Emerging Communities From East to West: Case study of the Iranian Community in Sydney, Australia

By

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With love to Maryam who with her strength has searched as a young girl, a wife, and a mother for freedom, justice and security, and has undergone the hardship of the asylum seeking and refugee process. Being an honored witness of her experience has given me an insight to the many minute obstacles, the pain, sorrow and achievements of similar people - many who endure silently and courageously in isolation. Her life became my biggest motivation for research in this field as well as for the development of this thesis in which I hope to raise awareness and find answers and solutions.

Certificate

I certify that the work produced in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree, nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been researched and written by me. Any help that I have received for this thesis and my research work, from preparation to the completion of the thesis itself, has been acknowledged.

In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are identified in the thesis.

Production Note:
Signature removed prior to publication.

Soheyla M. Gholamshahi

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Part One

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Abbreviations

A & E	**Access and Equity**
ABS	**Australian Bureau of Statistics,**
AMES	**Adult Migrant Education Services**
APEC	**Asian Pacific Economic Corporation Forum (APEC)**
BIR	**Bureau of Immigration Research**
CALD	**Cultural and Linguistically Diverse**
CEAPS	**Community Based Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement**
CES	**Commonwealth Employment Services**
CRC	**Community Relations Commission**
CRSS	**Community Refugee Settlement Scheme**
CSS	**Community Settlement Services**
DEET	**Department of Employment, Education and Training**
DIAC	**Department of Immigration And Citizenship**
DILGEA	**Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs**
DIMA	**Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs**
DIMIA	**Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs**
EAPS	**Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement**
ECC	**Ethnic Community Council**
EEO	**Equal Employment Opportunity**
FECCA	**Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia**
FMO	**Forced Migration Online**
GST	**Goods and Services Tax**
HREOC	**Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission**
ICO	**Iranian Community Organisation**
ID	**Identification Details**
LAC	**Legal Aid Commission**
LEAPS	**Local Government Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement**
LGA	**Local Government Area**
LOTE	**Language Other Than English**
MRC	**Migrant Resource Centre**
MRO	**Migrant Resource Organisation**
NCCOS	**National Council of Social Services**
NESB	**Non-English Speaking Background**
NG	**Non-Government**
NGO	**Non-Government Organisation**
NOOSR	**National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition**
OMA	**Office of Multicultural Affairs**
RACS	**Refugee Advice and Casework Service**
RCOA	**Refugee Council of Australia**
RRT	**Refugee Review Tribunal**
SAC	**Special Assistance Category**
SHP	**Special Humanitarian Program**
SMH	**Sydney Morning Herald**
TAFE	**Technical and Further Education**
TIS	**Telephone and Interpreting Services**
TPV	**Temporary Protection visa**
UNHCR	**United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees**
WSAHS	**Western Sydney Area Health Services**

Abstract

Small/emerging and recently arrived ethnic communities in Sydney, Australia are increasingly the subject of national exclusion and racial discrimination. The attacks on the World Trade Centre in USA on September 11, 2001 increased the focus on the Middle Eastern Muslims among these communities. The Iranian community in Sydney, Australia with a large humanitarian intake, is an example of such a small/emerging ethnic community and of the" Others" in general.

The objective of this study is to develop the field work to investigate the impacts of the growing gaps between the western and eastern societies and the exclusion and discrimination experienced on a daily basis by the members of these small, emerging and newly arrived ethnic communities.

The theoretical review plays an important role in the explanation and analysis of the bases for growing gaps between 'East' and 'West', the systematic influence on public policy and public opinion and the resultant impacts on members of the small/emerging communities.

Due to its unique characteristics and its diversity, the Iranian community in Sydney, Australia, has been chosen to represent the above case. The study aims to reveal how the community members' experience of life in Sydney, Australia is shaped by international, national and provincial forces and how, in turn, the community members' respond through their formal and informal networks to related events and policies - throughout the migration and settlement process.