

<b>Name of organizer:</b>	<b>Julianna Butler</b>
E-Mail:	
Organization:	University Of Western Ontario, Migration and Ethnic Relations program
Title of workshop:	Refugee-specific challenges and experiences in understanding Canadian immigration
Format of Workshop:	Roundtable Workshop
Theme:	Citizenship and social, cultural, linguistic and civic integration
<hr/>	
Name of first presenter:	Dr. Alan Simmons
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Professor of Sociology, York University; Centre for Refugee Studies, York University; Centre for Research on Latin American and the Caribbean, York University; Migration and Ethnic Relations Program, University of Western Ontario (UWO)
Name of second presenter:	Dr. Meredith Fraser
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	London Urban Services Organisation (LUSO) Community Services
Name of third presenter:	Melissa Stachel
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Anthropology Ph.D. Student, UWO; Migration and Ethnic Relations program, UWO
Name of fourth presenter:	Stelian Medianu
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Psychology M.Sc. Candidate,UWO; Migration and Ethnic Relations program, UWO
Name of fifth presenter:	Julianna Butler
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Anthropology Ph.D. Student, UWO; Migration and Ethnic Relations program, UWO
Name of sixth presenter:	Secil Erdogan Ertorer
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Sociology Ph.D. Candidate, UWO; Migration and Ethnic Relations program, UWO
Name of seventh presenter:	Dr. Jean Turner
Email address:	
Organisation:	Director, Couple and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition, University of Guelph

### **Abstract**

Understanding how refugees navigate and experience Canadian immigration can provide critical insights into the consequences of broader immigration and integration policies and programs. This workshop explores differential refugee experiences, as well as how refugees are perceived by Canadians through multidisciplinary research, community perspectives, and immigrant viewpoints.

### **Summary**

By focusing on refugees to understand the diverse and varied effects of immigration policies in Canada, this session provides critical insights into the implementation and consequences of broader Canadian immigration and integration programs for all newcomers. Understanding how refugees specifically navigate and experience immigration processes creates more complete methods to situate immigrant integration in various Canadian spheres/environments. Unfortunately, the examination of refugee-specific issues is often neglected in larger immigration and multiculturalism debates. This workshop seeks to rectify this through bringing attention to the differential experiences and perceptions by and of refugees through multidisciplinary academic research, community perspectives, and immigrant viewpoints.

Each participant brings to this workshop a unique vision and, through specific examples and experiences, contributes to a timely and critical discussion on refugees and newcomers in Canada. The range of cases presented in this session serves to create more holistic and global understandings of refugee processes from significant and diverse "sending" regions, including Latin America, Somalia, Eastern Europe, and Burma. This session integrates recent academic research with community-specific perspectives from London (Ontario), Toronto, and Kitchener/Waterloo. Some session participants are immigrants to Canada themselves, and others conduct intensive work with immigrant communities; the insights from these viewpoints greatly contribute to more accurate representations of some of the complex realities that immigrants face on a daily basis.

This session's combination of community-oriented perspectives with sociological, psychological, and anthropological insights creates an innovative workshop that can better situate refugees and newcomers within current and future immigration trends in Canada.