

2nd Annual ECU TRACS Diversity Research Network (DRN) Symposium

Program and Abstract

TRACS
Diversity
Research
Network



ECU
EDITH COWAN
UNIVERSITY



Date: 23th and 24th July, 2025

Venue: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus

For all general enquiries please email TRACS: tracsmrn@ecu.edu.au

Program Overview

Wednesday 23 July	09:00-09:45	Day One Opening Session
	09:45-11:45	Panel 1: Inclusion and Exclusion
	12:00-13:00	Panel 2: Love's Diversity
	13:00-13:45	Lunch
	13:45-15:45	Panel 3: Methods and Creative Innovation
	16:00-17:30	Panel 4: Living, Dying and Learning
Thursday 24 July	09:00-09:30	Day Two Opening Session
	09:30-10:15	Music and Arts Activity – Seated Dance
	10:15-12:15	Panel 5: Ageing and Care Across Borders
	12:15-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-15:00	Panel 6: Aged Care and Cultural Diversity
	15:00-17:00	Panel 7: Families and Intergenerational Dynamics
	17:00-17:30	Music and Arts Activity – Singing

Venue: ECU Joondalup Campus, Building 2 Room 108.

Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 423 689 592 906

Passcode: aD7g5Ri7

Day One: Wednesday 23 July

09:00-09:45 *Prof Loretta Baldassar*, Co-Convenor, TRACS Migration Research Network
Dr Jamal Barnes, Co-Convenor, TRACS Migration Research Network
Prof Matthew Allen, Executive Dean, School of Arts and Humanities
Prof Verena Thomas, Associate Dean Research, School of Arts and Humanities

09:45-11:45 **Panel 1: Inclusion and Exclusion**
Chair: Wangchuk Bidha

Experiencing Integration Challenges in the Host Society and Uncertainty About the Home Country's Future; What Do Afghans in Western Australia Think About Returning to Afghanistan?

Omid Rezaei

Living With Multi-Stigma: The Role of Chosen Families in Supporting the Psychosocial Well-Being and Sexual Health of Rainbow Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Australia

Syed Hassan Khalil

Conversations About Belonging and Not Belonging: Variations on the Great Australian Dream?

Jane Mulcock

Caught Between Worlds: Perceived Religious Identity Discrepancy, Acculturation, and Adaptation Among Iranian Migrants in Australia

Yavar Fadavi Asghari

Bringing Asylum Seekers Down: The Italy-Albania Agreement and Degrading Treatment

Jamal Barnes and Obed Adonteng-Kissi

12:00-13:00 **Panel 2: Love's Diversity**

Panelists *Elizabeth Reid Boyd*

Madalena Grobbelaar

Debra Dudek

13:00-13:45 **Lunch**

13:45-15:45 **Panel 3: Methods and Creative Innovation**
Chair: Syed Hassan Khalil

A Moving Cause: Travel Notes Toward Pilgrimage as Creative Writing Process
Elizabeth Reid Boyd

Fieldwork Reflections and Researcher Positionality on Researching
Female Bhutanese Students in Western Australia
Wangchuk Bidha

Relational Ethics and Disclosure: Methodological Reflections from
Rainbow Migrant Research in Western Australia
Lukasz Krzyzowski

A Map of Conversations: Filmmakers on Their Research and Practice
Catherine Gough-Brady

Participatory Methods in the Humanities: A Case of a Social Citizen Science
Project in FORTHEM European University Alliance
Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska

16:00-17:30 **Panel 4: Living, Dying and Learning**
Chair: Yavar Fadavi Asghari

Exploring Cultural Values in Alcohol and Other Drug Use Among African
Australian Youth: A Qualitative Study
Abraham Kenin

Navigating Transnational Death and Dying
Maria Marchetti-Mercer

The Gross National Happiness Framework: A Bhutanese Antidote to the
Pandemic Distress?
Kinley Rinchen, Vicki Banham and Sonam Pelden

Supporting International Student on Placements- Exploring Internationalisation
of Clinical Practice Curricula
Sanetta du Toit

Day Two: Thursday 24 July

09:00-09:30 *A/Prof Justine Dandy*, Co-Convenor, TRACS Migration Research Network
Dr Catriona Stevens, Co-Convenor, TRACS Migration Research Network
Prof Caroline Finch, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research

09:30-10:15 Music and Arts Activity
Seated Dance: A New Genre
Paige Gordon

10:15-12:15 Panel 5: Ageing and Care Across Borders
Chair: Piyumi Ranadewa

Personhood of Transnational Migrant Dementia Caregivers

Nelgyn Tennyson

Addressing Diverse Older-Age Wellbeing: Understanding Social Frailty
Among Southeast Asian Migrants in Australia

Hien Thi Nguyen

The Abuse of Ethnically Diverse Older People: A Scoping Review

Montana Pearce

Ageing in a New Land: Ageing Experiences of Older Iranian Migrants in
Australia

Farzaneh Ghaznavi

Brotherly Conviviality: The Digital Support Networks of Older Farang
Men in Isaan

Catriona Stevens

12:15-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00 Panel 6: Aged Care and Cultural Diversity
Chair: Yvonne Huang

Feasibility of a Culturally Adapted Program in Australian Aged Care
Wenhong Zhao et al.

