CSA SCS

Canadian Sociological Association | Société canadienne de sociologie

Committing Sociology for Social Impact

2025 Conference / Conférence

Engagement sociologique pour l'impact social

Conference Program
Programme de la conférence

In-Person Sessions
Séances en personne

June 1 - June 5
1 juin - 5 juin

congress 2025 OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES Reframing togetherness | congrès 2025 DES SCIENCES HUMAINES Redessinons le vivre-ensemble

Virtual Sessions
Séances en ligne

June 9 - June 13
9 juin - 13 juin

CSA Conference delegates benefit from the opportunity to learn from, and engage with, scholars and practitioners working within the discipline of sociology.

The CSA participated in the 2025 Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) Congress at George Brown College (Waterfront Campus) in Toronto, Ontario from Sunday, June 1 through Thursday, June 5. A second section of the Conference outside of Congress with fully virtual sessions from Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13.

The session details below are correct at the time of publishing this document but is subject to change.

Visit the Conference Website

Les délégués à notre conférence ont l'occasion de s'informer auprès d'universitaires et de praticiens travaillant en sociologie et d'échanger avec eux.

La SCS a participé au congrès 2025 de la Fédération des sciences humaines et sociales (FHSS) qui s'est tenu au George Brown College (campus Waterfront) à Toronto, en Ontario, du dimanche 1er juin au jeudi 5 juin. Une deuxième partie de la conférence, en dehors du congrès, s'est déroulée sous forme de sessions entièrement virtuelles du lundi 9 juin au vendredi 13 juin.

Les détails des séances sont corrects au moment de la publication de ce document mais sont susceptibles d'être modifiés.

Visitez le site web de la conférence

Welcome Message from the Canadian Sociological Association President
Dr. Liam Swiss, Acadia University

Welcome to the 58th Annual Conference of the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). Like last year, the 2025 conference will occur in two parts. From June 1 - June 5 we will gather in person at George Brown College on the traditional territory of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Then, from June 9-13 we will convene online for our virtual conference sessions. We continue to pursue this dual conference format to improve accessibility to all our members and to scholars and community members across Canada and around the world.

Our conference theme this year is "*Committing Sociology for Social Impact*". More than ever, the work of Sociologists is critical to contribute to a better understanding of society in ways that benefit all peoples. This year's conference will place a special focus on how we build partnerships between academia and diverse publics for social impact within Canada and globally. With the ongoing challenges to academic freedom, research, and scholarship in Canada and beyond, this role for public and impactful sociology is especially significant.

To this end, the 2025 conference will welcome more than 900 presenters in over 270 sessions across both the in-person and virtual venues. We are pleased to feature the efforts of 38 Research Clusters and 9 subcommittees of the CSA in formats including paper presentations, panel discussions, workshops, plenary lectures, and intimate research roundtables. The program truly features something for everyone, and I encourage you strongly to attend as many sessions as possible to learn more about our colleagues' inspiring work.

We also wish to highlight our Plenary Sessions featuring recipients of our Outstanding Contribution to Sociology Award, Canadian Sociology Book Award, Global Sociology Book Award, and Prix d'excellence en sociologie de langue française.

Convening to share our research with each other and the public is an overt form of "Committing Sociology" and an intentional (even political) act in the current challenging times. I commend you all for joining with other CSA members at this conference to show your commitment to Sociology and its important role in Canadian society. I look forward to meeting with students, scholars, activists, practitioners, and more to learn about your research and work. On behalf of the CSA Executive and the Conference Planning Committee, I hope you have an enriching and enjoyable time at the 2025 Annual Conference.

Message de bienvenue du président de la Société canadienne de sociologie
Dr Liam Swiss, Acadia University

Bienvenue à la 58e Conférence annuelle de la Société canadienne de sociologie (SCS). Comme ce fut le cas l'année dernière, la conférence de 2025 se déroulera en deux parties. Du 1er au 5 juin, nous nous rassemblerons en personne au George Brown College, sur le territoire traditionnel des Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Ensuite, du 9 au 13 juin, nous nous réunirons en ligne pour nos séances de conférence virtuelles. Nous poursuivrons ce double modèle de conférence afin d'améliorer l'accessibilité pour tous nos membres ainsi que pour les universitaires et les membres de la communauté du Canada et du monde entier.

Le thème de notre conférence de cette année est « Engagement sociologique pour l'impact social ». Plus que jamais, le travail des sociologues est essentiel pour contribuer à une meilleure compréhension de la société d'une manière pouvant bénéficier à tous les peuples. La conférence de cette année mettra un accent particulier sur la façon dont nous établissons des partenariats entre le milieu universitaire et divers publics afin d'avoir un impact social au Canada et dans le monde. En raison des défis continus qui s'opposent à la liberté académique, à la recherche et aux travaux au Canada et à l'étranger, ce rôle pour une sociologie publique et percutante est particulièrement significatif.

À cette fin, la conférence de 2025 accueillera plus de 900 présentateurs dans plus de 270 séances, offertes tant en personne que virtuellement. Nous sommes heureux de mettre en avant les efforts de 38 groupes de recherche et de 9 sous-comités de la SCS dans des formats comprenant des exposés, des discussions de groupe, des ateliers, des conférences plénières et des tables rondes intimes sur la recherche. Le programme offre vraiment quelque chose pour tout le monde, et je vous encourage vivement à assister à autant de séances que possible pour en apprendre davantage sur le travail inspirant de nos collègues.

Nous souhaitons également mettre en lumière nos séances plénières mettant en vedette les récipiendaires de notre Prix de la contribution remarquable à la sociologie, du Prix canadien du livre de sociologie, du Prix du livre de sociologie mondiale et du Prix d'excellence en sociologie de langue française.

Se rassembler pour partager nos recherches entre nous et avec le public est une forme manifeste d'« Engagement sociologique » et un acte intentionnel (voire politique) en dépit des défis qui marquent notre époque. Je vous félicite tous de vous joindre à d'autres membres de la SCS à l'occasion de cette conférence afin de montrer votre engagement envers la sociologie et son rôle important dans la société canadienne. J'ai hâte de rencontrer les étudiants, les chercheurs, les militants, les praticiens et tous les autres pour en apprendre davantage sur vos recherches et votre travail. Au nom de la direction de la SCS et du comité de planification de la conférence, j'espère que vous passerez un moment enrichissant et agréable au cours de la Conférence annuelle de 2025.

Acknowledgements / Remerciements

An event of this magnitude requires many people contributing their time and expertise with a commitment to ensure the success of the Conference.

Un événement d'une telle ampleur exige l'apport en temps et en expertise de beaucoup de personnes.

2025 Conference Program Committee / Comité du programme de la conférence 2025 :

Liam Swiss, Acadia University
Mark Stoddart, Memorial University
Nadiya Ali, Trent University
Jessica Briamoh, York University
Kara Brisson-Boivin, MediaSmarts
Guillaume Durou, University of Alberta
Nicole McNair, McMaster University
Ayesha Mian Akram, University of Calgary
Mohammed Nijim, Carleton University
J Overholser, University of Calgary
Giselle Thompson, University of Alberta
Sherry Fox, Canadian Sociological Association

Congress Hosts / Les hôtes du Congrès :
The CSA is thrilled to be holding our in-person Conference at George Brown College and have valued the assistance of our Local Arrangements Coordinator, Amna Mussaddeq in planning our event.

We thank the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for coordinating Congress and facilitating our Conference participation. The FHSS also provides significant financial support through initiatives such as the Open Programming Fund, Child and Dependent Care Subsidy, and the Congress Student Merit Award.

La SCS est ravie de tenir sa conférence en personne au George Brown College et a apprécié l'aide de notre coordonnatrice des arrangements locaux, Amna Mussaddeq, dans la planification de notre événement.

Nous remercions la Fédération des sciences humaines d'avoir coordonné le congrès et facilité notre participation à la conférence. La FHSS apporte également un soutien financier important par le biais d'initiatives telles que le fonds de programmation ouverte, la subvention pour la garde d'enfants et de personnes à charge, et le prix du mérite des cycles supérieurs du Congrès.

Session organizers / Organisateurs de séance :
Many thanks to our dedicated members who volunteered their time to organize 300 paper presentation sessions, panels, and networking meetings!

Un gros merci à nos membres dévoués qui ont donné de leur temps pour organiser 280 documents, des panels et des réunions de réseautage!

Delegates / Délégués :
Our appreciation as well to you for attending and engaging in knowledge sharing, discussion, and collaboration. Thank you for supporting this event and the Canadian Sociological Association!

Nous vous remercions aussi d'avoir participé et contribué à l'échange de connaissances, à la discussion et à la collaboration. Merci de soutenir cet événement et la Société canadienne de sociologie!

(FTS2) Fat Futures and Worldmakings
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Fat Studies Research Cluster

In the current worldmaking processes, Dorinne Kando (2018) argues, there is a production of structures of inequality rooted in the personal registry, thus enacting a multidimensional understanding of aesthetics of genre, affect and subjectivities limited to these very structures. The capacity of worldmakings in the realm of the personal registry prioritizes and privileges the "colonial matrix of power and its multiple industrial complex", so it is pertinent to think outside these systems of domination across time and space (Mignolo, 2021) Critical fat praxis fulfills a version of 'love ethics' (bell hooks, 1999) by pushing forth a narrative on the intersectional interplay between bodies and worlds. As a theoretical framework rooted in fat liberation and projects of abolition, the practice of fat-worldmakings centers on fat-being, intersectionality, care and wholeness as a mode of reimagining, resistance and resurgence (Kafai, 2021). In line with multiple fields that study marginalized bodies and experiences, such as feminist studies, disability studies, critical race studies, and/or Indigenous studies, there is a thorough examination of how bodies intermingle with social discourses, structures, and members to understand fat experiences. In re-imagining a worldmaking that considers the interconnectivity and community, scholarship uses a critique of social, political, cultural, medical and other notions of fatness that have ascribed fat bodies and people as 'non-normative', 'unhealthy', 'unproductive' and lacking any futurity whatsoever. Through such critiques of the fear, grief, and violence of the hegemonic power relations that frame fat people with the negative connotations of sizeism; visions of fat futures and life are thought through with a sense of love and care. In doing this, critical fat praxis becomes practice as it cultivates an intersectional and interdependent fat epistemology and methodologies that bring upon a process of unlearning and nurturing of communities and stories.

Session Organizers: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University
Session Chair: Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presentations:

1. Fat stories in/out of the closet: Tales on the extra and invisible work of being fat
Tasha Sarrazin-Audras, Université du Québec à Montréal

"*As a fat, non-binary activist and PHD student, I have personal, political and scholarly involvement with fat. These involvements, linked to my personal experience, fueled my interest in other people's experiences."* – T. Fatphobia creates strong pressure to conform to social and bodily ideals directly linked to professional performance such as lack of discipline, laziness, lack of competence etc. (Saguy, 2012). Indeed, *"Discrimination against fat people is the last acceptable form of prejudice" (McMicheal, 2013),* making size an important marker of difference in organizations that is still understudied in management and organization studies (Levay, 2014). Through this text, I put forward a conception of fatphobia as an assemblage of othering ideas, values, and practices that organizes and has repercussions, from a very young age, on people's experiences. In doing so, I explore through the collection of life (fat) stories, the use of queer theory and the metaphor of the closet, how being fat involves an extra workload, within and around organizations. I argue that most of this workload is being done in the closet and, thus, appears to be invisible to most straight size people. A smaller part of this workload is done outside of the closet when it involves a "coming out",

rendering the work visible to others. This "coming out" work whether it is done individually or in group, goes beyond the current process of worldmaking, creating times and spaces where fat can exist properly. "*The fat experience is located somewhere in between liberation and oppression. Sometimes, mostly because of the fat community it helps, but it's still really ruff sometimes.*" (a participant)

2. Fat Feminist Killjoy Manifesto

Jennifer Jolie, University of Guelph

Fatphobia, the fear or hatred of fatness, operates from deeply moralized negative attitudes held about fat people in the public imaginary. Emergent from public discourse that rewrites fat bodies undisciplined subjects instead of a human diversity, fat hatred negatively impacts the everyday lives of fat people in material ways. Here, fat people are always at risk of humiliation, exclusion and violence that is intensified in the ways their identities tangle with other identity differences read from their bodies. Building on Ahmed's (2017) feminist killjoy manifesto, this fat feminist killjoy manifesto is a call for fat feminists to resist fatphobia as a system of oppression that negatively effects the lives of fat people however we can. We must cause disruption by refusing the status quo, as it conceals the ways that fatphobia acts as a dynamic and complex oppressive force. By considering what bodies are permitted access, fat feminist killjoy work challenges how fatphobia limits all people. Engaging with the discomfort that emerges when fat bodies are present, including how they disrupt space, is fat feminist killjoy work.

3. Future Me Is Fat - Fat Futurity in Comics and Speculative Fiction

Mollie Cronin, York University

I propose to present a selection of pages from my upcoming graphic novel "Future Me is Fat." The comic (debuting with Conundrum Press in Fall 2025) is a time-travel speculative fiction that follows the author/protagonist as she travels through time as a fat woman. In visiting ancestors, past and future selves, and fat descendants, the story examines the possibility of fat futures as inevitable and as desirable. In presenting these ideas in comic form, I propose to examine how comics can be a tool to resist fatphobia and imagine fat futures. Resisting the common science fiction rhetoric of fat futurity as dystopian (a feared result of the so-called "obesity epidemic"), this comic pokes fun at the diet culture embedded in fictional and futuristic sci-fi foods. In popular speculative fiction, it is common to see food presented as injectables, pills, or other streamlined forms of "food" where caloric consumption is controlled and fatness is made nearby impossible. Not only does this comic address these undertones of fatphobia in popular science fiction, it also offers an alternative image of the future, where fat characters choose, desire, and revel in their own fatness. At an all-fat dance party, the protagonist is presented with a fat future and fat community she didn't know could exist. I am a PHD candidate whose research focuses on representations of fatness in comics. I have a decade-long career as a cartoonist and illustrator making work on the theme of fat liberation. In this comic exploration of fat temporality and fat futures, I merge my creative practice and research to present pages from my upcoming graphic novel.

4. Rewriting Fatness: Young Adult Book Clubs as Spaces of Critical Fat Praxis

Kristen Foos, The Ohio State University

Critical Fat Studies is an interdisciplinary lens which "considers the value of fat diversity, fat culture, that can address new complexities, and create possibilities for recognizing fat as a perspective"

(Cooper, 2010). By centering the intimate everyday occurrences of fat life, fat studies provide a recognition to a fat gaze not filtered through a lens of anti-fatness. Self-definitions of fat that resist anti-fatness are occurring through literature, performance, media, poetry, and everyday interactions. There is transformative potential in giving voice to our narratives of fatness and interrogating dominant narratives to critically reflect on our own identity, ideologies, and pedagogical practices (Smith, 2022). Literature offers us a tool to read fatness within narrative and imagine new possibilities for fat folx. This study considered these happenings within four meetings of The Fat Educator Book Club. This book club was a group of four fat, educators who came together to discuss the stories of fatness through reading and discussing fat young adult literature (YAL). Using participant observation, video and audio recordings, and field notes, the study investigated how the book club fostered a space for reimagining fat subjectivities and fat-worldmakings. As both a member, facilitator, and researcher partner of the book club, I sought to understand: 1) What happened when a group of fat educators took part in a book club that engaged with YAL that centered fatness and fat people? And 2) Within this space, how are book club members understanding what it means to be fat? I argue that learning from their stories provides implications for how community spaces for fat folx function as survival, resistance, and compassion as together we reimagined the stories of fat.

(RSM2) Creating Spaces for Vulnerability in Research for Social Impact
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Drawing on vulnerability as a hidden but key element of social science and justice-based research, this presentation reflects on the significance of the methodologically unresolved as a critical consideration of intersectional, interdisciplinary research from the classroom to a variety of research contexts. Scholars we have collaborated with in our collection, Contemporary Vulnerabilities: Reflections on Social Justice Research, share everyday moments and experiences of vulnerability as they navigate unsteady and fluctuating engagement with communities/participants, social justice politics, students/mentorship, academic integrity, funding bodies, and institutional ethics expectations. In our ongoing work, we surface these tenuous moments and share new spaces and mediums to navigate vulnerability through our podcast and improvization workshops. Our presentation will include a six-minute clip of a vulnerable moment from the podcast and share some of our improv prompts to illustrate how we handle communicating moments of vulnerability and endeavour to support scholars with the unexpected and messy process of doing research for social impact.

Session Organizers and Panelists:
Claire Carter, University of Regina
Chelsea Jones, Brock University
Caitlin Janzen, University of Victoria

(ANS6) The Impact of Animal Agency
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Animals in Society Research Cluster

What difference does it make, if nonhuman animals are "agents" in similar ways to human beings? While continuities between humans and animals (such as emotional and linguistic capacities) have

been more thoroughly interrogated, animal agency remains under-theorized and under-researched (Johnson, 2020). Working against what primatologist Frans de Waal (1997)calls, "anthropodenial," or a refusal to recognize "humanlike characteristics of other animals, or the animal-like characteristics of ourselves" (p. 51), discussions about animal agency represent the cutting edge of debates about animal consciousness and its implications for the political inclusion of nonhuman animals (Garner and O'Sullivan, 2016). Dislocating both genetic reductionism and determinism, our panel will build on emerging knowledge that recognizes nonhuman animals as active participants in their societies and environments, including those they share with humans (Conradt and Roper, 2003; Donaldson and Kymlicka, 2011). The social sciences, including ethnography, sociology, and political theory, are uniquely positioned to explain and evaluate the agential characteristics of nonhuman animals, and we continue this exploration through four papers that highlight agentic dimensions of multispecies communities as well as challenges that may result from the granting of political agency to nonhumans.

Session organizer and chair: Stefan Dolgert, Brock University

1. Cats, Quills, and Sunlight: More-than-Human Agency in Disability Livelihoods Data

Kimberlee Collins, University of Guelph; **Chelsea Temple Jones** and **Carla Rice**, Brock University

The more-than-human world is often overlooked in research projects with a focus on issues commonly understood as exclusively human, including our own 2020 research on sustainable livelihoods. This presentation returns to data from a project about disabled artists' livelihoods to attend to participants' and researchers' considerations of land, plants, and non-human animal agency and decolonial orientations to these interweave throughout artists' considerations of their livelihoods. Thinking with disability arts' capacious engagement with bodymind difference and following Lewis' (2023) suggestion to examine how along with colonialism, anthropocentrism and speciesism are intrinsically ableist ideologies, we acknowledge that human livelihoods—usually measured on capitalist, anthropocentric terms—are entangled with the lives, labour, and agency of non-human animals and those in the more-than-human world. This decolonized and cripped political ecology is revealed in our semi-structured interview data, where such blending happens through found and reclaimed objects (porcupine quills), spirit-based drawings, self-descriptions and metaphors of animality, growth, flow and communication that inform artistic processes. In reviewing our 20 semi-structured interviews with diversely-positioned disabled artists and, at times, their nearby animal and plant companions, we uncover evidence of decolonial human-more-than-human solidarity, interconnection, and relationality in these artists' livelihood processes. We argue that human-more-than-human interdependence is deeply ingrained in various cultural and economic frameworks, here we highlight human/plant/animal interchanges in artistry and interdependence. We conclude by suggesting that a return to, and re-focusing toward, human experience concurrent with the more-than-human world deepens crip and decolonial meaning-making.

2. Willing and Guilty Victims: Animals, Race, and Sacrificial Equality

Stefan Dolgert, Brock University

In this essay I locate a problem for animal politics with the claim that most animal ethicists have considered foundational: that human and nonhuman animals possess fundamentally similar agential capacities and therefore deserve similar treatment, based on this rough equality. I do so

through exploring an earlier failure of "equalization," the granting of citizenship to former slaves in the United States, because it reveals a troubling mechanism that undergirds political equality which I term "sacrificial citizenship." Drawing on earlier research of how ancient Greek polities produced animal victims for sacrifice by rendering them as either consenting to sacrifice or guilty (and thus deserving to be sacrificed) (Dolgert 2012), I explore how the carceral society of the 20th and 21st centuries is built on the conceptual equality of African-American citizens. While racist ideologies clearly lie underneath the official language of rights granted since emancipation, the language of equality in itself did not do the work its adherents had hoped, because the larger conceptual framework for citizenship was (and is) still dominated by a sacrificial worldview that allows for the polity to kill (or allow to be killed) its own citizens, if they are either willing or guilty (of certain crimes). With animals, already, we see claims for their consent to be factory-farmed (because it has allowed their species population to explode), and also the acceptability of killing wild animals (if they are guilty of attacks on humans, or if their population is deemed "invasive"). The upshot for animals in making this comparison is not to say that the fight for equality ought to be ended, but rather that we ought to anticipate similar hurdles "after equality" to those faced by other groups of equity-seeking human populations.

(APS3) Off the Tenure Track: Preparing for Work Outside the Professoriate
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Research Cluster

While many graduate students seek careers in the professoriate, research has found that only about 19 percent of PhD holders in Canada hold tenured or tenure-track positions (Canadian Council of Academies, 2021). The sociology community's recognition of the scarcity of positions in academia has prompted calls for more information to be communicated to postgraduates about careers outside academia. School-to-work studies of sociology students and sociology departments' stories about their alumni provide evidence that the list of fulfilling, well-paying, and challenging jobs held by people with a sociology graduate degree is long and diverse. Despite this, many graduate students are not shown different pathways to employment outside the academy and fewer still are taught how to prepare to seek out jobs outside the professoriate. This session will bring together a group of panelists who will discuss their experiences and knowledge of working outside of the professoriate and propose practices that can be used by sociology graduate students to facilitate their transition from school to non-academic positions.

Session Organizers: Kristyn Frank, Statistics Canada and Shane Dixon, Wilfrid Laurier University

Panelists:
Alyssa Gerhardt, Dalhousie University
Olivia Boonstra, Eviance
Sara Cumming, Sheridan College and Home Suite Hope
Adam Vanzella Yang, The Conference Board of Canada

(CRM1a) Canadian Contributions to Criminology I
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliations: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

Criminology is a multi-faceted field that uses 'crime' as its subject matter but has no single methodological commitment or paradigmatic theoretical framework. Many areas and conversations in criminology, however, are often dominated by work from the US, Britain, and the Scandinavian countries that differ from the Canadian context in significant socio-political, cultural, and economic respects. The main objective of this trio of sessions (CRIM1a, b, and c) is to connect researchers and discuss work that advances our understanding of crime and the criminal justice system in Canada as well as criminological knowledge more broadly.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Timothy Kang, University of Saskatchewan and Daniel Kudla, Memorial University

Presentations:

1. Precarious re-entry amongst formerly incarcerated women: Proposing the victimization-criminalization-incarceration-re-entry continuum
Ping Lam Ip, University of Alberta

The victimization-criminalization-incarceration continuum is theorized to explain the prevalence of victimization amongst criminalized women, and how it is inextricably tied to their criminalization and subsequent incarceration. This continuum operates in a cyclical nature, where the experience of incarceration is connected to further victimization and future contact with the criminal legal system. The aim of this study was to understand the re-entry experiences of formerly incarcerated women (FIW) who are situated within this continuum. Employing a critical feminist criminological lens, we conducted a reflexive thematic analysis on individual in-depth interviews with fifteen FIW in a Western Canadian province and fourteen volunteers and frontline workers that provide social services to FIW. We argue that these women experienced severe precarity resulting from the lack of social and institutionalized re-entry support, and the immense pressure to rely on themselves for their post-release life. They felt further marginalized post-incarceration by members of society as they were disoriented adapting to a new routine, isolated from their social and familial networks, and excluded from the community to which they were released. Most were left to rely on the fragile, underfunded social support offered by NGOs. The insufficiency of programs, planning, and resources for re-entry in correctional facilities and subsequent exclusionary practices reinforced precarious experiences of FIW during community re-entry. We add to previous theorizations of criminalized women to propose the victimization-criminalization-incarceration-re-entry continuum wherein re-entry serves as an experience that leads to (re)victimization, thus continuing the cycle of victimization, criminalization, incarceration, and re-entry that many women are caught in.

2. Decolonizing Green Criminology: Indigenous Two-eyed Pedagogy to Affect Climate Policy in Canada
Evangeline Kroon, York University

The climate crisis is not just a concern of environmentalists. It is a complex, multi-layered issue that requires an intersectional and multi-disciplinary response. By siloing our knowledge and keeping within the strict boundaries of our respective disciplines, we risk a disjointed and ineffective

approach that leaves the most vulnerable behind. This paper proposes a way to mitigate the issue of green criminology taking a human only centered approach to the climate crisis, one that is uniquely Canadian and emphasizes collaboration across disciplines and species. This proposes a methodological framework that integrates Indigenous worldviews into our understandings of crime to directly affect policy. One example of how to do this comes from the Syilx Okanagan People. On their traditional and unceded territory, the nsyilxcn word for water is Siwɬkʷ. The (siw) comes from siwst - to drink (human), and the (ɬkʷ) comes from ɬkʷitkʷ to lap (animal). Together the two parts identify the Syilx ethic that the right to water is equal for animals and humans. The idea of collaboration and environmental conservation is embedded into their very language, showing us the power of language to decenter the human. By indigenizing our discipline and decentering ourselves in the field of green criminology, we find new ways forward. If harming the environment was seen as a crime in and of itself, not just because it hurts humans, environmental protection would be much more stringent. Engaging with the theme of reframing togetherness I argue that we must approach pedagogy with the Mi'kmaq philosophy of two-eyed seeing, "one eye with the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing and from the other eye with the strengths of Western ways of knowing" (Bartlett, Marshall, & Marshall, 2012: 355). It is only with both eyes open can we engage with the environmental conflicts that will shape our future word.

3. Race and Contact at Play: Understanding Blacks Perceptions of Law Enforcement

Ebenezer Barnes, University of Saskatchewan

Over decades, the strained relationship between law enforcement and minorities has raised concerns about whether the police are legitimate, fair or trustworthy. Both within and beyond the Canadian context, law enforcement agencies have long understood the importance of improving their relationship with minorities. As such, they have taken multiple initiatives to enhance minority-police relations. However, recent situations involving law enforcement's indiscriminate practices against the Black community have not been much different from the past. A significant focus has centred on *Blacks'* sentiments toward law enforcement within American and Canadian research. This emphasis stems from the historical and ongoing reality that the Black community has endured some of the most severe forms of police brutality compared to any other demographic (OHRC, 2008; Satzewich, 2021, Tator & Henry, 2006; Wortley, 2005). This systemic issue reflects a long history of racial discrimination, excessive use of force, and over-policing, which have disproportionately impacted Black individuals (Wortley & Marshall, 2005). These experiences have left deep scars, fueling mistrust and skepticism toward law enforcement agencies and shaping the community's perceptions of police legitimacy and fairness. Therefore, one can argue that, in the hearts and minds of the Black community, the police are perceived as not protectors of the law but as enforcers of inequality. For this reason, the persistent issues of racial bias policing challenge the credibility of law enforcement in Canada and raise doubts about its role in serving a diverse community. Research studies have explored Blacks' interaction with law enforcement in Canada, focusing on cities like Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Winnipeg. The constrained focus of these studies can be problematic in the attempt to generalize the findings in other jurisdictions (in this case, Saskatoon). Additionally, these studies, by and large, often categorized Black individuals as a homogenous group and overlooked the diversity within the community. As Mannheim (1936) argued, what we know, and our understanding of the world is location-bound and varies based on historical experiences and the social structures around us. Despite contributing to a greater understanding of Black-policing issues, existing studies reveal a significant gap in examining the differences in police

perceptions between Black Canadians and Black immigrants in Saskatoon. Therefore, from the lens of critical race theory, symbolic interactionism and police legitimacy theory, this study investigates how Black Canadians and Black immigrants perceive law enforcement differently. The findings from the study revealed that Black immigrants, through direct interactions, perceive law enforcement as professionals, approachable, accountable, fair, and capable. However, Black immigrants internalize police brutality and aggression in portrayed media reports as symbolic exchanges, which create *media panic* and instill a fear of deportation among them. The study concludes that issues such as police shadowing, the dual perception of justice, and "disguise patrolling" contribute to racial and ethnic bias policing dynamics. These issues have undermined the trust and confidence in SPS among Black individuals. It is recommended, among other things, that SPS should adopt empathy and provide culturally sensitive and equitable treatment when interacting with Black individuals in Saskatoon.

(DIS8) Sociology of Disability: Disabled Communities
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliations: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

This session addresses the following questions: How do disabled people live and support one another in community? What does community mean in the context of disabled networks of solidarity and/or care?

Session Organizers: Chris Churchill, University of Lethbridge and Athena Elafros, University of Lethbridge
Session Chair: Elizabeth Cameron, Dalhousie University

Presentations:

1. Destigmatization in Online Communities: OCD Self-Advocacy on TikTok
Anna Henry, University of Guelph

For disabled people, including the mentally ill, advocacy and destigmatization work can be difficult in offline settings. The advent of the internet and the development of social media provided disabled people with a way to advocate for themselves and their communities in forums that are not mediated by the medical establishment. These platforms allow for opportunities to educate, dispel misinformation, build community, create empathy, and improve visibility. Using obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) as an example, my research looks at how people who self-identify as having OCD use social media to advocate for the destigmatization of their condition. Previous research on the uses of social media as a vessel for spreading stigmatizing and destigmatizing attitudes has found the presence of both (Lee et al. 2021; McLellan et al. 2022, Pavelko & Myrick 2015). These studies looked at public attitudes and perceptions; very little of that research examined how people with lived experience of the condition use social media for self-advocacy and destigmatization. This paper considers how people with OCD use TikTok to promote destigmatization: their arguments, narrative techniques, style, and what information they use. I examine different subtypes of OCD, from those highly trivialized by society (such as contamination) to the highly stigmatized (obsession with harm, sexual, or religious elements). This research analyzes the TikTok videos of 56 creators surrounding OCD stigma. Using a variety of destigmatization approaches, these self-advocates try to create community, dispel misinformation, create empathy, and challenge stigma. For those with more stigmatized subtypes, the attempts at

education can be at odds with the politics of community and open to accusations of contributing to rather than dispelling stigma. This research highlights destigmatization efforts and allows for further studies of what messaging is most effective.

2. Towards a Politics of Shame: Cripping Understandings of Affect in Disabled People's Encounters with Unsolicited Advice

Megan Ingram, Queen's University

The prevalence of unsolicited advice in the lives of disabled people is well-catalogued through the mass of articles and social media posts dedicated to the issue. However, less is known about the affective impacts of this advice on disabled people and the potential resistance that may be enacted towards affects labelled negative, such as shame. The present manuscript builds from original qualitative research to explore the links between emotion, mind, and body that occur in interactions involving unsolicited advice between disabled and non-disabled individuals. Non-probability convenience sampling was used to recruit fifteen disabled individuals in Ontario, Canada for participation in semi-structured qualitative interviews which were inductively coded and narratively restoried. Building from these narrative accounts, the research addresses: 1) The affective impacts of unsolicited advice on disabled people, and 2) how disabled people negotiate the emotional impact resulting from unsolicited advice and *blame culture* individually and collectively. Ultimately, this research argues that while unsolicited advice acts as a method of blaming and shaming that has the potential to structure disabled peoples' lives, disabled people resist feeling *ashamed*and instead bridge from initial responses of fear and shame towards other emotions such as apathy and sadness in resistant and potentially empowering ways.

(FTS3) An Intersectional Analysis of Fatness

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliations: Fat Studies Research Cluster

In the development of fat studies and other disciplines analyzing the experience of social inequality, race as an analytic has been left out of discussion as the focus has been very single-axis (Collins 1990; Hobson 2018; Strings 2020). There has been a wave in the theorizing of fatness that considers the intersectional aspects to the lived experience of fatness. Feminist sociology focusing on fatness and the body must be intersectional in nature. As Amy Farrell (2011) notes, "intersectional feminist theory, then, clarifies the ways that fatness as both an identity and as a category of discrimination and stigma must always be understood in context and in relationship to other forms of identity and oppression." (p. 49). While many scholars have explored the intersections of gender and class with fatness, there is a need for stronger exploration of the ways in which race and fatness intersect (Strings, 2020). Strings (2020) argues that fatness is a 'floating signifier' of race. From this, Strings (2020) highlights how "given the necessary ambiguity of the race-craft, the meaning of fatness (as beautiful or grotesque) became politically contested and unstable. In this context, various elites … engaged in competing racial projects to either exalt or reject fat female bodies" (p. 7). The regulation of the fat body is a part of a larger system of regulation, and fatness is used to maintain categories of difference that are informed through other systems of marginalization, such as race, class, sexuality, gender, and ability (Jones, 2016). The intersection of fatness with larger systems of oppression has been underserved in fat studies literature, often essentializing the experiences of fat women (Friedman, Rice, and Rinaldi, 2019; Jones 2016; Wykes, 2016). As Baker-Pitts (2011)

notes, "without an anti-racist, body-affirmative stance, all of us - fat, thin, of any size, are at risk of dwelling in body shame and spreading weight-based biases, regardless of how many hours we have spent analyzing our mind" (p. 19).

Session Organizers: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University
Session Chair: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presentations:

1. Fat women and sexual violence - An incredible story

Julie Godin, Université d'Ottawa

An intersectional feminist lens allows us to account for the unique prevalence and consequences of survivors of sexual violence (SV) based on specific oppressions that structure their experiences (Armstrong et al., 2018). However, due to fatphobic and sexist beliefs, the experiences of fat women are underrepresented in discourse about SV, even though some studies report them suffer higher rates of SV than thinner women (Tilley, 2015). They are targeted for this violence, among other things, because of their weight, and these attacks are linked to their fatness, for example through the use of fatphobic insults (Gailey and Prohaska, 2006). This theoretical communication aims to explore how the voice and credibility of fat women are devalued when they denounce and speak about the SV they experience. To do this, the notion of epistemic injustices (Fricker, 2007) will be mobilized to account for the inequalities these women face. These inequalities occur due to resource constraints to accurately express their experience and prejudices associated with the lack of credibility of their words by dominant groups. Finally, the experience of SV and fatness by these women can contribute to a critical reading of social discourses that legitimize or discredit victims based on unequal power relations (Leisering, 2006; Loseke, 2003). Acknowledging the voices of fat women in the face of sexual assault would allow for a better understanding of power dynamics and oppression around gender, fatness and sexuality, which is critical for fat liberation.

2. Nobody else will love you: exploring anti-fatness and gender-based violence in social work

Elaine Nelimarkka, University of Toronto

Unlike later additions to 'diversify' understandings of gender-based violence (GBV), such as race, culture, or sexual orientation, anti-fat stigma is seldom discussed in social work as a factor that can contribute to unique experiences of GBV. Anti-fat attitudes likely persist in social work because of agreed-upon perceptions of fatness as an individual moral failing and not a symptom of structural violence. Hegemonic understandings of fatness as a choice exclude the experiences of fat survivors in social work spaces and continue to uphold Western ideologies of fatness as unworthiness. Influenced by a desire to help the 'helpless', social work practice reifies the relationship between weight and value and deliberately overlooks weight as an identity that, when compounded with other characteristics, complicates their ability to access support. Using autoethnographic accounts of my living experiences with anti-fat violence in dating and sexual encounters, this presentation will provide a critical analysis of the relationship between the social discourse of anti-fatness and GBV. Literature on fat violence and the refusal to acknowledge fat folks as survivors will be discussed within the realms of sex, dating, and partnership. Buisker's (2024) understanding of fat sexual violence survivors as "unworthy victims," will further emphasize the absence of social work research and interventions as tools that normalize the acceptance and perpetuation of anti-fat GBV. This

presentation calls for practitioners, educators, and organizations to finally acknowledge that anti-fatness is a form of oppression which warrants attention in social work. Specifically, social work efforts to eradicate GBV will fail so long as they continue to pretend anti-fatness does not exist. To address the invisibility of fat survivors, practical recommendations will be proposed to draw notice to the gaps between anti-fatness and GBV in social work research, education, and frontline practice.

3. "I Just Asked" and Selling Thinness in the Pharmacopornographic Ozempic Era

Elizebeth Thorkelson, Toronto Metropolitan University

The word "Ozempic" has changed everything, especially the way fat people move through the world. Everyday interactions are different, from the dynamic in the doctor's office to choosing items at the grocery store to conversations during family dinners. This paper proposes that viewing "Ozempic" as not only a medication, but a technology, allows for deeper analysis of how "Ozempic" operates as a biopolitical tool. Paul B. Preciado's theory of the "Pharmacopornographic Era" in tandem with Robert Crawford's concepts of both healthism and medicalization are the theoretical frameworks used to analyze two case studies: "Ozempic face" and the "Ozempic baby". This paper argues that the proliferation of the term "Ozempic Face", the specific look a person develops after weight loss from using "Ozempic", should be used to understand how "Ozempic" operates within the context of a broader culture that promotes endless practices of body modification through varying technologies. To further the argument that "Ozempic" should be understood as a technology, I propose that the phenomenon of "Ozempic Babies", wherein mostly white women have taken to social media to espouse the miracle of their pregnancy after using "Ozempic", should be viewed as a catalyst for the expanding definition of socially desired, technological, white, thin(ner) motherhood. These two case studies prove that this current "Ozempic Era" is inextricable from the diet-culture driven, capitalist hamster wheel that sells patient-consumers technological solutions to socially created problems. My answer to this problem, however, is not to fight against "Ozempic" with everything that we have. Rather, to fight for fat liberation with "Ozempic" as I propose that there is utility in both providing grace to the fat people who have chosen to take "Ozempic", while also criticizing the biopower that operates through it.

(IND4a) Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization I

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

This session features insightful and important scholarly works, projects and reflections on Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization so that we can centre these important issues for learning and discussion.

Session Organizer and Chair: Kerry Bailey, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Decolonization through Music: How Indigenous Musicians Are Using Song Writing to Reclaim Identity and Awaken Cultural Resistance

Emily Cauduro, Ontario Tech University

Music is a living heartbeat that brings people together through rhythms, songs, instruments, and performances. Through the Indian Act (1985) and government-imposed sanctions, Indigenous

traditional ceremonies, songs, and traditions were banned, which stripped away Indigenous culture and identity. Under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report (2015) and the Calls to Action, specifically numbers 10, 13, 14, and 15, resistance and resilience can be promoted through the resurgence of Indigenous language and culture. This research aims to answer the following questions: how are Indigenous artists using music to restore agency, revive lost histories, and sustain cultural continuity, and how can music act as decolonization in practice? The sample includes songs performed by Indigenous artists, and thematic content analysis was used to analyze how the lyrics speak to the powerful force in decolonization due to its ability to build collective energy and provide space for collaboration and community. This research underscores the significance of music in decolonization efforts, illustrating how music is not limited to an expression of cultural pride but also as a tool for healing, empowerment, and solidarity for future generations.

2. Recovering the Stories of the Anisininew Okimawin People of Island Lake

Serena Petrella, Brandon University; Patricia Harms, Brandon University

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) has issued a clarion call for the settler population of Canada to enter relationship with Indigenous peoples, to address the harms experienced by colonialism and to comprehensively address all elements of our shared social, economic, cultural and political story. The Anisininew Okimawin people of Island Lake, Manitoba, name this inclusive and reparative approach as *mino bimaadiziwin,* or living together 'in a good way', and have specifically identified the recovery of stories, as well as historical and traditional knowledge as one of the critical elements of this 'good way.' Dr. Petrella and Dr. Harms (Sociology and History, Brandon University) have been asked by the Tribal Council of the Anisininew Okimawin to use their training for reconciliation and help them in the recovery of their stories. They have developed an innovative research platform that mixes historical archival research to social science qualitative ethnographic methods that allows the recovery of erased or fragmented Indigenous histories.

3. Indigenization of the Academy

Emma Posca, York University

Indigenous feminism, Indigenization and decolonization will be used to examine the existence of gender, race and Indigenous-based discriminations that exclude Indigenous scholars from the academy. These are rooted in dominant white hegemonic colonial views that socially construct differences to oppress, marginalize, and eradicate those constructed as the "other." Storytelling holds the experiences and descriptions of trauma experienced by Indigenous communities that has made Indigenous people a minority and virtually non-existent in the academy. Storytelling amplifies Indigenous voices forcing the rethinking, and resisting of discriminatory practices and structures, especially in academic settings. This paper will be an education for non-Indigenous people of the impact of discriminatory colonial structures that exist against Indigenous people within the academy. This education will pave the way non-Indigenous people to acknowledge privilege, build a knowledgebase and create awareness that ignites Indigenous scholars, frameworks, methodologies and ways of thinking-to become a part of the academy.

(RSM1) Committing Reflexivity: Exploring the Impact of the Researcher and Dynamic Research Experiences

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am

This session creates space for researchers to reflect on and share lessons learned from their research experiences. Reflexive and reflective work that highlights the emotions, insights, and work of researchers allows for important discussion about ethical, impactful, and action-oriented sociological research. This is more true than ever as new and evolving research spaces (e.g., online platforms and virtual communities) demand contemporary approaches and practices from researchers. Papers will explore the dynamic work that researchers participate in both internally (e.g., reflexivity, emotional/psychological labour, identity work) and externally (e.g., recruiting participants, gaining and maintaining access to "the field," data collection practices, researcher/participant relationships) are invited. The aims of this session are twofold. First, this session aims to creatively and critically learn from research experiences and places central importance on the researcher and their togetherness with their project, research participants, methods, and beyond. This session aims to explore the possibilities and potentials offered by researcher positionalities (e.g., by virtue of "insider"/"outsider" status, among other characteristics, relationships, and histories) and researchers' commitments to (and committing of) reflexivity. Second, this session asks: How can we continuously commit ourselves to sociological research? As researchers are pressured to make themselves more public, for research reasons and beyond, what risks, challenges, and tensions might we face and, importantly, how can we navigate them? How can we commit our curiosity to sociology and research despite fatigue, social isolation, and polarization in times of technological, environmental, and social disorder? Altogether, papers for this session may offer lessons learned from dynamic research(er) experiences and creatively explore how we can commit ourselves to impactful and collaborative research.

Session Organizer and Chair: Amber Lee Varadi, York University

Presentations:

1. Lessons from Dynamic Spaces of Sociological Research: Expressing Reflexivity in the Values and Practices of Qualitative Researchers

Senem Karaceper and **Samantha DeBoer**, York University

Considering the dynamic spaces of research in the community and across academia, we seek to understand how values shape contemporary approaches and practices of experienced qualitative researchers. Our study draws upon fifteen semi-structured interviews with experienced qualitative researchers, asking them to reflect on the 'surprises' encountered in their research of the social world. The stories shared by participants reveal how their reflexivity and positionality shape their values, attitudes, and beliefs. Our research question asks, *In what practices do qualitative researchers express their values?* We employ a values coding method to reveal the values of authenticity, relationship building, and social justice. The participants express their values in the practices of unlearning biases and assumptions, fostering the collection of meaningful stories, and research dissemination for social change. Offering creative and unique practices, we draw insights into lessons of committing ourselves to impactful and collaborative Sociological research.

2. Navigating Reflexivity: Exploring Power and Performativity in Research Podcasts

Amanda Williams, **Xenia Reloba de la Cruz**, and Alejandro Velasco Mount Royal University

This presentation examines how research stories are encoded in podcasts through narrative and explores their reception by journalism and broadcasting students. The study focuses on short-form podcasts featuring researchers' personal stories on topics such as ethics, ethnography, and Indigenous collaborations, produced for a research methods class. The research applies reception theory (Hall, 1973) and discourses about power to analyze how podcasts (N=7) encode specific meanings and positionalities (Foucault, 1982). It examines how elements like gender, speech patterns, and unfamiliar topics shape researchers' performativity (Butler, 1990). The encoding process involves choices in storytelling techniques, conversational tones, and narrative structures, all of which contribute to conveying power and/or challenging expectations. The podcasts are studied as spaces where meaning and power dynamics are constructed and negotiated. Using surveys (N=14), interviews (N=3), and over 250 student reflections, the study examines how podcasts create engaging learning experiences. Students report that the narrative format fosters deeper connections with the material, helping them understand complex research concepts. Power is also negotiated during the decoding process, as students interpret and make sense of the encoded content. Their interpretations are shaped by perceptions of "otherness," including gendered assumptions, unfamiliar contexts, and the novelty of certain topics, illustrating how power dynamics influence the reception and negotiation of knowledge. Podcasts also raise ethical concerns about the public dissemination of research. While they democratize"access and"create space for reflexivity, they leave researchers vulnerable to misinterpretation as students bring their biases into the decoding process. This underscores how podcasts challenge and reinforce power structures. This presentation connects to themes of reflexivity and researcher positionality in knowledge dissemination. By employing non-traditional methods like podcasts, the discussion explores their potential to challenge and reinforce power dynamics in academia, offering innovative possibilities for research communication.

(SCL2) The State and Everyday Pleasures: Identity, Community, Agency

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

The regulation of our everyday pleasures by government institutions has long been a source of sociological interest. Beyond merely denying pleasure, the state also cultivates, directs, and produces enjoyment towards its own ends, be it nationalist identity, revenue generation, or administration of communities. Points of resistance, creativity, and choice arise in everyday life as people practice leisure, consumption, sociability and community in the context of this mediation. Papers in this section explore consumption and symbols of nation, the cultivation of community and friendship in the context of social income support, and internet use in the context of data nationalism.

Session Organizers: Michael Follert, St. Francis Xavier University and Patricia Cormack, St. Francis Xavier University

Session Chair: Michael Follert, St. Francis Xavier University

Presentations:

1. TikTok Refugees on Red Note (Xiaohongshu): Individual Resistance to Data Nationalism

Pauline Hoebanx, Saint Mary's University

Nation-states' attempts to regulate citizens' private data have been a focal point in internet studies, with scholars critiquing data nationalism as ineffective against the risks of foreign surveillance. However, existing research often overlooks individuals' attitudes toward these regulatory efforts. The recent migration of American TikTok users to the Chinese-owned social network Red Note (Xiaohongshu) amidst federal threats to ban TikTok offers a compelling case to examine the intersection of state policies and individual perceptions of data privacy. This paper explores the phenomenon of "TikTok refugees"—a term describing American users seeking alternative platforms—as a lens to analyze the misalignment between national security priorities and personal concerns about data governance. Employing a netnographic approach, I examine videos and comments shared on Red Note, focusing on interactions between American and Chinese users. My findings suggest that the migration to Red Note highlights a significant disconnect between state and individual priorities. While governments frame data privacy in terms of national security, individuals are not merely indifferent but actively subvert these narratives. Through humor, many American users embrace the act of sharing their data with a Chinese app, framing it as a form of resistance against perceived government overreach into the internet. This weaponization of data theft as a symbolic protest underscores the complexities of aligning regulatory strategies with user perceptions, revealing how individuals repurpose digital practices to challenge state-imposed narratives. This study reveals the complexities of individual attitudes toward nation-state restrictions on social media, revealing tensions between regulatory ambitions and lived experiences in digital spaces. By examining the actions and interactions of TikTok refugees, this work contributes to a nuanced understanding of how users navigate and interpret the governance of pleasure and connectivity in an era of heightened digital surveillance.

2. Impact of Basic Income on the Social Lives of Women

Shaytasi Strachan, Carleton University

The purpose of this study is to provide detailed perspectives from women on how their interpersonal relationships transformed after receiving basic-income (BI). My study focuses on the Ontario Basic-Income Pilot (OBIP) which began in 2017 and concluded in 2019. The OBIP was a state-supported basic-income scheme where payment amounts were determined by economic eligibility, relationship status, and disability. The data results which emerged from the initial report demonstrated that social improvements were marginally lower, but still large, when compared to the other measurements of improvements overall. This early study suggests state-supported economic reform has the potential to contribute to the social lives (i.e. in part, leisure lives) of citizens. My research expands on the social improvement data which emerged from the initial report following the conclusion of the pilot. Using semi-structured interviews, my research observes the intersection between basic-income and the reduction in friendship and romantic misery. Currently, there is an existing gap in literature discussing the connection between relationship dynamics, social capital and basic income. As a result, I argue relationship formation under basic income must consider the conditions in which choices are made. The ability to make a choice is the promise of modernity which allows one to exercise their freedom, rationality and autonomy. I expand on sociological considerations of community, friendship, and happiness using Pierre

Bourdieu's theory of social capital and symbolic domination, and Anthony Giddens' concept of pure relationships as the theoretical framework informing this study. My findings explore the transformative potential basic income has on social relationships and agency of women.

3. Dirty Leaves: An Exploration Canadian Post-Consumer Waste and Maple Leaf Iconography

Sean Martindale, Independent

Much can be learned from the post-consumer waste a culture creates. Through visual art and design, I consider Canadian consumption, regulation, conservation, and identity by examining its waste products. This ongoing project involves both practice-based research and the creation of new public works in various media. My current focus is on the post-consumer waste products where maple leaf iconography is found. Some of this iconography is directly produced and regulated by the Canadian government and its agencies, such as the tax stamps found on tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products. Other maple leaf examples are printed on the packaging produced by companies seeking to highlight their genuine ties to the country or wishing to appear more Canadian than their ownership or production chains might otherwise indicate. Such branding takes on new currency amid the ongoing unprovoked aggression toward Canada from the current American regime in the first months of 2025. Additional maple leaf imagery has already been introduced to Canadian shelves as many Canadian consumers vow to boycott US products and services. Since 2022, I have been documenting hundreds of thousands of pieces of litter with representations of the maple leaf. This detritus goes unnoticed. In many public spaces, it is an omnipresent visual and physical noise, especially in high traffic areas (both vehicle and pedestrian). It is as much a part of the contemporary Canadian landscape as maple trees themselves. Altogether, these waste products provide a snapshot of Canadian industry and consumption habits, and of our consumer pleasures and vices. The most common maple leaf graphics on commercial products are directly or closely based on the Canadian flag. This research has led me to investigate the origins of Canada's maple leaf iconography: its colonial, military, and commercial roots, and its place in our national myth building and identities.

(SPE1) Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Social Policy and Social Equality in Canada

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Social Policy and Social Equality Research Cluster

This session features papers on social policy and social equality, and the relationship between those two themes. In line with the orientations of the Social Policy and Social Equality research cluster, papers focusing on poverty, social and health inequalities, and social policies aimed at reducing them will be included in this session. We also invited papers unpacking how social and welfare policies aimed at poverty reduction and at fighting inequalities are developed.

Session Organizer: Xavier St-Denis, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)
Session Chair: Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. The Intergenerational Persistence of Socioeconomic Disadvantage: Pathways through Adolescent Mental Health and Chronic Health Conditions

Jinette Comeau, King's University College at Western University; Andrea Willson, Kim Shuey, and Jiachen Pan, Western University

Children exposed to socioeconomic disadvantage are at greater risk for chronic health conditions and mental health problems which, in turn, may influence subsequent socioeconomic outcomes in adulthood. This suggests that children's physical and mental health may be important mechanisms through which socioeconomic disadvantage is transmitted from one generation to the next, but these intergenerational processes are not well understood, especially in the Canadian context. We use the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth linked with administrative tax data (T1 Family File), and mediation analysis with Structural Equation Modeling to investigate a) the extent to which exposure to parental socioeconomic disadvantage (low-income, social assistance, high school completion) in childhood (age 4-11) increases the risk of socioeconomic disadvantage in adulthood (age 18-25), and b) whether adolescent (age 10-15) chronic health conditions, emotional problems, conduct problems, and hyperactivity/inattention problems mediate these associations. All indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage followed direct pathways from childhood to adulthood, while indirect pathways were strongest for social assistance and largely attributable to chronic health conditions and hyperactivity/inattention problems. Policy implications will be discussed, with a focus on poverty reduction strategies that have the potential to improve children's environments, health, well-being, and opportunities for upward socioeconomic mobility.

(TEA2) Teaching Introduction to Sociology
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Teaching and Learning Cluster

Introductory courses are typically large, mandatory classes that include both sociology majors and non-majors at the beginning of students' experience with postsecondary education. The range in exposure to the discipline as well as the varying academic skills and experience of students presents unique opportunities and challenges for educators. For this panel discussion we invite short (5-10 minute) presentations from sociology educators to present their innovative ideas for teaching introduction to sociology courses. Presentations may include an outline of ideas for assignments, assessments, strategies for student engagement and support, experiential learning, integration of decolonial perspectives, or any other pedagogical insights or innovations relevant for a first year sociology class.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Amanda van Beinum, York University and Tonya Davidson, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Old School or New School?: Teaching Intro without Technology
Linda Henderson, St. Mary's University, Calgary

Over my long teaching career at two universities, I have been fortunate to introduce thousands of students to sociology in classes small (less than 30 students) and large (over 400 students.) Informed by insights from the scholarship of teaching and learning, and my own experiences as a coach, teacher and mentor, these classrooms have been completely technology free. In this presentation I would like to share how and why I use this pedagogical strategy and what my students think of it.

2. Reflexive Intro Sociology: An invitation to student-led qualitative research

Aaron Klassen, Booth University College

In this presentation, I reflect on student engagement with a reflexivity-oriented assignment I designed for Intro Sociology at my liberal arts university college. While qualitative research is often acknowledged early in the undergraduate's education, its practice is rarely applied until later at the graduate level, and only then by a small number of those for whose research such methods are justifiable. This, arguably, is a missed opportunity for growing the young sociological imagination and for supporting an important practice in the discipline, particularly considering Sociology's rich history of ethnographic research. Moreover, auto-ethnography (Denzin 2020) represents a method ripe for exploring contemporary manifestations of classical phenomena having to do with alienation, anomie, and disenfranchisement - social inequalities that have recently risen to crisis levels. Its omission is largely attributable to the vital yet time-consuming step of gaining ethics approval for working with subjects. However, by taking the researcher's own self as object, it becomes possible to expedite this step and access advantages related to the practice of field research, like increasing sociology's generative potential for social change. In this presentation, I will describe this assignment as it links the student to foundational sociological theories and discuss its logic building on Bourdieuian tenants of "socioanalysis" (1992) and reflexivity (2002). And I will describe highlights from students' engagement with the application of these theories to the analysis of their own field-based self-observations. Such highlights range from newcomer lived experiences to post-Colonial strategies for identity reclamation, from living with COVID-19 restrictions to participant self-observations of social movements. Finally, reflexively, I will note my own interest in sociology's potential for supporting self-transformative and anti-racist, co-learning conciliatory work. This presentation will be of interest to instructors looking to add a high-impact, practice-based assignment to their introductory pedagogical strategy.

(FTS-RC) Fat Studies Research Cluster Meeting

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 12:45pm

Affiliations: Fat Studies Research Cluster

The CSA Fat Studies Research Cluster extends an invitation to new members who are interested in engaging in critical research related to weight, bodies, stigma, 'health', and social justice. This cluster serves as a communication hub and a meeting place for sociologists who work in the field of fat studies, both within Canada and globally. As a space committed to advancing scholarship, attendees will have the opportunity to network and share their research. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizers: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

(IND-RC) Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster Meeting

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 12:45pm

Affiliations: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

We seek to connect sociologists, other academics, activists, artists, and others who are engaged in the study of Indigenous-settler relations and/or the struggle for decolonization. This Indigenous-

Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster (ISRD) meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities.

Session Organizer: Kerry Bailey, McMaster University

(SPE-RC) Social Policy and Social Equality Research Cluster Meeting
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliations: Social Policy and Social Equality Research Cluster

The Social Policy and Social Equality Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. The SPE cluster is especially welcoming new participants and emerging scholars who would like to contribute their opinions to the activities of the cluster or to volunteer their time to its work. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizers: Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto and Xavier St-Denis, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)

Student Social
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 12:30pm

To kick off this year's CSA conference, the Student Concerns Subcommittee is hosting a student social. Come meet some of your subcommittee members, get to know other student conference attendees, and enjoy some free food! Open to student delegates in the Canadian Sociological Association Conference.

(AIS1c) Critical Muslim Studies and Anti-Islamophobia III: Unfixed - Cultural Production, Pedagogy, and the Politics of Possibilities
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: CSA Anti-Islamophobia Subcommittee

Hegemonic discourses do more than represent; they construct, discipline, and delimit who can be seen, heard, or imagined. Yet fissures emerge—moments of negotiation, refusal, and reinvention that open new subject positions and conditions of possibility. This panel assembles scholars and practitioners whose work inhabits and expands these spaces, intervening in dominant narratives to forge alternative ways of knowing, being, and belonging. The presentations unpack how art-based interventions counter Islamophobia in public and digital arenas; interrogate the politics of "safe space" pedagogies in discussions of Palestine; examine nuanced forms of "artful obedience" among Muslim South Asian women navigating cultural conflicts in Canada; and complicate entrenched stereotypes of SWANA subjects that persist in Hollywood casting practices and media representations, offering an active reform agenda. Collectively, these inquiries move beyond analyzing anti-hegemonic cultural praxis to charting the openings they create, tracing emergent subjectivities that unsettle normative scripts, disrupt existing taxonomies, and expand the terrains of possibility.

Session Organizers: Nadiya Ali, Trent University, Ayesha Mian Akram, University of Calgary, Lucy El-Sherif, McMaster University, Leila Benhadjoudja, University of Ottawa, and Muna Saleh, Concordia University of Edmonton

Session Chair: Lucy El-Sherif, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Teaching without guarantees: The pedagogy of safe spaces and the Question of Palestine

Kasim Tirmizey, York University

Pedagogies of "safety" are frequently invoked in academia when discussing anti-racist education. It is especially referenced when administrators discuss how teaching about Palestine should occur. This presentation builds upon Stuart Hall's scholarship on race for examining what types of spaces are (re)produced through pedagogies of "safety" in teaching Palestine. This paper reflects on my classroom and campus experiences and examines university policy documents like codes of conduct and public statements. Since October 2023, university administrators in North America have advised that classrooms be "space spaces" regarding discussions on Israel/Palestine. The assertion is made that academic freedom and freedom of speech are contingent on providing safe spaces for all. We are further told that there is a necessity to be sensitive to a diversity of student "feelings" surrounding this topic. The call for neutrality is coupled with including opinions on "both sides". Leonardo and Porter (2010) aptly question the call for safety in anti-racist pedagogy: 'Safety for whom?'. They spell out how such an approach is to make education safe for white students. By drawing upon Stuart Hall's conceptualization of "racially structured social formations" as "articulations" of race and class in historically and geographically specific ways (1986; 1996), I examine how "safety", "neutrality", "dialogue" (Saifer 2009), "civility" (Salaita 2015) and "feelings" in discussions of pedagogy about Palestine are part of an ideological discourse that reproduces a structure of anti-Palestinian racism on campus. Namely, articulations of safe space reproduce a structure that silences and punishes affirmations of Palestinian humanity. The presentation concludes by building on Hall's reflections on teaching race as a process of conversation that rejects relativizing "both sides" (Hall 1980). Rather, varying opinions are a starting point for denaturalizing racist beliefs and a process for unpacking the social, political, economic, and historical processes in the construction of race in Israel/Palestine.

