

Joint Asia and Pacific Regional Pre-Conference Seminar

Indigeneity in Asia and Pacific Social Work

17th September 2019, 10.15am – 1.00pm (following Inauguration commencing 9am)

Venue: Auditorium, Christ (Deemed to be University), Hosur Road, Bengaluru, India

Come be part of the conversation. Panelists will address: how they define indigeneity and indigenisation; challenges indigenous peoples facing in their context; how indigenous knowledges inform social work in their context; and their aspirations for indigeneity and social work in the Asia and Pacific region. There is space for participants to engage to take the conversations and the action forward for human dignity in the region for all, including indigenous peoples.



Dr Vince Okada-Coelho is an assistant professor of social work at Hawai'i Pacific University. He completed his Ph.D. in social welfare at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Dr. Okada-Coelho also holds a master's degree in international public policy and management from the University of Southern California. He has also participated in intensive leadership and social change programs, including the East-West Center's Asia Pacific Leadership Program, the Institute for Humane Society's Social Change Workshop at Brown University. His interdisciplinary doctoral research focused on Japan's indigenous people, the Ainu, their welfare, and related policy issues. Dr. Okada-Coelho is deeply committed to community development with a focus on diversity, well-being, and social justice for Japan, Hawai'i, and the Asia-Pacific region. He shares these principle missions along with the goal of expanding youth leadership, international education, and the field of indigenous knowledge including identity formation and resurgence and sustainable community development.



Dr Bindi Bennett is a Senior Lecturer, Social Work at Univeristy of Sunshine Coast, Australia. Dr Bennett is a Gamilaroi woman who is passionate and committed to her community. Her interests include children and families, especially those who are Indigenous. She is interested in the fields of mental health and trauma. Prior to her appointment with USC, Bindi was a senior social worker with experience in the fields of child and adolescent mental health, youth health and schools. Bindi has published in the area of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2011 she won the Norm Smith 2011 research award. Bindi co-edited and published in the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Work book *Our Voices*.



Dr Murli Desai is an Independent Research Professional and Former Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India. In 2018 she received the Life Time Achievement Award from the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), in recognition of her as a distinguished social work educator who has enriched the knowledge base of the profession. Dr Desai has made significant contributions to the fields of social work and social development in general, and in the specific areas of family and women's studies, childhood and adolescence, and old age. Her work has bridged the gaps between research, policy, practice and teaching by undertaking comparative policy studies, knowledge development and dissemination, curriculum planning, teaching and teacher training, consultation and group empowerment workshops. While she was at the Tata Institute for Social Science (TISS) for the major part of her career, she has also worked at the Department of Social Work at the National University of Singapore and at the Department of Social Welfare of the Seoul National University.

Register at: <https://apswc2019.com/> or email t.a.mafileo@massey.ac.nz for more information.