



The University of British Columbia

CONNECTS

Robson Square

CMS-SECTOR RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS DAY 2024

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

November 13, 2024

Unceded Coast Salish Territories



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Migration Studies



Co-sponsored by





Photography & Filming Notice

The event will be captured on photo and video for future promotional use. If you prefer not to appear in them and haven't indicated this during registration, please inform the photographer or videographer on site.

Don't hesitate to contact us at admin.migration@ubc.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

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About Research and Settlement in Unceded Land

As a settler-colonial institution, the Centre for Migration Studies, in partnership with AMSSA, is committed to building ethical relations with the First Nations of these territories, while recognizing the historical and ongoing imbalances of power.

Our current journey aspires to create a decolonizing role for ourselves that honours such relations and includes intentional efforts to minimize the harm that our actions may inevitably cause. We recognize the historical and ongoing impacts of the colonial research and settlement initiatives we both participate in and benefit from, as well as the significant limitations of our methods and ways of being in finding appropriate roles for colonial institutions.

The CMS-Sector Research Collaborations Day is taking place at UBC Robson Square which is located on the unceded and ancestral territories of Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (*Musqueam*), Skwxwú7mesh (*Squamish*), Stó:lō and Səl'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (*Tsleil-Waututh*) Nations. Our conversations on decolonization and collaboration must be grounded in this territorial acknowledgement as many Indigenous nations have modeled diverse frameworks for working together since time immemorial.

As we engage deeply in discussions about research collaborations within the immigration sector, we are invited to reflect on how our work as settlers, and settler institutions, can support the empowerment and self-determination of Indigenous communities and Nations.

Welcome

We're excited to gather with you for the CMS-Research Collaborations Day 2024.

In trying to honour our learnings around protocol, we'd like to share two reflection questions that, as it has been shared with us, historically guests arriving at the shores of ʔəlqsən (the land known to most settlers as Point Grey) needed to be able to answer before stepping to shore:

- Do you come with peace in your heart?
- What work have you come here to do?

We encourage you to keep these questions in mind as you get ready for the day and arrive at the venue.

Schedule

8:30 AM - Registration & Light Refreshments

9:00 AM - Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Welcome

by Tsunaxen, Willie Lewis

9:45 AM - Presentations

- Activating 'Parallel Mutuality' to Avoid Colonial Erasure of Indigenous Knowledge
- From Outsider to Advocate: An Immigrant's Journey in Decolonization
- Immigration, Sovereignty, and Decolonization: Opportunity or Dead End?

10:45 AM - Break

11:00 AM - Panel Discussion and Q&A

What Does (De)Colonization Want from Us?
Perspectives on the Role of Migration Research and the Settlement Sector in Unceded Land

12:00 PM - Lunch Break

1:00 PM - Research Presentation

Language Accessibility & the Healthcare-Seeking Experiences of Low-Income Chinese Seniors in Vancouver

1:45 PM - CMS-Sector Collaboration Framework Progress

2:00 PM - Speed Networking Activity

3:15 PM - Closing Remarks



Presentations and Panel Information

Presentation 1: Activating ‘Parallel Mutuality’ to Avoid Colonial Erasure of Indigenous Knowledge

Atlanta-Marinna Grant, Social Policy Analyst at the City of Vancouver -
Presenter

Is it safe for Indigenous knowledge systems to integrate or “weave” with settler-colonial systems if settler-colonial systems do not wish to change and/or shift the ways in which they are systematically oppressive? For the most part, Indigenous systems are only welcome into western research when they conform (in)to the dominant paradigm and do not effectively threaten to change the status quo. Together with the reframing of language and the reinstatement of Indigenism, activating ‘parallel mutuality’ can serve as a decolonizing practice in cross-cultural research collaborations with Indigenous communities.

Presentation 2: From Outsider to Advocate: An Immigrant's Journey in Decolonization

Sandeep Agrawal, Professor and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University of Alberta - Presenter

This presentation will outline the researcher’s journey in bridging two worlds, navigating identities, and reclaiming voices. It will reflect on the researcher’s ten-year partnership with Indigenous communities to tackle homelessness and housing challenges, predict wildfires, and advocate for energy justice in Northern Canada. The presenter will also discuss Indigenous epistemology and ontology, emphasizing relationality—specifically, the Mother Earth relationality—and the two-eyed seeing approach used in their research.

Presentation 3: Immigration, Sovereignty, and Decolonization: Opportunity or Dead End?

Harald Bauder, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Arts and Graduate Program Director, Immigration and Settlement Studies, Toronto Metropolitan University - Presenter

My past empirical research has illustrated how debates on immigration and reconciliation occur separately although these issues are factually closely related with each other. On this panel, I explore if and how the debates, practices, and policies of immigration and reconciliation can be reconnected with each other. To do this, I critically examine Canadian immigration policy and the Western idea of state sovereignty, and how they differ from Indigenous perspectives of migration and Indigenous ideas of sovereignty. I further discuss if and how reconciliation and decolonization can occur with the current Canadian policy framework and how migration research can contribute to meaningful action on this matter.