Scoping Review: Culturally Appropriate Care for Migrant Arab Elders in
Long-Term Care Settings
Najat Alhaizan

Unpicking Assumptions Underpinning Aged Care Arrangements
Mala Dharmananda

Roles of Caregivers and Their Impact on Quality of Care in Northern Chinese
Nursing Homes: A Scoping Review Protocol
Chenchen Li

From Clinic to Culture: Improving Dementia Care for Italian Migrants Through
Cultural Integration
Simone Marino and Loretta Baldassar

15:00-17:00 Panel 7: Families and Intergenerational Dynamics
Chair: Nelgyn Tennyson

Between Autonomy and Discipline: Migrant Parenting and National Habitus in
Cross-Cultural Context
Raisa Akifeva

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: The Experiences and Health of WA
Grandcarers
David A. Coall et al.

Intergenerational Negotiation in the Process of Individualization:
Reconstructing Intimate Relationships in Transnational Chinese Families
Yvonne Huang

Intergenerational Care Among Sri Lankan Migrant Families in Perth
Shantha Karthigesu

Families, Mobility and Care: Theoretical Considerations
Loretta Baldassar

17:00-17:30 Music and Arts Hub
Singing and Music Activity
Manonita Ghosh and Simone Marino

Abstracts

Panel 1: Inclusion and Exclusion

Experiencing Integration Challenges in the Host Society and Uncertainty About the Home Country's Future; What Do Afghans in Western Australia Think About Returning to Afghanistan?

Author: Omid Rezaei

This study presents an argument about how Afghanistan's situation has affected the way Afghan immigrants deal with their integration challenges in Australia as well as their desire to return to Afghanistan. Using a mixed method approach, surveying 115 Afghans, conducting 18 interviews and 2 focus groups, this research was undertaken in Perth Western Australia within a year. Analysis of data indicates that only 13 per cent of respondents feel a weak connection with Australian society, and over 77 per cent consider Australia as their homeland. However, some experience challenges living in Australia, particularly in employment and their social connections. Findings show that while this group contemplate returning to Afghanistan as a result of integration challenges in Australia, they still prefer to live in Australia for the rest of their life. Qualitative findings reveal that this is mainly because of Afghanistan's situation which according to participants suffers from lack of safety, disunity and foreign interventions. Therefore, most of Afghans who were studied in this research are reluctant to return and consider Australia as their homeland, despite all challenges.

Living With Multi-Stigma: The Role of Chosen Families in Supporting the Psychosocial Well-Being and Sexual Health of Rainbow Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Australia

Author: Syed Hassan Khalil

The uneven distribution of LGBTQIA+ human rights has contributed to a growing number of Rainbow Refugees and Asylum Seekers (RRAS). They typically flee from countries where Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) are criminalised, to countries with stronger legal protections and greater societal acceptance, like Australia. However, upon arrival, they face multi-stigmas that create systemic barriers to healthcare, psychosocial support, and belonging, heightening their risk of exclusion and poorer health outcomes. While previous studies have explored the social and healthcare challenges of RRAS, they primarily focus on institutional barriers, discrimination within LGBTQIA+ community. Yet, little research has examined the critical role of chosen family networks in helping them navigate multi-stigma and access sexual healthcare. Moreover, the research rarely explores how healthcare professionals perceive and address the unique needs of RRAS, particularly in terms of culturally competent and inclusive care. Framed within the theoretical lenses of intersectionality and stigma, this study employs a mixed-methods design, incorporating creative and traditional person-centric social network analysis (PSNA). 10 Rainbow refugees and asylum seekers, living with HIV, will engage in PSNA and semi-structured interviews in-person, to map their support networks, using both a free form drawing and a concentric convoy model to visualise relational importance and support roles. At least, 150 participants altogether from chosen family identified by RRAS during PSNA and caseworkers will be invited to complete an online survey. Their responses will offer valuable data on informal care networks, enriching the analysis of support structures and lived experiences. Moreover, three focus group interviews (FGIs) will be conducted with healthcare professionals in WA, Victoria, and NSW. Together with them, I aim to explore the formal support structures available to RRAS by examining their experiences, operational practices, preparedness, and challenges in delivering culturally sensitive care. It complements the analysis of living with multi-stigma and composition and dynamics of informal support systems, offering a comprehensive understanding of how both formal and informal networks collectively shape

their psychosocial wellbeing and access to healthcare. Thematic analysis will be used to examine qualitative data, Statistical analysis will be used for survey findings, while PSNA will visually represent the roles and relationships within chosen family networks. Potentially the findings will contribute to advancing knowledge on the intersectional experiences of multi-stigma faced by this group. It will inform policy development and evidence-based advocacy, particularly emphasising the critical role of chosen families as informal carer in supporting the psychosocial wellbeing and sexual health of RRAS.

Conversations About Belonging and Not Belonging: Variations on the Great Australian Dream?

Author: Jane Mulcock

Based on observations over three decades and across multiple domains, this series of reflections considers ideas, expressions and debates about belonging and not belonging in the Australian nation state. It considers experiences of new migrants, migrant descendants and First Nations communities: from Baldassar's "Visits Home" to Native Title Claims, from New Age spiritualities, gardens and natural resource management, to community arts, political campaigns, cultural awareness training and anti-racism initiatives. The recurring and increasingly complex theme (or meme?) of belonging to place is a core component of Australian life and a constant 'site' of contestation.

I suggest that our hopes and fears about welcome and ownership run through these landscapes of thought and feeling, like river tributaries and veins of ore, disappearing and reappearing, always leaving their mark.

