

Graduate Research Assistant—Project Coordinator
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
University of Toronto

Research Project Title: *Bordering practices in the Canadian child welfare system: How immigration status shapes risk assessment with immigrant families*

Researchers: Rupaleem Bhuyan (Principal Investigator, University of Toronto)
Mandeep K. Mucina (Co-Investigator, University of Victoria)
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Research Description

This research project involves collaboration between researchers at the University of Toronto, the University of Victoria and will explore in what ways social workers use of discretion when assessing risk for child maltreatment among immigrant children and their families, reproduces bordering practices in child welfare.

The research objectives for year 1 of this multi-year project are to:

- 1) Examine provincial and organizational policies regarding child welfare decision-making and engagement with immigrant families in Ontario and British Columbia through critical discourse analysis of policy documents related to risk assessment with immigrants. In-depth interviews with key stakeholders will also explore how workers and organizations take part in enforcing or resisting the state's regulation of immigrants.
- 2) Understand social workers' use of discretion and ways of knowing when assessing risk for immigrant families through in-depth interviews with front-line workers, supervisors, and policy makers working in Toronto and Vancouver: two cities with the highest concentration of immigrant families in Canada;
- 3) Engage key stakeholders to exchange knowledge regarding decision-making and interactions with immigrant families towards improving equitable outcomes for families who are involved with child welfare services.

Job Description

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for engaging key stakeholders working in child welfare organizations and immigrant community leaders; working with the research team to develop research instruments and ethics protocols; preparing literature reviews; coordinating

research team meetings; coordinating data collection and data management; assisting with data analysis; and assisting with preparing reports and research manuscripts.

This is a part-time position, 10-15 hours per week starting in September 2020 for 12 months (with a probation period of 2 months). Preference will be given to current graduate students.

Compensation:

\$25-\$30 per hour plus 4% vacation pay, depending on qualifications and experience.

Specific Duties

- Act as a liaison between principal investigator, co-investigators and community advisory board;
- Develop ethics protocol for year 1 (2020-2021) of the study;
- Coordinate retrieval of provincial policy documents and textual data related to risk assessment with immigrant families;
- Work with research team to clarify research design and to carry out critical discourse analysis of policy documents;
- Coordinate consultations with community partners in Ontario;
- Liaison with research coordinator in British Columbia;
- Generate required reports, summaries, documents as required;
- Attend weekly meetings and report to the project team as required;
- Work closely with team members (including principal investigator, research staff, personnel and community partners).
- Other duties as assigned

Required Skills

- Experience working in community-based settings with Black, Afro-Caribbean, African, or South Asian immigrants in the Greater Toronto Area
- Experience working in child welfare and/or social work an asset
- Experience and/or knowledge of qualitative research methods and research ethics applications
- Previous project or program facilitation/ coordination experience
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Works well in a team environment

Please email a resume with the names of two references, cover letter, and one writing sample by Friday, August 17, 2020 to migrantmothersproject@gmail.com . **Please save all documents in one PDF file.**

We thank all applicants for your consideration, however, due to limited resources, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