Panel Discussion: What Does (De)Colonization Want from Us?: *Perspectives on the Role of Migration Research and the Settlement Sector in Unceded Land*

Panelists:

- Atlanta-Marinna Grant, Social Policy Analyst at the City of Vancouver
- Sandeep Agrawal, Professor and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University of Alberta
- Harald Bauder, Professor of Geography and the Graduate Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University

Moderator: Javier Ojer, Engagement Strategist at the UBC Centre for Migration Studies

The panel will focus on perspectives related to the decolonizing role of institutions and organizations involved in migration research and the settlement of newcomers in unceded lands.

Critical questions arising from the innate dissonances of wanting to engage in Truth & Reconciliation initiatives with a decolonial lens will be discussed, looking at approaches to address the tensions we encounter when trying to do this work while still promoting and legitimizing Euro-centric ways of success, knowledge creation and value.

Presentation 4: Language Accessibility & the Healthcare-Seeking Experiences of Low-Income Chinese Seniors in Vancouver

Caitlin Chong, Sociology Graduate Student, UBC - Presenter

Amanda Cheong, Assistant Professor of Sociology, UBC - Presenter

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare, and in many respects exacerbated, the structural disadvantages faced by Chinese seniors in Vancouver with regards to healthcare access. This talk presents findings from a community-based participatory action research partnership with Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice 世代同行會, a local grassroots organization serving low-income immigrant seniors and youth in Vancouver's Chinatown. Using photovoice methods, we partnered with low-income Chinese seniors to the barriers to document the barriers they face when navigating the Canadian healthcare system in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including their patient experiences and outcomes. Interview and photographic data reveal that language constituted the primary barrier to healthcare-seeking among Chinese seniors, with language discordance compounding other barriers to quality care. We conclude with policy recommendations for enhancing the linguistic and cultural sensitivity of healthcare systems and practices in British Columbia.

Speakers and Panelists



Tsunaxen, Willie Lewis

Tsunaxen, Willie Lewis, is a proud member of the Skwxwú7mesh (*Squamish*) First Nation with African American heritage, born in North Vancouver and residing on the Capilano Reserve in Squamish Nation territory. A cultural performer with Spakwus Slolem (*The Eagle Song Dancers*), Willie shares Squamish cultures and traditions and works to remove barriers to employment and education for Indigenous Peoples. He holds a First Nations Tourism Management diploma from Capilano University and has supported management, sales, and customer service for various Squamish Nation businesses. He's also applied his cultural leadership and community engagement skills to recruit and support Indigenous students at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Capilano University. His work includes roles with the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, Indigenous Tourism BC, Destination BC, and the Squamish Nation Language and Cultural Affairs Department.



Atlanta-Marinna Grant

Currently serving as a Social Policy Analyst at the City of Vancouver, Atlanta-Marinna Grant is a UBC graduate in the Institute of Resources, Environment, and Sustainability. Her research and professional work has focused on what safe decolonized collaborative spaces between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples can look like.



Sandeep Agrawal

Dr. Sandeep Agrawal is a Professor and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University of Alberta. Dr. Agrawal's research interests are diverse, spanning sustainable urban and rural planning, migration, energy transitions, Indigenous issues, and human rights. Among several national and international grants he has received, the most recent one is \$98.6M CFREF grant, in which he is the project lead from the University of Alberta. An accomplished author of over one hundred articles, professional reports, and three books, Dr. Agrawal has significantly influenced planning practices, city bylaws, and legislation through a focus on human and Indigenous rights and equity. He has also received the Canadian Institute of Planners' national academic award for his substantial contributions to planning education and research in Canada.



Harald Bauder

Dr. Harald Bauder is a Professor in the Department of Geography and the Graduate Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University. His research explores Indigenous-newcomer relations among other topics. He also leads the partnership project, "Urban Sanctuary, Migrant Solidarity and Hospitality in Global Perspective," which aims to co-develop and share knowledge on policies and practices for supporting vulnerable migrants and refugees in major cities across Africa, Europe, North America, and Latin America.



Caitlin Chong

Caitlin Chong is a Chinese settler with Canadian citizenship occupying unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (*Musqueam*), Skwxwú7mesh (*Squamish*), and sə'ílwətaʔɬ (*Tsleil-Waututh*) Nations, or what is colonially known as "Vancouver." She is a graduate student in the UBC Sociology department, a researcher with Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, and an organizer with Spring Socialist Network. In her research and activism, she attends to the experiences of diasporic Chinese communities through the lenses of racial capitalism and postcolonial theory.