Caught Between Worlds: Perceived Religious Identity Discrepancy, Acculturation, and Adaptation Among Iranian Migrants in Australia

Author: Yavar Fadavi Asghari

This research explores the relationship between perceived religious identity discrepancy, acculturation orientations, and adaptation of Iranian migrants in Australia. Many secular Iranian migrants distance themselves from Islam after migration, redefining their social identity through their ancient Persian heritage. Some even identify as White, drawing on the Aryan race myth and their Indo-European linguistic roots. However, Western societies and media often categorise them within the broader non-White Muslim world, assuming a homogeneous Muslim identity based on Iran's geographical location and politicisation of Islam. This contrast between secular Iranian migrants' self-identified religious identity and how they believe Western communities perceive them remains largely unexamined, particularly how a discrepancy between these perceptions links to their acculturation and adaptation experiences. To address this gap, the proposed research employs a mixed-methods approach. First, qualitative in-depth interviews will explore perceived religious identity discrepancy and uncover key themes. Then, a quantitative approach will complement and further investigate the qualitative results. The findings of this study will be potentially significant in critically addressing the urgent need for context-specific analyses of the acculturation process. In addition, the findings may offer valuable insights for policymakers involved in migrant settlement programs, emphasising the need for more inclusive policies that recognise the diverse identities of individuals from Muslim-majority countries, including secular Iranian migrants.

Bringing Asylum Seekers Down: The Italy-Albania Agreement and Degrading Treatment

Authors: Jamal Barnes and Obed Adonteng-Kissi

In February 2024, Italy finalised an agreement with Albania to detain asylum seekers intercepted by Italian vessels at sea. Asylum seekers will have their asylum requests processed in Albania, and if granted asylum, allowed to enter Italy. If denied, they will be returned to their home country if listed on a designated 'safe' list. This agreement has received much controversy for undermining human rights. This presentation contributes to this debate by arguing that the policy settings and structure of the agreement

increase the risk of Italy and Albania breaching the prohibition against degrading treatment under international law. Analysing policy documents of the agreement, speeches, news articles, international human rights and refugee laws, as well as philosophical and legal scholarship on the concept of degrading treatment, this article argues that the cumulative effect of subjecting people to unnecessary suffering, dehumanisation, and discrimination breaches the prohibition against degrading treatment by 'bringing down' asylum seekers in rank by violating human dignity. This research makes an important contribution to the policy debates over the externalisation of asylum seekers by shedding important light on the link between policy designs and the risk of degrading treatment.

Panel 2: Love's Diversity

Panelists: *Elizabeth Reid Boyd, Madalena Grobbelaar and Debra Dudek*

In this panel, the co-founders of the Love Studies Research Group—Elizabeth Reid Boyd, Madalena Grobbelaar, and Debra Dudek—discuss how and why they founded this research group and what they have learned since then about love's diversity. We summarise the range of topics addressed in the first book we edited, *Contemporary Love Studies in the Arts and Humanities: What's Love Got To Do With It?* and in the second book, *Contemporary Love Studies Vol. 2: What's Sex Got To Do With It?* which is currently in process with the full manuscript due in December 2025. This book follows from the work of our first and showcases a selection of discussions from diverse fields and perspectives, which present a golden thread to weave the subtleties of love and sex. Given love and sex have been used interchangeably throughout the ages, has love been updated to incorporate differing idealisations, attitudes, expectations and behaviours, manifested in a diversity of sexual orientations, identities, and attractions, along a fluid continuum of human lived experience? Also, what happens when appeals for love are misused or when actions do not stem from a place of love? In this panel discussion, we ask for and offer ideas to address diverse forms of love and provide a way for harnessing them into a love literacy.

Panel 3: Methods and Creative Innovation

A Moving Cause: Travel Notes Toward Pilgrimage as Creative Writing Process

Author: *Elizabeth Reid Boyd*

Pilgrimage Studies is a growing field across the arts and humanities, yet pilgrimage writing is not a distinct genre. In my recent article 'A Moving Cause: Travel Notes toward Pilgrimage as Creative Writing Process' published in *New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing* (April 2025) I shared my exploration of pilgrimage as a creative writing process and potential genre. As a social scientist and a creative writer, my approach was qualitative and interdisciplinary, drawing upon an on-the-ground social constructivist perspective and definitions of genre as social action. This included an ethnomethodological account of my practice that distilled ten narrative and thematic elements in the writing process that hinged on the leitmotif of pilgrimage writing as 'a moving cause'. These elements were contextualized within debates on ethical practices, religious/secular divides, and intersections of gender, race, and economic status. This included environmental concerns and issues around equal accessibility to pilgrimage trails and to pilgrimage writing as a form of language. Pilgrimage writing can be read as liberatory, offering the freedom of the road, but it is not equal access and open to all. There are social, cultural, and environmental issues provoked by the rise in global pilgrimage and its effect on those whose homes are traversed. Diversity and inclusion policies and practices are increasing in some pilgrimage locations, and as pilgrimage increases globally such practices will only become more pressing.

Pilgrimage, as a search for peace and meaning that crosses divisions of tourism/ sacred travel, may offer opportunities for these concerns to be addressed with sensitivity and reverence. Pilgrimage writing, bringing together creativity and care, may also have a role to play, as a pathway to moral imagination, to empathy for the earth, and for each other.

Fieldwork Reflections and Researcher Positionality on Researching Female Bhutanese Students in Western Australia

Author: Wangchuk Bidha

Migration is a global phenomenon that continues to capture the attention of scholars and policymakers. Therefore, literature on migration continues to grow. As research on migration expands exponentially, it is imperative that the methodology used in studying migration and migrants is discussed to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. This study aims to contribute to this discussion through the experience of conducting research on Bhutanese student migrants in Western Australia by a Bhutanese migrant researcher. This study is based on autoethnographic research that reflects on the experiences of fieldwork involving qualitative interviews of female Bhutanese students studying in universities in Western Australia. The study highlights methodological challenges, researcher's positionality and reflections on the influence on data collection and interpretation of the research. The study is an attempt to contribute to a larger discourse on methodologies used for migration studies. It can offer as a case study for qualitative researchers conducting research among migrants with the same background/community.

