DM9046W  Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Offered:  2017: Intensive – Feb /Mar/Apr

This unit will address the range of issues that relate to mission and ministry with asylum seekers and refugees. Reflecting on a number of case studies on the experience of seeking asylum in Australia, and the practice of intercultural ministry with refugees in Melbourne, we will discuss the psychological, political, ethical and legal issues faced by churches and non-government agencies involved in this work. Missional practices will be examined in light of biblical and theological resources.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to demonstrate:

1. a detailed knowledge of selected case studies of seeking asylum;
2. a critical awareness of the psychological, political and legal challenges for asylum seekers and refugees;
3. an understanding of the overlapping but different motivations of church and secular agencies who work in this area;
4. a critical appreciation of intercultural ministry with refugee congregations;
5. an ability to integrate biblical, theological and ethical resources in a research project at a postgraduate standard.

Prerequisites: An introductory unit in practical theology

Class Time:  4 x one-day sessions

Assessment: One case study (2,000 words) (40%)
One essay (3,000 words) (50%)
Journal of critical reflections (online) not fewer than 5 entries of approximately 200 words (10%)

Faculty: Meewon Yang, Mark Brett

Recommended Reading:

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Snyder, S. Asylum-Seeking, Migration and Church. Farnham: Ashgate, 2012.