



## Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

### **“The Right to Belong: Shifting Societal Priorities toward Community and Rootedness”**

Kim Samuel  
4:00-5:30 PM  
Monday, October 7, 2019  
Karsh Room, Rideau Club  
99 Bank Street, 15th floor  
Ottawa, Ontario

(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by October 3, 2019 to [andrew.sharpe@csls.ca](mailto:andrew.sharpe@csls.ca).

Well-being is multi-dimensional. One element of well-being that has not received significant attention is the concept of social connectedness. Yet surveys of what makes people happy find that the sense of belonging to a community rank high. The development of metrics to capture this dimension of well-being are in their early stages.

In this presentation, Kim Samuel, founder of the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, will draw on her many years of experience in the field of social connectedness to discuss the importance of belonging for well-being and its significance for inclusive policy and program development on a global scale. She will argue that social isolation is a critical experiential and measurable component of multidimensional poverty that underscores the importance of social connectedness for human dignity and human rights struggles globally. She will discuss her work partnering with communities around the world, from First Nations in Canada to local organizations that support children and caregivers in southern Africa, to develop culturally relevant models and programs to overcome isolation.

Kim Samuel is an educator, researcher, and advocate working to address challenges of social isolation around the world. As Professor of Practice at McGill University, she launched a first-of-its-kind course in the study of belonging and social connectedness. As a Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, she engaged in pioneering research on fostering social connection. As Founder of the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, she has supported the work of grassroots leaders and organized two global symposia on overcoming social isolation. She plays an active programming role with Special Olympics International, Synergos Institute, TakingITGlobal, and other leading NGOs. She is currently writing a book on the work of building belonging in the 21st Century.