Relational Ethics and Disclosure: Methodological Reflections from Rainbow Migrant Research in Western Australia

Author: Lukasz Krzyzowski

This paper addresses the ethical and methodological challenges of researching culturally and linguistically diverse LGBTIQ+ migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum—collectively termed Rainbow Migrants (RMs)—with particular attention to how identity disclosure is navigated within participatory frameworks. Reconsidering the dominance of Western “coming-out” narratives, it foregrounds the alternative practice of “inviting in”, a relational, culturally situated mode of disclosure that resists coercive visibility politics. The Rainbow Migrants Pilot Project adopted an Embedded Research approach—“helping while researching, researching while helping”—to ensure enquiry remained practically applied and directly beneficial. Grounded in Participatory Action Research (PAR), the study unfolded through four replicable stages:

- 1) Creative data generation: service-navigation interviews and object-oriented storytelling (Pottery Decorating & Planting Migrants' Stories workshops) gathered rich narratives without pressuring participants to disclose sensitive details.
- 2) Vignette construction: those narratives were distilled into anonymised, composite vignettes that highlighted common themes (e.g. disclosure), challenges and dilemmas.
- 3) Co-design workshops: RMs used the vignettes—removing any need for direct personal disclosure—to discuss and co-create service prototypes.
- 4) Iterative validation: follow-up sessions with RMs and practitioners refined both the thematic findings and the proposed interventions.

Disclosure was understood as relational, non-linear, and shaped by intersecting factors such as trauma, transnational ties, visa precarity, and home-country community surveillance.

Analytically, the paper introduces the Intersecting Care and Recognition Ethics (ICaRE) framework, a novel synthesis of intersectionality, recognition theory, and relational ethics of care. This composite lens reveals

how queer identities intersect with other axes of difference within overlapping structures of power and belonging, demonstrating that disclosure-sensitive, relationally grounded methods can generate deeper insights while safeguarding participant autonomy and cultural safety.

A Map of Conversations: Filmmakers on Their Research and Practice

Author: Catherine Gough-Brady

Participatory Methods in the Humanities: A Case of a Social Citizen Science

Project in FORTHEM European University Alliance

Author: Katarzyna Molek-Kozakowska

Panel 4: Living, Dying and Learning

Exploring Cultural Values in Alcohol and Other Drug Use Among African Australian Youth: A Qualitative Study

Author: Abraham Kenin

Background: The heritage cultural values of Sub-Sahara African (SSA) migrants in the Australian sociocultural context could offer insights into understanding the problem of Alcohol and other drug (AOD) use among SSA Australian youth.

Objectives: This study explored the conceptualization of SSA cultural values in Australia, and to establish how they relate to AOD use among SSA Australian youth.

Method: Utilising convenience sampling, one-on-one interviews were conducted with a total of 18 SSA Australians. The participants comprised 9 young people (aged 18 – 30; 4 females, 5 males), and 9 community leaders (aged 35 – 74; 4 females, 5 males).

Results: Based on a reflexive thematic analysis of the data, four main overarching themes of family, communality, and religiosity were identified as fundamental SSA Australian cultural values, and they are related to predisposing risk and/or protective factors in terms of youth AOD use. While the predisposing risk factors for SSA Australian youth AOD use are related to the thematic values of communality and family, the protective factors for SSA Australian youth AOD use are related to the thematic values of family, communality, and religiosity.

Conclusion: The results highlight how SSA immigrants in Australia perceive important aspects of their cultural values in relation to youth AOD use. However, further research into how the endorsement of cultural values by SSA Australian youth contributes to their acculturation and AOD use outcomes is needed to inform tailor-made AOD use interventions.

Navigating Transnational Death and Dying

Author: Maria Marchetti-Mercer

The death of a loved one is a deeply painful event, often accompanied by significant psychological and emotional turmoil, creating a profound disruption in the life of the bereaved. Yet, beyond the personal dimensions of grief, death frequently entails a range of bureaucratic and administrative responsibilities that are detached from the emotional realities of loss. These challenges are further compounded when death occurs across national borders, where logistical complications and the politics of mobility introduce additional layers of complexity to the grieving process. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020

presented a further challenge, often reshaping mourning practices and altering how individuals and families navigated bereavement in transnational contexts. These ramifications are still felt today.

In this paper, I will draw upon my personal story of dealing with the illness and the ultimate death of a loved one living in a different country. This geographical distance deeply impacted how I was able to provide support during a lengthy illness and later manage the processes linked to death and dying. Despite extensive research on transnational families, insufficient attention has been given to the processes of transnational grieving and how this impacts migrants and their family relationships after the death of a loved one. This is an important and excruciating process in the life of transnational families, often rekindling “migratory grief” which warrants further investigation.

The Gross National Happiness Framework: A Bhutanese Antidote to the Pandemic Distress?

