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**Chinese and Asian Diasporas in Canada:**

**Historical Underpinnings, Current Reflections, and New Trends**

**Blue Room, Dining Centre**

**124 University Gate NW**

**University of Calgary**

**October 4 – 5, 2023**

**PROGRAM**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION 9:00 – 9:30 AM

Chair: Lloyd Wong and Shibao Guo, University of Calgary

* Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost International and Associate Vice-President Research, TBC
* Jennifer Lock, Vice-Dean, Werklund School of Education
* Lisa Hughes, Associate Dean, Graduate, Faculty of Arts

KEYNOTE PANEL 1:

REIMAGINING CHINESE DIASPORA STUDIES 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Chair: Lloyd Wong, University of Calgary

* *Chinese Diasporas in Southeast Asia: the challenges of being Sojourners and Citizens*

Danny Wong Tze Ken, Universiti Malaya

* *“A Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”: A New Theoretical Framework for Chinese Diaspora Studies*Zhenjiang Zhang, Jinan University
* *Reimagining Chinese Diaspora Studies in a Transnational World: Hypermobility, Hyperdiversity and Hyperconnectivity*

Shibao Guo, University of Calgary

BREAK 10:45 – 11:00 AM

SESSION 1: TRACING THE HISTORY OF CHINESE DIASPORAS IN CANADA 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Chair: Siu Ming Kwok, University of Calgary

* *Yellow Hordes to Malign Agents: Will Yellow Peril-ism Determine Canada’s China Policy and What Are the Consequences for Chinese Canadians?*  
  William Dere, Independent Scholar, Montreal
* *The Exclusion Act and the Structure of Anti-Chinese Racism in Canada*

Timothy J. Stanley, University of Ottawa

LUNCH

BLUE ROOM, DINING CENTRE 12:00 – 1:00 PM

SESSION 2: DIVERSE CHINESE COMMUNITIES 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Chair: Pallavi Banerjee, University of Calgary

* *Trust and wellbeing among diverse Chinese communities in Canada*

Cary Wu, York University

* *Comfortably “Western:” How Chinese International Students Imagine Canada*

Yue Qian, University of British Columbia

* *Caught in geopolitical tensions: how do Canadian faculty of Chinese origin feel about their professional value and working conditions?*

Qiang Zha, York University

BREAK 2:30 – 3:00 PM

SESSION 3: ASIAN YOUTH: BELONGING, DISCRIMINATION, AND VIOLENCE 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Chair: Abdie Kazemipur, University of Calgary

* *“I Am Not Who You Think I Am”: Multiple, Hybrid and Racialized Identities of Canadian Muslim Youth in the Negotiation of Belonging and Citizenship*

Aamir Jamal, University of Calgary

* *Chinese Youth and Criminal Justice System in Canada – an untold discrimination*

Siu Ming Kwok & Dora Tam, University of Calgary

* *Violence of Asians in North America and COVID-19 – An Intersectional Analysis*

Pallavi Banerjee, University of Calgary

RECEPTION

BLUE ROOM, DINING CENTRE 4:30 – 5:45 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

KEYNOTE PANEL 2:

CATEGORIES AND RESPONSES TO RACISM 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Chair: Shibao Guo, University of Calgary

* *West Asians in Canada: Looking Behind a Broad Geographical Category*Abdie Kazemipur, University of Calgary
* *Practices of Nurturance: The role of Universities in Addressing Rising Anti-Asian Racism during the Pandemic*

Srabani Maitra, University of Glasgow

BREAK 10:15 – 10:30 AM

SESSION 4: ANTI-ASIAN RACISM 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Chair: Aamir Jamal, University of Calgary

* *Everyday experience of racial discrimination among Chinese immigrants in Canada*  
  Weiguo Zhang, University of Toronto
* *The Experience of Anti-Chinese Racism in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Before and During COVID-19: An Intersectional Analysis*

