

## University of Windsor Scholarship at UWindsor

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International Symposium on Arab Youth

Conference Program

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May 29th, 8:30 AM - May 30th, 5:00 PM

# Arab Youth Symposium 2013: Conference Program

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**International Symposium on Arab Youth:  
Developmental Pathways for Identity  
May 29-30, 2013**

**Presentations**

**Wednesday May 29, 2013**

**DAY 1: Arab Youth Identity—What Do We Know?**

- 8:30 – 9:10 a.m. Registration and Poster Set-Up [Toldo HEC Lobby]
- 9:10 – 9:20 a.m. Opening Remarks – Dr. Julie Hakim-Larson [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]
- 9:20 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome – Dr. Alan Wildeman, President [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]
- 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker Dr. John W. Berry (Professor Emeritus), Queen's University, CANADA [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

**Acculturation, Identity and Wellbeing Among Ethnocultural Youth**

Acculturation is the process of cultural and psychological change that results from the prolonged contact between groups and individuals of different cultures. Much acculturation takes place in culturally-diverse societies that have emerged following colonization and immigration. There are three important acculturation issues that need consideration: *how* do individuals of different cultures engage each other; *how well* do they adapt to their intercultural situation; and are there *relationships* between *how* individuals acculturate and *how well* they adapt. Core concepts in dealing with these questions are *acculturation strategies* and *cultural identities (how)* and psychological and social *wellbeing (how well)*. The search for relationships between answers to these two questions may allow the promotion of ways of acculturating that lead to greater wellbeing. Evidence from research with immigrant adults and youth who are settled in many societies reveals that there is indeed a 'best practice' for achieving wellbeing: those who engage both their heritage cultures and identities, as well as participate in the daily life of the larger society, have higher levels of wellbeing than those who engage with only one or the other, or with neither culture.

- 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Refreshment Break and Poster Session [Toldo HEC Lobby]
- 11:15 – 12:30 p.m. **International Panel Discussion 1 – Definitions of Acculturation & Ethnic Identity** [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Shelagh Towson, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

**Voluntary Community Service among Egyptian College Youth: Motivators and Impacts on Identity Development**

Mona Amer, Ph.D., American University of Cairo, EGYPT

**Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Culture, Development, and Health of Arab Americans**

Sylvia Nassar-McMillan, Ph.D., North Carolina State University, USA

**Using Convoys of Social Relations to Understand Culture and Forgiveness from an Arab American Youth Perspective**

Kristine Ajrouch, Ph.D., Eastern Michigan University, USA

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

1:45 – 3:00 p.m. **International Panel Discussion 2 – Definitions and Clarification of Social Identity Issues** [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Ben Kuo, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

**Development, Knowledge and Perception of Sexuality among Arab Youth**

Brigitte Khoury, Ph.D., American University of Beirut, LEBANON

**The Living in History Effect and the Intergenerational Transmission of Personal and Historical Memories**

Samar Zebian, Ph.D., Lebanese American University, LEBANON

**Youth coping with oppression in Arab Spring and its Psychological and Socio-Political Dynamics: The example of Palestinian Youth**

Ibrahim Kira, Ph.D., Center for Cumulative Trauma Studies, Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Refreshment Break [Toldo HEC Lobby]

3:30 – 5:15p.m. **International Panel Discussion 3 – Definitions and Clarification of Personal Identity Issues** [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Kathryn Lafreniere, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

**Child-rearing Practices, Cultural Beliefs, and Shaping Identities**

Leyla Akoury-Dirani, Ph.D., American University of Beirut, LEBANON

**Resiliency, Hope, and the Big Five among Lebanese Youth**

Huda Ayyash-Abdo, Ph.D., Lebanese American University, LEBANON

**Parent-Practices and Identity Outcomes in Arab Youth**

Nancy Wrobel, Ph.D., University of Michigan, USA

5:15 p.m. Closing Remarks for Day 1

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**Thursday May 30, 2013**

**DAY 2: Arab Youth Identity—What Can We Do as Researchers and Providers?**

8:30 – 9:00am Registration [Toldo HEC Lobby]

9:00 – 10:45 a.m. Keynote Speaker Dr. John W. Berry (Professor Emeritus), Queen's University, CANADA [Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

**Theory and Method in Cross-Cultural and Intercultural Psychology**

The field of cross-cultural psychology examines the relationships between the cultural contexts in which individuals develop and now live, and the psychological characteristics they display. The field of intercultural psychology examines how individuals with different cultural backgrounds and psychological characteristics engage each other and adapt to each other when living in culturally-diverse societies. In both fields, the theoretical position of *universalism* is helpful. This approach considers that all human beings share the same fundamental psychological *processes* (such as perceiving, thinking). Cultural experiences shape these processes during the course of development into variable *competencies* (such as abilities, attitudes, and values). Cultural situations then promote (or constrain) the expression of these competencies as *performances* in appropriate settings. Without these basic similarities, there can be no possibility of comparing behaviours across cultures (a methodological issue); nor could there be any mutual understanding or mutual acceptance across cultural boundaries when persons of different background interact. These theoretical and methodological issues will be elaborated using findings from a large international study of immigrant youth. The application of such findings to promote immigrant wellbeing can only be ensured when they are based in sound theoretical and methodological foundations.

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Refreshment Break [Toldo HEC Lobby]

11:15 – 12:30 p.m. **International Panel Discussion 4 – Cultural influences on Identity**  
[Toldo HEC Rm. 104]

Moderator: Rosanne Menna, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

**A Cross-cultural Comparison of Anxiety in Youth: Values, Traditions, and Beliefs**

Cecilia Essau, Ph.D., Roehampton University, UNITED KINGDOM

**Children of Iraqi Refugees: Risk Profile for Substance Abuse**

Cynthia Arfken, Ph.D., Evone Barkho, Maisa Ziadni, Mark A. Lumley, Luay Haddad, Bengt B. Arnetz, M.D., Ph.D., & Hikmet Jamil, M.D., Ph.D., Wayne State University, USA

**Mental Illness and Chronic Disease in a Random Sample of Newly-Arrived Refugees and Immigrants to the U.S.**

Hikmet Jamil, M.D., Ph.D., Bengt B. Arnetz, M.D., Ph.D., Ghosh Samiran, Ph.D., Judith E. Arnetz, Ph.D., M.P.H., Wayne State University, USA

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

**Thursday May 30, 2013 (continued)**

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.      **Discussion Panel: Planning and Applying International Research –  
What Do Community Agencies and Providers Want to Know?**  
[Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

Moderator: Julie Hakim-Larson, Ph.D., University of Windsor, CANADA

Panelists:

Hikmet Jamil, M.D., Ph.D., Wayne State University, USA

Ibrahim Kira, Ph.D., Center for Cumulative Trauma Studies, Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA

Mona Farroukh, Youth Program Supervisor, ACCESS Community Health and Research Center,  
USA

Nazia Huda, Youth Coordinator, Multicultural Council of Windsor Essex County, CANADA

Sameera Ahmed, Ph.D., The Family & Youth Institute, Wayne State University, USA

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.      Refreshment Break [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.      Roundtable Breakout Sessions to Discuss International Team Research  
Planning Ideas [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.      Brief Report of Result of Breakout Sessions and Group Discussion  
[Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

5:00 p.m.              Closing Remarks for the Symposium [Winclare A, Vanier Hall]

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