Authors: *Kinley Rinchen, Vicki Banham and Sonam Pelden*

Since the 17th century, Bhutan has codified ‘happiness’ into law with the belief that the government’s purpose is to ensure happiness for its citizens. This principle was reasserted in the 1970s when the fourth King stated that “Gross National Happiness (GNH) is more important than Gross Domestic Product.” In 2008, Gross National Happiness was enshrined in the constitution, which stipulates that the role of the government is to create conditions for its people to enjoy happiness. It became a stated policy and has remained central to policy and planning decisions in Bhutan. However, like every other country, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all aspects of life and heightened the distress levels in the under-resourced tiny Himalayan Kingdom, which has been constrained by poor health facilities, inadequate health professionals, and limited technology. Bhutan had to resort to stringent COVID-19 measures that even exceeded international standards. Quarantine duration was set to three weeks, and frequent lockdowns were enforced, with some lasting over a month. This adversity impacted the psychological well-being of the residents, with an increase in reported cases of stress, anxiety, and depression. Domestic violence and deaths by suicide have also risen. Nevertheless, Bhutan navigated the pandemic successfully, boasting the highest rate of inoculations and the lowest rate of COVID-19 deaths. The happiness index continued to improve undeterred, even when assessed right after the pandemic period - a phenomenon credited to the GNH-based framework that Bhutan adopted. This research aims to assess how the GNH-based framework assisted Bhutan in navigating the crisis and to identify the drivers that contributed to its success. The study is based on a meta-synthesis of qualitative studies conducted in Bhutan. It hopes to contribute to discussions on the happiness framework that can be utilised to respond to future pandemics or crises of a similar scale. It will also help review the frameworks to enhance societal resilience in promoting psychological well-being in the post-pandemic era.

Supporting International Student on Placements- Exploring Internationalisation of Clinical Practice Curricula

Author: *Sanetta du Toit*

Introduction: Current research suggests that students from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds, whether speaking English as a second language or being an international student, experience additional learning challenges when completing clinical placement compared to their peers. The lived experience of some of the co-authors attests these challenges. A scoping of peer-reviewed publications was conducted to identify the potential barriers and enablers for allied health, nursing and midwifery students from CaLD backgrounds to successfully complete clinical placements.

Objectives included scoping existing literature to establish evidence outlining the barriers and enablers for successfully completing clinical placements for students with CaLD backgrounds; and considering how identified barriers and enablers could support more suitable, targeted and specific support strategies for CaLD students attending clinical placement.

Methods: A scoping review was conducted according to the proven methodology proposed by Arksey and O'Malley and provided in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR). Databases searches on AMED, EMBASE, Cochrane, Scopus, JBI, EBSCO-Host, PSCYC-Info and Medline were included. Publications adhering to specified criteria were extracted to CovidenceTM and included in an initial iterative inductive analysis which was consolidated as part of a content analysis. Synthesized findings were tabled.

Findings: A total of 46 papers were included. Three principles themes emerged from the analysis, namely communication challenges, personal and structural barriers to student learning, and enablers for successful clinical placements.

Music and Arts Activity

Seated Dance: A New Genre

Presenter: Paige Gordon

The objective of the workshop is to introduce the concept of 'seated dance' and to offer participants an opportunity to experience the enlivening of the body with a sense of freedom and fun in a safe and supported space – their chair – and in doing so connect with others in the class through the capacities of movement and the action-doing of being together.

The workshop will include an introduction to the genre and then participants will be invited to take part in some of the choreographed sequences. The class will begin seated, with arm and torso movements the incorporate footwork sequences where practicable. Given time, there may be teaching of original choreographic repertoire, featuring an excerpt of WHORL, which has been recently performed at festivals in regional Western Australia (Mandurah Arts Festival 2024, Red Earth Arts Festival 2025). WHORL was choreographed by Paige Gordon, with original music by Louis Frere-Harvey.

Panel 5: Ageing and Care Across Borders

Personhood of Transnational Migrant Dementia Caregivers

Author: Nelgyn Tennyson

As global migration intensifies, transnational families are increasingly navigating the challenges of dementia care across borders. Migrant family caregivers emerging as central yet often invisible actors in sustaining transnational eldercare. While the personhood of individuals living with dementia has been extensively theorized, less attention has been paid to the personhood of the caregiver—particularly those managing responsibilities across borders. This paper explores how transnational caregiving affects the caregiver's sense of self, identity, and social recognition while they engage in caregiving for older relatives living with dementia when dispersed across countries, and how they mobilize and maintain social support networks in these contexts. Using an exploratory mixed methods design, we conducted in-depth qualitative interviews and social support network mapping with migrant caregivers based in Australia providing dementia care for family members in their countries of origin or within diasporic contexts. This

study contributes to growing literature on transnational aging and dementia care by providing insights into lived experiences and emergent care practices in transnational families. The literature suggests that Preliminary findings might highlight caregiving across distance reshapes caregiver personhood through emotional labour, moral obligation, and shifts in social status. It may also brings out the interplay between formal and informal care systems, cultural expectations, digital communication technologies, and the emotional labour of caregiving at a distance. The paper contributes to emerging scholarship on relational personhood and care ethics by entering the experiences of transnational caregivers. It calls for policy interventions that recognize and support the complex roles of transnational caregivers while highlighting the need for an inclusive aged care systems that recognize cross-border caregiving dynamics and support migrant caregivers navigating complex transnational obligations.

Addressing Diverse Older-Age Wellbeing: Understanding Social Frailty Among Southeast Asian Migrants in Australia

Author: Hien Thi Nguyen

Frailty is defined as increased risks of adverse health outcomes, including falls, disability, hospitalisation, and mortality. It is a key predictor of wellbeing in later life and is traditionally understood through a medical lens, emphasising physical decline. However, this narrow focus often overlooks the complex social dimensions of frailty, known as social frailty (SF), which includes the quality and availability of social support, social inclusion, and engagement in meaningful activities. SF is particularly pronounced among older migrants, whose social networks may be diminished due to migration-related displacement, language barriers, and cultural disconnection. This study explores perceptions and experiences of SF among Southeast Asian migrants in Australia. The findings draw on 15 interviews and 8 focus group discussions with health and social care professionals, researchers, service providers, adults aged 65+, family and professional carers working with migrants from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam in Perth, 2025. The research examines how SF is understood within these communities, its links to cultural beliefs and practices, barriers to support, and its impact on wellbeing. It also explores culturally specific ways communities respond to SF, and the role of traditional values, intergenerational relationships, and new media in promoting connections. Finally, we present participants' perspectives on the need for a culturally sensitive SF index, tailored to the diverse experiences and needs of migrant populations. Our findings aim to inform the development of more inclusive and culturally responsive approaches to frailty assessment and intervention, contributing to better health and social outcomes for Australia's ageing migrant population.