Guida Man and Keefer Wong, York University

* *Anti-Asian Racism: Experiences, Impact and Strategies for Change*

Hieu Van Ngo & Lori Pasaraba, University of Calgary

Shirlie Wu & William Lau, ACCT Foundation

LUNCH

BLUE ROOM, DINING CENTRE 12:00 – 1:00 PM

SESSION 5: COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO RACISM 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Chair: Hieu Van Ngo, University of Calgary

* Teresa Woo-Paw, Action, Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT)
* Anila Lee Yuen, Centre for Newcomers (CFN)
* Sally S. Zhao, The Immigrant Education Society (TIES)
* Sinela Jurkova, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)

WRAP-UP 2:30 – 3:00 PM

* Lloyd Wong and Shibao Guo, University of Calgary

**Chinese and Asian Diasporas in Canada:   
Historical Underpinnings, Current Reflections, and New Trends**

**Abstracts**

**Keynote #1**

**Chinese diasporas in Southeast Asia: the challenges of being Sojourners and Citizens**

**Danny Wong Tze Ken**

**Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya**

Chinese migration to Southeast Asia traced its origins to the Ming voyages of the 15th century when Chinese traders and officials frequented the region. The end of the official voyages, however, saw many who were linked to them settled in various spots and early settlements of Chinese began to emerge. While some traces of these early Chinese diasporas are still visible, their numbers remained small, and many have integrated or even assimilated into local communities. The main Chinese migration to the region took place in the 19th century. This coincided or was even encouraged by the advent of Western Imperialism and the economic impetus that came with it. Chinese migrations were encouraged and soon, diasporic communities emerged throughout the region. As these Chinese communities emerged and developed, many came face-to-face with the question of acceptance. Different Colonial regimes adopted different approaches to the Chinese including assimilation and integration. As the wind of nationalism swept through the region, independence saw the emergence of indigenous aspirations which again, treated the Chinese differently. This saw Chinese being subjected to various degree of treatments ranging from hostile anti-Chinese sentiment, to forced assimilation, to integration or acceptance. This paper will focus mainly on this aspect of Chinese diasporas in the region including examining the changing notion of being diasporic. This is especially so with independence and the shift of allegiance from China to their respective new nation-states in the region. The last section will dwell on the latest diasporas, this being the new migrants (Xin Yimin) who began to come out to the region over the past forty years since China’s opening – their arrivals coincided with the rise of a powerful China as contrasted with a weak China during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

***Danny Wong Tze Ken*** is currently Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya. He is also Professor of History at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya where he teaches history of Southeast Asia and History of China. His research interests include the Chinese in Malaysia,  China’s relations with Southeast Asia and History of Sabah. His more recent publications include, *Wang Gungwu and Malaysia*, (edited, Universiti Malaya Press, 2021) and *One Crowded Moment of Glory* (Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Press, 2021, Universiti Malaya Press, 2019),《全球視野下的新馬華人研究》*Chinese Studies in Malaysia and Singapore in a Global Context* (edited. Scientific Press, Beijing, 2019), He is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia.

***“A Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”:***

***A New Theoretical Framework for Chinese Diaspora Studies***

**Zhenjiang Zhang**

**School of International Studies/Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China**

“A Community with a Shared Future for Mankind” expounded by Chinese Government has theoretical significance for diaspora studies. By exploring the idea of “Chineseness”, “locality” and “transnationalism” of Chinese overseas, this paper analyses how Chinese diaspora witnessed and participated in the modernization process in both China and their residence countries, served as a connecting bridge between China and their residence country, established a global network for mobility, and fostered a common identity across national borders. The author proposes that the notion of a “Community with a Shared Future for Mankind” could be a new theoretical framework for overseas Chinese studies in particular, and for diaspora studies in general.

**Zhenjiang Zhang** is professor and Dean at the School of International Studies/Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China. He specializes in international relations, Southeast Asian studies, and overseas Chinese studies.

***Reimagining Chinese Diaspora Studies in a Transnational World: Hypermobility,***

***Hyperdiversity and Hyperconnectivity***

**Shibao Guo, University of Calgary**

With a shifting paradigm of transnationalism and transnational migration, new patterns of Chinese mobilities have emerged that can be characterized as multiple and circular rather than unidirectional or final. In this talk I will examine the changing nature of the Chinese diasporas in a transnational world and its concomitant implications for Chinese diaspora studies internationally.I illustrate how the analytical constructs of hypermobility, hyperdiversity and hyperconnectivity aid in the understanding of contemporary Chinese transnational diasporas. I attempt to offer new theorization and stimulate further research and scholarly work on the Chinese diasporas in the age of transnational migration.

