

Subject: New Co-Convenors for the CSA Cluster on the Sociology of Migration

Dear CSA Sociology of Migration cluster members:

Starting September 1, 2025, Monica Boyd and Lori Wilkinson will rotate off as co-convenors of the SOM cluster. They will be replaced by Shirin Khayambashi and Max Stick. Please see the short biographies below. In order to provide institutional memory and expertise, Lisa Kaida will remain as the third co-convenor until July 1, 2026 when she will rotate off.

Dr. Shirin Khayambashi (she/her) is an assistant professor in the department of sociology at Toronto Metropolitan University. Shirin received her Ph.D. in Sociology in 2020 from McMaster University. Her dissertation investigated the complex in-group contestation of Iranian communities settled in Southern Ontario, demarcated by Islamophobia and political divides.

Shirin is a qualitative researcher specializing in immigration studies and identity development post-migration through an intersectional perspective. Her publications investigate the challenges of settlement and restructuring of social identity post-migration among Iranian and Muslim communities within the Canadian context. One of her current projects studies the opportunities and challenges of settlement in small Canadian cities with a focus on international immigration settlement in Brandon, MB. Shirin is an active member of SOM as participant, presenter, and session chair. .

Dr. Max Stick (he/him) currently is an Assistant professor at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Before joining MSVU, he worked as a full-time researcher in the Social Analysis and Modelling Division at Statistics Canada. Max has published numerous articles and reports on the social and economic integration of immigrants using survey data and administrative records. His dissertation, which he defended in 2022, used multiple cycles of the General Social Survey, the Ethnic Diversity Survey and World Bank Data to examine the impact of source-country gender inequality on immigrant integration.

Max is an active member of the Canadian Sociological Association since starting his graduate studies in 2017 as a presenter and chair for numerous sessions within the Sociology of Migration Research Cluster. He also was awarded the Sociology of Migration Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award in 2022.

A Brief History of the Cluster on the Sociology of Migration

The Cluster on the Sociology of Migration was founded in 2014 by Monica Boyd and Patricia Landolt, both at the University of Toronto. After Patricia Landolt rotated off as a co-convenor in 2017, SOM was managed by Monica Boyd between 2018-2021. New co-convenors joined in 2021 and thereafter

With apologies for any errors, here is a chronology of the SOM co-convenor leadership between 2014-2025:

Monica Boyd 2014-2025

Patricia Landolt 2014-2017

Lisa Kaida 2021-2026

Rima Wilkes 2021-2022

Lori Wilkinsom 2023-2025

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SOM Mandates, Awards, and Co-convenor responsibilities (see: <https://www.csa-scs.ca/sociology-of-migration>)

The SOM mission is to cultivate stimulating, diverse conversations that bring upcoming students, distinguished professors, independent researchers, and outstanding research institutes/centers from across Canada together to share insightful and policy-relevant developments. Lending one's voice to this discussion not only allows for mutual inspiration, but an opportunity to form new friendships and professional contacts who share a common passion for uncovering the problems, solutions, and patterns that make up our current 'Age of Migration.'

We encourage those from different disciplines, theoretical perspectives, and methodological approaches to participate in the researching cluster panels held as part of the annual Canadian Sociological Association. Broadly speaking, sessions topics may include, but are not limited to the sociology of policy, international labor migration within the context of globalization, mixed and forced migration, global migration management, migrant detention, deportation and trafficking, transnationalism, return migration and remittances, social, economic and political integration processes, enclaves and ethnic economies, precarious legal status and livelihoods, the gender, racial and ethnic stratification and differential inclusion of migrants in transit and destination points, the pathways of the 1.5 and second generations, altered, hybrid and transformed identities, and the circumstances of temporary migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Starting in 2022, the Cluster on the Sociology of Migration gives an award for the best student paper of the year; there is no monetary award associated with this honour. Requirements for submission are announced early in the new year, with the due date usually in late April or early May. The recipient of the award is announced at the annual business meeting of SOM, held during the CSA annual meeting.

Co-convenors are responsible for managing the activities of SOM, with particular focus on producing a successful annual meeting, usually held in June of each year. Among the tasks are:

- 1) Managing the SOM listserv (note: SOM depends on people notifying SOM to correct their email addresses if they move or change email addresses)
- 2) Sending out emails through the SOM listserv (activity takes place as needed throughout the year).
- 3) Producing a Newsletter (bi-annual, December & May/June (before the CSA meeting), including information gathering, composition, editing and posting/emailing members
- 4) Attending the CSA-generated cluster forums (usually in fall)
- 5) Selection, drafting and submission of SOM-affiliated session proposals to the CSA program committee (Fall) .
- 6) Reviewing abstracts submitted to SOM-affiliated sessions. Sorting abstracts into suitable sessions (Fall-Winter).
- 7) Writing up each session description (session proposals can be used as baselines), Winter.
- 8) Creating a list of possible reviewers for the SOM best student paper adjudication committee (3-5 faculty members).
- 9) Contacting possible reviewers, one by one. to secure at least 2 or 3 reviewers.

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- 10) Adjudication and designation of the SOM best student paper award (e.g. sending out nominated papers to reviewers, making final decision)
- 11) Finding chairs for SOM-affiliated sessions,
- 12) As the annual CSA meeting approaches, communication with session chairs about session management.
- 13) Attending and chairing the SOM business meeting during the CSA annual meeting
- 14) Liaison as needed throughout the year with the CSA executive director (currently Sherry Fox)
- 15) Organize webinars throughout the year, as needed or wanted
- 16) Organize and submit paperwork for special sessions at the CSA meetings, sponsored by SOM. Activities undertaken in the fall and winter months

In addition to the activities of the co-convenors, the generous and important contributions of the SOM membership of their time and energy to the annual meetings and to the various SOM activities must be acknowledged. The cluster would be greatly diminished without people serving as chairs, presenting papers, submitting their work for review, serving as adjudicators for the best student paper awards at the meetings. Throughout the entire history of the SOM cluster, all of the co-convenors recognized the value of these contributions and thank each and every one of you for your contributions to the dialogue and research on the topics of migration.

We hope to be in touch with you in fall as the details of the 2026 CSA annual meeting become available.