



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Winter Colloquium
Series 2022**

Danièle Bélanger



Danièle Bélanger is a Professor in the Department of Geography and Canada Research Chair in Global Migration Dynamics at Laval University in Quebec City. Her research interests include international migrations, social demography, gender, population and development, gender and social inequalities, and reproductive health.

“The office and the CA: Federal MPs’ district offices and staff in the provision of immigration services in Canada ”

Immigration lawyers, immigration consultants, educational institutions and community organizations who provide immigration services have been studied as key actors of the landscape of immigration services in Canada. This talk will investigate the place and role of federal MP offices and their constituency assistants (CAs) in this field of players that deal with Canada’s thick immigration bureaucracy. Scant past research has noted that the level and type of services provided by MP district offices vary. This situation creates inequalities among constituents in their access to this unique resource with privileged access to information from IRCC and other governmental agencies. This talk will investigate this situation further by addressing three questions. First, how are MP offices and the constituency assistants who do immigration work located in the constellation of services? To what extent and why are they key actors? Second, what are the factors that determine the level and type of services offered across MP offices in Canada? Third, what is the role of discretion in the office in shaping services provided? Based on quantitative data (administrative data and original survey data from 117 of the 338 offices) and a set of 33 qualitative interviews with constituency assistants, this talk will begin to unpack and theorize and the role played by this very important, and yet understudied, actor.

Thursday, January 13, 2022

4:00 pm, Virtual Zoom Event

All Welcome!

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/98325466063>