**Shibao Guo** is Professor at the Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary. He is also Honorary Professor of the University of Nottingham. Over the past twenty years as a transnational academic and scholar, Prof. Guo has developed research expertise in the areas of transnational migration, Chinese diasporas studies, ethnic and race relations, internationalisation of higher education, and comparative and international education. He has numerous publications including books, journal articles, and book chapters. Some of his books include: *Reimagining Chinese diasporas in a transnational world* (2023, Routledge), *Decolonising lifelong learning in the context of transnational migration* (with S. Maitra, Routledge, 2020), *Immigration, racial and ethnic studies in*

*150 years of Canada* (with L. Wong, Brill Publishers, 2018). He is former president of Canadian Ethnic Studies Association (CESA) and the Comparative and International Education Society of Canada (CIESC). Currently he is co-editor of *Canadian Ethnic Studies* and two book series for Brill Publishers: Transnational Migration and Education and Spotlight on China.

**Keynote #2**

***West Asians in Canada: Looking Behind a Broad Geographical Category***

**Abdie Kazemipur, University of Calgary**

Quantitative studies of Asian-Canadians often involve the use of some broad categories such as South Asians, East Asians, and West Asians -- as a way to gain more reliable results through larger sample sizes. This practice of lumping different groups together, however, can be a double-edge sword and may yield misleading results, particularly when the groups involved possess very different and contrasting traits. In this presentation, the problematic nature of this practice is examined in the case of West-Asians in Canada.

**Abdie Kazemipur** is professor of sociology and Chair of Ethnic Studies at the University of Calgary, and the past president of Canadian Sociological Association (2021-22). He received his BA and MA in sociology from University of Tehran (Iran) and his Ph.D. from University of Manitoba (Canada). Kazemipur has authored ten books and many journal articles and book chapters on his two principal research areas – socio-cultural trends in Iran, and socio-economic experiences of immigrants in Canada - writing in both English and Farsi*.*For more information on his works, visit: [www.abdiekazemipur.com](http://www.abdiekazemipur.com).

***Practices of Nurturance: The role of Universities in Addressing Rising Anti-Asian Racism***

***during the Pandemic***

**Srabani Maitra, University of Glasgow**

The Covid pandemic, along with its harrowing effects on global mortality, continues to create and exacerbate existing fault lines along racism and sexism. Such effects are felt especially in the global North, where anti-Asian feelings have stoked anxieties about specific kinds of bodies that are seen as carriers of ‘diseases’ and threatening to a larger, often ‘white’ body politic. Within this context, institutions of Higher Education such as Universities have a pivotal role to play in terms of creating meaningful dialogue and nurturing inclusive practices. Not only Universities are now called upon to play a key role in challenging ‘sociology of dominance’ (Robin DiAngelo, 1999) but also for restructuring

and reinventing themselves so that they can remain committed to an ‘embodied integrative anti-racist feminist’ pedagogy (Roxana Ng, 2005) amidst the rising polarisations of racism, xenophobia and affective politics of hatred.

**Srabani Maitra** is a Professor in Sociology of Adult and Vocational Education in the School of Education at the University of Glasgow. She is one of the Leads for the College of Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Research Theme 'Addressing Inequalities' and the Champion for the Early Career Development Programme at the University of Glasgow. Srabani Maitra is also the University lead for GTCS’s (General Teaching Council for Scotland) anti-racism network. Her research combines interdisciplinary theories and methodologies from sociology and education to focus on the issues of education/ learning, workplace skill training, race/racism and decolonisation. Her pedagogy too, underpinned by a social justice lens, is committed towards foregrounding suppressed voices, anti-racist and anti-colonial education as well as systemic changes. She has been part of research projects, funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada) as well as Global Challenges Research Fund (UK) focusing on migrants and refugees in Canada, young people in vocational education in India and Mexico as well as women in STEM fields in India, Rwanda and the UK.

