

# REBUILDING LIFE IN A NEW HOMELAND

*RESEARCH MEETING*  
MAY 16-19, 2019



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA

# Welcome



On behalf of the Pan African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE) and the University of Alberta community, I welcome you all to what I hope will be an engaging, dynamic and insightful scholarly experience over the next two days.

As an academic hub that encourages research and teaching on emerging social issues, the University of Alberta supports the study of gender relations within immigrant communities. PACE exemplifies this mandate; it embraces interdisciplinary, international initiatives between scholars, policymakers, service

providers and communities that are increasingly sought for research and scholarly output, graduate training and community engagement related to Africans globally.

Developing a SSHRC Partnership Grant proposal is a major undertaking, but one that is urgent and timely for the study of Africans in transnational contexts. In Canada, Africans constitute one of the fastest growing groups of immigrants and are spread across four major provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. Despite their growing numbers, this emerging population remains largely under-researched. Gaps in knowledge about gender relations within these immigrant families undermine the capacity of service providers and policy makers to assist them. In the African continent, there are equally acute gaps in knowledge about migration, particularly the international streams. Our aim is to generate relevant information and strategies for enhancing life before, during and after migration for the mutual benefit of Canada and African immigrant sending countries.

I look forward to your contributions which I'm sure have implications for research both on gender relations as well as on other relevant domains of immigrant life.



Phil Okeke-Ihejirika  
Director of PACE



## Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith

is a licensed psychologist who is originally from Sierra Leone. She is Board Certified in Group Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). She is a tenured Professor of Psychology at the City College of New York, the City University of New York (CUNY) and at the Graduate Center, CUNY. Dr. Akinsulure-Smith has cared for forced migrants, as well as survivors of torture, armed conflict, and human rights abuses from around the world at the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture since 1999. In addition to her teaching and clinical work, Dr. Akinsulure-Smith is the recipient of several grants, including a 2014-2015 Fulbright Africa Regional Research Program award. She is currently the PI of an NIH-funded study to examine Female Genital Cutting among African immigrants and service providers in the United States. Her work has included developing and examining mental health interventions in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Dr. Akinsulure-Smith has written extensively about service provision to and mental health challenges facing forced migrants.

## Delali Badasu

is Senior Research Fellow at the Regional Institute for Population Studies, University of Ghana. She has researched and published a number of works on population and development and health-related issues. Her current research focuses on socio-cultural dimensions of health, using mainly qualitative research methods. Her major works in this regard are on Ghana's health policy and tertiary health care for children. She has just completed a study on care for children with chronic diseases at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. She is a member of the Union for African Population Studies and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).



## Gillian Creese

is Professor at the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice and Professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of British Columbia. Her current research focuses on the gendered and racialized dimensions of immigration and settlement in Canada, as well as the experiences of the second-generation, with a particular focus on immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa. Her recent books include *The New African Diaspora in Vancouver: Migration, Exclusion and Belonging* (2011) and *'Where are you from?' Growing up African-Canadian in Vancouver* (in press).

## Farida Fozdar

(aka Tilbury) is Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Western Australia. Recipient of a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship, Farida uses qualitative and quantitative methods to understand the ways in which racial, ethnic, national and religious identities are constructed, and policies and practices associated with cultural diversity. She has almost twenty years' experience studying settlement experiences of migrants in Australia, including employment, training, mental health and belonging among humanitarian entrants of African backgrounds. She has co-authored *Race and Ethnic Relations*, and published over 70 papers and chapters. Farida has also conducted evaluations of programs to assist migrants and refugees with re-settlement. She is Deputy Head of Social Sciences (Research) and Chair of the UWA Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Working Group.

## Michael Frishkopf

is Professor of Music, Director of the Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology, Adjunct Professor of Medicine, and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies, with foci in the Arab world and Africa. His research centers on Music for Global Human Development ([m4ghd.org](http://m4ghd.org)), especially Global Health, as well as Music and Islam, Music and Architecture, and Machine Learning for Sound Recognition. He is also a composer and performer. ([frishkopf.org](http://frishkopf.org))

## Fisseha Gebremedhin

is a Ph.D. candidate in Applied Mathematics at the National Advanced School of Engineering, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon and Lecturer of mathematics at Adigrat University, Ethiopia. Currently, he is working on Big Data Visualization Algorithms with a focus on " Visualization Algorithms for Large Scale High Dimensional Data."

