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*"I felt happy because there were some black kids": Sudanese Refugee Students' Experiences of Belonging at Schools in Africa and South Australia*  
**Melanie Baak, University of South Australia (SA)**

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The Sudanese community is currently one of the fastest-growing groups in Australia. Many Sudanese have protracted experiences living as refugees, which has impacted on their sense of identity. This research project examined the educational experiences and perceptions of six Sudanese refugee students currently living in South Australia. In-depth interviews were conducted with the participants and their responses illustrated the variety amongst the group's educational background and experiences in Africa and Australia. The importance of positive peer relationships, of being accepted and feeling a sense of belonging, emerged as the participants' main response to their Australian schooling experiences. This workshop will present the experiences of peer and teacher relationships of Sudanese refugee students at schools in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Australia.