The Abuse of Ethnically Diverse Older People: A Scoping Review

Author: Montana Pearce

This paper presents in-progress findings from a scoping review examining the abuse of ethnically diverse older people. Elder abuse affects approximately one in six older adults worldwide and encompasses various forms of harm - including emotional or psychological abuse, physical abuse, financial exploitation, sexual abuse, neglect, and social abuse - which often co-occur within relationships of trust. These experiences manifest differently across cultural contexts, with culture and language shaping perceptions of mistreatment and influencing how older adults understand abuse, seek help, and respond to interventions. Ethnically diverse communities are particularly impacted, often facing compounded barriers to accessing appropriate services.

This review maps the global evidence base on how culture and language influence understandings of

elder abuse, its associated risk and protective factors, impacts on victim-survivors, and service responses supporting ethnically diverse older adults. It includes qualitative and quantitative studies published from 2000 to 2024 in all languages, drawn from an extensive database search (e.g., Web of Science, Scopus, MEDLINE) and targeted grey literature searches.

Inclusion criteria cover studies involving ethnically diverse adults aged 50 years and older who are part of a minority population in their country of residence, excluding ethnic majority populations and Indigenous peoples due to their distinct historical and social experiences. The review focuses on abuse perpetrated by individuals in formal or informal relationships of trust - such as family members, friends, paid caregivers, or professionals - excluding criminal acts by strangers or institutional mistreatment without a personal relationship component. All residential contexts are included, such as private homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons, and experiences of homelessness.

Preliminary findings highlight substantial gaps in culturally nuanced understandings of elder abuse, with limited global scholarship addressing linguistic and cultural risk factors or barriers experienced by older people from ethnic minority groups. Anticipated outcomes will inform the development of culturally responsive interventions and guide policymakers and practitioners towards improved support structures for ethnically diverse older adults experiencing abuse.

Ageing in a New Land: Ageing Experiences of Older Iranian Migrants in Australia

Author: Farzaneh Ghaznavi

As the global population ages at an unprecedented rate, the unique experiences of older migrants remain underexplored, despite their ageing being shaped by complex cultural, familial, and transnational dynamics. This research focuses on older Iranian migrants in Australia, a growing yet overlooked population, to examine how they define and experience successful ageing within the context of migration, intergenerational relationships, and transnational family ties. Adopting a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design, this study begins with an online survey across four major Australian states (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia) to assess health, wellbeing, and social engagement. This will be followed by in-depth semi-structured interviews to explore lived experiences, personal meanings of ageing, and the role of intergenerational and transnational connections. The conceptual framework combines Rowe and Kahn's biomedical model of successful ageing with Nguyen et al.'s self-definition approach and is further enriched by theories of intergenerational solidarity, digital kinning, and transnationalism. Together, these perspectives provide a culturally and socially grounded understanding of ageing in migration contexts.

By bridging insights from gerontology, migration, transnational, and family studies, this research contributes to a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of ageing. Its findings aim to inform culturally responsive ageing policies and practices that address the diverse needs and strengths of older migrant communities in Australia and beyond.

Brotherly Conviviality: The Digital Support Networks of Older Farang Men in Isaan

Author: Catriona Stevens

Older 'farang' men, meaning White men of European heritage, who live in the Isaan region of northern Thailand have typically first departed their countries of origin in later life. Like many older lifestyle migrants, these men simultaneously experience both material privilege and social vulnerability (Ciobano

et al. 2016; King et al. 2017). Online communities maintained through closed Facebook groups and public chat forums produce a sense of ‘digital togetherness’ (Marino 2015) for men experiencing varying degrees of spatial, social, and linguistic isolation. Like migrant online spaces observed in other contexts, these communities become critical sites of care exchange where group members may provide and receive practical care, such as advice about visas, property maintenance or health services, and emotional care, particularly through posting and commenting on pictures of their homes and villages, wives and girlfriends, and (step)children or grandchildren. Although most people participating in these online communities never meet, some online interactions reflect or lead to offline relationships that are conducted in shared spaces of farang leisure and consumption.

This chapter presents findings from interviews conducted with men who are active participants in online forums as well as with group admins and administrators. Their reflections illustrate the important role of these digital communities in home-making practices and successful ageing for older men living in northern Thailand. However, some participants also point to the limitations of digitally mediated relationships and online networks, highlighting experiences of disconnection or anti-care that can arise from witnessing and engaging with negative, argumentative, or racist comment threads in these online groups. These findings are explored in the context of these older migrants often liminal lives in the villages and towns of Isaan, characterised by both privilege and precarity, and co-narrated through regular participation in shared digital communities.

