

 <p>DIPARTIMENTO DI PSICOLOGIA DEI PROCESSI DI SVILUPPO E SOCIALIZZAZIONE</p> <p>SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA</p>	<p>International Thematic Workshop</p> <p><i>Migration studies and inclusive policies from social, developmental and educational perspective</i></p>	 <p>MIGRATION DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES</p>
<p>Rome (Italy), 21st – 23rd September 2020</p>		

Invited Lecturer Form

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INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION	
Invited Lecturer's role:	<input type="checkbox"/> X Replacement Professor
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Short Profile (100 words) to be published in the on-line Proceedings

	<p>Dr. Corinna Buhay is an international social worker and replacement professor of social work with credentials from the United States (BSW, MSW), Canada (PhD in Social Work, University of Ottawa) and Italy (<i>European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication</i>, led by Sapienza University of Rome in collaboration with institutional partner Universities from many countries in Europe; North America, Latino America and China: http://www.euophd.eu). Her doctoral thesis focuses on "The Social Representation of Refugees in Canadian Caseworkers." Currently, Dr. Buhay is volunteering and contributing to the resettlement of newcomers in Ottawa in partnerships with several local community centers.</p>
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Crossing the Atlantic to reach the promised land Canada: The 'Mirror Effect' and the Social Representation of a Refugee in Canadian Caseworkers

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Within the complexities of political and socioeconomic tensions, current patterns of migrations in Canada and Europe have become a critical topic for understanding the social representation of a refugee. In 2015, the resettlement of 25000 Syrian refugees in Canada has not only put the social services workers under stress, but also re-examined their professional practices with the refugee population. Coming from similar cultural trajectories, caseworkers strive to provide efficient, caring, non-biased, and diverse range of social services to people and situations, in particular refugees. Due to their cultural proximity, it is therefore



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primordial for caseworkers to know and apprehend the social representation of the refugee in order to provide services and interact in a culturally competent manner with this population.

Inspired by the social representation's theory (Moscovici, 1961) in particular the socio-anthropological (Jodelet, 2003), crossed with the social identity concept (Tajfel and Turner, 1974), this qualitative study follows an inductive method inspired by the grounded theory.

Drawn from a pluri-methodological research design, including 15 individual interviews with Canadian caseworkers, field observation of integration activities in the Ottawa region, and thematic analysis of 731 online articles, this contribution - born from a doctoral thesis defended in 2018 within the *European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication* and at one of his partner Institutions in Canada (the University of Ottawa) - seeks to illustrate how the social representation of a refugee in Canadian caseworkers is highly connected to their past and current social identity, the social context when and where it was socio-generated from.

Empirical results show the "*mirror effect*" of the caseworkers as a relevant concept to integrate and confront the *other distant* (refugee) to the self.

The innovative term coined in 2018 illustrates that indeed caseworkers working closely with new migrants tend to go through the similar migration passage and then confront themselves in front of a mirror.

The '*mirror effect*' does not only reflect their own migratory route but also their emotional distress, existential questioning and daily tension appearing as a result of being a former migrant and a newly helping professional, thus having a double social identity which holds its challenges and issues.

During this presentation we will discuss the different stages of that '*mirror effect*', displaying that it is not a linear process but a fluid, flexible and circular experience that migrant helping professionals go through when they are dealing and working with their migrant clients. Also, we will share the implications of the power-relations and possibly the emergence of the new concept for the theory of social representations : *mirrored representations*.

List of publications related to the key lecture (APA format): please add the link to download the texts or kindly send us the Pdf of the list of readings to be consulted by the selected participants (see next page)



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- Hanson - Easey, S. & Moloney, G. (2009). Social Representations of Refugees: Place of Origin as a Delineating Resource. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*. 19. 506 - 514. [10.1002/casp.1010](https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.1010).
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