**Session #1**

***Yellow Hordes to Malign Agents: Will Yellow Peril-ism Determine***

***Canada’s China Policy and What Are The Consequences for Chinese Canadians?***

**William Dere, Independent Scholar, Montreal**

The 1885 Royal Commission on Chinese Immigration resulted in four Chinese Immigration Acts. The last one was the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act. Before the CPR and before Confederation, Western thought was shaped by the racist justification to plunder China through a colonial dominating psychology, known as the “Yellow Peril.” From Opium Wars, military occupations, to unequal treaties, European supremacy over China felt complete. Today, China has risen from the “century of humiliation” to challenge the West for a place in the global economy and yet cannot escape Sinophobia. Anti-Asian/Chinese hate has provoked “Yellow Peril 2.0.” There is a direct connection between current events to those of a hundred years ago. This presentation explores how Canada’s attitudes toward China as a civilization state determines in large part how the dominant society views Chinese Canadians, and the Chinese diaspora, past and present.

**William Ging Wee Dere** (謝景煒) is a documentary filmmaker and author of “**Being Chinese in Canada, The Struggle for Identity, Redress and Belonging**.” (Douglas & McIntyre, 2019), winner of the 2020 Blue Metropolis/Conseil des arts de Montréal Diversity Prize. He was a leading activist in the 2-decade movement to redress the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act. William's grandfather arrived in Canada in 1909 and paid the $500 Head Tax, as did his father when he came here at the age of 14 in 1921. The Chinese Exclusion Act separated William's family for three decades. His film “**Moving the Mountain**” documents how the Sinophobic legislations affected his family and the Chinese Canadian community. William trained as a professional engineer with a Master's in Mechanical Engineering. In the fine tradition of Chinese Canadians, he worked for the railway until his retirement.

***The Exclusion Act and the Structure of Anti-Chinese Racism in Canada***

**Timothy J. Stanley, University of Ottawa**

Debates in the House of Commons and the Senate in 1922 and 1923 over the Chinese Immigration [Exclusion] Act completely excluded Chinese Canadian voices and highlight the self-referential nature of white supremacist discourse. The framers of the Act did not have to live with the consequences of their actions, which tore families apart and made the Canadian-born Chinese eternal aliens. Using an anti-essentialist antiracist approach, I ask a question borrowed from Hannah Arendt: what made this exclusion and its consequences possible? I argue that the 1923 Act was the product of the social structure of anti-Chinese racism, a structure closely tied to British/Canadian settler colonialism. The

creation of this structure can be traced in such moments as John A. Macdonald’s 1885

disenfranchisement of the Chinese, while its effects continue today in the recent upsurge in anti-Chinese violence and Sinophobia.

**Timothy J. Stanley** is Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Education and in the Institute of Indigenous Research and Studies, University of Ottawa, where he specialized in antiracism education. An award-winning historian of racism and Chinese Canadian experience, he researches the connections between contemporary racisms, lived histories of racist exclusion, and antiracism education.

**Session #2**

***Trust and wellbeing among diverse Chinese communities in Canada***

**Cary Wu, York University**

Trust is key to individual wellbeing and integration within society. In this article, I consider the levels of political and social trust among diverse ethnic Chinese groups in Canada and how they are associated with their wellbeing in terms of happiness and life satisfaction. Drawing on data from the 2021 Canadian Democracy Checkup Survey and the World Values Survey, I compare social and political trust levels among five ethnic Chinese groups in Canada, including Canadian-born Chinese, Mainland Chinese, Hong Kong Chinese, Taiwan Chinese, and other Chinese. My analysis shows that Mainland Chinese Canadians show higher levels of political trust than other groups, while Canadian-born and mainland Chinese Canadians exhibit greater social trust than other groups. Variations in both social and political trust among different ethnic groups in Canada largely mirror their birthplace. I also show that differences in trust help explain a significant share of the wellbeing inequality among the Chinese communities. The findings highlight the importance of understanding the cultural factors that shape social and political trust among diverse ethnic groups and their implications for individual well-being and integration.

