

Organizer: Sharalyn Jordan
 Email:
 Organization: Counselling Psychology, University of British Columbia and Rainbow Refugee Committee, Vancouver, BC
 Title of Workshop: LGBTQ Refugee Settlement In Canada: Perspectives from community-research collaborations in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver
 Format: workshop
 Theme: Citizenship and social, cultural, linguistic and civic integration

Co-Organizer: Sharalyn Jordan
 Organization: Counselling Psychology, University of British Columbia and Rainbow Refugee Committee, Vancouver, BC

Co-Organizer: Dr Shari Brotman
 Organization: Social Work, McGill University, Montreal, PQ

Co-Organizer: Edward Woo Jin Lee
 Organization: Social Work, McGill University, Montreal, PQ

First Presenter: Shari Brotman (co-presenting with Edward Lee)
 Email:
 Organization: Social Work, McGill University, Montreal, PQ
 Title: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer refugees in Canada: exploring intersections of sexual, gender and cultural diversity

Second Presenter: Edward Woo Jin Lee (co-presenting with Dr Brotman)
 Email:
 Organization: Social Work, McGill University, Montreal, PQ
 Title: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer refugees in Canada: exploring intersections of sexual, gender and cultural diversity

Third Presenter: Suhail Abualsameed
 Email:
 Organization: SOY, Supporting Our Youth, Toronto, ON
 Title: SOY/Supporting Our Youth Express Program for Queer and Trans Refugee Youth

Fourth Presenter: Liz Miller
 Email:
 Organization: Communication Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, PQ
 Title: Queer Eye: An Interactive and Multimedia Mapping Project with Queer Refugee Youth in Toronto

Fifth Presenter : Sharalyn Jordan
 Email:
 Organizations: Counseling Psychology, University of British Columbia and Rainbow Refugee Committee, Vancouver, BC
 Title: Un/Settling: A Critical Ethnography of QLGBT refugee migration and settlement in Vancouver, BC

Summary

Efforts to enhance settlement support for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) refugees are underway in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Representatives from community-research collaborations in each city will present their research projects or community programs. We aim to create dialogue on issues facing LGBTQ migrants and explore local possibilities for social change.

Abstract

Little is known about the lived experiences of queer, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) refugees living in Canada. Having lived in defiance of homophobic or transphobic persecution, stigma and erasure, LGBTQ refugees continue to experience multiple, intersecting forms of oppressions in the process of leaving their countries of origin, applying for refugee status and settling in Canada. While working to rebuild their lives, they simultaneously live with uncertain status, the impacts of trauma, and loss due to their displacement. Like all refugees, LGBTQ refugees must locate resources/support and rebuild community. Uniquely, LGBTQ refugees take on these challenges while negotiating inclusion and exclusion based on intersecting oppressions across multiple communities: racialized homophobia and xenophobia in many contexts, Heterosexism and homophobia within faith and co-national communities, and xenophobia and racism within local LGBTQ communities

This workshop will explore the experiences of LGBTQ refugees in their efforts to settle in Canadian cities. Workshop participants will engage in dialogue about how to enhance settlement support of LGBTQ migrants. Findings from three research projects that worked with community groups to investigate the experiences of LGBTQ refugees will be presented. Representatives from two LGBTQ refugee support groups will share highlights from their programs. Bringing together the perspectives of researchers and community organizations from Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, this workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss the issues facing LGBTQ migrants and explore local possibilities for social change.