

## APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE

### PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2024-25

#### FALL/WINTER

**Name and Title:** *Professor Esther Geva.*

**Lab Website:** <https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/gevalab/>

**TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT:** South Asian Immigrant Parents' Involvement in the Education of Children with Learning Difficulties: Developing and Testing a Cultural Beliefs and Attributions based Intervention Model

**NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE:** 1.

**PRIMARY MODE OF RESEARCH PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION (circle one option and describe):**

IN PERSON

REMOTE (ONLINE)

HYBRID/FLEXIBLE

*Please describe: The student will be required to be present for field based data collection when data collection begins and also to attend lab activities where physical data will have to be coded and transcribed. All other activities which can be conducted via online methods (lab meetings, literature review searches etc) can be conducted remotely.*

**OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:** Hidden" learning related difficulties (LRDs-undiagnosed difficulties relating to understanding information, reading and writing, paying attention to what is taught) affect an estimated 1 in 10 individuals living in Canada. Students with LRDs are 2.5 times more likely to be high-school dropouts. Parental Involvement, i.e. participation of parents in their child's learning at the home and school level in education is important to enhance educational competencies and reduce negative educational and socio-emotional impacts of LRDs. For immigrant parents providing support for a child with a learning related difficulty carries with it additional challenges. Though there are existing models of parental involvement these models fail to capture the unique experiences of immigrant parents. Therefore this research aims to explore the role of implicit and explicit attributions that immigrant parents have about learning difficulties and their social competencies which might play a protective role or be considered as a risk factor when it comes to the promotion of parental involvement. South Asian immigrant parents will be chosen as the sample as they are a relatively understudied groups of individuals in the Canadian context.

#### **.DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION:**

##### **Specific responsibilities:**

-Assisting in participant recruitment from particular South Asian immigrant sub groups. and completion of survey instruments with participants.

- Data entry on SPSS and data synthesis, analysis

-Participating in research lab meetings

**Amount of hours expected in the lab:**8-10 hours per week

**Skills that will be taught:** *Students will be able to attend workshops conducted on SPSS, Engaging in Effective Literature Searches, Ethical considerations in the Research Context. In addition to this through the data collection process students will be able to develop cultural sensitivity related competencies and develop skills relating to conducting focused group interviews, coding to develop relevant questionnaires based on information collected from interviews and entering and carrying out basic analysis using statistical software.*

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL):** Students applying for this position should ideally be from a South Asian background as study participants will be from the same background and should have some form of experience (even at a volunteer basis) working with immigrant communities. Fluency in Sri lankan Tamil/Sinhala/Hindi/Urdu/Bangla is preferable but not mandatory as primary data collection using survey methodology will take place in the either one of these languages. Ability to work in a team setting is an essential skill as well as being open to constructive feedback.

**DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS:** *Lab meetings will typically be held bi weekly on a date decided by all lab members*