2. Artful Disobedience and Belonging: The Lived Experiences of Muslim South Asian Women in Canada

Sofia Seer, Queen's University

This study explores the experiences of 1.5- and second-generation South Asian and Muslim women in Canada, focusing on the tension between the cultural norms emphasized by their families and those of mainstream society. This tension is more acutely felt by women, who often engage in "artful obedience" by concealing behaviors from their parents to navigate these conflicting expectations. The development of hybrid identities and intergenerational conflicts within immigrant families takes place in the context of growing Islamophobia, and a seemingly unquestioned conflation of Islam/Muslims with the notion of women lacking agency often seen through the issue of veiling. The literature about intergenerational conflicts around cultural items reveal that it is a source of mental stress, more commonly applicable to women than men; and that "don't ask, don't tell" codes are highly prevalent. The concept of artful obedience is referred to as

"secret" or "double life" and as being ubiquitous but the motivations and implications are unexplored. The goal of this research is to provide a nuanced understanding of how these women manage cultural conflicts using a qualitative methodology, primarily interviews. The research aims to answer key questions: in what areas of life do women employ artful obedience, what social and economic factors influence this behavior, and what are the long-term implications for integration to Canada and sense of belonging within immigrant households? Though some literature tangentially refers to parents eventually coming around and intergenerational understanding, in depth interviews will comprehensively investigate how these transformations take place, their general trajectories and provide an understanding of how households evolve and integrate in a new setting. This research will contribute to academic and policy discussions on integration, belonging, and the resilience of immigrant communities, offering fresh insights the factors shaping these processes.

3. Behind the Curtain: Unpacking Racism in Casting Practices

Elias Mehdawi, University of Waterloo

I am pursuing a Master of Arts in English, focusing on Rhetoric and Communication Design. My Major Research Project focuses on racism in the film industry, approached through the theoretical orientation of Critical Race Theory. This study hypothesizes that casting practices in Hollywood reinforce systemic racism, which shapes societal perceptions and perpetuates Middle Eastern stereotypes. The film industry has yet to be explored through a CRT lens focusing on Middle Eastern racism, which I believe will help reveal systemic racism and fill a gap in literature; what I hope to change with this research is societal racism towards Middle Eastern people. The research explores mechanisms such as tokenism, faculty conservatism, and the normalization of white superiority, which perpetuate racial inequities in the industry. Drawing on foundational CRT texts by Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado, Angela Davis, and others, the study examines the historical roots of Hollywood's biases and their persistence in contemporary practices. As a Middle Eastern actor with over five years of professional experience, I bring a unique perspective to this research, having personally faced racism and typecasting in stereotypical Muslim roles, such as terrorists. These lived experiences provide valuable insight into the systemic barriers actors of color encounter in the industry. Using Critical Discourse Analysis, the study incorporates interviews with marginalized actors and white allies, alongside reflections on pivotal moments, such as Marlon Brando's 1973 critique of Native American portrayals in Hollywood. Additionally, statistical evidence on race-related casting trends underscores the underrepresentation of people of color in leading and meaningful roles. This research goes beyond critiquing deeply ingrained Hollywood practices to detail their effects on the way global audiences perceive them, showing how it normalizes and perpetuates systems of racism. It provides an actionable reform agenda. I will have the privilege of working with Dr. Frankie Condon, leading expert in CRT. The combination of my personal experience with scholarly research has shaped this study, which is both rigorously executed and an urgent call for systemic change.

(ANS5a) Critical Inquiries into Animal Suffering and Death I
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Animals in Society Research Cluster

This session features presentations that critically examine the structures of power, violence, and representation that shape the suffering and death of nonhuman animals. Certain species are positioned as threats, nuisances, or commodities within human-centered economies and governance. Historical and contemporary forms of state and nonstate power dictate which animals are subjected to spectacular, excessive, or normalised forms of violence. Media, photography, and visual culture play a central role in shaping public perception of animal suffering, reinforcing dominant ideologies while also offering potential sites of resistance. Presenters will explore how cultural narratives, economic imperatives, and political ideologies—including colonialism, neoliberalism, and masculinity—structure the conditions under which nonhuman animals live and die. This session examines the affective and political functions of surplus violence in animal extermination programs, particularly in the historical and contemporary persecution of wolves. It considers the ethics and impact of visualising animal suffering in sites like roadside zoos, where photography operates as a tool for empathy. Additionally, it addresses the commodification of nonhuman animal killing under neoliberal regimes of wildlife management and adventure tourism, where culls are framed as environmental stewardship.

Session Organizer and Chair: Stephen Muzzatti, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. Killing Monsters for Fun and Profit: Adventure Tourism, Wildlife Management and Invasive Species
Stephen Muzzatti, Toronto Metropolitan University and **Kirsten Grieve,** Registered Veterinary Technician

Neoliberalism has created conditions under which the killing of nonhuman animals is commodified readily under the auspices of environmental stewardship and adventure tourism. Employing a narrative analysis of government documents and the promotional materials of private companies, this presentation will examine the confluence of masculinity and the consumerisation of identity in the development and growth of the so-called 'wildlife management' industry and its connections to certain tourist endeavours. It poses difficult questions about the killing of certain species as part of the daily operations of government wildlife management initiatives and the private adventure-tourism industry's holiday packages, particularly, though not exclusively, through contracting out cull schemes. Drawing upon both historical and contemporary examples of the confluence of capitalist expansion and masculinity work, this project seeks to explore the shifting narratives surrounding, 'wildlife nuisances' and 'invasive species' in the killing of nonhuman animals.

2. Roadside Zoo: Captive Glow
Shannon Johnstone, Meredith College

My PhD thesis, *The Latent Image: Exposing Suffering and Developing Change* (2025), examines the question "why create and view photographs of animal cruelty?" I am particularly interested in situations where suffering is clearly visible, but we choose not to see it, or perhaps we frame the suffering through a different lens. Since roadside zoos are legally sanctioned, open to the public and

they encourage visitors to take pictures, they can be a powerful tool to examine and perhaps reframe what it means to look at animal suffering. Roadside zoos are privately owned unaccredited menageries that typically charge an admission fee. They exist in every state in the USA, and they are legal. Through my photography, I hope to picture captive animals as individuals, and create photographs that empathetically call our attention to their boredom, frustration, and suffering. In this presentation, I will discuss the evolution of my photography project "Roadside Zoo: Captive Glow" which I created while working on the dissertation. Specifically, I will discuss the ethics of creating and looking at animal suffering from a Critical Animal Studies perspective, and use the photographs to discuss issues of power, representation, perception, and empathy. With this work, I hope to dismantle our anthropocentric lens and challenge our sense of entitlement in enslaving wild animals.

3. These Violent Delights: Wolf Death in Settler Colonial Canada

Stephanie Rutherford, Trent University

This paper traces how wolves have been subjected to violent modes of state and nonstate power since the lands currently known as Canada came to be. Imbricated in a necropolitical enterprise not of their own design, animals were delineated as good and bad, made either valuable or vulnerable to power in service of colonial structures of property, agriculture, and natural resource extraction. Wolves, then, were cast as an invading threat that needed to be eliminated. However, these efforts at annihilation also had a particular character to them: they were often enacted through exaggerated forms of violence where animal suffering seemed to be entirely the point. This paper asks: what affective and political purpose does this surplus violence serve? How is it different depending on the perpetrator and across time periods? And how do wolves themselves experience it? I explore these questions by looking at wolf death in both historical and contemporary contexts, drawing on the examples of bounties, wolf hunts, and culls to understand how anthropocentric power is conditioned by the senses and enacted through violence. As such, this paper offers a politico-affective reading of wolf suffering and death and gestures toward how we might mobilize different affects that support wolf flourishing.

(APS5) Technology in Community Empowerment: Challenges, Opportunities, and Reflections on Engagement

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Cluster

This invited session examines technology's evolving role in community-based initiatives for social justice and equity. While technology can foster inclusion, it may also reinforce inequities, particularly for racialized and marginalized communities. Panelists will explore two key themes: (1) how digital tools—mobile devices, social media, and online platforms—empower excluded communities, and (2) how community engagement addresses technology-related inequities like algorithmic bias, the digital divide, and online hate. The session will also consider how current technologies shape social inequalities and how marginalized voices can drive systemic change. Invited presenters from interdisciplinary backgrounds will share their diverse experiences in connecting technology with community-engaged research and intervention projects.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Rui Hou, and Josephine Wong, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. Planting Imagination: Virtual Reality Co-design for Community Power in Toronto's Chinatown West

Linda Zhang, University of Waterloo; Josephine Pui-Hing Wong and Mandana Vahabi, Toronto Metropolitan University; Kenneth Fung, University of Toronto; Alan Li, Regent Part Community Health Centre; Tyler Fox, Springboard Youth Academy

Planting Imagination explored virtual reality (VR) as a tool for building community participation, agency, and power in Toronto's Chinatown West during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period. The project brought together a diverse group of Chinatown residents, community organizations, and researchers to co-design a community garden. Central to the initiative was the use of shared VR platforms to enable intergenerational community members—including seniors or those otherwise excluded from traditional participatory processes—to collaboratively reimagine their neighborhood's future. Chinatowns have long been sites of mutual aid, resourcefulness, and collective care, especially against systemic exclusion and gentrification. This project built on these traditions by integrating VR into participatory design practices, facilitating 60+ community members and facilitators to shape a vision for shared public space that reflected collective needs and aspirations. Beyond physical design outcomes, the process itself was an act of resistance against erasure, fostering social connection and belonging while doubling as a small-scale social intervention. Key findings reveal both the promise and limitations of technological interventions in community work. While VR created opportunities for collaboration, learning, and inclusion, it also exposed persistent barriers of technological exclusion. Vulnerable communities are often impacted first by emergent technology but rarely to their benefit. In architecture, emergent design technologies are disproportionately developed to serve speculative real estate markets, often leading to the techno-displacement of racialized and marginalized groups. By leveraging VR in an architectural and community-based context, this project sought to challenge this pattern and dominant narratives framing technology as neutral, emphasizing the need examine and responsibility to address how these tools can both reproduce or disrupt inequities.

2. Digital Mental Health and Wellness of Asian Immigrant Youth

Charlie Sun, University of Toronto; Rui Hou, Toronto Metropolitan University

Racialized immigrant youth face a multitude of challenges that heighten their vulnerability to mental illness. Digital mental health has increasingly been recognized as an effective method to improve accessibility to mental health services for communities with limited access to inclusive care, particularly among youth. However, despite the growing emphasis on cultural inclusivity in interventions targeting racialized and marginalized populations, there remains a gap in empirical evidence regarding how culturally inclusive elements are integrated into digital mental health practices and their impact on the effectiveness of these interventions. Focusing on Asian immigrant youth in Canada, this project outlines our community-engaged initiative, which aims to assess whether current digital mental health interventions provide effective and culturally accessible support, and how we can collaboratively develop a framework for creating innovative, inclusive, and effective digital interventions to promote youth mental health.

3. Digital Technology and Community-wide Stigma Reduction

Josephine Pui-Hing Wong, Toronto Metropolitan University

HIV stigma intersects with racism, sexism, homophobia and other systemic barriers to impede HIV prevention efforts. Community-wide stigma reduction through capacity building is critical to addressing HIV disparities and eliminating preventable social suffering among people living with and/or affected by HIV. Project Acceptance and Commitment to Empowerment (ACE) uses a train-the-train approach to build capacity community reduce stigma and advance health equity. The ACE intervention includes six on-line self-guided learning modules, accompanied by six online group collaborative learning session. ACE promotes awareness of the impact of stigma, compassion, psychological flexibility, value-guided action, and collective empowerment. Forty-one service providers and community leaders completed the training. This presentation reports on the effectiveness of the hybrid use of asynchronous digital learning modules and synchronous online group sessions in community-wide stigma reduction efforts.

4. Co-design of HIV-Response Intergenerational Intervention with Technology as an Engagement Tool

Egbe Etowa, Toronto Metropolitan University

The paper highlights the experience of using communication technologies during the knowledge uptake and co-design components of HIV-Response Intergenerational Participation (HIP) Intervention. The legacy of technology application in interventions with its unique opportunities and challenges since COVID-19 pandemic has been sustained. HIP is aimed at co-designing an intervention to strengthen critical HIV literacy (CHL) among heterosexual Black men (HBM) in Ontario. Driven by community-based participatory approach, the co-design processes contribute to strengthening CHL among the collaborative; with technology being pivotal. 27 participants of different generations, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, social positions and careers were recruited from Windsor, London, Toronto and Ottawa in Ontario using communication technologies. Following groundwork, zoom video conferencing was used in engagement, allowing for synchronous and asynchronous elements, the breakout rooms (three breakout rooms per session), etc. Ms PowerPoint, google poll/form and mentimeter were used. We had one session per week for 7 weeks, with 4 weeks devoted to integrative knowledge exchange on HIV critical literacy topics; and 3 weeks of intervention co-design. All participants were engaged but at varying levels in consecutive sessions. 30 - 40 percent turned off their videos in most of the sessions. Facial/eye contacts, lip reading, observance of facial expressions and attention among such participants were limited. Using mentimeter increased engagement among 6-10 participants who were not talking with 2- 3 participants unable to use it. Breakout rooms (7 -10 participants per room) increased engagement, with 2 -3 participants unable to join. Zoom allowed synchronous co-creation among participants in different cities, enabling inclusivity and real time data capture. Most likely, generational technology literacy gaps, zoom burnouts from high cumulative zoom engagements, absence of informal networking, distrust of zoom conversation space varied engagement levels. Including technological literacy programs into its application while enabling hybrid engagement that foster trust and safe spaces are vital.

(CRM1b) Canadian Contributions to Criminology II
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

Criminology is a multi-faceted field that uses 'crime' as its subject matter but has no single methodological commitment or paradigmatic theoretical framework. Many areas and conversations in criminology, however, are often dominated by work from the US, Britain, and the Scandinavian countries that differ from the Canadian context in significant socio-political, cultural, and economic respects. The main objective of this trio of sessions (CRIM1a, b, and c) is to connect researchers and discuss work that advances our understanding of crime and the criminal justice system in Canada as well as criminological knowledge more broadly.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Timothy Kang, University of Saskatchewan and Daniel Kudla, Memorial University

Presentations:

1. Justifying Force: How Police Neutralized Accountability in the Ipperwash Crisis
Krystene Green, McMaster University

The 1995 Ipperwash Crisis, which led to the death of Dudley George, marked a crucial point in Canadian history. The crisis began when members of the Stony Point First Nation occupied Ipperwash Provincial Park to assert land rights. The death of Dudley George, an unarmed Indigenous protestor, by an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer sparked widespread criticism and calls for accountability. In November 2003, eight years after the incident, the Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario to investigate the events leading to and surrounding George's death. This paper examines the 2007 Ipperwash Inquiry, specifically the Ontario Provincial Police Association's (OPPA) *Final Submission* for the killing of Dudley George and how "techniques of neutralization" (Sykes and Matza, 1967) were deployed. I argue that these "techniques" extend to the denial of responsibility, denial of injury, denial of the victim, condemnation of the condemners, and appeal to higher loyalties- are used to justify or rationalized deviant behaviour as related to the killing of Dudley George. Connectedly, because the framing of the OPPA's narrative ultimately attempts to mitigate blame and deflect criticism, my paper seeks to explore the broader implications of these justifications in the context of systemic issues surrounding law enforcement and Indigenous land defence, claims and rights. The study involves a qualitative content analysis of the OPPA's *Final Submission* to the Ipperwash Inquiry. Through the analysis, language, narratives, and arguments used to align with Sykes and Matza's (1967) "techniques of neutralization" will be examined to better understand and address the systemic biases in law enforcement narratives.

2. From comeuppance to compartmentalism: the cultural scripts of police meaning making
Aidan Lockhart, University of Guelph

Contemporary police scholarship rightly challenges early representations of police culture as overly homogenous and deterministic. However, in an attempt to schematize, typologize, and operationalize police culture, *nouveau* cop scholars risk losing the trail of cultural analysis entirely, only to find themselves in a psychologistic orchard filled with nothing but bad apples. This paper, therefore, enters the debate on contested terrain. Here, I aim to contribute to the strong cultural analysis of police by identifying four frames of meaning that officers use to make sense of their

experiences, account for their occupational activities, and justify their beliefs. Relying on in-depth qualitative interviews, I show how police are more or less disposed to shift their frame of meaning when they encounter its explanatory limits (i.e., it fails to solve a problem that doesn't fit its assumptions). As well, I consider how the foundational logic of the narrative frame shifts according to the semiotic problem they are trying to solve or the feelings they are attempting to manage. Whether police are addressing the nature of crime and violence, or their role as agents of carceral control, police adapt and improvise their use of various - often discordant - cultural repertoires.

3. Pregnancy, Postpartum, and Pills: An Exploration of Prescribed Addiction and Persistent Incarceration

Timothy Kang, Jolee Akins, Sherilyn Clarke, Shay Poitras, and Lauryn Sabirsh, University of Saskatchewan

Recent estimates suggest that between 10-20% of mothers experience postpartum depression (PPD) and up to 40% experience postpartum anxiety disorder (PPA) (Bauman et al 2020; Field 2017; Zhou et al 2019). The symptoms of PPD and PPA can be debilitating and even life-threatening, making the need for treatment and intervention palpable among women and their carers. Debate still persists, however, on the efficacy and safety of different treatments, especially pharmacotherapies. Indeed, it was only in 2019 that the FDA approved the first medication to treat PPD (brexanolone) (FDA 2019) and 2023 when it approved the first oral medication (zuranolone) (FDA 2023) while no such medications have specifically been approved for PPA. Yet, pharmacotherapies typically used to treat major depression and generalized anxiety or panic disorders have been the standard despite limited evidence that they are safe or effective for PPD and PPA (Misri et al, 2015; Molyneaux, 2014). While the addictive qualities of depressants are well known, research and advocacy is also mounting that substantiates the addictive qualities of antidepressants, a claim often neglected and minimized in the literature but at odds with the experiences of countless users and providers (Hengartner et al 2019). Thus, until recently, the potential prescription of addiction to vulnerable populations, and its untold ramifications, has gone overlooked. In this study, we bring to light the connection between PPD and PPA, pharmacotherapies, addiction, and conflict with the law from a sample of women with persistent contact with the criminal justice system. We show how prescription medications intended to treat postpartum mental health issues can lead to addiction. When adverse events occur and women are unable to access necessary medical support and care, they may resort to alternative measures to manage their addiction, which can trap women into long-term trajectories of arrest and incarceration.

4. Theorizing Peace Bonds

Devin Pratchler, University of Toronto

This study explores a decade of police records related to the administration and enforcement of peace bonds in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Peace bonds represent an administrative, conditional alternative to incarceration. A small western prairie city with a significant Indigenous population, Prince Albert offers a unique context for examining the development of peace bonds. The dataset, obtained through access-to-information requests from the local police service, includes officer notes on peace bond enforcement and surveillance, along with court documents tied to these processes. This study employs discourse analysis to theorize the transition from carceral to

extrajudicial, administrative sanctions in Canada. The research centers on three key questions: first, how do institutional rules and policies guide officer practices surround peace bonds? Second, what underlying values are embedded within these policies, and in what ways do they impact the work of officers? Thirdly, how can we theorize the move towards peace bonds within Saskatchewan and Canada? This project highlights how the risk-focused framework of the current peace bond process shifts attention away from reintegration and harm reduction. Over the 10 years of data examined (2009-2019), only one offender (n=12) successfully completed their conditions and "graduated" from their bond. These findings point to a system that prioritizes risk management over long-term rehabilitation.

5. Losing Faith: An Examination of Skepticism Surrounding the Canadian Jury System

Erica Speakman and **Samuel Hartling,** McMaster University

This paper examines the increasing skepticism surrounding the Canadian jury system through a social constructionist lens. In addition to the current literature on the subject, conversations on Reddit, X, and YouTube were analyzed to gain a sense of current sentiments. Findings indicate that perceptions of bias, incompetence, and corruption within the judicial process are contributing factors to a growing sense of distrust. The findings of this study offer valuable insights into Canadian perceptions about the current state of jury duty, with the potential to impact future jury reform efforts in Canada.

(CSF2) Family Inequity in Public Policy

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

A central challenge for family policy supporting care for young children while parents work is inequity between families. This arises for several reasons and may be increasing as families diversify. This session, hosted by the Reimagining Care/Work Policies project, invites theoretical, applied, policy and/or activism research papers on any axes of inequity (for example but not limited to class, race, family structure, work/employment, citizenship, gender, Indigeneity, ability, or SOGI). Policy areas, in any jurisdiction, may include childcare, parental leave, and employment policies, with similar topics welcome. Papers that address the social impact of research and/or academic-public partnerships will be prioritized.

Session Organizer and Chair: Lindsey McKay, Thompson Rivers University

Presentations:

1. "I was basically on unofficial paternity leave for the last six months": Untangling Canadian fathers' parental leave-taking perceptions, decision-making, and behaviors in precarious times

Casey Scheibling, University of Nevada, Reno; Meg Kowta, University of Nevada

It is well-documented that parental leave policy helps to support father involvement and gender egalitarianism across family and work. Curiously, not all men make use of leave options, even in a context like Canada where federal-level benefits are available. We focus in on this dilemma through qualitatively examining how fathers account for their parental leave-taking perceptions, decisions, and behaviors. Our data comes from 36 in-depth interviews with employed Canadian fathers who each had access to public and sometimes private parental leave for at least one of their children. To

first paint the descriptive contours of our results, we note that nearly one third (31%) of our sample took no formal parental leave whatsoever and the majority of our participants took less time off than their leave option(s) afforded. We then reveal nuance in fathers' explanations for taking or not taking leave. For some fathers, leave-taking is a *pragmatic* issue—taken as an unequivocal and "fun" opportunity to foster a connection to their children or not taken due to pre-existing job flexibility or pandemic-related factors. For other fathers, leave-taking is a *philosophical* issue—taken as part of a broader cultural project to reconfigure masculinity or not taken due to fear of lingering stigmas and consequences linked to paid work and the male-breadwinner ideal. We discuss what these perceptions, decisions, and behaviors mean for projections about family inequity and public policy in the post-pandemic future.

2. 'Mom needs a break': Caring for autistic children in diverse welfare contexts

Hailey Rheault, Örebro University

This article comparatively explores how caring for young autistic children impacts parents' daily lives as gendered caregivers and citizens in Sweden and Canada. The research aims to contribute sociological insights into how care, work, and family-related decision-making between mothers and fathers is shaped and varies within distinct family policy and autism-related support systems. Using semi-structured, in-depth qualitative interviews and written accounts from parents and legal guardians of autistic children under 13 from diverse family backgrounds in select Canadian provinces (N = 17) and across Sweden (N = 16), as well as key autism professionals in both countries (N = 4), this study employs a thematic narrative framework to analyze how parents negotiate caregiving roles alongside work and other family obligations. Through a critical feminist and disability studies lens, the findings reveal that, to varying degrees, mothers in both countries assumed primary caregiving roles, managing intensive responsibilities from recognizing early signs of autism to advocating for their children's diverse needs. In Canada, mothers often explicitly negotiated these roles, citing barriers in public autism-related support and limited assistance from fathers, who tended to prioritize providing financial stability. In contrast, parents in Sweden described greater agency within decision-making practices related to their children's care alongside their paid work. Fathers were more likely to play active, supportive roles in daily family life, though gender differences were still present as mothers were more likely to reduce workloads or adjust careers to meet intensive caregiving demands. Still, parents in both contexts emphasized that navigating and filling gaps in public sector support was often their only viable option for securing their autistic children's wellbeing and development. This frequently required prioritizing their children's needs above their own and those of the broader family.

3. Employment, childcare, and schedules: An examination of working Canadian parents' unequal access to subsidized daycare by work schedule dimensions

Kenny Smith, University of Toronto

Since its announcement by the federal government in 2021, the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan to subsidize eligible licensed daycare has generated much interest for its promise to make childcare more affordable across the country. While the subsidy helps to achieve the goal of making childcare more affordable, it is unclear what effect this subsidy may have for parents whose work schedules necessitate childcare outside the hours typically offered at daycare centers. Previous studies on childcare arrangements and parents' work schedules demonstrate that

a number of work schedule arrangements common among low wage workers, including non-standard hours, inconsistent hours, and low schedule control, negatively impact parents' ability to secure childcare. Such workers, for whom affordable childcare would be especially beneficial, may not be able to realize subsidy benefits regardless of how affordable the care becomes. Using data from the 2023 Canadian Survey of Early Learning and Child Care, I assess the relationship between parents' licensed daycare use and measures of these schedule dimensions. This analysis sheds light on which workers are most likely to benefit from the CWELCC subsidies and which may be excluded. Preliminary results suggest that when even a single parent works night or evening shifts, children are less likely to be in licensed daycare, and that this deterrent effect is stronger among households with only one employed parent. Future efforts to facilitate Canadian parents' work-family balance should seek to expand the hours daycare services eligible for CWELCC subsidies operate to accommodate families with non-standard work hours.

4. The impacts of exclusions from family support programs for undocumented parents caring for young children in Toronto

Catherine Schmidt, Lakehead University

Many parents in Canada experience increased reliance on welfare-state programs and benefits - including a range of family support programs - during the early childhood period. Parents who are undocumented, however, are ineligible for most of the social programs aimed at supporting families through this period. Canadian family support policies include job-protected parental leave for the first 12-18 months of a child's life; paid parental leave benefits for those who qualify; an increasingly publicly funded system of formal centre-based childcare, with subsidies for low-income families; and the Canada Child Benefit which provides cash transfers to low- and middle-income parents. In this paper, I draw on policy analysis and interview data to examine how undocumented parents are largely excluded from these programs through a range of legal and administrative barriers that I conceptualize as forms of "*welfare-state bordering,*" and I explore the impacts of this bordering for families. Participant experiences highlight how in the absence of state support, after the birth of a child, mothers are made dependent on their partners or on others for their material survival, leading to the entrenchment of gendered divisions of labour within families, and heightening mothers' risk of exposure to gender-based violence and exploitation. These conditions contribute to poverty and material hardship, and worsening determinants of physical and mental health for mothers and families. Children of undocumented parents are also harmed by their exclusion from early childhood education opportunities, with potential developmental consequences, particularly for children with disabilities. I conclude with a discussion of key policy changes necessary to protect the human rights of undocumented mothers and their children. These include expanding eligibility for the Canada Child Benefit and childcare subsidies to ensure access for all children living in Canada.

(DIS9) Sociology of Disability: Disability and Research

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

This session addresses the questions: What research methods are conducive to disabled expression and empowerment? How might research methods communicate disabled agency and organization?

Session Organizers: Chris Churchill, University of Lethbridge and Athena Elafros, University of Lethbridge
Session Chair: Michelle Owen, University of Winnipeg

Presentations:

1. Access despite the institution: The work and praxis of community-based workshop planning

Erika Katzman, King's University College, Western University, **Mary Jean Hande,** Trent University**,** and **Megan Linton,** Disability Justice Network of Ontario and Carleton University; Sarah Malik and Leah Nicholson, Independent Researchers; Alessia Di Virgilio, Humber College; Jill-Anne Santiago, Migrants Resource Centre Canada; Bharati Sethi, Trent University; Ethel Tungohan, York University

Despite stated commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion, decolonization, and even accessibility (EDID-A), institutions that promote and fund research lack awareness of access considerations and are poorly equipped to support accessible research. Consequently, students, staff and faculty who endeavour to uphold commitments to EDID-A shoulder substantial and under-resourced workloads: access work that exacerbates inequities while "the existing social organization of the university is preserved and maintained" (Jung, 2003, p. 108). This paper describes the access work our team undertook while planning a community-based research workshop. The workshop aimed to gain input and guidance on the *Toward Just Care* project, to support the creation of homecare services that promote justice in care organizations and infrastructures, including working conditions and service delivery. Informed by disability justice and migrant justice frameworks, our participatory methodology sought to build solidarity and coalition between direct-care workers and care receivers: groups historically imagined and constructed to be in opposition. The planning process prompted us to think expansively about access, with concurrent anticipation and consideration for the access needs of participants representing multiple diverse groups. Our paper highlights the shortcomings of "checklist" approaches and articulates instead a vision for "relational access", emphasizing collective responsibilities and the benefit of adapting access practices to participants' specific needs (Hamraie, 2016). We argue that there is an ethical imperative for institutions to support and resource relational access, since the participation of historically marginalized communities, particularly those that have been excluded from and/or harmed by academic institutions, is predicated on meaningful access praxis. We hope that our findings will prove useful to researchers: designing accessible methods to support full participation in research; seeking institutional support for accessible research design; and advocating for anti-ableist research infrastructure (i.e. accessibly paced grant cycles, designated research funds for access costs).

2. Listen Louder: The Inclusion of Posthumanism in Disability Research

Aparna Raghu Menon and Pia Kontos, University of Toronto

In 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that around 30 million people diagnosed with autism are also non-verbal (CDC). Existing research on non-verbal autism has narrowly focused on reparative therapies and/or technological supports and on clinical outcomes of its use, resulting in limited, outcomes-based approaches. In this presentation, we argue that this is largely because current knowledge of non-verbal communication has been framed by the workings of oral speech, which brings with it the burden of an intensely humanist legacy. With an interest in understanding the lived complexity of non-verbal autistic communication, our proposed paper brings disability research on autism into conversation with posthumanist thought as

elucidated by theorists such as Deleuze and Guattari (1988) and Karen Barad (2007). Drawing on this conversation, we ask and explore the following question: how does paying attention to a communicative assemblage illuminate aspects of autistic non-verbal communication that may be rendered invisible by an overriding focus on verbal output? Building on decades of posthumanist work that has established the importance of considering the liveliness of the more-than-human, our paper seeks to open up spaces within disability research to describe a methodological framework referred to as posthuman disability studies. We use this proposed research framework to become-with a disability event-assemblage and explore verbal autistic communication as a product of a complex network of verbal and non-verbal expressions, technology, communicative partners, geographical spaces, and other contextual factors, all of which possess agential capacity. In doing so, we aim to invite conversations from more scholars who engage or wish to engage with nonhumans in their own disability research work.

3. The State Welfare Factory Gave Me Honor and Pride: Deaf People's Meaning-Making of Work in China

Miaoyan Yang and Xiaoyan Xiao, Xiamen University

Studies on people of disabilities have generally noted a lack of work value and self-worth alongside their socially excluded life experiences. Built on existing research, this article sets out to examine the meaning of work from an emic perspective of people of disabilities. By following the life histories of 29 Deaf people who worked in a state welfare factory, this study explores their meaning-making of work from an extended time-space perspective. Our longitudinal study from 2018-2023 shows that, although Deaf people in the larger society faced great prejudices, stereotypes, and discriminations due to their physical disabilities, especially in the 1960s onto 2000s, the state welfare factory worked as a temporal yet unique spiritual harbor where they found self-worth, honor, and pride. The achievement of Deaf people's work value and self-worth was largely due to the institutional acknowledgement and most importantly the institutional empowerment of Deaf people, which was reflected on an everyday disability-friendly work environment, deaf leadership, the institutional acknowledgement of Deaf people's work value, and sense of belongingness. By delving into Deaf people's meaning-making of work, this study offers a new perspective to understand people of disabilities. It alerts the importance of work-friendly environments as well as other supportive social space for the achievement of disabled people's self-worth in China and elsewhere.

(FTS4) Fattening Methods

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Fat Studies Research Cluster

In the commitment to sociological questions surrounding oppression, social worlds and the body, there has been a shift towards reframing methods as a way to bring forward a sense of 'togetherness.' The question of knowledge-creators, that being the knowers and object of study, marginalized communities and their self-knowledge have remained at the margins of sociology. In contemporary sociology, feminist sociology of knowledge speaks to this bifurcation of knowledge-practice and the dominant-subordinate power relations that come to exist in the field and outside of it. In particular, feminist standpoint theory emerged as a centering of one's lived experience within the two-worlds of gender (Harding 1987; Smith 1990; Braidotti 2022). Much of the theorizing

has advanced the construction of social knowledge around the themes of the body, subjectivity, power relations and complex structures across space and time. This project of revisioning the social world at both the micro and macro level is continued in the field of critical fat studies. Critical fat studies advances a fat standpoint theory as a way to not only continue the project of feminist sociologists, but to also bridge the activist and academic communities through various methodological approaches. With its roots in fat liberation, creating a 'fat community archive', and a desire for a collective pedagogical practice the aim is to map fatness and its everyday life-worlds (Pausé, 2014; Pratt, 2018). One way to do that is through methodological questions, such as: how can sociological methods be deployed to advance studies on sizeism and bodies?; what methodological approaches enable fat knowledge-practices, methods and stories to emerge?; How do we build a collective-centered fat praxis and methods? How do we grapple with 'traditional' ways of 'doing research' (ie., ethnography, participant observation) and move towards methods that merge the communities, such as research-creation practices (SSHRC, 2021)?

Session Organizers: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University
Session Chair: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presentations:

1. The Fat Brown Educator: Pedagogical Stories of Flesh-as-Text

Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

In the realm of education, critical scholars serve as conduits of knowledge, consistently examining social reality and its constitution. Within fat studies, education has emerged as a critical site for analyzing the intersecting systems of sizeism, racism, ableism, and more (Cameron & Russell, 2016). As fat educators, we not only teach material that examines the debates between fat studies and other disciplines, but our own stories and bodies also become a form of pedagogy, acting as sites of resistance and reimagining. As an interdisciplinary, intersectional educator, I reflect on my role in producing and disseminating knowledge in critical disability studies, deviance and stigma, and theories of the body and embodiment through literature that centers the voices and stories of BIPOC scholars. Additionally, I have considered my own body-that of a fat, brown, femme educator-and how my flesh, as text, critiques the established order and knowledge/power relations that have historically erased us across space and time. Aligned with the teachings of feminist scholars bell hooks and Rosi Braidotti, I have cultivated courses and classroom spaces that encourage moments of critique and critical engagement, with a focus on embodiment and relationality. Hooks (1990) states that "students are much more engaged when they are learning how to think critically and analytically by exploring concrete aspects of their reality, particularly their experience of popular culture, medicine, education, and other social institutions" (p. 6). To guide them on this path of critique and deep engagement, it is not just the course material that facilitates the dismantling of oppressive discourses within their social reality; it also includes the bodies and shared presence of their educators and peers. This paper theorizes a posthuman fat pedagogy to unpack moments of deep learning, knowledge exchange, and transformation by welcoming our flesh as stories, critiques, and resilience. It expands on the simple act of entering the classroom space as a fat, racialized femme 'flesh-as-text' and, the embeddedness and relationality of educator and student bodies as sites of subjugated knowledge and knowledge mobilization (McPhail et al., 2017; Braidotti, 2019).

2. Fat Fetish Freedom: Identity, Bodywork, and Affective labour for fat women in Kink

Kaitlyn Fortune, Memorial University of Newfoundland

My dissertation work aims to examine the affective labour, bodywork, and identity of fat women in Kink. This project inquires into larger social structures of marginalization and anti-fat bias, examining the impact of body-centric participation in arenas of kink on identity formation and fat liberation; I explore the possibilities for de-equating fatness with undesirability by revaluing sexual-social identity formation, negative gendering, and diverse modes of embodiment and affective labour. I seek to answer the following questions: *Does social capital accrued through competent, desirable Kink skills help or hinder the creation and navigation of fat identity within Kink? How do factors of negative gendering, marginalization (namely fatphobia), and a lack of positive representation of fat sexualities impact who feels able to join communities and build Kinkster identities? How might the lack of representation of fat women in erotic fiction impact access to Kink for fat women, and how might their involvement in the collaborative creation of erotic fiction impact identity-making through crafting their own fat actualities?* Using a combination of Participatory Action Research (PAR) and Arts-Based Research (ABR) by way of erotic social fiction, I aim to explore the possibilities for differential fat futures that may be possible through overt physical and sexual activities of Kink that may not be present in broader society. Using a decolonial framework, I ensure that fat Kinksters remain at the center of both the process and the products of this work to produce opportunities for good, rather than harm, in the areas of representation, community identity, and fat futures.

3. Fattening public sociology: Preforming fat studies outside the academy

Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University

In recent years, I have found myself in positions of engaging in 'public fat studies' in a way I hadn't anticipated during my time in grad school. Whether it is speaking to health care workers about anti-fat bias in health care spaces, coordinating with fat colleagues to run a new fat studies journal that aims to incorporate non-academic knowledge, creating modules for pre-med undergrad students, or most recently, recording podcasts about my thoughts on changes to the use of BMI, I find myself engaging in a public facing sociology that has me nervous. These opportunities are incredibly rewarding, but also anxiety inducing. The fat body cannot be hidden; it is in a constant state of hypervisibility (Gailey, 2014) and forced confession (Murray, 2009) The fear that comes from being a visually fat women and sharing personal and vulnerable experiences is immense, and often has me ruminating about the potential backlash of 'committing' fat studies outside the academy. In this paper, I will reflect on the challenges of fattening public sociology, and comment on the ways in which the benefits outweigh the pushback.

(IND4b) Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization II

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

This session features insightful and important scholarly works, projects and reflections on Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization so that we can centre these important issues for learning and discussion.

Session Organizer and Chair: Kerry Bailey, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Becoming Canadian on Indigenous Land: Narratives Available to Newcomers in Settlement Material

Rena Vanstone. Toronto Metropolitan University

The narratives about Canada and Indigenous People that newcomers receive matter for ongoing Settler-Indigenous relations. Critically analyzing the information given to newcomers offers a unique opportunity to interrogate narratives that explicitly convey what the settler colonial state of Canada wants newcomers to know and believe about their new home. To this end, I conducted a Critical Discourses Analysis on the narratives constructed for newcomers in the Canadian citizenship test study guide and general welcome guides created by provinces and municipalities. To identify potential alternatives to these dominant narratives, I also looked at material created from an Indigenous perspective. Drawing on the debate regarding whether newcomers are settlers (Lawrence & Dua, 2005; Sharma & Wright, 2008) and the contributions of Soma Chatterjee (2019), I argue that "settler" must be understood as a social position defined by one's relationship to the land, Indigenous People, and the history of Turtle Island, rather than an intrinsic identity. I further argue that the narratives available to newcomers to understand these relationships and "what it means to be Canadian" or to be a Treaty Person necessarily inform their social positioning and, furthermore, inform the kinds of futures that can be imagined and acted towards. The narratives available to newcomers in most of the state and civil society produced materials contain settler colonial ideology and seek to position newcomers within a settler worldview, including an exploitative relationship to land and ignorance of treaties. Within these materials, discourses of reconciliation are hollow because they lack accountability for colonial violence. While these dominant narratives seek to perpetuate a settler futurity (Tuck & Yang, 2012) by positioning of newcomers as settlers, I find that the Indigenous-focused guides show how a politics of place (Arat-Koç, 2020) can help position newcomers as guests within a treaty relationship.

2. Canadian...AND settler: toward reconciliation through settler identity development

Eileen Mah Griculk, Queen's University Belfast

Speeches and reports have called upon 'all Canadians' to engage in reconciliation. The TRC's overarching message was centred on building Indigenous-settler relationship with a pathway presented in the 94 Calls to Action. A new respectful Indigenous-settler relationship relies on Canadians to acknowledge their identity as settlers, in addition to their identity as Canadian. Who is 'Canadian' is a social construction from myths, narratives and institutions which have evolved over the past five hundred years. Less conscious to Canadians is their position, role and identity as settlers in the Canadian settler colonial reality. More research is needed to explore how consciousness of one's settler identity in a settler colonial system could encourage behaviour that builds a more respectful relationship with Indigenous peoples. The present research examines how settlers in Canada understand and develop their settler identity. The underlying premise is that settlers in Canada are conscious of their identity as Canadians but less conscious of their identity as settlers. Identity work to develop the settler identity at the individual level may influence individual behaviour, and extend to collective behaviour, for social action toward reconciliation. The overall methodology is qualitative and participatory. Innovative methods to examine settler identity

development are 1-to-1 coaching and group coaching as meaning-making activities to help participants clarify their settler identity. The participant population are students in higher education in B.C. Preliminary findings are positive with participants reporting an increase in their awareness and understanding of their settler identity from the study's coaching activities. This presentation will discuss initial findings, implications for social change, and considerations for praxis.

(SCL1) Sociology of Space, Place, and Time
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

This session features research that contributes to the sociology of space, place, and time. Social processes occur in space and over time. They are intertwined with spatiality and temporality. Everything we study is emplaced, and place plays an agentic role in social processes. In this session, we consider research on the sociology of home, immigration and belonging, cinema and place, music and place, collective memory, sociology of space, sociology of time, temporal resistance, spatial and temporal inequality, space and social movements, etc., from theoretical as well as empirical perspectives.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University and Foroogh Mohammadi, Acadia University

Presentations:

1. The alienation of the diaspora: The memory residues in the construction of border
Abu Haque, York University

The diaspora community occupies a space that is conceptualized not only as ambiguous but also as a liminal space between the one they left behind and the one they occupy, which Bhabha (1990) termed as the 'third space.' Foucault (1986) would identify this in-between space as a form of 'other spaces' belonging to neither utopias nor heterotopias—spaces that provide a mixed experience like mirrors. This space also relates to what Freud termed memory residues (2010). Sometimes it's a smell, or just the aura of a place, at other times it's an uncanny resemblance of a familiar view or sound that triggers the memory residue and they are immediately transferred over to another space and time. The transfer is instant and very vivid. It makes their existing reality vanish and transcends space-time to elevate them into that third space—a space of confusion and ambiguity. How do borders manifest in the psyche of the diaspora? How do they affect their agency? How do they maneuver through this mental dilemma, while at the same time staying connected to the homeland through transnational ties? The question about how borders manifest in the imagination of the hyphenated identities demands proper scrutiny, as in reality there are no natural boundaries manifest between countries. It is an imaginary line put in place through a political construct based on the imagination of a people (Anderson, 2006; Kohn, 2017; Gellner, 1983; Hobsbawm, 1992). How does this transition from the mental to the physical occur? The diaspora communities, being both an outsider and an insider, are in constant conflict with outside and within. Their desire to contribute to the host society is severed through this disconnect. This isolation seems impenetrable and almost impossible for them to break free. But by now, as they have moved on, there is a general disconnect between them and the people and culture of the country of their origin. Therefore, the space they are stuck in is an ambiguous one, they are at this crossroads and constantly search for a position that would resolve this ambiguity and contradiction. The research explores the nature and

psyche of the diasporic mind based on a mixed methodology: a thought experiment based on concepts, an analysis of theory and secondary data, as well as the lived experience of the diaspora community.

2. Henri Lefebvre and Feminist Studies of the Household and the Global Intimate

Rob Shields, University of Alberta

This paper considers the space/time of the domestic household as sexamined in the sociological work of Henri Lefebvre such as "Critique of Everyday Life" (3 vols.) and other related texts. Households are central to Henri Lefebvre's 1940s-1980s critiques of everyday life. Households, the domestic are an area deserving re-examination due to the importance of notions of the "oikos" to the formation of capitalism (e.g. see the work of Mitropoulos on governance, contract, patrilineal inheritance, and private property). They are the first spaces of everyday modernity that he analyses and include an extended sociology of women's contradictory roles in consumption and nurture. Households perpetuate archaic, patriarchal forms and are incompletely colonized by media and consumerism. On this basis, Lefebvre champions peasant households as repositories of alternative potential which could form the basis for a different socioeconomic order than capitalism. Feminist analysis of 'the global intimate' has seized on this promise but develop beyond Lefebvre's heterosexist and romanticized view of post-World War II women as ambiguous, oppressed and deluded. This paper mines Lefebvre's key texts for his treatment of heterosexual cis-women and men, violence, intimacy, patriarchy, feminism and gender. These dimensions of the household give a more precise understanding of Lefebvre's romanticization of the patriarchal peasant household and community. My critique is that Lefebvre cannot be regarded as more that a transitional figure from the Marxist tradition who prefigures feminist analyses of the global intimate. However, households hold promise as a 'margin-within:' an enclaved, nested, alternate spatialisation within the dominant order of social space. The everyday household emerges as a site and social form of differences and contradictions that could be extended into a 'differential space' that supports maximal diversity and opportunity with minimal organisation.

3. Spatio-temporal identities: Exploring intersections of fashion, bodies, and emotions

Tristan Nkoghe, Concordia University

Through the lenses of space, place, and time, I investigate the intersections of fashion, emotion, and identity. By integrating affect theory with fashion studies, I explore how clothing situates individuals within spatial and temporal contexts, mediating their relationships to the self, others, and the world around them. This research inserts itself in the recent scholarship connecting affect theories with fashion studies, much like Roberto Filippello and Ilya Parkins' 2023 book—however, I bring a novel perspective embedded in a spatial and temporal dimension. I draw from Lucia Ruggerone's critique of the centrality of the visual in the West and expand on her notion of how mirrors and social spaces of self-presentation shape identity and are particularly bounded by time and place. Moreover, Ellen Sampson's phenomenological analysis of stained garments highlights how traces of wear inscribe personal and collective histories onto clothing, embedding temporal and spatial narratives into the fabric of everyday life (and clothes). Additionally, I look at Renate Stauss' examination of dress therapy where garments become tools for navigating embodied experiences within specific institutional and cultural contexts. From mid-century psychiatric wards to contemporary therapy spaces, I look at how these practices underscore the ways fashion participates in creating temporal

and spatial frameworks of care, coercion, and resistance. Through intersectional analyses, I argue that fashion functions as a material and emotional archive, connecting bodies to particular times, places, and cultural geographies. Garments embody histories, negotiate anxieties, and offer forms of resistance that are deeply embedded in the spatial and temporal dimensions of modern life. Through an interdisciplinary approach bridging sociology, psychoanalysis, and cultural theory, this paper highlights how the consumption and embodied experience of fashion interacts with and transforms spatio-temporal dimensions.

4. Exploring the Spatial and Temporal Experiences of Nostalgia Among Metro Vancouver Residents

Kelly Yeung, University of British Columbia

Over the past few decades, Metro Vancouver has undergone significant change in its built form and the groups who reside in and frequent those spaces. In correspondence with such change, this study aims to examine how long-term residents make sense of the nostalgia they experience — and how it may influence one's individual and collective identity. Do their past recollections of the city, specifically the places they used to frequent that have changed or cease to exist, inform how they belong? With the insights gained from narrative interviews conducted with equal numbers of participants from two distinct age groups, ages 19 to 25 and 44 to 59, a thematic analysis explores how nostalgia is experienced similarly or differently between the groups. One might assume that because individuals are younger, and have undergone fewer significant life changes in comparison, they are less likely to feel or understand nostalgia to the extent of an older adult. However, findings from this research show that nostalgia is a phenomenon that is experienced across all ages, albeit in different forms and for varying reasons. Moreover, the findings emphasize the significance of place in shaping identity and memory, as well as the role that nostalgia plays in fostering socially and geographically bound networks. Understanding these varied experiences is crucial in sustaining both the progress and preservation of meaningful community connections within an urban area akin to Metro Vancouver.

(SPE2) Housing, Homelessness, and Urban Social Policies

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Social Policy and Social Equality Research Cluster

Urban social policies gain some of their academic and practical importance from the sheer size of concentrated populations that they affect, as well as from the complexity and seriousness of social problems they attempt to address. Whether we consider diverse forms of inequality, marginalisation, and their consequences as caused by specificities of urban life or as merely concentrated in cities more than in rural areas, urban social policies must address them, modifying or controlling them with different degrees of success. These forms of inequality include poverty, social exclusion, economy and labour market changes, housing, gentrification and socio-spatial segregation, immigration and settlement. Increasing proportion of urban dwellers experience difficulties in accessing and remaining in appropriate housing. For a significant and growing number of urbanites, this means homelessness - no access to housing at all. Devastating consequences of homelessness are well known, yet the extent of this problem has increased since Canadian government declared housing (in the 2017 National Housing Strategy Act - NHSA) to be a legislated right. Canadian cities, whose ability to address this problem depends crucially on federal and

provincial funding, have formed policies to address various aspect of both the homelessness and a broader housing inequality. Deepening housing inequality is liked, on one side, to dominance of market and financialization in housing in general, and, on the other, to limitations on public policy brought by long-entrenched neo-liberal influences in politics and policy formation.

Session Organizer and Chair: Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Housing First and the Federal Homelessness Strategy in Atlantic Canada

Daniel Kudla, **Wasifa Shamma**, and **Sanaz Labbaf**, Memorial University

"Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy" is the federal government's latest version of the national homelessness plan (Infrastructure Canada, 2019). The strategy aims to reduce homelessness by 50% by the end of 2028 by funding designated "Community Entities" across 61 Canadian cities. Community Entities are tasked with collaborating with local community actors (government, nonprofit, and private sector) to execute local homeless reduction strategies. While some scholars have examined the dominant policies and political arrangement of the federal homelessness strategy (see Klodawsky, 2009; Doberstein, 2016), there is a lack of understanding of the extent that collaboration occurs among these diverse set of actors. This paper therefore asks: what are the dynamics and relationships between the diverse set of actors throughout the local implementation of the federal homelessness strategy? Drawing from Fligstein and McAdam's (2012) theory of strategic action fields, this paper provides a sociological analysis of homelessness governance across three anonymous Atlantic Canadian cities. Specifically, it examines the interaction between state-enacted Community Entities (hereafter CEs) and a larger "homelessness field" comprised of a diverse set of nonprofit, state, and private actors who engage within the federal homelessness strategy. This research involves a qualitative research design, including 20 interviews with local nonprofit representatives and a content analysis of CE homeless policy documents. There are three main findings. First, existing nonprofits describe a *jurisdiction creep* insofar as resources have predominately been directed towards expanding CE staff, thereby infringing on the services provided by preexisting nonprofits. Second, there is frustration with the lack of provincial and municipal involvement in the federal strategy which has resulted in a reliance on private landlords to provide housing. Third, little collaboration occurs in collecting local data on homeless populations as nonprofits are skeptical of the intentions of government databases.

2. Making residential evictions legitimate? An analysis of the Tribunal administratif du logement decisions

Renaud Goyer, Université du Québec à Montréal; Pascale Dufour, Université de Montréal

Notre proposition de communication vise à présenter une recherche en cours sur la manière dont les locataires défendent leurs droits en s'opposant aux recours introduits par leurs propriétaires devant le Tribunal administratif du logement dans les cas de reprises de logement. Pour ce faire, nous présentons une analyse quantitative et qualitative des décisions en matière de reprise de logement des années 2019, 2021 et 2023 (plus de 3000 décisions) en relevant les formes de représentation, les motifs, les bénéficiaires et les ordonnances des reprises. Cela nous permet de réfléchir au rôle que joue le Tribunal administratif du logement du Québec face à la crise du logement et en particulier dans son traitement des demandes d'expulsions résidentielles à partir de du cas des reprises de logement par les propriétaires. Au Québec, on associe généralement les

politiques de logement aux programmes qui financent le logement social, communautaire et sans but lucratif. Or, le parc de logement social y est assez limité avec un pourcentage d'habitation autour de 5%. Les gouvernements misent sur les réglementations du marché locatif pour assurer le droit au logement au Québec (Bergeron-Gaudin, 2023). Ainsi, la plupart des dispositions protégeant les locataires et par ricochet le droit au logement se retrouve dans le code civil et le TAL est l'institution chargée d'arbitrer ces droits. Notre projet s'inscrit dans la sociologie du traitement judiciaire des expulsions par les tribunaux administratifs, comme le TAL (voir l'étude de François [2023] sur le traitement des expulsions en France et celle de Godart, Swyngedouw, Van Criekingen et van Heur [2023] en Belgique) et des liens entre le travail de ces institution et l'aliénation résidentielle.

The purpose of this paper is to present ongoing research on how tenants defend their rights by opposing their landlords before the Tribunal administratif du logement du Québec in cases of housing repossessions. To do this, we present a quantitative and qualitative analysis of housing repossession decisions for the years 2019, 2021 and 2023 (more than 3000 decisions) by identifying the forms of representation, the reasons, the beneficiaries and the orders for repossessions. This allows us to reflect on the role played by the Tribunal administratif du logement du Québec in the face of the housing crisis and in particular in its processing of residential eviction applications based on the case of repossession of housing by landlords. In Quebec, housing policies are generally associated with programs that fund social, community and non-profit housing. However, the social housing stock is quite limited with a percentage of housing around 5%. Governments rely on rental market regulations to ensure the right to housing in Quebec (Bergeron-Gaudin, 2023). Thus, most of the provisions protecting tenants and by extension the right to housing are found in the Civil Code and the TAL is the institution responsible for arbitrating these rights. Our project is part of the sociology of the judicial treatment of evictions by administrative courts, such as the TAL (see the study by François [2023] on the treatment of evictions in France and that of Godart, Swyngedouw, Van Criekingen and van Heur [2023] in Belgium) and the links between the work of these institutions and residential alienation.

3. Philanthropy and sustained passion aren't enough: Professionals working in youth homelessness prevention

Rebecca Stroud and Jacqueline Kennelly, Carleton University

Scholarship in Canada regarding youth at risk of/with lived experiences of homelessness has been beset by challenges in definition and typologies (Gaetz et al., 2024). This has generated barriers in both research and practice to document and respond to youth homelessness in all of its complexity (Rodrigue, 2016). Approaches to addressing this intersectional issue have historically primarily focused on crisis management (Gaetz et al., 2018), with a recent shift of attention toward prevention as a priority strategy (Gaetz et al., 2024). This paper presentation provides findings from the second phase of our comparative and international study, which engaged experts and practitioners working in Australia, the USA, and Wales, in the fields of policy, law, social work, education, research, and program evaluation. One study goal is to elucidate school-based youth homelessness prevention policies or practices that could be cross-applied to the Canadian context. Our focused areas were selected for their cultural/governance similarities, which could offer possibilities of salient cross-application propositions to emerge. In its first phase, an environmental scan of policies, legislation, and literature focusing on the Canadian context was conducted, and found a dearth of policies explicitly addressing homelessness from prevention or school-based

strategies (Poulin et al., 2024). Data were collected by means of interviews and focus groups beginning in 2023 and concluding in 2024. Findings include: 1) Definitions variation, even within the same country, are creating barriers to young people receiving supports to which they are entitled; 2) Roles played by charitable organizations and philanthropy to fund core youth homelessness prevention programs, leaves funding precarious; 3) The existence of passionate and persistent advocates in each country who have, despite the above barriers, made remarkable strides towards implementing and sustaining youth homelessness prevention programs. These findings are of significant important to policymakers in Canada, and warrant further investigation and action.

(TEA1a) Teaching as Innovation and Praxis I: Applied and Creative Pedagogy
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Teaching and Learning Cluster

Teaching sociology is both a critical practice (praxis) and an innovative process that engages students with the world and adapts to social and technological shifts. This session highlights how the classroom may foster critical thinking, address real-world issues, and inspire meaningful social change.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Darryn DiFrancesco, University of Northern British Columbia and Jiyoung Lee-An, Thompson Rivers University

Presentations:

1. Black Canadian art for teaching and learning in higher education
Stephanie Fearon, York University; Alyssa Fearon, Public Scholar

For the past decade, there has been a growing recognition of the potential for the arts to enhance teaching and learning (Kleefeld & Farnese, 2015; Wehbi, et al., 2017; Quintyne, 2024). Such literature upholds the importance of arts-informed methods for teaching and learning in higher education. Arts-informed methods, distinguished from those that are arts-based, refer to practices that are not grounded in the production of art, but instead leverage the arts as an expressive tool in education, research, and practice (Cole & Knowles, 2008). Despite extant literature on the use of arts-informed methods to enhance teaching and learning, a dearth of scholarship explores the ways Black Canadian art can inform pedagogy and curriculum in higher education (Waddell et al., 2016; Wehbi, et al., 2017). Underpinned by Black Critical Theory (BlackCrit), this presentation interrogates the ways Black Canadian art can support pedagogical and curricular practices and decisions in post-secondary settings. Specifically, the authors reveal how educators can draw on Black cultural production, especially vintage photography, to engage graduate students in critical discussions about the complexities of Black life in Canada. This presentation is guided by the following questions: (1) What do photographs taken by Black Canadians in the early 1900s tell us about Black life and cultural production in Canada? (2) How might pedagogical practices and curricular decisions grounded in vintage Black Canadian art deepen graduate students' understandings of Black life? In this presentation, the authors affirm Black Canadian art as a creative site for Black people to validate their experiences as well as engage in dialogue, conversation, debates, and even refusal (Fatona, 2006; McKittrick, 2023; Walcott, 2023). Centring the exhibition *Black Prairies*, the authors advance a transdisciplinary approach to using vintage Black Canadian photography for teaching and learning in higher education.

2. Sharing decolonial responsibility in the sociology classroom: Collective Land Acknowledgement assignment

Jiyoung Lee-An, Thompson Rivers University

From TRC's Calls to Action in Canada to the global student movement of the "Why is My Curriculum White?" campaign, the push for decolonizing the university has heightened across the world. In line with these global and grassroots movements, this paper examines how collective land acknowledgement assignments can contribute to sharing decolonial responsibility in the sociology classroom. The discipline of Sociology, which has been part of the hegemonic Western knowledge system since its inception at the time of global colonialism and imperialism, requires a fundamental transformation of theory and praxis toward decolonization. By combining intersectional stories, decolonial worldviews, and "anti-colonial sociological imagination," which centers "settler-colonialism as a structuring structure" (Sherwood, 2022), this collective land acknowledgement assignment in the first-year Intro Sociology course aims to foster decolonial solidarities and commitment among students who have multiple positionalities originating from their own (and their ancestral) trajectories to the land. Finally, this assignment builds the land acknowledgment practice as a constructive learning journey with a critical view of how land acknowledgment is routinely tokenized.

3. Cultural References, Memes, TikTok, & GenAI: Applied Learning with Bonus Assignments

Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

This presentation discusses the use of applied learning, through the example of a creative bonus assignment. Some students learn best through application as they can fail to grasp a concept until they see it in action. In this innovative bonus assignment, students select a course concept or theory and relate such to either a) a cultural reference (a piece of music, tv, film, or art), b) a meme or TikTok they create, or c) an image they create using generative AI. Students then write a 1-2 paged application (unassisted) explaining how the reference they have found (or created) can help others to understand the concept or theory. By encouraging students to make connections with cultural references (or artifacts they create), we can enliven students' sociological imagination, while fostering the capacity for creativity, application, and knowledge translation. Incorporating limited-use of generative AI into the assignment can also facilitate an in-class discussion about the pros and cons of utilizing tools like ChatGPT and Microsoft Co-Pilot. This innovative applied learning-based assessment can encourage students to see the strange in the familiar and to make connections between concepts, theory, and the every-day world.

(AIS5) Exploring Gendered Anti-Palestinian Racism

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: CSA Anti-Islamophobia Subcommittee

In this interactive panel discussion, we introduce, explore, and develop the concept of gendered anti-Palestinian racism (APR). Gendered APR builds on existing definitions of APR and demonstrates how this particular articulation of racism reflects a combination of sexist and racist ideologies similar to theoretical articulations of imperial feminism, gendered Orientalism, and gendered Islamophobia; however, gendered APR is distinct. Anchoring our analyses with the work of

Palestinian scholars across the diaspora, particularly our sisters in Palestine, we explore various forms of gendered APR alongside Palestinian women's' epistemic and political resistance against it.

Panel Organizers and Discussants:
Wafaa Hasan, University of Toronto
Muna Saleh, Concordia University of Edmonton

(ANS5b) Critical Inquiries into Animal Suffering and Death II
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Animals in Society Research Cluster

This session features presentations that critically examine how the suffering and death of nonhuman animals are framed, justified, and institutionalised across media, religion, and governance. Certain species are positioned as threats, nuisances, or economic resources, reinforcing cultural narratives that sustain their exploitation. Political, religious, and economic interests shape the normalisation of violence against nonhuman animals, embedding these practices within legal, social, and ideological frameworks while also generating sites of resistance and contestation. The media plays a central role in constructing speciesist narratives, particularly in the portrayal of certain nonhuman animals as "pests" whose killing is depicted as patriotic or economically necessary. Abrahamic religious traditions have historically reinforced the subjugation of nonhuman animals through practices such as animal sacrifice and factory farming, yet these same traditions also contain ethical frameworks that challenge such exploitation. In wildlife management, the rhetoric surrounding certain species has been instrumental in justifying ecologically and socially harmful practices, including culling programs that rely on language and techniques designed to neutralise moral and ethical concerns.

