

**Prairie Metropolis Centre
&
Centre for Race and Culture
Are co-hosting a Brown Bag Seminar**

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***Discerning racism: Implications of a focus on culture that
obscures the racialized relations of minoritized immigrants'
interfaces with human services***

This paper draws on my recently completed doctoral research, which examined the racialized relations of minoritized immigrants' interfaces with human services, through the vantage points of minoritized immigrant and refugee "go-betweens" – primarily women – who support and buffer immigrants' access to and interactions with human services. My findings reveal a complex and perilous tension that such go-betweens navigate, between jeopardizing relationships with main stream organizations and resisting disrespectful, unacceptable, unethical and overtly racist interfaces with human services. As I show, one way in which racism is enacted is through silencing the voices of those who advocate. My research surfaces just what is entailed in contesting racialized inequities, especially in the face of a prevalent focus on cultural competency. In this presentation I will highlight and discuss two main areas of examination from my research: 1) the implications of human services' focus on culture and cultural competence in response to "increasing diversity," and 2) the toll that navigating the race / culture takes on racialized minorities.

Time: Noon until 1:00 p.m.

Date: September 30, 2010

Location: #4 10865 – 96 Street

Centre for Race and Culture



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