Panel 6: Aged Care and Cultural Diversity

Feasibility of a Culturally Adapted Program in Australian Aged Care

Authors: Wenhong Zhao, Davina Porock, Loretta Baldassar, Wendy Moyle, Lihui Pu, Simone Marino, Wai-Hang Kwok, Cindy Jones and Sarath Rathnayake

Improving the quality of life for people living with dementia remains a significant challenge in aged care. This project aims to pilot a culturally adapted, sensory- and communication-based program in residential aged care facilities in Western Australia. Employing a mixed-method, randomised controlled trial (RCT) design, the study will evaluate the program’s impact on resident wellbeing, with a focus on engagement and communication. Program sessions will incorporate familiar music, language, and sensory elements tailored to English-speaking, Italian, and Chinese residents. Qualitative feedback will also be collected from residents, staff, and family members to explore perceptions of program effectiveness and cultural relevance.

Findings from this pilot will inform the design of larger-scale studies and contribute to the development of more culturally responsive dementia care practices. This project is part of a broader research initiative to implement the Program in Australian aged care facilities as a sustainable intervention to enhance the wellbeing of people living with dementia from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Scoping Review: Culturally Appropriate Care for Migrant Arab Elders in Long-Term Care Settings

Author: Najat Alhaizan

Global migration statistics reveal that 12.2% of migrants are elders. Notably, three Arab countries were among the top 20 origins of international migrants in 2020. When migrant elders move to Westernised countries they encounter distinctive challenges, which accentuate the importance of person-centred care and meaningful engagement to enhance their wellbeing. However, migrant elders living in residential

aged care homes face significant barriers to meaningful engagement, including absence of common language and task-oriented approaches to care. Factors including family dynamics, religious beliefs, and racism further influence the wellbeing of older Arab migrants.

The aim of this study was to identify, scrutinise and synthesise literature on culturally appropriate care practices for migrant Arab elders living in residential aged care homes globally.

Following JBI methodology for scoping reviews, MEDLINE, CINAHL, Embase, and Scopus were searched in addition to manual searches on Google Scholar, and PubMed. Included studies addressed migrant Arab elders over the age of 65 years, exploring person-centred care, meaningful engagement, and cultural competency within residential aged care homes globally, published from the year 200 onward.

From 105 possible identified publications, thirteen included publications explored culturally appropriate care practices for Elders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, revealing critical gap in understanding meaningful engagement and distinct ethnic needs for Arab migrants.

There is an urgent need for targeted research to address unique needs of migrant Arab Elders. The importance of meaningful engagement to implement culturally appropriate care can only be adhered to with updated evidence

Unpicking Assumptions Underpinning Aged Care Arrangements

Author: Mala Dharmananda

Aged care reforms are being implemented across Australia, with emphasis on a person centred service model. This paper explores how a person centred approach is broadly translated in practice in social settings for older people from cultural and linguistically diverse communities (CaLD); and unpicks some of the more intrinsic assumptions that underpin the concept of person centred services, arguing that the model itself excludes specific behaviours and cultural practices. I also consider the underlying implications arising from the profile of employees in the aged care sector – largely people from CaLD communities, generally women work in low-paid casualised positions who work as “support workers” in the context of cultural sensitivity and person centred. A more explicit consideration of the less visible factors framing aged care services is likely to enhance the likelihood of the provision of more culturally sensitive services.

Roles of Caregivers and Their Impact on Quality of Care in Northern Chinese Nursing Homes: A Scoping Review Protocol

Author: Chenchen Li

This paper presents a scoping review protocol in development. The research will aim to map relevant literature in English and Chinese from the period 2011-2025. The paper will outline the rationale for this scoping review and the planned methodology.

From Clinic to Culture: Improving Dementia Care for Italian Migrants Through Cultural Integration

Authors: Simone Marino and Loretta Baldassar

This paper explores a novel approach to cultivate “cultural safety” for individuals from migrant backgrounds living with dementia, emphasising the crucial role of non-clinical interventions in dementia care. Rooted in anthropological theory, narrative theory, personhood and corporeality, our objective is to advance understanding of relationship-centred dementia care. We seek to perceive individuals as cultural beings actively constructing identity through shared narratives and expressions, specifically through the recurring use of what we term *ipsissima verba* and *ipsissima fabula*. These terms refer, respectively, to the precise words participants consistently repeat and the distinctive stories they frequently share.

Building upon Nolan et al.'s Senses Framework (2006), which emphasises security, belonging, continuity, purpose, achievement, and significance, we uniquely integrate considerations of cultural identity and first language. As dementia advances, individuals often reconnect with their cultural world, placing all their senses at risk. This heightened vulnerability is exacerbated by the standardised approach of the aged care sector, which often lacks cultural sensitivity. Failure to integrate the cultural dimension into daily practices may lead to social death. We extend the notion of "cultural safety" from Indigenous health policy to migrant dementia care. Via music, storytelling, and first language, we have devised an innovative intervention to reinforce the cultural dimension of the senses.

Our methodology delves into the social-relational experiences of individuals with dementia, along with their families and caregivers. Initial findings suggest that adding a cultural dimension contributes to enhanced wellbeing and personhood. This study not only provides theoretical insights but also furnishes practical strategies for implementing cultural safety to support migrants living with dementia.

