

SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER, FAMILY, AND MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ARAB REFUGEE FAMILIES IN CANADA

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

8:30AM TO 4:00PM

**QUEEN VICTORIA HALL, DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL,
300 KING ST, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA N6B 1S2**



MUSLIM RESOURCE CENTRE
for Social Support and Integration



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Partnering Institutions

Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)



Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI)



University of Guelph (UofG)



University of Calgary (Uof C)



Doha International Family Institute

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute's most important initiatives are the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Follow DIFI online:

Website: <http://difi.org.qa/>

Twitter: DIFI_Qatar

Facebook: Doha International Family Institute – DIFI

Muslim resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI)

Founded in 2009, the MRCSSI is a not-for-profit organization helping families and individuals overcome the challenges that impact their family safety. We recognize that many people have unique challenges and we seek to support them using a culturally integrative service. MRCSSI provides culturally integrative services that build capacity to help individuals, families and communities to overcome challenges, manage conflict and ensure safety and well-being.

Follow MRCSSI online:

Website: <http://www.mrcssi.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mrcssi>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mrcsilondon>

Objectives of Symposium

The objective of the Symposium is to launch the findings of the research “*Pre and Post Migration Stressors and Marital Relations Among Refugee Families in Canada*”. Further, the goal of the symposium is to facilitate discussions about the implications on how best to assist immigrants and refugees to integrate into our communities.

Symposium on Gender, Family, and Marital Relationships

Among Arab Refugee Families in Canada

Feb 23, 2018

8:30-9:10 am	Registration
9:10-9:20am	Welcoming Remarks: Mohammed Baobaid , Executive Director, Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration
9:20-9:35am	Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation, Noor Al Malki Al Jehani , Executive Director
9:35-9:40am	Greetings from Federal Government: Honorable Peter Fragiskatos , House of Commons, Member of Parliament
9:40-9:50 am	Opening Remarks: Honorable Deborah Matthews : Deputy Premier, Chair of Cabinet, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Minister Responsible for Digital Government, MPP London North Centre
9:50 -10:20 am	Research Overview and Findings Pre and Post Migration Stressors and Marital Relations among Arab Refugee Families in Canada (Mohammed Baobaid, Lynda Ashbourne, Dora Tam, and Abdullah Badahdah)

10:20–10:35 am	Coffee Break
10:35-11:20 am	<p>Topic 1: Gender-roles and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies</p> <p>Panel Discussion: <i>Bharati Sethi</i> (Kings University College at Western University); <i>Barb MacQuarrie</i> (Community Director of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women & Children in the Faculty of Education at the Western University); <i>Randa Meshki</i> (MSW- COPA); <i>Kate Wiggins</i> (ED-ANOVA); <i>Yasmin Hussain</i> (Violence Prevention Manager, MRCSSI).</p> <p>Q & A Summary</p>
11:20-11: 50 pm	<p>Topic 2: Parent-Child Relationships and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies</p> <p>Panel Discussion: <i>Alan Leschied</i> (Psychologist and Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario); <i>Siu Ming Kwok</i> (Professor and Associate Dean [Southern Alberta Region] in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary); <i>Chris Steven</i> (Director of Children Aid Society; London & Middlesex).</p> <p>Q&A Summary</p>
11:50-12: 45 pm	Lunch
12:45 – 1:20 pm	<p>Topic 3: Marital Relationships and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies</p> <p>Panel Discussion: <i>Sandra Rupnarain</i> (Family Services - Peel Region); <i>Rich Janzen</i> (Co-Executive Director, Centre for Community-Based Research, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Renison University College, University of Waterloo); <i>Baldev Mutta</i> (CEO: Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS)); <i>Christopher Kyriakides</i> (Canada Research Chair, Department of Sociology; Executive Committee Member, Center for Refugee Studies; York University)</p>