Session Organizer and Chair: Stephen Muzzatti, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. Spectacular Failures and Deep-Rooted Hopes: Western Religions on Animal Suffering
Boguslawa Gatarek and **Andrew Domzalski,** Madonna University

The last few decades have seen a proliferation of analyses in the new field of animal theology. Yet, explorations of the impact of institutionalized religion as a social tool for animal exploitation lag. This presentation aims to demonstrate how religion has been shaped by the human desire and perceived need to subjugate other-than-human animals while at the same time becoming a source of reinforcement for cultural practices supporting that desire. The presenters focus their lenses on the Western or Abrahamic religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. All three belief systems were initially formed within the Middle Eastern agricultural milieu, albeit at different times in history, yet with quite similar cultural practices regarding other-than-human animals. In time, Abrahamic religious views have become the dominant way of relating to other-than-human animals in Western societies, leading to justifying such practices as animal sacrifice, indiscriminate legal killing of nuisance animals, and, ultimately, factory farming, to name a few. These practices are prevalent today in North America, Europe and the Middle East and are deeply rooted in current mainstream religious views. Yet, the very same religions that allow for other-than-human animal exploitation also include in their teaching important admonitions and safeguards for animal welfare. The presenters analyze three cultural practices involving killing other-than-human animals

to show how they are supported by religious beliefs and how welfare safeguards are overridden by anthropocentric interests, economic or otherwise. They also discuss how emphasizing the existing admonitions and safeguards, historically ignored by mainstream Western religious leaderships, can help fight institutionalized violence against animals in societies built on the Abrahamic faiths.

2. Slayers, rippers, and blitzes: Dark humour and Possum Cruelty in New Zealand

Emily Major, New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies

The representation of "pest" animals in mass media can reflect wider societal attitudes about belonging, race, and purity. In New Zealand, the Australian brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) is portrayed as the nation's top enemy. This project examined online news articles published in New Zealand between 2016 and 2023 to explore how possums were framed after the creation of the *Predator Free 2050* "pest" eradication campaign that sought to eradicate all invasive rats, stoats, and possums. Through a process of qualitative thematic analysis, it was discovered that themes of militancy, economy, and desensitization of cruelty were paired with dark humour and extreme objectification of possums. This has created a culture of creaturely racism and speciesist xenophobia that presents cruelty as patriotism. A new media ethics that prioritizes an intersectional, anti-speciesist praxis is necessary to prevent the nation's enculturation of vigilante slayers who are encouraged to kill those deemed to not belong. This conference presentation interrogates how the media frames possum suffering and death through a combination of humour, patriotism, and speciesism. Despite this drive to exterminate possums, their bodies are continuously exploited through capitalism for their fur and flesh. Companies such as McDonald Textiles, refer to possum fur as an "ethical fur of choice" for its consumers. Similarly, Untouched World remarks how the "happy marriage" of possum fur and merino sheep's wool proves "pests can make magic". The flesh of possums is also prepared into dog food rolls, of which companies, such as Possyum's Fond Foods, market their products as putting a "decent dent into possum populations". This begs the question: Does New Zealand really want to get rid of possums?

3. Applying the Techniques of Neutralization to Examine Online Representations of Wolf Killings

Tandeep Sidhu, University of Waterloo

The reintroduction of gray wolves to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) is among the most politically and socially contested reintroductions. Numerous ecological and economic benefits accompanied the successful reintroduction of gray wolves, but the continued persecution of this keystone species remains a threat to its long-term survival. After being delisted from the *Endangered Species Act*, the ecological management of gray wolves has been delegated to the state governments of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Unsurprisingly, this change has resulted in (a) the expansion of political rhetoric vilifying the species and (b) the culling of gray wolves through various inhumane methods (i.e. snare trapping, bounty killing contests, 'gut shotting'). The culling of gray wolves persists despite substantial empirical research and public advocacy highlighting the harms of this practice. The question then emerges as to how those engaged in the culling of wolves neutralize their actions. Using Sykes and Matza's (1957) concept of the 'techniques of neutralization', this paper engages in a content analysis of YouTube videos documenting the culling of gray wolves. More specifically, the paper examines what techniques wolf hunters deploy to neutralize what is otherwise considered an inhumane practice. The results of the paper demonstrate that these actors deploy each of the techniques of neutralization (denial of

responsibility, denial of injury, denial of the victim, condemnation of the condemners, and appeal to higher loyalties) to justify engaging in an ecologically and socially harmful practice. The contributions of these findings are further contextualized using critical criminological, zemiological, and 'green criminology' perspectives to discuss the continued threats facing predator species in the GYE. The broader implications of bolstering protections for gray wolves in the GYE and how sociological research is fundamental to conservation efforts.

(APS4) Community-based Research: Empowering Communities and Youth for Collective Awareness and Changes

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Research Cluster

This paper presentation session, chaired by an experienced social work researcher and educator, will highlight community-based research as a transformative approach to addressing social challenges. The research methodology focuses on cooperative inquiry, fostering collaboration between researchers and community members to ensure participants' voices are central to both the research process and its implications. This session will feature three to five presentations on various PAR projects focused on youth populations, showcasing best practices, key findings, and ethical considerations in applying community-based research across different contexts. Presentations will cover topics such as working with marginalized youth in Canadian and international communities, along with other community-based initiatives. Each speaker will discuss their methodological choices and brief findings, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships while addressing practical and ethical challenges and strategies for achieving impactful outcomes. A concluding discussion will offer reflections to deepen understanding of community-based research's potential to bridge the gap between academic research and community needs.

Session Organizer: Quan Nguyen, University of Calgary
Session Chair: Catherine Vanner, University of Windsor

Presentations:

1. Youth Striving to Accelerate Results: Community-Based Research as Pathway to Leadership Development

Olivia Boonstra and **Nicole Collier,** Eviance

Drawing on 30 years of experience in community-based research, researchers at Eviance have created a program called "Youth Striving to Accelerate Results" (YSTAR), which aims to share Eviance's knowledge with youth with disabilities (YWD) who are interested in becoming leaders in cross-disability movements. The YSTAR program aims to utilize community research training and practice as a pathway towards creating connection, collaboration, and leadership development within diverse disability communities. Fellows are involved in activities such as participatory research, ethics proposals, peer learning, community engagement, network development, and advocacy. These skills have all been identified as essential for collective and individual leadership development for YWD in Canada (Bruce & Parker, 2012; Grenwelge & Zhang, 2013; Kelly & Carson, 2012). In this presentation, we introduce our project and outline some of the emerging themes and best practices for engaging with youth and developing leadership skills specifically in YWD. This includes methods of co-design, professional development plans, and boosting self and collective advocacy skills (Iwasaki, 2016; McMahon et al., 2023; Tang Yan et al., 2022). We also explain how

this project values the lived experiences of YWD and the perspectives and contributions of YSTAR fellows. Overall, we will consider current findings from the project literature review, environmental scan, and detail how the program is running, with insights from the fellows themselves. Youth have been central to the program since its inception and was created and led by two youth at Eviance with input from the Eviance Youth Commitee. We also utilized co-design so that fellows had a direct impact on the curriculum and programming. We aim to deepen understandings of lived experiences and illuminate the experiences of YWD, whilst fostering connections within equity-deserving communities. Further, we hope to encourage interest in community-based research and use it as a tool for self and community development.

2. Passing it to Me: Experiences and Recommendations for Supporting Youth in Transnational Feminist Work

Catherine Vanner, Valerie Alexander, and **Meenal Singh,** University of Windsor

What should meaningful youth participation in activism, policymaking, and research look like? This presentation describes participatory action research (PAR) that studied experiences of transnational youth-led feminist activism for gender transformative education. It involved focus groups and digital story creation with 12 activists from 11 countries across Africa and Asia who were part of the global Transform Education network. Results are considered within transnational feminist theory, emphasizing feminist solidarity in addressing connections between local and global power structures through collaborative activism. Amidst a global gender backlash, youth activists are facilitating change and making substantive impacts within youth-led and intergenerational activism. They have clear recommendations for mentorship that expand their funding and capacities to implement their own agendas, seek powerful partners that will amplify their voices in spaces where they are dismissed or barred from participating, and facilitate sustained opportunities to influence decision-making that involves diverse groups of youth representatives. With the goal of applying the youth participants' recommendations directly within our own research practice, we describe our methodological choices to centre youth voices in knowledge mobilization, giving youth activists the opportunity to be identified in the digital stories and research results, to publicly disseminate their digital stories, and to co-publish and co-present the research findings in virtual and in-person spaces around the world. We reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented by community partnerships with youth activists and the large international organizations already supporting them. We mobilized these networks to realize the youth participants' stated goals of making their stories heard as widely as possible by people in power, with the hope that they may consequently engage with youth activists as true partners in work for educational change.

3. Evaluating Student Learning in Course-linked Community Engaged Research

Leigh-Ann Waldropt-Bonair, Sara Dorow and Michelle Maroto, University of Alberta

This presentation shares initial findings from the evaluation of a course-linked community engaged research (CL-CER) project conducted over the 2024-25 academic year and in partnership with PolicyWise, an Edmonton-based non-profit. In this project, undergraduate and graduate students across three courses -- Power, Politics, and Policymaking in Canada (POL S 527, Dr. Wesley), Qualitative Methods in Social Research (SOC 418, Dr. Dorow), and Applied Research Internship (SOC 415, Dr. Maroto) -- are using a range of methods to generate community profiles on the topic of children and youth for Edmonton, AB. Methods include creating policy maps, conducting key

informant interviews, and leveraging open data portals to build multi-dimensional community profiles.

(CRM1c) Canadian Contributions to Criminology III
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

Criminology is a multi-faceted field that uses 'crime' as its subject matter but has no single methodological commitment or paradigmatic theoretical framework. Many areas and conversations in criminology, however, are often dominated by work from the US, Britain, and the Scandinavian countries that differ from the Canadian context in significant socio-political, cultural, and economic respects. The main objective of this trio of sessions (CRIM1a, b, and c) is to connect researchers and discuss work that advances our understanding of crime and the criminal justice system in Canada as well as criminological knowledge more broadly.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Timothy Kang, University of Saskatchewan and Daniel Kudla, Memorial University

Presentations:

1. Navigating the Complexities of Mixed-Methods Longitudinal Research with Those Leaving Provincial Custody
Emily Stewart and **Brittney Schwehr,** University of Alberta

Most individuals in Canada's provincial custody, which house those on pre-trial or serving sentences under two years, are expected to return to the community. However, little is known about the complex re-entry process, which is largely due to the challenges of accessing and maintaining contact with this population. These difficulties are exacerbated by the precarious circumstances many face upon release, including housing instability, substance use, trauma histories, and structural barriers and legal requirements. Drawing from over 1,000 interviews conducted with individuals in custody and the community across Western Canada, we present preliminary findings and highlight the complexities of conducting mixed-methods longitudinal research as part of the University of Alberta Prison (UAPP) re-entry study. We discuss the process of conducting baseline interviews in prison, highlighting the challenges of working within this environment and the difficulties of conducting multiple follow-up surveys throughout the course of a year post-release. We discuss strategies for overcoming these challenges, drawing from our team's experiences fostering rapport, leveraging community partnerships, and maintaining a flexible yet structured approach to participant engagement.

2. Understanding predictors of crime specialization in rural and remote Ontario
Emily Bertolo, Wilfrid Laurier University

There are growing concerns about the over-policing of marginalized and at-risk populations in Canada (Gamrot, 2020). For example, Indigenous persons are more likely to come in contact with police and to be incarcerated than non-Indigenous persons (David & Mitchell, 2021; Roberts & Reid, 2017). However, the current scope of the literature demonstrates limited race-based data within Canada beyond incarceration rates or death by use of force. This poses significant limitations for investigating policing practices. One way to examine these issues is to interrogate how crime

specialization of certain crime types in areas with greater Indigenous representation might be an indicator of over-policing. This study will examine how concentrations of Indigenous populations may correlate with the specialization of mischief using the location quotient. A location quotient determines the specialization of one crime type in one area compared to that crime type in all other areas. Mischief can often be used as a catch-all crime type by police, making it susceptible to overuse and potentially over-policing. Indeed, the crime severity index and weighted clearance rates (2019) found that rates of mischief are higher in Indigenous communities. Data for this study includes crime from Ontario municipalities from 2001-2023 and four sets of weighted consensus demographics data from 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021. A better understanding of the indicators of how Indigenous communities are policed has important implications for police and policy in Canada.

3. Conditional Release and Community Supports: Shaping a More Equitable Bail System in Canada

Amelia Curran and **Sarah Zell,** University of Winnipeg

This project examines the evolving landscape of bail in Canada, focusing on its implications for justice, equality, and systemic reform. In recent years, the Canadian bail system has been scrutinized for its impact on marginalized communities, particularly Indigenous and racialized individuals. While much research has focused on the increasing number of individuals held in pretrial detention, conditional release orders remain understudied in carceral research, and this project focuses on the use, experiences, and implications of conditions for those who are granted bail. We explore challenges related to conditions of release and the lack of supports and supervision for people in the community awaiting trial in Manitoba. The research employed a mixed-method approach. Our analysis draws on in-depth, qualitative interviews with legal professionals, people issued bail conditions, and community organizations and service-sector stakeholders, highlighting issues individuals face in meeting conditions. We also analyzed data collected through court observations and files from a community bail supervision program. Our findings examine recent trends in bail conditions and their intersection with housing and employment precarity and service access, with a primary goal of recommending policy changes and administrative interventions that mitigate the further criminalization of marginalized groups issued these conditions. We conclude with actionable recommendations for legislative and procedural reforms, with a focus on increasing community-based supports. Our research contributes to ongoing conversations about criminal justice reform in Canada and advocates for a more just, accessible, and humane system for pretrial detainees.

4. The Role of Victims of Crime as Agents of State Accountability

Marie Manikis, McGill University

Holding the State accountable for its public decisions and actions is a cornerstone of democratic societies. This is especially crucial in the context of criminal justice, since the State has taken control over public prosecutions for public wrongs. Decisions relating to public prosecutions are wide-ranging and can have lasting impacts on society, victims, and individuals subject to prosecutions. They vary across jurisdictions and include decisions about whether to take over or end private prosecutions, pursue public prosecutions, consult or involve victims in the process, and enter into prosecutorial agreements and negotiations. As the prosecutorial state is made up of humans in unequal societies, errors in the exercise of discretionary powers are inevitable. These errors can range from technical or interpretational legal mistakes to those embedded in power dynamics,

systemic biases, and inequalities. For these reasons, it is crucial that criminal legal processes incorporate mechanisms for citizens, including victims, to hold the state accountable in instances of prosecutorial failures. Both England and Wales, as well as the United States, have in different ways recognized the potential for state failures and enabled victims, in different ways, to hold the state accountable within the criminal legal process. This type of victim participation has evolved across time, jurisdictions, and contexts, though it remains contentious and often faces resistance, particularly in the way it is implemented through different accountability mechanisms available to victims. In Canada, victims have not been provided such role and prosecutorial decisions are generally seen as unreviewable. Institutional resistance to this role is primarily based on the belief that victims hold individual, personal, and subjective views/interests, which are seen as incompatible with the public decision-making process. This resistance also stems from the state's reluctance to recognize its own fallibility, along with a desire to control and monopolize the notion of public interest. Moreover, it is often stated that any external commentary on the public interest risks hindering prosecutorial independence. In many common law jurisdictions, including Canada, these rationales have tended to insulate the State from accountability mechanisms and victims occupying a role a agents of state accountability in instances of prosecutorial failures and abuses.
This presentation relies on case studies to illustrate that when victims are recognised as citizens that can hold public interests, closer to their role within traditional common law, there is generally a broader recognition of their role as agents of State accountability, which enables them to engage with substantive legal arguments in instances of potential prosecutorial failures. Indeed, several cases in England and Wales have illustrated the potential for victims to use judicial review in order to substantively challenge state prosecutors on errors about the way evidence was understood, interpreted, and considered by state prosecutors, which requires more engagement with the substance of decisions than procedural failures. Moreover, when marginalized victims are conceived as holders of predominantly public interests in England and Wales have also had some degree of success in bringing forward private prosecutions and judicial review to hold the state accountable for prosecutorial decision-making errors rooted in epistemic injustices that relied on unfounded stereotypes about their credibility. This presentation highlights the ways that marginalized victims, including sex workers, victims of domestic violence, and victims of hate crimes, are perceived as having greater legitimacy in holding the state accountable for failures rooted in systemic inequalities when they are conceived as holders of public interests.

(CSF5) Early Learning and Child Care Systems in Canada: Sociological Reflections and Critical Insights

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

The Federal government has committed to building a Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system that is high-quality, accessible, affordable, flexible, and inclusive. Much of the academic and public discussions have been centering on the implementation and practical issues of this initiative, such as the unintended consequences arising from the policy of $10 per day fees. However, the social impact of a policy does not just lie in its effectiveness and practicality, but also its vision of what Canadian society should look like. Currently, there is a lack of sociological perspectives on the contested nature of the very principles of CWELCC. For example, what are the social, historical, political, cultural, and moral assumptions behind different stakeholders' understanding of high-quality early learning and childcare (ELCC)? What are the structural

inequalities that render parents working non-standard hours and hence demanding flexible ELCC? Are these principles enough to transform the deep-seated patriarchal norms that impose the responsibilities of care work on women? Are there any voices being marginalized in the process of planning and implementing the CWELCC system? The aim of this session is to gather sociological reflections on the past, present, and prospective ELCC systems in Canada. It includes discussions surrounding the current focus of federal and provincial policies, the structure of the ELCC workforce, parents' unique perspectives on high-quality ELCC, and the inclusion of families with disabilities and newcomer ethnocultural families. This session will provide policymakers, providers, and practitioners in the ELCC sector with counter-intuitive insights about what ELCC in Canada is and should be.

Session Organizers: Ping Lam Ip and Andrea DeKeseredy, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Ping Lam Ip, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. Addressing Inclusion, Access, and Quality in the Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Policy: A Multimethod Examination Leveraging Machine Learning

Samantha Burns and **Esther Yu,** Maisha Masum, Melissa Crnic Sariffodeen, Isobelle Chen, and Michal Perlman, University of Toronto

The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) policy aims to reduce daily costs of early learning and child care to an average of $10 by 2026. This study examines how the Provinces and Territories (P/Ts) plan to address issues of access, inclusion, and quality in the implementation of the CWELCC policy by analyzing the agreements signed between the federal government and each of the P/Ts. We conducted content analysis, thematic analysis, and Latent Dirichlet Analysis (LDA) to these agreements. Across the P/Ts, increased access was proposed for children with disabilities, Indigenous children, and low-income families. However, there were notable gaps in access based on geographic location and children in foster care. Mentions of quality were infrequent. While efforts to professionalize the workforce were emphasized, wage disparities across roles were inconsistently addressed. Structural quality indicators such as classroom design and educator-to-child ratios received significant attention, but process quality—including educator-child interactions—was largely overlooked. Furthermore, there was a general lack of attention to improving educators' working conditions. LDA was effective for rapidly scanning policy documents and identifying unique insights (e.g., accessibility to quality care, improve accessibility for marginalized groups, promoting indigenous-led care) while manual analysis provided more detailed, context-specific findings. Implications for policy and future research were discussed. By identifying gaps in inclusion, access, and quality, this study provides a foundation for holding P/Ts accountable and advancing equitable, inclusive, and high-quality ELCC in Canada.

2. Canada's Early Learning and Child Care system: considering the child care workforce

Kristyn Frank, Statistics Canada; Leanne Findlay, Statistics Canada

The main objective of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system is to create child care that is accessible, affordable, flexible, inclusive, and of high quality. While "high quality" is difficult to define in the context of ELCC, it is often connected to aspects of the workforce. For example, the CWELCC Framework suggests that the proportion of providers with Early Childhood Education certification could be used as an indicator to monitor quality. However, despite the

importance that the CWELCC Framework places on delivering quality early learning and child care, little attention has been given to the ELCC workforce specifically, and how the CWELCC system may change the labour needs of this sector. This paper brings together various Statistics Canada data sources to examine the supply of recent graduates from ELCC programs (Postsecondary Student Information System and Registered Apprenticeship Information System data, 2017-2022), the demand for early childhood educators and assistants (Job Vacancy and Wage Survey data, 2017-2023), and the occupational outcomes of individuals with a postsecondary credential in an ELCC field of study (2021 Census data). Several years of data were examined to better understand the supply and demand for ELCC workers both prior to the implementation of the CWELCC system and in the next few years, accounting for the evolving situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results provide insight into the expansion of the CWELCC system: while there has been a notable increase in the job vacancies for ELCC workers during the time period studied, there has not been a corresponding increase in graduates from ELCC-related postsecondary programs. Findings from this study can inform policymakers and researchers about the alignment between the supply and demand for ELCC workers and where changes may be needed to support the success of the CWELCC system.

3. Alberta Parents' Perception of High-Quality Early Learning and Child Care

Ping Lam Ip and **Andrea DeKeseredy,** Lauren Lees, Mackenzie Martin, and Jeffrey Bisanz, University of Alberta

Parents offer an important perspective into early learning and child care (ELCC). The purpose of this study was to understand how parents in Alberta define high-quality ELCC. Data were drawn from the 2022 Alberta Parent Survey on Early Learning and Child Care, which included responses from 1,479 parents about their opinions on and experience of ELCC. A thematic analysis was conducted on 1024 answers to an open-ended question: What does high-quality child care look like to you? A total of ten themes were identified from parents' responses: (1) being able to give attention to all children; (2) matching parents' preferred mode of child care delivery; (3) having a positive atmosphere for ELCC; (4) promoting children's holistic growth and development; (5) meeting children's multifaceted needs; (6) facilitating active involvement of children, caregivers, and parents; (7) being safe, regulated, transparent, and trustworthy; (8) available and welcoming to all; (9) having caregivers with appropriate qualifications, experience, and personal qualities; and (10) having spacious and well-maintained infrastructure, facilities, and physical environment. These findings provide practitioners, providers, and policymakers with insights on how parents view ELCC, which is important for building a high-quality system of ELCC and for developing indicators of quality that can be used in evaluation and system improvement.

4. The Impact of CWELCC on Families with Children with Disabilities

Jesseca Perlman, **Samantha Burns**, and **Esther Yu**, Maisha Masum, Yunqi Xie, Iten Allam, and Michal Perlman, University of Toronto; Kashish Kahlon, University of Waterloo

This mixed methods study explored differences in parental preferences for early childhood education and care, and experiences with the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) implementation for parents with and without a child with a disability. Using match-case-control, a sample of 192 families (96 with and 96 without a child with a disability) across the four most populated Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec) was used. Parents

with a child with a disability were significantly more likely to base their child care preferences on personal factors (e.g., race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity) and their child's abilities. Additionally, parents with a child with a disability reported a stronger preference for quality, as well as greater concerns regarding inclusion than parents of children without a disability. Implications for policy and future directions are discussed.

5. Newcomer ethnocultural families' experiences seeking early learning and childcare services in Alberta

Nashid Rahman, Mackenzie Martin, Lauren Lees, and Rebecca Gokiert, University of Alberta; Yvonne Chiu, Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative

Early learning and child care (ELCC) services (e.g., daycare, preschool) promote children's physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development from birth to early school age (up to six years). ELCC services can also contribute to the economic well-being of families by offering them opportunities to pursue education and participate in the workforce. In 2017, Canadian federal, provincial, and territorial ministers adopted the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework based on five core principles: quality, affordability, accessibility, inclusion, and flexibility. This led to a federal commitment to establish a Canada-wide ELCC system and bilateral agreements with provinces, including Alberta. Alberta's current focus is to reduce parents' fees for licensed ELCCs to an average of $ 10 per day by the end of 2026 and expand available spaces. There is rising immigration among ethnocultural groups in Edmonton, particularly South Asian and African newcomer families. Newcomer families, defined herein as those in Canada for no more than five years, face barriers to accessing ELCC services due to high costs, cultural differences, and limited flexibility. Each ethnocultural group's unique culture and expectations influence their journey with ELCC after migrating to Canada. However, recent studies provide limited insights into the experiences of newcomer families actively seeking ELCC services. This presentation will share findings from focus group discussions with Bangladeshi, Indian, and Nigerian families. The study uses a qualitative community-based participatory research approach to explore the experiences of ethnocultural newcomer families' access to ELCC in Edmonton, Alberta, as it relates to the five core ELCC principles. In this presentation, we will share key barriers and enablers to accessing ELCC services, such as service location, culturally appropriate environment and curriculum, and affordability. Recommendations generated by participants will also be shared to inform practice and policy toward creating accessible and inclusive ELCC services for diverse newcomer families.

(DIS10) Sociology of Disability: Disability Research

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

The presentations in this session address broad topics in the sociology of disabilities and related research.

Session Organizers: Chris Churchill and Athena Elafros, University of Lethbridge
Session Chair: Megan Ingram, Queen's University

Presentations:

1. Accessibility in postsecondary education: A scoping review of available supports

Nawal Arshi, **Finn Stanners**, **Erika Katzman**, and **Emma Swiatek**, King's University College

As policies and legislation mandate accessibility and accommodations, the number of disabled students in higher education continues to grow. Public awareness, evolving societal attitudes toward disabilities, and increased discourse on equity, diversity, and inclusion contribute to fostering a more supportive educational landscape. Despite this progress, many disabled students report that postsecondary institutions fall short of creating truly inclusive environments. Following Levac et al.'s (2010) scoping review methodology and utilizing Covidence, an online review manager, our team of two student researchers, one academic librarian and one faculty member designed the study to answer the following research questions: 1) What are current best practices in postsecondary education for supporting students with disabilities in Canada? 2) What kinds of evidence are available to guide accommodation processes and classroom practices? 3) Whose perspectives are represented in this literature? 4) What audiences does the current research target? Our study design and analysis are informed by a critical disability studies theoretical framework. Our findings reveal that diverse perspectives and theoretical approaches inform the literature on accessibility in postsecondary education. There is a chasm between studies that examine the effectiveness of specific accommodations, such as extra time, and those that focus on student experience. In particular, we note that studies focused on specific accommodations are concerned with the perceived fairness of accommodations, while studies of student experience highlight barriers to access, such as the burden of system navigation shouldered by disabled students seeking formal accommodation and the impact of attitudinal barriers. Our findings suggest that equitable participation for disabled students in postsecondary education requires moving beyond individualized accommodation models to address campus culture and broader social norms. Based on our findings, we will propose a set of "best practices" to support disabled students' access to postsecondary education in Canada.

2. Barriers to Belonging: Experiences of Housing Insecurity for Disabled People in Canada after the National Housing Strategy Act

Michelle Owen, University of Winnipeg and **Jeremy Wildeman,** Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR); Kristen Hardy, University of Winnipeg; Jon Paul Mathias, Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR)

What are the barriers to belonging in terms of the housing crisis in Canada? Is there a way to "reframe togetherness"? What happens to the national housing strategy now that the Liberal Prime Minister Trudeau has resigned, and an election is on the horizon? Ensuring the right to housing for disabled people implicates issues such as the availability of affordable and accessible housing, the supports required to remain housed, the availability and appropriateness of income supports to sustain tenancy arrangements, as well as fair adjudicative processes surrounding evictions. To date, the barriers to the right to housing for disabled people have been largely unexplored, despite 27% of Canadians being disabled, and the significant intersection between housing insecurity and disability. It is an intersection being exacerbated by the financialization of housing that is driving the human-made housing humanitarian crisis, which may have become worse in this country than anywhere else in the world, paradoxically since Canada signed the 2019 National Housing Strategy Act into law. In this presentation we attempt to "commit sociology for social impact" using an

intersectional framework. We will discuss our findings which demonstrate how the ongoing experiences of discrimination and basic affordability are preventing disabled people from realizing their right to housing. Through original research, including interviews with people with lived experience and service providers, and an expansive grey literature review, our research elucidates those barriers. We will also identify the ways in which discrimination and the denial of appropriate housing can be changed through additional supports for people living with disabilities, as well as policy and legislative changes. Finally, we will explore how the broader financialization of housing needs to be challenged if we are to truly overcome the barriers faced by disabled people to realizing their right to housing.

3. Poverty, Policy, and the "Ideal Disabled Neoliberal Subject"

William MacGregor, York University

This paper critically examines the current disability income support policy infrastructure in Canada, with special focus on the disability wealth gap, the lack of appreciation for levels of relative poverty for PWDs in the literature, intersecting and compounding forms of marginalization experienced by this community, and the pernicious influence of neoliberal economic philosophy. Building on a review of the scholarship and grey literature around disability and disability policy in Canada, this paper blends the Critical Policy Studies and Critical Disability Studies frameworks in its examination of several crucial issues, firstly the origins of how the modern conception of disability emerged from the Industrial Age, and "normative" bodies suitable for factory labour. Secondly, how while the idea and rhetoric of the social model has made gains in scholarly and legal understandings, Canadian policies are still rooted in retrograde medical frameworks. Of central importance is the role of now-hegemonic Neoliberalism, and its "soft" and "hard" variants, which has resulted in the dismantling of the redistributive and protective aspects of the Welfare State, and increased commodification of services once provided to PWDs as rights of citizenship. These neoliberal "reforms", signalling regressive change, have had devastating consequences for PWDs in Canada, as those deemed not productive in the market are therefore without "worth" and deviants to the neoliberal order; increasingly, PWDs are viewed as a burden to the public purse, and the demonization of this community and the internalization of neoliberal rhetoric of self-reliance and personal responsibility is rising; these threads are tied together in a discussion of concept of the "Ideal Disabled Neoliberal Subject". Finally, the paper outlines policy and research recommendations from scholars and community members, to address these systemic issues.

4. Resisting a deficit model of disability: a duoethnography of handcycling

Alfiya Battalova, Royal Roads University; Tanelle Bolt, RAD Society

While the need to promote a greater inclusion in the outdoors has been identified, there have been few infrastructural or coordinated approaches to changing the mainstream outdoor sector in ways that support greater inclusion and genuinely acknowledge human diversity. Handcycling is an effective means of improving health and quality of life of persons with disabilities. However, disabled cyclists are rarely recognized as part of the cycling community and hardly acknowledged in the cycling strategies. Limited research in the area demonstrates the potential of handcylincg to challenge ableism by rejecting the perceived binary opposites of dis/abled, healthy/unhealthy and normal/ abnormal. Using duoethnography two handcycle users will explore the barriers and facilitators to handcycle use. Duoethnography is a collaborative research methodology that invites

researchers to serve as sites of inquiry. Through juxtaposition, the voices of each researcher are made explicit, working in tandem to untangle and disrupt meanings about a particular social phenomenon. Through dialogical exchanges, analysis of the videos and photos two duoethnographers with academic and community-based backgrounds will focus on the areas related to access to devices, cycling infrastructure, societal attitudes to disabled handcycle users, and the meanings around wellbeing that handcycling contributes to.

(ENV7) Competing Projects for Climate (In)Action and Energy Transition
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Both internationally and in numerous national arenas, corporate and elite responses to the climate crisis can be seen to be bifurcated between networks opposed to virtually all forms of climate action and blocs advocating market-centred projects of decarbonization and low-carbon transition. On the other hand, social movements and counter-hegemonic forces advance broader conceptions of transition and transformation that often include muscular state intervention, social justice and post-capitalist alternatives. The goal of this session is to provide a forum for work providing new insights on competing projects, strategies, networks and discourses in the climate field, and to explore their implications in terms of socio-ecological change.

Session Organizers: Nicolas Graham, University of British Columbia, William Carroll, University of Victoria, and David Chen, University of Toronto
Session Chair: Nicolas Graham, University of British Columbia

Presentations:

1. Canada's Climate Lobby: Networks of Fossil-Opposition, Technology-Transition and Socio-Ecological Change
Nicolas Graham, University of British Columbia and **David Chen**, University of Toronto; William K. Carroll, University of Victoria; Jean Philippe Sapinski, University of Moncton

This paper examines climate-related lobbying at the federal level in Canada over a fifteen-year period (2009-2024). Following an analysis of the sectoral composition of Canada's climate lobby, we outline three lobbying blocs based on actors supporting fossil-opposition, technology-transition and socio-ecological change. Social network analysis is then employed to consider high volume relations between the blocs/actors and state agencies. We find that the fossil-oppositional bloc, led by oil and gas firms, dominates lobbying and that just a small number of industrial organizations maintain voluminous contacts with a few key state agencies. At the same time, actors advocating socio-ecological change, especially ENGOs, have become increasingly prominent in the lobbying field, as have technology-transition actors, including renewable, hydrogen, clean tech and nuclear industries. The findings help explain contradictory federal commitments to low carbon transition and the fossil economy.

2. Petro-Rhetoric and Petro-Nationalism in Canada: The Case of "Public Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns"
Sibo Chen, Toronto Metropolitan University

The mining of bitumen, or oil sands, in Alberta has long been a contentious issue within Canadian energy politics. This presentation draws from my ongoing book project, "Petro-Rhetoric in Canada," which investigates the evolution of pro-bitumen narratives since the mid-2010s, as demonstrated in three prominent public campaigns: Enbridge's "Life Takes Energy" campaign in 2014, the Alberta New Democratic Party (NDP) government's "Keep Canada Working" campaign in 2018, and the Alberta United Conservative Party (UCP) government's "Public Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns" between 2019 and 2021. I argue that these public campaigns manifest three discursive pillars of petro-rhetoric in Canada: petro-prosperity, petroleum nationalism, and extractive populism. In this presentation, I will focus on extractive populism, which has evolved from petro-nationalism's portrayal of bitumen critics as foreign-funded and anti-Canadian radicals. The presentation will discuss the developments of the Trans Mountain Pipeline controversy following the Conservatives' return to a majority after the 2019 Alberta general election. The current Conservative government of Alberta has shifted its emphasis in pro-bitumen narratives to portray opponents of the bitumen industry as radicals supported by foreign interests. Based on a qualitative analysis of public discourses produced during the "Public Inquiry into Anti-Alberta Energy Campaigns," I will explicate the three major claims advanced by the Alberta Conservative Government in recent years: (1) resource extraction is the foundation of the Canadian economy and provides benefits to all citizens; (2) external enemies are attacking extractivism; and (3) grassroots mobilization is required to defend extractivism as part of the national interest. In short, this shift to smear tactics reflects the growing radicalization of Canada's petro-bloc, whose members embrace alternative facts to deny the broad public consensus on the phase-out of fossil fuels.

3. Selling Climate Inaction: Sponsored Posts as Connective Leadership within Canadian Facebook's Conservative Coalition

Robert Neubauer and Kyle Chemerika University of Winnipeg; Shane Gunster, Simon Fraser University

In past years Canadian climate obstructionism has shifted towards digital advocacy strategies, with industry-linked and nominally independent advocacy groups using platforms like Facebook to communicate extractivist talking points and mobilize supporters. Increasingly, these groups integrate with a broader digital right-populist discourse coalition for which climate obstructionism is one priority amongst others, from neoliberal attacks on government spending to undermining police reform. While fossil capital has long helped support and shape this coalition, they are now joined by various conservative advocacy accounts without immediate links to fossil capital. This paper explores these developments as part of a broader research agenda to rethink Gramsci's concept of the 'organic intellectual' for the era of platform capitalism, an ascendant media political economy oriented around corporate platforms whose data-driven business models have reshaped political organizing and the broader public sphere. It conceptualizes recent scholarship on 'connective leadership' - the network-building and mobilization activities of key social media accounts that give strategic direction to otherwise uncoordinated 'networked publics' - as a key organic intellectual function. Recognizing data driven marketing as a vital form of connective leadership, it deploys content, network discourse, and document analysis to explore the use of sponsored posts by the most prominent climate obstructionist accounts on Canadian Facebook in 2023-2024. It identifies the main players in this coalition and their ties to fossil capital, conservative advocacy groups, industry-funded think tanks, alternative media outlets, political parties, and

government agencies. It also demonstrates the key role sponsored posts play in both articulating extractivist messaging with a broader right populist storyline as well as coordinating political mobilizations. Finally, it argues that the organic intellectual function under platform capitalism increasingly involves a combination of political praxis, entrepreneurial start up culture, and data-driven marketing that are the hallmarks of a click-bait digital media attention economy.

4. Narratives of Low-Carbon Oil in a Canadian Petro-Province

Lori Lee Oates, Memorial University of Newfoundland

In November of 2021, Premier Andrew Furey, from the Canadian petro-province of Newfoundland and Labrador, attended COP26 in Scotland. The Canadian Broadcast Corporation reported that he was there 'with a sales pitch for N.L. fossil fuels.' Referring to Newfoundland and Labrador oil on a local morning radio show, the premier stated: 'I think it's appropriately positioned during this time of transition to be the product that the world needs' He then went on to say that: 'We need, as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, to exercise that value while it's still valuable and understand that it's not going to be valuable forever.' This was part of provincial government narrative that oil from the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore was 'lower carbon oil.' However, '…as environmental activists point out, there is no such thing as low-emission oil, since most emissions occur when oil is consumed (for example, as gasoline) rather than when it is produced, transported and transformed' (Arsenault 2021). In December of 2021, it was reported by the CBC that 'Heavy crude now makes up about half of N.L.'s production.' My paper will make the case that the provincial leadership is so invested in obtaining revenue from oil, that even in the face of mounting global evidence against a future for the Newfoundland offshore oil industry, the provincial government continues to misrepresent the product in an inappropriate space, on the international stage. This is a manifestation of the 'resource cursed behaviour' that prevents many oil producing jurisdiction from addressing climate change.

(FTS5) Introducing Fat Studies: The Basics

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Fat Studies Research Cluster

Fat Studies: The Basics introduces the reading of fat bodies and the ways that Fat Studies, as a field, has responded to waves of ideas about fat people, their lives, and choices. Part civil rights discourse and part academic discipline, Fat Studies is a dynamic project that involves contradiction and discussion. In order to understand this field, the book also explores its intersections with race, class, gender, sexuality, age, disability, ethnicity, migration and beyond. In addition to thinking through terminology and history, this book will aim to unpack three key myths which often guide Fat Studies, showing that: 1) fat is a meaningful site of oppression intersected with other forms of discrimination and hatred; 2) to be fat is not a choice (but also that a discussion of choice is itself problematic); and 3) fat cannot be unambiguously correlated with a lack of health.

Fat Studies: The Basics is a lively and accessible foundation for students of Gender Studies, Sociology, Psychology, and Media Studies, as well as anyone interested in learning more about this emergent field. Author May Friedman will engage in a lively question and answer with her long-time friend and co-conspirator Dr. Emma Lind.

Session Chairs: Kelsey Ioannoni and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

Panelists:
May Friedman, Toronto Metropolitan University
Emma Lind, Okanagan College

(IND4c) Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization III
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

This session features insightful and important scholarly works, projects and reflections on Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization so that we can centre these important issues for learning and discussion.

Session Organizer and Chair: Kerry Bailey, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Analyzing political discourses on settler-colonialism and genocide in China and Canada
Reid Gerbrandt, York University

The announcement of a discovery of 215 potential unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in May 2021 sparked another debate on settler colonial genocide in Canada. On June 10, 2021, NDP MP Leah Gazan presented a motion to recognize the Indian Residential School System (IRSS) as a genocide. However, it did not gain unanimous consent as politicians from several political parties voted against it. This was surprising as only a few months earlier Parliament had voted to recognize the ongoing Uyghur crisis in China as genocide. What made this recognition significant was that several processes of group destruction, including cultural elements, that were part of the IRSS are evident in the Uyghur crisis, and several politicians even identified Uyghur destruction as settler-colonial in nature. Upon analyzing Hansard transcripts of debates in the Canadian House of Commons and Senate, this research will thus address the questions: (1) why did Canadian politicians view settler-colonialism in China as a process of genocide, while avoiding this label for settler-colonialism in Canada? (2) what discursive strategies did they employ to recognize genocide in one context while minimizing it in another? Using the conceptual frameworks of "blame games" and the "concept blockage" this paper will show how Canadian politicians portrayed China as a stereotypical genocidal nation while upholding Canada as a liberal-democratic society that always stands up for human rights. It will also show how these views are maintained in the public sphere through the rising concern of residential school denialism, and why we need to continue to monitor this latter discourse despite the Canadian House of Commons finally recognizing the IRSS as a genocide in October 2022.

2. Unravelling the Impact of Canada's Colonial Legacy on the Relationship between Alberta Williams' Family and RCMP
Mary Premanathan, Humber Polytechnic

Indigenous communities across Canada have long faced systemic discrimination, neglect, and violence from law enforcement, stemming from deeply rooted colonial policies aimed at disempowering and marginalizing them. The RCMP's historical role in enforcing colonial practices such as residential school attendance and land dispossession, has left a legacy of mistrust and fear.

The case of Alberta Williams represents the challenges Indigenous communities face in the Canadian criminal justice system. This study examines how these broader patterns of systemic racism and negligence manifested in the RCMP's handling of Alberta Williams' case, highlighting failures in investigation, accountability, and support for her family. As a result, thirty-four years have passed and the RCMP have never apprehended her killer. Unfortunately, her case remains unsolved, causing ongoing suffering for her family.

3. Colonial Bureaucracy and the Systematic Removal of Indigenous Children

Pamela Colombo, Université Laval; Gérard Duhaime, Université Laval

Settler colonialism is not an isolated event in time, but is first a system that has structured, and continues to structure, the nation-state through its relationship between dispossession, elimination, and replacement (Wolfe 2006, Woolford and Benvenuto 2015). The dispossession of land and the forced assimilation of First Nations in Canada is a long and complex process with multiple overlapping technologies of power, and the Indian Residential School (IRS) system provides a flagrant example (Milloy 1999). This system removed, uprooted, displaced and forcibly regrouped approximately 150,000 indigenous children in residential schools (TRC 2015). The IRS was a clear colonial and genocidal device (Benvenuto et al. 2014, Woolford 2015, Woolford and Gacek 2016), and the archives of the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) still preserve a large number of traces on how the Canadian state systematically exercised the forced removal of children (Jacobs 2019). Our paper explores how the colonial bureaucracy (Glasman 2012) was a central element in enabling the systematic removal of indigenous children. We will concretely work on how the bureaucratic doctrine promoted by the DIA legitimized the systematic removal of indigenous children in the post-war period (1950-1970). After analyzing a corpus of approximately 1,000 admission forms of children sent to the IRS in Quebec, this paper will identify the discursive constructions that attempted to legitimize this practice.

LA BUREAUCRATIE COLONIALE ET L'ENLÈVEMENT SYSTÉMATIQUE DES ENFANTS AUTOCHTONES

Le colonialisme de peuplement n'est pas un événement isolé dans le temps, mais il s'agit avant tout d'un système qui a structuré, et qui structure encore aujourd'hui l'État-nation par sa relation entre dépossession, élimination et remplacement (Wolfe 2006, Woolford et Benvenuto 2015). La dépossession des terres ainsi que l'assimilation forcée des Premiers Peuples au Canada sont un processus long et complexe où de multiples technologies de pouvoir se chevauchent, et le système de pensionnats pour enfants autochtones offre un exemple flagrant (Milloy 1999). Ce système a enlevé, déraciné, déplacé et regroupé de force environ 150 000 enfants au sein des pensionnats (CVR 2015), qui ont agis comme un dispositif de gouvernementalité colonial et en même temps génocidaire (Benvenuto et al. 2014, Woolford 2015, Woolford et Gacek 2016). Les archives du Département des Affaires Indiennes (DAI) gardent encore une infinité de traces documentaires sur la manière dont l'État canadien a exercé de manière systématique cette pratique génocidaire (Feierstein 2014) envers les Premiers peuples. Cet article explore la manière dont la bureaucratie coloniale (Glasman 2012) a été un élément central pour permettre l'enlèvement systématique des enfants autochtones. Nous allons concrètement travailler sur la manière dont la doctrine bureaucratique promue par le DAI a légitimé l'enlèvement systématique des enfants autochtones dans la période d'après-guerre (1950-1970). Après l'analyse d'un corpus d'environ 1,000 fiches d'admission des enfants envoyé à des pensionnats au Québec, cet article identifiera les constructions discursives qui essayaient de légitimer cette pratique.

(SCL5) Culture, Inequality, and Social Action
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

This session presents papers that develop culturally informed perspectives on social inequality. Sociology has had a longstanding interest in understanding the interplay of culture and individual, interactional, and institutional processes of inequality. Yet, there remains much to understand and debate regarding the influences social inequality has on culture and the influences culture has on social inequality. Presentations in this session engage with classic and cutting-edge sociological perspectives on the relationship between culture and inequality.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Roberta S. Pamplona, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Frames of Wealth: Young People's Moral and Emotional Responses to Celebrity Billionaires and Inequality
Josée Johnston and **Rebecca Nachtigall,** University of Toronto

This study investigates young people's perceptions and moral evaluations of extreme wealth in an era marked by widening economic disparity and heightened visibility of the ultra-wealthy. Building on scholarly insights about the anxieties and moral framings of inequality (Sherman 2017), we explore two questions: how young adults conceptualize and emotionally respond to extreme wealth and how they navigate the tension between individualistic and structural explanations for wealth inequality. These questions are particularly pressing in a precarious economic landscape that fosters tremendous uncertainty (Pugh 2015). Drawing from 12 focus groups with 44 participants, we used a case study of billionaire-celebrity Kylie Jenner as a starting point for examining broader attitudes towards wealth, power, and social mobility. Participants did not perceive a singular "billionaire" figure but differentiated among five types of wealthy individuals (entrepreneur, influencer, inheritor, athlete, artist), each subject to distinct moral evaluations. Young people employed three individualizing frames—moral licensing, ethical entrepreneurship, and meritocratic success—to justify wealth disparity, yet they simultaneously articulated structural critiques, identifying systemic flaws and expressing moral outrage at wealth excesses. To reconcile these tensions, they utilized emotion management strategies we label: 1) relative merit; 2) alternative value systems; and 3) empathetic personalization. Together, this research offers valuable insights into the evolving moral landscape of wealth inequality as perceived by young people, highlighting the complex interplay of individual and structural narratives used to understand and justify extreme economic disparity in an increasingly visible and unequal world.

2. Remnants of the Past: Early Cultural Capital Cultivation and Later Sense of Personal Control
Jiarui Liang, Yale University

To what extent does early cultural capital cultivation contribute to later inequalities in educational attainment? This paper argues that early cultural capital leads to a greater sense of control over one's life, which in turn matters for educational attainment. I examine two types of cultural capital—participation in high-status cultural activities and cultivation of middle-class dispositional skills. I also examine if the returns to cultural capital depend on one's social class background. Using

the National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen, I test for direct relationships between cultural capital cultivation and sense of control. I find evidence that cultural capital cultivation at age 13 is only positively associated with sense of control at age 18 for students from families of high socioeconomic status. Furthermore, I do not find evidence that cultural capital cultivation at a later age (age 18) is associated with sense of control at age 18. I discuss the implications of these findings in relation to the literature on how cultural capital reproduces social inequality.

3. "No One is Against Healthy Food": Brazilian Landless Worker's Movement and Political Consumerism in Brazil

Brody Trottier and **Roberta S. Pamplona,** University of Toronto

Contemporary research has developed critical insights to account for how social movements target the market as a space for collective action. We build on this line of inquiry by investigating how an anti-capitalist social movement that has traditionally engaged in contentious politics directed towards challenging the state has shifted to embracing the market through promoting consumer activism. Drawing on the case of the Landless Worker's Movement in Brazil, the oldest peasant social movement in the country, we examine how an openly socialist peasant movement has gained traction and support across urban centers in Brazil by selling and promoting ethical and sustainable products made within the movement. Based on an ongoing analysis of the movement's material between 2016-2024, our analysis shows two key strategies. The first one is the movement's marketing of organic and toxic-free food produced by the movement's settlements in the countryside. The second movement's strategy is to create local stores in urban centers to directly sell products from the movement, encouraging urban residents to support local, small-scale, rural producers. These strategies also shaped the movement's identity from *peasants as workers* to *peasants as producers of good food*. Theoretically, our case explains the centrality of consumer activism in understanding not only corporations' or lifestyle movements' marketing strategies but also traditional social movements. Through this, we consider the potential benefits and risks of this approach for radical social movements.

4. Glocalized Dreams, Global Inequalities: The Case of Hong Kong and Shanghai Disneylands

Hongshu Wang and Althea McIntosh, Western University

Disneyland is a globally renowned U.S. cultural brand that markets itself as "the happiest place on earth." Specifically, after receiving complaints about cultural imperialism, Hong Kong and then Shanghai Disneylands' efforts to present themselves as culturally respectful spaces have successfully helped them attract domestic visitors. Glocalized efforts they made include celebrating Chinese New Year and integrating traditional cuisine. However, we challenge their glocalizing efforts by arguing that the two Disneylands are fundamentally capitalist utopias similar to the U.S. Disneylands. Based on Guy Debord's idea of spectacle, Antonio Gramsci's cultural hegemony, and the idea of capitalist utopias, we explore how these exploitative capitalist sites create hyperreal environments that resonate with domestic visitors. They exclude and stratify many visitors' access to enjoyment due to high ticket prices, additional "fast pass" fees, and inflated costs of merchandise. While the Disneylands offer an experience of manipulated perfection and escapism, as well as commodifying nostalgia and branded symbols to foster visitors' emotional connections, they reinforce reliance on commodified leisure and perpetuate alienation. Nonetheless, they are appealing to those seeking relief from workplace pressures from stressful urban lives. This analysis

adds to the study of culture and consumption by showing how Hong Kong and Shanghai Disneylands are signs of prevalent global capitalism rather than sites of joy or positive efforts of glocalization for domestic consumers. Based on that, we propose two solutions: first, creating public, non-capitalist leisure spaces that prioritize inclusivity and collective well-being rather than nationalist alternatives that replicate capitalist dynamics; and second, implementing structural reforms on national and transnational levels to reduce overwork and societal dependence on capitalist leisure options.

(SMH3) Emerging Voices in the Sociology of Mental Health
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster

This session gathers a panel of emerging scholars and early career researchers who will advance the tradition of the Sociology of Mental Health through substantive, theoretical, and methodological innovations.

Session Organizers: Ruth Repchuck, McMaster University and Atsushi Narisada, Saint Mary's University
Session Chair: Atsushi Narisada, Saint Mary's University

Presentations:

1. Intimate Partner Violence and Animal Abuse: Impacts on Survivor Wellbeing
Rochelle Stevenson, Thompson Rivers University; Amy Peirone and Patti Timmons-Fritz, University of Windsor; Allison Gray, Western University

Research into intimate partner violence (IPV) has shown that it is common in for abusive partners to threaten or inflict harm upon family animal companions as a means of threatening, controlling, or hurting their intimate partners, especially when the abused partners have a close attachment to the animal companion (e.g., Collins et al., 2018; Faver & Strand, 2007; Fitzgerald et al., 2019; Volant et al., 2008). Despite this well-established link, little research has examined the potential impact of animal abuse on the well-being of human IPV survivors (Fitzgerald et al. 2020). Using the Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (Statistics Canada, 2018), we explored the connection between the experience of animal abuse in the context of IPV and overall wellbeing (subjective health, mental health, life satisfaction, psychological disorders, substance use, suicidality). We also explored the connection between the experience of animal abuse in the context of IPV and negative health consequences of IPV on survivors in both the personal sphere (e.g., nightmares, feeling numb, detached) and relational sphere (feel controlled, fearful or anxious of partners). Overall, we found that the experience of animal abuse in the context of IPV was connected to poorer wellbeing as well as health consequences. The presentation will dive into the nuances of our findings, and offer policy recommendations for the mental health and domestic violence service sectors.

2. Wired for Companionship: A Meta-Analysis on Social Robots Filling the Void of Loneliness in Later Life
Fahimeh Mehrabi and Akram Ghezelbash, University of Calgary

This paper has received the 2025 Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award

Loneliness is a growing public health concern among older adults, with significant implications for mental and physical well-being. Traditional interventions often fail to address the individualized nature of loneliness, prompting the exploration of innovative approaches such as social robots. Social robots, ranging from basic devices to advanced artificial intelligence (AI)-driven systems, interact with users through gestures, speech, and companionship, offering symbolic acts of connection. The emergence of AI-driven robots has introduced new possibilities for fostering interactions and providing a novel form of social support. Despite their promise, evidence on the effectiveness of social robots remains fragmented, with limited attention to the sociological considerations of this new intervention. Our study is grounded in the symbolic interactionism perspective, which emphasizes how individuals construct meaning through interactions. By interpreting the robots' gestures, speech, and responses as symbolic acts of connection, older adults perceive social robots as meaningful sources of companionship and support. The primary aim of our research is to evaluate the effectiveness of social robots in reducing loneliness among older adults. Systematic searches of Scopus, EBSCO, and Web of Science were conducted until October 2024. Effect sizes were synthesized using robust variance estimation, and moderator analyses examined factors such as living arrangements, robot type, cognitive health of participants, and cultural context. The overall pooled effect size was moderate and statistically significant, indicating reductions in loneliness. Using social robots in nursing homes and dementia care centers was more effective in reducing loneliness compared to using them in older adults' private homes. Also, studies conducted in Japan and Turkey showed more reductions in loneliness than in the United States. Social robots represent a novel sociotechnical intervention that blends human interaction with technological mediation, offering a form of symbolic social support.

2. Constructing Grounded Therapy: Adapting Grounded Theory for Self-Reflection in Therapeutic Processes

Annika Barzen, TU Chemnitz

Grounded Therapy is a conceptual model that applies qualitative analysis methods from the Grounded Theory Methodology to identify and understand unconscious patterns in psychotherapy settings. The approach involves collecting data such as conversation transcripts and journal entries, which are then collaboratively coded with the patient in the therapeutic context. This process aims to decipher emotional conflicts or behavioral patterns, fostering the patient's self-reflection and uncovering unconscious dynamics that can inform therapeutic interventions. The intervention method adopts a structured yet participatory approach, empowering patients to take an active role in their therapy. In the future, AI-powered tools could enhance this process by streamlining the transcription and analysis of data. Grounded Therapy thus offers new perspectives for understanding and addressing psychological conflicts while strengthening the therapeutic dialogue between therapist and patient.

3. Helpful or Harmful? An Institutional Ethnography of Self-Injury and Mental Health Care

Sarah Smith, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

This paper presentation is a condensed version of my doctoral thesis on the experiences of people who self-injure, how they come to be understood as mentally ill, and the work they must do to "get well." Using institutional ethnography and autoethnography as my methods of inquiry, I grapple with the disjunctures that exist between experiential and professional knowledges of self-injury and

outline the material impacts that these disjunctures have on people who self-injure. Using semi-structured interviews and textual analysis, I map people's experiences to key diagnostic and therapeutic texts in psychiatry, psychology, and social work, which frame people who self-injure as manipulative, attention-seeking, and almost always suicidal - discourses which often do not align with people's own perceptions of the meanings and motivations for their self-injury. I reveal how these discursive and definitional inconsistencies generate critical disconnects in the lives of people who self-injure as they become forced to navigate the stigma and iatrogenic harm imposed by these perceptions, and illustrate how people's experiences with self-injury and the mental health care system occur against a backdrop of misogyny and sanism. I argue that the deprivileging of experiential knowledge and the imposition of biomedical explanations for self-injury can lead to greater levels of mental distress, keeping people caught up in "the work of getting well" as they try to find the right supports within psychiatric services which are not always designed to help them flourish. This dissertation builds on a strong body of research in the sociology of self-injury (Chandler 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016; Brossard 2014, 2018, 2020), the sociology of mental health more broadly, as well as the fields of gender studies and mad studies, by offering a critical qualitative account of how mental health care is socially organized for people who self-injure.

(SPE3) Social inequality and social policy – current understandings and research
Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Social Policy and Social Equality Research Cluster

Various intersecting axes of social inequality exist in Canada and around the world. Much research - both theoretical and empirical - has been exploring the ways in which inequality may be reduced and lives, particularly of members of vulnerable social groups, may be improved. Inequality-reducing social policies, infrastructure, and social services are present in many areas, such as income, healthcare, education, and housing. Research into ways in which social policies are formed, implemented, institutionalized, and evaluated must often deal with highly abstract political and legal concepts - such as welfare and human rights, which underpin policy goals and necessarily influence its other aspects. Tensions between the theoretical underpinnings of a policy and its actual effects are common and may seriously undermining a central goal of modifying or limiting inequality, creating their own unequal effects. This session is concerned with such tensions, their origins in political and policy-formation processes, and possibilities of their resolution. This includes both theoretical and empirical research on social policy changes and evolution, as well as studies on innovative explorations of future directions in social policy, and studies focusing on social policy process as discourse.

Session Organizer and Chair: Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. The Localization of International Human Rights in Canada
Matthew Arkinstall, University of Western Ontario

Currently there is debate on the international stage on whether human rights are still useful as arguments for change around the world. Some scholars argue that human rights had their maximum impact from the early 1970s to the late 1990s and have since waned in effectiveness. Other researchers argue that human rights are still valuable it simply depends on context, for instance, human rights have made improvements as arguments for change in countries in South America for

instance, in recent years. It leads scholars to argue that human rights are useful when they are successfully localized by populations. In other words, when international treaty rights have been made salient for a specific country, they are more likely to take hold and be useful to change the lives for citizens within said country. To discover more about how human rights are localized I studied a country that has a robust human rights network, Canada. Being the second country in the world to institute a modern human rights organization, with a human rights commission for the country and one for each province and territory Canada was a perfect candidate to look into human rights localization. Using annual reports produced by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, I aimed to determine how international rights are localized by the commission, which rights are focused on by the commission, and which rights are neglected. I found that the commission focused most on rights related to racialized/indigenous people, those with disabilities, and women while it neglected: children's rights, migrant rights, economic rights, and civil rights. It is unclear why certain human rights are sidelined for others, though it is suggested that the commission is underfunded. Future research should ascertain some of the hurtles that the commission encounters on its attempt to localize human rights for citizens.

2. A Contextual Analysis of the Realities of Stratified Welfare Systems

Nethma Hapuarachchi, Toronto Metropolitan University

This paper critically explores the relationship between social inequality and social policy in Canada and the United States, focusing on the structural dynamics of welfare systems and their role in perpetuating socio-economic hierarchies. It examines how contemporary policies disproportionately benefit affluent individuals and corporations through wealthfare while constraining marginalized populations with inadequate and stigmatized welfare programs. Using historical and modern examples, this paper provides a social analysis of systemic inequities, emphasizing the material realities faced by those reliant on public assistance. Social inequality is deeply embedded in the welfare frameworks of both nations, as evidenced by programs such as Ontario Works (OW), the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), and the U.S. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). These programs provide minimal financial support, often falling below subsistence levels. In Ontario, ODSP provides a single individual an average monthly benefit of $1,169—far below the poverty line of $25,252 for single adults. TANF recipients in the United States face lifetime benefit limits, strict eligibility criteria, and work requirements, disproportionately affecting racialized women and single mothers. For instance, Black women, who make up 12.8% of the U.S. female population, represent 30% of TANF recipients. These figures illustrate how welfare programs perpetuate cycles of poverty rather than promoting socio-economic mobility. At the opposite end of the spectrum, wealthfare policies silently channel public resources to corporations and affluent individuals. In Ontario, corporate tax reductions have significantly reduced provincial revenues, leaving essential services underfunded. The Ford government's controversial decision to open protected Greenbelt land to developers prioritized private interests over public equity. Developers profited enormously while environmental preservation and public access to land were disregarded. Similarly, in the United States, corporate tax contributions dropped from 28% of federal revenue in the 1950s to just 7.4% by 2003, reflecting a fiscal shift that exacerbates economic inequality. The role of corporations in benefiting from wealthfare mechanisms is striking. For instance, Nestlé extracted groundwater from British Columbia for $2.25 per million liters while nearby communities faced water shortages. In the U.S., pharmaceutical companies profit from publicly funded research without reinvesting in affordability.

