George Mason University Department of Social Work presents:

*International Perspectives on Social Justice and Human Rights*

April 17, 2015, 8:30 am – Noon

Merten Hall 1204

Refreshments provided by the India Advisory Committee

Objectives:

- Participants will be able to explain the breadth of international work on social justice and human rights.
- Participants will be able to discuss specific projects on social justice counseling in Mexico, human trafficking in the Philippines, and women’s empowerment in India

A panel discussion with three dynamic leaders in the field:

**Dr. Zubair Meenai**

Dr. Meenai is a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at George Mason University. Dr. Meenai has worked as a Project Implementation Expert with a Micro Credit and Women's Empowerment Project in India. In addition, he has extensive experience in the field of Public Health and Behavior Change Communication, having worked on Polio eradication in India for close to 10 years. He is the President of the Indian Association of Social Work Education and has three books and several articles to his credit, including one on Women's Empowerment through Self Help Groups.

**Dr. Elsa Sanchez Corral Fernandez**

Dr. Sanchez Corral Fernandez is a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at George Mason University on a research project about Social Justice Competencies Training Protocol For Mexican Graduate Counselor Students. Mental Health Facilitator: 2011 – 2014; Master’s training program certification by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC); Human Rights Educator: Working with Amnesty International (indigenous groups) as a volunteer since 1989; author of two books regarding Social Justice issues; fieldwork teaching Human Rights workshops in Mexico and Africa. Participation as speaker in Conventions about Social Justice Issues in the counseling field at Barcelona (2012), León (2011), Puebla (2010), Mexico City (2009) and in September 2014 at the Community Psychology International Conference held in Brazil. Academic Unit Coordinator: Coordinator of the Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology of the Universidad Iberoamericana (2007 – 2010), current coordinator of the Master’s Degree in Community Counseling of the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.

**Dr. Laura Cordisco Tsai**

Dr. Tsai is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work. Dr. Tsai’s research interests lie in the areas of human trafficking and gender-based violence, with a particular interest in economic empowerment interventions for people at risk for trafficking and those who have been trafficked. Dr. Tsai recently completed a financial diaries study with women who were trafficked into sex work in the Philippines. She also recently finished collaborating with colleagues at Columbia University on a randomized trial evaluating the impact of a microsavings intervention on the sexual risk behavior and economic situation of women working in sex work in Mongolia. Dr. Tsai has over 10 years of social work practice and research experience pertaining to human trafficking, gender-based violence, and economic empowerment interventions, primarily in the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, and Mongolia.

*Cosponsored by: Office of Global Strategy; India Advisory Committee; New Century College; Women and Gender Studies; Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Multicultural education*