

# Deconstructing Social Capital to construct the path of social integration

Tuesday January 25, 2005 noon - 1 pm

*A presentation by:*

**Bilkis Vissandjee, Ph.D.,  
Associate Professor,  
School of Nursing, University of Montreal**

Bilkis Vissandjee is an associate professor at the School of Nursing and the School of Public Health at the University of Montreal; she holds a doctoral degree in Population Planning and International Health from the University of Michigan; her research in Canada focuses on integrating socio-cultural determinants of health as they relate to women experiencing migration transitions.

As recent immigrants face unique challenges as they integrate in a new social, geographic, economic and political context, their health status, in spite of initially optimal state tends to erode. Gender specific interpretations and values, in turn shape life chances and integration to the host society. Immigrant women's diverse modes of social interaction, social membership and legitimacy may not grant them social leverage if they do not simulate the roles and social values of the host country. Indeed, 'demands' for social integration may not necessarily be flexible to the needs, practices and beliefs of those experiencing migration.

While immigrant women's empowerment needs to be explored more extensively among those experiencing migration, similarly, debates surrounding the significance of social capital for these women demonstrate that it is conceptually nuanced and therefore methodologically complex to grapple with. However, it seems indisputable that social participation and inclusion grants access to resources and support networks and lays the ground-work for multiple social and economic advantage for migrant women, in terms of - but not limited to - reducing social isolation, providing contacts for employment and/or housing, support in child care and health information, etc.

This is no easy task; the goal of the presentation is to discuss the challenges of conceptualizing social capital as women experiencing migration re-build their lives in Canada.

**Location: BCCEWH  
Room E311**

**Women's Health Centre of  
British Columbia**

Street Address:  
4500 Oak St.  
Vancouver

*(Note: Entrance to the  
Women's Health Centre is at  
Heather and 29<sup>th</sup> Streets,  
Parking Lot 3)*

**Information**

604.875.2633  
bccewh@cw.bc.ca  
www.bccewh.bc.ca

**Admission is FREE. Everyone  
welcome!**

**Please RSVP to  
bccewh@cw.bc.ca  
or 604-875-2633.**



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