



About the Authors

Philip Ackerman has worked extensively as an adult education instructor in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Canada. He holds a B.A. and has recently graduated from the Social Service Worker – Immigrant and Refugee Program at Seneca College. For the past few years, Philip has been committed to settlement work, assisting with workshops for the Canadian Council for Refugees, volunteering in various agencies throughout the sector, and participating with several projects. Currently, he is working in Research and Resource Development at the FCJ Refugee Centre.

Angie Arora is an activist and educator in the areas of violence against women, issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities, and pet loss bereavement. She has worked with organizations including Springtide Resources: Ending Violence against Women, Woman Abuse Council of Toronto, Ministry of Attorney General–Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians, Herizon House, and Humber College. She is currently a Professor with Seneca College’s Social Service Worker - Immigrant and Refugee Program and operates her private practice, New Wave Consulting, where she provides professional development training to the non-profit sector and animal-care community. She completed her Bachelor of Social Work at Ryerson University, Masters of Social Work with York University, and Bereavement Education Certificate Program with Toronto Advanced Professional Education.

Amy Casipullai is Senior Policy and Communications Coordinator at the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI). In this capacity, she researches, develops and communicates public policy analysis informed by the experience of OCASI member agencies and community-based research to members, immigrant and refugee communities, academics, government, the general public and media. Amy has a background in social sciences and journalism. As a community activist and in her various jobs, she has worked on a broad range of social justice and equity issues, with a focus on the realities experienced by refugees, migrants, the racialized and workers. She has worked at various times in community-based research, journalism, popular

education, and employment counselling, and mopping floors – all of which have shaped her awareness and activism.

Jennifer Clarke is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Ryerson University. Before joining Ryerson, Jennifer was the Research and Evaluation Specialist at the Toronto Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). She also worked for four years as the coordinator of community placements in the Urban Diversity Initiative at York University. In collaboration with Dr. Patrick Solomon, she piloted the Urban Diversity Model at the International University of the Caribbean in Jamaica. She is anti-racist educator whose research interests are in the area of settlement work, education and child welfare. Jennifer worked as a frontline settlement worker for many years in Toronto. She has a M.S.W. in Social Work and is currently completing her Ph.D in the Faculty of Education at York University.

George Sefa Dei is Professor of Sociology and Equity Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT). Between 1996 and 2000 he served as the first Director of the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies at the University of Toronto. His teaching and research interests are in the areas of anti-racism, minority schooling, international development, anti-colonial thought and indigenous knowledges systems. Professor Dei has published extensively in the area of anti-racism education, minority schooling, African education, international development and Indigenous Knowledges. He is the recipient of “Race, Gender, and Class Project Academic Award” (2002); the “African-Canadian Outstanding Achievement in Education” from *Pride Magazine* in Toronto (2003); the “City of Toronto’s William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations” (2003); the “Canadian Alliance of Black Educators Award for Excellence in Education and Community Development” (2007); and the “Nile Valley Foundation Commission Award” (2009). Finally, in 2007, Professor Dei was installed as a traditional chief in Ghana in the New Juaben Traditional Area of Ghana.

Debbie Douglas is the Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI). Prior to arriving at OCASI, Debbie spent many years working in the non-governmental sector in direct service organizations as a manager, director and management consultant. In her latter role, Debbie designed and delivered anti-oppression workshops for a wide range of community-based organizations and public institutions. Debbie has been an active member of numerous boards and working groups including the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigrant Settlement (CERIS–Ontario Metropolis

Centre); Women's College Hospital, and the Greater Toronto Civic Action Steering Committee. Debbie is the co-editor of *Ma-ka: Diasporic Juks*. In 2004, she was honoured with the prestigious YWCA Toronto women of distinction award in the area of social justice and action.

Avvy Go is Clinic Director of Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic. Since becoming a lawyer in 1991, she has worked exclusively in the legal clinic system, serving the legal needs of low income individuals and families, the majority of whom are non-English speaking immigrants and refugees. Avvy is one of the recipients of the 2008 City of Toronto's William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations. She was also the Recipient of 2002 President's Award of the Women's Law Association of Ontario. Avvy has given numerous lectures and educational seminars and published articles in various publications including law journals, law books, community as well as mainstream newspapers dealing with a variety of subject matters such as redress and reparations, constitutional litigation, and other legal and policy issues affecting immigrants and racialized communities. Apart from her legal practice, Avvy spends much of her time doing community organizing and advocacy work. In 2007, she co-founded the Colour of Poverty Campaign – a campaign to address the increasing racialization of poverty in Ontario.