	Q&A Summary
1:20 – 2:00 pm	Round Table Discussions on Gender-roles, Parent-Child and Marital Relationships, and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies Summary from Each Group Discussion
2:00 -2:15 pm	Promising Practice-Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response (CIFSR)- Eugene Tremblay MSW, MRCSSI Clinical Director; Associate Executive Director at Eagle’s Nest Foster Care.
2:15-2:30 pm	Coffee Break
2:30-3:00 pm	Moving Forward, Implications for Service Provision, Social Policy, and Research
3:00-3:05	Remarks from Honorable Teresa Armstrong Member of Provincial Parliament
3:05-3:15 pm	Closing Remarks: Mayor Matt Brown , City of London, Ontario
3:15-3:35 pm	Thank You (Moderator/MRC)
3:35 – 4:00 pm	Networking

Moderator: Donna S. Lero, Ph.D.; Professor Emeritus, Dept of Family Relations, Inaugural Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work, Centre for Families, Work and Well-Being, University of Guelph.

PANEL 1:

Gender Roles and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies

Panelists:



Dr. Bharati Sethi

Bharati Sethi's research interests are focused on issues affecting immigrants to Canada's urban/rural communities. She is currently a co-investigator in two SSHRC funded multi-site research projects impacting immigrant/refugee integration in Canada. Her research has earned her several prestigious awards including the Ontario Women's Health Scholarship, Tutor-Primary Health Care Fellowship, the Vanier Canada

Graduate Scholarship, and the Hilary M. Weston Scholarship. In 2014 her photovoice doctoral project earned her a Governor General's Award. In 2013, due to her community advocacy efforts she received the 'Citizens Award' by the Member of Provincial Parliament. In 2012 she was nominated as one of the 'top 25' immigrants to Canada.



Barb MacQuarrie

Barb MacQuarrie is the Community Director of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women & Children at Western University. She develops and promotes evidence-based education and prevention initiatives involving both community-based and university-based partners. She has published in numerous journals and produced films on topics related to violence and abuse. Barb has presented to a wide variety of audiences locally, nationally and internationally about

gendered violence, its impacts and strategies to address it. Barb coordinated the first Canadian study on the impacts of domestic violence on the workplace. Currently she is working on the development of an online training to support Ontario universities and colleges to develop their capacity to respond effectively to disclosures of sexual violence & sexual harassment. She is a recipient of the Order of Ontario, the province's highest official honour, recognizing individual excellence.



Randa Meshki is the founder of LRNG . She is currently working as a Director at COPA a non-for-profit organization for the Provincial Coordination of the Francophone Network of Settlement Workers. She is a mom of two beautiful young ladies. She has her B.Sc in Biochemistry/Biology from France as well as her Masters in Social work. Her Palestinian background and her ability to communicate fluently in three languages (English, French and Arabic) allow her to reach out to many diverse communities.

Randa Meshki Inspired by her personal experiences and as an Immigrant herself. She has spearheaded this highly sought-after workshop **“Resilient of Immigrant Women” that promotes the well-being of immigrant women across Ontario.** In the last 20 years, Randa has dedicated her career and family life to pursue her personal principles to adopt an equitable, humanitarian and Inter-cultural approach to the development of Innovative Programs, Counselling, Education and Training methods uniquely customized to address specific needs such as **(Anti-bullying, Violence, War traumatization, Mental Health, Couples Therapy, Conflict of Inter-generation, and Emotional healing)** in which everyone benefits from full citizenship and social inclusion.

Yasmin Hussain is the Violence Prevention Manager at the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI). In her role, Yasmin coordinates strategies of public education, capacity building and community-based programs, especially with youth and women. Part of her work at MRCSSI involves developing and implementing community-based strategies of awareness on issues of gender-based and family violence, as well as strengthening community capacities to address issues of violence and support the safety of women and girls. Yasmin centres participatory and strengths-based community development approaches in her work.



Kate Wiggins

Kate Wiggins is the Executive Director of Anova: A Future without Violence, formerly Women's Community House and the Sexual Assault Centre of London. Anova is a full service organization providing shelter services, transitional housing, a volunteer and staff helpline, outreach, sexual assault services, public education and training and services for children.

Kate has been a leader in the not for profit sector for over 30 years and sits on many committees, concerned with violence against women at the local provincial and national levels.