**Cary Wu** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and York Research Chair in Political Sociology of Health. His research on trust, race and ethnicity, and political sociology of health has appeared in journals including *Daedalus-the Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Social Forces, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Social Science Research,* and *Canada Review of Sociology.* He has published opinion articles in *the Washington Post, Toronto Star, National Post, Macleans, The Conversation,* and shared his research with the public via national and international TV, radio, and newspaper forums including *NPR, CBC National News, and BNN Bloomberg.*

***Comfortably “Western:” How Chinese International Students Imagine Canada***

**Yue Qian, University of British Columbia**

How do students from Mainland China select Canada for their education? Beyond the customary push-pull explanations, we introduce a framework of comparative imaginaries, describing how rational strategies are imbued with the imaginaries of host societies and migration aspirations. Based on longitudinal interviews with 36 Chinese postsecondary students in Vancouver, we find that these students imagine Canada as a safe alternative to the United States (perceived as the best country for higher education): Western, offering quality education, ethnically inclusive, and with a less politically fraught relationship with China. The easier path to permanent residency and citizenship that Canada offers, compared with that of the United States, is also conducive to students’ imagination of flexible citizenship. Our study illuminates how social imaginaries are intertwined with practical concerns to shape students’ mobility.

**Yue Qian** is an associate professor of sociology at the University of British Columbia. Her research interests focus on family, gender, and demography. Her current research examines how gender intersects with family and population processes (e.g., assortative mating, immigration) to shape individual well-being and social inequality in North America and East Asia. Most recently, she has been researching the social and mental health impacts of COVID-19. Her research has appeared in the *Canadian Review of Sociology*, *Canadian Ethnic Studies*, and *Canadian Public Policy*, among others.

***Caught in geopolitical tensions: How do Canadian faculty of Chinese origin feel about their professional value and working conditions?***

**Qiang Zha, York University**

The currently escalating rivalry between the United States and China has led to the notion of linking research to national security or securitization, and even decoupling of university collaboration across the two sides. Caught in the Canada-China-US trilateral relations, Canada has followed the US and launched similar initiatives or strategies—in an attempt to address security concerns and combat possible intellectual espionage from China. Against such a backdrop, this study sheds light on the following queries: 1) overall value of those professors of Chinese origin in Canadian universities, their

role in supporting collaboration with China, and their level of research engagement with the scholars and students in/from China, 2) impact of limiting collaboration with China on Canadian research community, and 3) other impact and cost of potential racial profiling among Canadian university professor of Chinese descent. Methodologically, a survey was conducted in November 2022 – February 2023 with the Chinese and no-Chinese faculty in 30 Canadian universities, drawing on a previous survey implemented by the University of Arizona and the Committee of 100 with the Chinese scientists in top American universities. This study furthers a pure survey with an approach to analyzing the data through a theoretical lens borrowed from Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model, which provides a holistic

framework for understanding the complex interactions with environmental factors that influence individuals’ development and academic success.

**Qiang Zha** is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Education, York University, where he served as the Director of Graduate Program in Education in 2017-2020, and was appointed as a York University Provostial Fellow in 2021-2022. He is currently the Interim Director of York Centre for Asian Research. He also serves as an associate editor of Springer’s journal *Innovative Higher Education* and of Taylor & Francis’ journal *Chinese Education & Society*.

Session #3

***“I Am Not Who You Think I Am”: Multiple, Hybrid and Racialized Identities of Canadian Muslim Youth in the Negotiation of Belonging and Citizenship”***

**Aamir Jamal, University of Calgary**

Identity-formation is complex, involving the configuration of many influences—direct and indirect, local and global, personal and impersonal. Sometimes aspects of fluid, and multiple identities conflict and individuals are faced with navigating competing and not necessarily commensurable influences. Such is the case with the Canadian Muslim Youth—CMY. Thematic analysis of 30 interviews with CMY, identified five major themes: (a) Navigation of multiple, complex, and hybrid identities; (b) Religious identity and spirituality; (c) “I am not what you think I am”—Media portrayals of Muslims; (d) Claiming inclusion and belonging in the face of anti-Muslim racism; and (e) Recommendations. Listening to CMY voices will help policymakers, practitioners, Muslim communities and organizations to develop strategies for positive youth development.