## Jay Marlowe

is an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland. He became a Rutherford Discovery Fellow to pursue a 5 year research programme related to refugee settlement trajectories. As a social worker and former visiting fellow with the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University, he has worked with refugee communities as a practitioner and researcher. His primary area of research interest focuses upon refugee settlement, social inclusion and ways that migrant communities can participate within society.

## Ike Odimegwu

is a Professor of Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Graduate of Urban University, Rome, he specialized in African Metaphysical Anthropology, and Social and Political Philosophy at the University of Nigeria. His research interest areas include human personhood and identity, African social existence and dialogics. Dr. Odimegwu has published a number of books in philosophy including Integrative Personhood, Philosophic Foundations of Politics, and Perspectives on African Communalism. In 2018, his research interest turned to migration and he has participated in a number workshops on migration research and advocacy, management and governance in Nigeria. Ike Odimegwu was Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies 2014-2018; and currently, Director, Centre for Migration Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria.

## Thashika Pillay

holds a PhD in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Alberta. She will be an Assistant Professor at Queen's University Faculty of Education from July 1, 2019. Thashika has extensive research and teaching experience in K-12 and higher education in Canada, Australia, South Africa, and Ethiopia. Her scholarship focuses on educational policy, migration and diasporic studies, anticolonialism, Indigenous knowledge systems, and anti-racist feminist pedagogies. Thashika is co-editor of *Decolonizing Global Citizenship Education* and *Global Citizenship, Common Wealth and Uncommon Citizenships*.

## Phil Okeke-Ihejirika

is a Professor in the Department Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta. She began her career as the first African female full-time faculty of the university. Her research program is transnational, community-based and interdisciplinary, with a focus on gender relations within African immigrant populations. Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika currently heads the University of Alberta's Pan African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE). She is also a founding member of the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE). Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika has gained international acclaim as an expert in program planning, curriculum development, and graduate training. She is an adjunct professor in several African universities, including Durban University of Technology and the Federal University of Technology Akure as well as the 2018 Director for the Gender Institute of the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA). As a gender analyst, she has served as a consultant in many international research projects.

## Bukola Salami

is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta. Her main area of expertise is immigrant health. She has a robust research program on access to health care for immigrant children, immigrant child mental health, migration pathways after completing the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, African immigrant child health, and mental health of African, Black and Caribbean youths. She is also a collaborating researcher at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in Geneva. Her recent awards include Alberta's top 40 under 40, Canada's 100, most Accomplished Black Women, and member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Emerging Nurse Researcher of the Year.

## Thomas Soehl

is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at McGill University and Canada Research Chair in International Migration. Two main themes guide his research: one is the importance of family ties for migrants and the inter-generational transmission of culture, socio-economic characteristics and political attachments in migrant families. A second theme is the political transition that international migration involves, and the multiple and shifting socio-political attachments of migrants. In addition to the literature on immigrant socioeconomic and political incorporation, and migrant transnationalism, his work contributes to research on political socialization, the sociology of the family, the comparative study of ethnicity and race, and the political reproduction of nation-states. Dr. Soehl relies heavily on quantitative methods such as multilevel modeling, event-history analysis, item-response theory, structural equation models and Bayesian approaches to statistical inference.

## Sophie Yohani

is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair/Graduate Studies in the Department of Educational Psychology, University of Alberta. She is also a psychologist whose research focuses on multicultural issues in counselling, trauma and adaptation, hope/resilience, and the mental health of refugees and migrants. Dr. Yohani has served as the co-director of the Faculty of Education's Division of Clinical Services, a training clinic for graduate students in Counselling, School and Child Clinical Psychology programs. She is also an adjunct visiting professor in the Clinical Psychology Program, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Tanzania.

## Michael Ungar | Key Note Speaker

is a Family Therapist and Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience. Since 2002, Dr. Ungar has directed the Resilience Research Centre, designing multisite longitudinal research and evaluation projects in more than a dozen low, middle, and high-income countries, with much of that work focused on the resilience of marginalized children and families, and adult populations experiencing mental health challenges. Dr. Ungar has published over 180 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on the subject of resilience and is the author of 15 books for mental health professionals, researchers and lay audiences. These include *The Social Ecology of Resilience: A Handbook for Theory and Practice* for researchers, *Change Your World: The Science of Resilience and the True Path to Success*, a book for adults experiencing stress at work and at home, and *Working with Children and Youth With Complex Needs*, a book for clinicians. His blog, *Nurturing Resilience*, can be read on *Psychology Today's* website.