Kate holds both a BA in psychology and a master's degree in social work from Carleton, and a master's degree in public administration from Western. Kate also has her Certified Fund Raising Executive designation. Kate is the grandmother of 6 girls who inspire her daily to continue the quest for equality for women.

PANEL 2:

Parent-Child Relationships and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies

Panelists:



Dr. Alan Leschied

Dr. Leschied is a psychologist and professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario. Prior to joining Western's faculty, he worked in children's services at the London Family Court Clinic beginning in 1977. Dr. Leschied has served on Boards of Directors, including the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex, The Coordinating Committee for Children and Youth, The Canadian

Council on Social Development and the Ontario Centre of Excellence in Child and Youth Mental Health. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Psychology Association, recipient of the Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Judge Wendy Robson Award for outstanding service to children in Ontario, and recipient of a life-time achievement award through the Criminal Justice Section of the Canadian Psychology Association. Recent research work with Asra Milani now of McGill University, has included perceptions of frontline service workers in the domestic violence community who work with Muslim women survivors.



Siu Ming KWOK, PhD, Professor and Associate Dean (Southern Alberta Region) in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. His areas of research include criminal justice system and youth from racialized groups, social policies and municipal governments, social work education, social work administration, program development and evaluation, and international social work.

Siu Ming KWOK



Chris Stevens, Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex, has worked in child welfare for 35 years including front-line, supervisory and senior leadership responsibilities. Chris was also a senior policy analyst at the ministry leading permanency and legislative amendments for the Child Welfare Transformation

Chris Stevens

As an executive director Chris has served the Oxford County CAS, Family and Children's Services Niagara and currently the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex. In particular, Chris has special interests in Indigenous reconciliation, evidence informed practice, data driven continuous quality improvement and equitable service outcomes.

PANEL 3:

Marital Relationships and the Implications for Service Provision and Social Policies

Panelists:



Sandra S. Rupnarain

Sandra S. Rupnarain B.A. (Hons), M.Div. AAMFT RMFT, Director Client Services at Family Services of Peel: Engages key stake-holders to develop partnerships between community and service providers and implement strategic community coalitions. Successful in community mobilization and advocacy on social issues that impact health and well-being of families, men, women and children using an equity, anti-racism, anti-oppression lens.

Over 15 years of experience writing grant proposals, operationalizing programs, developing research initiatives,

collecting and analyzing data to inform continuous program improvement.

Planning, organizing, directing and coordinating community development projects, in counselling, education and research utilizing Strategic Planning. Providing training for individuals and groups of different cultural and social backgrounds. Providing consultation and leadership around programs funding and ongoing management of Agency. Developing new community initiatives with funding operationalizing and coordinating data for ongoing program monitoring. Providing ongoing liaison, support and consultation regarding efficient and effective programming and service delivery, and building collaborative working relationships with other FSP program units and external partners to achieve integrated and solution-focused support/service systems in Peel. Managing budgets, staff resources and overall expenses of new initiatives, providing supervision to program management team, building capacity and mentoring in key leadership strategies. Also, a Multimodality Clinical Practitioner with expertise in Narrative, Solution Focused and Behavioral Therapy with a private practice.



Rich Janzen

Rich Janzen is Co-Executive Director of the Centre for Community Based Research. Rich sees research as a tool for social innovation and change - to find new ways of bringing people who are on the edge of society to live within community as full and equal members. He has been involved in 130-plus community-based research projects, many focused on issues of cultural diversity, mental health, or faith and society. Rich has an academic background in community psychology and religious studies. He is an adjunct assistant professor at Renison University College at the University of Waterloo.



Baldev Mutta

Baldev Mutta has been in the field of social work for the last 45+ years. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS). PCHS is a Health Service Provider in the Central West and Mississauga Halton LHIN geographic areas.

He has worked for the last 28 years developing an integrated holistic model to address substance abuse, mental health and family violence in the South Asian community.

He has received many community awards for his work on equity, community development, diversity management, and organizational change.



**Christopher
Kyriakides**

Dr. Christopher Kyriakides holds the Canada Research Chair with the Department of Sociology and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University. He currently leads a five-country research program examining the reception of Syrian refugees in Canada, the US, Jordan, Italy and Greece.

