

November 21, 2023 – Pathways to Prosperity, Montreal QC

Relational Partnerships Between Universities & Community Organizations

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Land Acknowledgement

As a provincial umbrella association, AMSSA acknowledges that B.C. is on the unceded homelands of First Nations who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. We recognize the privilege that we have as settlers on this land and acknowledge that AMSSA's operations is on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱w̱məθkwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. As an organization, AMSSA is committed to creating a safe space for indigenous voices.



About AMSSA

Strengthening Diversity in BC

AMSSA is a unique province-wide association that strengthens 90 member agencies as well as hundreds of community stakeholder agencies who serve immigrants and newcomers, and build culturally inclusive communities, with the knowledge, resources and support they need to fulfill their mandates.

Vision: A just and equitable society in which everyone benefits from social and economic inclusion.

Mission: AMSSA facilitates collaborative leadership, knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement to support agencies that serve immigrants and build culturally inclusive communities.

Purpose Statement: **Co-create the conditions for success with our members to build better lives for immigrants and newcomers to BC**

Transactional



Relational

Community-University Research Principles (CURPs)

In 2003, AMSSA partnered with the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS of BC), and professors from Simon Fraser University, the University of BC, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, to lead a consultative process with BC immigrant and refugee serving agencies to develop a settlement research framework.

Guiding Principles:

Equitable Partnerships

- research design, implementation, and information dissemination;
- contributions that enhance capacity, ability, and knowledge of both collaborating partners

Client Centered

- informed consent and confidentiality assurances
- inclusiveness with comprehensive support to ensure their full participation
- Recognized and compensated for time

Equitable Dissemination

- Dissemination of linguistically and culturally appropriate information
- research participants' well-being should prevail over academic priorities and/or outcomes
- promotes learning for all of those involved in the research process

1. All researchers submitting grant applications to funding bodies, who intend to work with NGOs in the sector, will be required to:

- a) meet with the immigrant or refugee-serving agency with whom they wish to collaborate to discuss research before they write and submit a grant application;
- b) provide a copy of the CURPs to the agency;
- c) obtain a letter of support for the project to accompany the grant application.

2. Researchers working with the settlement sector commit to:

- a) on-going consultation with the sector regarding its research needs and priorities, as well as broad dissemination of findings;
- b) the formation of equitable partnerships between university researchers and staff in immigrant and refugee-serving agencies that include:
 - i. consultation at the stages of research design, methodology, implementation, and dissemination including representation on steering committees or advisory committees;
 - ii. appropriate recognition and compensation to sector agencies, staff and research participants for time spent on the research and resources used by the project;
 - v. appropriate supports to ensure the broadest participation possible, i.e., support to cover basic child-care, transportation costs and translation (to ensure that non-English speakers may be included in research);
 - vi. the dissemination of a summary of research findings from each project to the cooperating agency staff and, where possible, to all those who participated in the study. Dissemination is possible through diverse venues and innovative methods. It might be desirable to produce findings in different formats, including webinar, policy-oriented or advocacy papers, and academic journals;
 - vii. flexible and responsive approaches such as community meetings to test ideas and gather feedback from research participants, agencies, and researchers.
- iii. assurances of confidentiality and informed consent for all research participants;
- iv. the ethics review committee of the PI's home institution must approve the project;

Above all, respect for the refugees and immigrants who are involved in research is paramount. Should there be a conflict of interest between researchers' objectives and the well-being of research participants, the latter will take precedence.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Migration Studies

CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES

STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2025

Partnership - “two (or more) people being in a relationship that is more than just transactional— one person cares about, supports, and provides value to the other and vice versa”

Strategic Priority 1.2 (SPI.2): Strengthen collaborative migration research

Catalyze CMS-community collaborations

Deepen **partnership** between CMS and AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C.) through regular meetings/retreats.

Develop a strategy for a research-based space in **the community** that brings together CMS and BC immigrant- and refugee-serving organizations to **identify common research interests**.

Develop programming and support grant applications and research initiatives **in collaboration with community partners** (e.g., SSHRC Engage Grants).

Deepen and expand CMS-community **collaborations** by matching university and community researchers, and administratively **supporting grant applications** and budget management.

Contribute to the work of AMSSA’s Research Advisory Council (once established).

UBC CMS-SECTOR RESEARCH

collaboration day



WHAT SHAPES *the ways* IN WHICH WE SEE & EXPERIENCE THE WORLD?

- WHAT DO WE PRIORITIZE?
- WHAT CONSTRAINTS ARE WE CREATING WITH OUR ASSUMPTIONS?
- WHAT HAS BEEN OPPRESSED?

OUR COMMON PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE MUST ACCOUNT FOR & OPEN THE DOOR TO DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPACT OF COLONIALISM IN KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION & DISSEMINATION

CREATES SILOS

KNOWLEDGE STRATIFICATION

EPISTEMIC POLLUTION

REACTIVATE KNOWLEDGE CREATION through OBSERVATION & CHALLENGING ASSUPTIONS

IT REQUIRES US TO **DECOLONIZE** THE SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE INFLICTED SO MUCH HARM

WHEN DOING RESEARCH LEAD WITH TRANSPARENCY TO SELF & OTHERS

MOVING BEYOND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

HOW DO WE SUPPORT KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION?

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING



NEEDS TO BE AT THE CENTER

CAN THIS RESEARCH UNDO THE HARMS OF COLONIALISM & PROMOTE HEALING?

WE NEED:

- FUNDING STRUCTURES THAT PROVIDE SPACIOUSNESS TO CULTIVATE LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS.
- CLARITY & TRANSPARENCY ON DATA USE & OWNERSHIP

WHO IS ASKING THE QUESTIONS?

WHO BENEFITS?

WHAT MOTIVATES US?

RESEARCH GROUNDED in GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

CARRY GOOD INTENTIONS ONE MIND, ONE HEART. STRONG HEART & WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

UPLIFT our SHARED KNOWLEDGE & UNIQUE EXPERTISE

QUESTION ASSUMPTIONS THAT HAVE AFFECTED ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE & HOW WE RELATE TO EACH OTHER

HELP & TRANSFORM OBSERVE. UNIQUE EXPERTISE

NOTICE the INJUSTICE. OFFER TO HELP, FIND SOLUTIONS, & INCREASE AWARENESS

WHAT IS THE END VALUE? HOW DO WE CO-CREATE KNOWLEDGE RESPECTFULLY?

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