Immigrants and refugees experience multiple and complex psychosocial adjustments and disparities associated with the processes of migration and resettlement. As a result, they often require a range of services and supports to facilitate a successful adjustment and effectively navigate their new environment.

This workshop will strengthen practitioners’ preparedness to work effectively with immigrant and refugees. It will highlight participants’ awareness of their own ethnic heritage and cultural values, acculturation and assimilation, and practice skills and approaches for intervention. Immigration policies are discussed as they influence the lives of immigrants and refugees, service delivery, and as a source of professional ethical dilemmas. The workshop also covers generic practice knowledge and skills that are applicable to other social work helping relationships, particularly with oppressed and vulnerable populations.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the historical and present dynamics of immigration in the United States, particularly the reality of the immigrant experience today.
2. A heightened awareness of their own cultural values, beliefs, and attitudes and how these might influence their practice with immigrant and refugees clients.
3. The ability to conceptualize and apply relevant knowledge and skills throughout the helping process in practice with immigrant and refugee clients.
4. Familiarity with some traditional cultural values and worldviews commonly found in some non-Western societies.
5. A deeper sensitivity to the experiences of social injustice and xenophobia encountered by members of certain immigrant and refugee groups in U.S. society.

Online registration is required for this event- go to http://tinyurl.com/RamosWshpSW to reserve your spot as space is limited. This event is approved for 4 CE hours. Cost: $80 ($40 for SSW field instructors).

There are a limited number of free scholarships for current SSW students and new social workers for this event. Please email if interested: sswceu@albany.edu
Working with Immigrants and Refugees

Blanca M. Ramos, LMSW, PhD

Blanca Ramos’ scholarly interests are centered on cross-cultural social work, gerontology, and domestic violence with a focus on US Latinos. She holds an affiliate appointment in the Department of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies. She teaches courses on clinical social work, diversity, immigrants, Hispanic cultures in the U.S., and research in Latino communities. Her international work includes partnership building with higher education institutions and communities and with the national association of social workers in Peru.

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