**Aamir Jamal** is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. He also serves as Director of Global Engagement and International Partnerships and is the Program Lead for the graduate program in International Social Development. Dr. Jamal's work has influenced policy and practice for national governments and international agencies. His research is rooted in a strong social justice perspective and focuses primarily on three areas: Engaging men in gender justice and violence prevention; evaluating the effectiveness of International NGOs in the development sector; and examining the construction of Canadian Muslim youth identity. His service to the profession and the

international community was recognized with prestigious awards, including the City of Calgary International Achievement Award (2021), the Arch Award for International Career Achievement (2022), and the Sustainability Award for Faculty Research (2022).

***Chinese Youth and Criminal Justice System in Canada – an untold discrimination***

**Siu Ming Kwok and Dora Tam, University of Calgary**

This presentation is to findings and receive feedback on a paper that identifies policy formulation for a culturally responsive framework for Chinese youth. This paper reveals that Chinese youth internalize systemic discrimination in criminal justice and social service system, their needs are not properly addressed due to model minority stereotyping, the second generation has less trust on the mainstream system, and their strong connection to family. Additionally, there is a shift in the Chinese Canadian demographics that mirrors the socio-economical changes in China over the past three decades, amongst the changing socio-political-legal climate in Canada. Differences in types of crime, parental involvement, and youth responses were found among Canadian-born, immigrants, and international visa students. Regardless of immigration status, Chinese youth and their families experienced cultural and language barriers and discrimination in accessing and utilizing legal and social services.

**Siu Ming Kwok** is the associate director of the School of Public University at University of Calgary. His is also the current President of Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) and the President of Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators (CCSWR). In his career, he has received numerous research and teaching awards, invited to present at national and international conferences as a keynote and panelist member, and has testified at the Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights on the topic of visible minorities and the criminal justice system.

**Dora Tam** is a Professor at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work. Dr. Tam has extensive practice and research experiences with women and children who are impacted by domestic violence, specifically those from racialized communities. Dr. Tam is the lead author on a peer-reviewed journal article titled “Racial Minority Women and Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence” Recently, Dr. Tam was most recently awarded a 3-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant for international research to explore youth’s mental health in Alberta, Canada and Hong Kong, China.

***Violence of Asians in North America and COVID-19 – An Intersectional Analysis***

**Pallavi Banerjee, University of Calgary**

March 16, 2021, eight people were murdered, ambushed with a 9-mm handgun, by a self-described sex addict who targeted three Atlanta-area massage parlors. Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng all

perished in the hands of a perpetrator who thought of killing himself but eventually decided to “eliminate the temptation.” The perpetrator’s “temptation” had been Asian women. This massacre subsequently led to the public’s heightened awareness of the racialized and gendered subjugation of Asian women and women of color, resulting in an explosion of mainstream media coverage, from news

interviews of experts to op-ed publications in leading media outlets. This paper, is an examination of the rising gendered and racialized violence against Asians in Canada and the U.S. through analysis of

media reports and narratives of youth in Canada. The paper shows  the persistent “epistemic violence” resultant from silencing the most marginal, by featuring an analysis that call attention to and examine violence against Asians who are invisiblized by being subjected to the “interlocking oppressions” of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

**Pallavi Banerjee** is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and a Research Excellence Chair at the University of Calgary. . Her research is situated at the intersections of immigration, gender, families, unpaid and paid labour, intersectionality, and transnationalism. She is the author of the award-winning book *The Opportunity Trap: High-Skilled Workers, Indian Families and the Failures of Dependent-Visa Policy* published in March 2022 by New York University Press. Her other award-winning research has been published in many peer-reviewed journals including the *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Contexts,* *Sociological Forum, Gender, Work and Organization, Women, Gender and Families of Color*among others*.*She directs the Critical Gender, Intersectionality and Migration Research Group at the University of Calgary, and her research is supported by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Session #4

