



School of Social Sciences & Psychology

## Public Workshop

### **Transnational Social Workers: professional identity, culture and practice**



DATE: Thursday 18th August 2016

Catering: 13:00pm -14:00pm Lunch will be provided

TIME: 2:00pm – 17:00pm

VENUE: EZ.G.23 (Parramatta South CAMPUS)

RSVP: 10 August, 2016 Email: [ssap-research@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:ssap-research@westernsydney.edu.au)

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

**Dr Shereen Hussein,**

**Principal Research Fellow (Chair), King's College London.** Demography at the London School of Hygiene and a PhD in statistical demography from the London School of Economics. She is interested in applying statistical and epidemiological methodologies in addressing sociological and health issues. She has worked internationally with the United Nations, the Population Council, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the League of Arab States on research related to social determinants of health, aged-care and multiple roles of women and maternal and child health inequalities. Over the past 15 years, she has worked extensively in the fields of ageing and formal long-term care (LTC) with a research focus on the formal workforce including the social work profession. She is particularly interested in the interplay of migration, social capital and organisational structure on workforce outcomes. She is currently conducting international research with partners from Europe and New Zealand on issues related to transnational professionals and care.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Social workers along other health care professionals are increasingly globally mobile, pursuing employment opportunities that combine professional and lifestyle projects. Unlike many other health professions, social work skills and practice include cultural and national-specific elements that might not be directly translated within a global context. Presenting an additional layer to the existing maze of barriers any transnational professional need to negotiate in their pursuit of global mobility. The United Kingdom has actively relied on many overseas qualified social workers to fill shortages in the social work profession especially in relation to children social work, however, with a changing patterns and intensity. The current workshop explores the interface between the need for transnational social workers and the difficulties they face in their professional and personal path, using the UK as a case study. Using national statistics, survey and interview data with social workers and regulators in the UK and Europe, this presentation explores the sources of information and decision-making frames transnational social workers use while ensuing professional and personal experiences. It also addresses issues of socio-political and historical contexts of cultural diversity in host countries and how these are perceived and negotiated by transnational social workers. The discussion will explore the commonalities and difference of these issues within the Australian context. The workshop is designed to be interactive with an opportunity for participants to contribute their views and experiences on the topic.