | Passcode: nrn2021

Authors | Tanvir Turin Chowdhury, Nashit Chowdhury, Lisa Petermann

Abstract | Background: Health literacy is essential to both personal and community health. Inadequate health literacy contributes to health disparities, especially for racialized/immigrant population. The efforts to improve health literacy need to be community-engaged and cross-sectoral involving the combined and coordinated efforts of all major stakeholders. Current health literacy efforts need to be reinvented, reformulated and redirected to improve health and wellnesses in this population in Alberta.

Methods: Current health literacy initiatives predominantly focus on providing health information to individuals through different channels, most notably through health care providers. This approach essentially attempts to transfer information vertically and does not incorporate the individual and /or community context. To compensate for language barriers, the use of translated materials in different languages has been commonly practiced. However, these efforts fail to address the sociocultural factors that inhibit the uptake of health information

Observation: Key policy challenges to health literacy for racialized immigrant communities are as follows - (1) Absence of meaningful community-engaged efforts (2) Complete lack of coordinated effort (3) Efforts are not aligned with community needs (4) Lack of understanding of community dynamics & (5) Lack of organizational health literacy.

Conclusion: To overcome these issues, evidence suggests using community participatory and cross-sectoral collaborative approaches to deeply engage with the community to develop trust, interest, and health literacy capacity among members. An added benefit is that enhanced health literacy can help cultivate an environment wherein researchers and policymakers are more easily able to partner with communities to identify and prioritize issues that need to be addressed through health literacy initiatives. Using a multifaceted approach and employing trained and culturally acceptable health educators to engage in direct personal level interactions and conversation.