

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference in Intercultural Studies

Immigration, the Dynamics of Identity and Policies for Managing Diversity

For several decades now, immigration has occupied a significant place in the political discourse of many countries in Europe, the Pacific region and the Americas.

Fed by the growing struggle between cosmopolitanism and nationalisms, between open and closed societies, the present-day manifestations of uncertainty and tension in relation to identity necessarily call into question migration policies and existing models for managing cultural diversity within society. For academics and for professionals in the field, this opens up an opportunity to promote interest in interculturality, to share their research and their know-how (the transfer of knowledge and skills in inter-personal relations), and to develop collaborative projects between researchers and practitioners.

In the context of such discussions, there are several points concerning the characteristics of political discourse on immigration that need to be made. Firstly, that the homogeneous way in which immigration is presented in public debate actually obscures a range of different realities. Whether temporary or permanent, immigration affects a variety of publics, men and women of all ages and cultural backgrounds, and can be driven by a range of motives, economic, ideological, humanitarian, educational or the desire for family reunification. Moreover, since these representations are most often generated by the majority culture, they do not always take into account the perspective of cultural minorities or that of the newcomers themselves. Secondly, within the political discourse, immigration is generally addressed quantitatively, with figures and statistics, but hardly ever qualitatively, in terms of the needs, the aspirations or even the challenges of the mutual adaptations and adjustments which are experienced differently by those of differing social and individual identities.

Entitled 'Immigration, the Dynamics of Identity and Policies for Managing Diversity', this **international conference** is an invitation to engage in dialogue and, from within the framework of our own particular local and national realities, to participate in an exchange of ideas and practices from different sectors - **education, health, business, social services** (government or community entities). We are particularly interested in the following issues:

- Relationships between models for managing cultural diversity and actual public policy, i.e. current practice in terms of welcoming, assisting and integrating newcomers.
- Policies for sensitizing local populations to cultural differences and for creating spaces for cultural exchange.
- Knowledge transfer, i.e. the use made of knowledge coming out of research by those who work with immigrants, and the factors which help or hinder the application of such knowledge in intercultural contexts.
- The adjustment of practices (the development of services) according to the needs of and the challenges faced by various groups of newcomers in the above-mentioned sectors of education (adaptation of curriculum, pedagogical techniques, support services), health

(assessment, accommodations, interpretation services), business (productivity, management, retention).

- The impact of policies for managing diversity on relationships between the majority group and minority cultural groups, especially those coming from formerly colonised countries, those from aboriginal communities and members of other founding cultures; modes of interaction and spaces for interaction between cultural groups; representation of the other and the perception of self; engagement through the creation of solidarity networks, collaborative projects or movements of resistance; the experience of alienation, isolation and exclusion.
- The impact of models for managing diversity on the interpersonal relations of the individual, and between the individual and his or her own group, as well as with other minority and majority cultural groups. The impact of these models on the development of identity in young people in relation to the host society, to their family and to their group.
- The unique challenges faced by business in training people to manage multicultural teams, in supporting expatriate and impatriate staff, in the development of and adaptation to new markets and in the organisation and management of processes.

The presentations and discussions can be in **English or French**. Professionals, academic researchers and master's and doctoral students are all encouraged to participate in different ways:

- Academic papers of 20 minutes' duration, followed by questions and discussion. In order to foster meaningful exchange, those giving papers will be asked to submit the text of their talk to organisers in advance so that these can be made accessible to others on the official conference website ahead of the conference.
- Round-table discussion and / or workshops made up of professionals and researchers (see the list of suggested themes below). Each participant will give a short presentation on a previously determined theme, to be followed by a period of debate and discussion with the audience. Those interested may also submit proposals for themes.
- Poster sessions where participants will set up a poster presenting their research and engage with the public.
- 3-minute presentations of research projects by master's and doctoral students.

Suggested themes for the round-table sessions:

- Best practices for turning research into action and for building collaboration between researchers and practitioners.
- Assessment and support of patients within health services (in Europe and North America)
- Inclusion and retention of international students within communities.
- Reception and support of newcomers (in Europe and North America / and on other continents?)
- Cultural issues facing business in terms of management, processes, the development of markets and organisation.

Organized jointly by Saint Mary's University and Laval University, the conference will take place at **Saint Mary's University** in Halifax (Nova Scotia, Canada) from **Thursday, 14 June to Saturday, 16 June 2018**.

Proposals for papers (250 words), proposals for posters (150 words), as well as declarations of interest in participating to roundtables or in "3-minute Thesis" presentations should be sent to the following e-mail: icst@smu.ca.

Proposals and declarations of interest should include a short bio. The deadline for submitting proposals is **Friday, 15 September 2017**.

Information about the programming of the conference will be posted and updated regularly on the following website: www.icstconference.com.