

# **Multiplicities, Complexities and Contradictions: Bhutanese Women and Girls' Sense of Community in New Zealand**

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## **Abstract**

This presentation explores embodied feelings and senses of community associated with Bhutanese women and girls with refugee background in New Zealand. It examines the ways their sense of community is actively (re)constructed in the process of 'being' and 'becoming.' A total of 48 participants were involved in this performative research between February and September 2015. The qualitative performative methods used in this research include interviews and photo elicitations with adults, a focus group interaction with girls and 'accidental ethnography.' Findings are analyzed using recent theorizations in embodied, emotional and affective geographies. The empirical data shows that rather than accepting or rejecting a particular form of community, Bhutanese women and girls have actively engaged and invested in joining multiple types of communities from residential to virtual to imagined communities to forge a strong sense of community in their everyday lives.