YOUNG & RESILIENT RESEARCH CENTRE

Y&R 2025 SEMINAR SERIES

8 October: Dr Sherene Idriss

Lecturer in Culture and Society at the School of Arts, Western Sydney University

Migrants at Uni: Juggling financial hardship with educational aspirations



Financial hardship is an urgent issue in Australia that disproportionately affects young people and children and particularly those from culturally and racially marginalised backgrounds (CaRM). The cause of Australia's 'cost of living crisis' has been attributed to global financial crises, policies that provide economic incentives and support to homeowners, stagnating wages and precarious working conditions across all sectors.

The overall effect is that, as Adkins et al. (2023) argue, 'homeowners' and 'non-homeowners' increasingly come to represent the fault lines of the main political classes in Australia's asset economy. The desire for home ownership in the absence of a strongly regulated rental system has been a driver for generations of migrant families in the pursuit of social mobility and stability. For the current generation of newly arrived and settled young migrants, achieving home ownership is increasingly impossible. This has serious implications for CaRM young people's educational aspirations and outcomes.

In her presentation, Dr Idriss will look closely at how higher education is reframed by young people experiencing financial hardship and the complex conditions of migration.

Biography

Dr Sherene Idriss is a lecturer in Culture and Society at the School of Arts, Western Sydney University. Her areas of research are in youth studies, ethnicity and migration and identity work. She is currently investigating how racial inequalities and financial precarity are shaping the next generation of young migrants in Australia across civic and democratic participation, social cohesion and gender equality.

8 October, 12:00 to 1:00 PM

Parramatta South EZ.1.57 & Online

Lunch will be provided