Amanda Cheong

Dr. Amanda Cheong is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. She researches the impacts of documentation and legal status on people's lives, working with stateless, undocumented, and refugee communities in Southeast Asia and North America. Her work has appeared in venues such as *Social Problems*, *Sociological Theory*, *International Migration Review*, and *positions: asia critique*. She earned her PhD in Sociology and Social Policy at Princeton University in 2019.



Irene Bloemraad

Dr. Irene Bloemraad is a Professor of Sociology and Political Science, the Co-Director of the UBC Centre for Migration Studies, and the holder of the President's Excellence Chair in Global Migration at UBC. Her research focuses on how immigrants integrate into political communities and the impact of migration on politics and notions of belonging. She also investigates the role of community organizations in amplifying immigrant voices, the evolution of national identities such as multiculturalism, and how public attitudes toward immigrants shift depending on the framing of issues like human rights, citizenship, and national values.



Antje Ellermann

Dr. Antje Ellermann is an immigrant settler of German origin and lives as an uninvited guest on the beautiful, shared territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (*Musqueam*), Skwxwú7mesh (*Squamish*), and sə'lilwətaʔɬ (*Tsleil-Waututh*), together with her spouse and their teenage daughter. She is a Professor of Political Science and the Co-Director of the UBC Centre for Migration Studies. Her research focuses on the politics of migration and citizenship in liberal democracies. She currently works on projects examining the intersection of migration and citizenship, settler colonialism, and Indigeneity, as well as the comparative work of immigration bureaucracies.



Javier Ojer

Javier Ojer is an immigrant settler of Basque ethnicity with Spanish, colonial background, among other privileges. As the Engagement Strategist at the UBC Centre for Migration Studies, he focuses on building relationships and initiatives that address the intersections and contradictions of settlement and decolonization. His interests include inquiring about and looking at appropriate roles of settler-colonial individuals and institutions in relation to unceded territories, the land itself, and the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and Nations with ongoing colonialism. He supports CMS's efforts to create inclusive research spaces that integrate diverse tools and methodologies—such as art and storytelling—as legitimate ways of producing, validating and mobilizing knowledge.



Katie Crocker

Katie Crocker is the Chief Executive Officer of AMSSA, a British Columbia provincial umbrella association that strengthens over 90 member agencies as well as hundreds of community stakeholder agencies who serve immigrants and newcomers. Katie represents the BC Settlement Sector on the National Settlement and Integration Council, sits on the Executive Committee of the UBC Centre for Migration Studies and is the Co-Chair of Pathways to Prosperity. Along with her background in not-for-profit management and her knowledge of the settlement and integration sector, Katie brings expertise in supporting neurodiverse children and their families as a mother of a child with Autism and the Chair of UNITI's Board of Directors. In recognition of her achievements, Katie was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in August 2024.



Sandra Schinnerl

Dr. Sandra Schinnerl is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the UBC Centre for Migration Studies. Her research interests include the study of migration pathways of newcomers, measuring the impacts of settlement service delivery, and employment and labour force participation of both temporary and permanent residents. She is also a member of the Bridging Divides research team looking at both the barriers and supports available for citizenship acquisition in Canada. Sandra is also a Senior Policy Researcher for Global Affairs Canada in their International Education Division and is interested in the the relationship between education and immigration policy. She has experience working with and linking population datasets and conducting both quantitative and qualitative research.

Speed Networking Activity

This dynamic and interactive session is designed to foster direct connections between settlement sector participants and CMS co-directors and affiliate researchers in an informal and engaging environment. The goal is to explore specific ways CMS can support immigrant service organizations, while also gathering valuable feedback and ideas for future collaborations.

Each CMS researcher will host small groups of 3-4 participants, who will rotate between tables in 8-minute rounds. At the start of the activity, the discussion topics at each table will be introduced, allowing participants to choose the tables that align with their interests. This is a unique opportunity to engage with CMS leadership, share insights, and explore potential partnerships across multiple conversations.

Useful Information

Location

UBC Robson Square
800 Robson Street
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 3B7

We will gather in the HSBC Hall (C680)/C180, located at the basement floor of UBC Robson Square. This floor can be accessed via staircase and elevator. It is a floor below the main lobby space.

Phone Number

Front Desk: 604 822 3333



Public Transit

UBC Robson Square is a short walk from the Burrard, Granville, and City Centre SkyTrain stations.

Use the Translink website to plan your trip via transit from any location in the Lower Mainland.

Driving & Parking

To access the parking lot for 800 Robson Street (Lot 189), head south on Howe Street to the corner at Nelson Street. The parking lot entrance will be on your right, just before Nelson. Note that Howe is a one-way street.

Once you have entered the parking lot, follow the directional signs to UBC Robson Square. The maximum height for the Robson Square parking garage is 6.5 feet.

For current pricing please visit <https://indigoneo.ca/en/car-park/vancouver-lot-189-robson-square>.

Accessibility

UBC Robson Square offers elevator access via our entrance on Hornby Street at Robson Street.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Centre for Migration Studies



www.migration.ubc.ca

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