

## DIALOGUES in DIVERSITY

*A Webinar Series on the EDI Implications of COVID-19*

*Dialogues in Diversity* is a series of conversations among leading academics, EDI practitioners and social justice advocates whose work reflects the realities of COVID-19 and the challenges we now face. It will provide an interactive and engaging space to support the critical analysis necessary to successfully address the social, economic and cultural inequities, now exacerbated by COVID-19.



ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

### Health Inequity, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Allyship during COVID-19

At the best of times, structural discrimination worsens inequalities surrounding access to healthcare and treatment. In the COVID-19 context, disparities in access to privileges - such as affordable healthcare, safe and adequate housing, technology, food security and the ability to effective social distancing - have been sharpened. The webinar will examine how an effective response to COVID-19 must consider barriers to access and equity, generally; and how these inequities impact health outcomes, for various communities.

In Part 2 of the discussion, we will also explore the need for effective allyship and advocacy in treating with the discrimination and xenophobia that has become prevalent during the pandemic.



July 30, 2020 @ 2pm

REGISTER 



**Dr. Nikolai Attai**

Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow in  
Women and Gender Studies  
The University of Toronto



**Avvy Go**

Co-founder  
Colour of Poverty/Colour of Change  
Clinic Director  
Chinese and Southeast Asian  
Legal Clinic



**Dr. Indra Narang**

Associate Chief  
Faculty Development and Diversity  
Department of Pediatrics  
The Hospital for Sick Children



**Dr. Pamela D. Palmater**

Chair for Indigenous Governance  
Ryerson University

## ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

### Health Inequity, Discrimination, Xenophobia, Allyship and COVID-19



**Dr Nikoli Attai** is a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto, Canada.

He is currently working on his first book manuscript titled "Queer Liberation? Human Right, Homoimperialism and Community Making in the Queer Caribbean", which interrogates the work being done by activists and non-governmental organizations in the Anglophone Caribbean and Toronto, Canada, and theorizes that current queer human rights interventions fail to adequately address the deeply complicated ways that queer people negotiate and resist homophobia, transphobia and discrimination in the region.

His research and teaching focus on transnational feminism, Caribbean studies, Black queer studies, transgender studies and transnational sexuality studies, with a particular focus on the Global South. He has taught classes on transnational sexualities and Caribbean women writers at the University of Toronto.



**Avvy Go** is the Clinic Director of the Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (formerly known as the Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic.) She received her B.A. in economics and management studies from the University of Waterloo, LL.B. from the University of Toronto, and LL.M. from Osgoode Hall Law School. Since her call to the Bar in 1991, she has worked exclusively in the legal clinic system, serving the legal needs of low income individuals and families, the majority of whom are non-English speaking immigrants and refugees. Immigration, human rights, and employment law are some of the main areas of law that she practices in.

In April, 2019, Avvy was appointed as the first Independent Complaints Review Officer for the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council.

Between 2001 and 2019, Avvy served for about 14 years as a benchler of the Law Society of Ontario. She also served on the LSO's Access to Justice Committee, the Equity and Aboriginal Issues Committee and the Human Rights Monitoring Group.

In March, 2016, Avvy was appointed to the Licence Appeal Tribunal as a part time adjudicator.



Avvy was a part time adjudicator of the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board (from 2006 to 2016), and a member of the Health Services Appeal and Review Board (from 2011 to 2016).

Between 2009 and 2011, Avvy served on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Justice Education Network. Avvy served on the Advisory Council of the Canadian Human Rights Museum between 2011 and 2013. Since 2011, she has been serving as a member of the Community Council of the Law Commission of Ontario.

Avvy has given numerous lectures and educational seminars in various areas of law. She has also published articles in various publications including law journals, law books, community as well as mainstream newspapers dealing with a variety of subject matters, most notably legal and policy issues affecting immigrants and racialized communities.

Apart from her legal practice, Avvy spends much time doing community organizing and advocacy work. She had been involved in a number of community organizations such as serving as the Vice-Chair of the Court Challenges Program of Canada (1994-1997), President of the Chinese Canadian National Council (Toronto Chapter) (1989-1995) and board member of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (1991-1994). In 2007, she co-founded the Colour of Poverty Campaign, a campaign to address the increasing racialization of poverty in Ontario. She continues to serve as a steering committee member of Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change.

