



Culturally Responsive Teaching for Students from Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Backgrounds (SRABs): Showcasing Innovative Pedagogies of Reconnection

Monday 5th July 2021

10am – 4pm

Western Sydney University (Parramatta South Campus)

Building on shared strong foundations, refugee education researchers have established a strong body of evidence that attests to the myriad and often bespoke challenges that SRABs face in accessing, participating and succeeding in education across the life course. What we know less about, however, are the strategies, approaches and hard-learned lessons that our teachers use to create **culturally inclusive, strengths-based** classrooms across all levels of schooling. In particular, the ruptures caused by COVID-19 have magnified the endemic and structural barriers to educational participation, such as the digital divide, access to resources (financial, space, time), language proficiency and dis/connection, but have also provided opportunities for a shift to ‘business as usual’ and have thus given birth to new possibilities for teaching and learning with SRABs. These challenges and opportunities certainly provide a warrant for further attention from teachers at the chalkface, researchers, advocates, service providers and other stakeholders.

The Refugee Education Special Interest Group (RESIG) and the Education for Social Justice and Inclusion (ESJI) Group, School of Education, Western Sydney University (WSU) are therefore pleased to announce a one-day symposium that will focus on ‘good practice’ teaching strategies for SRABs in a variety of contexts and across the educational life course — from early childhood to tertiary/ adult education. Our intention is to bring colleagues together from different sectors to learn from each other about how we can enhance our teaching with SRABs. In particular, we want to open a space for higher education teachers to learn from the expertise and experience of Intensive English Centre and primary and secondary school teachers who work with SRABs on a daily basis.

This blended symposium will be held both in-person and online and is scheduled to fit in with the 2021 [Refugee Alternatives Conference](#) and will be held at the WSU Parramatta South Campus on Monday 5th July from 10–4pm.

You can register your interest in attending in person or online here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/154488767061>

About the co-hosts

Since its inception and launch on World Refugee Day in 2016, the Refugee Education Special Interest Group (RESIG) has worked hard to develop a network that is committed to creating better educational opportunities and outcomes for students from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds (SRABs). Similarly, the Education for Social Justice and Inclusion (ESJI) group work tirelessly to identify how education can better meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities and marginalised young people, building on a strong foundation of researching high-poverty contexts, along with award-winning research into teacher education.



Schedule

Time	Activity	Presenter(s)
9.30–10.00	Registration + coffee	
10.00–10.15	Introduction + welcome	Michele Simons <i>Dean of School of Education, WSU</i>
10.15–10.30	Setting up expectations for the day	Sally Baker (RESIG) Loshini Naidoo (ESJI)
10.30–11.00	Refugee education: Perspectives from NSW Department of Education	Rachel Hennessy <i>Refugee Students Program Advisor, NSW DoE</i>
11.00–11.30	Sharing good practice: Leadership	Sonia Durney <i>EAL/D Education Leader, Carlingford West Public School</i>
11.30–11.50	Sharing good practice: Language	Caitlin Park, <i>EAL/D Education Leader, Wollongong West Public School</i>
11.50–12.10	Sharing good practice: Arts	Hannah Grant <i>Collective Arts Impact with secondary schools</i>
12.10–12.30	Sharing good practice: Trauma-informed teaching in higher education	Tori Wilson <i>University of Southern Queensland</i>
12.30–1.00	Q&A/ whole group discussion	Loshini Naidoo (ESJI)
1.00–1.30	Lunch	
1.30–3.00	Working groups: Mapping 'good practice' – learning from each other	Facilitators
3.00–3.30	Feedback + future directions	Sally Baker (RESIG)
3.30–4.00	Closing thoughts	Dorothy Hoddinott, AO <i>Previous Principal of Holyroyd High School</i>