

## Seminar Series

The University of Melbourne

### **Investigating silences: a framework for addressing methodological and ethical issues in global health**

**Presenter: Professor Laura Serrant**

**Thursday 12th October 1.30pm-2.30pm**

**Room 515, Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street**



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Issues of equity and equal chance of health underpin our ability to achieve the SDGs and to ensure better life chances in the 21st century.

The need for research evidence to help identify, implement and evaluate the impact of interventions to meet the SGDs is key. However, researchers have often struggled to find ways to include some sections of society in their research, leading to many studies omitting them as part of society. Their voices are in effect 'silenced'. This does little to address 'sensitive' issues of social justice, nor to support actions to liberate marginalised groups from poverty and other aspects that restrict their wellbeing.

The 'Silences Framework' is designed to guide those researching 'sensitive issues' from marginalised perspectives - those questions which are often little understood or rendered invisible within so called 'mainstream research', (Serrant-green, 2011). 'Silences' reflect the unsaid or unshared aspects of how beliefs, values and experiences of (or about) some groups affect health and life chances. This presentation will introduce The 'Silences Framework' and use examples from completed studies to illustrate how using the framework within an intersectional context could both 'highlight' and 'expose' those 'sensitive issues' and 'marginalised perspectives' which may shape, influence and inform our understandings of health, health behaviour and more importantly the nuances of applied public health policy.

Laura Serrant is Professor of Nursing in the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam University in England.

She is Chair of the Chief Nursing Officer for England's black and minority ethnic BME Strategic Advisory group and a 2017 Florence Nightingale Leadership Scholar. Professor Serrant has an extensive experience in national and international health policy development with particular specialist input on racial and ethnic inequalities and cultural safety. As a member of the Independent Advisory Group to the UK government on Black and minority ethnic issues, she was a key influencer in the development of the first national strategy for sexual health and HIV for England 2001. Her work has been recognised with numerous awards and prizes, including Queens Nurse status and Fellowship of the Queens Nursing Institute.