



**The Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement is  
proud to present the following:**

**Knocking on Canada's door: The exercise of discretion in  
refugee status determination**

**Dr. Sule Tomkinson**

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016  
11:00 – 1:00pm

Dr. Tomkinson will present her research on the discretionary powers of public officials at the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada who hear asylum claims and decide if a non-citizen qualifies for refugee status or not. Unlike most administrative tribunal proceedings, refugee hearings and records are closed to the public. Conducive to high levels of discretion, these hearings present a space susceptible for different views and techniques on who is deserving of refugee status. Based on unprecedented access to refugee hearings, in-depth interviews with implicated actors and an analysis of confidential official documents, this research documents public officials' contradictory investigative practices, credibility assessments and interpretations that lead to major social inequities for asylum applicants.

**Location:** 502 Jorgenson Hall  
380 Victoria Street  
Ryerson University

Dr. Sule Tomkinson is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Policy and Social Research, University of Kansas.