

Contributors

Alastair Ager is Director of the Centre for International Health Studies and Professor of Applied Psychology at Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh, and a Research Associate of the Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford. He has over fifty publications spanning the fields of disability, community integration, and refugee studies. His work in the latter area has included research studies of the experience of Mozambican refugees in Malawi and, more recently, analysis of the social integration of refugees in Scotland. Dr. Ager is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* and editor of the recent volume: *Refugees: Perspectives on the Experience of Forced Migration* (London: Cassell). He is a regular contributor to the education programme at the Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford, with whom he is collaborating on the development of a multimedia training course for humanitarian assistance workers on “Psychosocial Responses to the Refugee Experience.” He has worked with a number of agencies involved in refugee assistance, including UNHCR, MSF-Holland and Oxfam, with field experience across Southern Africa, South Asia, and Eastern Europe.

Frederick L. Ahearn, Jr. is Professor and former Dean of the School of Social Service at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Affiliated with the Refugee Studies Programme at the University of Oxford since 1996, he is currently a tutor in their Summer Programme, an occasional reviewer for the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, and is a member of the editorial boards of *Social Work*, *Social Thought*, and *Revista de Trabajo Social* (Chile). Dr. Ahearn, who has done extensive research on forced migration in Nicaragua, is co-author of *Refugee Children: Theory, Research, and Practice* and *Handbook of Mental Health Care of Disaster Victims* both published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

Morton Beiser is the David Crombie Professor of Cultural Pluralism and Health at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clarke Division) and the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry. He also heads Culture, Community, and Health Studies, an academic program of research and training focusing on immigrant and refugee resettlement, the health of First Nations people, cultural influences on the expression of illness, and developing models of health care appropriate for a multicultural society. Dr. Beiser is also the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement (CERIS), a center operating under the auspices of Ryerson Polytechnic University, the University of Toronto, York University, the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, and the United Way. Dr. Beiser is Principal Investigator of several longitudinal studies, including the Refugee Resettlement Project, a decade-long investigation of the resettlement and mental health of Southeast Asian refugees in Canada; the Refugee Youth Project, a study of the children of Southeast Asian refugees; the Flower of Two Soils, focusing on emotional and cognitive development among First Nations as well as non-native children; and the Markers and Predictors of Psychosis, a study of the course of first-episode psychosis. In 1986, Canada Health and Welfare, together with the Secretary of State-Multiculturalism, appointed Dr. Beiser to chair the Canadian Task Force on Mental Health Issues Affecting Immigrants and Refugees. He was principal author of the Task Force report, issued in 1988, and entitled *After the Door Has Been Opened*. He is the author of more than 125 publications including a forthcoming book, *Strangers at the Gate* and the recipient of numerous awards including a Canada Health National Health Scientist Award, the Tanenbaum Award for research in schizophrenia, a Josiah Macy Foundation faculty scholar award, and a Rockefeller Foundation resident scholar award.

Didier Bertrand received his Ph.D. in cross-cultural psychology in 1992 at Toulouse le Mirail University, France. He did his field research in Southeast Asian refugee camps about identity crisis and later studied inter-ethnic relations and spiritual healing of boat men living on the Perfume River in Hue, Vietnam. Dr. Bertrand lived three years in Cambodia where he taught in the Department of Psychology of the Royal University of Phnom Penh and conducted research on the role of psychology in a developing country, especially on the topics of therapeutic possessions and mediums and the healing techniques of monks. He is now a Research Fellow at the Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford, where he is

doing a comparative study of ethnicity in the politics of mental health and of Vietnamese refugee community associations in France and the United Kingdom.

Marita Eastmond is Associate Professor at the department of Social Anthropology at Göteborg University, Sweden. Her research interest is mainly in social and cultural processes of exile communities in responding to violence, displacement and exile. Her ethnographic work includes refugees of the Chile who reside in the United States and Bosnian Muslim refugees in Sweden.

Dr. Ilene Hyman is a Research Scientist in the Culture, Community and Health Studies Program (CCHS) of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clarke Division) and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Dr. Hyman has been the recipient of Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships from the National Health Research and Development Program of Health Canada. Dr. Hyman's doctoral and post-doctoral research focused on acculturation, addressing methodological issues as well as exploring the mechanisms through which acculturation impacts on health status and health behaviors. Dr. Hyman's current research projects include a longitudinal investigation of the mental health and adaptation of Southeast Asian refugees and their children in Canada, the analysis of national data on the health status and behaviors of new and long-term Canadian immigrants, the analysis of national data on the effect of poverty on the health and development of new Canadian children, a study of pathways and barriers to mental health care for Ethiopians in Toronto, and a study of barriers to cancer screening for Chinese and Vietnamese women in Toronto. Prior to her appointment in CCHS in January 1994, Dr. Hyman conducted over ten years of health and social sciences research with ethnocultural communities in Canada and in several North and West African countries.