Salah Hassanpour is an activist, journalist and instructor in Toronto. He received a B.A. from the Arts and Contemporary Studies program at Ryerson University and a M.A. from the Cinema Studies Institute at the University of Toronto. He is currently completing a doctoral degree at York University's Cinema and Media Studies department while teaching at Seneca College.

Nicole LaViolette was an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa. Her research and publications were devoted mainly to international human rights, international humanitarian law, and the rights of refugees. She was also interested in LGBT legal issues and transnational family law. She had published several articles on sexual minorities and the refugee determination system, and conducted professional development training for the Immigration and Refugee Board. She was a recipient of the Lambda Foundation Award for Excellence in Gay and Lesbian Studies for her work on the Canadian *Gender Guidelines* and their impact on sexual orientation and gender identity refugee claims, as well as the Germain-Brière Writing Prize for an article on the definition of torture in Canadian immigration and refugee law. On May 22, 2015, Nicole LaViolette lost her battle to cancer, however, her legacy and commitments towards refugee rights will never be forgotten.

Sophia Lowe is the Manager of Community Engagement and Knowledge Exchange at World Education Services in Toronto. The focus of her work has been on the nexus between immigration and student mobility in Canada, temporary migration, credential recognition and the academic and labour mobility of migrants. She has presented at a number of national and international conferences and has published on immigration in several education and policy papers, including *Metropolis* and UNESCO. Sophia received an M.A. from Ryerson University in Immigration and Settlement Studies and a B.A. from the University of Guelph in International Development, Gender Studies and Sociology.

Lisa Min is currently a third year student at Osgoode Hall Law School. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Health Sciences with a minor in Japanese Studies from the University of Western Ontario. During her undergraduate years, Lisa was actively involved in Japanese Students' Association and worked as a teaching assistant in the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures. While attending law school, Lisa was a caseworker at Community & Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP) and cast member in Osgoode Hall's Mock Trial. In her second year, Lisa undertook clinical legal studies in the Intensive Program in Immigration and Refugee Law and completed her external placement at Guberman, Garson. Currently, she volunteers at Robin Seligman Barrister and Solicitor.

Cornelia Mazgarean is a law graduate from Romania, Cornelia Mazgarean also obtained a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. While at Osgoode, she was a division leader and then a senior division leader at the Community and Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP). She is currently an LLM candidate and a supervising lawyer at CLASP. Cornelia also has her own private practice, focusing on Criminal, Immigration and Mental Health Law. In addition, she does work as a duty counsel lawyer, advising people arrested for criminal or immigration matters. Cornelia is a member of a variety of professional organizations. Apart from file work, Cornelia often delivers public legal education workshops in both criminal and immigration law, and is involved in community outreach and advocacy.

Ajamu Nangwaya is an instructor at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology and teaches courses in the areas of diversity/equity and social policy. He has a Ph.D in Adult Education and Community Development from the University of Toronto. Ajamu has held a number of leadership positions in the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and is a former vice-president

of CUPE Ontario. He is a community organizer and a public educator.

Geraldine Sadoway is a lawyer specializing in immigration and refugee law since her call to the Ontario Bar in 1983. She has been working as a clinical law instructor, adjunct professor and supervising lawyer at Parkdale Community Legal Services in Toronto since 1997. She regularly appears as legal counsel before the Immigration and Refugee Board and the Federal Court of Canada. She represented the Metro Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) in the sponsorship debt recovery case of *Mavi et al v. M.C.I. and A.G. for Ontario* in the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Geraldine is a well-published scholar and activist who has presented and written extensively on issues affecting refugees and immigrants in Canada. She is currently engaged in research at Osgoode Hall Law School, focusing on Canadian laws and policies that have a negative impact on immigrant and refugee children and their families.

