

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

## YORK UNIVERSITY

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Research Symposium

Are We There Yet? Engaging Migration/Mobility, Transnationalism and Diasporic Formations in Social Work Research, Teaching and Practice

**Immigration was pivotal to the emergence of social work as a profession at the turn of the last century.** The Settlement Houses were sites where early Social Workers honed their community practice skills. However, these earlier connections and interests have been on the wane due to a variety of factors that include the changing climate within which social work is practiced – such as the rise and decline of the Welfare state, increasing professionalization, and the emergence of the latest phase of capitalist globalization with its reactive and narrow solution orientation in which post-migration practice consideration receive privileged attention. To this point, the current rise in ‘white nationalism’ and racism in politics with its anti-immigrant stance sweeping across a number of countries and their implications on countries such as Canada that on the surface presents as welcoming, yet falls woefully below providing adequate material resources for these populations is of consideration.

**This annual symposium is intended as a response to this introspective moment in the discipline.** It is envisioned as both an inward look, as we take stock of the state of knowledge in migration and social work and also as a form of looking beyond disciplinary norms to focus on various local and extra-local contexts of migration which do not necessarily manifest in traditional social work service contexts, but which place our current work within macro-political processes of population movements across political borders.

Topics of consideration include, but are not limited to:

- How social work responses to immigration/refugees have evolved in relation to Canadian state's policy in different eras since inception of social work (discriminatory law, multiculturalism era, now)
- How is social work responding to resurgence of overt white nationalism in Western world; and the impact of white nationalism on law, policy, and discourse as it pertains to racialized immigrants/refugees (i.e. islamaphobia, imperialism, migration to Canada from the US, neo-liberal globalization etc.)
- The failures of ‘diversity’ and ‘multiculturalism’ frames in institutional settings and the law (i.e. the displacement anti-racism, decolonizing as an organizing frame and the results of this displacement)
- What lessons can be drawn from cross-disciplinary conversations?

January  
**31** Deadline for abstract submission

#### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Organized by the School of Social Work at York University, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Research Symposium aims to foster critical social work education, research and practice that promote human rights, social justice and transformations specific to a contemporary, historical, social, political and economic context, both locally and globally.



April 27th, 2018



Room S802  
South Tower, Ross Building  
York University



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