

Transforming Community-Based Research And Education: Mutual Learning from Canada, Palestine, and Lebanon

June 16-20, 2016

“Community engagement” has become a priority goal across the social sciences for working with marginalized groups, from training students to engage in community-centred approaches and to develop community mobilization skills in their professional lives, to community-based and participatory research around social problems. These topics are considered particularly important for communities going through major crises, such as war, violence, and persistent lack of resources. But university-led programs face particular, structural barriers to incorporating these principles into their work, and their attempts to do so can produce miscommunication, misrecognition, and perverse outcomes. When universities want to engage in community-led projects or teach community mobilization skills in a context of crisis, what happens on the ground? How can they draw students and community members from these communities into the process of learning and developing these skills and structures? What are the best practices that have emerged for research or teaching that is reflexive, participatory, and critical, but which provides clear benefits to communities?

The workshop is designed both to bring together faculty, staff, and students from universities in the Middle East, Europe, and Canada who work on these issues, and to serve as a working meeting for those involved in Community Mobilization in Crisis, a research & teaching project that is preparing to offer a certificate program in community mobilization in crisis, at first to refugee and other students in Lebanon, and eventually to students in Canada and elsewhere.

Location: Université d’Ottawa | University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5; meetings will be held in the Faculty of Social Sciences (120 Université) and the public panel will be held in the Desmarais building (55 Laurier East).

Working Language: English; many participants also speak French and/or Arabic.

Organizers: Emily Regan Wills, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa; Nadia Abu-Zahra, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa

Workshop Schedule

Thursday, 16 June, 9:00am-9:30am, Breakfast, FSS 8003

- All participants are welcome

Thursday, 16 June, 9:30am-12:00pm: Welcome and Introductions, FSS 8003

- Opening comments from Emily Regan Wills, Nadia Abu-Zahra & uOttawa administrators; introductions for all participants

Thursday, 16 June, 12:00pm-2:00pm: Lunch, UCU Cafeteria

- All participants are welcome

Thursday, 16 June, 2:00pm-5:00pm: Public Panel: From Grand Ideas To The Nitty-Gritty: Creating Social Change, DMS 1120

- Speakers: Sawsan Abdulrahim, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut; Lesley McBain, Department of Indigenous Languages, Arts, and Cultures; Fadwa Al Labadi, INSAN Center for Gender Studies, Al Quds University; Emily Regan Wills, uOttawa, facilitator
- Description: Many academics are dedicated to helping to create social change in the world through their research and projects. But how do we move from our critical ideas about what will make the world a better place to actually putting in place projects that will fulfill our objectives—and not make the situation worse? In this panel conversation, professors from Lebanon, Palestine, and Canada will discuss their experiences working with marginalized communities to implement projects in the areas of public health, higher education, and gender equality, and how to move from great ideas and solid theory to a real, on-the-ground successes.

Friday June 17, 9:00am-9:30am, Breakfast, FSS 8003

- All participants are welcome

Friday, June 17, 9:30am-12:00pm: Changing Who Is In the Classroom: Student Recruitment from Marginalized Communities, FSS 8003

- Scheduled speakers: Emilia Macera Deschenes & Ayane Bouh, Youth Futures; Lesley McBain, FNU; Sawsan Abdulrahim, AUB

Friday, June 17, 12:00pm-2:00pm: Lunch, UCU Cafeteria

- All participants are welcome

Friday, June 17, 2:00pm-5:30pm: Getting Students Engaged Outside The University, FSS 8003

- Scheduled speakers: Magda Baczowska, uOttawa; Arlene Johnson, Laurentian University & Bill Perrault, Seven Generations Educational Institute; Hanan Anis, uOttawa; Richard Maclure, uOttawa

Saturday June 18, 9:00am-9:30am, Breakfast, FSS 8003

- All participants are welcome

Saturday, June 18, 9:30am-12:00pm: Service Learning and Practicum Courses, FSS 8003

- Scheduled speakers: Najwa Silwadi, York University; Sawsan Abdulrahim, AUB; Sabah Ikhmyees, Al Quds University; Eileen O'Connor, uOttawa

Saturday, June 18, 12:00pm-2:00pm: Lunch, UCU Cafeteria

- All participants are welcome

Saturday, June 18, 2:00pm-5:30pm: Online Learning in Diverse Contexts, FSS 8003

- Scheduled speakers: Richard Pinet, uOttawa; Martine Rhéaume, uOttawa; Oula Abu Amsha, HEIG-VD; Emily Antze, York University/BHER; Lesley McBain, FNU

Sunday June 18, 9:00am-9:30am, Breakfast, FSS 8003

- All participants are welcome

Sunday, June 19, 9:30am-12:00pm: Participatory Action Research, FSS 8003

- Emily Regan Wills, uOttawa; Richard Maclure, uOttawa; Sawsan Abdulrahim, AUB; Fadwa Al Labadi, Al Quds University

Sunday, June 19, 12:00pm-2:00pm: Lunch, UCU Cafeteria

- All participants are welcome
- **No afternoon session on Sunday. Suggested activities:** touring Byward Market and Parliament Hill (walking distance from campus), attending the Aboriginal Solstice Festival at Vincent Massey Park (will require a taxi ride/car)

Monday June 20, 9:00am-9:30am, Breakfast, FSS 8003

- All participants are welcome

Monday, June 20, 9:30am-12:00pm: CMIC Curriculum Development 1, FSS 8003

- A working session for developing the curriculum for the uOttawa/AUB Community Mobilization in Crisis certificate program, to be offered to Syrian refugee and other students in Beirut, Lebanon
- Facilitated by Nadia Abu-Zahra and Emily Regan Wills

Monday, June 20, 12:00pm-2:00pm: Lunch, UCU Cafeteria

- All participants are welcome

Monday, June 20, 2:00pm-5:30pm: CMIC Curriculum Development 2, FSS 8003

- Continuation of the morning's discussions; facilitated by Nadia and Emily

Monday, June 20, 6:30pm-onward: World Refugee Day Event, Amnesty International, 312 Laurier East, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6P8

- Participants will walk over together from campus to participate in the event

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