***Everyday experience of racial discrimination among Chinese immigrants in Canada***

**Weiguo Zhang, Jinhua Chen, Zhuo Jun Zhong, Kunping Wang, Weijia Tan**

**University of Toronto**

This study investigates the experiences of racism among Chinese immigrants in Canada before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study used nine focus group discussions with 48 participants of different gender and age groups. The study found that racism against Chinese immigrants is more prevalent than previously thought. Three-quarters of the participants reported experiencing racism, but some participants were unaware of the racist nature of their experiences or denied having experienced racism. The experiences of racism occurred in various settings, including workplaces, schools, shops, airports, banks, hotels, restaurants, and the streets. Women experienced unsolicited intimacies, division of labor, and fertility-related racism and sexism, while older adults experienced transportation and service-related racism. Younger adults experienced online racism. The study suggests the need for awareness creation, empowerment, and intersectionality approaches to address racism against Chinese immigrants in Canada.

**Weiguo Zhang** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto and affiliated with the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and the Institute for Life Course and Aging. His earlier work primarily focused on rural China, looking into the relationship between national population and economic policies and individual livelihoods related to marriage, fertility, adoption, gender, and care for older adults. His current recent research investigates the effects of the intersection of gender,

ethnicity, and migration status on intra-group dynamics and aging experiences of Chinese Canadians, social responses to COVID-19, and anti-Asian racism in Canada.

***The Experience of Anti-Chinese Racism in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)***

***Before and During COVID-19: An Intersectional Analysis***

**Guida Man and Keefer Wong, York University**

Anti-Chinese racism in Canada has escalated since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its prevalence and intensity has captured the attention of mainstream media. Our paper adopts an intersectional framework to examine the experience of racism of Chinese individuals residing in the GTA. We draw on data analysis from a SSHRC funded research project, and focus our analysis of the experience of anti-Chinese racism before and during COVID on such topics as microaggression, stereotyping, targeting, geopolitics, and Chinese culture and identity. We demonstrate that the pandemic has exacerbated anti-Chinese racism, allowing it to fester and proliferate. In particular, our paper elucidates how different forms of anti-Chinese racism interact with individuals’ intersectionalities (i.e., race, class, gender, age, ability, English/French fluency, immigration/citizenship status etc.) to further complicate how individuals are differentially targeted and how they experience racism differently. As well, our paper illuminates how individual interviewee utilizes his/her agency to combat anti-Asian racism.

**Guida Man** is Associate Professor in the Sociology Department, York University. As a faculty associate at York’s Centre for Asian Research, and Centre for Feminist Research, her research intersects im/migration, transnationalism, families, gender, work, and racism and racialization in the context of global restructuring. She has published extensively in journals and books. Her forthcoming edited volume with colleagues is entitled *Yellow Peril Scrutinized: Anti-Asian Racism during the COVID-19 Pandemic* (UBC Press). Currently, she is the Principal Investigator of two SSHRC funded projects on anti-Asian/Chinese racism, and on social reproduction and transnational migration. She also collaborates with colleagues in other projects.

**Keefer Wong** is a PhD candidate in the Sociology Department at York University. As a graduate associate at York Centre for Asian Research, his research intersects race and racialization, Chinese Canadians, Chinese diaspora, and identity. A recipient of a SSHRC scholarship, Keefer is working on his dissertation examining experiences of anti-Asian racism and processes of racialization with a particular interest in internalized racism and ethnonationalism (supervisor: Guida Man). He has been an RA and GA for numerous projects, and is the coauthor of a forthcoming book chapter with Guida Man and others on anti-Asian racism in the workplace during COVID-19.