PROMISING PRACTICE – Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response (CIFSR)



Sonny Eugene Tremblay

Sonny Eugene Tremblay is a retired Clinical Social Work Supervisor having worked in the field of Child Welfare and Social Work for 38 years. He has specialized in the area of Diversity and has lead teams of social workers to provide services, supported and developed services to multi cultural and multi racial families in both the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and more particularly in London since 2000. He has advanced

training in the area of family therapy, group work and has been trained by the late, Dr. Paul Steinhauer, in parental capacity assessments. His passion and expertise are in the area of multi cultural practice to various cultures, racial populations and faith groups is well known. He has been recognized on two occasions in the City of London, Ontario when he was awarded the Award of Excellence for the Promotion of Racial Harmony in 2006, and received the Race Relations Award from the city of London in 2007 and again in 2015. He is recognized by the city of

London as an expert in Diversity and Anti-Oppressive Practice. He is as well recognized across the province of Ontario as a professional who can engage families and communities in solutions that recognize their inherent cultural strengths. He is currently the clinical Director at the Muslim Resource Center for Social Support and Integration and also the Associate Executive Director for Eagle's Nest Foster Care, the only Indigenous owned private foster care agency for Indigenous children and Youth in the province of Ontario. He has worked for the last 28 years developing an integrated holistic model to address substance abuse, mental health and family violence in the South Asian community.

He has received many community awards for his work on equity, community development, diversity management, and organizational change.

MODERATOR:



Donna Lero

Donna Lero is Professor Emeritus, Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. She is the Inaugural Jarislawsky Chair in Families and Work and co-founded the University's Centre for Families, Work and Well-Being. Her interests include work-family policies and practices; the relationship between care, gender and employment; early childhood education and care

policies; disability policies and the inclusion of people with disabilities in workplaces; and policies and practices that support caregivers of family members with a disability or age-related health conditions.

Much of her work over the last 35 years has focused on public policies, workplace practices, and community supports and their inter-relationships. Among her many publications are 2 book chapters (Lero & Korabik: *The Work-Family Interface in Canada* and Lero & Bardoel: *The Impact of National Context and Organizational Policies: A Cross-Cultural Analysis* – both

included in K. Korabik, Z. Aycan & R. Ayman (Eds.). (2017). The Work-Family Interface in a Global Context. Routledge, NY. and *The Handbook on Work-Family Integration*, which she co-edited with Karen Korabik and Denise Whitehead.

In addition to her research, Donna has presented at national and international conferences and is a recognized leader in work-family research in Canada. She collaborates regularly with a range of community organizations including the Vanier Institute of the Family and has participated on federal and provincial task forces, including Chairing the Ontario Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources in Early Childhood Programs. Donna was one of three Canadian experts selected to participate in international discussions about policies and programs to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the UN Year of the Family in Mexico City.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS



Mohammed Baobaid

Mohammed Baobaid, PhD, earned his doctoral degree from the institute of Psychology at the University of Erlangen Nurnberg in Germany. He is the founder and the executive Director of the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration in Canada and working on some innovative projects. He is also a research associate at the Centre for Research and

Education on Violence against Women and Children at the Western University. His research areas include cross-cultural perspectives on preventing domestic violence in Immigrant Communities. Prior to coming to Canada, Dr. Baobaid was the head of the department of psychology at the University of Sana'a, Yemen and was well known in his research on domestic violence and children and women in conflict with the law.



Lynda M. Ashbourne

Lynda M. Ashbourne, PhD, RP, RMFT is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition (Couple & Family Therapy) at the University of Guelph. She has been a practicing Couple and Family Therapist since 1993 in various communities in Ontario. Dr. Ashbourne teaches theory, research issues and practice skills in the Master's of Couple and Family Therapy program, as well as senior undergraduate courses in family relationships and practice.