Taxol, a cancer drug developed with $31 million in public funding, was commercialized by Bristol-Myers Squibb, with treatment costs soaring to $10,000-$15,000 per cycle and no royalties returned to taxpayers. These inequities are compounded by the systemic stigmatization of welfare recipients, who are subjected to invasive scrutiny and societal judgment. Welfare programs in both Canada and the U.S. employ rigorous eligibility assessments, perpetuating narratives of dependency and moral failure. For instance, Ontario Works recipients must report all income sources, with benefits clawed back dollar-for-dollar. These measures disincentivize employment and trap individuals in precarity. In contrast, wealthfare beneficiaries, including corporations and the wealthy, face minimal scrutiny, and their privileges are framed as legitimate rewards for economic contribution. This paper concludes that welfare systems in Canada and the United States are structurally designed to sustain inequality by redistributing public resources upward through wealthfare while marginalizing those reliant on welfare. The intersection of our humanity, discomfort, privilege, and solidarity is inherently a political matter. Addressing these disparities requires policy reforms that focus on equitable resource allocation, increased transparency in wealthfare programs, and robust social protections for vulnerable populations. Holding corporate beneficiaries of public resources accountable and indexing welfare benefits to inflation are critical first steps toward mitigating inequality. By offering a detailed social analysis of the material realities of welfare and wealthfare, this paper underscores the urgent need for reform in social policy. It contributes to current understandings of social inequality, highlighting the structural barriers embedded in existing systems and providing actionable insights for fostering equity and justice.

3. The origin and epistemology of child labour discourse in Bangladeshi Society

Md Saidur Rashid Sumon, University of Manitoba

This study is qualitative in nature and this theoretical paper has identified epistemological position of child labour in Bangladeshi society over the past five decades. This paper has shed light on the epistemology of child labour in Bangladeshi society by exploring the origin and history of child labour, conceptualizations of child labour, policymaking process, and examining some debates on the issue. While there are many laws, policies, and strategic action plans available, and Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is politically committed to adopting global standards by following international legislation/policies like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention to address the child labour, local contexts in Bangladesh are at odds with these initiatives and policies. This study will certainly contribute to the qualitative scholars in social work education and practices.

(TEA1b) Teaching as Innovation and Praxis II: Scholarship of Teaching & Education

Sunday, 01 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Teaching and Learning Cluster

Teaching sociology is both a critical practice (praxis) and an innovative process that engages students with the world and adapts to social and technological shifts. This session highlights how the classroom may foster critical thinking, address real-world issues, and inspire meaningful social change.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Darryn DiFrancesco, University of Northern British Columbia
Jiyoung Lee-An, Thompson Rivers University

Presentations:

1. Reflexive pedagogy and emotional experience as catalyzing tools for enhancing students' social responsibility

Oral Robinson and Rohil Sharma, University of British Columbia

The cultivation of academic excellence alongside social responsibility has become a crucial competency in higher education. Emotional reflection has been shown to enhance students' development of emotional intelligence and learning experiences. While sociological literature acknowledges emotions as a socially constructed phenomenon shaped by cultural norms and interactions which impacts learning processes, there is little research on the relationship between students' emotional reflection and their agency to challenge social structures. Based on a survey (n=330) deployed throughout three terms of an introductory sociology course, we examine how pedagogy, particularly, reflexive pedagogical practices (such as prompted emotive writing, free-form journaling, and open dialogues between students) impact students self-perceived willingness to challenge structures. We found that reflective pedagogical activities were positively related to students' ability to recognize and challenge social injustices. We end by outlining some limitations of engaging in social and emotional learning (SEL) as well as strategies for educators to effectively engage in it.

2. The Agony and the Empathy? Two Modes of Emotionality in Controversial Classroom Discussions

Zach Richer, University of Toronto Mississauga

In recent years, the field of democratic education has placed great emphasize on the role of emotions in students' political judgments and identities. Course instructors have sought guidance from political and sociological theories on how to incorporate students' emotions in classroom settings, typically positioning the argument between agonistic pluralism (which is credited with having a robust theory of emotions) and deliberative democracy (which is faulted for not). I believe this framing leaves teachers of sociology with a false choice that at once neglects a growing body of scholarship on the place of emotions in deliberation and fails to attend to what is specific about emotionality in the agonist tradition. In revisiting the contributions of emotions in agonist and deliberative philosophies of democratic engagement, this paper broadens the theoretical and practical resources available to sociology instructors who promote discussions on controversial issues in their classrooms. In contrasting Mouffe's ontology of "radical negativity" in agonistic pluralism with the recent "empathic turn" in deliberative democratic theory, I show that educators need not choose between one theory of democratic engagement that takes emotions seriously and another that does not. Instead, the choice is between distinct visions of what emotions *are*, what they *do*, and how they *relate* to our identities.

3. Does AI Know Sociology?

Debra Wetcher-Hendricks, Moravian University

It has become impossible to ignore the new mindsets and habits that students have adopted since the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as Chat GPT, Claude, and Google Gemini. These writing assistants have challenged higher education faculty to reconsider not only assessment of student work, but also student engagement with course material. Because AI will clearly not

disappear from the academic realm, faculty who strive to provide their students with the most beneficial learning experiences must incorporate it into their pedagogy. Doing so requires, first, evaluating the extent to which AI can accurately present course concepts to students, as the validity of information it provides determines the extent to which faculty can implement it in lessons and assignments or must penalize students who use it. Such an investigation involved students in Introductory Sociology classes. The students compared definitions and applications of core course concepts that they produced, based upon class discussion and textbook explanations, to definitions and applications produced by AI. The students' reflections upon similarities and distinctions between the two suggested that AI can produce fairly accurate explanations of foundational concepts, but fails to correctly apply these concepts to practical matters, such as current events.

(CRM6) Policing Research, what's the state of play?
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

Understanding policing is an important aspect for social researchers and there is a wide variety of perspectives on policing and policing research. This panel seeks to take the temperature on contemporary studies of police and policing conducted on policing in Canada and elsewhere. There has been a rich tradition of policing research in Canada going back several decades and the state of research around the world demonstrates substantial differences in access. These studies, and the scholars conducting them, have had lasting impact on the state of policing researcher in both Canada and abroad. However, there have also been various complications over the decades conducting research on the police. The days of police services simply refusing to allow researchers access to the inner workings of the institution appear to be gone in Canada; however, there remain barriers to policing research. Outside of Canada, barriers can take different forms. In addition, there are important questions about what kind of relationship(s) researchers can have, or even should have, with police services, particularly when policing agencies and researchers perceive to be at odds. In many areas, there remain layers of bureaucracy impeding the research process. Contributors to this panel will reflect on the experience of conducting research around policing, and consider the future policing research.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Tanya Trussler, Mount Royal University and Patrick Watson, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. The Care Mandate: Police Perceptions of Organizational Change
Aidan Lang, Wilfrid Laurier University

This presentation examines modern conceptualizations of police culture in the context of the newly implemented Ontario Community Safety and Policing Act (OCSPA). The OCSPA includes over 40 new training regulations emphasizing de-escalation, crisis response, and relational policing. Traditionally, police culture has been viewed as a monolithic set of values, such as solidarity, skepticism, and machismo. However, contemporary perspectives frame police culture as a dynamic "tool-kit" that officers differentially deploy to meet situational demands. Legal, political, and organizational factors, such as community policing initiatives, public scrutiny, and metric-based performance, further shape these cultural expressions. This presentation suggests these policy

measures may have a profound effect on how officers define and navigate their roles. Indeed, the dramatically shifting landscape that Ontario police officers find themselves in is one deserving of contemporary study.

2. Policing research in Canada and the South Pacific: opportunities, challenges, and strategies

Tanya Trussler, and Julie Brooke Mount Royal University; Sara Amin, University of the South Pacific; Danielle Watson, Queensland University of Technology

In most countries, police are the most visible arm of the justice system and are the only group permitted to use force against citizens; therefore, it is important to research the various processes and practices of police. There is a substantial and growing set of policing research globally; however, researching crime and policing has its complications. Access to both data and police have historically been difficult, and research is unevenly distributed regionally. This paper examines research into two different geographical areas: Canada and the South Pacific. It outlines the importance of policing research, the differences in the two regions, the opportunities for collaborating with the police, and the challenges for research. It will also discuss some of the issues that are currently preoccupy contemporary policing discourse and some insights into future research.

3. Narratives of Victim Precipitation in Police Accountability Reports: The Case of the SIU's Response to Suicide-by-Cop Declarations

Annie Li and Patrick Watson**,** University of Toronto; Carmen Nave, Wilfrid Laurier University

Suicide-by-cop (SbC) is a category of homicide attributed to incidents where an individual provokes a police response with the intent of having the responding officers cause the person's death. While initially a media category, it gained some salience in academic literature following a brief article published by emergency room physicians and police officers in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* circa 1998 (Hutson, et al., 1998). SbC has remained something of an academic and practical enigma since then. It is a "novel science" according to Canadian criminal case law (c.f. *Forcillo 2016*) and frequently divides scholars on the constitution of *bona fide* intent on the part of the victim. Nevertheless, it is something of a police category, a means used by police officers to explain (and occasionally justify) erratic conduct by individuals police officers kill during interactions. This talk examines 15 cases of a civilian police oversight service and the place narratives SbC takes in reports exonerating police officers for the decision to use lethal force. Crucially, we observe that, while this oversight agency acknowledges the presence of narratives of intentional victim precipitation resulting in an on-duty shooting, the oversight service neither endorses or denies the facticity of such claims and generally avoids using such claims to justify the decision to shoot. These occasions question the significance of such categorizations, and how police services and individual officers go about describing victim intent at stages both leading up to, and following, lethal use-of-force.

(ENV1d) Environmental Sociology IV: Managing Environmental Change and Addressing Inequalities

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Papers in this open call for environmental sociology investigate issues of discourse and power; justice and the environment, social policy and guiding theoretical frameworks, managing

environmental change, and addressing inequalities connected with the environment. Grassroots groups, corporate actions, governance decisions, and aspects of race, class, and gender are addressed by papers in these open sessions.

Session Organizer: Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico

Session Chair: Lisa Seiler, York University

Presentations:

1. Canadian Disability and Climate Change Network and Strategy

Olivia Boonstra and **Nicole Collier**, Eviance and **Evan Wicklund,** Disability Studies

In 2024, Eviance (Canadian Centre on Disability Studies Incorporated) undertook a multi-year project which addresses the overlapping issues and actions related to climate justice and the cross-disability movement in Canada. This project, "Canadian Disability and Climate Change Network and Strategy" aims to close gaps in research on climate change and disability and facilitate opportunities for diverse actors working in this space to collaborate and develop solutions towards creating equitable responses to climate change. The objectives of this project pay specific attention to how people with disabilities in both academic and community research tends to either omit and/or underprivilege experiences of people with disabilities (Abualghaib, n.d.; Jodoin et al., 2023; Uddin et al., 2024). We problematize how many climate action organizations in Canada do not effectively consider the needs of people with disabilities or adhere to accessibility standards which are required for climate change initiatives (Stein et al., 2022). Conversely, many disability organizations do not account for climate change and the disproportionate impact it has on people with disabilities (Cole et a., 2018). While this project is in its beginning stages, this presentation will explore our initial findings gathered from our literature review on disability and climate change. Themes covered will include the impacts of climate change, disability and disaster management, and include a review of what is being done, and what may be done to combat issues related to climate change and disability (Reed et al., 2023; Williams et al., 2018). This presentation will also include a review of the project, which furthers the National Disability and Climate Strategy and includes establishing national networks so people with disabilities, climate advocates and organizations, and organizations of people with disabilities (OPDs) can share information about climate justice.

2. From Grassroots to Global: The Global Greens' Approach to Cooperative Politics

Alison Lam, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

According to Quarter et al. (2018), "The environment has been a major issue for social movement organizations, and with global warming is likely to continue to be" (p152). With UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declaring that "the era of global boiling has arrived" (Nichols, 2023), social movement organizations, particularly at the global level, are more prevalent than ever. The Global Greens is a confederation of over 100 Green parties and Green political organizations around the world sharing the same key principles in their advocacy of environmental sustainability and social justice. Guided by the concepts and definitions of social economy as laid out by Quarter et al. (2018), as well as governance by member-based organizations as explained by Spear (2004), this paper seeks to demonstrate how the Global Greens embodies cooperative governance of social movement organizations at a global level with the goal of environmental protection and justice. I will be taking an ethnographic approach and applying institutional theory according to Jakobs (2023) and DiMaggio & Powell (2000) to address how isomorphism, as well as Cornforth's (2004) views on

competing theories regarding cooperative governance, contribute to the Global Greens governance structure. In what ways do Green parties around the world influence each other or is true cooperative governance represented? Robbins' (2007) writings on political ecology and governmentality will provide a perspective on whether organizations, rather than individuals, as members of a social movement organization serve to help or hinder the goals of environmental advocacy. By analyzing the advocacy work and the decision-making processes of the organization, this research will explore the challenges of cooperative governance at the global political level. Areas to be covered will include Global Greens' role in global policy-making, ecological sustainability, biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation, and environmental justice.

3. Social Reproduction, Gender, and Climate Change: The Overlooked Challenges of Farm women in Canada and Cameroon.

Louisa L. Shei, **Mbuli S. Clodine**, and Ezekiel Yuha Nji, Independent Researchers

The unpredictability, severity, and frequency of climate events have far-reaching impacts on local communities largely dependent on agriculture for livelihood. Dominant discourses on climate change in the Global North and Global South which focus more on natural science and technological approaches overlook the social impact on farm women who are highly involved in farm management and climate change adaptation. In some local agricultural communities, the masculine nature of agriculture, entrenched gender roles, and women's multiple roles affect their experiences and responses to external shocks and stresses. This study examines how farm women's reproductive work, often undervalued in local farming communities impacts their experiences of climate change. It will be based on an in-depth qualitative study of 40 farm women in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada, and Ndop, Northwest Region, Cameroon. We argue that farm women's multiple roles which are overlooked affect their active participation in farm management, climate change adaptation, and involvement in major agricultural and climate change decision-making bodies. Meanwhile, the recognition of women's pivotal role in agriculture contributes to transformative climate change adaptation and the sustainability of local agricultural communities in the Global North and South.

(GAS9) Schools, Stakeholders, and the Production of Gender and Sexuality

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

Schools occupy a controversial site in the production of gender and sexuality. Though schools ostensibly exist to deliver an academic education, their formal and hidden curricula play a key role in the production of gender and sexuality. At the same time, schools constitute an organizational site where stakeholders collaborate, clash, and collide to shape gender and sexual ideologies, reflecting debates in the broader social world. This panel engages scholarship on various stakeholders across multiple educational contexts to consider schools as a site for reinforcing and challenging gendered and sexual hierarchies.

Session Organizer: Lacey Bobier, University of Toronto
Session Chair: J Overholser, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. STEM Guys: Anti-Feminism among Male STEM Students

Yu-Hsuan Sun, University of Toronto

Amid intense political debates on teaching gender categories in schools, scholars of gender and education have paid attention to how experiences in childhood education, such as curriculums and peer interactions, produce frames of gender among the youth. Yet, how do actors navigate gender categories in post-secondary education when practices of gender categories are relatively consolidated? The study focuses on the production and reproduction of gender in a familiar yet underexplored social group: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) college students. The study seeks to understand two questions: What are gender and political ideologies STEM students uphold due to their experiences? How do social interactions within male-concentrated college STEM environments foster certain gender ideologies among their members? To answer these questions, the author conducts focus groups on STEM college students in Toronto to gather data on (1) what and how STEM students construct their own gender beliefs, especially those hostile towards the demand of feminism, and (2) how these beliefs mutually inform their social interactions with others, especially when gender is involved. STEM students are essential for studying gender and education because they may represent a more "centrist" population behind the gender backlash. Furthermore, previous studies of gender and sexuality in college students tend to focus on Greek life and the party scene rather than socially reserved who partake in niche hobbies. The formative experiences of gender among STEM students are a likely source of anti-feminism and anti-2SLGBTQ+ sentiments.

2. Parental Rights in Canada: They Grow Up So Fast

Ella Duncan, University of the Fraser Valley

Parental rights movements are gaining momentum across the U.S. and Canada as a response to the progressive themes introduced into schools. Furthermore, while Saskatchewan may be the first province to implement paternal rights into law, many other provinces, including Alberta and New Brunswick, have implemented policies that restrict a child's right to social transition in schools, with Alberta also restricting lessons on sexual education and classroom discussions about sexuality and gender diversity. These ideas are being spearheaded by an emerging social movement, The Parental Rights Movement. So, I am posing two questions for my research project: (1) How prevalent has the movement become in Canada's public discourse and mainstream media? (2) How is the parental rights movement framed in Canadian mainstream news media? In Kristine L. Bowman's paper, The New Parents' Rights Movement, Education, and Equality, she examines the frequency of parent's rights rhetoric in U.S. national media coverage of education from July 2018 to June 2023. Building on this pioneering work, my project will replicate Dr. Bowman's study of parental rights in media but in the Canadian context. To replicate and include recent news input, I intend to measure the frequency and framing of articles mentioning key words such as "parental rights" or "right of parents" in national and provincial news sources from July 2018 to October 2024. This research is essential because it will add to the sociological canon information about the parental rights movement, primarily how it is being represented in media in Canada. Although the research on the movement is expanding, more of it needs to be studied in the specific Canadian context.

3. Queer Joy as a Pedagogy of Resistance: Reimagining Gender-based Violence Prevention with 2SLGBTQ+ Student Educators

JJ Wright, MacEwan University and **Gillian Robinson,** University of Alberta

This presentation shares findings from community-engaged research with a peer anti-sexual violence education team at an urban, Canadian prairie university. The research is part of the Queer Joy! Project which examined queer sexual joy as a form of resistance against the colonial, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, classist cultural norms that lead to gender-based violence and anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate. Working with student peer educators, we engaged in focus groups and a small, student-led curricular development project to begin to create a novel, queer joy-centered gender-based violence (GBV) prevention curriculum for use with the student body at post-secondary institutions. This research initiative builds upon a prior project that found that cisheteronormativity, as a root of rape culture, can be challenged by 'queering' and 'cripping' hegemonic sexual cultures. Speaking with the student peer educators revealed the struggles to achieve equity in sexual and romantic relationships with men that cisheterosexual and bi women and non-binary people continue to have; but these conversations also demonstrated the ways in which 2SLGBTQ+ sexual cultures provide lessons and new imaginaries for creating less violent, more just (hetero)sexual cultures. In this presentation, we will discuss the methodology of the study and the benefits of collaborating with youth on curricular development. We will also describe the curricular activity that the peer educators developed in collaboration with the researchers. This activity involves learning about how to break cisheternormative sexual scripts through prompts that first identify hegemonic sexual scripts and then highlight the pleasures and joy of breaking these scripts by queering and cripping them. After over 30 years of the statistics on GBV in Canada staying stagnant or even rising, a novel approach to GBV prevention is urgently needed. This project develops more effective as well as inclusive GBV prevention education that centers the "subjugated knowledges" (Harraway, 1988) of diverse sexual and gender minorities.

(IND3) Community-Based Research Focus: Doing research differently with Indigenous and marginalized communities

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

The research landscape for sociologists in Canada is changing with a larger emphasis being placed on the way that research is done with and within communities. Increasingly, researchers are called to attend to the specific needs of community in grant applications, research proposals, and peer reviewed publications and to incorporate community voices and perspectives into their research (Kovatch 2021; Wilson 2001). The days where researchers worked from a distance making claims about a group of people seem to be almost over. However, the concept of community has a long and problematic genealogy in sociology with the bonds between members of community labeled mechanical and sociologists arguing communities share a singular consciousness or set of beliefs (Durkheim 1893). For those of us doing community-based research this sort of uniformity has been proven empirically invalid. Yet the turn toward community in sociological research raises important questions about the very nature of the communities we work with, the problems of dissent and disagreement within the communities we study, and the promises and perils of community-based research for almost every branch of our discipline. This panel features papers with a community-based research methodology focus.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Dean Ray, York University, Angele Alook, York University, and Jeffrey Denis, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Who Gets What? The Ethics and Politics of Archival and Community-engaged Research in an Era of Reconciliation

Amber Dean and **Vanessa Watts**, McMaster University and **Kara Granzow,** University of Lethbridge

Our Indigenous-led research project, "The Challenge of Reconciliation: What we can learn from the stories of the Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium and the Mohawk Institute Residential School" is one year into its multi-year research mandate. The Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium housed Inuit during the 1950s-70s for treatment of tuberculosis. Contemporaneously, children from Six Nations of the Grand River (and other communities) were apprehended and taken to the Mohawk Institute in Brantford, Ontario. A mere thirty-minute drive from each other, both communities were institutionalized under the pretense of addressing sickness and child welfare - the primary relationship of which was with state power. This project aims to explore what Inuit and Haudenosaunee interconnections and proximities look like outside of state-informed processes of reconciliation. Our paper will focus on one area of study in this project: the examination and repatriation of archival records and creative works connected to the Mountain Sanatorium. Guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *Call to Action #70* which calls for a national review of archival policies and best practices to ensure Indigenous peoples' "inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why," our paper explores ethical and political questions arising from our attempts to access archival records and to engage directly with community members who have been impacted by the former Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium. We will provide an overview and critical examination of: our experiences as a research team with respect to challenges and successes in our attempts to gain archival access to historical records; what community-engaged research has brought to the fore in terms of the potential for repatriation of sensitive archival documents, and; the politics that shape what access looks like for Indigenous-led research teams and communities in an era of reconciliation.

2. Art as Medicine: Using Arts-Based Research to Empower, Articulate, and Heal Indigenous Women's Experiences of Concussions in Ice Hockey

Niya St. Amant, Queen's University

Many of the salient features of Arts-Based Research (ABR) align with the tenants of decolonization, allowing ABR to work as an approach that can interrogate settler-colonialism and disrupt Western ways of doing research. Therefore, ABR can be a tool and praxis for decolonization by actively resisting and countering historical colonial research practices that make Indigenous peoples the object of research as opposed to subjects who know and act. I use ABR to explore how Indigenous women negotiate, experience, and heal from concussions in competitive ice hockey. Athletes completed asynchronous art projects, which were used to facilitate an interview about their embodied concussion experiences. This presentation will explore the way this art was used to (1) empower Indigenous women, disrupting colonial ways of doing research, (2) articulate their concussion experiences in ways unique to ABR, and (3) help Indigenous women heal and process their concussion experiences.

3. Resurgent Methodology: Doing Research Differently with Indigenous Peoples

Dean Ray, York University

This paper introduces *resurgent methodology*, a research approach designed to support Indigenous resurgence by aligning with Indigenous methodologies and fostering cultural regeneration. Grounded in critiques of colonial knowledge production, it prioritizes the ethical, epistemological, and relational dimensions of research with Indigenous communities, emphasizing reciprocity, respect, and the exchange of legitimate authority. Resurgent methodology is informed by Indigenous paradigms, such as the work of scholars like Kovach, Wilson, and Smith, and addresses the harm caused by conventional research practices. It advocates for research that is useful, intelligible, reciprocal, and relational, centering the authority of Indigenous communities over their representation. This involves developing relationships with community members, incorporating their feedback, and ensuring research serves their needs. The methodology recognizes the Land as an active participant in research, reflecting Indigenous epistemologies that integrate human and non-human relations. Drawing on post-structuralist concepts of holism, it challenges Western dichotomies of subject and object, aligning instead with Indigenous principles that view knowledge and existence as interconnected. Key practices include community-based peer review, iterative data analysis, and honoring refusal as a form of sovereignty. Examples from fieldwork in the Nicola Valley demonstrate how this methodology unfolds through relationships, reflexivity, and cultural specificity. Ultimately, *resurgent methodology* seeks to transform research into a collaborative process that supports Indigenous resurgence while dismantling colonial legacies in academia.

4. Transformative Research: Japanese Canadian Identity, Resistance, and Community-Building through JCAAP

Izumi Sakamoto, Momo Ando, and Ai Yamamoto**,** University of Toronto

The Japanese Canadian Arts and Activism Project (JCAAP) exemplifies the profound transformation that occurs when researchers immerse themselves in community-based research. Rooted in the historical and contemporary experiences of Japanese Canadians, JCAAP explores how artistic practice and activism intersect within this community, weaving together stories of identity, resilience, and resistance. Japanese Canadians have a long history in Canada, with the first immigrants arriving in 1877. JC history is deeply marked by adversity, notably the mass incarceration during World War II. Today, Japanese Canadians span diverse generations and identities, including those descended from pre-war immigrants and post-war arrivals. These intersecting identities—shaped by family history, "mixed-ness", loss of language and culture, gender, sexual orientation, and generation—create a complex and vibrant cultural fabric.

For many, finding a sense of belonging within the Japanese Canadian community is fraught with challenges. Participants of focus groups and interviews in JCAAP often express feelings of alienation, perceiving themselves as outsiders within spaces meant to represent their heritage. Yet, JCAAP has emerged as a vital platform for addressing these difficulties, creating spaces for connection and empowerment.

(OMN1a) Broad Perspectives on Immigration Research
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am

This session features research relating to migration and immigration.

Session Chair: Shreyashi Ganguly, York University

Presentations:

1. Connected yet Divided: Identity Management among Southeast Asian Students in Taiwan

Wei-Yun Chung, Global Asia Research Center, National Taiwan University

This paper examines Taiwan as a case study to explore the classed and racialized dynamics among labor, marriage, and student migrants. It investigates how students—the most privileged group among Southeast Asian migrants—employ various strategies to manage their status, mitigate stigma imposed by the host society, and maintain contextual connections with other migrant groups of the same nationality. Based on 45 in-depth interviews with Southeast Asian students, I observe a racial hierarchy both on and off campus, with these students occupying the lowest tier. They frequently experience microaggressions, exclusion, and racism, usually attributing such treatment to being mistaken for migrant workers or foreign brides, who are highly stigmatized in Taiwanese society. To avoid having their identity and status "spoiled" (Goffman, 1963), these students adopt contextual strategies, activating various identities to either distinguish themselves from or connect with lower-status compatriots in different social settings. Three strategies emerged along ethnoracial, status, and class lines: passing, status-based distinction, and nationality-based connection. Southeast Asian students, particularly those studying at prestigious universities, emphasize their elite student status in predominantly Taiwanese social contexts, where avoiding stigma is crucial. Students with Chinese heritage are more likely to pass without facing discrimination due to their phenotypes and cultural similarities to Han Chinese, the predominant ethnic group in Taiwan. Conversely, those working part-time with migrant workers or foreign brides often emphasize their nationality-based identity to foster a friendlier workplace atmosphere. Existing literature frequently treats student, marriage, and labor migrants as distinct groups. This classification overlooks how immigration policies, along with race, class, and nationality, shape dynamics within migrant communities. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex ethnoracial and class dynamics among migrant groups, highlighting how these dynamics, influenced by broader economic, cultural, and immigration policy contexts, may hinder the cohesion of the migrant community.

2. "Give me a reason to stay"; Understanding youth outmigration in rural Nova Scotia

Hailie Tattrie, Mount Saint Vincent University

When looking at a sociological problem it is not enough to wax poetic in the halls of the academy; writing conference abstracts and publishing papers that may have no real impact on the everyday people that we are studying. Rather, we must take research a step beyond theory, we must embrace Gramsci's concept of 'the new intellectual'; "the academic who refuses to stay locked up in the ivory tower and, instead, goes to the streets to work with and on behalf of the least privileged" (DeMeulenaere & Cann, 2013, p.557). Indeed, we must commit sociology. This case study strives to make true meaningful change with the local community by listening to and incorporating the lived experiences of youth and youth service providers. By employing a Participatory Action Research

approach this study aims to better understand why youth are leaving rural Nova Scotia, and will work to make change that gives youth a true reason to stay.

3. Creative Writing Pedagogies for Labour Migration Diasporas

Julie Ham, Brock University; Yvonne Yu, Hong Kong Baptist University

In this presentation, we discuss The Writer's Toolbox, our collaboration with Migrant Writers of Hong Kong, a creative writing network founded by writers and domestic workers, Maria Nemy Lou Rocio, Ailenemae Ramos and Liezel Fernandez Marcos. This collaboration comprised three series of creative writing workshops in 2020, 2022 and 2024 that initially sought to develop creative writing pedagogies that were attentive to the needs and priorities of migrant domestic workers. This initially involved re-thinking creative writing pedagogies that predominate in Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programs. Our objectives evolved from these initial pedagogical objectives to consider the potentiality within creative writing spaces for more collaborative, explorative, communal endeavours that spoke to participants' ongoing community organizing efforts. We discuss what labour migration diaspora writers may contribute to the field of creative writing pedagogies and the role of creative writing initiatives in migrant rights efforts. We conclude with reflections on what writing spaces may look like for a global, transnational workforce and what creative writing pedagogies may or may not offer to labour migration diaspora writers.

(RAS1) Communicating Research for Social Impact

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: CSA Research Advisory Subcommittee

This workshop, led by MediaSmarts, a non-profit community-based organization, will explore the possibilities and challenges related to communicating research beyond the academy. In contexts such as sharing research online, submitting funding proposals, or producing research that impacts policy, industry, and the broader public, researchers need to present their work to non-research audiences. However, the skills required to do so are not always explicitly discussed or available to researchers in the academy. In its centering of the research-to-resource model, MediaSmarts - Canada's centre for digital media literacy - is uniquely positioned as an organization that regularly engages in communicating research for social impact within the research sector and beyond.
In this session, MediaSmarts will speak to its knowledge mobilization work with a wide variety of audiences, including community organizations, education experts, policymakers, corporations and industry, violence against women and healthcare professionals, as well as a large network of teachers, parents, caregivers, and youth. MediaSmarts will share experiences, approaches, and lessons learned, from three projects that represent different audiences and stages of communicating research beyond the academy:

Moving On: Digital Empowerment and Literacy Skills for Survivors
From Access to Engagement: Building a Digital Media Literacy Strategy for Canada
Artificial Intelligence in Pediatric Healthcare, with The Toronto Hospital for Sick Children

MediaSmarts' experts will speak to the needs of non-research audiences (e.g. government officials and policymakers) including what they look for when research is communicated to them, how research can support community organizations as they serve equity-deserving groups, and best practices for engaging the public through social campaigns. Finally, the session will end with an

interactive activity in which attendees (including early, mid and late career researchers) will use their current or past work and find ways to communicate three key messages or findings to a chosen non-research audience.

Workshop Organizers and Facilitators:
Kara Brisson-Boivin, MediaSmarts
Vanessa Turyatunga, MediaSmarts
Khadija Baig, MediaSmarts

(SCL6) Creativity and Cultural Producers
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

Presentations in this session analyze creative work from a sociological perspective. By bringing together sociological insights derived from an array off creative fields, this session highlights leading theories in the sociology of creativity that emphasize the inequalities, rituals, and routines of creative work.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Taylor Price, New York University

Presentations:

1. Practicing Creativity: How Dynamic Routines Shape Creative Work in Design and Advertising
AnneMarie Dorland, Mount Royal University

The production of culture in creative industries such as branding, advertising, and design is shaped by dynamic routines that structure and transform work practices. While routines are often seen as stabilizing forces within organizations (Feldman et al., 2016), recent scholarship has emphasized their emergent and flexible nature, particularly in creative contexts (Deken & Sele, 2021). This paper draws on a social practice theory perspective to examine creative work and cultural production as a series of dynamic routines composed of creativity-relevant processes, as outlined by Amabile (2017). In this framework, routines are not merely repetitive tasks but are instead adaptive, often contingent on collaboration, expertise, and the affordances created by the creative workplace (Mattarelli et al., 2024). This paper examines the role of dynamic routines in the work practices of cultural producers, arguing that these routines are vital to both the continuity and innovation inherent in creative labor and surfacing the ways in which creativity in the advertising or design studio emerges not from a lack of routine, but through the interaction of well-established practices and the capacity for innovation within them. Drawing from ethnographic research conducted in advertising and design firms from across Canada, it explores how creative professionals navigate, modify, and sometimes disrupt routines in response to client demands, project requirements, and shifting cultural trends. These dynamic routines—ranging from formalized processes such as client briefings to more fluid activities like collaborative ideation—are integral to sustaining both creative momentum and organizational efficiency while fuelling the creative endurance required for this work (Liu et al., 2016). They reflect a continuous negotiation between individual expertise, team dynamics, and organizational constraints while mediating the relationship between individual and collective creativity, and enabling cultural producers to manage both the demands of the organization and the complexities of creative work. Our analysis reveals how dynamic routines

shape the production of culture through ongoing processes of collaboration, improvisation, and knowledge exchange, and offers new insights into the occupational cultures and organizational dynamics of creative industries.

2. Facilitating, Calibrating, and Actualizing Authenticity: How Music Producers Shape Performance in Recording Settings

Taylor Price, New York University

How do music producers help musicians achieve peak authentic performances in recording sessions? By focusing on the production of recorded music as an interactional and technical accomplishment, this study examines how music producers shape performances in recording studios to be legible as authentic. I argue that producers contribute to the quality of an in-studio performance through a three-phase process moving from facilitation, to calibration, and finally to actualization. At each phase of this social and technologically mediated process, music producers align artistic intent, performance capacity, cultural intermediation. Facilitation is the initial phase in which music producers cultivate an environment where musicians can focus, be vulnerable, and be confident enough to realize their peak level of performance. Calibration is the middle phase which can involve music producers making technical choices about the recording process and sometimes permanent technical compromises to facilitate peak authentic performances; for example, I observed music producers opt to use lower-quality microphones over accessible high-quality microphones or allow background noise to "bleed" into a recording in order to mimic someone's typical or ideal performance conditions. Actualization is the final phase that involves making a cultural object manifest and consumable. The final stages of actualization are typically completed after a recording session when producers use editing, mixing, and effects to heighten the precision or emotional weight of a performance. Through this three-phase process, music producers shift from cultivating ideal performance conditions to cultivating conditions for audiences to experience a deep connection with the performer and the text. By analyzing the link from situational authenticity to the fabrication of authenticity, this study contributes to sociological theories of cultural intermediaries by tracing how situational dynamics shape the interplay between creative ideation, social interaction, performance, and cultural production. Ultimately, this study reveals how recording studio performances are not simply captured. Getting peak and authentic performances recorded involves facilitating appropriate performance conditions, navigating technical compromises, and interacting with musicians to fabricate recorded performances that are legible as authentic among future audiences.

3. Power, Music, Censorship, and Everything in Between.

Onadavwaro (Daro) Mrakpor, University of Calgary

This poster examines the history of music censorship in the US, focusing on five artists who faced significant censorship throughout their careers: The Beatles, Madonna, N.W.A., The Dixie Chicks (now The Chicks), and Eminem. By identifying three forms of censorship—formal, informal, and ambiguous—my research explores how these mechanisms intersect and influence artists and their work, begging the question, who determines what "bad" music is. Drawing on Michel Foucault's power/knowledge theory, this study analyzes the effects of censorship on individuality, identity, and authenticity while considering its broader impact on musical development. Through a thematic analysis of song lyrics, personality codes, and shifts in artistic expression, this research identifies

instances where external pressures might have influenced creative output. Contrary to expectations, the findings reveal no discernible negative change to the authenticity or lyrical integrity of the artists' work. However, significant personal and professional impacts were observed, underscoring the multifaceted nature of censorship as a political and social tool. While this study notes differential treatment based on race and gender, these issues remain outside its scope. Ultimately, the research highlights the interplay between power, regulation, and resistance in the music industry, offering insights into the broader sociological implications of censorship.

(SCY2a) Children and Youth Participating in their Life Worlds for Social Impact I
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster

This session is intended to explore how children and youth are participating in their life worlds for social impact. It aspires to do so through a particular conceptualization for children and youth participation as unfolding in a relational manner. Presentations in this session will explore how both young people and adult gatekeepers conceptualize participation in a variety of settings. These presentations will illuminate both children and youth's experiences with and best practices for understanding, supporting, and advancing their participatory rights.

Session Organizers: Dustin Ciufo and Laurel Donison, King's University College at Western University, Madison Moore and Christine Goodwin-De Faria, Trent University

Session Chairs: Christine Goodwin-De Faria and Madison Moore, Trent University

Presentations:

1. The Interplay of Social Justice Frameworks and Youth Counter-Conduct in Toronto's Youth Work Sector
Maria Bernard, Kings University College at University of Western Ontario

The concept of social justice is a contested term that is historically and contextually influenced and has predominantly been limited to Western liberal paradigms of redistribution and recognition. Tuck and Yang invite us to question what concepts such as justice mean beyond general notions of moral and ethical positions of righteousness and fairness. Many of the liberal conceptualizations of fairness and equity hail from enlightenment notions of the universal man, which excluded Black, Indigenous, and other racial subjects from the category of human. Liberalism's racist underpinnings have been buried and glossed over, subjecting society to, what Stoler calls, a state of colonial aphasia that results in a loss for the language to critique progressive frameworks such as youth participation and youth inclusion. This paper dissects understandings of youth participation, social inclusion and youth racial justice within the youth-work sector in Toronto. It unpacks the inclusion of racialized youth and youth worker voices within institutional spaces. The discussion concentrates on the complex practices of truth-telling by racialized youth and youth workers, who are often marginalized youth themselves. Utilizing Foucault's governmentality framework, the paper argues that racialized youth and workers' speech acts range from forms of confessions to parrhesiastic truth-telling, identified as a risky act of telling truth to power to disrupt the system. The latter part of the paper traces the acts of counter-conduct envisioned in moments of inclusion/exclusion and unpacks their possibilities, limits, and ongoing threats from various power systems.

2. A decolonial approach to youth migrant solidarity in the global south.

Omar Lujan, Trent University

Sanctuary cities develop policies and services aiming to provide a level of protection and inclusion to precarious migrants. Despite increasing efforts of the migrant solidarity literature to study sanctuary policies and services in the global south, most research in this area has been conducted in cities in the global north. In addition, there has been little attention on local solidarity practices let by young migrants. This presentation addresses this research gap by providing a decolonial conceptual framework to the study of migrant youth solidarity practices in the context of the Global South. Specifically, this presentation will examine spaces available for migrant youth participation in Latin American urban centres, and present an epistemological and ontological theoretical framework based on Anibal Quijano's concept of decoloniality of power and decoloniality of knowledge. This presentation concludes by arguing that a decolonial approach to the study of migrant youth solidarity practices (1) problematizes Eurocentric notions of agency among children and youth in the context of migration in the global south; and (2) fosters a focus on children and youth active participation in migrant solidarity as transformative social practices that can further advance local solidarity with precarious migrants in Latin America and other regions of the Global South.

3. Children, Schools and Rights: Children's Role in Developing Child Rights Education in Global Contexts

Heather Kathleen Manion and Shelley Jones, Royal Roads University

As future leaders, children will be tasked to live with and through the uncertainty and shifting paradigms that have come to the fore in the 21st Century, with divisive fractures and factions that threaten hard-won gains in human rights and global social justice. Although historically children have been expected to look to adults for guidance as to ways to negotiate life, the kinds of adult-made global confusion and volatility we are currently confronting as a planet suggests that adults need instead to facilitate conditions that are conducive to cultivating the creative, powerful, relational, vibrant, and "unmanipulated" potential of children, and truly pay attention to their insights and wisdom, in order to support their (and our) journey to become much more enlightened, interdependent and capable global citizens. Global partnerships, active engagement, friendships, empathy, compassion, and recognition of universal rights - although nuanced in responses to context - are key to this journey. In this paper, we discuss findings from our five year (2022-2027) SSHRC Insight-funded research project, *Child Rights Education in Diverse Global Contexts and Times of Crises - A decolonizing, participatory action research project with educators, children, and community members in Canada and Uganda* which has brought together researchers, educators from Uganda and Canada to work with schoolchildren to support children's understanding of, as well as claim to their rights in whatever (geographical, socioeconomic, political) context they are situated. Drawing on data from school visits, postcard and other forms of exchanges between children in different contexts, teacher workshops, community focus group discussions, and interactions between teachers from Canada and Uganda and interactions between the children and educators/researchers from different countries, we consider themes that have emerged that offer possibilities for strengthening child rights universally as well as promise hopeful ways of bringing about more peace, empathy, partnership and justice at a global level as these children become future leaders.

4. Young People's Participation in Digital Spaces: A Parent's Perspectives

Madison Moore, **Christine Goodwin-De Faria** and **Kathy-Ann Murray,** Trent University (Durham)

Internet use among young people has seen an upward trend in terms of both the number of young people engaging in digital technology use (Statistics Canada, 2022) and the amount of time spent in digital spaces (Media Smarts, 2022). Young technology users use digital applications for a number of reasons, such as researching for school, playing games, watching media content, and connecting with friends through social media, meaning that digital worlds are an integrated component of young peoples lives (Statista, 2023; boyd, 2014). Recent political and legal happenings associated with young people and digital technologies, such as Ontario's banning of cell phones in schools (Callan & D'Mello, 2024) bring into question young people's ability to fully participate in digital spaces and how adult gatekeeping may mitigate their agency. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children, identified as those under the age of eighteen, are rights-bearing citizens (OHCHR, 2023). While the initial document did not speak to digital spaces, in March 2021, the United Nations released a statement called General Comment No. 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment that specified that governments should uphold the rights outlined in the UNCRC within digital spaces. Given that adults make policy decisions that directly affect young people's participation in digital technologies, it is critical to explore how the perspectives and decisions of adults pertaining to digital spaces may or may not align with child rights. This presentation will speak about the perspectives of parents in Ontario with children of high school age about their child's use of technology (including smartphones and computers). This presentation is especially interested in parents' understanding of participation (Article 12), safety (Article 3 and 19) and privacy (Article 16). This presentation explores the following questions: 1) How do parents of Ontario high school students understand participation, safety and privacy in the digital experiences of young people? 2) According to parents, what role should parents/guardians, teachers, and the government play in supporting young people to navigate digital technologies safely?

(SMH1) Critical Mental Health Dialogues

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster

Increasingly scholars and activists are challenging medicalized understandings of mental health and well-being and investigating the implications for identity negotiation, the provision of services and supports and for wider political and social activism. This session features papers that adopt critical sociological, intersectional and Mad Studies approaches to understanding mental health in the context of diagnostic regimes, university settings, private industry influence and the broader social and structural inequities that shape the uptake of mental health labels and societal responses. This diverse set of papers is meant to spark dialogue and discussion about the ways in which critical social science and Mad studies approaches can inform theory, policy and practice across multiple sectors.

Session Organizers: Marina Morrow and Simon Adam, York University
Session Chair: Marina Morrow, York University

Presentations:

1. The Voice of Young People Facing a Psychiatric Diagnosis: Analysis of Identity Negotiations

Marie-Laurence Bordeleau-Payer, Université du Québec en Outaouais

Adolescence is characterized by a quest for identity, often accompanied by an identity crisis, leading to its consolidation within a construction that remains forever unfinished. When this stage of life coincides with the reception of a mental health diagnosis, the process of identity formation faces additional challenges and an increased risk of fragility. Although a significant number of studies have examined the psychosocial determinants of adolescent distress, as well as the prevalence of certain disorders during this period, none, to our knowledge, have delved into the (potentially alienating) impact of a psychiatric label (process of designation and categorization) by exploring the existence of an identity "before" the diagnosis and "after," along with the identity adaptation strategies employed by young people. To better understand the impact of receiving a psychiatric diagnosis, accompanied by prescribed medication, on identity formation during adolescence, as well as its positive and/or negative effects on self-perception, a study was conducted with a group of ten young individuals undergoing psychiatric treatment. This presentation will provide an opportunity to share a preliminary analysis of their narratives, amplifying the voices of young people with psychiatric diagnoses while offering a sociological perspective on a reality often reduced to a biomedical framework.

2. Limits to Stepped Care 2.0 for LGBTQ+ Students at an Ontario University

Sarah Smith, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto; Henry Yang, Wren Gould, Tin Vo, Jordan Ramnarine, Jad Sinno, Joshun Dulai, Dana Seitler, and Daniel Grace, University of Toronto

In recent years, postsecondary institutions have experienced increasing demands for on-campus mental health care services as rates of mental health concerns continue to grow amongst the student population, particularly amongst marginalized groups of students, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ+) students. The Stepped Care 2.0 model of mental health care service delivery has emerged as a popular model for restructuring postsecondary mental health services in the face of these demands, as the model claims to be more financially sustainable and more accessible to students with a variety of mental health care needs. This present empirical, qualitative study explored LGBTQ+ students' experiences navigating and accessing mental health care services under the Stepped Care 2.0 framework of mental health service delivery at a major university in Ontario, Canada. Using institutional ethnography, the experiences of 29 LGBTQ+ students with on-campus mental health care services were analyzed to show how the Stepped Care 2.0 model at our case study institution is socially organized. Accounts from student interviews reveal that the Stepped Care 2.0 model is not sufficiently equipped to adequately address long-term and/or higher acuity mental health concerns given resource constraints. This presents a problem for LGBTQ+ students, who are more likely to experience higher acuity mental health concerns. Using intersectionality, the paper addresses the inequities that LGBTQ+ students face when trying to access on-campus mental health services. More specifically, we argue that the deficits of the Stepped Care 2.0 framework produce various forms of work for marginalized students, such as seeking care off-campus, coping with the lack of ongoing care, and creating communities of care in the absence of proper institutional support. To conclude, we discuss the implications of these

inequities for academic literature, policy, and practice, with particular attention to the need for more critical assessments of Stepped Care 2.0.

3. The Other Firestorm: The Mental Health Crisis Threatening to Engulf the Insurance Industry

Brett Richardson, Concordia University

Watching the disaster unfolding in LA, I did not fully understand at first why I was so tuned into the discussions about home insurance spreading out beyond the burning homes. But then it clicked. As a psychotherapist (also trained as a sociologist), I am a front row spectator to another crisis threatening to engulf the private insurance industry. Everyday I watch my anxious, overwhelmed, and burnt out clients appealing to private insurance to protect them from the "climate" crisis that is the contemporary socioeconomic moment. And then, knowing it's coming, I watch private industry resist their requests for help. In this paper I will compare the unsustainable tensions between private insurance and climate disaster - dramatically illuminated by the LA firestorm - with the increasingly untenable tensions between private insurance and the pervasive crisis of declining mental health. Pushed into the spotlight by the situation in LA, the contradiction between private industry's responsibility to its shareholders and society's public duty to the vulnerable is being exposed. Every house lost to fire or flooded with seawater, just like every person applying for leave or disability, further frays the seams in a social arrangement threatening to come undone. While it is more difficult to blame the victims of fire, however, those impacted by the other crisis are left fighting against the assumption that their struggles are self-created. Ultimately, I will use the primary contradiction at this paper's centre, and my vantage point as a therapist to talk about the inevitabilities of self-blame in a world that assigns so much of our need for care to private industry. As I will argue, therapists can no longer pretend at political neutrality in supporting their clients, in helping them stand up to the internalized voice telling them that their struggles are of their own making.

4. Using Mad Resistance, Initiatives, and Advocacy to Improve Mental Healthcare and Policy

Ayesha Bhatti, York University

This presentation will focus on the types of mad resistance, initiatives, and advocacy that can be used to improve mental healthcare and policy in Canada. It will start by discussing the biomedical model of mental illness and the negative experiences of mad people who have used mental healthcare services that align with this model. Mad people had negative experiences when there was too much focus on biomedical treatment, they were subjected to involuntary commitment and treatment, there were power imbalances, mental healthcare professionals did not spend enough time with them, mental healthcare professionals did not listen to them, they faced discrimination, and their needs were not met. Mad studies will be explored as an alternative to the biomedical model of mental illness. Mad studies has its origins in the activism of people who reclaimed the pejorative term mad as a positive disability identity (Beresford, 2020; Redikopp, 2021). Mad studies focuses on the experiences, perspectives, and knowledge of mad people to question psychiatric powers, address epistemic injustice, and bring about positive social change (Reaume, 2022; Gorman & Le Francois, 2018; Johnston, 2020; Redikopp, 2021). Mad studies challenges the assumption that mental distress is caused by individual pathology which requires biomedical treatment and invites us to consider a broader range of emotions and behaviours as rational responses to challenging circumstances caused by social, economic, and environmental factors (Gorman & LeFrancois, 2018;

Morrow, 2017; Redikopp, 2021). Mad resistance, initiatives, and advocacy can be used to improve mental healthcare and policy. Mad resistance allows mad people to resist the biomedical model of mental illness and psychiatric powers in their day to day lives. Mad initiatives help mad people meet their needs. Mad advocacy groups focus on changing policies, practices, and laws in order to improve mental healthcare systems and the experiences of mad people.

(AIS1b) Critical Muslim Studies and Anti-Islamophobia II: Islamophobie in Quebec and the Francophonie

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: CSA Anti-Islamophobia Subcommittee

The study of Islamophobia constitutes a significant area of research in the sociology of racism. Yet, francophone academic circles and political environments exhibit a remarkable lack of willingness to engage with this issue. While the rhetoric of Islamophobia denial is constitutive of Islamophobic discourse, it is important to question the socio-political narratives that underpin this denial. Among these, there is one that presents Francophone spaces as a distinction and singularity, both geographical and political, as in the case of Quebec. This panel will feature research and discussions that challenge this perceived uniqueness, examining topics such as representation, the Francophonie, and secular nationalism. Additionally, the impact of gender-based Islamophobia, especially on Muslim women, will be examined.

Session Organizers: Nadiya Ali, Trent University, Ayesha Mian Akram, University of Calgary, Lucy El-Sherif, McMaster University, Leila Benhadjouja, University of Ottawa, and Muna Saleh, Concordia University of Edmonton

Session Chair: Leila Benhadjoudja, University of Ottawa

Presentations:

1. Distinctiveness, Nationalism and Islamophobia in Quebec

Leila Benhadjoudja, University of Ottawa

In this paper, I will analyze the idea of "distinct society' and the notion of "distinction" used in nationalist discourse in Quebec, across all political spectrums. This discourse borrows different modalities, but it touches on three specific elements that I will analyze. These are: 1—a distinct society because it is francophone; 2- a distinct society because it embodies progressive values (secularized, feminist, etc.); 3- a distinct society because it is endangered in the face of anglophone hegemony. I will present a critique of this notion and show how these three elements inform Islamophobia in Quebec.

2. Mort/survie sociale des muslimāt muḥağabāt depuis la loi 21 au Québec

Zeinab Diab, Université de Montréal

Basée sur les résultats de ma recherche doctorale à l'intersection des sciences des religions et des Critical Muslim Studies et m'appuyant sur une méthodologie de recherche-action participative, cette présentation exposera les effets de la loi 21 sur les musulmanes québécoises pratiquant le hijab (muslimāt muḥağabāt). À travers les récits de 21 femmes directement affectées par la loi, recueillis entre avril et septembre 2022, cette présentation mettra en évidence les souffrances souvent invisibles provoquées par la loi 21 tout en valorisant la force et la créativité des stratégies de survie de ces femmes. En effet, au-delà de la mort sociale (Králová 2015; Karimi 2023) qu'elle

engendre, cette loi suscite une quête renouvelée de justice sociale, incarnée dans une praxis musulmane qui s'affirme face aux défis d'un cadre politique structurellement hostile. La loi 21 a institutionnalisé une islamophobie genrée, plongeant ces femmes dans une vulnérabilité sociale, psychologique et économique accrue. Confrontées à la marginalisation et aux violences symboliques, elles rejettent catégoriquement l'étiquette de victimes. Au contraire, elles déploient des stratégies de survie et des solidarités pour résister, préserver leur dignité, leur foi, leur employabilité et leur hijab - devenu un symbole d'affirmation face aux pressions du découvrement. Paradoxalement, en tentant d'effacer leur visibilité religieuse, la loi 21 a renforcé leur religiosité. Ces femmes trouvent dans leur foi une source d'endurance et transforment leur expérience religieuse en un outil d'espoir et de résistance à la violence politique. Elles réinventent ainsi leur quotidien et se réapproprient le religieux comme réponse à une sécularisation forcée, imposée par une loi qui nie et exclut l'islamité genrée de leur corps. Dans la transformation du vécu quotidien des femmes, il faut percevoir la manière de reconfigurer le pouvoir (Abu-Lughod 1990) comme indicateur d'une capacité d'agir face à la mort sociale imposée par cette loi - ces femmes refusent de mourir!

3. Orientalist representations of Muslim women in Swiss discursive and visual space

Saaz Taher, University of Toronto Scarborough

This presentation proposes to explore orientalist representations of Muslim women in the Swiss discursive and visual space, in particular through the anti-burqa campaign that led to the federal initiative adopted in 2021. In Switzerland, recurring public debates on the place of Islam and Muslim women have given rise to representations of the latter that are often marked by religious, racial and gendered stereotypes. This analysis seeks to highlight the way in which federal political campaigns, in particular the "anti-burqa" campaign, contribute to the reproduction of gendered orientalism and Islamophobia. This presentation will question the tensions between representations of Muslim femininity and dominant norms in Switzerland, in particular with regard to gender, race and religion. The study will focus on the discourses and images conveyed through these campaigns, showing how they articulate racial and colonialist logics about Muslim women. However, far from being limited to a simple reproduction of stereotypes, these images can also be a field of subversion. The communication will highlight how some collectives of Muslim women redefine their place in the public space by confronting these representations and claiming their agency.

4. Artistic Interventions: The Impact of MIFF and MIPSTERZ

Reyhab Patel, Carleton University

The rise of art as activism can serve as a tool of intervention in addressing Islamophobia in digital spaces. This paper investigates how artistic organizations, including the Muslim International Film Festival (MIFF) and MIPSTERZ, utilize creative practices and dialogue to address Islamophobia in Canadian public and digital spaces. As Islamophobia continues to shape public discourse and everyday experiences for Muslim communities, these organizations have emerged as critical platforms for cultural resistance and storytelling. Through film, multimedia art, and interactive dialogue, they challenge stereotypes, amplify underrepresented voices, and foster nuanced understandings of Muslim identities. The central argument of this research is that art-based initiatives, such as MIFF and MIPSTERZ, serve as transformative tools to counteract systemic and

everyday Islamophobia. MIFF uses film screenings and panel discussions to humanize Muslim narratives and provide audiences with authentic portrayals of Muslim lives, fostering cross-cultural empathy. Similarly, MIPSTERZ engages in digital artistic practices and community-building activities that create spaces for self-representation and advocacy. These practices not only subvert dominant narratives but also engage diverse audiences in meaningful dialogue, bridging gaps in understanding through the universality of art. Drawing on interviews with organizational leaders, artists, and participants, as well as an analysis of digital campaigns and event programming, this study highlights the strategies these organizations use to reclaim public and digital spaces. The findings reveal how art becomes a medium for activism, education, and community empowerment, enabling Muslim artists and audiences to confront prejudice and reimagine inclusive futures. This paper concludes by emphasizing the need for greater support for artistic organizations addressing Islamophobia. Similarly, advocating for artistic intervention as a form of activism against systemic Islamophobia is crucial in education reform and cultural awareness in Canadian society.

(BCS2) Navigating Pathways: The Role of Social and Cultural Capital on African, Caribbean and Black Canadians Employment Journeys

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 1:00am

Affiliation: CSA Black Caucus Subcommittee and Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

This session will delve into the evolving employment scenarios for Black Canadians, focusing on the significant role of social and cultural capital across generational statuses, influenced by immigration policies and educational attainments. By exploring how African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities transition from education to the workforce, gain access to employment, navigate professional environments, and ascend in their careers, this session will discuss the social mobility for ACB and other racialized groups. ACB communities face distinct challenges in the job market which often include limited access to influential networks, workplace sponsors, and mentors, alongside persistent biases within employment settings which underscores the complexities of race, social networks, education, and employment outcomes. These issues present important tensions that require unpacking from interdisciplinary perspective - from sociology, educational studies, migration studies, and labor research among others - this session aims to offer an opportunity to engage in purposeful discussion on how social capital is being taken up in ACB communities and folks navigating towards their education and career aspirations. The session will include research-based paper presentations focusing on the role of social and cultural capital in the lives of Black Canadians. Presentations will be followed by a structured discussion aimed at addressing shared questions about emerging tensions and identifying forward-looking strategies to facilitate engagement with the themes from the papers, encouraging collaborative exploration and dialogue.

Session Organizer and Chair: Anika Forde, York University

Presentations:

1. State of Black Cluster Hired Professors in Canada

Shaunette George, McMaster University

In the wake of global mass protests against anti-Black racism in June 2020, Canadian universities faced scrutiny for their persistent under-representation of Black professors and ongoing

perpetuation of anti-Black racism. Following The Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education, universities across Canada initiated cluster and cohort hires to boost Black professors' representation across disciplines, committing to concerted actions and accountability benchmarks to achieve inclusion, particularly in Black hiring and underrepresentation. Research on Black professors in Canadian higher education is limited. However, existing studies confirm their positive impact on the educational community (e.g., student engagement, curriculum) and the systemic barriers they face, such as isolation, tokenism, and exclusion. Furthermore, this research has not adequately highlighted the importance of Blackness, systemic racism, gender, and changing social context in higher education, a contention my current study closely explores by centring the individual experiences of Black professors in relation to changes occurring at Canadian universities since 2020. This is a presentation of preliminary findings of my dissertation on the state of Black cohort-hired professors in Canada, utilizing data from a demographic survey. To comprehensively understand their profiles, the survey explores participants' academic and professional backgrounds, including employment history, current positions, and demographic characteristics related to social and cultural capital. As this information has not been previously collected, this survey represents the first comprehensive documentation on a national scale, offering insights into the origins and backgrounds of the cohort hires. Exploratory findings may suggest that this group of professors come from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, underscoring multiple pathways to academia. Additionally, results aim to emphasize the significant role of social and cultural capital as participants' networks, community engagement, and contributions to social justice initiatives have the potential to influence their career trajectories and successes.

2. Navigating Anti-Black Racism in Ontario Child Welfare System: Black Social Workers' Realities

Ma Pia Catherine Cuadra, **Henry Parada,** and Charlotte Akuoko-Barfi, Toronto Metropolitan University

Drawing from the findings of the Rights for Children and Youth Partnership (RCYP) Project, this presentation examines the distinct and intersecting experiences of anti-Black racism faced by Black social workers within the Ontario child welfare system. It investigates the challenges of a system deeply entrenched in Eurocentric child welfare standards, policies, procedures, and practices, which shape their interactions with Black families and experiences within the system. These systemic structures often marginalize Black social workers, compelling them to navigate a profession that simultaneously calls for compliance with Eurocentric frameworks while advocating for culturally relevant care for Black families. Using Anti-Black Racism (ABR) as a theoretical lens, the findings of the study highlight the continuum of experiences faced by Black social workers. It explores their journey from conforming and responding to the Eurocentric legislative standards, practice guidelines, and decision-making processes, to confronting instances of discrimination from their colleagues, supervisors and the broader system. These workers must also grapple with the tensions between their professional responsibilities and personal identities connected with the families and communities they serve, navigating dual roles as insiders and advocates of systemic change. By situating these findings within the broader discussion on social and cultural capital, this presentation connects the experiences of Black social workers to the evolving employment landscapes for African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities in Canada. It highlights the systemic barriers and distinct challenges in workplace environments influenced by ABR that limits access to networks,

mentors, employment mobility, equitable opportunities in frontline work and higher management work. This presentation aims to illuminate the complexities of Black social worker realities in the workforce while encouraging a critical dialogue to inspire change and address systemic barriers for the ACB community. Ultimately, supporting the equitable pathways from employment to professional growth.