Avvy has received the following awards: OCASI Life Time Achievement Award (2018), Senate of Canada 150 medal (2017), SOAR Medal (2017), Order of Ontario (2014), the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers' Lawyer of Distinction Award (2012), City of Toronto's William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations (2008) and President's Award of the Women's Law Association of Ontario (2002).



**Dr. Indra Narang** is the Director of Sleep Medicine and a Paediatric Respiriologist at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. She is a Senior Associate Scientist in Translational Medicine at the Research Institute. Dr Narang co-chairs the EDI steering committee at SickKids with Professor Jayne Danska. More recently, Dr Narang has been appointed as an executive member in the Department of Pediatrics as the Associate Chair in Faculty Development, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Dr Narang has been instrumental in developing and delivering workshops on Allyship that address implicit bias, microaggressions and racism through in person case-based learning. She is currently leading initiatives to enhance diversity and cultural competence amongst health care providers.



**Dr. Pamela Palmater** is Dr. Pam Palmater is a Mi'kmaw lawyer, professor, author, and social justice activist from Eel River Bar First Nation in New Brunswick. She has four university degrees, including a BA from St. Thomas in Native Studies; an LLB from University of New Brunswick, and her Masters and Doctorate in Law from Dalhousie University specializing in Indigenous law. She currently holds the position of full Professor and Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University.

A practicing lawyer for 22 years, Pam has been volunteering and working in First Nation issues for over 30 years on a wide range of issues like socio-economic conditions, Aboriginal and treaty rights, and legislation impacting First Nations.

Her books, *Indigenous Nationhood: Empowering Grassroots Citizens* and *Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identity*, and her other publications focus on Indigenous law, politics, and governance and the importance of native sovereignty and nation-building.

Pam was one of the spokespeople and public educators for the Idle No More movement and advocates alongside other movements focusing on social justice and human rights. She is frequently called as a legal expert before Parliamentary and United Nations committees dealing with laws and policies impacting Indigenous peoples. Her current research focuses on police racism, abuse and sexualized violence against Indigenous women and girls and its contribution to the crisis of murdered, missing, traded, and exploited Indigenous women and girls.

Pam is a well-known public speaker and media commentator – considered one of Canada's Top 25 Influential Movers and Shakers by the Financial Post and the Top 5 Most Influential Lawyer in Human Rights by Canadian Lawyer Magazine. She has been recognized with many awards for her social justice advocacy on behalf of First Nations generally, and Indigenous women and children specifically, including the 2012 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in Social Justice, 2012 Women's Courage Award in Social Justice, and the Margaret Mead Award in Social Justice 2016, to name a few.

#### Social Media:

Twitter	Pam_Palmater
Instagram	“
Facebook	Pam Palmater
LinkedIn	“
Pinterest	“
Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/c/PamPalmaterchannel">www.youtube.com/c/PamPalmaterchannel</a>
Blog	<a href="http://www.indigenousnationhood.blogspot.com">www.indigenousnationhood.blogspot.com</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.pampalmater.com">www.pampalmater.com</a>
Podcast	<a href="http://www.soundcloud.com/pampalmater">www.soundcloud.com/pampalmater</a>
Kids podcast	<a href="http://www.https://soundcloud.com/user-221916644">www. https://soundcloud.com/user-221916644</a>

#### Ryerson:

Email	<a href="mailto:ppalmater@ryerson.ca">ppalmater@ryerson.ca</a>
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**Karima Karmali** has over 25 years of leadership experience in health care and is the Director of the Centre for Innovation & Excellence in Child- and Family-Centred Care at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. In this role, she provides strategic and operational leadership in the design and delivery of health care that is patient and family centric. She champions and leads strategic initiatives aimed at improving patient and family experience and health equity and is currently focusing on the development and implementation of SickKids' Indigenous Health Strategy. She has oversight of a number of departments including the Office of Patient and Family Experience, Interpreter Services, Spiritual and Religious Care, Family Spaces, Family Legal Health Program, Family Centre, and Patient and Family Engagement.

Karima is a strong proponent of volunteerism and gives of her time both locally and internationally. She is a member of the Board of Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada and recently completed a four-year term as the Vice-President of the Aga Khan Council for Canada.

Karima obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from McGill University and a Master of Business Administration from Queens University.



**MORE INFO**

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