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Currently Senior Research Officer, Transcultural Development Research, Student Support Services. PhD in Sociology (under examination) from UWS: qualitative research with men from refugee backgrounds. MA (Research) from UNSW: research focused on how media covered the HREOC report 'A Last Resort'. Prior to current position: casual academic (subject coordinator, lecturer & tutor) since 2006 at University of Technology Sydney.

### **Belonging, Social Justice and Social Cohesion**

This paper assumes that the majority of people in Australia want to live in a socially cohesive society.

Drawing on qualitative data from in-depth interviews with 12 Australian men, originally from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar and Sudan, I argue that for society to remain socially cohesive, it is essential to understand and focus on factors that prevent a sense of belonging in Australia. To do this, I re-conceptualise belonging beyond the socio-cultural sphere and discuss a normative framework inspired by Nancy Frasers' social justice theories.

According to Fraser, social justice can be conceptualised as 'parity of participation' and I argue belonging, is prevented when some people experience limited social status (misrecognition), material and economic disadvantages (maldistribution) and/or lack political representation (misrepresentation).

Taking this perspective, I will use the normative framework developed to discuss how we can understand what underpins social cohesion by situating belonging at the fore and the idea that if all groups are able to experience a sense of belonging in Australia; social cohesion will follow.