Panel 7: Families and Intergenerational Dynamics

Between Autonomy and Discipline: Migrant Parenting and National Habitus in Cross-Cultural Context

Author: Raisa Akifeva

In migration studies, various types of parenting styles and practices raise questions about how culture influences children's upbringing and how cross-cultural differences can be explained. Specifically, studies suggest that Russian-speaking migrant parents tend to adopt a more authoritarian parenting style, influenced by Soviet perspectives on child-rearing, in contrast to the more autonomy-supportive approaches observed in different local settings. In this paper, I apply the concept of national habitus (Elias, 1996, 2002) within the debate on how variations in discipline, autonomy, and rule-setting contribute to distinctions in parenting styles. This enables me to highlight the limitations of perspectives that frame migrant parents as overly authoritarian and demanding. Drawing on interviews and observations conducted in Australia and Spain, as well as diverse secondary data, the study argues that Russian-speaking parents reproduce a "parenting paradox" shaped by two conflicting sets of internalised ideas originating from contradictory discourses: (1) "liberal" concerning the desire to develop the child's autonomy and (2) medical and "civilising" related to the desire to raise a "cultured" and healthy child. It shows that the distinctive features of the migrant parents' approach do not lie in a preference for dominance over children's feelings or thoughts but in conveyed rules and standards that are considered essential for children's health and proper upbringing.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: The Experiences and Health of WA

Grandcarers

Authors: David A. Coall, Francesca Robertson, Elizabeth Wenden, Julie Dare, Shantha P. Karthigesu and Ruth Marquis

The 2014 Senate Inquiry into grandparents raising their grandchildren highlighted the challenges Grandcarers face and called for research to quantify the lived experiences of Grandcarer families. This paper presents selected results from the largest and most diverse study of Grandcarer families in Australia. In total, 623 Grandcarers contributed to these findings, 584 Grandcarers completed the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Survey and 39 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people from remote communities completed the Multigenerational Family Matrices for Grandcarers. Of the Grandcarers surveyed, 76% were satisfied with their grandcaring role, however, 21% stated that satisfaction was irrelevant as they had no choice in the matter. The majority of Grandcarers reported that

the most important day-to-day issues they faced were financial needs and concerns over their own death or illness. The main issues Grandcarers felt their grandchildren faced were schooling and abandonment issues or psychological and counselling needs. The priorities were different for regional Aboriginal Grandcarers who rated cultural needs and recreational issues high for themselves and their grandchildren, respectively. When asked about service priorities, Grandcarers prioritised receiving the same financial support as foster carers and Centrelink assistance. Across different types of help, Grandcarers found emotional and social help from their social network and educational and financial help from agencies to be the most helpful. Finally, Grandcarer health was consistently lower across mental and physical health domains in comparison to an age-matched Australian population. This study broadens our understanding of the needs, experiences, and health of Grandcarer families for policy and service development.

Intergenerational Negotiation in the Process of Individualization: Reconstructing Intimate Relationships in Transnational Chinese Families

Author: Yvonne Huang

This study employs the theoretical frameworks of "individualization" and "intimate relationships" to examine intergenerational interactions in transnational Chinese three-generation families. By comparing Chinese communities in Perth, Australia (who migrated after age 18 for education) and Toronto, Canada (who migrated before age 18 for education), we investigate how different migration trajectories influence the process of individualization and the reconstruction of intimate relationships. Through in-depth interviews with members from three generations of 25 different families across both locations, we found that migration experiences at different life stages produce significant variations: Perth migrants, having formed more complete cultural identities before migration, demonstrate "limited individualization" while actively constructing negotiated intimacy based on traditional values; whereas Toronto migrants, who relocated during critical identity formation periods, exhibit "deep individualization" yet maintain cross-cultural intimate relationships through innovative approaches. Our findings indicate that migration does not simply accelerate individualization or lead to family estrangement, but rather catalyzes unique "transcultural negotiated intimacy," enabling family members to actively rebuild relational bonds while navigating perceived risks. Housing arrangements, educational decisions, and cultural transmission emerge as key domains for observing the individualization processes and intimacy negotiations in families across both locations. This research enriches individualization theory in cross-cultural contexts and reveals how intimate relationships are renegotiated and reconstructed through different migration pathways.

Intergenerational Care Among Sri Lankan Migrant Families in Perth

Author: Shantha Karthigesu

Grandparents are vital contributors to the wellbeing of young families, offering not only childcare support but also continuity of cultural practices and emotional stability. Migration, however, disrupts these intergenerational caregiving roles, raising important questions about how families adapt across borders. This project proposes exploring how young Sri Lankan migrant families in Perth navigate the absence of nearby grandparents and how older family members in Sri Lanka experience the shift in their caregiving roles and identities.

Using an interdisciplinary approach grounded in sociocultural anthropology and human behavioural ecology, this study will employ a mixed-methods research design. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with approximately six transnational families across three generations, including parents and children in Perth and grandparents in Sri Lanka. Topics will include expectations of caregiving,

transnational family dynamics, challenges of separation, digital communication practices, and perceptions of ageing. Social network mapping and health self-assessments (SF-36) will be used to examine support structures and wellbeing across generations.

The project addresses a significant gap in understanding how migrant families manage intergenerational care at a distance and how caregiving roles are renegotiated when physical proximity is no longer possible. By documenting both the losses and adaptations experienced in these families, the study will contribute to broader discussions on migration, care, and ageing. Findings will inform future research and offer insights into how transnational families sustain intergenerational bonds and wellbeing amid structural and geographic constraints.

Families, Mobility and Care: Theoretical Considerations

Author: Loretta Baldassar

This paper examines how care, and in particular cultural considerations around care, are conceptualised in family, mobility and care scholarship. While care and cultures of care are often central to research in this field, they are concepts that are not always explicitly defined or theorised. There are three broad areas of research and policy consideration that are the focus of this exploration: (1) migration, mobility and care issues in the context of settlement and social inclusion; (2) migration, mobility and care issues in the context of policy and service delivery; and (3) migration, mobility and care issues in global, transnational and virtual contexts. Very much a work in progress, this paper seeks to develop an understanding of the ways care and culture is implicitly and explicitly understood.