Emily Paradis has worked for more than 20 years as an activist, researcher, advocate and service provider for women facing homelessness. As Research Manager at Cities Centre, University of Toronto, she has led participatory projects on homelessness among women and families, and has managed large studies of neighbourhood inequality in Toronto and other Canadian cities. As Research Consultant with the National Film Board of Canada, she has contributed to the development and production of HIGHRISE, a multi-year, multi-media, multi-disciplinary online documentary project exploring life in the high-rise neighbourhoods of the global suburbs. She has also taught Participatory Research at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT). Dr. Paradis received her Ph.D in Adult Education (2009) from OISE/UT.

Siavosh Pashang is a criminal defence lawyer with the firm, Hicks Adams LLP. Siavosh attended the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, and graduated in 2013, receiving his Juris Doctor. During his time in law school, Siavosh interned with the Department of Justice: Research and Statistics Division, where he helped review decisions on third party records applications in sexual offence cases. The findings were published in *Victims of Crime Research Digest* (Department of Justice). Prior to law school, he obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from York University and a Master of Arts degree in Political Science: International Relations from McMaster University. He previously taught at Seneca College, School of English and Liberal Studies in the areas of politics, ethnicity and race relations in Canada.

Soheila Pashang is a Professor and Co-ordinator at Seneca College, Social

Service Worker – Immigrants and Refugees Program. She has completed her Ph.D at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto exploring the discourse of migration with specific attention to the lived conditions of illegalized women in Canada. For over two decades, Soheila has worked as a social worker/therapist with various organizations serving immigrants and refugees and has further served as Subject Matter Expert (SME) on issues of mental health, trauma and gender violence. She writes poetry and has co-edited the book, *Roots and Routes of Displacement and Trauma From Analysis to Advocacy and Policy to Practice* with Sheila Gruner.

Donald Payne is a psychiatrist who graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1963 and was certified as a specialist in 1971. Since 1979, he has performed psychiatric assessments on more than 1,500 refugees or refugee claimants from more than 90 different countries. He has testified at the Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, the Supreme Court of Ontario and the Federal Court of Canada. He is a member of the Health Committee of the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) and has served on its Board of Directors. He was the elected Canadian representative on the Council of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) from 2003 to 2006. Since 1982, he has been National Coordinator of the Health Network of Amnesty International, English Section. He has written articles on human rights issues and is the editor of the Amnesty International, Canadian Section bulletin *Health Care and Human Rights*.

Loly Rico is a Founder and Co-director of FCJ Refugee Centre responsible for the Settlement Programme. She is also teaching at Seneca College, Social Service Worker – Immigrant and Refugee Program. Loly is a recipient of 2004 Constance E. Hamilton Award of the City of Toronto and Peace Medallion of the YMCA. In 2010, she received the Trever Bartaun Award from CCVT for her work around the issue of trafficking of women, and achieved a plaque of recognition from the Salvadorean Canadian Association of Toronto (ASALCA) for her relentless work for refugee rights in Canada. Currently, Loly is a Vice-President and Chair of Anti-Trafficking Sub-committee of Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR). She is a past President of the Board of Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, member and founder of the Coalition of Services Providers for Refugee Claimants (CSPRC).

Francisco Rico has an M.A. in Economics from Costa Rica and a Law Degree (J.D.) from El Salvador. In El Salvador he was a law professor at the National

University, writer, political analyst, human rights advocator and investigator for the Archbishop office of San Salvador. He was also an advisor for the Jesuit Refugee Service in El Salvador. In Canada, Francisco is a Co-director of FCJ Refugee Centre that strives to meet the diverse needs refugee claimants and people without status and is a member of the Editorial Group of the *Refugee Update Newsletter*. He is the Toronto Regional Director of Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) and past president of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR). Francisco has received the Community Leadership in Justice Fellowship of the Ontario Law Foundation for 2007, the 2001 City of Toronto William P. Hubbard Race Relations Award and the YMCA Peace Medallion of 2006.

Kuziva Ziramba was Program Coordinator for Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council's Employer Initiatives, responsible for planning and coordinating workshops and events aimed at building employer capacity to effectively recruit and integrate skilled immigrants in the Greater Toronto Area labour market. He also supported the Intergovernmental Relations Committee by conducting research on issues pertaining to immigrant integration. Previous to this, Kuziva served as Chief Economist, public sector expenditure for the Ministry of Finance in Zimbabwe. Kuziva has an M.A. in Economics from the Centre for Development Economics, Williams College, Massachusetts.

