



Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration & Integration

Setting the Course for Cultural and Religious Diversity What role can Indicators play in supporting good Governance

Venue: Zoom (*link to be created*)

**Date: 29 September 2020
11-1.30 pm (Toronto)**

Governing cultural and religious diversity today is a complex task as we witness the rise of aggressive nationalism, the persistence of ethnic, racial and socio-economic inequality, and the diffusion, particularly through the social media of extremist views. The question arises whether the complex strategies and policies put in place in many countries across the world to address polarisation and extremism and build plural and cohesive societies are having the desired impact. Governance indicators can offer in this respect important tools for monitoring and assessing the impact of related policies and practices as well as the evolution of public perceptions and attitudes towards diversity and inclusion.

This workshop brings together three sets of indicators on the governance of cultural and religious diversity, which seek to provide for useful tools for the self-monitoring and assessment by governments and civil society actors of their policies and practices.

- Based on expert qualitative assessments, the [Horizon 2020 research project GREASE](#) has developed indicators on the governance of religious diversity and the prevention of religiously inspired radicalisation. They are derived from original research conducted in Europe, the MENA region, South and Southeast Asia and Australia and cover 23 countries across 8 world regions.
- The Global Pluralism index, produced by the [Global Centre for Pluralism](#), takes a holistic view of how societies respond to different kinds of diversity (ethno-cultural, religious, indigenous and gender). Using qualitative expert assessments, and perception survey data, the Pluralism Index measures legal commitments and their implementation; the practices of actors across society; social, economic and political group-inequalities; and trust and belonging in society. The Pluralism Index was piloted in Canada, Germany and Kenya in 2019 and is preparing to launch implementation in 2020.

The questions that the workshop addresses include:

- ✓ Consistency among different types of indicators;
- ✓ Implementation at the national and sub-national – state/province or city – level
- ✓ The role of indicators in indicating trends across time in a given country
- ✓ The possibility to compare among very different countries or for instance cities through the use of indicators
- ✓ The responsibility of researchers in producing and disseminating single country assessments;
- ✓ The related role of communicating ‘numbers’ or ‘marks’ as assessments vs accompanying the ‘numbers’ with ‘stories’;

 **PROGRAMME**

Chair: Anna Triandafyllidou | CERC, Ryerson University

11.00 - 12.30 Global **Pluralism Index** – comparative highlights, **Poorvi Chitalkar** | Global Centre for Pluralism, Ottawa
GREASE project indicators – comparative highlights, **Lily Yakova and Rositsa Dzhhekova** | Centre for the Study of Democracy, Sofia

Discussants:

Andrea Wagner, BAK Economics AG and advisor to Council of Europe, Intercultural Cities Network, Strasbourg, France

Thomas Huddleston, Migration Policy Group, Brussels, Belgium

12.30-13.30 **Roundtable discussion:**
Diversity and Pluralism in Canada: What can we learn from the use of governance indicators?

Chair: Keith Banting, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Will Kymlicka, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Giacomo Solano, Migration Policy Group, Brussels

Enrico del Castello, IRCC, Ottawa