3. Blackening The Teaching Roster in Ontario: Fighting Whiteness in Education from Within and Beyond

Sam Tecle, Toronto Metropolitan University

When I attended Teacher's College in the year of 2008-2009, I was one of 5 Black Teacher Candidates in a class of 80. It did not take long for that material racial dynamic to emerge as a central theme in our seminars. Unbeknownst to the five Black teacher candidates at the time, our classes' overwhelming whiteness mirrored itself in the teaching field itself. Most revealingly, this was made evident upon our returning from winter break, when it became clear to us that most of our white colleagues in our cohort had secured interviews with many of the School Boards in the surrounding area. The five Black teacher candidates did not. We were not even aware that the School Boards were accepting applications from last December but many of colleagues did because they had family members in various senior positions in the surrounding school boards, we did not, we were first in our families to attend Teachers' College in Canada. To us, this was a material manifestation of the very real ways social capital played out in Teacher Education and then relatedly in the field of teaching itself. In this paper, I center whiteness in the teaching field, and catalog eLorts made by Black educators to blacken the teaching in Ontario. Since the time of my graduating from Teacher's College and entering the field of teaching in 2009, the teaching roster in Ontario is - and continues to be - overwhelmingly white and overwhelmingly female. There have been various eLorts to diversify teaching faculties in School Boards across Ontario, for example Durham's Black Educator Initiative, Black Educators Networks, African Heritage Educators Network (A.H.E.n.), Ontario Alliance of Black Educators (ONABSE) and the various Centers of Black Excellence that have emerged since 2020. Additionally, Teacher's Colleges across Ontario and Canada have implemented various D.E.I styled initiatives to diversify their teacher candidates. In this paper, I examine these various eLorts, their eLectiveness, and how they are received professionally by Black educators. Since 2020 and the global recognition of systemic racism prevalent in a plethora of Canadian institutions, I close the presentation by asking to what extent has the field of education reckoned with its own whiteness.

(CRM7) Safety, Inclusion and the Future of Policing

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

This session will feature research that explores policing practices and community wellness. Existing challenges surrounding the themes of policing, community, safety, inclusion, diversity, and social problems will be further discussed.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Doug Thomson and Emma Smith, Humber Polytechnic

Presentations:

1. Re-Defining Calls for Service: Implementing Community-Based Approaches

Sophia Pacini, McMaster University

Public and governmental attention has increasingly focused on the inadequacies of police officer's responses to calls for service involving people experiencing mental health crises and people experiencing homelessness. While some initiatives have been developed by local police services to increase police officer readiness when attending calls of these natures, including the Toronto Police Services' Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT), there remains an ongoing request for increased community-based response practices. Drawing on preliminary findings, this paper provides an in-depth review of the current community-based and police-community collaborative practices that have been developed within the City of Toronto for attending or pre-emptively de-escalating calls for service. Drawing on preliminary findings, research indicates that these practices provide people experiencing homelessness or mental health crises with increased opportunities to seek support and resources within the community. This presentation will analyze the various community-based response programs that have been developed within the City of Toronto for responding to calls for service that assist people experiencing homelessness or mental health crises. This presentation will also examine the role that local businesses have in these calls for service. To adequately and accurately address the impact that these community-based response practices have on community members, future research must be conducted. Future researchers must remain cognisant of the negative impacts that over-researching vulnerable populations can have.

2. Community Building with Community Policing - Is It Working?

Doug Thomson, Emma Smith, Hannah Lalonde, and Tvisha Bawa**,** Humber Polytechnic

The Toronto Police Service introduced the Neighbourhood Community Officer Program (NCOP) in 2013 as a response to an increase in public mistrust and dissatisfaction over "street check" policies. Since then, the NCOP has undergone significant expansion and development, with specialised training, distinctive uniforms and a community centered approach. This has required a shift in mentality by officers, both on the ground and in the higher echelons. The communities in which they operate have been widely supportive of the NCOP - viewing them as 'their officers", helping them with "their community concerns". However, the NCOP has not been the perfect solution. There remain significant internal and external pressures that have weakened the program, and call into question its long term effectiveness. This paper will explore the political, socioeconomic and media influences that are currently shaping how the NCOP is actually performing in the city of Toronto.

3. Quantifying the Qualitative: How metrics can corrupt mandate in Community Policing

Michelle Shames, Northwestern University

Quantification in policing, from ticket quotas to data-driven predictive analytics, has long been part of law enforcement's quotidian operations. However, as jurisdictions across North America look to develop or reincorporate community policing practices in response to demands for reform, new challenges have emerged in terms of tracking and measuring non-traditional policework. In this paper, I examine how one large police department in the American Midwest has attempted to standardize, track and report on community policing, and the impact this has had on the shape of

community policework. Drawing on four years of fieldwork and over 100 officer interviews, this paper sheds light on how the institutional pressures driving the demand for quantifiable metrics has resulted in inefficient processes that negatively impact officer behavior and morale. Focusing on two recently implemented metrics: *Positive Interactions* (PIs) and *Community Engagements* (CEs), this research highlights officers' perceptions, resistance, and troubled embrace of quantification within community policing, and the harmful consequences of measuring relationships with numbers. Main findings discussed include (1) how and why community policing programs use quantitative metrics in their quest to gain legitimacy, both internally and externally; (2) the difficulties of commensuration and quantifying qualitative aspects of community policework; and (3) the slippery slope from metrics to quotas. In the discussion, this case study is used to demonstrate how the pursuit of quantification (methods) can interfere with and even jeopardize larger institutional goals (mandate), in this case, resulting in the perversion meaningful efforts towards reform.

4. Chronic Police Involvement Beyond Criminal Offending

Allie Wall, Lisa Heslop, and Katreena Scott, University of Western Ontario

Prior research has extensively discussed the issue of chronic offending, where a small group of individuals are repeatedly charged by police and are involved in a large number of criminal offences (Zara & Farrington, 2016). The chronic offending outcome mirrors a phenomenon that is more globally known as the Pereto principle, which has been observed in outcomes across a variety of fields including medicine and economics (Corsaro, 2018, p. 251; Juran, 1954). Criminological research has mostly explored the Pereto principle in relation to criminal offending, however, some evidence suggests that the phenomenon may exist amongst other quantitative criminological outcomes, including victimization frequency (Dudfield, Angel, Sherman, & Torrence, 2017) and police interaction frequency (Wall, Saini, Scott, Heslop, 2024). Thus, there is a need to better understand to what extent individuals are becoming chronically involved with the police for criminal versus non-criminal incidents, and whether primary prevention insights can be gleaned by assessing individuals non-criminal police contacts across time. Using six years of Ontario police records data (2015-2020), the current study describes the chronic police involvement for both criminal and non-criminal police involved populations. Using a prospective longitudinal design, a baseline sample of 31,755 individuals who were involved with police during 2015 were followed through the police record until 2020. Across the five-year follow-up period, it was found that 3.3% (n = 1,061) of the police involved population were identified as chronic offenders, where they were arrested or charged within ten or more police reported incidents. Our analyses also revealed a secondary group of chronic non-offenders, who were involved with police within ten or more non-criminal police reported incidents. The chronic non-offenders made up 3.5% (n = 1097) of the police involved population and were shown to differ from the chronic offenders on measures of demographics and non-criminal police involvement patterns.

(CSF4) Intersections between paid and unpaid work

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

Paid employment and unpaid labour are interconnected life domains that influence individual well-being, family dynamics, and social inequalities. Emerging changes in paid work, such as the rise of

gig economy, unpredictable schedules, and remote work, have introduced new opportunities and challenges to family life. This session features papers that examine how diverse work arrangements influence patterns and experiences of unpaid work, particularly with respect to domestic labour. We especially encouraged research investigating various dimensions of paid work—including schedules, location, and autonomy among others—and their impact on domestic responsibilities, such as housework, parenting, and childcare. The research featured in this session will foster dialogue on how policies and organizational practices can support work-family justice and drive broader social impact.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Manlin Cai and Sylvia Fuller, University of British Columbia

Presentations:

1. Rethinking Care Work: A Foundation for Economic Sustainability and Social Equity

Daniele Bobb, The University of the West Indies

Care work, whether compensated or not, serves as the foundation of societies by safeguarding the well-being of individuals and communities. Despite its crucial importance, care work frequently goes unrecognized and undervalued in economic and policy discussions, reinforcing gender disparities and hindering social advancement. This paper seeks to reframe care work as a cornerstone of sustainable economies by addressing its economic, social, and gender dimensions. It advances three arguments. Firstly, the paper emphasizes the vital role of care work in our economy. It contributes significantly to GDP and supports various other sectors. When we overlook the value of unpaid care work in economic assessments, we misalign policy priorities and fail to recognize the essential labour that keeps our societies functioning. Secondly, it addresses the gender dynamics surrounding care work, highlighting how societal expectations often place caregiving duties primarily on women. This imbalance not only widens the gender wage gap but creates time poverty, thereby limiting women's career advancement and reinforcing cycles of gender inequality. Finally, the paper advocates for a broader societal recognition and valuing of care work as essential. Solutions include investing in care infrastructure, policy adjustments (specifically maternity/paternity leave), and encouraging a more equitable distribution of unpaid caregiving tasks in families. By incorporating care into economic and social policies, we can foster greater fairness, economic stability, and an improved quality of life for everyone. Overall, this paper stresses the urgent need to recognize care work as a cornerstone for achieving sustainable development and social equity. It calls for a shift in how we understand and prioritize care work, ensuring it receives the recognition and support it deserves in all areas of life.

2. Personal Earnings and Outsourcing Meal Preparation: Reassessing the Missing Link in the Outsourcing Argument

Kamila Kolpashnikova, Western University

This paper examines how personal income shapes the outsourcing of cooking tasks, specifically dining out and purchasing take-out meals from grocery stores. Using data from the 2016 Canadian General Social Survey, we analyze the frequency of these behaviors among single and married women and men. Our results reveal a positive relationship between personal income and both dining out and purchasing take-out meals. Although the link with take-out meals is not statistically significant for all demographic groups, higher personal earnings generally correspond to greater reliance on take-out options, except among married men. Moreover, a consistent and significant

association between personal income and dining out is observed across all subgroups, lending empirical support to the outsourcing argument in the division of housework. Decomposition analyses underscore the strength of the direct relationship between personal income and outsourcing, highlighting the limited mediating role of household income. Overall, these findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how individual earnings influence meal-preparation strategies and household dynamics.

3. "I am a caregiver but can't see my parent!": Ethics of care

Evelyne Durocher, McMaster University; Matthew Lam, Canadian Association of Mental Health; Janet Njelesani, New York University; Sanjum Hunjan, McMaster University

Caregiving is an important and valued occupation. At various points in the COVID-19 pandemic, long-term care and retirement homes adopted lockdown restrictions barring individuals from visiting and residents from exiting. These restrictions had significant unintended implications including severely disrupting caregiving by older adults' family members. We examine the occupation of caregiving through the experiences of family caregivers of older adults in long-term care and retirement homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thirty-two family caregivers across Ontario participated in semi-structured interviews. We conducted reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2021) guided by a critical occupational approach (Njelesani et al., 2013) and concepts of relational autonomy (Mackenzie & Stoljar, 2000; Sherwin,1998). In the narratives it was discerned that in alignment with the features of Held's (2006) ethics of care, family caregivers felt morally compelled to meet the needs of their family member living in long-term care. These family caregivers perceived the long-term care and retirement home care providers as an extension of themselves in that the care providers provided care when the family were not available or with skills that family members did not have. The pandemic however contributed to a breakdown of this extension of care, which contributed to guilt, fear, exhaustion, trauma, and feelings of helplessness for families and prompted modifications (e.g., taking on new roles) to their caregiving as well as advocacy to help themselves and others. The occupation of caregiving can be highly meaningful. Disruptions in the engagement of family members in this occupation can cause tremendous distress across various domains. Held's (2006) ethics of care offers a useful lens through which to examine caregiving through significant disruptions and can shape caregiver-engaged research to inform how the occupation of caregiving could be adapted and facilitated in various contexts and circumstances.

(DIS1) Redefining access to healthcare from the margins: intersectional perspectives

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

Canadian and international studies continue to demonstrate that people with disabilities, especially women, gender diverse people with disabilities (see Aguillard et al., 2022, Matin et al., 2021; Nguyen, 2020) and disabled people living with severe, multiple and/or complex disabilities, face exponential barriers to accessing the healthcare they need (see Sakellariou and Rotarou, 2017, Gréaux et al. 2023). While inaccessible healthcare has been well documented, this body of literature often groups people with disabilities as a whole, erasing the specific experiences of those at the intersections of multiple systems of oppression. Healthcare, as a social institution, is embedded in complex power dynamics at interpersonal and structural levels that shape access and quality of care for those labelled disabled (see Fitts and Soldatic, 2024). As states a rapidly adopt new technologies

to rationalize healthcare spending - AI, wearables, telehealth, digital platforms - there is an urgent need to understand existing inequities and qualitative nascent inequities for disability healthcare accessibility and disabled people's long-term wellbeing. Drawing upon disability gendered sociological understandings of wellbeing, inclusion and accessibility, this session seeks to bring into dialogue papers that engage with core issues and concerns emerging as public health institutions undergo radical practices of rationalization.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Valérie Grand'Maison, University of Guelph and Karen Soldatic, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. The clinical turn in endometriosis diagnosis and treatment

Elizabeth Cameron, Dalhousie University

Endometriosis is a feminized gendered disability (Jones 2021) that affects at least one million Canadians. Currently, the only way to definitively diagnosis endometriosis is undergoing surgery, which typically involves excision of the identified disease tissue. Recently, concerns have been intensifying over the years-long delay (if not decades) that is associated with accessing surgical endometriosis care, as well as the considerable risks and limitations of these methods. I conducted a content analysis of a clinical practice guideline for diagnosing and treating endometriosis published in 2022 by the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology. The guideline is globally influential, including in Canada. I find clinical diagnostic methods and hormone treatments - expected to balloon to a $3 billion USD pharmaceutical market by 2030 - have eclipsed the previous 'gold standard' of biomedical endometriosis care. Although reliance on surgical methods to diagnose and treat endometriosis is evidently insufficient, and acknowledging that the increasing use of clinical methods will not be without considerable benefit, this critical sociological analysis identifies several risks and challenges presented by the clinical turn which are otherwise obscured through a veil of beneficence. Further, I show how the clinical turn upholds the troubled biomedical logic of endometriosis' pathogenesis, particularly, its fundamental mischaracterization as a gynecological disease resulting from disordered menstruation. Through a critical intersectional lens, the clinical turn in endometriosis care is understood as an adaptation and extension of existing biomedical regimes which exercise dominion over feminized bodies with chronic illness(es). Thus, I argue against the uncritical acceptance of the clinical turn within endometriosis care, and articulate a desire for a 'gold standard' of care that lives up to its name from an embodied, cripped vantagepoint. This critical intervention is particularly timely given that the number of people with clinically diagnosed, or *suspected*endometriosis is rapidly expanding in Canada and elsewhere.

2. Privatizing and Prescribing Identity: Telehealth companies profiting from LGBTQ2S+ and neurodivergent movements

Megan Linton, Carleton University; Kai Jacobsen, University of British Columbia

The pivot to telehealth through the COVID-19 pandemic spawned numerous private investor-owned virtual care firms, capitalizing on loopholes and outdated policies in Canada's healthcare regulatory framework. Amidst neoliberal biocapitalism, these health technology firms are increasingly functioning as primary care providers to fill the growing gaps in care under austerity. Contemporary health companies co-opt identity politics and social movement rhetoric in their marketing, transforming marginalized communities into profitable niche markets. One such

company is PurposeMed, a venture-capital backed start-up that operates private virtual clinics for HIV PrEP medication (Freddie), gender-affirming care (Foria), and ADHD assessment and prescribing (Frida), and a pharmacy (Affirming Care). We analyze PurposeMed as a case study to illustrate broader trends in the creeping privatization of health care and the biomedicalization of everyday life. We first describe the historical, political, and economic factors that led to the rise in private virtual clinics like those of PurposeMed. Then, we reveal the results of corporate mapping of PurposeMed, using power structure research and social network theory to understand the corporate powers transforming Canadian health care. Finally, we present a critical discourse analysis of PurposeMed's marketing and branding strategies, highlighting their exploitation of the existing digital networks and health information-seeking patterns of queer, trans, and neurodivergent communities to accumulate capital. Combined, the results of our sociopolitical contextualization, corporate mapping, and critical discourse analysis demonstrate that healthcare privatization and commercialization in Canada is not an accident; rather, PurposeMed is the inevitable result of deliberate policy choices and austerity politics fueled by ableism, homophobia, and transphobia. We conclude by calling for urgent scholarly attention to the communities targeted by creeping privatization of Canadian health care and the firms profiting from them. Social movements must take seriously the need to dismantle contemporary capital accumulation practices, which manufacture the crises they seek to profiteer from.

3. Can I please have an endocrinology referral? An authoethnography of chronic nausea nondiagnosis

Megan Ingram, Queen's University

Recent advancements in medical research indicate that nausea has a multitude of physiological contributors, and that diagnosis is often highly reliant on and connected to comorbid conditions and pre-existing medical events. This presentation offers an autoethnographic exploration of my lived experience with chronic nausea, shedding light on its complex and gendered dimensions at the intersections of gastroenterology, psychology, and endocrinology. Drawing from personal narratives, clinical encounters, and medical research, I aim to highlight the ways in which chronic nausea is both a physical and psychological experience, often misunderstood and marginalized in medical discourse. The existence of this experience on the margins of medicalized understanding sheds light on the value Through an analysis of my journey—spanning clinical unintelligibility, a continued lack of clear diagnosis, and the emotional toll of living with a persistent, invisible illness—I examine how my gender as a non-binary person, and performance of femininity in clinical setting influences the perception and management of chronic nausea. As a condition that disproportionately affects women, particularly those who are pregnant, or postpartum, nausea often remains dismissed or minimized, frequently attributed to stress, anxiety, or "female hysteria." This gendered lens exacerbates the difficulty of receiving adequate care and recognition within medical frameworks, leading to specific networked ways that I have worked to access testing and care. By situating my experiences within broader medical paradigms, this presentation critiques the fragmentation of healthcare specialties that fail to integrate the interconnected nature of nausea's physiological and psychological roots. I argue for a more holistic and inclusive approach to diagnosing and treating chronic nausea—one that asks what it means to be nauseous in a society where fatphobia, patriarchy, and food in/security contribute to the valorization or demonization of food consumption, non-consumption, and unconsumption.

4. Unseen Victims: Sexual Victimization Among Women with Undiagnosed and Self- Diagnosed Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Post-Secondary Education

Usha Chawda, Wilfrid Laurier University

Sexual violence is a severe public health and human rights issue with significant implications for women's physical, mental, and reproductive health. Women with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) face heightened risks of sexual victimization compared to non-autistic women, yet the experiences of self-diagnosed autistic women remain under explored. Examining a sample of university-aged students, this study aims to compare the sexual victimization experiences of formally diagnosed and self-diagnosed autistic women, examining whether a formal diagnosis acts as a protective factor against sexual victimization. This research addresses a critical gap in understanding the intersection of disability, gender, and sexual victimization, particularly focusing on the unique vulnerabilities of self-diagnosed autistic women in post-secondary institutions in Canada. This research will provide new insights into the sexual victimization experiences of self-diagnosed autistic women, filling a critical gap in the literature. By highlighting disparities and vulnerabilities, the study aims to inform policy and campus safety initiatives. Recommendations tailored to autistic students' needs will contribute to fostering safer, more inclusive environments in post-secondary institutions.

(GAS6) Gender, Law, and Justice: Revisiting Complexities, Dilemmas, and Challenges in Institutional Responses to Gender-based Violence

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

This panel explores the possibilities and pitfalls of the law that aims to bring protection — and justice — in cases of gender-based violence. Feminist scholarship on criminal law has shown that the institutional context that includes, but is not limited to, the broader political currents such as neoliberalism as well as the rise of digital media and widely accepted cultural ideas about gender, sexuality, and violence, conditions the praxis of law, and informs, the way in which the criminal justice system handles cases of gender-based violence. This panel will address ongoing debates around the efficacy of laws, institutional mechanisms, and recent legal reforms for ensuring justice for victim-survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and homicide in the 21st century. Panelists will present cutting-edge research on institutional and legal responses to sexual and intimate partner violence as well as their implications for victim-survivors and gender rights advocates in different national contexts.

Session Organizer and Chair: Tuğçe Ellialtı-Köse, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. Pathways to Gender based Justice: Systemic Failures and Solutions for diverse IPV Survivors in Ontario

Mavis Morton and Marisa Barbosa, University of Guelph; Emily Murray and Helena Tizaa, Luke's Place

This presentation explores the challenges faced by diverse women and gender-diverse victims-survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in navigating the Ontario family law system. In collaboration with Luke's Place, a not-for-profit family law support center, we utilized a critical community-engaged research framework (Gordon da Cruz 2017) and critical feminist

sociological/criminological theories to examine how IPV victims-survivors and community-based organizations across Ontario experience the family law system's responses to gender-based violence. Drawing from in-depth qualitative interviews and an online survey, the presentation highlights key findings related to systemic shortcomings, including the lack of communication, coordination, and accountability between family law and the Canadian criminal justice system, as well as other institutional players such as Children's Aid Societies and the Office of the Children's Lawyer. We address issues of inconsistent access to legal professionals, information, and support throughout the family law process, and the negative impacts of inconsistent enforcement of family law orders on survivors' safety, health, economic security, and financial independence. This presentation engages with the broader discussions about the efficacy of traditional legal frameworks in ensuring justice for IPV victims-survivors in the context of contemporary political, economic and cultural shifts. It presents critical recommendations from IPV survivors, family court support workers, and community-based organizations, emphasizing the need for improved information, education, training, and reforms to legal and social policies and practices. These changes are not new but are essential for addressing the justice needs of diverse women and gender-diverse survivors of IPV in the 21st century.

2. Meeting Needs and Planting Seeds: Restorative Justice and Gender-Based Violence in Ontario

Kaitlyn Pothier, University of Guelph

My thesis project utilizes an integrative, process-centered intersectional framework to uncover the ways that service providers at three restorative justice organizations across Ontario understand and respond to gender-based violence. This study contributes to various debates on responses to gender-based violence and how restorative justice programs are able to function alongside the criminal justice system. Overall, the findings of this study suggest that restorative justice service providers in Ontario grapple with gender-based violence through a predominantly gender-neutral, harm-based lens. Moreover, service providers seek to deliver programming that is both flexible and relational, which provides benefit through increased autonomy to both offender and victim but may narrow the scope of gender-based violence to an individual or interactional level. As well, relationships between restorative justice organizations in Ontario and the criminal justice system are complex, which both drives and hinders innovation across the restorative justice realm when engaging with instances of gender-based violence. This study ultimately highlights the importance of listening to victim-survivors' needs and wants throughout the justice process, and affirms the need for alternative avenues for justice resolution when engaging with gender-based violence.

3. Is the Canadian National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence failing intersectionality?

Olesya Kochkina, University of Alberta

The Canadian National Action Plan (NAP) to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was adopted on November 9, 2022. The federal government expressed commitment to intersectionality as one of the NAP's guiding principles. Intersectionality as a policy design framework has the potential to produce more equitable social outcomes through its attention to co-constituting systems of oppression. An intersectional analysis of how sexual and gender-based violence is experienced differently by various groups can prevent a policy from implementing ineffective "one size fits all" solutions. How does the NAP integrate an intersectional approach? My research objective was to examine if the NAP is as firmly grounded in intersectionality as it promised to be and whether it holds the transformative potential to ensure justice for victims-survivors of GBV who face

intersectional marginalisation. Using the Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis (IBPA) and qualitative content analysis as research methods, I argue that the recently adopted NAP lacks attention to the role of existing policies in reproducing social inequalities and does not suggest transformative intersectionality-informed solutions. I used four guiding questions: (1) How does the NAP use intersectionality to frame the causes of GBV and its effects on various groups? (2) How has this representation of GBV come about within the NAP? (3) How will proposed policy actions address intersectional inequities? (4) What intersectional factors will be measured within the evaluation of the NAP and how? My analysis reveals a weak and inconsistent application of intersectionality within the policy to articulate GBV causes and effects on the most impacted communities. I argue that the policy failed to centre standpoints of the groups experiencing intersecting vulnerabilities, thus it contributes to reproducing their marginalization. The proposed policy actions are symbolic and "non-performative" (Ahmed, 2016) therefore they are unlikely to be effective in addressing GBV. Finally, the NAP relies on non-intersectional data for progress assessment, and it is without built-in mechanisms for meaningful engagement of the affected groups in conducting evaluation activities. With such a design, the current NAP will not be able to achieve the stated vision of a Canada free from GBV. This research is among the first ones to critique the recently adopted NAP. It addresses the issue of institutional complicity in failing to reduce GBV prevalence. My analysis promotes the understanding of how policy and legislative mechanisms function to avoid transformation even when they seem to be designed to produce change. As of today, all Canadian provinces and territories have signed bilateral agreements with the federal government under the NAP with fiscal obligations stretching through March 2027. It is important to bring attention to the gaps in how intersectionality is understood and operationalized by institutions addressing GBV: there is still hope to apply the NAP in a meaningful way.

4. Seeing Like a Feminist: Activists and the Aftermath of a Legal Reform

Roberta S. Pamplona, University of Toronto

Legal reforms to prevent gender-based violence suffer critiques for their limited effectiveness in protecting women from violence. I analyze how feminist activists evaluate the aftermath of the *feminicídio* legal reform in Brazil, a law that adresses the killing of women based on gendered reasons. Drawing on interviews with a diverse sample of activists (n=40), I show how despite their different social locations (age, race, class, and type of activism), all activists consistently refer to cultural changes as the main impact of the *Feminicídio Law* in Brazil. They rely on the symbolic power of law to point out instances of social change and the importance of the reform despite their critiques of the criminal justice system. However, their explanations of the material impacts of the legal reform differ by activists' generation. Older generations of activists view the law as a critical milestone in legitimizing gender-based violence as a societal issue and securing state resources. In contrast, younger activists highlight its role in countering the far-right's political impact, emphasizing state institutions as sites of resistance. These findings contribute to understanding how activists navigate the interplay between legal reforms, cultural change, and political struggles within feminist movements.

(IND2) Sinews of Solidarity: Learning From Long-term Indigenous-Settler Alliances
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

Since 2018, our multidisciplinary research team, including Indigenous and settler scholars, has worked collaboratively to study the dynamics of long-term Indigenous-settler alliance-building unfolding in the Canadian context. Our focus has been on exploring how such alliances develop, endure, and change over time. Using interviews, sharing circles, and document review, and drawing upon Indigenous methodologies and anti-colonial research principles, we investigated three case studies which provide the ground of our analyses: (1) The Right to Belong: Indigenous women's organizing and the struggle to eliminate gender discrimination in the Indian Act (led by Dawn Lavell-Harvard and Lynne Davis); (2) Shoal Lake 40 First Nation's Freedom Road campaign to end a century of state-imposed geographic isolation and to secure access to safe drinking water (led by Jeff Denis); and (3) the alliance-building and solidarity activism of the inter-church social justice organization KAIROS Canada (led by Chris Hiller). This panel will include brief presentations on each case, as well as a cross-case analysis that brings forward key findings that come from the convergences of the three case studies. We emphasize the connective tissue that forms and sustains alliance relationships over time. We also highlight the dynamics of Indigenous and settler leadership, strategic planning, (un)learning, and the breaking and healing of alliance relationships. We introduce two analytic tools that can be used to understand Indigenous-settler alliance building: the conceptual tool of relationality and spectral analysis. We conclude by commenting on the implications of these findings for imagining future directions of Indigenous-settler alliance building.

Session Organizers: Lynne Davis, Trent University, Jeffrey Denis, McMaster University, Chris Hiller, Renison College - University of Waterloo, and Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Trent University

Moderator: Lynne Davis, Trent University

Panelists:
Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Wiikwemkoong First Nation
Jeff Denis, McMaster University
Chris Hiller, University of Waterloo
Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Trent University

(ITD3) Social Theory, Novelty, and Digital Society
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

Life in the time of smart phones and artificial intelligence seems to present a range of unique social problems, as well as new elaborations of existing problems. Whether framed as changes in micro interactions or reconfigurations of social structures, there is an open question as to whether new theories are required to understand these phenomena. Alternatively, some sociologists have been using classical theoretical concepts and traditions in new ways to understand digital society. Papers in this session contribute to efforts in sociology to theorize the impact of digital technologies on social interactions and collective life, with a particular emphasis on grappling with the question of theoretical novelty. Our discussion will speak to new social realities, both online and in real life; new interpretations of existing theoretical debates in light of emerging socio-technological

configurations; new ways to interpret data or situate methodological choices; and critical theoretical arguments that problematize various aspects of digital social life.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Michael Christensen, Carleton University and David Toews, University of Groningen

Presentations:

1. Nature in the Digital Era

David Toews, University of Groningen

Imagining nature as a nebulous sphere of everything that is untouched by human beings, we ought to realize today, is actually a backhanded way of congratulating ourselves for all the actions we've taken in transforming the world to suit our image of ourselves as 'actors'. Such an image also served to cause anxiety about human creations such as digital media as artificial. The ideology that the purpose of human beings is to be 'actors', as active as possible, over against all other things that are relatively passive, is past its sell-by date. We can move beyond this to an idea of nature, not as all those objects that are still untouched by our action, but simply as objects that are still unknown. Once we remove the romantic idea that nature represents everything that is non-artificial, while preserving the idea that there are vast areas of reality that are unknown to us, categories such as 'big data' can be conceived as repositories of objects representing potential information. The universe can be conceived in this way too, as a realm of objects most of which are unknown to us, including all those refined objects we used to call artificial, that we should now reconceive as representing things that are only partially known to us on the side of the object that is useful to us. This can enable us to reconceive ourselves as beings that value passivity as much as activity. This more balanced image of ourselves is overdue in the era of climate change, where we need to be more intelligent about our interventions in the world, sometimes withholding action and learning to sometimes accept a greater role for more passive qualities such as contemplation, qualities that will aid us to become more ascetic in the era of climate change.

2. Researching Online Misinformation Intervention Strategies: Unique Insights versus Diverse Possibilities

Vanessa Turyatunga and **Khadija Baig,** MediaSmarts

For over 25 years, MediaSmarts, Canada's non-profit center for digital media literacy, has conducted mixed-methods (qualitative and quantitative) research studies with and for Canadians to understand their experiences and meaningfully engage with their attitudes, behaviors and concerns about the online information ecosystem. Our research-to-resource model ensures that we keep up with ever-evolving forms of technology, understand concerns that arise with them, and explore interventions to address these concerns. However, this model often presents a tension between seeking novel, unique, or singular approaches that may offer new insights, and effectively utilizing common, tested, or diverse methodologies and resources that offer *deeper* rather than *newer* insights. This presentation will share lessons learned from our recent mixed methods project: *Motives and Methods: Identifying the importance of cognitive and affective skills in building Information Verification as a Norm,* which tested the efficacy, effectiveness and impact of MediaSmarts' Break the Fake program through a quantitative survey (4998 GenPop participants) and qualitative online focus groups (30 participants from survey). This research measures the impact(s) of online intervention efforts, particularly short video-based resources, and highlights

Canadians' fact-checking and information sharing attitudes and behaviors. This presentation will explore notable aspects of our study, such as the large sample size, a focus on the needs of older adults, participants' heavy skepticism towards online information, and reliance on gut reactions to determine what is real or fake online. We discuss these findings with particular attention to our observation that no singular intervention strategy stood out in motivating participants to verify online information. Instead, we unpack the value of *several* mutually supporting interventions over *one* unique intervention for motivating and building fact-checking skills. Finally, we emphasize the critical need for deeper insights into fact-checking processes and motivations in an online landscape where platforms are increasingly offloading information verification onto users.

3. Theory Fiction as a Resistive Practice: Writing within Virtual Communities

Steven Cole, Bishop's University

Baudrillard's 'simulation' is often analyzed as a phenomenon linked to the development of advanced media and communication technologies in late capitalism. It is important, however, to remember that Baudrillard's understanding of simulation originates in his early critique of Marxism and subsequent problematization of theoretical representation. Thus, simulation is not simply an effect of contemporary media and communications, but an inherent epistemological limitation of (social) science and theory. To circumvent simulation, Baudrillard develops a new form of theorizing known as 'theory fiction'. Theory fiction does not seek to re-present reality but ex*term*inate theoretical concepts that give reality a particular value. Yet critics have noted that theory fiction is limited to the realm of epistemological deconstruction and cannot establish or inform any lay practice of de-simulation. My research, however, argues that writing within virtual communities *is* a resistive lay practice akin to theory fiction. Both forms of writing use irony, employ humour, and push arguments to their (il)logical extremes. Furthermore, as an online debate about "*real*guitars" illustrates, both forms of writing can de-simulate the real and challenge key concepts and terms associated with reality. Yet the ultimate efficacy of this virtual lay de-simulation, like Baudrillard's own theory fiction, nonetheless remains highly questionable and problematic.

4. Misinformation or Misframing? On the Sociological Analysis of Bad Information Online

Michael Christensen, Carleton University

This paper offers a theoretical rethinking of online misinformation as social phenomenon. Research on the topic has proliferated in a diverse range of academic disciplines, from political science to public health, but sociologists have been relatively more ambivalent about the topic. This is partly because critical traditions of sociology have long advocated for the democratization of knowledge and expertise, at least insofar as doing so represented a critique of institutionalized forms of power and control. While online misinformation now appears to be a real social problem, efforts to reassert the unquestioned power of experts have also proven unsatisfactory. To get beyond this impasse, I argue that the study of misinformation could benefit by returning to a problem that has interested social theorists for over a century: the problem of how collectives negotiate multiple interpretations of reality. The most definitive statement on this problem in Sociology comes from Erving Goffman's now 50-year-old text *Frame Analysis*. By grounding his understanding of the problem of multiple realities in the earlier work of William James and Alfred Schutz, Goffman built an approach to examining the boundaries that hemmed in particular understandings of reality, which allow people to share common interpretations. For Goffman, misframings, based on

ambiguity, errors, or disputes are common in everyday life, but are often quickly corrected in most interaction contexts. Social media platforms, on the other hand, tend to amplify misframings, because the social desire to align interpretive framings in everyday life can lead people to attempt to resolve misframings online (and thus post more). This paper argues that misinformation plays an important role in the systemic amplification of misframings (whether intentional or not), and that any analysis of the topic should include a review of the interpretive context in which "bad information" is presented online.

(OMN1b) Broad Perspectives in Work and Capitalism Research
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am

This session features research relating to work, economy and capitalism.

Session Chair: Konstantin Petoukhov, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Working- Class Masculinity and Temporary Interprovincial Work Migration
Tyler McCormick, St. Thomas University

Rural, working- class men shaped their masculinities through discipline, leading responsible lives, and maintaining a sense of order among economic uncertainty. Often being rooted in manual labor and the ability to support their families, traits such as toughness, physical endurance, and hard work are emphasized, positioning manual labor as a critical marker of rural, working-class masculinities. As a result, these men are susceptible to shifts in rural economies and labour trends. The decline of manufacturing industries in New Brunswick (NB) has disrupted how local working- class men shape themselves, prompting many men to seek employment through temporary interprovincial work migration (TIWM) to Western Canada, or go "Out West". This paper examines how rural, working-class men from NB shape their masculinities in response to TIWM. In doing so, I argue that these men, whose skills are tied to regionally specific forms of masculinity, seek employment "Out West" to maintain their "disciplined selves" as a sense of dignity in the face of economic uncertainty, and "just dealing" with the consequences. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with New Brunswick men who go "Out West", this paper applies a critical discourse analysis (CDA) to explore how their masculinities are shaped by declining local industry. This paper offers insights into the ways rural, working-class masculinities adapt to shifting local economies and broader societal transitions. My analysis seeks to connect individual experiences to larger socioeconomic changes, shedding light on how working-class men navigate gender dynamics during periods of economic instability, contributing to broader discussions of gender, power, and resilience.

2. Unemployment or Income? A Longitudinal Analysis of Factors Shaping Welfare State Attitudes
Samuel Braden, Harvey Krahn, Michelle Maroto, and Matthew Johnson, University of Alberta

Under conditions of rising inequality, how might economic self-interest shape attitudes toward income inequality and redistribution? Two distinct hypotheses predict how economic self-interest might influence these attitudes. The economic loss hypothesis claims that unemployment, which may alter a person's identity as a member of the work force and contribute to reductions in income and standard of living, can lead a person to believe that income inequality is too high, and that income redistribution should occur. Conversely, the Weberian idea of social closure - a strategy

high-status people use to retain their beneficial position in society - leads to a status defence hypothesis, which predicts that individuals with a high income will be unlikely to believe income inequality is a problem and that income redistribution should occur. We use data from a Canadian cohort study covering 30 years (1987 to 2017, N=1864) to test these alternative hypotheses and examine whether economic self-interest influences welfare state attitudes. The findings do not support the economic loss hypothesis; current unemployment was not associated with the view that income inequality is too high and that those with higher income should pay more taxes. Higher income was associated with these two welfare state attitudes, as predicted by the status defence hypothesis. Interaction tests showed status defence to be more visible (i.e., the income-attitude association was stronger) at ages 32 and 50, compared to early adulthood (ages 20 and 25). Examination of the direct effects of age revealed age 32 findings that may reflect the unique political economy of the province of Alberta at the turn of the century. Future research suggestions derived from the results are discussed.

3. Contributors to the cause of vulnerability of Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) workers: A Marxist analysis

Humayun Kabir, Kim Usher, and Myfanwy Maple, University of New England, Australia

Bangladeshi readymade garment (RMG) workers are vulnerable to both physical and mental health vulnerabilities due to the profit-maximising focus of the factory owners and international buyers/brands (such as GAP, Primark, and Kmart). However, the extent to which profit maximisation causes the health vulnerabilities of RMG workers has not been documented in the existing literature. Here we apply a Marxist framework ('accumulation of capital') to identify the drivers that contribute to the vulnerability of RMG workers. The research aimed at identifying the process of accumulating profits (through the process of low investment and high profits) by the RMG factory owners. It also emphasised the impacts of the accumulation of capital among the RMG workers. The research articulated why revolution against the existing exploitation does not take place in Bangladesh RMG settings. Data were collected using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative approach included a semi-structured survey (N=411) with face-to-face interviews with the currently employed RMG workers. The qualitative approach incorporated both in-depth interviews (N=17 & 15) and focus groups (No. of FG 3, N=27). The SPSS software was used to analyse the quantitative data, and qualitative data were analysed thematically. The study found that RMG working conditions comprise a lack of available workplace facilities and safety measures, which eventually impact workers' health and safety. Results demonstrated that stress, anxiety, and boredom were prevalent among nearly two-thirds of the respondents, while headaches and colds were prevalent among more than half of the respondents. Overall, working conditions, workplace environments, the nature of RMG work, demographic characteristics, and geographical locations were significant risk factors for workers' health illnesses. This study highlights that the physical and psychological health vulnerabilities of RMG workers are directly linked to the profit-maximizing practices of the industry, which requires interventions at the policy level to direct change.

4. Graphic Design in the Digital Age: Neoliberal Ideals and Capitalism Reshaping the Discipline

Mia Zhang, York University

This paper explores how neoliberalism, the digital economy, the professionalization of graphic design, the rise of User Experience (UX) design, and the commodification of design education are

reshaping the discipline. These shifts, while responding to industry demands, risk undermining the creative and cultural richness that has historically defined graphic design. The increasing alignment of design education with industry needs raises tensions between the development of technical skills and the preservation of design's critical, aspirational, and socially transformative potential. As design education becomes more focused on preparing students for market-driven careers, it faces the challenge of balancing technical proficiency with the need to nurture creativity and critical thinking. The growing emphasis on industry standards and outcomes can diminish the role of design as a cultural and social force, reducing its potential to challenge societal norms and provoke change. The paper highlights these tensions and discusses their implications for the future of design practice and education. Ultimately, the research calls for a reconsideration of design education in light of these socio-economic shifts, urging a more balanced approach. This approach should not only address the technical demands of the profession but also preserve the creative and cultural dimensions of design. By nurturing both aspects, design education can remain a dynamic and evolving field, capable of adapting to market forces while continuing to drive cultural and social change. As the design industry moves forward, it is crucial to maintain the integrity of the discipline, ensuring that it remains a powerful tool for cultural reflection, societal transformation, and creative expression.

(SCL7) Sociology of Culture: Identity and Connection
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

Presentations in this session analyze the relationships between symbols, cultural consumption, identity construction, and relationality. By bringing together diverse methodological and theoretical approaches, this session highlights the social processes that mutually constitute culture, identity, and sociality.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba

Presentations:

1. Poor Man, Beggar Man…: Framing of Poverty in Serbian Television News
Ivanka Knezevic, University of Toronto

The paper analyses framing of poverty in Serbian television news in the context of increasing polarisation of media since the 2017 ascension to power of the Serbian Progressive Party (Srpska Napredna Stranka - SNS). Western countries consider Serbia a democracy, partly because the SNS consistently supports foreign direct investment and other neo-liberal economic policies. However, the ongoing polarisation of publicly and privately owned media is an indicator of direct governmental influence on the public ones, which so provide a wealth of material for analysis of the Party's propagandistic-populist discourse. A mixed-methods discourse analysis was used to address framing of poverty in television news stories. The quantitative aspect of the analysis focused on differences in agenda setting. Poverty appears, as either a primary or secondary theme, in less than 1% of news items on public television and 9% of items on the private one. Low and decreasing media attention paid to poverty has, of course, also been noted in research on other countries. The qualitative element of the analysis was used to build a typology of dominant poverty frames in television news. Frames used in the public and the private television news are disparate, rather than

directly confrontational. Public television focuses on reporting diverse governmental policies and actions, relating uncritically the claims that all will help alleviate poverty. Private television news includes poverty in reports on difficult state of the economy. Rational as such a frame appears in comparison to the public television's propagandistic-populist framing, it is burdened by presentation of numerous statistical economic indicators, turning poverty into a nearly invisible side issue. Given the increasing poverty in the country over the past decades, both these frames are problematic, in that neither offers meaningful information for a public debate, or for activism and policy formation to alleviate poverty.

2. Navigating Identity: Adopting Preferred Names among Asian International Students in Anglo-Saxon Countries

Emma Nguyen, University of British Columbia

The adoption of Anglo-Saxon names among international university students who attended internationally-national secondary schools (international schools that align themselves to one or more nationalities, either in name, curriculum, or some other aspect) with Anglo-Saxon curricula is a unique phenomenon that reflects the intersections of cultural identity, belonging, and acculturation. While name changes among migrants have been studied broadly, little research has examined the specific case of international students navigating dual cultural spheres through educational, professional, and social environments. This study investigates why these students adopt Anglo-Saxon names, the impact of this decision on their social and professional success in Anglo-Saxon countries, and the implications for their identity formation. Participants are recruited using convenience and snowball sampling. Using surveys and qualitative interviews, the research explores participants' lived experiences and perceptions of identity negotiation and analyzes in detail the impact of using Anglo-Saxon names on social and professional success. Preliminary findings suggest that Anglo-Saxon name adoption functions as a strategy to achieve social and professional success in Anglo-Saxon countries, including easing integration, fostering connection, and mitigating discrimination. However, it may also create tensions with participants' ties to their home cultures. This study contributes to sociological literature on acculturation and identity adaptation while offering practical insights for educators and policymakers striving to support culturally diverse student populations. A better representation and understanding of this phenomenon can help foster more inclusive classroom environments where cultural identity is affirmed, and improve students' sense of belonging and engagement.

3. Killer Content and Morbid Curiosity: Investigating Why Female Fans Love True Crime

Avery Fraser, University of the Fraser Valley

We live in an era increasingly captivated and inundated by true crime content, with an extensive and ever-expanding body of true crime podcasts, blogs, documentaries, television shows, books, and beyond. As the true crime genre has continued to surge in popularity, particularly its renaissance in recent years, research has consistently revealed that the true crime audience is predominantly female across a variety of formats, notably books and, more recently, podcasts (e.g., Serial and My Favorite Murder). However, while previous research has established that the true crime genre has continued to cultivate a noticeably female fanbase, much of the previous literature has discussed women who consume true crime content as a homogenous category, offering little to no specifics regarding what group of women are being discussed. Therefore, using data collected

through a mixed-methods online survey, this study examines whether this generation of young female fans aged 27 and under, who have grown up in a media-saturated environment with extensive access and exposure to true crime content, exhibits unique characteristics in relation to their fear of crime and corresponding true crime consumption patterns. Additionally, drawing on Alice Eagly's (1987) social role theory, this study explores how gender socialization—shaped by parents, peers, schools, and media representations—influences women's fear of crime and their subsequent engagement with true crime content. Consequently, building on the findings of prior research, this study suggests that female fans' extensive consumption of true crime content is linked to an elevated fear of crime (e.g., increased fear of sexual violence), thus creating a paradox where the true crime content many female fans consume for educational purposes (e.g., to learn self-defence mechanisms) may simultaneously reinforce female fans' socialized fears about victimization, ultimately perpetuating a vicious cycle of anxiety, paranoia, and hyper-vigilance.

(SCY2b) Children and Youth Participating in their Life Worlds for Social Impact II
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster

This session is intended to explore how children and youth are participating in their life worlds for social impact. It aspires to do so through a particular conceptualization for children and youth participation as unfolding in a relational manner. Scholars in this session have taken up this relational conception of children and youth participation in their analysis of social media activism, girls Instagram feminism, the exercise of agency and resistance by young girls to dress codes and a children's advocacy-centred workshop event. The process of doing so can illuminate both children and youth's experiences with and best practices for understanding, supporting, and advancing their participatory rights.

Session Organizers: Dustin Ciufo and Laurel Donison, King's University College at Western University, Madison Moore and Christine Goodwin-De Faria, Trent University
Session Chairs: Dustin Ciufo and Laurel Donison, King's University College at Western University

Presentations:

1. Online Communities as Working Utopias: Exploring Connections among Youth Activists on Twitter

Monica Pauls, Mount Royal University

The negative effects of social media use among young people have been ringing the societal alarm bells; parents and teachers are being warned of the potential impairments social media can cause and efforts are being made to limit young people' access to technology. And while these concerns are not unfounded, many positive effects have also been documented in the literature. Platforms, for example, can promote a sense of community and facilitate the provision of emotional support through networking and joining online groups. This paper takes a deeper look at the relationships and connections that develop on social media among young people using an example of youth activists in the international climate change movement and the American gun control movement on Twitter (now known as X) in 2020. Qualitative interviews with sixteen activists and a thematic analysis of samples of their Twitter feeds reveal that the platform is used as a "working utopia"; a space that provides a sense of community, generates social capital, and reinforces the movement's

culture through the act of *sharing*. Sharing generates *resonance*, a fluid and dynamic experience of belonging, togetherness and mutual understanding of everyday life, which builds emotional connections among users who engage and interact online. In this way, online platforms expand the potential of social networks to develop and evolve, and can facilitate a sense of community, despite people's physical separation. This work sheds light on the role of online spaces in developing and strengthening relationships among young people and encourages researchers to explore the meaning behind such connections.

2. TimeSpaceMatterings of Girls' Instagram Feminism

Lindsay C. Sheppard, York University

What entangled agencies affect girls' experiences and meanings of Instagram feminism? Informed by feminist new-materialist and posthuman approaches (Barad 2007; Braidotti 2022), I consider how configurations of bodies, discourses, materialities, times, and spaces co-create the possibilities for girls' Instagram feminism. I entangle with Barad's timespacemattering which troubles an ontological hierarchy and sees space, time, and matter as "mutually constituted through the dynamics of intra-activity" (2007:181). Intra-actions are boundary-making collisions where matter, meaning, and timespaces emerge (Barad 2007). In this paper, I ask: What timespacematterings co-create the possibilities for girls' and young women's Instagram feminism? I engage in a diffractive analysis (Mazzei 2014), where I read wondrous data (MacLure 2013) from interviews with young feminists, with and through theory. I consider the force of the technologies of Instagram, material-discursive contexts such as gender, age, and place, and the multiple human and non-human bodies that entwine to produce girls' Instagram feminism. I argue that girls' digital feminism is a multiplicity that is remade through specific configurations, where many timespacematterings entangle messily and at once. This thinking troubles conceptualizations of youth's participation that center agentic humans, and complicates boundaries between human/non-human and online/offline. I illustrate how girls' becoming feminist and digital feminism are not separate from the unfolding of the world, they iteratively become together.

3. "We had the chance to share our voices": Exploring children's participation relationally

Laurel Donison and **Dustin Ciufo,** King's University College at Western University

For Childhood Studies scholars, children's exercising of their agency through their voices and participation have remained central components to the discipline for some time now (Spyrou 2018). However, a vital step toward advancing the field has been conceptualizing children's agency with a relational approach. This approach to agency views it as being produced through relations and can only exist in interconnectedness (Raithelhuber, 2016). It draws particular attention to networks, connections and processes (Spyrou, 2018). In this presentation, we apply a relational lens to a workshop called Shaking the Movers. This event brings together university students and children and youth with the common goal of working together to better understand children's perspectives and views on matters that directly impact their lives. Thinking with relational approaches, we focus on the connections and networks that were fostered through the creation and implementation of the workshop. We will explore the complex and collective achievement that was possible through careful consideration of this year's theme on what it means to build communities of care. We will provide insight into how children's agency operates relationally through the knowledge that was produced, the arts-based methods that were used, and the overall expressions of joy the children

shared while also offering our own reflections on the process as a whole. The intention of this work is to draw attention to how knowledge can be relationally produced with children and youth so that it may support others who are interested in creating similar spaces. Furthermore, it can inspire individuals to consider how they may use similar approaches in post-secondary settings to support direct engagement with children and youth, especially in academic programs that focus on children and youth. After all, it is through these dynamic processes "in which relations are brought about in time and space" (Raithelhuber, 2016, p.99).

(THE1) Key Debates in Sociological Theory
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

While classic sociological debates live on as allegiances to great names and in introductory sociology classes under heuristic but misleading labels (conflict theory, structural-functionalism, etc.), contemporary sociological debates are not always easy to identify, at least not by reading the published record of peer reviewed work. This session features papers that lay out contemporary sociological theory debates, including those that may be eluding widespread awareness, and make the case for their importance to sociological theory and practice.

Session Organizer and Chair: Jesse Carlson, Acadia University

Presentations:

1. Repression and/or (de)Negation: The Place of Marxism and Psychoanalysis in Field Relationalism

Ian Morrison, The American University in Cairo

In recent years a number of scholarly works have appeared that attempt to critical re-examine the place of psychoanalysis and Marxism within the thought of Pierre Bourdieu, and particularly with respect to his conception of field relationalism. In doing so, they assert that Bourdieu himself failed to adequately work through his relationship to these two schools of thought, especially in relation to the figures of Marx and Freud, and his contemporaries Althusser and Lacan, denying the influence of these figures and schools of thought and attempting to distance himself from them, while at the same time deploying key terms that they had developed. Doing so, has resulted in theoretical and practical contradictions within Bourdieu's thought, in general, and field relationalism, in particular. In this presentation, I will ask, if we take these critiques seriously, what is the impact for fields of study for whom field relationalism has become a key framework of analysis. I will do so by assessing what these critiques would mean for the field of critical citizenship studies, for which field relationalism has central since the emergence of the field in the late 1990s.

2. Pondering Debates on the Notions of 'Surplus Population' and 'Surplus Life': Marx and Mbembe

Rabindra Chaulagain, Acadia University

Marx's concept of relative surplus populations (RSP) and absolute surplus populations (ASP) and Mbembe's illustration of surplus life as 'killable' from the perspective of necropower in advanced capitalism in the postcolonial world continue to foster scholarly debates. These debates are particularly relevant in the context of contemporary sociological and social theory, and this paper

aims to contribute to these discussions by engaging with some of the most recent and relevant scholarships in the field.

3. What is social class after all?

Zohreh Bayatrizi, University of Alberta

Class is a core subject in sociology. In Western Europe it was formulated as an intellectual and political "problem" in the long passage from the social arrangements of the Medieval Age to the Industrial Age. A genealogical investigation shows how this 19th century concept was adapted to account for inequality and stratification in the twentieth century industrialized societies, primarily by stripping it of its connection with class consciousness. It will then delve into new ways in which class is being theoretically reconsidered and revived to account for the 21st century "platform economy", "digitization", and "knowledge economy".

4. Structure, Agency, and Settler-Colonialism: Toward a Sociology of Indigenous Resistance

Dean Ray, York University

Settler-colonial theory has profoundly shaped our understanding of the dispossession of Indigenous Peoples and the enduring structures of settler dominance. However, its structuralist underpinnings, influenced by Patrick Wolfe's foundational work, have been critiqued for neglecting the role of agency, particularly among Indigenous Peoples. This paper examines the potential of sociological insights, especially from the structure-agency debate, to address these critiques and refine the conceptual framework of settler-colonialism. Drawing on William H. Sewell Jr.'s innovative reconceptualization of structure as a dynamic interplay between cultural schemas and resources, this essay reinterprets key concepts like the logic of elimination and recognition. It argues for a nuanced approach that acknowledges the heterogeneity and adaptability of both settlers and Indigenous actors while emphasizing the material and cultural dimensions of settler-colonial structures. By integrating perspectives on racialized organizations, racialized emotions, and future projectivity, the paper seeks to illuminate pathways for sociological engagement with settler-colonialism, offering a framework for understanding resistance, transformation, and the potential for decolonization within and beyond settler-colonial societies.

(CRM-RC) Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster Meeting

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

The Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster would like to welcome everyone to our annual meeting, which is open to scholars, practitioners, and students who are engaged in the study of crime, criminology, criminal justice, policing, law, penology, or related subjects. The cluster meeting provides an opportunity to connect all those interested in research in criminology and criminal justice. This meeting is open to anyone who might benefit from joining our membership or anyone simply interested in the field in general.

Session Organizer: Tanya Trussler, Mount Royal University

(SCL-RC) Sociology of Culture Research Cluster Meeting
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

The Sociology of Culture Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives. The research cluster will provide an institutional base within the CSA for this growing area of research, help coordinate Sociology of Culture panels at the annual conference of the CSA, and reach out to scholars working in related fields and disciplines. We have established a mailing list to connect cultural sociologists in Canada and abroad, and to aid in the dissemination of research within the scholarly community.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba

(SMH-RC) Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster Meeting
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster

The Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.
Bring your lunch!

Session Organizers: Atsushi Narisada, Saint Mary's University and Ruth Repchuck, McMaster University

(APS6a) Strategies for Engaging in Sociology Beyond the Ivory Tower: Applied Case Studies
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Cluster

In a time of increased austerity, stratification, authoritarianism, and skepticism of what value sociology brings to the world, public sociology holds a more important role than ever in resisting oppression and the continued attacks on the social sciences. Research for social impact demands more than academic rigour; it requires active partnerships with academics, students, communities, governments, and not-for-profit organizations. This session showcases both completed and in-progress projects that illustrate evolving methodologies, pedagogies, strategies, and politics necessary to conduct sociology with communities rather than for them. Presenters will explore research addressing pressing social issues such as homelessness, intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, poverty, and forced displacement through applied case studies that foster meaningful change and shared ownership of research. Discussions will offer insights into reimagining traditional methods, applying adaptive pedagogies, and navigating complex challenges like power dynamics, intersectionality, communication barriers, and ethical considerations. Emphasizing practical techniques for fostering trust and reciprocity, this session highlights actionable strategies to collaborate with non-academic partners at every phase of research, from design through data collection, analysis, and dissemination. By fostering knowledge exchange, this session provides attendees with insights into building inclusive, impactful sociological practices that

bridge academic work with community needs to position sociology as a driver of social change. Scholars, practitioners, and students are invited to reflect on sociology's evolving role and explore ways to commit sociology to achieve tangible benefits for society beyond the ivory tower.

Session Organizers: Andrea DeKeseredy, University of Alberta, Amy Peirone and Kyle Jackson, St. Clair College

Session Chair: Kyle Jackson, St. Clair College

Presentations:

1. Shelter U: A Developmental evaluation of a multi-stakeholder program in transformative education

Aaron Klassen and Rafael Tosi, Booth University College

This paper presents the early findings from a developmental evaluation of an intervention program called Shelter U, which seeks to leverage the strengths of an institutional-community agency collaboration to overcome barriers to education having to do with poverty and forced displacement. Drawing on practical evaluative research (Chen 2016), we focus here on the formative stage of the program, from conception to pilot implementation. However, being that the conditions of our program are characterized by crisis and on multiple scales, from institutional to individual personal-levels, and with little programmatic precedent in our region, we use the developmental evaluative (DE) approach (Patton 2021) to take advantage of its flexibility and adaptive strength. DE is valuable for applied sociological research in which program outcomes can only be anticipated, aimed as they are at social change. We highlight the adaptations we made at key points in the concept to implementation process, from Fall 2022 to Spring 2025, adaptations that were transformative for the project aims, systems, collaborative stakeholders, including community-based participants and their capacity building, and the research itself. With the key evaluative questions: what has happened? what caused these things to happen? what is the overall quality of what is being evaluated? and what should we do? we evaluate whether and how we achieved our objective, to support the discovery of learning, and assess those areas in which we can improve our preparedness to implement the program full-time. Multiple sources inform our data analysis, from an environmental scan of comparable international and local programs (Shorris 2000; insideoutcenter.org) to consultation with relevant experts in non-traditional, cross-cultural education, to instructor training and student recruitment, to intake interview and course evaluations of the pilot course, SOC395 Intro to Music Sociology. We conclude with ethical considerations, like equitable access to education, and practical suggestions for further adaptation.

2. Adaptive Methods for Community-Centred Insights: Bridging Gaps in Gender-Based Violence Crisis Lines

Amy Peirone, St. Clair College and **Madison Dekok,** University of Windsor; Melissa St. Pierre, Laurentian University and Lydia Fiorini, Sexual Assault Crisis Centre of Essex County

Applied sociological research offers transformative potential when grounded in collaboration and shared ownership with community partners. This presentation explores a unique ministry-funded initiative that brought together government, academia, and community-based organizations to examine the landscape of gender-based violence (GBV) crisis lines in Ontario. The project aimed to better understand the diverse service delivery models, capacity challenges and strengths, best

practices in delivery, and alignment with service objectives, offering a comprehensive view of the sector's complexities and opportunities for innovation. It exemplifies the value of reimagining traditional research methods to meet dynamic needs, emphasizing the importance of community knowledge, lived experience, and practical insights in shaping effective solutions. With stakeholders spanning government, community-based organizations, and crisis line providers, the initiative prioritized diverse research and engagement strategies, including environmental scans, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and engagement sessions. These methodologies pivoted in real time, responding to shifting stakeholder needs by adapting approaches and employing innovative strategies for engagement that leveraged existing technological resources. A commitment to flexibility and reciprocity allowed for the integration and co-creation of knowledge across diverse perspectives, ensuring the research remained inclusive and actionable. Through this case study, we explore the challenges in navigating complex power dynamics, addressing competing priorities, and fostering trust across diverse actors. The presentation highlights strategies for conducting sociology *with* communities rather than *for*them, emphasizing equitable partnerships and shared ownership of research outcomes. These efforts underscore the importance of embedding flexibility, reflexivity, and collaboration throughout all phases of research. By reflecting on the project's successes and challenges, we offer actionable insights into fostering meaningful engagement, overcoming barriers, and creating pathways for research to drive social change. This case study demonstrates how applied sociology can connect academic expertise with community needs to deliver impactful, systemic improvements while positioning sociology as a catalyst for meaningful, real-world impact.

