



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Fall Colloquium
Series 2018**

Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts



Margaret Walton-Roberts is a professor in the Geography and Environmental studies department at Wilfrid Laurier University, and affiliated to the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo Ontario. Her research has examined South Asian migration with a focus on gender and skilled migration, and has carried out numerous research projects on transnational skilled migration and immigration, and settlement and integration in Canada. Recent co-edited publications include; *Diasporas, Development and Governance* with Springer Global Migration Series and *The Human Right to Citizenship: A Slippery Concept* with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

“A tale of three mid-sized cities: Community response and lessons learnt from the Syrian refugee resettlement event”

Margaret Walton-Roberts, Luisa Veronis, Blair Cullen and Huyen Dam

How did communities respond to the Syrian refugee resettlement initiative (SRRI) in 2015-16 in Ontario’s mid-sized cities, and what lessons can we learn from the experience? This presentation explores these questions based on a comparative research project that examined Syrian refugee resettlement in the mid-sized cities of Hamilton, Ottawa and Waterloo in the province of Ontario. First we explore how these communities mobilized resources by drawing upon historical foundations as both narrative and guide for how to respond to the resettlement demands. Second, we detail how the scope of the Syrian refugee resettlement process resulted in new players entering the resettlement space, which presented benefits and challenges to the already existing settlement sector. Third, the community more broadly became an important participant in the process of welcoming refugees, and this generosity itself had to be managed, because one of the emerging downsides of the positive community response was the perception and reality of inequity in the resources provided to Syrian versus other refugees. Finally, despite the many challenges that emerged for these communities during the intensity of the SRRI, one positive outcome is the formation of more collaborative community networks with a renewed emphasis on refugee resettlement needs.

Thursday, November 29, 2018

4:00 pm, SSC 6210

Refreshments at 3:30pm in SSC 6256

All Welcome!

For More Information email: mer@uwo.ca