Her current research includes two primary streams: (1) people's

interaction and meaning-making in family relationships; and (2) training of service providers and delivery of community-based services and supports for families. Recently, her research has focused primarily on responding to families from collectivist cultures in a culturally integrative manner oriented to addressing family safety. She and her London, Ontario colleague, Dr. Mohammed Baobaid (Executive Director of the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support & Integration) have recently published a book entitled “Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response” (Routledge, 2016) and, with colleagues, conducted research investigating the impact of migration due to war on spousal and family relationships (Ashbourne, Badahdah, Baobaid, Tam, & Al Jamal, 2017).



Dora Tam

Dora TAM, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Her areas of research include professional suitability for social work practice, intimate partner violence against women, issues among newcomers, program development and evaluation, and international social work. She believes that evidence-informed practice is very important to uphold the professional standards of social work.



**Abdallah
Badahdah**

Abdallah Badahdah, Ph.D. is the Director of the Family Research Division at the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) a member of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. Before joining DIFI, Dr. Badahdah taught in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Dakota for 12 years and served as the Director of the Sociology Graduate Program for several years. Prior to his tenure at the University of North Dakota, he worked in the field of management in both the public and private sectors for more than a decade. Dr. Badahdah received his B.A. in psychology and a Ph.D. degree in sociology from

Iowa State University, USA. He has given more than 50 regional, national, and international presentations and published in journals such as Child Psychiatry and Human Development, Evolution and Human Behavior, and AIDS Care and encyclopedia entries such as The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, Encyclopedia of Gender and Society and The Blackwell Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology. He has written research reports for many organizations such as the Saudi Ministry of Health, the Oman Ministry of Health/UNICEF, and the North Dakota Department of Health. In addition to being a board member for the Midwest Sociological Society (2011-2016), Dr. Badahdah has chaired and served as a member of numerous committees at the University of North Dakota, Qatar University, the American Sociological Association, and the Sociologists AIDS Network. Dr. Badahdah also has served on the review and editorial boards of several journals, including Health Behavior and Policy Review, Humanity and Society, the American Journal of Health Behavior and has been a frequent peer reviewer for numerous scientific journals.



Abir Al Jamal

Abir Al Jamal, MSW, RSW, earned her degree from the University of Western. She spent over twenty years in Lebanon as a social worker with national and international social services working with refugees, internally displaced, and vulnerable populations. In Canada, she works at Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration (MRCSSI) as a social worker and research coordinator directly in the fields' domestic violence, homicide and social issues that affect newcomers' communities. She is a research assistant at Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations" (CDHPIVP); and the research coordinator, London site, for Emerging Voices: How Syrian Newcomers and Other Key Stakeholders Perceive Canada's Three Sponsorship Programs for Refugee (Re) settlement; and, for Aging Well: Social Network and Support for Older Immigrants in Ontario, a three years project. Abir has been part of a research project on Pre-and-Post Migration Stressors and Marital Relations among Arab Refugee Families in Canada.



Sahar Atalla

Sahar Atalla, MBBCh, MSc, MPH, is the Strengthening Families Program Coordinator (Journey Home Project), at the Muslim Resource Center for Social Support and Integration. Sahar is an International Medical Graduate and researcher, she has over 20 years of experience working with multicultural communities. She has multiple indexed publications that focused on clinical services and patients' informative consenting. In Canada, Sahar earned a Master's Degree in Public Health from Western University and is using her skill in organizing, coordinating and facilitating community-based projects, outreach activities, and promoting integration strategies among newcomer communities. Sahar is also completing her credentials to be a certified Trauma therapist.

Besides her work, Sahar is an active member on various social service committees as; the Nurse-Family Partnership Community Advisory Board (Health Unit) and the Health and Wellbeing sub-council (London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership); with a focus on community initiatives that nurture the mental wellness, physical health and overall wellbeing of immigrants and newcomers to London and Middlesex.



Wadhah Baobaid

Wadhah Baobaid earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western in 2014 with a double major in Psychology and Applied Statistics. His passion for research led him to work as a research assistant in diverse sectors. Wadhah Baobaid began that journey as a research assistant in 2012, and he continues to be one to this day. Over the years, Wadhah Baobaid has had the opportunity to work as a research assistant in various areas/fields including the psychology department, the social work department, the non-for-profit sector and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. In his spare time, he likes to travel and explore the world.

Thank you for your Participation!

