

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH SEMINAR

Historical Development of Indigenous Social Work and Evolving Practice Models in Canada

With a Focus on Social Policy and Indigenous Knowledge-Based Mental Health Approaches

June 10 (Sat) 2023
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
(Japan Standard Time)
* for other time zones refer to
<https://www.thetimezoneconverter.com/>

Venue and format:
Hybrid of Japan Women's University Mejiro Campus (Room 12009, Hyakunijunenkan) and online (Zoom Webinar)

Participation fee:
FREE (with English & Japanese simultaneous interpretation).

Capacity:
first 500 applicants

Application:
by June 8 (Thu) 2023
* Zoom link will be sent by June 9 (Fri) 2023 to the registered e-mail address.

<https://forms.gle/JGMNDK4RohJZkzSL9>



Due to historical colonialism and assimilation, as well as recent globalization, indigenous people worldwide, including the Ainu in Japan and First Nations in Canada, face various social problems and mental health issues to this day. Building on the concept of 'indigenous knowledge' in the Global Definition of the Social Work Profession, the seminar explores approaches to working with indigenous persons experiencing social and mental health problems resulting from colonization and assimilation.

With a combined experience of over 100 years in Canadian Indigenous social work practice, the three speakers will discuss history of government policies that contributed to mental health issues and the evolution of culturally appropriate mental health practices to address these issues. The region they live in is populated by 30,000 Indigenous persons living in 32 remote Indigenous communities that are accessible only by small aircraft. The two Indigenous speakers will describe how their own personal stories and struggles as Indigenous women shaped their long careers as mental health workers in this region.

Also, this seminar serves as a special event to mark and commemorate the establishment of the Association for International Social Work.

Coordinator and inquiries: Viktor Virag (virag@jcs.w.ac.jp)

Program

13:00 Opening Indigenous Prayer (5 min)

13:05 Opening Remarks and Introduction (10 min)

by Mariko Kimura (President, AISW & Professor Emeritus, Japan Women's University)

13:15 Outline (10 min)

by Viktor Virag (Principal Investigator, Grant-in-Aid Project & Associate Professor, Japan College of Social Work)

13:25 Field Report from Canada (60 min)

'Indigenous Social Policy and Evolving Knowledge and Experience Based Mental Health Practice'

by Joyce Timpson, Lydia Sherman, Sally Bunting

14:25 Break (10 min)

14:35 Commentary and questions (10 min)

by Kana Matsuo (International Committee Member, JSSSW & Associate Professor, Shukutoku University)

14:45 Discussion and Q&A (30 min)

moderated by Viktor Virag

15:15 Conclusion and Closing Remarks (10 min)

by Machiko Ohara (Vice President, AISW & Professor, Japan College of Social Work)

15:25 Closing Indigenous Prayer (5 min)



Joyce Timpson

- Dr Joyce Timpson was born in Toronto Canada and now lives in Sioux Lookout Ontario Canada, the centre for services to 30 remote Indigenous communities, and she worked for 40 years in many aspects of mental health services for Indigenous people.
- She worked to develop one of the first mental health services in Canada delivered by Indigenous persons with both Sally Bunting and Lydia Sherman.
- After receiving her PhD in Social Work, she spent 25 years as a consultant to northern communities in development of self-administered and self-governing mental health and addictions programs.
- As 17 years as an elected official to the Sioux Lookout Municipal Council, as a politician, Joyce has focused on environment issues and relationships between the Municipality and Indigenous people.
- She enjoys the northern climate including cross country skiing in the winter and swimming in the summer

Lydia Sherman

- Lydia is an Indigenous, Oji-Cree woman raised in Weagamow Lake First Nation (which means "Round" Lake in the Oji-Cree language). She is fluent in her language and has lived in Sioux Lookout, which is the service hub for 32 fly-in remote First Nations communities to the North, for almost 4 decades.
- She worked in the Mental Health /Social Work (inclusive) field for thirty-five years including mental health and child welfare work.
- In the early 1980's, she worked on the inception one of the first First Nation delivered Mental Health program in Canada with Joyce, Sally, 2 Elders and other Indigenous mental health counsellors.
- For the last 6 years Lydia has worked as a Mental Health Counsellor with the Mental Wellness Team of a First Nations Organization.
- Lydia likes reading, playing guitar, singing, being with her grandsons, has an interest in other cultures and loves nature.

Sally Bunting

- Sally is Indigenous Oji-Cree raised in the North Spirit Lake First Nation. She is fluent in her language and lives in Dryden Canada, not far from Sioux Lookout.
- Since 1983 she has been involved in the mental health and related field beginning her career in the first Indigenous mental health program in Canada with Joyce and Lydia working for almost 20 years, taking time off on 2 separate time periods to be the first woman Chief of her First Nation.
- Currently, she is the Elder counsellor for the Dryden High School, a position that assists First Nations students living in Dryden from Dryden and other communities.
- Sally is currently studying back-to-the land practices such as preserving blueberries over the winter. As a language speaker, she can communicate to in her own language to older Elders to learn these skills. Despite her many years in mental health, she believes that her most important role is being a grandmother to her own 13 grandchildren as well as the 9 of her late husband, Dean.