

## **GED Seminar Series**

**Thursday 22nd April 2021**

**4pm – 5pm, CO304, Kelburn Campus**

[Zoom livestream link](#)

### **Feeling into Refugee Resettlement in Aotearoa New Zealand - towards New Cartographies of Belonging**

**Prof Sara Kindon**

Victoria University of Wellington, SGEES



Aotearoa New Zealand often receives international acclaim for its high-quality approach to refugee resettlement. Yet many former refugees, despite their formidable resilience and strengths, report challenges building new lives here. Many lack important social capital, suffer racial or religious discrimination, and find it hard to access and learn about Te Ao Māori. In this seminar, I propose that such challenges may relate to the current formulation and implementation of the NZ Quota Refugee Resettlement Strategy. Specifically, I contend that the privileging of State-led measures of successful resettlement overlook the complexity of colonial continuities, intercultural relationships and emotions which saturate resettlement spaces. Integrating ideas from Indigenous and relational geographies' scholars with my empirical research with refugee-background communities, I argue that 'feeling' into refugee resettlement reflects what Carrillo Rowe has talked about as inclining towards new cartographies of belonging. These cartographies acknowledge that where bodies are placed (resettled), and with whom/what affective ties are built, transmit power and generate a/effects. Attending to such cartographies may open up new opportunities to counter discrimination and decolonise resettlement practice.

#### **Bio:**

Sara is the first female Professor of Human Geography and Development Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. Her work seeks to address complex geographic problems associated with discrimination and power inequalities through participatory and creative approaches to research that recognises the mutual constitution of space, power and subjectivity. Her PhD (Waikato 2012) explored her tauwiwi complicity within the context of a participatory video research partnership with members of Ngāti Hauiti. Since 2007, she has led educational equity activism within and beyond VUW informed by participatory research with refugee-background youth and students. She has published in *Transactions*, *Area*, *Antipode* and *Gender, Place and Culture*, and is currently completing a book entitled 'Critically Engaging Participatory Action Research' (Routledge).

**All Welcome!**