

# International Community for Practice Research in Social Work

## Practice Research Collaborative on Diversity in Family Social Work (PRC-DFSW)

- To Join this collaborative, email Dr. Timothy SIM, Associate Professor Singapore University of Social Sciences: [timothysimbw@suss.edu.sg](mailto:timothysimbw@suss.edu.sg)).

# Session Plan

0900-0930 Hello

0930-1015 What is DFSW about and should be about

1000-1100 Let's strategise: Small group proposal and discussion

1100-1200 Moving ahead: Formation of PRC-DFSW

# Proposers

- Dr. Timothy SIM, Associate Professor  
Singapore University of Social Sciences.  
Head of Programme, Master of Counselling,  
Singapore University of Social Sciences  
(Email: [timothysimbw@suss.edu.sg](mailto:timothysimbw@suss.edu.sg)).
- Dr CUI Ke, Associate Professor, Sichuan  
University, People's Republic of China

# Background of PRC-DFSW

- 2008: Participated in the Salisbury Practice Research Symposium
- 2008-now: Focusing on disaster management internationally
  - Sichuan Model: Focusing on working with ethnic minority
  - **Video: Building Back Better Step by Step:**  
<https://vimeo.com/128756640>
- 2017: Chair, 4<sup>th</sup> ICPT, Hong Kong
- 2021-now: Moved to the Rear-line
  - Returned to Singapore and working with families using the systemic lens
  - Particularly addictions, incarceration and violence, which are often over-represented by ethnic minority groups and those living with multi-challenges in life.

## Background of PRC-DFSW

- ICPR6 Presentation on 8 Jun 2023, 10:30-12:00 Session 6D, M2 (ground floor): THEMATIC SESSION: 2.3 -Challenges and Possibilities in Collaborations between Partners - Service Users, Practitioners, Researchers etc.
  - Timothy Sim (Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore) Nur Adilah Noordin (PAVE, Singapore) Xin Liang Yiu (PAVE, Singapore)
  - Working with Couples and Family that experienced Violence during COVID-19 in Singapore: Challenges & Possibilities in Collaborations between Partners



# Objectives of PRC

PRC-DFSW aims to be an OPEN and INCLUSIVE group that welcomes social workers, professionals, managers, policy makers and clients to join. The specific objectives of this PRC include but not limited to:

- Review on relevant policies and practices and procedures that impact on the promotion of diversity of working with families.
- Appraise the impact of diversity from the person of the practitioner, client characteristics and lived experiences, and organizational and governmental policies in different milieu when working with couples and families in social work.
- Design collaborative practice research projects related to promote diversity in working with couples and families at micro, meso, exo, and macro levels, both locally and internationally.

## Scope of PRC

- Families that are considered diverse in relation to their ethnicity, nationality, religiosity, sexuality and so on are often under-served or misappropriately served by mainstream social work professionals who may not appreciate their diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- Moreover, these families may be marginalized due to national or organizational policies, and social workers may be constrained by these policies and procedures.

## Scope of PRC

- This collaborative may begin by appraising relevant research and/or policies related to diversity in social work, particularly with a focus on working with families that are diverse.
- For a start, the collaborative may focus on selected areas of diversity (e.g., ethnicity or sexuality) given the wide spectrum of diversity over a period of 12 months (after the 6<sup>th</sup> ICPR).
- Subsequently, the PRC could take on specific practice discussions (e.g., webinars) and specific research projects to examine pertinent diversity issues in working with families.



# Roles/responsibilities within PRC (Proposed)

Role	Responsibilities
<b>Chair/Lead</b>	Provide overall direction for the collaborative and organising meeting and projects
<b>Vice Chair/Lead</b>	Provide support to the Chair/Lead, e.g., communicating with PRC members and providing feedback to the Chair/Lead
<b>Secretary</b>	Coordinate notes of meeting (key points and action plans)
<b>Sub-theme Lead</b>	If there are sub-themes developed, there would a sub-theme lead responsible in developing the sub-theme discussion groups and practice research projects accordingly in due course
<b>Members</b>	Participate in related meeting, that would be decided collaborative, e.g., quarterly ZOOM meeting.

# Let's strategise: Small group proposal and discussion (Proposed)

- **Ethnographic Review (current)**
  - Martial therapy with Muslim couples
- **2023 Webinar on Counselling in Southeast Asian Contexts.**
  - 16 September 2023, 3pm to 6pm Singapore Time: The Opening Plenary theme is “The Definition and Practice of Counselling in Southeast Asian Contexts: Adaptation, Innovation and Impact”.
  - 17 September 2023, 3pm to 6pm Singapore Time: Conversation with a Catholic Priest, Buddhist Monk and Muslim Ustaz: Adapting Systemic Therapy with Highly Religious Couples and Families in Singapore
- **Specific practice research projects**
  - Working with couples and families from different ethnicity, cultures, genders etc
- **Interdisciplinary webinar discussion**
  - Psychotherapists, systemic therapists, management, policy makers, clients etc
- **Others**

# Group Discussion (Proposed)

1. Group according to specific interest in working on diversity in family social work
  - Ethnicity, Nationality, Religion, Gender, Sexuality etc
2. Work out specific levels of focus:
  - MICRO, MESSO, MACRO, EXO-SYSTEMS
3. Work out deliverables and timeline and membership for next 12 months
  - Research projects, Peer reviewed journal, Webinar, Organization policy review etc
4. Meeting frequency and format:
  - Bi-monthly, Quarterly via ZOOM or Teams
5. Other items?
6. **Please appoint a scribe and a presenter to report back**

# Moving Ahead

1. Register by emailing to [timothysimbw@suss.edu.sg](mailto:timothysimbw@suss.edu.sg)
2. Set a date for next meeting

