



Enhancing Post-secondary Students' Work Readiness for Multicultural Environments through Sociocultural Competence Training

Tuesday July 9th, 12:00 to 2:00pm
Room 1228, Building B Broadway



Dr Anita Mak's Bio

Dr Anita Mak is currently Visiting Professor at the Department of Educational & Counselling Psychology & Special Education, Faculty of Education, UBC. She is Professor of Psychology, Faculty of Health, University of Canberra, Australia and a fellow of the International Academy of Intercultural Research. Anita's specialist research areas are acculturation, sociocultural competence training, adolescent and immigrant mental health, and employment-related stress.

Anita was awarded an Australian national Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in 2007, for her leadership in enhancing students' development of cross-cultural awareness and social skills. She is the leader of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching Project on "Internationalisation at Home: Enhancing Intercultural Capabilities of Business and Health Teachers, Students and Curricula", which involves multi-disciplinary action research, aimed at improving cross-cultural communication in business and health settings (<https://sites.google.com/site/internationalisationathome>).

Anita is a co-developer of the EXCELL (Excellence in Cultural Experiential Learning and Leadership) Program. EXCELL is an evidence-based behavioural program for developing sociocultural competencies that has been introduced into over 100 educational institutions in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, and Europe.

In order to develop post-secondary students' work readiness in culturally diverse societies and international environments, educators have advocated that program leaders should engage faculty members in embedding intercultural competence development in the curriculum, and evaluate the subsequent impact on faculty and student outcomes. This approach has been adopted in an Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) Project titled "Internationalisation at Home" (IaH), which involved providing Business and Health faculty with professional development adapted from an established sociocultural competency training resource – the EXCELL (Excellence in Cultural Experiential Learning and Leadership) Program.

This seminar will report the action research processes and outcomes of the IaH Project implemented at two Australian universities. As well, Vancouver Community College faculty and professional staff members who have had firsthand experiences with embedding sociocultural competency training in the curricula of diverse disciplines, will share their experiences and reflections on such teaching innovations. Implications for future adoption and adaptation of components or the entire EXCELL Program for developing sociocultural competence of all students, whether they are local-born or recent immigrants or international students, will be discussed in the context of preparing graduates for professional employment in multicultural and global environments.

Attendees must register! Please visit http://cid.vcc.ca/events_workshops.html to sign-up.

FEE FREE TO BRING YOUR LUNCH!