# Friday May 17th

8:00–8:30	Registration	10:20–10:40	<i>Where are you from? Home and belonging for second-generation African-Canadians</i> <b>Gillian Creese</b>
8:30–8:40	Opening Remarks		
8:40–9:00	<i>A program of research to improve parenting practices and well-being of African children and youths</i> <b>Bukola Salami</b>	10:40–11:00	<i>Reconceptualizing context: The role of origin and destination society for the trajectories children of immigrants</i> <b>Thomas Soehl</b>
9:00–9:20	<i>Community-based collaborative approaches towards psychosocial wellness after conflict-related trauma, migration and settlement</i> <b>Sophie Yohani</b>	11:00–12:00	<b>Keynote: Systemic Resilience</b> <b>Michael Ungar</b>
9:20–9:40	<i>Socio-musical resonance: a powerful, sustainable technology for social resilience among migrants and refugees</i> <b>Michael Frishkopf</b>	12:00–12:10	Greetings from Department <b>Michelle Meagher</b>
9:40–10:00	<i>Migration Trends and Patterns in the past Decade</i> <b>Fisseha Gebremedhin</b>	12:10-13:00	Lunch
10:00–10:20	Coffee break	13:00–13:20	<i>Transnational Refugee Settlement: Integration and Social Media</i> <b>Jay Marlowe</b>
		13:20–13:40	<i>Belonging in the Land Down Under: The Experiences of African-background Humanitarian Entrants</i> <b>Farida Fozdar</b>

## Special Thank You

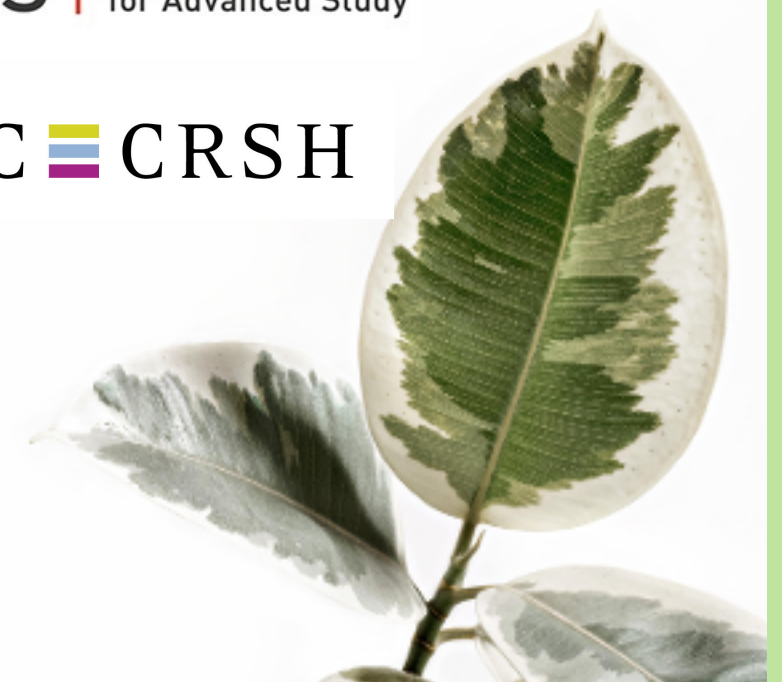
On behalf of the Pan-African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE), Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika, Dr. Bukola, Dr. Salami and Dr. Frishkopf would like to thank all of those who have participated and supported this research meeting. We especially acknowledge our guests and scholars who have dedicated time and resources towards this initiative. Finally we thank the funders, community members, students and volunteers who have made this possible.

Thank you!



SSHRC  CRSH

13:40–14:00	<i>African immigrants in America – recognizing &amp; utilizing our strengths</i> <b>Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith</b>
14:00–14:20	<i>Harnessing Cultural Resources for Proper Integration into a Host Community: The Case of Ghanaian Immigrants in Canada</i> <b>Delali Badasu</b>
14:20–14:40	<i>African Immigrants' Resilience in Transnational Contexts: Exploring the Contributions of Pre-migration and Home Links</i> <b>Ike Odimegwu</b>
14:40–15:00	Coffee Break
15:00–15:20	<i>Sustainable injustice: Exploring the Settler Colonial State Apparatus through the experiences of African Canadian Women</i> <b>Thashika Pillay</b>
15:20 - 15: 50	<i>Scoping Review Overview</i> <b>Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika &amp; Natalie Rzeszutek</b>
15:30–17:30	General Discussion & Closing Remarks





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