

# STUDENT RESEARCH WEEK

POSTERS · TALKS CREATIVE WORK

## **Respecting Diversity on Two Sides of the Coin: A Qualitative Course- Based Study of the Lived Experiences of Culturally Diverse Child and Youth Care Students**

### **Poster**

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### **Abstract**

Child and Youth Care (CYC) practice is, in essence, ethical work because it does not only seeks to improve the lives of vulnerable children, youth, and families but, in doing so, is dedicated to the moral principles of equality, respect for diversity, and a fundamental commitment to social justice and human rights. CYC practice is also relational work, which occurs in the life-space where people go about their daily lives. This approach requires CYC practitioners to be open-minded and accepting of divergent worldviews. CYC students are, therefore, taught to be non-judgmental and accepting as possible in their attitudes and actions towards others regardless of issues of race, cultural background, sexual orientation, economic class, religion, and diverse lifestyles. To accomplish this end, self-reflection and critical dialogue around the topics of social justice and inclusivity are fundamental components of the Bachelor of CYC program. Hence, this fourth year course-based research project inquired into the perceived “lived experience” of CYC students in openly sharing their personal cultural and religious beliefs in the classroom.