3. Identifying and Developing Youth Homelessness Prevention Strategies through Respondent-Driven Sampling and Intersectionality

Sarah Wilkins, Kyle Jackson, Fayssoux Bombardier, Armand Avolio, Thanatchya Wongwilart, Emma Beecroft, and Wafaa Al Rayes, St. Clair College

Homelessness is a growing issue in Canadian society, with particularly severe effects on youth. Approximately 20% of Canada's homeless population consists of youth between the ages of 13-24, with an estimated 6000-7000 young individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, n.d.). However, these figures likely underestimate the complexity of youth homelessness, and its diverse, intersecting experiences. To address this gap, our research employs Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS), and partnerships with community agencies, to refine and co-develop preventative programming for youth. The project began with a literature review examining intersecting identities (primarily racialized and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth), pathways to homelessness, barriers to exiting, and best practices for intervention. Building on this foundation, we conducted in-depth interviews with youth aged 16-24, analyzed thematically to identify key barriers and risk factors. Themes include mental health challenges, experiences of discrimination (racism, homophobia, or other forms), financial insecurity, violence/abuse, trauma, and substance misuse. Centring the voices of youth throughout all stages of program design, we employ an anti-oppressive framework that prioritizes co-creation and equitable collaboration with community partners. This methodology highlights how research can foster meaningful, inclusive, and systemic change. Nationally, our findings contribute to enhanced homelessness estimates for hard-to-reach populations, and support more effective, inclusive evidence-based solutions. By combining innovative methods with community collaboration, this research aligns with broader

efforts to reimagine traditional practices and amplify voices of those with lived experiences to improve service delivery and societal outcomes.

4. Advancing Solutions to Homelessness Among IPV Survivors Through Critical Community-Engaged Scholarship

Mavis Morton, University of Guelph and **Christine Wildman,** WorQshop: Building Safer Spaces; Paula Barata and Daniely Sciarotta De Araujo, University of Guelph; Melissa Tanti, Coventry University; Erin Dej, Wilfrid Laurier University; Jennifer Vansteenkiste, Womens Interval Home of Sarnia Lambton; Kaitlin Schwan, University of Southern California; Liz Jackson, Community Engaged Scholarship Institute; Marlene Ham, Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses; Jessica Pratezina, WomanAct; Sly Castaldi, Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis

This presentation outlines and reflects on new critical community-engaged research (Gordon da Cruz 2017) that seeks to bridge multi-disciplinary, multi-sector, and diverse expertise to address the housing instability among women/gender diverse victims-survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). The Safe and Stable Housing through Intentional Partnership (SSHIP) is a SSHRC funded 3-year project to build, test, and refine a governance framework (testing the Sociocracy approach) that prioritizes equity, inclusivity, and trauma-informed practices. We are integrating arts-based, trauma-informed, and mixed-methods research tools to collect complex longitudinal data that will enhance our understanding of the pathways in and out of housing insecurity and homelessness for IPV victims-survivors in Ontario. The SSHIP initiative is conducting three pilot projects within the violence against women and women's homelessness shelter sectors, allowing for a comprehensive, multi-perspective approach to the issue. **Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**: IPV survivor-researchers with lived experience of housing instability will be trained and supported to collect both retrospective and longitudinal data. Trained survivor-researchers will engage with other women and gender-diverse individuals who have experienced IPV and housing insecurity, collecting data at six key time intervals: baseline, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 18 months. The data collected will offer insights into the cyclical nature of housing insecurity and its intersections with intimate partner violence, providing a deeper understanding of the long-term impacts of IPV on survivors' housing stability. **Violence Against Women Shelter Staff**: At three shelter sites in Ontario, transitional housing worker shelter staff will collect longitudinal data about their service provision to IPV victims-survivors who have faced housing insecurity to identify gaps, barriers, and potential solutions. In the third year of the study, staff from women's homeless shelters will be invited to participate, helping to build relationships between these sectors and identify potential points of coordination and collaboration. **Executive Directors (EDs) of Violence Against Women (VAW) Shelters**: Executive directors of the three VAW shelters will collect data from other EDs documenting their experiences and insights regarding the broader landscape of complex IPV survivors and housing issues, including municipal and provincial governments, and the systemic challenges they face in securing stable housing for IPV survivors. This longitudinal data will run from baseline to 18 months, offering a bird's-eye view of how shelter organizations navigate the complex intersection of housing and IPV. Through these three projects, SSHIP will develop and share a robust, trauma-informed research framework that involves survivors, shelter staff, shelter leadership, community based organizations with expertise in gender based violence and in the collection, analysis, and mobilization of data. This model of co-created research ensures that those with lived experience are active participants, shaping the tools, methods, findings. Furthermore, SSHIP is enacting a comprehensive knowledge mobilization

strategy to scale up the governance model and research protocols. This strategy aims to facilitate the collection and dissemination of provincial and, ultimately, national research needed to continue to inform policy, practice, and intervention strategies aimed at improving housing stability for IPV survivors. We are anxious to share and exchange insights about the ways in which sociology can be an important driver of social change by prioritizing community needs and working collaboratively with scholars, practitioners and students to develop actionable solutions that extend beyond the ivory tower and help to address significant social problems including IPV and homelessness.

(CRM4) Policing, Labour and Pacification
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

This session examines the intersections of policing, labour, and pacification in capitalist societies, focusing on the broader role of policing in regulating and disciplining labour to secure capitalist accumulation. Pacification, as Rigakos defines it, involves "the processes that secure capitalist accumulation through the organization and discipline of populations" (2016). Policing, therefore, is not limited to law enforcement but includes economic functions that manage labour, ensuring its productivity and compliance. These practices may include surveillance, the regulation of urban spaces, the policing of workplace behavior, and the control of dissent—all designed to prevent disruptions and maintain the conditions necessary for the continuous flow of capital. By shaping the spaces and behaviors of workers, policing helps to reinforce labour's subordination to capitalist imperatives. This session aims to deepen our understanding of how policing operates as a tool of economic and social control, ensuring the ongoing subordination of labour to capitalist needs.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Wendy Chan, Simon Fraser University and George Rigakos, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Carceral Capitalism and Education Inequity Within Women's Federal Canadian Prisons
Grisha Cowal, Dalhousie University

This paper will explore the development of prison education within Canada to highlight the ways in which education has been used as a guise by the colonial-carceral state to conceal various forms of labor exploitation. Education has historically been fundamental to the ideological operations of Canadian prisons as well as the reformation of prisoners into docile bodies for labor exploitation (Foucault, 1995; House & Rashid, 2022). Prisoner's labor has been central to the tangible and ideological development and maintenance of prisons (House & Rashid, 2022). Education within Canada's first prison was theorized to be key to spiritual restitution; thus, education was intended to align prisoner's behaviors and values with those of settler Christianity and productivity rather than to expand prisoner's knowledge or academic skills (McCarthy, 1985; Owens, n.d.). The term penitentiary (prison) is derived from the historic belief that hard labor and religion were a source of penitence, and labor was in many cases equated to education (Hennessy, 1999; House & Rashid, 2022). Through disciplinary power exercised in both prisons and schools, individuals become resocialized and learn to regulate their behavior in accordance with normative standards set by the institution in an ongoing act of self-policing (Foucault, 1995). Disciplinary power is enacted in schools and prisons through the use of surveillance, rituals, and isolation to create docile bodies

that are both improved and productive (Bánovčanová & Masaryková, 2014; Foucault, 1995; Simmons, 2009). Correctional Service Canada's prison industry CORCAN emerged in the 1980's alongside the development of neoliberal policy reforms and was considered a cost-effective solution to government rollbacks (Kleuskens, 2015). By reframing coercive labor programs as "rehabilitative", CORCAN continues to justify its exploitative practices wherein prisoners are paid significantly below minimum wage for their work and are excluded from many federal labor policies and protections (House & Rashid, 2022).

2. Developing insurgent safety: Pacification, police abolition, and non-reformist resistance

Nakharathep Lo, University of Toronto

Calls for reforming or defunding the police are misguided; a system that works as intended does not need to be fixed. Policing is an act of racial and class warfare against the racialized 'Other' and establishes a facade of orderliness. Drawing on secondary data, I argue that policing attempts to establish a simulacrum of safety; nonetheless, policing is a counterproductive institution and fails to reduce crime as purported. Instead, policing practices seek to pacify and legitimate violence against racialized and multiply marginalized populations. Thus, I argue that carceral abolition is critical to resolving the harm caused by the repressive state apparatus (i.e., the criminal injustice system). Further, while non-reformist reforms alleviate harm and mitigate carceral expansion in the short term, further attention is warranted in developing and disseminating abolitionist praxis beyond reformism. Abolition is not solely a negative process (i.e., destroying the repressive state apparatus) but necessitates world-building—an imagination of social relations beyond carceral punishment and containment. Likewise, direct action and prefiguration are crucial to abolitionist praxis. This paper develops the concept of 'insurgent safety,' highlighting how marginalized communities improvise to deal with 'crime' outside of the criminal injustice system. Here, 'insurgent safety' is a form of prefigurative praxis that reconceptualizes the notion of 'safety' through transformative justice—developing possibilities for 'justice,' resistance, and self-determination beyond the repressive state apparatus.

3. Why "Defund" won't work: Lessons from Anti-security

George Rigakos, Carleton University

This paper examines the "defund" movement within the historical development of police science, arguing that it mirrors past liberal reform efforts that ultimately expanded and institutionalized policing. By analyzing the foundational logics of police science in the works of cameralist, mercantilist, and liberal police reformers from the 18th and 19th centuries, it becomes evident (1) that the natural tendency of policing under capitalism is toward privatization; (2) that narrowing police responsibilities leads to the creation of ancillary services which, while not officially labeled as police, still perform policing functions as originally conceived in the 18th century; and (3) that these reforms do not alter the economic and legal principles that underpin the constabulary as a public office serving private property. Ultimately, this paper argues that the defund movement, rather than dismantling policing, risks reinforcing its institutional expansion in new forms. The paper ends with consideration of key principles derived from Security Abolition.

4. "We are not robots:" A Critical Analysis of Amazon's Workplace Surveillance

Gabriela Ludwig Guerra, Carleton University

Digital technologies like facial recognition and wearables have allowed for almost ubiquitous surveillance. This research seeks to understand the use of these technologies within the workplace, focusing on workers' experiences. Fifteen in-depth interviews with Amazon warehouse workers were conducted using interview snowball sampling. Relying on Pacification Theory, the study contextualizes their experience within a historical context of worker control and exploitation, challenging the idea that digital surveillance represents a new form of capitalism.

(CSA3) 2024 Award for excellence in French-language sociology

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

The Prix d'excellence en sociologie de langue française recognizes outstanding books and articles published in French that contribute to the advancement of knowledge about a social phenomenon or sociological thought in Canada.

Moderator: Mark C.J. Stoddart, Memorial University

Presentations:

1. What is left of paternalism: Youth criminal justice in the 21st century

Nicolas Sallée, Université de Montréal

This conference aims to present some of the findings of the book *Sous la réhabilitation, le contrôle. La justice des mineurs au 21e siècle* (Québec, PUQ, 2023). Based on a field study conducted in Montreal, this book deciphers the mutations of juvenile justice systems in Western societies. To describe these mutations, I will start from the crumbling, since the 1980s, of an old paternalistic logic that for a long time justified the primacy given to the confinement of young offenders in rehabilitation centers officially designed "for their own good". I will first show that, since the mid-1990s, the most significant reforms in juvenile justice have gone against this old logic, illustrating trends that mark different sectors of public action around the world: the concomitant increase in rights and control of the most precarious populations, the push towards the managerialization of the State, the growing dissemination of risk assessment tools, injunctions to "responsibilization", and more. I will then show how, in the interstices of this new paradigm, old forms of paternalism survive, locking young offenders into their childlike status whenever they try to resist the "new" control imposed on them. This analysis invites us to critically rethink the balance between protection, control, and youth agency in contemporary youth justice systems.

2. Tip: Restaurant Workers, Their Lifestyle, and the Existential Dilemma

Jules Pector-Lallemand, Université de Montréal

Tip is a currency marked by ambivalence, as it is both mandatory and voluntary at the same time. This study explores the meaning of gratuity from the perspective of restaurant employees who receive them. By examining their activities outside paid working hours, the research uncovers a subculture where the tip is central. This subculture is characterized by its codes, norms, and rituals — such as rounds of shots, smoke breaks, or staff beers. These practices contribute to the emergence of a lifestyle as ambivalent as the currency at its heart.

(DIS2) "Cripping" Gender and Sexualities: Navigating the Intersections of Disability, Gender, and Sexualities

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

Societal norms often marginalize or erase disabled people's experiences with gender and sexuality, reflecting ableist, heteronormative, and cisnormative structures. However, disabled people continue to assert their right to express gender and sexuality on their own terms, challenging these oppressive norms and bringing attention to the limitations of traditional frameworks. This session invites scholars to examine the intersections of disability, gender, and sexualities, exploring how disabled people experience, challenge, and reshape societal expectations. By centering disability in conversations about gender and sexualities, this session aims to expand our understanding of identity, embodiment, and desire. Highlighting the rich and complex experiences at the intersections of disability, gender, and sexualities, this session also seeks to broaden our sociological understandings while fostering conversations that challenge ableist and cis-heteronormative structures.

Session Organizers: Alan Martino, Thomas Tri, and Eleni Moumos, University of Calgary
Session Chair: Alan Martino, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. Identity Negotiations of Multiply Marginalized Disabled Youth

Van Slothouber and Sally Lindsay, Bloorview Research Institute

While research is emerging at the intersection of disability and gender diversity or race and disability, very few studies include an in-depth analysis of the impact of possessing multiple marginalized identities. Research on disabled youth has often assumed they are heterosexual, while research on LGBTQ youth has assumed they are nondisabled (Miller, 2015, 2018; Slater & Liddiard, 2018). Additionally, qualitative studies focused on sexually and gender diverse disabled people have included predominantly white participants (Cooper et al., 2023; McAuliffe et al., 2023; Miller, 2015, 2017, 2018; Peachey & Crane, 2024; Strang et al., 2018; Toft, 2020; Toft et al., 2019, 2020); or the racial dimensions of oppression went unaddressed (Baril et al., 2020; Gutmann Kahn & Lindstrom, 2015). The goal of this analysis was to explore how multiply marginalized youth negotiate their identities. This paper is a secondary analysis of data collected for a project focused on the experiences of discrimination and coping strategies of gender and/or racially minoritized disabled youth in Canada. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 17 youth between the ages of 17 and 27 years (M=21), who identified as having a disability and being either gender diverse or a racial or ethnic minority. Using Braun and Clarke's (2006) approach to thematic analysis, data was organized into three main themes: (i) External influences on identity; (ii) Identity development/ management; and (iii) Negotiating identity in space. Findings suggest that identity development is a complex process, where youth were influenced by external discriminatory beliefs and expectations, but also actively negotiated identity through challenging these beliefs, accepting their identities, enacting agency regarding identity disclosure, and finding community and accessible spaces. We highlight the need to creatively rethink accessibility to include how differences of gender, race, sexuality, and class factor into the ability of disabled youth to occupy space.

2. Bridging Critical Disability Studies and Cute Studies: Insights into the Intersections of Intellectual Disability and Sexuality

Alan Martino, Thomas Tri, and Jordan Parks, University of Calgary; Ann Fudge Schormans, McMaster University; Fei Hao Wang, University of Alberta

Ableist beliefs and attitudes persist within society, often manifesting through everyday language and microaggressions aimed at disabled people. One notable domain of this prejudice is the attribution of cuteness to disabled individuals, which frequently results in infantilizing and desexualizing portrayals. This paper seeks to integrate critical disability studies and cute studies to examine how intellectually disabled people navigate their experiences of sexuality within these frameworks. By bridging cute studies' focus on affect, aesthetics, and culture with critical disability studies' insights on power dynamics, social construction, and embodied experiences, this paper critically explores the entanglement of cuteness and disability. Through the analysis of online forums and the concept of boundary-making, this paper expands on the complex, power-laden nature of cuteness—one that is both embraced and rejected by disabled individuals. By exploring this interdisciplinary engagement, this paper provides new insights into the intersections of disability, sexuality, and cuteness, advocating for more inclusive and empowering portrayals of intellectual disability.

3. Beyond the Normative Knot: Centering Autistic Stories to Reimagine the Gender-Sexuality-Autism Nexus

Elizabeth Straus, Kate Ellis, and Carla Rice, University of Guelph; Gowlene Selvavijayan and Jet Coghlan, Independent Community Researcher

Over the last decade, empirical evidence of greater diversity in gender identities and sexual orientations in autistic communities compared to nonautistic populations has been increasing. Such research often goes on to hypothesize reasons for this diversity in ways that perpetuate deficit stories and stereotypes. For example, some assume that autistic people lack a theory of mind (lack empathy) and, by extension, that we cannot understand our own minds and are confused about who we are and what we want. This contributes to the frequent discrediting of autistic people's gender and sexual identities and expressions and being positioning as inherently vulnerable. Furthermore, autistic sexuality is often described as either being too much or not enough. Autistic people may be assumed to be hypersexual, obsessed with sex, or even pedophiles, especially those who are assigned male at birth, or on the other hand, asexual or lacking an interest in sex. Attributing this to "deficits" of autism and assuming that we do not or should not experience sexual desires or attraction is deeply problematic. In this presentation, we seek to challenge these stereotypes through centering the perspectives and experiences of autistic people across diverse embodiments of gender and sexuality. *Beyond the Normative Knot: Life and Praxis at the Gender-Sexuality-Autism Nexus* is an autistic-led participatory multimedia storymaking and interview study exploring the entanglements of gender, sexuality, and autism in everyday life. Through a participatory, neomaterialist, and intersectional analysis of interviews with and digital stories created by 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals who identify in some way with differences labelled as "autism", we explore how autistic/neurodivergent adults experience, disrupt, and reshape deficit pathologizing and normative narratives and expectations at the gender-sexuality-autism nexus. Our analysis is currently in progress with more extensive results expected by June 2025.

(EDU9b) Sociology of Education in Higher Education Institutions - Roundtable
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features developing research in the sociology of higher education.

Session Organizer: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo
Session Chair: Besma Soltan, Trent University

Presentations:

1. Thriving or Ignored? Examining the experiences of Black female students in Canadian Universities.

Sonia Lewis, York University

From their identities to their academic and social well-being, Black female narratives as a single entity are largely underwritten from the lens of their Black male counterparts--a discourse that the scholarly literature has asserted, adds to the continued dehumanizing and erasure of their voices, identities, and lived experiences (Hardaway et, al., 2019). American literature further purports that when the experiences of Black females are examined through this lens, it gives the perception that they are doing "well"; specifically, in their pursuit of higher education (McFarland et al., 2018). Hence, much of the literature regarding Black female students "presents a mythologized discourse" (p. 194) which suggest that they are doing well when compared to Black males (Patton et, al., 2017). Yet, upon closer examination, when compared to their White, Latina, and Asian counterparts at the graduate level Black female students lag behind (Guerra, 2013). It is with the aforementioned in mind, that this research seeks to theorize the following questions: 1) How are Black women experiencing their pursuit of postsecondary degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels? 2) How do these experiences impact their social, emotional, and academic well-being? Using a qualitative research methodology, I will employ a Black Feminist Thought theoretical frame as a lens through which to excavate the experiences of Black female students in university spaces within Canadian. Data will be collected from a total of ten Black university female students at the undergraduate and graduate level. Using an interpretive phenomenal analysis, I will analyze, and code the data to identify commonalities and to distinguish characteristics which shade light on the experiences of Black female students. Due to the small sample size the results of the study cannot be generalized beyond the scope of this research.

2. Sociological Perspective on Political Agency: Colonial Legacies and Governance in Higher Education

Lucia Lucena, McGill University

The *political dimension of student agency* in higher education refers to students' capacity to actively participate in the political life of the university in the form of the ability to promote a particular vision of education and learning, participate in decision-making processes, and raise questions about how policies and budget decisions are made. Many universities in Canada follow the model of decision-making in which authority is mostly concentrated in higher education administration and school leadership. While students get a chance to participate in various governance boards and committees, it is unclear whether these genuinely involve students in the political life of the university. For instance, the recent trend toward securitization on campuses is becoming

increasingly common, yet the decision-making process behind placing security guards on campus remains opaque to many members of the academic community. When it comes to addressing this question, the inquiry into this issue requires taking into consideration the racial aspect of hierarchies within higher education where the system of white supremacy resulted in higher education being historically and persistently white, and where universities function as sites of whiteness. The models of decision-making in Canadian higher education often reflect a hierarchical structure reminiscent of colonial systems of governance where authority is centralized in the hands of administrators and senior leadership. The centralized authority, coupled with structural hierarchies, limits students' ability to contribute meaningfully to institutional change. This presentation critically examines how the colonial legacies embedded within higher education institutions in Canada impact students' exercise of political agency. I argue that discussions about political agency (and to an extent student agency) need to also consider the historical and institutional legacies of Canadian universities, as well as the ongoing effects of colonial structures.

3. Structural Streaming in Ontario's Postsecondary Education System?

Jennifer Servos Jones, York University

Postsecondary education (PSE) underwent significant changes in Canada beginning in the 1960s as it moved from an elite to mass system with greatly expanded participation rates. In Ontario, one of the biggest contributors to this change was the creation of the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAATs) in 1965. CAATs were created by government as an alternative to universities, offering non-degree programs that were intended to be of comparable quality and status (Shanahan, Jones, Fisher, & Rubenson 2014). They were designed to meet labour market needs and to expand spaces in the postsecondary system for students who were not well-suited for or who did not require a university degree (Skolnik 2010). While the design of Ontario's colleges emphasized economic needs, the field of Sociology of Education recognizes that postsecondary education also fulfills social needs. George Martell (1974) criticized the Ontario model through this lens, framing the colleges as an extension of 'streaming' in high schools. While the colleges were filling a need by expanding access to PSE, they were perpetuating existing societal inequalities by streaming students from working class or lower income families into 'lesser' vocational programs that would not increase their upward social mobility (Karabel 1972; Martell 1974; Zwerling 1976). With Ontario's colleges nearing 60 years of existence, this paper examines whether these critiques remain salient. It considers developments to the structure of the PSE system to determine if policy choices have had the unintended consequence of streaming students from lower income families into certain types of institutions. Through a review of existing literature and census and survey data, I find evidence that students from lower income families attend Ontario colleges at higher rates than universities. Data on student outcomes also indicates that graduates of college programs have lower earnings and future educational opportunities compared to university graduates. Still, there remains a lack of recent comprehensive population-level data on the socio-demographic characteristics of students by postsecondary institution type. The results of this paper and this research gap form the basis of my ongoing work to understand patterns of attendance and whether system structure influences students' choices about attending college versus university.

(GAS5a) Sexual Cultures: Old, New, and Contested
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

The presentations in this session explore research relating to sexual cultures.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. An Archive of (Our Own) Feelings: Angst Fics and Unhappy Queers

Sean Rooney, York University

Over the past few years one of the most significant critiques of queer media storylines is the over abundance of trauma. This critique was most notable during the so-called "Spring Slaughter" of 2016, a run of several queer characters - mostly women - being killed on television, perhaps most infamously Lexa in *The 100*. Despite this, "angst fics" remain a popular genre in fanfiction. "Angst fics" are fanfiction in which various negative things happen to a character or relationship, including everything from fights to breaking up, from experiences of violence (including homophobic violence) to death. This paper is not particularly interested in answering why these kinds of stories are written and consumed by queer people who may very well protest against the use of queer trauma in mainstream media, rather it is interested in exploring the phenomenon, particularly through Cvetkovich's "archive of feelings" and Ahmed's "unhappy queers", it posits queer angst fanfiction as an archive of feeling that can be a way of answering Ahmed's call with the unhappy queer to not completely forgo the unhappy parts of queerness For Cvetkovich, and archive of feeling consists not just of the content of the piece, but also the context surrounding its creation. This contextual aspect opens the door to consider the larger contexts of these fics including an increasingly fraught time for queer people and a mainstream media context that is seeing a decrease in queer characters. This is especially important for fanfiction as it is directly tied to mainstream media contexts, most notably the media it is a fanfiction of. This also opens the door for a potent way of addressing the unhappy parts of queerness as Ahmed calls for in ways that are not steeped in queer trauma.

2. Getting Married or Getting Creative: Marriage in the Queer Community in Contemporary China

Zhexi Hu, Simon Fraser University

Living in a heteronormative society presents significant challenges for lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals in China, who face pressure both externally and internally. Externally, they encounter societal expectations of heterosexuality, mainly regarding marriage. Internally, they grapple with the pain and pressure of self-denial, often unable to openly express their identities. Many Chinese queer individuals find themselves navigating these pressures by entering various forms of alternative marriages. China's largest gay website, for instance, began hosting monthly "marriage markets," where gay and lesbian individuals can meet potential partners for fake marriages. Three main forms of marriage emerged in this context: marriage of convenience (xinghun, 形婚), marriage fraud (pianhun, 騙婚), and mixed-orientation marriage (tongzhihun, 同直婚). Many gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals in China enter these arrangements to pass as heterosexuals and are often

driven by societal expectations or familial pressure. However, discussions around these marriages largely overlook the experiences of bisexual individuals, lesbians, and particularly older lesbian and bisexual women residing in urban centres. Existing research predominantly focuses on urban populations, neglecting the nuanced experiences of rural-to-urban migrant lesbians and bisexual women. As part of my ongoing PhD research on the experiences of lesbian and bisexual women in mixed-orientation marriages in contemporary China and their heterosexual husbands, I argue that current scholarship disproportionately centres on urban populations, ignoring the distinct ways in which rural-to-urban migrants navigate and negotiate their sexualities. By exploring these underrepresented perspectives, my research seeks to explore the diverse and complex realities of navigating sexuality and marriages in post-socialist China.

3. MAGA MSM

Corey Tatz, Indiana University Bloomington

The qualities of manhood and masculinity are prioritized in the United States over those of femininity, with women often still regarded as the weaker gender. Many men who have sex with men (MSM) wish to remain in the upper echelons of the hegemonic domain, reaping the benefits that accrue to the masculine gender. This encourages MSM to adopt hegemonic masculine aesthetics as part of their identity. Through a qualitative study, this paper will explore white cis-MSM as they attempt to fit within the confines of hegemonic masculine norms, while their behavior or identity may fall outside the hetero realm. For example, MSM will often support traditional political parties, such as the GOP, and right-wing candidates, enabling them to stay within the majority group. In the time leading up to the 2016 and 2020 presidential election, many MSM saw Donald Trump as the ideal hegemonic candidate, as he was seen to embody American masculine ideals. MSM, therefore, were able to stay within the dominant group while having sex with other men. Some MSM took to apps like Grindr to assert their alpha male authority, abetted by their white cis-hetero identity. They wanted casual sex while also hoping for acceptance within dominant political and social groups, so many joined the "America Can Become Great Again" bandwagon. These MSM often behaved in a domineering masculine way in order to situate themselves on the top of the heteropatriarchy.

4. Sodomitical Subjectivities: The Development of Modern Western Homosexuality across Eighteenth-Century London

Rachel Gallagher, McMaster University

The emergence of the modern 'homosexual' is a recent phenomenon, shaping contemporary conceptions of the interplay between sexuality, identity, and the State. To more comprehensively grapple with contemporary perceptions of non-heteronormative sexuality, it is essential to conduct sociological inquiries into the historical development of 'modern sexuality'. Eighteenth-century London, England marked a period of time and space that entailed profound change in Western cultural understandings of sexuality. Given the criminalization of male sodomitical acts in this period, and the subsequent interaction of sodomitical men with the criminal justice system, archival trial proceedings provide some of the most meticulously detailed accounts of male 'homosexual' life from this time. Applying a theoretical framework grounded in social constructionism, Queer theory, and Foucauldian concepts of sexual subjectivity and biopower to the thematic analysis of archival sodomitical trial proceedings revealed a chronological narrative of rapid changes to the

conception, organization, and sodomite life across eighteenth-century London. Findings revealed three distinct temporal phases (the Early, Middle, and Late 1700s) in the prosecution and perception of sodomy, reflecting a cultural shift from the criminal persecution of the embodied sodomitical *act*, to a growing criminalization and cultural fear of an emerging homosexual *identity.* By tracing the evolving regulation of sodomy in Eighteenth-century England, this research situates the sodomy trial as both a tool of oppression and a source of insight into the historical foundations of Western queer identity and resilience, offering lessons on the enduring intersectios of power, deviance and resistance inherent to the queer community. Constructing sociological insights from LGBTQ+ history can allow for more impactful subcultural resistance today, in an era marked by increasing fears of a resurgence of queer criminalization.

5. Virtual Speed Dating as a LGBTQ+ Sexual Field

Mikaela Clarke, University of Toronto

Social media has supported the emergence of unique online subcultures and processes of virtual networking. This research examines the role of the popular social media platform Tiktok in functioning as a pseudo-dating website-not organized around the sole purpose of, but effectively facilitating, virtual matchmaking. This study analyzes a popular, recurring, speed-dating livestream catering exclusively to 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. Drawing from 50+ hours of participant observation in the online environment and content analysis of recorded sessions of the stream, this paper analyzes a virtual dating scene tailored to a sexual subculture comprised primarily of racialized LGB women. Analysis of this mobile, virtual dating service draws upon Adam Green's (2014) Sexual Field Theory of collective sexual organization, demonstrating the unique emergence of a sexual field in TikTok's online environment. Observed within the field is a collective sexual logic that influences participants' desire and selection processes (Green 2014). Collective sentiments within the population designate the virtual arena as somewhat of a "battlefield," marked by socially stratified appraisals of status (Green 2014). Sexual desirability is structured according to collective "cultural schemas" unique to the audience that dictate desirability based upon appraisals of sexual capital based on gender, race, class, physical attractiveness, popularity, and other characteristics. However, desire and selection are further impacted by a unique and more holistic feature in the field, where participants are evaluated under special considerations of intimate conflict and harm. Here, aggregated notions of not only what is desirable but particularly what is undesirable within interpersonal relationships, illicit an enhanced sense of caution among actors within the field, who share unique negative experiences of intimate relationships within the 2SLGBTQ+ community, particularly among LGB women. This unique sexual field is therefore characterized not only by social stratification but also by notions of collective trauma and a shared logic of harm reduction.

(IND1) Indigenous Climate Futures: Indigenous communities respond to climate change

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster and Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

This session will explore the climate futures of Indigenous Peoples, both the impact of climate change on Indigenous communities and the responses of Indigenous Peoples to climate change. On July 3rd, 2021, a wildfire in the Interior of British Columbia destroyed the village of Lytton and prompted the evacuation of the nearby Lytton First Nation. In the weeks before the fire, Lytton

endured the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Canada. Climate scientists agreed the fire was the result of anthropogenic climate change. The case of Lytton First Nation raises important questions for all Indigenous communities in Canada with the survival of Indigenous Communities increasingly threatened by anthropogenic climate change. Yet for Indigenous Peoples, the risk extends beyond the destruction of their infrastructure and dwellings, to their cultures, languages, economies, and territories. The transformation of the land brought about by climate change will have lasting effects on almost every aspect of Indigenous life. Yet, Indigenous Peoples have complex and nuanced understandings of the land and might be best placed to understand and respond to the effects of climate change on their territories, mitigating CO2 emissions, and benefiting not only themselves but also enriching Canada's response to climate change. Moreover, given their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), Indigenous Communities might be best placed to combat climate change and create resilient climate futures. The structures of settler-colonialism present daunting barriers to our collective climate futures. What might an Indigenous climate future look like?

Session Organizers: Dean Ray and Angele Alook, York University, Jeffrey Denis, McMaster University

Panelists:
Sherry Copenace, Ojibways of Onigaming
Graeme Reed, Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
Deborah McGregor, York University and University of Calgary
Angele Alook, York University

(ITD2) Sociological Perspectives on Generative AI
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

This session explores the multifaceted sociological dimensions of generative AI, focusing on how these technologies might interact with human behaviour, societal norms, and the organization of work and leisure.

Session Organizers: Alex Miltsov, Bishop's University, Muyang Li, York University, and Zhifan Luo, McMaster University
Session Chair: Alex Miltsov, Bishop's University

Presentations:

1. Work Transformations and Changes in Healthcare Professionals' Identity in the Erea of Artificial Intelligence - A Sociological Literature Review
Cécile Carra, University of Artois - LEM UMR 9221; Arnaud Scaillerez, School of Advanced Public Studies

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector is driving profound transformations in the work of healthcare professionals, altering both theirs practices and their relationship to work and professional identity. In response to these changes, this presentation offers a sociological literature review aimed at identifying the main themes studied, emerging research areas, and the blind spots in current research. The literature analysis reveals three major well-documented themes: automation and the redefinition of tasks, which raise questions about the delegation of

activities to algorithms; the evolution of the caregiver-patient relationship, with a reconfiguration of human interactions in the face of digital tools; and the challenges of professional responsibility and ethics, which raise concerns about decision-making and professional ethics in a human-machine collaboration context. At the same time, three major emerging themes are gradually gaining attention in recent studies; social inequalities in the face of AI and the differentiated access to technologies, raising the issue of a digital divide within healthcare institutions; organizational transformations and the redistribution of responsibilities, particularly between healthcare professionals and managers in the governance of AI systems. Finally, several blind spots in research can be identified, three of which we aim to explore through a new research initiative: the technological appropriation processes by healthcare professionals and the actual use of AI; the meaning of work in a technological context to explore values and the evolution of the relationship to work; and the collective identity of professionals, facing a redefinition of their roles. This literature review thus aims to contribute to a better understanding of the ongoing transformations and to open new research perspectives.

2. Digital Colonization: AI, Western Bias, and the Erosion of Intellectual Diversity

Hya Ali, Toronto Metropolitan University

As generative AI becomes increasingly embedded in student research practices—nearly 60% of Canadian students now use AI to support their academic work (KPMG, 2024)—its growing influence demands critical sociological attention. This paper examines the rise of AI in academia through the lens of the digital colonization of knowledge, where global tech elites consolidate power while embedding Western biases into knowledge production. Drawing on existing literature and informed by sociotechnical systems theory and constructivist learning theory, it explores how AI reshapes intellectual engagement by shifting students' behaviors and thought processes, emphasizing the values of the Global North. The paper critically investigates how reliance on AI encourages students to think and behave like machines—prioritizing efficiency, rote memorization, and algorithmic outputs over critical thinking and intellectual diversity. By narrowing the scope of what is considered valid knowledge, AI reflects a Western-centric model that marginalizes non-Western cultures and epistemologies. The rise of AI in academia threatens to erode face-to-face, socially interactive learning processes that foster critical engagement and diverse perspectives. Instead, AI-driven research risks reinforcing biased narratives and homogenizing knowledge consumption globally. Scholars like Bucher (2018) warn that the corporations responsible for deploying these algorithms hold more social and political power than they are ethically equipped to manage, raising questions about their impact on decision-making and knowledge consumption. This paper draws attention to the dangers of over-reliance on AI, not only as a tool but as a force that shapes the ways we think, learn, and interact. It concludes by calling for a reassessment of AI's growing role in academia and a shift toward more inclusive, human-centered educational practices that preserve diversity of thought and critical engagement in the face of rising digital dominance.

3. Shaping the Future of AI: Artificial Intelligence Governance in Global Dynamics

Muyang Li, York University; Wenhong Chen, University of Texas at Austin

This project aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of global artificial intelligence (AI) governance, which refers to the regulatory frameworks that ensure AI tools and systems are developed and used in ways that are safe, ethical, and respect human rights. The project will explore

how geopolitical factors—relating to the influence of geography, politics, and international power dynamics—and technosocial factors—interactions between technology and societal structures—shape these frameworks. By analyzing AI governance networks, this research will contribute to the broader debate on digitalization, globalization, and international cooperation in AI governance. AI holds transformative potentials, but it also raises a range of concerns ranging from surveillance, data ethics, social inclusion and justice, digital colonialism, to national security. Globally, governments are adopting divergent AI regulatory strategies, reflecting differing perceptions of AI's impacts and unique technosocial and geopolitical considerations. In Italy and the UK, for example, stricter regulations have been prompted by concerns about corporate power concentration, which escalate risks of data misuse (Kim, 2023). Striving for global AI leadership (Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, 2018), Chinese authorities have embraced AI-driven governance to enhance their capabilities. In the United States, the Biden Administration—in power at time of writing—is focusing on AI's impacts on safety, civil rights, and labour, while the Trump Administration of 2016-20 emphasized economic and national security. Canada positions itself between the European, American, and Chinese approaches, emphasizing AI as an economic growth driver and branding itself as an ethical AI advocate. Influenced by shifting geopolitics and technosocial factors such as international relations, strategic alliances, and national security concerns, these divergent strategies will play a critical role in shaping the global trajectory of AI. Hence, exploring the development of this global regulatory network and the interplay between core and emerging regions presents a rich and timely research area. Utilizing theories of network society and sociotechnical imaginaries, this project aims to map AI governance networks, revealing the patterns, formations, and dynamics of global AI governance. We will explore why and how certain countries and regions emerge as power hubs for agenda-setting and decision-making in global AI governance. This analysis will illuminate the hierarchy and structure that reflect interdependence, asymmetry, regionalization, and diversification of global technology power, with nation states, big tech, and research institutions as key players. By examining the global AI governance network through geopolitical and technosocial factors, we emphasize the interplay between technology, norms, and sociocultural structures. The findings will highlight distinctive challenges and approaches across various countries, providing policymakers and civil society stakeholders with valuable insights for developing more effective and inclusive AI regulations.

4. Rise of the Intrakaton: Theorizing AI Systems as Novel Social Actors"

Mohammed Al-Ani and Bilal Anjum Ishtiaque, McMaster University

This research advances our sociological understanding of generative artificial intelligence by introducing the concept of 'Intrakatons' - a theoretically distinct category of socializable machines. Through systematic grounded theory analysis, the study reveals how these entities engage in complex social performances that transcend traditional conceptualizations of both human and machine behavior. Drawing from symbolic interactionism and dramaturgical frameworks, while moving beyond their conventional applications, the research identifies emergent patterns in machine social behavior. Through careful analysis of prompt engineering practices and machine-machine interactions, the study demonstrates how Intrakatons develop sophisticated forms of impression management and role-taking that warrant new theoretical consideration. The findings suggest that contemporary sociological frameworks, while invaluable, require substantial theoretical development to account for these novel social entities. Neither fully human nor purely

mechanical, Intrakatons introduce unprecedented forms of social exchange that challenge our fundamental understanding of interaction and social behavior. This work offers initial theoretical scaffolding for what may become an important new direction in sociological inquiry.

(PSM7) ACT UP: Disrupting Colonial Carceral Systems by Co-creating Beloved Community as Co-liberation
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

What does collective care look and feel like when co-creating beloved community across campus and local communities? Colonial carceral systems prioritize wealth and capital accumulation, reconstructing Indigenous, Black, Muslim, Palestinian, disabled and queer communities as either sources of exploitable labour to render land productive, or unwelcome unproductive occupiers of potentially "productive" land (Hayes & Kaba, 2023; Smith, 1999). Further, these systems violently extract so-called resources from our Earth Mother, resulting in the climate crisis and vast wounds across land and water (Alook et al., 2003). Refusing (settler) colonial narratives that say it is too late to change course (Veracini, 2006), ACT UP practices hope as "a discipline" (Kaba, 2021: 68), working together across Black, Muslim, Palestinian, disabled, unhoused, and queer communities for co-liberation rooted in radical love, care, and thriving (Figueroa, 2020; Hayes & Kaba, 2023; King, 1956). Building on previous arts-based research with students which enacted collective care and love to realize safety, wellbeing and justice for all (King, 1968), ACT UP (Action, Co-liberation, Truth, Unconditional Love and Pride): (i) identifies priorities for decolonizing and abolitionist collective care, (ii) builds capacity to address them, and (iii) takes action. Through 7 knowledge/capacity/community-building Teach-Ins, including "The Land Is Our Mother," "We Are the Seeds: Food Justice and Liberation," and "Free Palestine, Free Us All," we are strengthening beloved community in the process of learning and acting together. This workshop will share our learning to date, invite participants to share experiences of collective care and world-building, and co-create beloved community within CSA that extends far beyond the conference itself.

Session Organizers: Lesley Bikos, King's University College at Western University and Jess Notwell, Western University

Workshop Facilitators:
Jess Notwell, King's University College at Western University
Lesley Bikos, King's University College at Western University
Bayan Saidam, Huron University College at Western University
Mae Toleah, King's University College at Western University

(SCL8) Culture, Place, and Social Dynamics
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

This session explores the reciprocal relationship between culture, place, and social life. Presentations will consider the links between social identities, public places, and cultural change.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba

Presentations:

1. Exploring intergenerationality in public spaces: A case study from Guelph, Ontario

Devan Hunter, University of Guelph

Broadly speaking, North American society can be characterized as highly age segregated. This stems from what Hagestad and Uhlenberg (2005; 2006) describe as the nexus of institutional, spatial, and cultural spheres of age segregation in North America. In opposition to this, public spaces afford individuals opportunities to encounter age-diverse others. Yet, how intergenerationality plays out within various public spaces is unique to the social infrastructure (Klinenberg 2018) and the culture of these specific spaces. In my research, this is recognized at the local level where I explore how intergenerational encounters, interactions and relationships occur in various forms across different public spaces in Guelph, Ontario. In doing so, this presentation draws on qualitative data from my doctoral work, along with research I have conducted as a part of the Sociable Cities Project (University of Guelph). This data includes 115 hours of ethnographic observations and 62 on-site interviews with 73 participants at three identified research sites: a library (Guelph Public Library), a park (Exhibition Park), and a skatepark (Silvercreek Skatepark). Examples of key findings I will discuss include, but are not limited to: the commonalities and differences in how intergenerational co-presence and social interactions are practiced across different public spaces; the disruption and/or reinforcement of norms regarding age-homogenous and intergenerational friendships in different public spaces; and, competing cultural definitions of how local public spaces should be used. Thus, it is my aim to explore the various ways the culture of local public spaces cultivates possibilities for unsettling practices of age segregation and nurturing intergenerational encounters, interactions, relationships. In doing so, turning towards the mundanity of everyday intergenerationality may yield necessary insights into how to build connection and solidarity across different generations.

2. Nationalizing Dispositions: Field Transformations in Post-Soviet Estonia

Léo Henry, University of Toronto

How do social fields transform in post-imperial contexts? Following Estonia's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the Estonian field underwent significant processes of differentiation, autonomization, and nationalization. Drawing on the 1996 and 2011 waves of the World Value Survey and employing Multiple Factor Analysis (MFA), the paper uncovers the relational dynamics reshaping the Estonian social space and its positioning relative to post-Soviet and Western global fields. Three transformations define the post-independence trajectory. First, the Estonian field stabilized and deepened its internal logic, reinforcing its relational structures and consolidating its hierarchy of capital. Second, a distinct distancing from post-Soviet countries emerged, alongside alignment with Western cultural and political values, signaling integration into the global field. Third, the social distance between Estonian and Russian populations in Estonia narrowed, reflecting the imposition and gradual internalization of dominant national dispositions. Russians in Estonia, initially positioned closer to post-Soviet dispositions, increasingly converged toward the normalized logic of the Estonian field. MFA reveals the restructuring of symbolic boundaries and hierarchies within Estonia. Estonian positions occupy central and dominant places in the field, supported by institutionalized practices such as language policies and citizenship requirements. These dynamics both stabilize the field and reconfigure its internal and external relations. Nationalization reshapes dispositions, aligning them with the emergent logic of the state while distancing the field from imperial legacies. Weighted Euclidean Distances between Estonia and post-Soviet countries

underscore its movement away from the imperial field, while decreasing distances to Western countries demonstrate Estonia's growing integration into global structures. Nationalization operates as a dual process of symbolic consolidation and relational adjustment. Estonians increasingly define the contours of the field, embedding their dispositions as normative. Russians in Estonia, though initially situated at the periphery, adapt to these shifts, narrowing their social distance from dominant positions. These changes highlight the entanglement of imperial legacies, nation-building, and global alignment in shaping the relational architecture of the post-Soviet state. The Estonian case illustrates how newly independent states assert autonomy by consolidating internal field dynamics while negotiating their position within broader global fields. Nationalization emerges not merely as a political or institutional process but as a reordering of social relations, dispositions, and symbolic power. The analysis of field transformations in post-imperial Estonia demonstrates how historical legacies and global forces interact to redefine hierarchies and positions, producing a social space that stabilizes and legitimizes its logic through relational struggles over capital and symbolic boundaries.

(SCY3a) Sociology of Childhood and Youth I: Temporalities, Relationalities, Textualities
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

How do we understand childhood and youth? How do children and youth understand themselves? This session poses questions about representations of childhood and youth. Insofar as childhood and youth are nominally indexed to age, time is intimately connected with understanding them. How do different ways of approaching time change how childhood and youth are understood? Similarly, childhood and youth are positions within networks of relations. How does changing or rethinking the network of relations in which children and youth are positioned change how they are understood? Representations of childhood and youth are conveyed through many modalities (speech, text, images, practices, etc.). What and how can we learn about childhood and youth, reading across these textualities? The papers in this session use a variety of methods to offer answers to these questions.

Session Organizers: Hunter Knight and Dustin Ciufo, King's University College at Western University, Chris Borst, McGill University, and Rebecca Raby, Brock University
Session Chair: Erika Alegria, Brock University

Presentations:

1. Afghan youth's metaphorical and relational understandings of the self and the world
Mehdia Hassan, University of Toronto, OISE
This presentation received the Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster's Best Student Presentation Award.

Metaphor, as a literary device, creates an important relationship or association between two disparate matters and can serve as a building block for a narrative (Oxford English Dictionary, 2025). Similarly, collage, as an arts-based method of inquiry, effectively captures the relationality of young people's experiences in non-linear ways that reimagine narratives to cross traditional boundaries of space and time (Butler-Kisber & Poldma, 2010). Young people, as social agents living in relation to their social environments, are constantly in the process of symbolically making and re-making their life narratives in the present moment (Bourdieu, 1993; Corsaro, 2014; Connelly & Clandinin, 1990).

In this paper, I present multimodal findings from my doctoral research with Afghan youth in Toronto, exploring their learning dispositions and agentic narratives of learning; this is evident in Afghan youth's collage artwork and research interviews. My research reveals interesting insights on how visual and non-visual metaphors can allow Afghan youth to construct relational knowledges, as they continuously strive to make and re-make meaning of their own life narratives. Afghan youth creatively employed multidimensional visual and non-visual metaphors to describe how they viewed themselves as learners in their communities and Toronto neighbourhoods. They further elaborated on these powerful metaphors in focus groups and semi-structured interviews, as they described how the metaphors related to various ideas. For example, Afghan youth used the insightful metaphors of the eye, cradle, and the river, to express nuanced relationships between the self, the social world, and learning; they also referred to excerpts of Persian poetry to make meaning of their experiences. This shaped a coherent narrative of learning that conveyed desires of building a hopeful future, through continuous life-long learning. Young people can reflexively expand their semantic fields and gain deeper relational understandings with metaphors, as they build transformative life narratives (Sameshima et al., 2019).

2. Time after time: A Childhood Studies without linear temporality

Shauna Pomerantz, Brock University; Hunter Knight, Western University

Temporality is a "foundational" concept for Childhood Studies *and* one of the key areas around which it is rapidly being re-imagined. Initially, Childhood Studies relied on linear temporality to distinguish itself, arguing for the importance of researching children as "beings" rather than through the future-oriented lens of "becomings" (James et al., 1998; Uprichard, 2008). A critical approach to temporality has thus always lain at its heart. But multidisciplinary theorizing (queer time, crip time, ecological time, diffracted time, and anti-capitalist and anti-colonial time) has led to critiques of linear chronologies, including those rooted in liberal humanism and its inherent racism, ableism, developmentalism, and colonialism (Balagopalan, 2024; Ramjewan & Garlen, 2020). This critical exploration has offered Childhood Studies a powerful modality for (re)examining assumptions about "normative" childhood, what it means to "grow up," and what childhood might look like outside of sequential frameworks (Burman, 2017; Stockton, 2009). By disrupting the linear "essence" upon which Childhood Studies has been predicated, the field now stands in an exciting temporal landscape. Our talk chronicles this shift by first exploring why time matters to Childhood Studies, and then describing how linearity gave way to temporalities that opened space for different questions to proliferate in the field. We conclude by asking where this critique might take us now that linear time has been denuded from - or at least questioned within - Childhood Studies. How might new temporal modes enable a complexity of analysis that is foreclosed by linearity? While, as Spyrou (Millei, 2021, p. 62) notes, there is a "reluctance on the part of the field…to step outside its narrowly conceived fixation with the present," we are now at a junction that also hungrily seeks to explore time *after* time as we have typically understood it in the field.

3. Crip Time in the Lives of Young Carers: Interrogating Normative Representations of Childhood

Rebekah Norman, Brock University

Developmental approaches to childhood focus on time as linear. Children are expected to grow and mature according to appropriate stages of development that ostensibly allow children to arrive at the end destination: adulthood. Young carers provide an important and necessary challenge to

developmental perspectives by supporting a disabled family member(s)/friend(s), thus transcending a normative model of childhood. But what does an orientation to linear time do when exploring non-normalized childhoods that fall outside an adherence to linearity and its accompanying prerequisite of childhood innocence? This presentation addresses this question through challenging the continuum of care (Becker, 2007), a consistently cited framework that is grounded in discourses of childhood innocence, child development, and the child/adult binary that do not reflect experiences occurring outside normative life stages, such as within families where disability is central to interdependent care relationships between young carers and family members. By taking on care roles and responsibilities at young ages, young carers are predominantly represented as 'tragic victims of circumstance' and in need of protection (O' Dell et al., 2010). Crip time, a concept that is rooted in lived experiences of disability, reorients us to the different temporalities in which disabled people live their lives and provides a necessary resistance to narrow conceptualizations of disability, childhood, and care (Rodgers et al., 2022; Kafer, 2013). Crip time as flexible time disrupts linearity and embraces the negotiation of intra-family roles within and between childhood and adulthood. Through reimagining care and temporality, crip time provides an alternative conceptualization of childhood that acknowledges sociological framings of relationality, interdependence in care, and flexible temporalities which may better reflect and support the lived experiences of young carers and their families.

4. Images of the Child: Methodological Options for Extracting Cultural Models from Text

Chris Borst, McGill University

All studies, regardless of method, involve trying to identify the most salient features of the observations at one's disposal, and relations between them, in order to summarize them in a way that might inform action. This is as true of ordinary, practical learning as of scholarly endeavour. These summaries go by many names, but amongst the most common is "models". In the literature of early childhood, models of children and childhood are commonly called "images of the child". Studying the prevailing images of the child means trying to construct a (meta) model of our models of childhood. What methods are available to us to do so? More specifically, if we take written texts as our observations - and do so in bulk - what kinds of computational methods are available to us, what kinds of output do they produce, and how can we interpret and evaluate them? Literary studies, linguistics, anthropology, psychology, sociology and computer science have contributed to our toolkit. This presentation will offer an overview of a selection of these, focusing on sociological methods of "cultural cartography" including relational class analysis (Goldberg 2011; Sotoudeh and DiMaggio 2023), correlational class analysis (Boutyline 2017), concept class analysis (Taylor and Stoltz 2020) and Bayesian mixture models of contextual word embeddings (McLevey et al. 2022). These methods differ in the data they work on, the features they consider salient and the relations they draw between them. While there are some similarities in their output, they require different interpretation and evaluation. Focusing on what they suggest about "childhood", the presentation will draw attention to the rich and challenging hermeneutics of these methods, including their limitations, and the complex, multi-faceted, perspectival models they produce. General linear reality this is not!

(SMH4a) Mental Health and Social Context I
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster

This session focuses on the impact of social context on mental health outcomes, including changes over the life course. We define social context broadly, ranging from financial and economic context to neighbourhood residence, country of origin, workplaces, or social and demographic contexts including institutions of family, gender, race, and ethnicity. The papers in this session will emphasize patterns of differential vulnerability by individuals' social position within those contexts, including age and socioeconomic status, for example.

Session Organizers: Atsushi Narisada, Saint Mary's University and Ruth Repchuck, McMaster University
Session Chair: Ruth Repchuck, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Unpacking the Dynamic Experience of Mental Health: Developing a Comprehensive Framework for Intervention

Marisa Young, Jacqueline Villanueva, Maia Ferguson, and Allison Van, McMaster University

This study advances the Dynamic Experience of Mental Health (DEMH) Model, a theoretical framework aimed at identifying critical intervention points to mitigate the onset of mental health challenges across the life course. We aim to address the unprecedented scale of the mental health crisis and build off previous frameworks popular in the Sociology of Mental Health, including the Stress Process Model, Symbolic Interactionism, and Life Course Theory. Our project bridges disciplines to explore how social, structural, and psychological factors converge to shape mental health outcomes. Central to this work is a systematic review, which synthesizes research across sociology, psychology, and public health to map the state of knowledge on mental health development. This review identifies established findings, unresolved debates, and critical gaps, providing a foundation for refining the DEMH Model. We then build on the findings of the systematic review using secondary data analysis from datasets like the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY-97), for example. These analyses investigate how individual resources, contextual stressors, and temporal dimensions interact to shape mental health trajectories. Our project also examines gaps in existing data, proposes pathways for model expansion, and develops evidence-based strategies for preventative interventions. Ultimately we seek to build a system dynamics model that allows for active pre-testing of mental health interventions in diverse personal contexts. Preliminary findings will provide actionable insights for reducing disparities, supporting a theoretical framework for future researchers, and addressing the societal and economic costs of untreated mental health challenges.

2. Harm Reduction Education as an Alternative to Suspension in Ontario Schools

Jennifer Silcox, Tara Bruno, and Laura Rosen, King's University College

Many schools in Ontario Canada rely on 'just say no' abstinence-based approaches (e.g., DARE, VIP) that have not been effective in reducing youth substance use. Through consultation with the local health department, two school boards, high school students (focus groups), the authors of this paper have created an online biopsychosocial harm reduction resource for high school students

that will fulfill governmental mandates and provide youth with knowledge to make informed choices about substance use after learning about the benefits and harms. To evaluate the effectiveness of this online resource, high school students facing suspension due to substance-related infractions will be given the opportunity to complete this online program. Students, aged 14-18 in six high schools across two local school boards (one Catholic and one public) will complete a pre and post-test that evaluates their substance use knowledge before and after taking part in the program. This paper provides an overview of early research findings from the pilot phase of the study.

3. Who Goes to Therapy? Sociocultural Disparities in Canadian Mental Health Care Service Usage

Cristina Didiano, University of Toronto

Mental health disorders affect 18% of Canadians aged 15 and older, yet one-third of Canadians report unmet or partially met mental health care needs (Stephenson 2023). This study explores the sociocultural factors that influence psychotherapeutic service usage in Canada, focusing on (1) how socioeconomic factors like income and education shape access, and (2) whether psychotherapeutic service usage varies by visible minority and immigrant populations. Using data from the 2017-2018 Canadian Community Health Survey (n = 113 290), this study employs four logistic regression models to analyze the associations of income, education, visible minority status, immigrant status, and age with psychotherapeutic service usage. Results indicate that education is the strongest predictor, with post-secondary attainment doubling the odds of accessing care. Income findings were mixed, with a decreasing significance in later models suggesting that service usage may be mediated or confounded by other factors (i.e., education or systemic barriers to care). Visible minority and immigrant populations had significantly lower odds of care usage, while younger individuals were more likely to seek out services. Overall, findings emphasize the critical role of education for service usage and suggest that there may be systemic barriers preventing visible minority and immigrant populations from accessing care.

4. "The world makes us suicidal": 2S/LGBTQ+ perspectives on medical assistance in dying and mental illness

Jay Tang, Nathan Lachowsky, and Simon Carroll, University of Victoria

Canada is currently on track to have one of the most permissive MAID programs in the world, with medical assistance in dying available to those with terminal medical conditions, those with non-terminal medical conditions, and in the coming years, those with mental illness. Despite a recent increase in research in the area of MAID for mental illness (MAID-MI), there remain several problematic research gaps. First, though autonomy and self-determination are central to the MAID debate, the literature surrounding MAID for mental illness largely fails to consult individuals with mental illness, instead highlighting the paternalistic debates of physicians, lawyers, ethicists, and other professional experts. Given that individuals with mental illness form the population that will most tangibly be affected by the change in legislation, there is urgent need to understand, amplify, and prioritize their lived/living perspectives. Second, there is a lack of research investigating the specific perspectives of marginalized people, who experience mental illness at disproportionately high rates due largely to the compounding impact of racism, homophobia/transphobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination. In this presentation, I will present findings from a SSHRC-funded project examining mental illness, access to care, and MAID-MI from the perspective of 2S/LGBTQ+

individuals with mental illness. This qualitative study uses a feminist-of-color disability framework (Schalk and Kim, 2020), which disrupts the dominant (white) narratives in feminist disability studies and emphasizes the mutual integrality of race, gender, and disability studies. This framework moves beyond identity politics and individualized constructs of "disability" in order to understand and critique the ways in which intersecting systems of oppression both create and define disability and impairment. Using this framework, I will contextualize participants' perspectives within social structures of oppression and highlight the fundamentally intersectional nature of the systemic devaluation of disabled life.

(THE9) Social Theory Open Session
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Social Theory Research Cluster

This session features a range of research which addresses issues in sociological and wider social theory, broadly defined

Session Organizer: Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Sarah Badr, McGill University

Presentations:

1. Goffman and the cybernetic tradition
Mario Marotta, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Parsons is usually regarded as the major source of influence of cybernetics and systems theory on sociological theory (especially in the American context). This interpretation is supported by the fact that Parsons (alongside Merton and others) was introduced to the ideas elaborated in the Macy Conferences even before Wiener published 'Cybernetics' in 1948. Moreover, there is no doubt that Parsons included in his theoretical framework some concepts directly inspired by his encounter with this new perspective, such as that of cybernetic hierarchy. However, this close association between Parsons and cybernetics has led to underestimating the contribution of other authors who have transposed new ideas developed in the field of cybernetics into the social sciences (as Paidipaty 2020 documented with regard to Geertz). In my communication I will first underline the limits of the reception of cybernetics by Parsons, in order to then address the question of Goffman's role in the reception of new developments of cybernetics and system theory in sociology. To this end I will trace the history of Goffman's contacts with Bateson and other cybernetic thinkers through his participation in the Macy Foundation's Group Process Conferences (Schaffner 1957, 1958 and 1959) and show how even before publishing his first books Goffman had been influenced by the ideas there discussed (as attested by his own contributions to the aforementioned conferences). I will then provide a brief interpretation of Goffman's first published texts, highlighting his insistence on the communicative and non-mental components of social interaction and the importance of the dynamic stability of communication, I will finally explain how this theoretical perspective is directly linked to the influence of cybernetic theories. The aim of my contribution will be to argue in favour of placing Goffman in the tradition of social system theorists.