Maryanne Loughry has occupied the Arupe Tutorship at the Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford since 1996. A native of Australia, she has had extensive experience working on forced migration issues in Vietnam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Gaza, Palestine, and Africa. She is currently on leave from the University of Adelaide, Australia, where she is a lecturer and doctoral candidate in psychology.

Dr. Colin MacMullin is a child psychologist and Senior Lecturer in Special Education at the Flinders University of South Australia. He

teaches courses in counseling and educational consultation, and conducts research into the social and emotional difficulties experienced by children in Australia and in the Middle East. Dr. MacMullin presently devotes part of his time each year teaching courses in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and in various locations in Southeast Asia.

Nguyen Xuan Nghia is a lecturer in general sociology, social research, and rural sociology at the Ho Chi Minh Open University and also in the College of Social and Human Sciences at the Ho Chi Minh National University. He has a Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies from the Institut d'Etudes Economiques et Sociales de Paris where he is now a doctoral candidate.

Samuel Noh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, and Senior Research Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clarke Division). Following his undergraduate and graduate training in sociology, he studied epidemiology under the supervision of R. Jay Turner at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Dr. Noh's scholarly work focuses on theoretical and methodological issues relevant to social stressors and the stress processes through which experienced stress is manifested as either physical or mental pathology. Most recently, Dr. Noh's work has shifted to concentrate on studying the stress process among racial or ethnic minorities including new immigrants and refugees. His current research projects include a cross-cultural study of the stress process in adolescents, a study comparing adolescents and youth of Asian immigrant families, Southeast Asian refugee families and Canadian-born parents, and a multi-ethnic community study that addresses issues of racism and mental health, development and delivery of culturally-sensitive, mental health services, psychological resilience of immigrant children and children of immigrants, and the long-term effects of the childhood experience of war trauma. His original and collaborative works appear in well recognized journals including *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, *Psychological Assessment*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, and *Cross-cultural Research*.

Patricia A. Omidian is a medical anthropologist, currently an independent consultant working in Pakistan with local populations and with Afghan refugees. Her research has focused on family conflict and life-course issues in an Afghan refugee community in Northern California. She has been working with this community since 1985 and is particularly interested in the formulation and (re)production of

identity by Middle Eastern and Central Asian immigrants and refugees. The work has included issues of aging, youth and gangs, religion as the focus of identity, ethnicity and forced migration with the Afghan refugee population in the United States and Pakistan. Her book *Aging and Family in an Afghan Refugee Community: Traditions and Transitions* focuses on the refugee population in Northern California.

Miriam Potocky-Tripodi, a native of the Czech Republic, is Associate Professor and Acting Doctoral Program Coordinator in the School of Social Work, Florida International University, Miami, Florida. Her major area of scholarship is refugee resettlement in the United States, on which she has published numerous articles. Dr. Potocky-Tripodi has also written on research methodology. She is founding co-editor of *The Journal of Social Work Research and Evaluation* and she is a board member of the Society for Social Work and Research.

Raija-Leena Punamäki is a psychologist who currently works as a senior researcher at the University of Helsinki, Department of Psychology. Her research has focused on mental health and child development in conditions of political violence with a special emphasis on the therapeutic process, resiliency and coping, cognitive abilities and attitudes, and symbolic processes such as dreaming, playing, and drawing. Dr. Punamäki has participated in projects in primary care and refugee administration, and is a founding member of Finnish Psychologist for Social Responsibility. In addition, she is a member of the Advisory Board of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Gaza, Palestine.

Nhi Vu has recently completed a Master's Degree in Education in the Department of Human Development and Applied Psychology at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Between 1993 and 1996, she was employed as a research assistant for the Refugee Youth Project (RYP) of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clarke Division), and the University of Toronto's Department of Psychiatry. Ms. Vu was the principal interviewer for the in-depth assessments and focus groups with Southeast Asian refugee youth and she continues to be involved with many project activities on a contractual basis. Ms. Vu intends to pursue doctoral studies in education. She is particularly interested in the relationship between child development and the cultural, institutional, and historical contexts within which it occurs.

Joseph Westermeyer started his professional career as a family physician in St. Paul, Minnesota. Part-time graduate study in anthropology heightened his interest regarding the interface between culture and health care. This led to his doing a two-year stint with the Public Health Division of the Agency for International Development (AID) in Laos during the period 1965-1967. During the 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Westermeyer completed training in psychiatry, anthropology, and public health/epidemiology. The work that he began in Laos in 1965 continued with various projects in Asia over a twenty year period. Serendipitously, his work with Asian refugees in the United States expanded as refugees from Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia arrived in Minnesota. Over time, the methods that he employed reflected the types of challenges that his projects required, reflecting his broad training and experience in medicine, psychiatry, anthropology, and public health.