***Anti-Asian Racism: Experiences, Impact and Strategies for Change***

**Hieu Van Ngo and Lori Pasaraba, University of Calgary**

**Shirlie Wu and William Lau, ACCT Foundation**

Since the 1700s, people of Asian descent have played a significant role in the development of Canada as a country. However, they have been subjected to interpersonal and state-sanctioned racial discrimination. Grounded in the analysis of a pan-Canadian online survey (N=513) and interviews (N=32), the proposed presentation focuses on Asian Canadians’ experiences with anti-Asian racism and its impact on their well-being. Our findings show that Asian Canadians have personally experienced a wide range of racist incidents and witnessed people of the same race being subjected to racist behaviours in various settings and living contexts. They draw attention to the negative impact of racism on Asian Canadians’ well-being, such as re-experiencing racist incidents, denial of their experiences, adverse changes in mood and recognition, physiological arousal and reactivity, dissociative symptoms, and overall personal distress and life interference. The presentation concludes with practical strategies to prevent and address anti-Asian racism and its impact.

**Hieu Van Ngo** is Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Social Work and Academic Director in the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Calgary.

**Lori Pasaraba** is completing her Masters in Sociology at the University of Calgary.

**Shirlie Wu and William Lau** are staff members representing the ACCT Foundation.

**Session #5**

***Community Responses to Racism***

**Teresa Woo-Paw, Action, Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT)**

**Anila Lee Yuen, Centre for Newcomers (CFN)**

**Sally S. Zhao, The Immigrant Education Society (TIES)**

**Sinela Jurkova, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)**

**Honourable Teresa Woo-Paw ECA** is Chair of Actions, Chinese Canadians Together-ACCT Foundation. She is also Chair of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Co-Chair of Coalition Against Anti-Asian Racism Canada, and Co-Chair of Anti-Asian Racism National Coalition. Teresa is the first Asian Canadian woman elected Trustee to the Calgary Board of Education, Alberta MLA and Cabinet Minister. She is an advocate and educator for diversity and inclusion through her work with public and civil society organizations over a span of four decades. She is known for bringing diverse people to joint efforts, break new grounds and create bigger impacts in society. Teresa found and built eight non-profit organizations including the Actions, Chinese Canadians Together-ACCT Foundation, ACT2EndRacism

Network, Asian Heritage Foundation and Action Dignity amongst others. Teresa is recipient of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Award, YWCA Women of Distinction, Immigrant of Distinction, and the Chinese Canadian Legends Awards amongst others.

**Anila Umar Lee Yuen, BSc, BSc (Hon), MBA** Since joining CFN, Anila has grown the agency by $12M, adding nationally recognized programming such as LGBTQ+ refugee supports and indigenous education for newcomers. She co-chaired the Calgary COVID Care Table, where she led the civil society response to assist over 50,000 vulnerable Calgarians. Anila is the Chair Ag Media at the Calgary Stampede, volunteer with Calgary Foundation, member of International Women’s Forum, Rotary and enjoys training in martial arts at Pamana Kali. Anila is a recipient of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person’s Case in 2001 for her work advocating for the rights of immigrant and minority women and children in Canada. Other accolades include University of Calgary Alumni Award, Top 40 Under 40 designation, Women of Inspiration, Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada and Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada. She lives in Calgary with her husband Stefan and their puppy named Sith.

**Sally Zhao** has obtained her Ph.D. and MA from Cardiff University and an M.Ed. from Exeter University, UK, in English Language Education and Communications. Sally has been serving at The Immigrant Education Society (TIES) since 2005 in various roles: volunteer, instructor, program manager and President and CEO since 2014. Sally feels honoured to lead a Calgary based charitable not-for-profit organization with a vision of an inclusive and pluralistic society. On top of her work at TIES, Sally is also a dedicated volunteer in the community. Sally is humbled to be the recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee Medal and the Women of Inspiration Award in 2023.

**Sinela Jurkova** holds a PhD in Educational Research and Adult Learning and an MA in Communication and Culture, both from the University of Calgary.  Her areas of specialization include transcultural transformative learning, intercultural communication and competence, community development, theories and practices for inclusive and anti-racism education. She has published in academic journals and presented numerous sessions on enhancing cultural competency, diversity and integration and has participated in international academic conferences related to the above topics. Her current position is Diversity Education Lead with Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS), developing and facilitating learning sessions on the topics listed above.  One of her significant research projects implemented in practice is Transcultural Transformative Model for building inclusive society. Currently she leads government funded project: Community Based Participatory Action research for anti-racism education and action.