2. Deleuzian posthumanism: Schizoanalysis as a methodology for addressing the ethics of disablement

Evan Wicklund, Carleton University

In recent years, Gilles Deleuze's writings have been adopted and analyzed by new materialists (Dolphijn & Tuin, 2012), posthumanist theorists (Braidotti, 2019; Wolfe, 2013), and critical disability studies scholars (Berressem, 2017; Shildrick, 2023). While these writings differ in their sociological and philosophical orientations, they collectively attempt to ascertain how assemblage theory and rhizomatic connectivity address issues pertaining to humanist perceptions of embodiment, subjectivity, and politics. In this presentation, I acknowledge the importance of these interventions—yet perhaps more importantly, I argue that Deleuze's foregrounding of the metaphysics of difference is inseparable from his works with Félix Guattari (2009) and their conceptualization of schizoanalysis. This, I argue, provides novel opportunities for theorizing about the ethics of disabled embodiment. While schizoanalysis remains a controversial concept in critical disability studies (see, e.g., Prendergast, 2013), I claim that as a methodological framework, it both complicates and potentializes disablement as a way of understanding our ethical obligations to others. In this presentation, I argue that Deleuzian theory is best understood within the constellation of posthumanist scholarship, and while the two discourses are incongruent in some ways—namely Deleuze's emphasis on the symbiosis between connectivity and discontinuity, their collective theoretical orientation towards thinking 'beyond the human' provides insights into issues concerning the four following topics related to disability: a) Identitarianism (the ways in which identity is privileged over radical difference in philosophical discourse); b) The nuclear family (the ways in which normalcy is stabilized through the constitution of the symbolic Child under the guise of psychoanalysis); c) Biomedicalization (the inherent implication that disability is susceptible to eradication under the auspices of normative eugenics); and, d) Capitalism (which perpetuates identitarianism, the homeostasis of the nuclear family, and the governance of biomedicalization to render some bodies as more deserving of ethical attention).

3. The Inhuman Materialism of Critical Theory's Geologic Turn

Mauricio Collao Quevedo, York University

Critical theory is undergoing a 'geologic turn' whereby the science of geology and the notion of 'the geologic' are repeatedly conjured to think through the historical and socio-ecological challenges of our time. This theoretical moment in critical theory has been described as marking a pivotal moment in social thought: a 'post-postmodern' recognition of our geo-historical contingency (McGurl, 2011). Concurring with this statement, this paper argues that the geologic turn signals an important break with dominant strands of research and modes of theorization in the Social Sciences and Humanities, advancing an 'inhuman materialism' with unique modalities of matter, knowledge, and change that promise to equip social thought with innovative theoretical, empirical, and institutional tools for addressing the overlapping crises of the Anthropocene. This paper is divided into three parts that provide an overview of critical theory's geologic turn and its significance for social thought. First, it introduces the notion of the geologic turn, differentiating it from other strands of social theory that often make reference to the geologic in their examination of socio-historical realities (e.g., new materialisms). Second, it contextualizes the emergence of the geologic turn in the theoretical milieu of the past two decades, tracing its origins in early discussions about the Anthropocene and critical responses from thinkers working in such fields as new materialism, world-ecology, and Black and

Indigenous scholarship. Finally, the paper highlights the key tenets of the geologic turn's inhuman materialism, drawing attention to the ways in which this emerging strand of social theory may be operationalized to examine and respond to the challenges of our time at the political and institutional levels.

(AIS3) Reframing Togetherness: Confronting Ruptures, Disjunctions and Betrayals in Times of Genocide
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: CSA Anti-Islamophobia Subcommittee

The 2025 Congress theme is "Reframing Togetherness." Togetherness presumes mutuality. But how is mutuality—a condition of togetherness—possible in times of genocide? The enduring legacies of coloniality and the racial structures that uphold them persistently render some of us as fully human, while others are deemed "nonhuman or not-quite-human" (Weheliye 2014). The death and devastation witnessed in Palestine, Sudan, the Congo, and "elsewhere(s)" continues to reduce Brown and Black bodies to material for the machinery of the empire. This session invites us to reflect on "the Palestine exception" and the interlocking planetary horizons of coloniality. We will collectively explore the ruptures, disjunctions, and betrayals that emerge in our orientations, relationalities, and frames of mutuality during times when the thin Apollonian face of empire falters, exposing the brute violence that sustains the current order.

We would like to thank our co-sponsors, the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) and the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE). This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Session Organizers: Nadiya Ali, Trent University, Ayesha Mian Akram, University of Calgary, Lucy El-Sherif, McMaster University, Leila Benhadjoudja, University of Ottawa, and Muna Saleh, Concordia University of Edmonton

Moderator: Lucy El-Sherif, McMaster university

Panelists:
Muna Saleh, Concordia University of Edmonton
Delice Mugabo, University of Ottawa
Wafaa Hasan, University of Toronto
Leila Benhadjoudja, University of Ottawa
Nisrin Elamin, University of Toronto

(APS6b) Strategies for Engaging in Sociology Beyond the Ivory Tower: Methodologies and Pedagogies
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Cluster

In a time of increased austerity, stratification, authoritarianism, and skepticism of what value sociology brings to the world, public sociology holds a more important role than ever in resisting oppression and the continued attacks on the social sciences. Research for social impact demands more than academic rigour; it requires active partnerships with academics, students, communities,

governments, and not-for-profit organizations. This session examines the evolving methodologies, pedagogies, and strategies that enable sociologists to work with communities rather than for them. Presenters will explore innovative approaches to community-engaged research, including adaptive methods, co-production of knowledge, and strategies for navigating power dynamics, intersectionality, communication barriers, and ethical challenges. Discussions will highlight how traditional methods can be reimagined by co-producing knowledge and navigating the complexities of research partnerships to foster trust, reciprocity, and shared ownership of research. Emphasizing actionable strategies across all phases of research, including design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination, this session provides insights into building inclusive and impactful sociological practices that bridge academic work with community needs to position sociology as a driver of social change. By fostering knowledge exchange, this session offers attendees a deeper understanding of how methodological and pedagogical innovations can strengthen the role of sociology in achieving meaningful social change beyond the ivory tower.

Session Organizers: Andrea DeKeseredy, University of Alberta, Amy Peirone and Kyle Jackson, St. Clair College
Session Chair: Kyle Jackson, St. Clair College

Presentations:

1. Decolonizing Community Service and Experiential Learning in Off-Campus Classrooms

Thomas Kemple, University of British Columbia

Drawing on my experiences over 15 years teaching two interdisciplinary summer programs for undergraduates - an urban field school based in downtown Vancouver and a global seminar based in rural Guatemala - this presentation examines how unacknowledged colonial relationships are both reinforced and transformed through university-community partnerships. Where the urban field school focuses on issues affecting multi-cultural urban communities, including food insecurity, immigration, institutionalized poverty, homelessness, isolation, and addiction though volunteer placements with local neighbourhood organizations ('service learning'), the global seminar analyzes problems faced by Indigenous or mixed communities emerging from global underdevelopment, state oppression, food insecurity, health disparities, resource extraction, and land-based resilience movements through travel and accommodation in remote settings ('experiential learning'). By relocating the primary site of teaching and learning to non-conventional spaces, these 'off-campus classrooms' offer unique opportunities to expose unequal relations of power and wealth distribution and to address ways for practically addressing these imbalances on multiple scales. Data from interviews with students and community partners, focus groups with students, and textual materials relating to the coordination and delivery of both programs are provided as evidence of the limits and possibilities for taking a place-based approach to decolonizing the university curriculum and dominant modes of knowledge production. Since each program entails close collaborations between sociology and other fields - the field school with colleagues in anthropology and the global seminar with colleagues in philosophy - attention is also given to the challenges of interdisciplinary teaching and learning in these settings. Finally, I consider the implications of in-class and off-campus interactions as precarious *exercises in intercultural engagement* and transformative *experiments in solidarity building* in ways that unsettle entrenched academic hierarchies between universities and 'local communities' and between teachers and students. Although not all university courses can be designed and delivered in these ways, and there

are some practical lessons from these experiences that can be applied to curriculum planning, in-class teaching, and interdisciplinary student-led research both on campus and off campus.

2. Sociology, transmedia storytelling, and public pedagogy

Laura Beatriz Montes de Oca Barrera, University of Calgary

One of the primary sociological concerns throughout its epistemological history has been to answer the question: How is society possible? From various perspectives, sociologists have developed theoretical approaches to address this question, creating a robust field of knowledge. However, in an era marked by skepticism and austerity, the construction of sociological knowledge has sometimes been criticized as luxurious and futile. How can we reposition our discipline in the public sphere? How can sociology and the knowledge generated from our analysis of different aspects of reality explain our society? This paper aims to demonstrate how transmedia storytelling (Scolari, 2017) can complement "traditional" knowledge products, such as papers and books, to reach wider audiences and serve as a form of public pedagogy. This paper is based on a research project conducted from 2022 to 2024, which aimed to understand the challenges and achievements faced by eight Latin American women living in Canada during their settlement, adaptation, and integration into a new society. A key product of this research was the documentary series "Latinas' Diary: A Journey of Strength, Hope, and Empowerment." The process of creating the documentary series acted as an epistemological laboratory where transmedia storytelling allowed us to reimagine the role of public sociology and its pedagogical function beyond traditional academic settings. In my presentation, I will discuss the potentials and limitations—epistemological, methodological, and ethical—of using transmedia storytelling to make sociology public and more accessible.

3. Art and Public Service: Bridging Sociology and Community Engagement

John Bessai, Independent scholar

This presentation examines the transformative role of public art in advancing sociology's commitment to social impact, with the National Film Board of Canada (NFBC) as a case study. Public art, particularly the NFBC's creative projects, has long been a powerful tool for engaging communities, encouraging dialogue, and addressing pressing societal challenges. By analyzing these initiatives, this research reveals how public sociology can connect academic theory with meaningful, actionable change in society. The NFBC's artistic initiatives provide a distinctive perspective for analyzing systemic inequities, cultural aporias, and the democratization of discourse. Drawing on Albert Murray's "stylization of experience" concept and employing a hybrid thematic analysis approach, this study illustrates how art transforms individual experiences into collective narratives that spark collaboration and reflection. NFBC projects highlight the principles of shared ownership and reciprocity in public discourse, challenging traditional academic hierarchies by positioning art as a means for community-driven change. This presentation identifies actionable strategies for integrating public art into community-centered sociological research. By examining how NFBC productions amplify marginalized voices, the study emphasizes how interdisciplinary methodologies can transcend institutional barriers, engage diverse audiences, and produce tangible social impact. Aligned with the session's sociology theme beyond the ivory tower, this work offers practical insights into conducting sociology with communities rather than for them. It underscores the essential role of interdisciplinary collaboration and creative storytelling in advancing social justice, equity, and collective problem-solving. Through this analysis of the NFBC's innovative contributions,

the presentation advocates for reimagining sociology as a participatory and inclusive practice deeply connected to public service.

4. Strategies for Engaging in Public Sociology

Andrea DeKeseredy and **Ping Lam Ip,** University of Alberta

As made evident by former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's reluctance to "commit sociology," our discipline is at odds with those in power who reject a critical understanding of the root causes of social problems and hence structural social changes. Yet, sociological research can be used as a powerful way to craft policy, collaborate with community members, and enact large-scale changes. This is done through public sociology, described by Michael Burawoy as an act that "brings sociology into a conversation with publics, understood as people who are themselves involved in conversation." Public sociology takes many forms, but all seek to expand sociology beyond just the academic world. However, what Burawoy famously argued in 2005 still holds true: moving research from the academy into the broader public can be challenging, and many different strategies must be used to do so successfully. Using examples from the authors' own work, this paper explores approaches to disseminate sociological research through mainstream media and other forms of public engagements. Topics include strategies with a Canadian focus, lessons learned, success stories, and future directions for engaging the public in sociological research.

5. Want to change the World?!: Some Pro Tips from a Public Sociologist

Linda Henderson, St. Mary's University, Calgary

From Comte, to Mills, to this session and the CSA's 2025 conference theme, sociologists have strongly believed that their powerful insights could have important real life implications. But how best to pursue this agenda? While grand gestures of "sociologist as expert" are very tempting, baby steps as "collaborative partner" might be more effective. In this presentation I would like to share a few "pro tips" or strategies from my own very successful practice as a public sociologist that are taken from teaching, coaching and mentoring within academic settings, and with various community groups and high performance sport organizations, over the last 30+ years.

(BCS3) Admissions alone is not sufficient: Maximizing the opportunities that university affords Black students

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: CSA Black Caucus Subcommittee and Sociology of Education Research Cluster

University admissions are only the first step in students post secondary education journey. This panel will explore the experiences of four Black students navigating university life beyond admissions, focusing on how they have identified and used opportunities that university education can offer. Drawing from the metaphor that "education gets you to the station," the panel explores the importance of spaces that support Black students' to build essential skills, networks, and experiences that go beyond academics alone. Entering university is akin to being dropped off at a new destination—it's just the start, not the end. For Black students, navigating the university system often comes with unique challenges and "rules of the game" that may require supports. Moderated by Dr. Carl James and Anika Forde, the students speak to their experiences in university environments that nurture academic, personal growth and how students can proactively use their university life to build their resumes. Additionally, they address the role of skills development,

preparing students not only to succeed academically but also to harness those skills in their future careers. This includes understanding the value of social capital, recognizing opportunities for growth, and learning how to translate academic achievements into practical, real-world skills that can help them to navigate their beyond university years.

Moderators: Anika Forde and Carl James, York University

Panelists:
Alanah Broomfield, York University
Hannah Cowan, York University
Richerd Edwards, York University

(CRM8) Building Public Trust in Policing: Criminological Research and Its Policy Implications
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

This panel will collaboratively explore diverse perspectives on the critical role public trust plays in shaping police policy. Drawing from both research and lived experiences, panelists will discuss how public trust—or the lack thereof—can inform and improve police policies, practices, and community relationships. Topics will include the impact of technology (such as body cameras and predictive policing tools) on public perceptions and how specific groups—such as LGBTQ+ communities, Indigenous peoples, and mentally ill persons in crises (MIPIC)—experience and engage with law enforcement. Through a multidisciplinary lens, the panel aims to foster dialogue on how policing policies can better reflect the needs and concerns of these communities, ultimately improving trust, transparency, and accountability.

Session Organizer and Chair: Emily Cauduro, Ontario Tech University

Panelists:
Emily Cauduro, Ontario Tech University
Madison Charman, Ontario Tech University
Victoria Ginsley, Trent University
Ashlee Quinn-Hogan, Ontario Tech University

(EDU9a) Sociology of Education in K-12: Roundtable
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features developing research in the sociology of education in K-12.

Session Organizer: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo
Session Chair: Norin Taj, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. LGBTQIA+ Youth Homelessness, Embodiment and School Disengagement
Nancy Spina, Cape Breton University

The paper examines a concerning phenomenon in contemporary Canada: LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness and its impact on school engagement. Little research has been conducted on the

phenomenon of LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness, embodiment, and school disengagement. As a result, there is limited empirical evidence to inform service providers and policymakers. To fill this gap, this project aims to understand the push factors contributing to school disengagement and pull factors that would allow youth to complete their education and disrupt cycles of social stigma and exclusion characterizing the experiences of homeless youth in schools. This project relies on the theoretical insights of feminist and queer scholars who have foregrounded the embodied dimensions of identity alongside critical geographers and educational scholars who highlight the spatialized dimensions of identity production and schooling. Methodologically, the project uses a qualitative mixed-method design in which Constructivist Grounded Theory is combined with Embodied Narrative Inquiry to generate an evidence-based account of the embodied social phenomenon of youth school disengagement in Cape Breton. The research for this project is conducted in partnership with The Cape Breton Youth Project located in Sydney Nova Scotia, a youth-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing services and support for LGBTQIA+ youth in the province, and will involve a group of Youth Project-associated LGBTQIA+ homeless youth who will actively participate in the research as knowledge creators through body mapping and photovoice.

2. Navigating Uncertainty: A Case Study of Appreciative Judgments of Rural Superintendents in Disruptive Times

Glenn Borthistle, University of Alberta and Thompson Rivers University

Educational leaders face continual challenges in navigating uncertainty. This paper explores the phenomenon of uncertainty in rural school districts of British Columbia, arising from multiple disruptive events. Although uncertainty is inherent in all policy and decision-making processes, recent events have introduced new forms of uncertainty into rural educational settings. Radical uncertainty is one description of the phenomenon adopted by some, characterizing environmental conditions with little available information, previous experience, or models for action to reduce or cope with disruptive events. Superintendents of rural school districts have recently confronted the challenge of managing radical uncertainty during the global COVID-19 pandemic along with other unique challenges of rurality. Partnerships and community relationships have traditionally been strengths in rural communities in addressing uncertain events. Further research is needed to determine how recent events have impacted these relationships and identify successful local collaboration efforts when addressing uncertainty. To identify these challenges and efforts, the study will apply Vickers' 1995 framework of Appreciative Judgment, explained as judgments of reality, judgments of values, and instrumental judgment determining appropriate action. The study will contend that changes in all three components of appreciative judgment have occurred in the post-pandemic period. Additional objectives include identifying changes in superintendent perceptions of leadership within rural settings and preparing for future uncertainty using plausible scenarios. The study will test the notion that situations of radical uncertainty are not insurmountable and can offer opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive, especially when they collectively collaborate to address unstable conditions.

3. Academic Exclusion Logics: An Investigation of Education Evaluation in the GDR

Emma Dierkes, University of British Columbia

The concept of merit is deeply entangled with contemporary capitalism as the mechanism underlying legitimate stratification. We accept inequality because we are meant to believe that it is the result of unequal ability people are naturally endowed with. Common knowledge would tell us that capitalist and socialist societies are diametrically opposed, not only in their totality but in their working parts, and yet, throughout state socialist societies some form of merit-based selection has often emerged. Indeed, from its inception in 1949, the GDR constructed a differentiated high school education landscape, enabling some selected students to prepare for higher study, and others to gain practical knowledge. This begs the question; how can the social meaning of merit be understood in state socialist societies, and how does this create evaluation systems? Drawing on high school application and rejection decisions and parental appeals from 1950-52 in Brandenburg and Saxony, this paper attempts to understand how the education ministry in the GDR, which constitutionally, and ideologically, promised equality and demolition of existing stratification, thought about evaluation and justified new forms of exclusion within education. At the same time this paper interrogates how parents and other key actors engaged with these new evaluatory systems. The concept of evaluation, and its product (merit), are considered through Luhmann's treatment of education as a system, as well as through a Foucauldian understanding of modern information creation as a site of control and domination. Finally, Althusser's theoretical framing of state domination through ideological state apparatuses, is used to motivate my inquiry into education. In particular, his claim that without radical change to key apparatuses socialist regimes risk inheriting and reproducing similar, if not the same, forms of domination they aim to destroy. I expect this paper to illuminate unexpected ideological and practical contradictions institutionalized in the GDR.

(ENV1c) Environmental Sociology III: Social Policy and Guiding Frameworks

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Papers in this open call for environmental sociology investigate issues of discourse and power; justice and the environment, social policy and guiding theoretical frameworks, managing environmental change, and addressing inequalities connected with the environment. Grassroots groups, corporate actions, governance decisions, and aspects of race, class, and gender are addressed by papers in these open sessions.

Session Organizer: Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico
Session Chair: Kailey Walker, Queen's University

Presentations:

1. The Geologic Turn: Challenges and Opportunities

Mauricio Collao Quevedo, York University

In recent years, critical theory has demonstrated a growing interest in geologic entities, forces, and timescales once considered beyond the scope of socio-historical and philosophical consideration. Here, the 'geos' or 'the geologic' has emerged conceptually as the realm of non-biological matter and the ontological counterpart to the living realm of the 'bios' that historically has been the subject

of environmental thought and the Social Sciences and Humanities more generally. Epistemologically, this 'geologic turn' in critical theory has drawn attention to the history and empirics of the geosciences to think about pressing socio-ecological issues - in turn marking a shift away from environmental thought's general reliance on the insights of the life sciences (e.g., ecology, health sciences, microbiology, toxicology, etc.) to think about the magnitude and institutional requirements of the challenges of the Anthropocene. This paper's objective is twofold: on the one hand, it examines dominant trends in critical theory's geologic turn, highlighting their ethical, ontological, and epistemological commitments to shed a light on the geologic turn's significance for social thought and action. On the other hand, the paper draws attention to the challenges of participating in this emerging strand of social theory and research, such as balancing critical theory's troubled relationship with Western science and geoscientists' skepticism of research conducted in "non-scientific" ways. Ultimately, the paper will argue that the geologic turn is still in a nascent stage, featuring a combination of 'geo-themed' and 'quasi-geologic' forms of research and theorization that need to be developed further if it hopes to contribute innovatively to discussions about more-than-human flourishing, progress, prosperity, and freedom in the Anthropocene.

2. The relational structure of ignorance production

Gabriel Lévesque, McGill University

There is an empirical contradiction in the literature on ignorance production. On the one hand, extant research emphasizes the role of corporate involvement in scientific practices as they attempt to shape knowledge production. On the other hand, scientific knowledge is generally recognized as secondary in regulatory decisionmaking, as political and economic considerations often prevail over evidence. These concurring facts raise interesting questions about the structure of the relationship between corporate actors and scientific institutions. For instance, is it truly in the interest of corporate actors to dedicate substantial resources upstream to interfere in scientific production, or is lobbying and other downstream pressures on regulatory expert institutions sufficient to achieve corporate objectives? In this paper, I ask 1) How stable are ties of corporate actors with knowledge-producing organizations? and 2) What types of knowledge-producing organizations are subject to most engagement by corporate actors? I answer these questions with the historical case of lead in the United States. I produce network data from the raw textual data of Toxic Docs, a database that comprises millions of previously classified corporate documents and that spans over a century. Using relational event modeling, a framework for appraising longitudinal network data with event history analyses, I find that events with scientific institutions are more likely than with other types of actors, and that events with regulatory expert institutions are less likely than other types of ties. I also test the role of time using alternative models and find that analyses with continuous coefficients consistently outperform those with step time-dependent coefficients. Findings thus hold consistently throughout the case's history and are not dependent on large time-bound shifts in network structure. Overall, this suggests that in scandal-prone industries, corporate involvement with scientific institutions is not necessarily a reaction but an essential feature of these networks.

3. Whose Sustainability? Examining Diasporic Perspectives in a Toronto Resource-Constrained Neighbourhood

Zeina Seaifan, McGill University

How do cultural values, beliefs, and practices from diasporic backgrounds influence the adoption of sustainability-related practices? Centring on diasporic communities demonstrates how their role as cultural brokers can shape localized approaches to adopting sustainable practices in urban, resource-constrained contexts like Taylor-Massey. Taylor-Massey, a Toronto neighbourhood, has a high proportion of immigrant residents and a diverse racial and ethnic composition. Designated as a Neighbourhood Improvement Area (NIA) by the City of Toronto, Taylor-Massey faces significant social and economic challenges. The municipal government, in collaboration with community non-profits, is implementing an action plan to promote community well-being. This plan focuses on integrating and promoting sustainable lifestyles through initiatives such as sustainability workshops and food literacy programs. This research asks how racialized, low-income diasporic communities in Taylor-Massey enact sustainable practices within the context of their cultural and migrant identities. Given their well-established reputation within Toronto, this paper leverages the community health centre Access Alliance as a case study. Interviews (n=7) and participant observations (~100 hours) were used to explore these research questions. Research findings point to Taylor-Massey, and Access Alliance by extension, as a source of diasporic belonging and a site of potential cultural fragmentation, characterized by tensions that arise when diverse cultural values, beliefs, and practices intersect within Taylor-Massey's community setting. This signals a lack of cohesion in how sustainability is understood and practiced across institutional and cultural frameworks within Taylor-Massey. Here, participants circulate and integrate their knowledge of sustainability from the homeland with novel Canadian-based sustainable practices within the community for resource accessibility, systemic efficiency, and community cohesion. Yet, participants' understandings of sustainability (centred on frugality and survival) digress from institutional narratives (optimistic visions around broader environmental goals). Ultimately, these findings reveal how culture, mediated through diasporic communities, shapes enactments of sustainability, advancing understandings of the sociocultural dimensions of sustainability.

4. Critical Environmentalism in Education: Ecological Futures and Decolonial Imperatives

Aun Ali, University of British Columbia

Contemporary environmental concerns have intensified efforts to promote awareness through education. In a sense, the environmental component has always been present in curriculum debates, but recently a more critical and urgent ecological emphasis has emerged stressing the interconnectedness of human and nonhuman life. Especially the ecocentric variations of this emphasis are critical of human-centeredness that, they argue, seeks to exploit and dominate all others, and therefore they call for decentering anthropocentrism as the solution for living in harmony within nature. Yet, is it possible that the ecocentric approach can also reinforce some of the same problems? Is it possible that ecocentric critiques could also be alienating and colonizing for peoples, cultures, and nature? Do we need to look for alternative ecological frameworks? Or, can we address that need by recognizing diverse ways of life, contexts, and ecological frameworks, including those anchored in anthropocentric orientations? This paper engages with these questions scrutinizing the assumptions and politics of contemporary ecocentric critiques, especially as these progressive discourses with their own histories, assumptions, and contexts travel to other geopolitical regions and assume the power of a normative discourse.

(GAS5b) Gender & Sexuality: In Print and On Screen
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

The presentations in this session explore media representations of gender and sexuality.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. "Fridged off a Bridge": The Death and (Bare) Life of Gwen Stacy

Sean Rooney, York University

Using the characters of Gwen Stacy, this paper explores the "Women in Refrigerators" trope, why it exists, what harms it can cause, and how it is being challenged. It turns to the work of Giorgio Agamben, in particular his concept of Bare Life to do so. Tropes exist due to, and are rendered intelligible by, societal beliefs and attitudes, and then re-enforce these beliefs and attitudes. "Women in Refrigerators" exists because the societal contexts which gave rise to it do not value women's lives as much as men's, and its continued usage further supports this. Pushback against the trope, both in universe and out, can be a way of challenging they way women's lives are valued. The characters of Gwen Stacy provide a useful way of exploring both sides of this. The original, Earth-616 version of Gwen Stacy is one of the most infamous examples of "Women in Refrigerators", her Earth-65 counterpart can function as a way of speaking to, and challenging the trope, and the underlying societal beliefs and attitudes that support it. The "Women in Refrigerators" trope is not the only one which speaks to the ways society values some lives over others, and the underlying assumptions of this argument can and should be explored in relation to other marginalized populations, some of which were taken up in the full paper of which this is a segment.

2. Canadian News Coverage of Sexual Violence: Possibilities and Challenges in the Era of #MeToo

Tuğçe Ellialtı Köse and **Sami Falkenstein,** University of Guelph

This study examines Canadian news coverage of sexual violence in the era of #MeToo, which sparked an unprecedented sharing of personal stories of sexual assault globally. These stories revealed - and reaffirmed - the gendered nature of sexual violence, and its ubiquity in women's lives as well as called for institutional reforms to increase accountability and to ensure justice for victims/survivors. Using thematic analysis and drawing on scholarship on gender, media, and violence against women, we identify and explore the key themes in the ways that sexual violence — and primarily its causes, contexts, and consequences — is reported, portrayed, and commented upon in Canadian newspapers. Our findings indicate that while there has been increased recognition of sexual violence as a widespread social problem, tied to institutional power imbalances, the patterns in media coverage remain uneven. On the one hand, feminist perspectives that understand sexual violence as rooted in structural gender inequality and highlight the social and institutional failures in supporting victim/survivors have gained greater visibility in news coverage. On the other hand, news media coverage remains fraught with sympathetic portrayals of perpetrators, skepticism toward victim/survivors, and an ongoing reluctance to address sexual violence in relation to gender norms and inequities. Overall, our analysis suggests that while feminist insights — about

the nature, workings, and effects of sexual violence - have made their way into mainstream news discourse, their integration is limited, inconsistent, and precarious. This argument contributes to current debates on the possibilities and limits of media coverage in meaningfully addressing sexual violence and its root causes.

3. Cross-Dressing and Sexuality: An Analysis of the Huysuz Virjin Show

Elif Cansu Gumuspala, University of Victoria

Artistic performances, particularly those involving cross-dressing, illuminate the intersection of art, gender roles, and politics. Huysuz Virjin, a stage persona created by Turkish artist Seyfi Dursunoğlu, exemplifies this interplay as one of the first cross-dressing performances produced for a mass audience on Turkish television. Known for her sharp wit and sexually explicit humor, Huysuz Virjin stood out in contrast to the relatively conservative norms of Turkish society, leaving a lasting impact on the country's entertainment history. Drawing on archival research and video recordings of *Huysuz Show* (1994-2002), this study examines the societal acceptance of Huysuz Virjin's performances and how she became a celebrated figure in Turkey despite challenging heteronormative gender norms. A defining feature of the show is its emphasis on sexuality, which I argue, is constructed through a dynamic interplay between Huysuz Virjin's persona, Dursunoğlu's offstage identity, and audience engagement. Offstage, Dursunoğlu's identity aligns with the audience's moral values, providing a shared framework of understanding. Onstage, Huysuz Virjin incorporates culturally significant themes, such as Ottoman motifs, the *gazino* atmosphere, and traditional songs, while her flamboyance and extravagance sharply contrast with these values, positioning her as both a relatable and disruptive force. Elements like stage design and costumes further amplify this tension, challenging perceptions of gender and performance. Ultimately, I argue that Dursunoğlu's persona as a heteronormative figure consistently accompanies Huysuz Virjin's distinctly queer performance. Viewers are alienated from the show through constant references to Dursunoğlu's offstage identity. However, the audience's fantasy of an infallible and stable conception of sexuality is continually disrupted throughout the performance. The coexistence of these contradictory tendencies is what enables the humor to emerge.

(RAS2) Navigating the Unavoidable: AI in Contemporary Sociological Research

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: CSA Research Advisory Subcommittee and Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

As AI technologies become increasingly imbedded into many facets of social life, they are also reshaping the landscape of social science research. AI tools are now used to collect data, analyze vast datasets, streamline workflows, mobilize knowledge, make publishing decisions, and even generate new ideas that may both aid and obscure our understanding of social phenomena. This shift, while offering immense opportunities, raises crucial ethical, methodological, and philosophical questions. Through an engaging discussion, the panel aims to spark critical dialogue on how social scientists can thoughtfully and responsibly navigate the opportunities and challenges posed by AI to maintain the integrity of high-quality, autonomous, and conscientious sociological research.

Session Organizers: Timothy Kang, University of Saskatchewan and Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph

Moderator: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph

Panelists:
Keif Godbout-Kinney, Memorial University
Fuyuki Kurasawa, York University
Muyang Li, York University
Marisa Young, McMaster University

(SCL9) The Social Genesis of Cultural Phenomena
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture Research Cluster

Presentations in this session analyze the social origins of culture. Spanning an array of cultural practices, this session highlights the links between the genesis of cultural objects, cultural change, and social dynamics.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Taylor Price, New York University

Presentations:

1. The Dynamic of the Sub-field of Street Art in Contemporary Cuba
Niloofar Moazzami, Université du Québec à Montréal

In my presentation, I elaborate on the dynamics of the street art in the Cuban society. I consider the visual artistic field as a main field, and a street art as a sub-field. My elaboration concentrates on the threefold dynamics of this sub-field in this specific society: emergence, stability and change. More precisely, this presentation, contextualises and evaluates Pierre Bourdieu's conception of field as a constellation composed of the historical network of the relations between the positions of its actors and the power of the capital. According to Bourdieu, as a space of conflict and competition, the field is in the process of constant change. The rules of the mechanisms of the struggle within the subfield of the street art in this society are deciphered and its main capital, which delineates it within the artistic field, is depicted. Furthermore, the mechanism of the relationship between the artists in this sub-field, in their relationship with the field of power, or state, are analysed. Finally, I will illuminate the role of habitus of the artists of this sub-field to find out the way the rules of the game are set up and the way some artists become winners or losers. Here, I try to find out how the actors in this sub-field cooperate with each other even when there is conflict and competition and how this cooperation creates different arenas of action. In finding the mechanism of this interaction between artists, the manner they enact the structure of the sub-field and the role they play in its emergence, relative stability and change are clarified. Hence, the opportunities and constraints regarding the hope for strategic action inside the sub-field, which depends on the relations that tie the sub-field to other fields or state, are also revealed.

2. Beyond Two Fields: Restricted Massification in the Craft Brewing Industry
Ethan Shapiro, University of Toronto

The opposition between art and commerce underlies many sociological theories of cultural production. Bourdieusian field analysis offers a generative and highly influential framework for understanding how cultural products take shape, emphasizing the difference between symbolically

oriented producers in a restricted field and economically oriented producers in a mass production field. To the extent these models are treated as dichotomous field-types, the analytic division of restricted and largescale dynamics carries problematic assumptions for the nature of autonomy, audiences, and legitimacy in cultural production fields. The current paper argues for a conception of "restricted massification," describing the ways that the ostensibly competing logics of restricted (artistic) and mass (commercial) production co-exist in cultural fields. Beyond the ideal-typical binary, this approach investigates producers' propensities to combine (or separate) competing principles of organization along three key analytic dimensions. In fields of restricted massification, cultural production fields vary by the degree to which they incorporate (1) economic/symbolic definitions of legitimacy, (2) democratic/distinctive orientations to consumer audiences, and (3) cooperative/competitive orientations to other producers. Drawing on 35 in-depth interviews with craft brewers in Canada, the analysis provides empirical support for the co-existence of rival logics in cultural production fields. This hybridity suggests the need for greater analytic flexibility in Bourdieusian approaches to cultural fields. Lastly, the paper suggests several future directions for studying the relationships between art and commerce in cultural production.

3. Living in the New Age: The Mainstreaming of the Counterculture

Sarah Badr, McGill University

The growing cultural prominence and proliferation of New Age ideology through self-help literature, psychotherapies, alternative medicine, Eastern practices such as yoga and meditation and related phenomena in the Western world over the past several decades has been remarkable. The widespread introduction of these practices has its roots in the Romanticism of the 1960. American counterculture, a period which resulted in fundamental transformations in Western society. The age of authenticity (Taylor) which followed the Expressive Revolution (Parsons) was the product of a unique merger between liberalism and Romanticism which occured in 1960s liberal democracies (Watts 2024). And while the New Age movement has often been dismissed as superficial and insignificant, nothing more than a Spiritual Marketplace, scholars of the New Age have long argued that the New Age movement is a significant cultural resource. Indeed, the influence and significance of the New Age movement, the spiritual branch of the 1960s counterculture, has continued to grow, with its ideology having been legitimized through the institutionalization of expressive individualism. The significance of this societal transformation can also be viewed in the rise of subjective wellbeing culture and the Spiritual Turn. By providing a review of the literature and a survey of the available data, this article will argue that the New Age movement has been successful in its goals of transforming society. The article will first provide an overview of the literature on the New Age movement and relevant debates. It will then examine the means through which New Age ideology has become legitimized in the wider culture, locating its proliferation in the institutionalization of romantic liberalism and expressive individualism originating in the 1960s counterculture. It will then trace the institutionalization of New Age ideology in 3 spheres of civil society: medicine, business and the consumption sphere. In conclusion, it will examine relevant debates about the counterculture, and provide directions for future research.

4. Unnatural Foods and Unsustainable Meats. Sustainability and Naturalness in Novel Foods' Understanding.

Maddalena Simeon, University of Toronto

Novel foods are intended as all foods which are considered new and not recently consumed in comparison to other foods. In the past few years, two novel foods have sparked vivid discussions: insect flour - flour made of grinded dried insects - and cultivated meat - meat reproduced in vitro after a muscular biopsy. Both these foods are constructed as alternatives to red meat, with their main advantage being sustainability and reduced animal harming in the production process. However, this portrayal was countered by claims that related the two foods, especially cultivated meat, were not to be considered actual foods, but artificial products. This opened an interesting debate about whether these foods could be consumed, and their impact on nature if implemented. While producers were set on associating novel foods with sustainability, amongst consumers, resistance was advanced by rejecting the association entirely and focusing on issues related to artificiality and connections to the *terroir.* This study addresses how cultivated meat and insect flour are understood in terms of their association with sustainability and artificiality. I argue that these two categories are contrasted when portraying and assessing novel foods, creating two opposite and contrasting images. In this research, I employ both documentary analysis of promotion strategies and focus group discussions between potential consumers. I show how the sustainability claims advanced by novel foods producers were often rejected by consumers, who privileged more immediate associations with taste and naturalness. I argue that this is due to sustainability's lack of immediacy and emotional strength in cognitive associations with foods made by consumers.

(SCY3b) Sociology of Childhood and Youth II: Experiences, Participation, Interventions
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster

This session is focused on the experiences of children and youth and the larger networks and relationships that shape their lives. What experiences in the lives of children and youth does research document? How does this research point towards possible interventions or transformations, and how do young people's lives inform them? What does research tell us about existing interventions? Young people are sometimes (but not always) invited to participate in research. How does the participation of children and youth impact what gets researched and what gets documented? Should children and youth be invited to participate more fully in research about their lives, and if so, how can this be achieved? What does it look like when it fails? Each of these papers seeks to explore what research on experiences, participations, and interventions can illuminate about young people's lives.

Session Organizers: Hunter Knight and Dustin Ciufo, King's University College at Western University, Chris Borst, McGill University, and Rebecca Raby, Brock University
Session Chair: Chris Borst, McGill University

Presentations:

1. The Role of Parent-Child Relationship Perception in Adolescent Social Behavior and Relationships

Maria Zangari, and Yoko Yoshida, Western University

Adolescence is a critical period for social and emotional development, where family dynamics play a pivotal role in shaping resilience and social connectedness. Research in the field of child development demonstrates that positive parent-child relationships foster pro-social behaviors and peer connections, which enhance adolescent well-being. However, the quality of parent-child

relationships declines during adolescence as peer relationships increase. To build social relationships, it requires the acquisition of skills which can facilitate positive social interactions - social behavior. A gap remains in how these factors, parent-child relationships, social behaviors, and social connectedness, are related to each other in adolescence. This paper examines these relationships, through two main hypotheses: a mediation effect and moderation effect. For mediation, it is hypothesized that positive parent-child relationships increase pro-social behaviors, which leads to forming better social relationships. Alternatively, a moderation effect may be observed, where the association between social behaviors and social relationships could vary across the quality of the parent-child relationship. This paper uses data from the year 15 wave of the US-based Future Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS) to analyze adolescents aged 15 to 19. The variables parent-child relationship, social behaviors, and social connectedness are measured using validated scales within the literature. Using a series of OLS regressions, I examined the effects of social behaviors and parent-child relationship on social relationships, including controls for demographic and socioeconomic factors. Preliminary findings reveal that adolescents with positive perceptions of their parent-child relationships exhibit stronger school and community ties. Moreover, the moderating effect of parent-child relationship perceptions suggests that the quality of family interactions enhances the benefits of social behaviors, reinforcing adolescents' ability to form school connectedness. These findings highlight the importance of family dynamics in shaping adolescents' social connectedness, which serves as a buffer against social isolation and loneliness providing actionable insights for targeted interventions.

2. Insights and challenges of youth programs and support services in northern Manitoba communities

Tariqul Islam, University College of the North

This research examines the challenges surrounding youth programming and support services in northern Manitoba, a region characterized by geographic isolation, extreme weather, and limited access to essential services. Covering approximately 550,000 square kilometres, Northern Manitoba is home to 83,295 residents, 72% of whom are Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2021). The region has minimal government healthcare infrastructure, including one addiction center, two community care centers, and a youth recovery center, contributing to barriers in service access. However, non-government (NGOs) and charitable organizations, schools, and community organizations provide support services to Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. Youth programming fosters personal growth, leadership, belonging, and increasing community engagement. This study explores challenges and possible solutions experienced by organizations in The Pas, Thompson, and Flin Flon as they strive to support youth amid resource constraints. It identifies systemic barriers and potential strategies for improving youth programming by examining organizations' operations, community initiatives, and service delivery. This study employs a cross-sectional research design to collect data through surveys and open-ended interviews with stakeholders, including representatives from service organizations, health authorities, charities, service providers, community leadership, and municipal governance. By mapping services and identifying gaps, the study highlights barriers such as staffing shortages, inconsistent funding, lack of transportation, and inadequate infrastructure. Accessibility issues are further compounded by financial, family, and personal barriers to participation. Key findings highlight the importance of community-based, inclusive, barrier-free programs integrating family involvement, after-school activities, cultural

teachings, arts, sports, and leadership opportunities. Successful programs emphasize dialogue with community members, youth, and leaders, aligning personal development with community goals. Accessible youth programming improves physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being. The study underscores the importance of collaboration among organizations, communities, and municipalities, alongside increased funding, infrastructure, and capacity-building, which are essential to enhancing youth programming and empowering northern Manitoba's youth.

3. Children's Experiences of Living in a Homeless Shelter with their Families: Understanding Hardships, Connections, and Capacities

Rebecca Raby, Erika Alegria, Frederick Oppong, and Christine Tardiff-Williams, Brock University

Our presentation will share key emerging themes from our ongoing research project into children's experiences of living in a homeless shelter with their families. In collaboration with a community organization dedicated to addressing homelessness, we are learning about children's experiences and amplifying their viewpoints to inform the public and to contribute to the scant literature on children who are homeless with their families. We have been conducting a participant-observation project at an after-school program for children ages 8-14 at a shelter. This project involves twice-weekly research visits, informal discussions with the children, and hands-on activities. To date, our project has involved twenty-one children across a range of ages and a diversity of backgrounds. While we have also collected data from shelter staff members, this presentation will only focus on what we have learned from the children themselves. Our work is informed by the sociology of childhood (Wyness, 2006) in our attention to the lives and viewpoints of children themselves, the recognition of children's capacities to engage in and respond to their situations, and the recognition that children's lives are significantly shaped by their local and structural contexts, including related forms of inequality. We also draw on strength-based approaches, which resonate with this attention to children's capacities (Toros & Falch-Eriksen, 2021), in order to recognize our participants' hardships without framing them solely in terms of passive victimhood. Finally, we draw on relational approaches to recognize how our participants are embedded in relationships with the material and non-material worlds (Spyrou, 2018), their involvement in producing these relationships, and the value of support and connection in their lives. Through these methodological and theoretical lenses, we discuss six emerging themes: 1) the challenges connected to hardships experienced by our participants in terms of being homeless and living in a shelter, including shame and loss; 2) the importance of human relationships, especially with family, other children, staff, volunteers, and us, as researchers; 3) the roles of place, neighbourhood and nature in terms of relationality but also support ; 4) the role of pop culture in connecting but also separating the children; 5) their hopes and dreams, especially around housing and how these are connected to action that is needed in these children's lives.

4. Child Participatory Action Research as a Failed Emancipatory Project

Julie Garlen, OISE, University of Toronto; Sarah Hembruff, Carleton University and Evie Johnny Ruddy, University of Regina

In this paper, we discuss the results of our efforts to collaboratively engage in research with children through a virtual summer camp project that we called "Girls in the Digital World" (GDW). In spite of our best efforts to be intentional about breaking down the adult-child binary in order to create space for the child participants to act as co-researchers, in reflecting on the results of the project,

we ultimately determined it to be a failure in regards to its intended emancipatory aim. Here, we discuss the lessons we took away from this project and how they might inform future practices for working with children, as researchers, teachers, and advocates. First, we outline the theoretical perspectives and methodological traditions and strategies that framed the project, and describe the ways that the adult research team members sought to equip ourselves for the implementation of participatory action results. Then, we discuss the emergent themes and final results of the project that led us to describe it as a methodological failure. Finally, we describe how the insights we gained from this project led us to explore alternative methods to research as a potential approach to designing more ethical and agentic research with children.

5. Youth's Experience of Peer-to-Peer Sexual Violence Online, Social Norms and Youth-Led Recommendations for Prevention and Response: A Cross-Regional Study Albania, Kenya, Canada

Heather Kathleen Manion, Royal Roads University

Childhood has been significantly and irrevocably altered by the digital realities facing children and young people through a myriad of online opportunities and threats. While the internet reimagined ways that peers communicate with one another, these can be beneficial, benign or brutalizing. To explore this in more detail, this paper focuses on a youth participatory research project that involved youth in Albania, Kenya and Canada looking at what youth's experience of peer-to-peer online sexual violence has been, what the emerging social norms that perpetuate sexual violence among youth online are, and what ideas youth had for prevention. The research team included researchers from Royal Roads University, the International Institute Child Rights and Development, Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh), Albania, the Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children (KAACR), Kenya and six youth advisors from the three countries. The project began in early 2023 and will be completed in January 2025. With a social constructivist theoretical approach (), the methodology followed Participatory Action Research (PAR) research (Kemmis, 2008; Reason & Bradbury, 2006; McIntyre, 2008) where engagement and collaboration with youth was central to the research to highlight the ideas and recommendations of youth in preventing online child sexual exploitation and abuse and ensuring safety in online spaces. A mixed methods research approach (Cresswell & Cresswell, 2017) was employed, including conducting a literature review on online peer-to-peer sexual violence, convening a youth advisory committee, mapping risks and resources in each country, conducting a survey outlining young people's experience of online sexual violence (n=93), including peer-to-peer violence, and conducting multi-day play-based participatory action workshops with youth (n=48) in Albania, Kenya and Canada. The youth shared a range of provocative findings that provided a glimpse of the realities of their online lives. The survey participants noted that time spent online was significant (with 30% said they spent more than 4 hours a day online), but the workshop participants highlighted that the time online, even for children and youth who did not personal own devices, was significantly underrepresented by the survey participants. Overall, the participants noted that sexual violence is broadly normalised across media by a variety of actors. The youth had many ideas for addressing safety, including noting the critical importance of multi-tiered, intersectoral proactive and reactive approaches that recognised the multisectoral, multidimensional experience and response. Interestingly, many suggested there should be stricter guidelines and access to social media sites. They also recommended more youth input, public awareness and open communication to help focus on co-creating safety while online by understanding experiences and risks and exploring approaches to build safety. These insights

provide a practical insight into the sociological realities of young people in differing contexts, which may support us in better positively impacting their digital lives.

(SMH4b) Mental Health and Social Context II
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster

This session focuses on the impact of social context on mental health outcomes, including changes over the life course. We define social context broadly, ranging from financial and economic context to neighbourhood residence, country of origin, workplaces, or social and demographic contexts including institutions of family, gender, race, and ethnicity. The papers in this session will emphasize patterns of differential vulnerability by individuals' social position within those contexts, including age and socioeconomic status, for example.

Session Organizers: Atsushi Narisada, Saint Mary's University and Ruth Repchuck, McMaster University
Session Chair: Atsushi Narisada, Saint Mary's University

Presentations:

1. Bangladeshi women's dread of dying and suffering after recurrent tropical cyclones: a qualitative study
Syadani Riyad Fatema, Noakhali Science and Technology University; Kim Usher, University of New England

According to COREQ criteria, this study used a qualitative exploratory technique to examine the distressing experiences of women in the context of surviving in a coastal area of Bangladesh that is prone to cyclones. A semi-structured interview was completed by twelve participants, ranging in age from 25 to 58. Thematic analysis was used for the verbatim transcriptions of the data. Two themes emerged from the analysis of their responses: fear and trauma. Prior cyclonic events, such as the abruptness of episodes, losing family members, experiencing death, and not receiving any mental health help, were linked to the trauma experienced by the participants. Fear was also associated with the possibility of mortality and the frequency of disasters. Given the participants' socioeconomic background and numerous cyclonic events, their general mental health urgently needs attention. Those who have suffered natural disasters also require the implementation of post-disaster mental health rehabilitation plans at the policy level in Bangladesh.

2. Confidence and the gender gap in mental health
Joanne Ong, York University

Crucially, both social categories of gender and race are significant determinants of mental health. To this end, current literature has documented two puzzling patterns. First, Black people show poorer mental health than White people. Second, White women especially at young age show poorer mental health than women from other racial categories. In this study, we consider the critical role of confidence in creating these two patterns. Analyzing panel data from the three-wave Midlife in the United States Study (1995-1996, 2004-2009 and 2013-2017), we show that confidence is a stronger predictor of mental health. Further, we find that White women's lower confidence explains their poorer mental health, and Black peoples' high confidence produces a positive impact on their

mental wellness. Efforts to address the widespread mental health inequality will require considering ways to build confidence among the vulnerable populations.

3. Unmasking the Gendered Pathways to Mattering Among Older Adults: The Explanatory Role of Financial Strain and Social Relationships

Parnian Aflakseir, University of Calgary

Mattering—defined as the perception that one is significant to and valued by others—is a crucial component of well-being in later life. As older adults navigate transitions such as retirement and role losses, their sense of mattering becomes increasingly precarious, with research linking diminished mattering to poorer mental health outcomes and psychological distress. Despite the importance of mattering for well-being among older adults, there is limited understanding of how gender shapes this construct. Gender functions as a pervasive social structure that influences social expectations, cultural norms, and institutional arrangements, leading to differential access to resources that typically support mattering between men and women. While older women generally report stronger social networks and more frequent positive interactions that may promote mattering, they face greater financial hardship in later life leading to a loss of mattering. On the other hand, older men typically have greater access to financial resources but experience less social support. These opposing experiences in older men and women's resources for mattering may balance each other out, potentially leading to no observable differences in overall mattering among men and women. This study hypothesizes that seemingly similar levels of mattering between older men and women may mask important gender-specific pathways through which mattering is maintained. Using data from the 2022 Canadian Aging and Financial Experience (CAFE) study, a national survey of Canadians aged 65-85, this research examines how financial strain and social relationships shape men's and women's sense of mattering in later life. By examining these gender-specific pathways to mattering, this research aims to reveal the distinct ways in which men and women maintain their sense of mattering in later life. By investigating gender-related variations and similarities in experiences of mattering among older men and women, this study seeks to inform the development of targeted interventions and policies designed to enhance the sense of mattering and overall well-being in the older adult population.

4. Discrimination and Inequalities in Psychological Distress among Young Adult Post-Secondary Students in Canada: A Latent Class Analysis.

Mohsen Monji, Concordia University

Discrimination is a significant social determinant of health in Canada, yet little is known about its associations with mental health outcomes among young adults with intersectional identities. This study aims to address this gap by analyzing how experiences of discrimination at the intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, and immigration status are associated with psychological distress among young adult post-secondary students in Canada. Using data from the National College Health Assessment Survey (2022, N = 9,400), latent class analysis was used to identify distinct subgroups based on shared discrimination experiences across intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, and immigration status. These classes were subsequently used as predictors in linear mixed-effects models to examine associations between class memberships and psychological distress. The latent class analysis identified four classes based on experiences of discrimination and intersecting identities: High Discrimination (57.59% discrimination probability, mostly racialized

women), Low Discrimination (6.33% discrimination probability, mostly white heterosexual Canadian citizens), and two Moderate Discrimination classes—one (23.26% discrimination probability, mostly LGBTQ+ individuals) and another (15.86% discrimination probability, mostly racialized women immigrants). Results from mixed-effects models showed that, compared to the Low Discrimination class, membership in the High Discrimination class was associated with the largest increase in the mean psychological distress score (B = 1.91, 95% CI, $p < 0.001$). Membership in the first Moderate Discrimination class was associated with a slightly smaller but comparable increase (B = 1.80, 95% CI, $p < 0.001$), while membership in the second Moderate Discrimination class was associated with a smaller yet statistically significant increase (B = 0.28, 95% CI, $p = 0.008$). Using a novel quantitative intersectional analysis, this study contributes to the field of the sociology of mental health by highlighting the intersectional effect of discrimination as a social determinant of mental health in creating inequalities in psychological distress among young adults in Canada. The findings can inform evidence-based policies aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of discrimination on the mental well-being of young adults in Canada.

(THE6) Theory & Praxis: Committing Social Theory for Social & Political Impact
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

In light of the CSA's 2025 conference theme, the Social Theory Cluster invites presentations that explore the direct and/or indirect social impacts to which sociological theory contributes. Social movements and social change processes have always arguably been profoundly impacted by social theories of the day. However, a divide still too often persists between the realms of theory/theory-making and that of empirical or applied sociology that directly focuses on social impact.

Session Organizers: Rebeccah Nelems, Athabasca University and Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Rebeccah Nelems, Athabasca University

Presentations:

1. Contradictions of Charismatic Populism: RFK Jr. and His Rise to Political Power
L. Dugan Nichols and **Joseph Galbo,** University of New Brunswick - Saint John

This paper presents a case study of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s run for the presidency in 2023-2024, as well as his subsequent alliance with President Donald Trump. RFK Jr. is charismatic and contradictory. He hails from one of the most politically powerful and privileged families in American history. A popular narrative of his life is that he inherited the good looks and charisma of his male forebear, as well as the family demons of sex and drug addiction. The Kennedy clan's vast connections to the rich and powerful enables them to cover up any criminal or personal misdeed, which allots its members a sense of impunity and reckless disregard for others. The paper begins with a brief overview of populism and charisma. It then discusses RFK Jr.'s charismatic appeal within the context of populist politics, and how he uses alternative media, podcasting, and YouTube to define his political persona. RFK Jr. is responding to a political party system that has been increasingly personalized. His popular appeal, we argue, is attractive to some populist voters caught in the decay of the traditional divisions of right and left; who feel something is wrong with the two-party system; and who look to charismatic leaders, shadowy conspiracies, and disruptive anti-system thinking. This paper analyzes three aspects of the populist process: RFK Jr.'s message, the

intimacy in which it is delivered (via digital platforms), and its base of support (e.g., the moms of his Make America Healthy Again campaign). In our conclusion, we examine the contradictions that cohere within the politics of charismatic populism, connecting RFK Jr.'s popularity to a broader history of this phenomenon.

2. Conservative Media and the Making of Trump's Charismatic Populism

Julia Pfau, Bielefeld University

The media have played a significant role in developing Trump's political profile. In addition to his extensive use of Twitter during his first presidency, conservative media such as Fox News was a major factor in his success with the American public. Through one-sided reporting, those channels supported Trump's hate speech and presented disinformation as true. It is claimed that e.g. Fox News and its commentators played a key role in shaping Trump's image by promoting his populist agenda daily. Since charisma is fostered by performances that captivate audiences, this paper examines the role of media in shaping these images. As central conservative mouthpiece, Fox News contributes to how people experience Trump's appearances, backing up his populist statements with commentary, e.g., in discussions with guests like Newt Gingrich. The media decide what and how they report, thus determining how often political actors and their appearances are shown. This paper conducts a qualitative content analysis to examine which narratives on Fox News during Trump's first presidency promoted his image as charismatic leader. What narratives does the network use to promote this figure, and to what extent do populist approaches play a role in this construction? This paper suggests examining the combination of charisma and populism, as presented by Joosse (2022), regarding the role of conservative media in co-producing and transmitting the image of the president to the masses.

3. Queer Liberation Theory Development: Social Impact Contextualities and Temporalities

Nick Mulé York University

Queer liberation theory is a theory in development at the international level. With its historical foundation of same-sex desire-based liberationist initiatives in Germany in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to the gay liberation movement of the late 1960s early '70s, this research is premised on the courageous actions of queer activists seeking material changes at the community level. These activist initiatives continue today with a critical, progressive, sex positive, gender defying, radical liberationist queer contingent of the mainstreamed 2SLGBTI communities. Whereas the latter upholds assimilationist values with homonormative implications, the former celebrates diversity and is committed to social transformation. These community-based queer liberationist principles underscore the development of queer liberation theory. Yet, the theory development process is complicated by the international scope of the study. Methodologically, the outreach to academics, activists, and artists with a queer liberation sensibility internationally structured a community engaged approach to this theory development. Nevertheless, the socio-politico-cultural contextualities both historical and contemporary, of multiple disparate sites introduce a complexity that directly challenges the development of a theory that aspires to international relevance. The perspectives of contextualities and temporalities, particularly from non-Western viewpoints, are of key importance and weaved into the theory development process. Unshared histories of queer liberationism between continents and nations; nonlinear developments in identity formations, representations, and recognitions; language differences and ineffable sensibilities; regional

dominance in narratives; internalized inequities among 2SLGBTQI+ communities; sectoral divides and intersections regarding academics, activists, and artists are some of the contextual and temporal challenges in conducting theory development work. Yet, the temporal relevance of this work is more urgent due to recent increased backlash against 2SLGBTQI+ populations, and to provide materially grounded theory in contrast to the academic-based queer theory. Noteworthy, is that the very practice of community-engaged theory work brings integrity to addressing such challenges.

4. Theorizing Queer Precarity and Labour Solidarity: The Case of Canada

Bogdan Ovcharuk, York University, **Madison Trusolino**, Dalhousie University**,** and **Leonard Halladay,** Carleton University

The continuous rise of precarious employment, declining union density, and the privatization of Canada's social services are compounded in their effects by the historical vulnerability of gender and sexual minorities. In this paper, we build a theoretical foundation for *2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada*, the first national study to examine poverty among these populations. We examine socio-economic precarity through the lens of gender and sexual stratification in the Canadian labour context. Using a critical sociological framework we conceptualize the specificity of precarious work among 2SLGBTQ+ populations, who are asymmetrically protected by Canada's human rights regimes and rendered insecure in the growing temporary and gig economy. We situate 2SLGBTQ+ precarity in the context of the post-Fordist neoliberal transformation of Canada's economy; and demonstrate how precarity attests to the crisis of socio-economic solidarity where the stratification of 2SLGBTQ+ populations reflects the competitive cleavages characteristic of Canada's market economy. Characterized by the absence of stable employment, increasing temporary work, and a lack of access to workplace protections, socio-economic precarity has a disproportionate effect on 2SLGBTQ+ populations. While formal equality reduces discrimination among 2SLGBTQ+ people, our analysis exposes its implication in capital accumulation that generates precarity in Canada. We investigate 2SLGBTQ+ precarity arising from the historical dynamics of post-Fordist capital accumulation, which are not addressed by safeguards that extend from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Finally, we discuss the role of solidarity among 2SLGBTQ+ workers to consider how unions have addressed the problem of socio-economic precarity by expanding the protections afforded by Canada's human rights regimes. We argue that the rise of precarity is driven by the decline of unionization and the privatization of social reproduction under the post-Fordist regime of accumulation and that bottom-up, "whole-worker"-informed approaches are necessary to address systemic, social, and structural barriers within and beyond traditional spaces of work.

(UNG1) The Undergraduate Voice

Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

This roundtable session is organized in the spirit of professional development, mentorship, and sharing. We invited undergraduate social scientists to submit papers to this session with the purpose of providing an opportunity to present work at an academic conference, network with colleagues and receive constructive feedback about their work.

