

JOB TALK by
Mónica Ruiz-Casares, PhD**Towards Adequate Care & Wellbeing of Children Without Parental Care: A Global Research Program**

Dr. Mónica Ruiz-Casares is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry, and Associate Member in the Centre for Research on Children and Families and the School of Social Work at McGill University. She is also a Scientific Advisor at the Centre de Santé et des Services Sociaux de la Montagne, where she evaluates health and social programs for ethno-culturally diverse families. She obtained a M.Sc. in Program Planning and Evaluation and a Ph.D. in Policy Analysis and Management/Human Services Studies from Cornell University. She completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship in the McGill Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Ruiz-Casares leads mixed-methods research and evaluation related to child mental health and protection in Canada and internationally, mainly in contexts of parent-child separation. She is also interested in equity in access to healthcare and social services, particularly for immigrant and refugee children and their families, and ethical and methodological issues in research with children across cultures.

Dr. Ruiz-Casares' presentation will focus on her program of research with children without parental care in Canada and in low and middle income countries. She will begin her presentation by providing an overview of her program of research, which explores how adults and children in different cultures define and experience "(in)adequate" and alternative care arrangements. To illustrate her theoretical framework and research approach, she will present results from a study to map the social networks of children heads of household in Namibia and a child protection Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices study in Liberia. By documenting child care beliefs and practices in context, these studies informed policies and interventions aimed at promoting child wellbeing by preventing child-family separation, strengthening parental capacity, and replacing institutional care with quality alternative care. Dr. Ruiz-Casares will conclude her presentation by reflecting on her future scholarly goals, and the opportunities that they create for teaching, mentoring and professional practice.

Date:Monday, Feb 16th**Time:**

10:30 am

Location:School of Social Work
McGill University
3506 University Street
Wilson Hall, Room 326