Session Organizers: Lisa Smith, Douglas College and Gary Barron, Lethbridge Polytechnic
Session Chair: Lisa Smith, Douglas College

Session Discussants:
Zohreh BayatRizi, University of Alberta
Lisa Smith, Douglas College.
Alan Martino, University of Calgary
Liam Swiss, Acadia University

Presentations:

1. An Examination of the Challenges and Obstacles Faced by Worker Co-Operatives

Ayden Clarke, University of British Columbia

Worker cooperatives are democratically managed firms which provide workers with a number of benefits, including increasing their feeling of agency and job security. These cooperatives are often supported by a network of organizations that provide technical, financial, and logistical assistance. Very little research has attempted to explain the scarcity of cooperatives in Canada, which is important given the unique cultural, political, and economic environment that the country resides in. Moreover, the academic literature examining the support ecosystem surrounding worker cooperatives has focused on the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Addressing this gap, this paper explores the worker cooperative support ecosystem in British Columbia, attempting to determine the challenges that these organizations face within the province. To answer this question, I conducted 10 qualitative semi-structured interviews with members of worker cooperatives and support organizations within British Columbia. While data collection and analysis is ongoing, in my preliminary interviews, participants have described the network of organizations responsible for assisting with the creation and development of worker cooperatives. Additionally, they identified a number of social, cultural, economic, political, and legal factors that created impediments to the proliferation of worker cooperatives. These findings are significant because they address a gap in the literature and identify some of the challenges that worker cooperatives face, allowing for the development of policy solutions that will remove barriers to the creation of worker cooperatives.

2. Diplomatic Children: Foreign Service Households and Its Mobile Influence on Childhood Upbringing

Lulu Wang, University of British Columbia

This research explores the experiences of children from Canadian foreign service officer (FSO) families. Employing a qualitative methodology, the study uses in-depth, semi-structured interviews and a focus group session. Recruited participants are over 19 years of age and have lived in more than two countries outside of Canada in their childhood due to their parent's diplomatic career. While existing work on Third Culture Kids (TCKs) broadly addresses children living abroad, little has been done on the specific experiences of those raised in diplomatic families. The central question guiding this study is: How does the upbringing of children in FSO families—through frequent relocations and cultural exposure—influence their development, identity, and interpersonal relationships, while also shaping the challenges they face in social integration, identity formation, and emotional well-being as they transition into adulthood? The research findings provide insights into how frequent relocations, cultural exposure, and parents' diplomatic careers shape identity, relationships, and adaptability. This work also enhances understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by diplomatic families, offering practical implications for improving support systems, such as relocation assistance, family adjustment resources, and programs for children. Educational institutions can use these insights to develop strategies for supporting these children, while mental health professionals can apply them to create targeted therapeutic interventions. By

focusing on diplomatic children, this study deepens our understanding of how international exposure affects identity, relationships, and life satisfaction, and lays the foundation for future research on the evolving impact of global diplomacy on diplomatic families.

3. Beats to Bars: The Influence of Rap Music on Black Youth Identity and Systemic Inequality

Kathy-Ann Murray, Trent University (Durham)

Rap music, which emerged in the Bronx during the 1970s, began as a creative outlet for marginalized Black communities to confront racial and economic inequalities. Rooted in social activism, hip-hop culture provided Black Americans with a platform to voice their experiences, struggles, and aspirations. While rap has since evolved into a global cultural phenomenon, it has also faced criticism for perpetuating stereotypes and glorifying risky behaviours. Once an empowering movement, the commercialization of rap—largely driven by profit-oriented white executives—has amplified harmful messages, shaping negative perceptions of Black youth and contributing to their disproportionate involvement in the criminal justice system. Based on a review of existing literature, this presentation examines the impact of rap music on the identity, behaviour, and societal outcomes of Black youth, with a focus on the effects of commercialization and the media's role in perpetuating white supremacy. It addresses the following key questions: 1) How does rap music shape the identities and behaviors of Black youth? 2) In what ways does media reinforce stereotypes through the commercialization of rap? 3) How do profit-driven motives contribute to negative portrayals of Black communities? Furthermore, this presentation highlights critical gaps in existing research, including the underrepresentation of Black youth perspectives and the limited exploration of the Canadian context. By addressing these issues, this research emphasizes the pressing need to reevaluate the societal impact of rap music and its implications for Black youth.

4. Relational Narratives of Community and Wellbeing Among Asian-Canadians

Joshua Peng, University of British Columbia

The Asian-Canadian diaspora in Vancouver is immense, particularly familiar and glanced through by Vancouverites. More specifically, an investigation of phenomenology of how Asian immigrants to North America may see their own wellbeing status in different contexts and form their identities (Hays, S., 1998, Zhou, M., & Kim, S. S., 2006, Vu, A., & Satzewich, V., 2022). The guiding research question here is: How do Chinese-Canadian values on wellbeing and community success compare differently? The study takes a qualitative analysis based on interviews that key-in on attitudes Chinese-Canadians have toward their own communities. These are interpreted experiences from a sociological standpoint and build onto a theoretical framework of cultural sociology, "relational narratives", social constructions of race, and migration. The study population are Chinese-Canadians, operationally defined in this research as adult people identifying as Chinese-Canadian and within the boundaries of being in two groups: (1) immigrants to Canada from China, Taiwan, Macau or Hong Kong SAR, that arrived in the 1970s or 1980s and (2) immigrants to Canada from China, Taiwan, Macau or Hong Kong SAR, that arrived in the 2000s or 2010s. The impetus for the distinction of these two groups is to gain insight, through phenomenological and deductive qualitative coding techniques, on the different representations and internalized norms of community among Chinese-Canadians over several decades. Interview questions shed light on how immigrant communities in Vancouver may grow or have historically become resilient, and the significance of an individual community member's perspective. Moreover, how do these individual

perspectives inform a normative perception of culture and/or cultural displacement (Bahbha, H. K., 1994, Wong, L., & Satzewich, V., 1999)? This study's results aim to provide valuable, underrepresented lived experiences of culture to policymakers, city planners, social workers or any career that is adjacent to understanding emotional and cultural values within their work.

Towards True Reconciliation: Decolonizing Systems and Healing Communities
Monday, 02 June 2025 @ 4:30pm

Hosted by the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE) and is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Congress 2025's theme *Reframing Togetherness*, offers an opportunity to model meaningful togetherness while critically examining colonial hierarchies that have excluded Indigenous peoples from their lands, languages and cultures and reinforcing historically rooted injustices. As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, this moment calls for deep reflection and critical engagement with the ongoing impacts of colonialism in education and beyond.

This session challenges institutions to rethink their commitments to justice and reconciliation and offers practical guidance for scholars, educators, and graduate students, equipping us with the knowledge needed to move toward more equitable and meaningful reconciliation within the Canadian reality.

This session is hosted by the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE) in collaboration with the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA), the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE), and the Canadian Network for Innovation in Education (CNIE).
This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.
Live streaming through the Congress Virtual Platform is available.

Chair: Merli Tamtik, University of Manitoba **Moderator:** Dan Smith, University College of the North

Panelists:
Adam Gaudry, University of Alberta
Frank Deer, University of Manitoba
Jennifer Brant, University of Toronto

Welcome Reception: The Mill Street Beer Hall
21 Tank House Lane, Distillery District Toronto, Ontario M5A 3C4

(CND1) Durkheimian Studies: Contemporary Engagements
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Canadian Network of Durkheimian Studies Cluster

In recent decades, Durkheimian sociology and social theory have sparked new debates and controversies while informing research on a wide range of contemporary social phenomena and events. Canadian sociologists have contributed to this renewal in important ways. We continue to highlight the research work conducted by students, scholars, and community engaged practitioners contributing to a better understanding of society. This session will feature presentations focusing on how we build partnerships between academia and diverse publics for social impact within Canada and globally.

Session Organizers: Ronjon Paul Datta, University of Windsor, Robin Willey, Concordia University, and Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Robin Willey, Concordia University

Presentations:

1. Cosmopolitan Solidarities: Civic Morals and Professional Ethics in Planetary Perspective
Thomas Kemple, Unversity of British Columbia

This paper considers the theoretical implications of extending and refining Durkheim's early insights into the formation and dissolution of *social solidarity* for rethinking the moral, ethical, and political role of sociological research and teaching today. Drawing on Durkheim's lesser-known writings, published lecture courses, and unfinished drafts for a final three-part work titled *La Morale*, I examine the challenge that Kant's reformulation of the ancient cynical cosmopolitan worldview poses to any simple progressive sequencing or hierarchical ordering of types of solidarity in terms of 'sameness-versus-difference'. Guided by a *regulative ideal of hospitality*, or in Kant's terms 'the right of the stranger not to be treated with hostility', solidarity in the Durkheimian tradition can be said to emerge as much from collective memories (Halbwachs) as from contested exchanges (Mauss), as much from shared responsibilities (Bourgeois) as from uneven interdependencies (Reclus). As recent scholars have noted, an expanded view of solidarity can potentially inform our understanding of a world increasingly divided by inequalities of wealth, power, and cultural competence. These disparities are evident in tensions between transformative and stabilizing dynamics of coalition-building (Hunt-Hendrix and Taylor 2024); in conflicts between interpersonal and group attachments (Paugam, 2023); ritual breaches of symbolic boundaries in everyday and institutional relationships (Hausner, 2013); and transnational wars of aggression (Marcel and Kemple, 2024). Viewed as *a more-than-human planetary process* and not simply an all-too-human principle of association, solidarity may practically entail a political strategy for sustaining 'differences through interdependence', paying 'debts held in common', and repairing 'damages affecting everyone'. I conclude with some thoughts on understanding cosmopolitan solidarity as an ethics of interspecies and intergenerational justice and a 'rule of sociological method' for maintaining reciprocal relations between the worlds of researchers and researched.

2. Committing Radical Durkheimian Sociology in the Twilight of Neoliberalism

Ronjon Paul Datta, University of Windsor

This presentation is in response to a recent query by leading Durkheim scholar and sociologist, Alexander Tristan Riley, who asked "What does it mean to be a 'radical Durkheimian'?" The paper will delineate a number of dimensions. First, it locates the emergence of Durkheim's sociology in a *Kampfplatz* in the humanities and social sciences at the end of the nineteenth century that gave it a "radical" quality. Those radical components remain pertinent to committing sociology since they challenge the hegemony of anthropocentricism, positivism, empiricist historiography, nominalism, and dominant normative orientations in socio-political discourse. Second, Durkheim's socialist sympathies and political economy had a radical quality since challenging the adequacy of state forms to handle anomic development and social inequality leading to his critique of inherited wealth and meritocracy. Third, his cosmopolitan humanism challenged the ideological bases of imperialism and racism, including anti-semtism and militaristic nationalism. Fourth, Durkheim's conception of sacral power revolutionized the understanding of the social bases of power, revolution, and the fundamental role and effects of systems of inclusion and exclusion. These features inspired his students, especially Mauss and Hubert, to become key resources for the radical Durkheimianism of Bataille and Caillois in the Collège de sociologie with its critique of modern social organisation, capitalism and fascism while emphasizing modern analyses of power and the sacred. Finally, the resurgence of interest in Durkheim in the past generation, wrested from the conservatism of Parsonian functionalism, yielded a new generation of radical Durkheimian work including Frank Pearce, Mike Gane, Alexander Riley, Bill Ramp, Patricia Cormack, Jean-Marc Larouche, and others in Canadian sociology, in addition to oblique Durkheimian analyses of "abjection" (cf. Kristeva). In conclusion, the pertinence of committing radical Durkheimian sociology will be discussed in relation to "neoliberalism" as a perverse moral economy.

(CRM3) Thinking Critically about Crime in Sport-Related Contexts: New Empirical and Theoretical Directions

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Cluster

Critical criminology is resolutely sociological and has a long history of examining a legion of interpersonal violent acts committed in public and private contexts, crimes of the powerful, and a myriad of other harms typically exempt from the purview of orthodox criminologists. However, until recently, conspicuously absent from the dynamic critical criminological project was exhaustive scholarly work on the "dark side" of sport. Further, we are now starting to see sport sociologists and critical criminologists building bridges because both situate crime and deviance in sport in the broader macro contexts of patriarchy, capitalism, racism, and homophobia. For example, progressive scholars in both disciplines are heavily involved in the study of gender, men, and masculinities. The main objective of this panel is to bring together a cadre of scholars to suggest new critical empirical and theoretical ways of knowing about sport.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Walter S. DeKeseredy, West Virginia University and Kim Dubé, Université de Moncton

Presentations:

1. The Critical Criminology of Sport: Past, Present, Future

Walter DeKeseredy, West Virginia University

Critical criminology has a long history of examining a legion of interpersonal violent acts committed in public and private contexts, crimes of the powerful, and a myriad of other harms typically exempt from the purview of orthodox criminologists. However, until recently, conspicuously absent from the dynamic critical criminological project was exhaustive scholarly work on the "dark side" of sport. This article chronicles key historical and contemporary contributions to the critical criminology of sport and suggests new directions in theory and research.

2. Repercussions of sexual violence perpetrated by male athletes as depicted in media narratives

Kim Dubé, Université de Moncton

The news media plays a crucial role in shaping the public's understanding of sexual violence. However, many media outlets continue to perpetuate myths and offer inadequate definitions of sexual violence. Some media only cover sexual violence in specific, exceptional cases, such as when the victim is male, and the perpetrator is female or when the crime is particularly sensational. In this presentation, based on my doctoral research, I aim to demonstrate how Canadian media informs the public about sexual violence perpetrated by male athletes. This research is grounded in an intersectional feminist perspective and utilizes feminist and critical discourse analysis. A total of 273 news articles from six major English and French newspapers were thoroughly analyzed for this research. The data was collected from two distinct periods: before the #MeToo movement (2014-2016) and after (2018-2019). The primary findings reveal that media coverage tends to prioritize establishing a positive public image for the abusive athlete rather than focusing on the survivors. Media discourse also tends to emphasize the impact of sexual violence accusations on abusive athletes and their teams, while rarely addressing the impacts of sexual violence on survivors or society. No significant differences were found between the periods before and after #MeToo regarding the way media reports on sexual violence committed by male athletes. In conclusion, I will propose recommendations for journalists reporting on sexual violence committed by male athletes.

3. Normalizing Intimate Partner Violence in Sport Marriages: The problem in framing violence as a symptom of brain injuries and CTE

Deana Simonetto, University of British Columbia

Stories of violence in the home have emerged from caregivers for former athletes who are suffering the long-term consequences of brain injuries or a progressive degenerate neurological disease Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). CTE is believed to be caused by repetitive head trauma in contact sports and is being found in much younger populations. This paper focus on the relationship between sports-related violence, intimate partner violence and brain injuries and CTE. Violence is a complex concept, and, I focus on how violence, both structural (slow and symbolic) and interpersonal forms (physical, emotional, psychological and temporal), are experienced and normalized in these women's everyday interactions. Drawing on three projects with family members, mostly spouses of former athletes who played at different competitive level (university,

college, semi-professional and professional leagues), in both Canada and the United States, and across a variety of sports football, hockey, soccer, rugby and boxing. I focus on how social location (race, social class, level of play, decade of play) shapes family's experiences. The analysis begins with a discussion on how CTE and violence are discussed in media and by scientists. Here I set the stage by showing the dominant narrative; violence is a symptom of CTE. Next, I explain (1) different forms of violence that emerge in the home (2) how these forms of violence are interpreted by caregivers; and (3) the institutional responses (police, health care, court system). I argue by framing men's brain injuries or CTE as a symptom of violence perpetuates many forms of structural violence which leave caregivers in vulnerable positions with a sense of moral obligation to care for these men. Further, it continues to normalize gendered violence in our society finding ways to excuse men for their violent behaviour and make women responsible for guarding against their own victimization.

4. Discipline, Punish, and Play? Multiple Meanings of Sport in Carceral Spaces

Mark Norman, St. Francis Xavier University

One of the central sociological tensions in sport programs for incarcerated persons is the simultaneous possibility for physical activity to be a mechanism of social control and a source of pleasure, social meaning, mental escape, resistance, or self-improvement. Similar tensions can be seen in sport-based interventions focused on social and behavioural change, such as crime prevention or countering violent extremism. Drawing on separate studies of physical recreation in youth custody spaces and yoga in prisons, we unpack these tensions through situating experiences of sport (broadly defined to include a breadth of physical cultural practices) within theoretical analyses of social control and carceral space. In so doing, we demonstrate that sport can be provided by carceral authorities to contribute to the control of incarcerated populations; yet, it has the possibility to provide meaningful, potentially even transformative, experiences to participants. While recognizing these two studies draw primarily from the perspectives of those who provide physical activity programming to incarcerated persons, and that the voice of criminalized persons is necessary in future work to better understand these theoretical questions, we nonetheless suggest that our analysis offers an important contribution to the emergent critical criminology of sport project—specifically, through advancing a deeper appreciation for the multiple meanings of sport in carceral spaces characterized by experiences of harm, deprivation, and control.

5. A Maltreatment Report in a Community Sport Organization: A coach's perspective

Isaiah Clelland, Brock University

This study uses critical autoethnography (Adams et al., 2015) to explore my experiences as a coach and member of a community sport organization (CSO). Specifically, I am documenting the cultural experience of safe sport practices before, during, and after a significant maltreatment report was made toward another coach in the CSO, conveying and critiquing this experience to address the current safe sport systems and practices (Adams et al., 2015). Child maltreatment is defined as "acts that result in or have the potential to result in physical injuries and/or psychological harm" (Crooks & Wolfe, 2007, p.3) and safe sport's goal is to remove all forms of maltreatment from sport (Kerr, 2022). Previous work in this area has sought to define, measure the prevalence, explore outcomes, and provide recommendations toward addressing maltreatment in sport but does not capture experiencing the impact of a report on an interpersonal, club, and cultural level. Data collection consists of journal entries recorded over one year following the maltreatment report. Findings were

presented in two forms to create an accessible text and an academic contribution. For the text, journal entries were transformed into an accessible story following utilitarian and aspirational ethics principles (Graham & Blackett, 2022), meaning the stories are based on actions, avoid blame onto others, and protect others by refraining from naming places, people, and dates. The academic contribution used Ellis's (2004) *thematic analysis of* narrative, using my autoethnographic account as data and using analytic coding (Emerson et al., 2011) to develop themes. Preliminary findings describe the collective and personal guilt a community can face for knowing someone reported for maltreatment, the feelings of loneliness associated with safe sport practices and being a new coach, and the complex intersection of a volunteer-based CSO and its limited capacity for change (Hall et al., 2003).

(EDU5a) Sociology of Education in K-12: Student Achievement and Outcomes
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features papers that draw on empirical, theoretical or methodological issues in the realm of K-12 education.

Session Organizer: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo
Session Chair: Karen Robson, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. From Screens to Skills: How Children, Families, and Schools Navigate Digital Learning
Jessica Rizk and **Veronica D'Ambrosio,** Wilfrid Laurier University; Cathleen Hillier, Crandall University

This research explores the role of digital technologies in shaping children's learning across home and school contexts, focusing on students in grades K-12 in Ontario and New Brunswick. Using Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital (1986) and the emerging framework of "child capital" (Chin & Phillips, 2004), we examine how digital technology functions as a new form of capital that children leverage for educational advancement. Employing a multi-method approach—including digital diaries and semi-structured interviews with children, parents, and teachers—this study investigates how families, schools, and children interact to develop digital competencies. We focus on three key areas: (1) how children use digital technology as a learning tool, (2) how schools collaborate with families to support its use, and (3) how social class and geographic location influence access and engagement. Preliminary findings suggest that children's use of technology for learning is shaped primarily by their teachers—both in terms of access to devices and the degree to which digital tools are integrated into instruction. However, disparities emerge based on school resources and parental involvement, highlighting digital technology as both an enabler and a potential source of educational inequality. This study contributes to cultural capital theory by expanding the concept of "child capital" to include digital knowledge as an essential resource in contemporary education. By understanding the interplay between children's agency, family support, and school integration of technology, we provide insights into fostering digital literacy equitably. These findings inform strategies to bridge digital divides and create more inclusive approaches to technology-enhanced learning across diverse educational settings.

2. Academic Achievement of Muslim High School Students in Toronto

Sarah Masri and Karen Robson, McMaster University

This paper explores how Muslims perform in school compared to other religious groups, while controlling for various factors known to explain these outcomes. The extant literature on education has demonstrated that various determinants of academic achievement and graduation include parental education and parental SES, racial background, immigration status, capital, gender, community and cultural background. However, religious affiliation is not often - if ever - presented as a potential factor that can be associated with educational outcomes, particularly in Canadian research. Research outside of Canada has demonstrated that religiosity can matter when considering academic achievement. This paper contributes to the gap in the Canadian literature on educational outcomes and religiosity. Our research question therefore will be framed as the following: "Do Muslim student have comparable high school academic achievement and graduation rates compared to students of other religiosities?"

3. Neighbourhood Characteristics and School Outcomes in the Toronto District School Board: An Examination of Linked Datasets

Chenyang Zhou and **Augusto Riveros,** Western University

Despite efforts to make K-12 education more equitable, residential location remains a significant predictor of school outcomes. Academic performance, as measured by standardized test results, tends to be higher in schools situated in affluent neighbourhoods compared to those in economically disadvantaged areas. This spatial differentiation in educational outcomes underscores the unequal distribution of educational opportunity. While previous research identifies housing as a key factor in student achievement, this connection has not been extensively studied in the Canadian context. Aiming to address this gap, this study explores the relationship between housing characteristics, household mobility, and school-level standardized test results within the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Using a custom database that links Canadian Census data with school-level data from the Ontario Ministry of Education, this study examines how the housing characteristics of school attendance areas relate to academic performance in TDSB schools. The analysis confirms earlier findings that schools in neighbourhoods with higher housing values tend to have higher achievement scores. Conversely, schools in areas with higher rates of subsidized housing, greater risk of housing instability (e.g., households spending more than 30% of income on housing), and higher numbers of inadequate dwellings generally tend to have lower academic achievement. Additionally, the study found that schools serving large numbers of low-income students experience improved academic outcomes when the number of people moving into the neighbourhood increases, suggesting the presence of a "peer effect". The paper discusses possible explanations for this effect, including the influx of higher-income households due to gentrification and the availability of more resources due to higher enrolments. This research highlights the critical role of housing in shaping educational opportunity in Canadian cities. The findings of this study have the potential to inform policy initiatives to address the impact of housing and household mobility on educational outcomes.

4. Stratification de l'offre scolaire : vécus de membres du personnel et d'élèves d'une école secondaire publique / Stratification of the educational offerings in Quebec: experiences of a public high school's staff and students

Véronique Grenier, Institut national de la recherche scientifique and **Annie Pilote,** Université Laval

Au Québec, une stratification de l'offre scolaire s'opère dans plusieurs écoles secondaires publiques. Cette présentation vise à mieux comprendre comment des membres du personnel et des élèves d'une école secondaire publique en milieu défavorisé et multiculturel perçoivent et vivent cette stratification. S'appuyant sur une étude ethnographique d'une école secondaire publique de la ville de Québec offrant des programmes particuliers et le programme régulier, cette présentation montre une école prise à jouer le jeu de la concurrence et marquée par des tensions à l'interne. Pour attirer des élèves, l'école offre des programmes particuliers se distinguant de ceux des écoles avoisinantes. Dans l'école, une mise à distance s'opère entre les élèves des programmes particuliers et du régulier notamment à travers une bonification de l'offre scolaire et une ségrégation des élèves, une situation considérée comme une injustice par des membres du personnel et des élèves du programme régulier. En guise de conclusion, une piste de recherche est proposée : des études devraient s'intéresser davantage aux laissés-pour-compte du système éducatif québécois et à la manière dont leurs représentations de la stratification de l'offre scolaire contribuent à la construction de leur identité d'élève et aux perspectives qu'ils sont en mesure d'entretenir pour l'avenir.

In Quebec, a stratification of the educational offerings is occurring in several public high schools. This presentation aims to better understand how staff members and students of a public high school in a disadvantaged and racialized area perceive and experience this stratification. Based on an ethnographic study of a public high school in Quebec City offering enriched programs and the regular program, this presentation illustrates a school forced to compete and marked by internal tensions. To attract students, the school offers enriched programs different from its neighboring schools. Within the school, a segregation between students in the enriched programs and those in the regular program exist, a situation considered an injustice by some staff members and students in the regular program. In conclusion, a research proposal is put forward: studies should focus on students in the regular program and feel like they are left behind by Quebec's educational system, and how their representations of the stratification of educational offerings contribute to the construction of their identity as students, and the prospects they are able to nurture for the future.

5. Exploring Racial Disparities in Homeschooling: Motivations and Experiences in Alternative Education

Julia Moniz-Lecce, University of British Columbia

This paper has received the 2025 Best Student Paper Award (Undergraduate Category)

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, homeschooling has seen a significant rise in popularity across Canada. The advancement of online learning has helped make homeschooling more accessible than ever before, however, many families continue to face challenges with this method of learning. While research underscores the academic and social benefits of homeschooling, limited studies have examined how it intersects with existing racial inequalities in the Canadian education system. This study seeks to fill this gap by examining the motivations and challenges that racialized families

encounter during their homeschooling journeys to better understand the broader implications of educational access and equity outside of the traditional schooling system. Data has been collected through a mixed-method approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative responses from an anonymous survey. Participants were recruited through online forums and community homeschooling organizations. They must have fit the criteria of being over 19 years of age, living in Canada, and being a parent or legal guardian of a homeschooled child. Although this project is ongoing, preliminary findings suggest that minority families encounter unique barriers and distinct motivations in their choice to homeschool. The findings from this study will contribute to the growing discourse on educational access and inform strategies to make homeschooling a more inclusive and accessible option for Canadian families.

(ENV2) Just Transitions in a Changing World
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Environmental Socioloy Research Cluster

Just transition is defined by the IPCC as "ensur[ing] that no people, workers, places, sectors, countries or regions are left behind in the transition from a high-carbon to a low-carbon economy." The ILO states that "[o]ur future depends on a just transition to a carbon- and resource efficient economy." This session includes papers on just transitions from environmental sociology, work and labour studies, and Indigenous studies and decolonization. These papers incorporate perspectives of youth, labour unions, and others looking at the past, present, and future in Canada and abroad. The need for social movements to ensure just transitions in a changing world underlies most of the papers.

Session Organizers: Lisa Seiler, York University, Kerry Bailey, McMaster University, Jennifer Jarman, Lakehead University, and Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph
Session Chair: Lisa Seiler, York University

Presentations:

1. Navigating Just Transitions: Social Futures and Global Environmental Change
Mark Stoddart, Memorial University

Concern with the future is baked right into environmental politics. The foundational definition of sustainable development from the United Nations is "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The need to safeguard the environment for future generations is also well-used as an environmental movement rallying cry. However, social-ecological futures are not easily predictable. Socially accepted narratives of the future — whether technologically optimistic or eco-apocalyptic — can be disrupted by unexpected events. Ecological or technological tipping points, such as rapid improvements or price drops for renewable energy technologies or electric vehicles, can change future trajectories in dramatic ways. This paper highlights that ideas about the future can be powerful motivators for social-ecological action in the pursuit of desired changes, or to avoid unwanted change - such as catastrophic climate change impacts. It also emphasizes the importance of just transitions, ensuring that no people, workers, places, sectors, countries, or regions are left behind in the transition from a high-carbon to a low-carbon economy. The paper provides an overview of research on social futures, which asks questions about how visions of desirable or

undesirable futures are crafted and circulated in the service of different social-political purposes. It also considers the role of decolonization in shaping equitable and inclusive futures. Examples from climate change, decarbonization, and energy futures are used to illustrate these dynamics. The paper then turns to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a technique of futuring that can guide future development for communities. We conclude with implications for policy and practice. La préoccupation pour l'avenir est ancrée dans la politique environnementale. La définition fondamentale du développement durable donnée par les Nations Unies est « un développement qui répond aux besoins du présent sans compromettre la capacité des générations futures à répondre aux leurs ». La nécessité de préserver l'environnement pour les générations futures est également bien utilisée comme cri de ralliement du mouvement écologiste. Cependant, les avenirs socio-écologiques ne sont pas facilement prévisibles. Les récits socialement acceptés de l'avenir - qu'ils soient optimistes sur le plan technologique ou éco-apocalyptiques - peuvent être perturbés par des événements inattendus. Les points de bascule écologiques ou technologiques, tels que les améliorations rapides ou les baisses de prix des technologies d'énergie renouvelable ou des véhicules électriques, peuvent modifier les trajectoires futures de manière spectaculaire. Cet article souligne que les idées sur l'avenir peuvent être de puissants moteurs d'action socio-écologique dans la poursuite des changements souhaités ou pour éviter des changements indésirables - tels que les impacts catastrophiques du changement climatique. Il souligne également l'importance de transitions justes, garantissant qu'aucune personne, aucun travailleur, aucun lieu, aucun secteur, aucun pays ou aucune région ne soit laissé pour compte dans la transition d'une économie à forte intensité de carbone vers une économie à faible intensité de carbone. L'article donne un aperçu des recherches sur les futurs sociaux, qui posent des questions sur la manière dont les visions d'avenirs souhaitables ou indésirables sont élaborées et diffusées au service de différents objectifs sociopolitiques. Il examine également le rôle de la décolonisation dans la construction d'avenirs équitables et inclusifs. Des exemples tirés du changement climatique, de la décarbonisation et des futurs énergétiques sont utilisés pour illustrer ces dynamiques. L'article se penche ensuite sur les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) des Nations Unies en tant que technique de prospective qui peut guider le développement futur des communautés. Nous concluons en évoquant les implications pour les politiques et les pratiques.

2. Welding the Present to the Future: Youth Leadership and the Stolen Future Narrative in the Climate Justice Movement

Jason Miller, University of Victoria

This paper considers contemporary youth leadership in climate justice movements and generational framings of climate change from a strategic, Gramscian perspective. Central to the rhetoric of young climate leaders like Greta Thunberg has been the Stolen Future Narrative (SFN), in which preceding generations are framed as having exploited the environment for short-term gain, leaving youth and future generations to 'clean up their mess' or inherit severely limited future prospects. There is much scientific and moral credence to this story of inter-generational climate injustice, and it has proven quite mobilizing—especially during the Global Climate Strikes of 2019, which drew an estimated 7.6 million activists. However, questions remain regarding its efficacy for knitting together the "movement of movements" widely considered necessary for achieving a social transformation of the required magnitude. Through a systematic analysis of the what, why, where, and how of youth movement leadership and the SFN, this paper outlines potential movement

pitfalls as well as seeds-of-the-new—elements that could prefigure a brighter tomorrow by welding the present to a preferred future. To do so, it applies Gramscian terminology and insights to contemporary youth politics, as well as other features of today's progressive climate movement landscape like horizontal leadership, party autonomy, and intersectionality. I conclude by illustrating how two concepts developed in concert with Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution—popular protagonism and a new political instrument—could be useful for cultivating (a) a peopled horizontalism, rather than one of anonymity and shirked responsibility; (b) a structured autonomy, resistant to debilitating disorder and fragmentation; (c) an intersectionality attentive to class relations as much as other, more readily visible identity vectors; and (d) a plurality of collectivizing stories that steer the movement of movements towards its ultimate goals.

3. From personal responsibility to an eco-socialist state: Political economy, popular discourses and the climate crisis

Erin Flanagan, York University

The adverse effects of climate change are already apparent with action required to forestall a full blown climate catastrophe. Despite findings that social democratic welfare states - Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden - more proactively respond to climate change through environmental policies that complement public policies promoting economic and social security, even these eco-social welfare state environmental policies are unlikely to avert a climate catastrophe. To avert a catastrophe will require gaining public control over energy policy and countering the power and influence of fossil-extracting industries. In theory, this could be accomplished through existing policy instruments. In reality, it may require establishment of a post-capitalist eco-socialist state, the outlines of which remain uncertain even among leading eco-socialist scholars. To effect either of these paths will require public awareness and support for such action. To that end, we identify public discourses of climate change which reflect these two ways forward as well as four other means of responding to climate change: (1) individual responsibility; (2) local action; (3) technocratic solution; (4) public policy advocacy; (5) balancing power in society; and (6) establishing a post-capitalist society. Despite the latter two discourses being the most likely to support effective action, they are the most marginalized.

4. Seeing Critical Minerals Like a State: Canada's green extractivism

Kailey Walker, Queen's University

Drawing on environmental sociology and theories of the coloniality of power, this paper analyzes discursive strategies deployed by Canada's federal government to legitimize critical mineral extraction. In the face of anthropogenic climate change, Canada has made substantial investments into 'green' mineral industries. With these investments demanding access to Canada's northern, remote, and Indigenous lands, the state relies on discursive strategies of social licensing to justify extractivism: critical minerals are conflated with national prosperity, reconciliation with Indigenous communities, and the very possibility of sustainable futures. The aim of this paper is to clarify the colonial logics that underpin green extractivism in Canada. This is addressed by a critical discourse analysis of dominant narratives of 'green minerals' as advanced by the state in Canada's Critical Mineral Strategy and public statements. I argue that justifications of critical mineral extraction significantly depend on colonial ontologies which devalue the natural world as Nonlife, raising questions about the Western epistemological frameworks that underpin environmental discourse.

In doing so, this paper emphasizes how green extractivism depends on the ongoing suppression of Indigenous knowledge about Land and Life - while simultaneously demarcating what and who is expendable in the quest for green futures.

(FEM2a) Feminist Praxis and Social Change: Transforming Communities, Education, and Culture
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session brings together papers which explore how feminist theory and activism intersect with community organizing, education, and contemporary cultural debates. The papers highlight the transformative power of feminist praxis.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: Lisa Smith, Douglas College

Presentations:

1. Art, Activism, and Scholarship: Transforming Community through Anti-Racist Feminist Praxis and Research Creation

Sobia Shaheen Shaikh, Memorial University

This paper explores the transformative potential of research creation in integrating anti-racist feminist praxis across theatre, activism, and scholarship, as exemplified by my forthcoming play *Braiding Peonies*. Commissioned by TODOS Productions and developed within the National Arts Centre's *Stages of Transformation* residency, the play follows a Muslim family grappling with Islamophobia, transphobia, and systemic violence. Their journey toward healing and justice unfolds within racially diverse, transformative justice communities, offering a vision of abolitionist futures grounded in relational care and solidarity. *Braiding Peonies* emerges directly from my three decades of anti-racist and anti-Islamophobia community organizing work, combined with my experience as an anti-racist feminist scholar. While the play is fictional, it draws from the lessons I've learned in both community and academic spaces. I argue that research creation—an approach that bridges artistic production, activism, and scholarship—holds immense potential to transform communities by offering an embodied and relational pathway for reimagining anti-racist feminist politics. This methodology builds, sustains, and serves communities beyond the confines of the academy, theatre, and community organizing. Moreover, research creation provides unique opportunities to create change in iterative and multidirectional ways—through the co-creation of anti-racist and feminist possibilities. In this paper, I reflect on how *Braiding Peonies* challenges and expands the space of feminist praxis, reimagining transformative futures. Through the play, I engage communities and amplify marginalized voices while fostering conversations about transformative justice and abolition. By centering the stories of racialized and Muslim communities—narratives often absent from Newfoundland and Labrador's cultural landscape—the play demonstrates how research creation can catalyze social change, reshape community engagement, and reimagine feminist and abolitionist futures.

2. Partnering Community-led Scholarship and Organizations to Drive Social Change

Kristy Van Hoven, Period Purse; Elgin Pecjak, Women's College Hospital

The Period Purse is a community-based organization that actively engages in national outreach, education, and advocacy for menstruators. While participating in the global dialog centered around period experiences,The Period Purse strives to "create menstrual equity by ensuring sustainable access to period products for all and by ending the stigma associated with periods through education and advocacy." As an organization, The Period Purse utilizes a community-based approach to collaborations that prioritize lived experience, while emphasizing the importance of community-led scholarship as drivers for change. In 2023, the Canadian government approved funding for a menstrual equity pilot project that would allow grass-roots organizations to uncover ways to build their capacity to support lasting change in the menstrual space, including access to period products, improved education around menstrual health, and understand impact drivers for community wellbeing and economic growth. The Period Purse, along with other organizations were part of the pilot project. By unpacking the work of The Period Purse over the last 18 months, our presentation explores how a community-based organization can create, foster, and strengthen collaborations between academics, researchers, communities, and their organizations through meaningful relationships and community-centered initiatives. Using four relevant examples including trans-inclusion, stigma reduction, student/volunteer activism and, community methodologies story/data collecting programs at The Period Purse, we will explore the results and impact each of these partnerships had in moving the menstrual equity needle. Especially in politically uncertain times, collaborations are critical to continuing conversations grounded in research and lived experiences. Social movements must continue to balance rigorous and ethical academic research and community activism to ensure representation, accessible knowledge production, and partnership building. This presentation demonstrates how without such meaningful collaborations, sociological research will lack intersectionality and neglect the needs of communities.

3. Transforming Education: Youth Feminist Leadership in Action

Catherine Vanner, **Valerie Alexander**, and **Meenal Singh,** University of Windsor

Transform Education, hosted within the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI), is a transnational network connecting hundreds of youth-led organizations, mostly from the Global South, to "drive action for gender equality in and through education." The presentation describes the results of a transnational research project that used digital storytelling to document the experiences of 12 Transform Education youth activists from across Africa and Asia, focusing on findings about the influence of the Transform Education network in advancing the concept of gender transformative education. Gender transformative education involves the eradication of all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination in schools and positions schools as agents of change by equipping students with the skills to advance gender equity in their lives and communities. This presentation will reflect on participants' understanding of gender transformative education, its relevance in their own lives and school experiences, and their experiences mobilizing the concept within the Transform Education network. Participants expressed some critiques of the Transform Education network but, overall, described Transform Education as an effective youth-led vehicle for amplifying their work through a mutually beneficial model of intergenerational collaboration.

4. What Can Feminist Theory and Activism Teach Us About Cancel Culture?

Golshan Golriz, Queen's University

This article investigates the intersection of feminist theory, activism, and the dynamics of cancel/call-out culture. Focusing on three contentious areas within feminist history—the sex wars, the border wars, and interventions from women of color (WOC)—the article explores how conflicts within feminism have shaped activism and knowledge production. Drawing from interviews with influential feminists who have actively challenged the status quo, this paper demonstrates that intramovement conflict has often been a productive force in feminist theory and activism, and that it has led to changes in power, representation, and justice. By examining these feminist interventions and their engagement with opposing viewpoints (such as liberal feminism and TERF), this study offers new insights into cancel culture. The author argues that controversy can be generative and transformative in both academic and social spheres. Rather than framing cancel culture as a matter of free speech versus censorship, the paper proposes that feminist activism provides a valuable framework for understanding the complexities of cancel culture beyond conventional binaries.

5. Inspired Journeys: Reflections on Putting Feminist Sociology into Practice

Broughan Jansz, Kia Ferrer, and Rebecca Day, Douglas College

This presentation will share insights from three undergraduate students who are invested in feminist methods of inquiry and practice related to sexual violence prevention, specifically event planning and zine creation. This year marks the final year of iMPACTS: Collaborations to Address Sexual Violence on Campus. As a partner institution on this multi-year SSHRC partnership project, Douglas College students have had the opportunity to participate in various forms of feminist praxis, including research, knowledge mobilization and creation, with a view to disrupting, undoing, and dismantling rape culture on campus and beyond. In the final two years of the project, we were inspired by the possibilities of exploring sexual violence prevention and learning from the journeys of those in the field. From a student perspective, we noticed a gap in what the college (and post-secondary generally) was offering, especially for those invested in social justice, seeking to address intersecting inequities and identify pathways forward to make a difference. There are lots of career fairs for criminology, business, and health science students; but what about those interested in careers focused on sociology or gender studies? As students in these fields and looking towards our future after graduating, we had questions about careers, curiosities about activism, and a desire to bring our studies to bear on important issues. Through three well-attended and amazing career fair events and a Sexual Violence Prevention career guide in zine format, we sought to provide opportunities to gather, build community and networks, and broadcast what we had learned with others. Through sharing our inspired journey, we hope to encourage others to move their studies beyond the classroom. In doing so, we remain true to the legacy of feminist scholars, activists and agitators who have inspired us along the way.

(GAS3) Transnational Sexualities, Queer Solidarities

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

This session aims to cultivate global perspectives in the sociology of gender and sexuality that respond to the colonial and imperial conditions of our present. We seek to understand how

gendered and sexual practices, identities, and social movements are constituted in relation to contemporary global capitalism and the entwined genealogies of colonialism, enslavement, and indentureship. The submissions explore gendered and sexual formations in diverse geopolitical contexts, along with presentations that seek to forge transnational solidarities between gendered and sexual communities around the world. How are gender and sexuality differently constructed, articulated, and lived within global processes and across national boundaries and how could feminist, queer, and trans solidarities be fostered beyond the borders of the nation-state?

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. How Do You Say Gay? Anglo Gay Hegemony and Refugee Language Interpretation

Azar Masoumi, Carleton University

This paper draws on the insights of post-colonial translations studies to examine language interpretation for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) refugees as a site of significant cultural, sexual and geopolitical inequality and negotiation. I borrow from Manolo Guzmán's (2006) anti-racist queer critique to name the dominant and domineering standing of English in cross-lingual communication in SOGIE refugee settings as 'Anglo gay hegemony'. Engaging with documentary and interview data from Canada, I argue that in the SOGIE refugee determination setting, language interpretation presumes and normalizes the supposed universality of Anglo discourses of gender and sexuality. As a result, the routine practices of translation and language interpretations, often performed by linguistic and cultural Others themselves, subjugate non-Anglophones to Anglo frameworks. Importantly, the hegemonic force of English in the SOGIE refugee setting engulfs far beyond Anglo gay subjects. Straight and cis Anglophones as well as non-Anglo cultural Others commonly operate as agents of Anglo gay hegemony. In this context, inevitable encounters with difference are turned into occasions for panic, dismissal and negation. In short, Anglo gay hegemony blocks the possibility of difference and relies on this blockage to maintain its dominance in defining the terms of SOGIE recognition.

2. Reclaiming Narratives: Arts-Based Workshops to Foster Counter-Storytelling Among Gay and Bisexual Venezuelan Migrant Sex Workers in Colombia

Julien Brisson, Mariangela Castro-Arteaga, and Amaya Perez-Brumer, University of Toronto;
Aaron Zea Mas Que Tres Letras

Sex work generates contentious public debates, with social discourses about sex workers frequently excluding the voices and perspectives of sex workers themselves. A key driver of this exclusion is epistemic violence and the pervasive stigma that undermines sex workers' ability to own their narratives and exercise agency in public conversations about sex work. Our research aimed to challenge this marginalization by providing gay and bisexual Venezuelan migrant sex workers in Medellín, Colombia, with a platform to express their experiences and identities through art. Our study involved six participatory workshops conducted in collaboration with *Más Que Tres Letras* ("More than Three Letters"), a community organization founded by and dedicated to serving gay and bisexual men, including sex workers, living with HIV in Colombia. Each workshop encouraged participants to lead their own artistic creations, resulting in fanzines, drawings, and embroidery, exploring themes such as migration, sexuality, sex work, and resilience. Guided

discussions about the creative process served as a medium for participants to reclaim agency over their stories, disrupting the stigmatizing narratives that often dominate discussions about sex work and migration. Our paper will discuss the transformative potential of creative methodologies in sociology for amplifying marginalized voices and fostering self-representation among stigmatized communities. By integrating participatory and intersectional approaches, this project demonstrates how sociological research can engage directly with communities to address systemic inequities that arise from the power dynamics within social, economic, and political structures, sustaining exclusionary public discourses. This paper will present participants' artistic creations and explore the role of collaborative, community-based research in committing sociology for social impact.

3. Saffron Stains on the Rainbow: Decolonising Queerness in the Hindutva Age

Sthuthi Satish, Western University

In contemporary India, the intersection of neoliberal capitalism, colonial legacies, and Hindu nationalism has shaped queer visibility into a tool for advancing state and market agendas, rather than fostering genuine liberation. Hindutva nationalism, in particular, aligns with neoliberal capitalism to promote a homonationalist framework that incorporates sanitized queer identities into the fabric of Hindu national pride while excluding those deemed incompatible with its hegemonic ideals. This selective inclusion masks structural inequalities and erases the voices of Dalit, transgender, and rural queer communities, reinforcing caste, class, and gender hierarchies.
At the same time, the global imposition of Western queer terminologies like "gay" and "lesbian" erases indigenous identities such as hijra, kothi, and aravani, reinforcing a linguistic colonialism that privileges Eurocentric frameworks of gender and sexuality. These exclusions are further amplified by neoliberal reforms, which commodify queer identity as a site of capitalist consumption while exacerbating social inequalities. Together, these forces transform queer visibility into a mechanism of depoliticization, serving capitalist and nationalist logics rather than dismantling them. This analysis calls for a radical, uncompromising decolonial queer politics that actively resists the entanglements of capitalist and nationalist power. It demands a fundamental reorientation of queer movements, one that places the dignity, liberation, and agency of the most marginalized, particularly Dalit, transgender, and rural queer communities, at the center of political struggle. Rejecting the hollow promises of visibility, which serve only to reinforce hegemonic systems, this politics must insist on transformative change. It requires bold intersectional solidarities that confront, dismantle, and abolish the structural violences of neoliberalism, homonationalism, and coloniality. This vision for queer liberation is not one of mere inclusion, but a radical break from oppressive systems, forging transnational alliances that create a future where justice, dignity, and freedom are accessible to all, irrespective of caste, class, gender, or sexuality.

(HEA8) Evaluating the Impacts of Public Policy on Health: A Quantitative Sociological Approach

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

This session focuses on the quantitative evaluation of public policy initiatives, such as healthcare reform, social protection programs, minimum wage adjustments, and drug policy reforms, and their consequential impacts on health outcomes. As policymakers increasingly rely on empirical evidence to shape effective health interventions, it is crucial to understand the relationships between legislative changes and public health. We aim to gather researchers who utilize quantitative

methodologies to assess these relationships within the sociology of health cluster. Participants will present studies that quantify the health outcomes following the implementation of significant policy changes. This session will also delve into the nuances of interpreting quantitative data in the context of public policy.

Session Organizer and Chair: Yihong Bai, York University

Presentations:

1. Evaluating the Impact of Prescription Drug Coverage on Emergency Department Visits in Youth: Evidence from Ontario's OHIP+ Program

Kristine Ienciu, York University; Anthony Chum, Gwen Ehi, Peiya Cao, Yihong Bai, and Chungah Kim, York University

Canada stands as the only country with universal health insurance that does not provide universal coverage for prescription drugs. Instead, Canada's prescription drug coverage is a mix of public and private insurance that all vary by eligibility, patient expenses, and drug coverage. This leaves 1 in 5 Canadians reporting that they have no coverage for their prescription and causing many Canadians to make sacrifices in spending on certain necessities. In 2018, the Ontario government introduced the Ontario Health Insurance Plan Plus (OHIP+), which provides comprehensive drug coverage to individuals under the age of 25. Existing literature on OHIP+ remains scarce; with the literature finding that OHIP+ led to an increase in publicly funded prescriptions for chronic conditions, and stimulant dispensing, but no increases in diabetes management. Our study aims to contribute to the limited research by examining the impact of OHIP+ on emergency department (ED) visits among youths, specifically for all-cause ED visits, mental-health ED visits, and ambulatory care-sensitive conditions (ACSC). Our study will use the 2016 Canadian Census (CanCHEC), with linkages to health administrative data National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS). We leverage a difference-in-difference (DiD) approach to compare changes in ED visits for OHIP+ eligible individuals (ages 21-24) with non-eligible individuals and assess differences across socioeconomic status. Our results may drive discussions on the cost-effectiveness of public drug programs, their role in reducing ED visits, and their contribution to promoting preventive care and equitable healthcare access.

2. Impact of Cannabis legalization on Emergency Department visits among Substance Use Disorder Individuals

Gwen Ehi, York University; Elena Levitskaya, Yihong Bai, Peiya Cao, Kristine Ienciu, Chungah Kim, and Antony Chum, York University

Cannabis legalization in Canada on October 17, 2018, marked a significant shift in drug policy. Despite this, the effects on healthcare utilization, especially for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs), have not been well understood. This study used Interrupted Time Series (ITS) analysis to examine cannabis-related emergency department (ED) visits before and after legalization while also considering the added effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on visit patterns. Cannabis-related visits were identified using Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) codes, allowing for precise tracking of healthcare usage. The analysis showed a significant increase in cannabis-related ED visits following legalization, with younger individuals experiencing the most significant increase. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified this trend, resulting in an even more considerable increase in visits related to cannabis use. The findings suggest that cannabis legalization has had a clear impact on ED visit trends, with younger people mainly affected. The additional effect of the pandemic

highlights how external factors like public health crises can shape substance use. These study's results show there is a need for focused public health interventions to address the increasing demand for cannabis-related healthcare services, particularly for vulnerable groups such as those with SUDs. Healthcare systems need to adapt to the evolving landscape of substance use and cannabis legalization to ensure they can meet the needs of at-risk populations, especially in the face of global health challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. This study related to the Evaluating the Impacts of Public Policy on Health: A Quantitative Sociological Approach (HEA8) session by using ITS analysis to assess how cannabis legalization has impacted ED visits among individuals with SUDs. The study provides valuable insights into health inequities and offers guidance for public health interventions and policies addressing these issues.

3. Do social protection programmes have a causal effect on suicide mortality? A systematic review and meta-analysis

Inthuja Selvaratnam, York University; Chungah Kim, Gwen Ehi, Kristine Ienciu, Peiya Cao, Eddie Farrell, Haranie Sivakumar, Elena Levitskaya, and Antony Chum, York University

Suicide remains a significant global public health issue, with material deprivation consistently identified as a major risk factor in numerous studies. In response, both international and national strategies have advocated for the implementation of social protection programs as a potential multisectoral intervention to address suicide prevention. However, the widespread adoption of these programs often requires significant financial reallocation in national budgets, a decision complicated by the current lack of evidence directly linking social protection programs to reductions in suicide rates. To address this gap, we systematically review the available experimental and quasi-experimental studies published between January 1980 and September 2024, aiming to determine whether a causal relationship exists between social protection interventions and decreased suicide mortality. The review was conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. We conducted a comprehensive search of publications from January 1, 1980, to September 4, 2024, across ten electronic databases, including MEDLINE, PsycINFO, EMBASE, and the Applied Social Sciences Index Abstracts. Ten reviewers independently screened titles and abstracts using pre-specified eligibility criteria, and subsequently screened full-text articles. We included experimental and quasi-experimental studies that evaluated the effects of social protection interventions on suicide mortality. After screening 5,113 titles and abstracts spanning North and South America and Asia, we included 102 articles for full-text screening. Studies were categorized into five types of social protection interventions: Social Assistance, Social Care, Social Insurance, Labour Market Programs, and Other Related Programs (e.g., poverty reduction). The majority of studies focused on the impact of social assistance programs, such as conditional income supplement programs, followed by labor market programs, including unemployment insurance and tax-credit schemes. Our review suggests that the implementation of social protection programs could play a critical role in reducing suicide mortality. By synthesizing evidence from experimental and quasi-experimental studies, this review provides essential insights into the potential of social protection policies as a key strategy for suicide prevention.

(ITD4c) Social movements and digital technology III
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

Social movements are central to how citizens, groups, and organizations voice their dissatisfaction with existing power structures, trends, and current affairs with the aim of social change. Many social movements take advantage of the new possibilities afforded by digital media and integrate them into their mobilization and communication strategies, such as using hashtag campaigns on X (Twitter) and posting to TikTok and Telegram to mobilize and coordinate activities. Digital technologies are not neutral, they shape how social movements spread and engage. This session examines a wide range of topics including the role of platforms and their affordances and regulations, the role of influencers in social movements, and the spread across platforms and regions. Digital technology has been adopted by a range of social movements organizations.

Session Organizers: Andrey Kasimov, McMaster University, Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University, and Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary

Session Chair: Andrey Kasimov, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Domesticity Digitized: An Exploratory Analysis of the "Tradwife" Identity on TikTok
Meaghan Furlano, Western University and **William Hollingshead,** Toronto Metropolitan University; Charlotte Nau, Effie Sapuridis, Kaitlynn Mendes, Brittany Melton, and Sophia Attema, Western University

The "tradwife" phenomenon has recently garnered substantial academic and mainstream media attention. Much of this commentary has been laden with profound concern about tradwives' promotion of conservative values and potential links with right-wing, neo-fascist movements. Yet, limited research about tradwives exists. We understand social media tradwives as digital content creators whose postings curate and promote traditional gender roles. This paper presents a thematic analysis of 262 TikTok videos tagged #tradwife. We draw on the concept of social media identities and how these may be expressed through aesthetical expressions and narratives. Two research questions are posed: (RQ1) From what aesthetics do TikTok tradwives draw to perform their identities? And (RQ2) what narratives surrounding the tradwife identity are TikTok tradwives using? An aesthetic typology of TikTok tradwives is proposed, categorizing them into four groups: homesteading wives, 1950s housewives, contemporary wives, and "alternative" wives with non-traditional looks ("alt-wives"). We also identify three main narratives through which that tradwives justify their identities: romanticism, injury, and religion. Romanticism describes the notion that the tradwife lifestyle is idyllic, blissful, and filled with parental and marital love. The injury narrative revolves around a perceived harm caused by "systems" such as the government, the food industry, and feminism—against which traditional gender roles offer a response and form of resistance. Finally, many tradwives express religious (Christian) motivations for embracing submission to their husbands. Our analysis highlights that tradwife identities are more complex, nuanced, and diverse than existing research suggests. Rather than fitting one archetype, tradwives present multiple, often contrasting aesthetic expressions and offer a range of reasons for choosing their lifestyles. This paper also adds to a growing body of research on social movements on the Internet, helping shed light on the ways that gender roles are contested and redefined on social media platforms.

2. #No_To_ Execution: How Iranians Protest the Political Death Sentences on X (Twitter)

Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University and **Foroogh Mohammadi,** Acadia University

"No-To-Execution" [#نه-به-اعدام] is a fluctuating hashtag in the Iranian X (Twitter) that protestors use to condemn state-sanctioned violence against the opposition and others with death sentences. This hashtag is trended mostly to protest the political executions in Iran. In the midst of the extreme oppression and surveillance in relation to the political sphere activism and the on-street protests, social media provides a relatively safer context for the civic actions of Iranian protestors. Iranian X users engage in this platform to challenge the death sentences and make the state accountable for responding to public pressure. On the one hand, these platforms, such as X (Twitter), provide an opportunity for people who do not want to reveal their identities to protest anonymously to protect themselves against the regime's punishment. On the other hand, such platforms provide a context for those not concerned about their anonymity and those outside of Iran to be actively vocal in the digital public sphere. In this research, we conducted an ethnographic content analysis of posts (tweets) on X, including the No-To-Execution hashtag, to pressure the regime to stop the execution. Focusing on these posts regarding five death sentence cases, our findings demonstrate that the X users leverage a variety of claims, including but not limited to human rights laws, ethical considerations, and emotional tolls, to make the state accountable and pressure them to stop the execution.

(KNW2) Sociology, Sociologically: Sociologists Shaping Knowledge

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster

As a discipline, sociology has a wide range of tools, both theoretical and empirical, for considering the social world. What insights do those tools yield when they are turned inward, on the discipline itself? This session is focused on the application of sociological tools to the production, reception, reproduction, and translation of sociological knowledge. This might include examinations of sociological research (the production of sociological knowledge), the status accorded to sociological insights and sociologists (how sociological knowledge is evaluated), the teaching of sociology (how such knowledge is reproduced), or the role of national and regional cultures in creating sociology (how sociological knowledge is situated), among other possibilities.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. The role of SSHRC in LGBTQ+ knowledge production in Canada

Momo Tanaka, University of Toronto; Jessica Fields, Jen Gilbert, Kirsta Stapelfeldt, Lacey Bobier, and Mikaela Clarke, University of Toronto

This paper seeks to trace knowledge production in LGBTQ+ studies, with a focus on how the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) structures the foci of research and the contours of research activity in Canada. As the leading distributor of research funding since 1978, SSHRC represents a living archive of social science and humanities research in Canada and thus allows the tracking of dominant ideas and concerns in research fields over time (Milligan 2024). This

exploratory analysis examines a database of 5141 successful and unsuccessful applications of LGBTQ+ studies seeking SSHRC funding from 1992 to 2022. The analysis focuses on author-supplied keywords associated with these SSHRC applications, including analysis of the emergence and dissipation of keyword usage over time, the relations and co-occurrence of keywords, and the development of thematic communities that represent salient research interests. The discussion will critique the role of SSHRC as an actor in the production of LGBTQ+ knowledge in Canada—how do the patterns observed reflect the legitimizing power of SSHRC as a major funding body in Canadian postsecondary studies and how might SSHRC serve as a gatekeeper for certain ideologies, framings, and pursuits within LGBTQ+ studies? Additionally, I speculate about the relationship between SSHRC, the patterned interest in keywords, and relevant political and social events such as the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, movements for marriage equality, and battles over sexuality education in schools. As part of a larger project called "In Good Company: LGBTQ+ Studies in Canada, 1992-present," I will also touch on future directions for extending the line of inquiry into SSHRC's role as a knowledge actor within LGBTQ+ studies in Canada.

2. When sociological knowledge is constrained by the knowledge of sociologists

Ryder Gillespie, Université de Montréal

I will present the work I carried out as part of my doctoral thesis. This work looks at sociologists as social beings involved in an institution, sociology, which is itself involved in a wider space, that of society. More specifically, it focuses on a problem that preoccupies many sociologists, that of their recognition. Since the beginnings of modern sociology, and despite the fact that it is a growing discipline, sociologists have been confronted with a malaise, and some have even evoked the term 'crisis' to describe their state. A number of those who make this observation raise the question of its status as a 'science' and the need to find the terms of a unity around its explanation of reality, possibly a 'general theory'. Adopting a sociological perspective on such a problem may lead us to a paradoxical question: can sociology explain why sociologists do not agree on their explanations?
In order to resolve this paradox and provide an answer to this question my work, after establishing the problem, returns to various questions that affect the relationship of sociologists to 'social demand', their definition of 'science' and their definition of their object, the 'social'. We show that not only are sociologists engaged in social relations that dispossess them of their object, but, ultimately, that their definition of science maintains them in a state of uncertainty that leads them to comfort themselves with the idea that the specificity of sociology is a 'normal' state. However, by returning to a definition of the object, it is possible not only to agree on what sociologists have in common, but also to propose an explanatory model of the production of knowledge, applicable to sociology. A proposition that should resolve the paradox we initially positioned. In other words, to explain the difficulty to explain.

(PEP1) Committing Sociology for the Common Good: Bridging the gap between academia and public engagement

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: CSA Public Engagement and Professional Concerns Subcommittee

What is the relevance of sociology and sociologist for today's world? How do sociologists engage with the public to address contemporary social problems? Participants in this panel will engage with those questions while providing examples that illustrate how sociology and public sociology can

inform public debate, community activism and grassroots movements. Presentations will highlight how collaboration between sociologists and community organizations can incentivize positive social change. They will also discuss about the use of methodological tools to facilitate public engagement and the ethical implications of researching and collaborating with non-academic publics and vulnerable populations. By discussing the work of sociologists engaged with the public, this panel seeks ultimately to stress the fundamental role that the discipline of sociology can play in addressing today's most pressing social challenges.

Session Organizers: Eloy Rivas-Sanchez, Athabasca University, Tom Buchanan, Mount Royal University, and Suzanne McMurphy, University of Windsor

Session Chair: Eloy Rivas-Sanchez, Athabasca University

Presentations:

1. Public Sociology in Post-Conflict Settings: Learnings from Colombia

Camilo Tamayo Gomez, University of Huddersfield

The role of public sociology in post-conflict societies is crucial in fostering dialogue, recognition, and reconciliation. This presentation examines how victims' communities in post-conflict Colombia engage in public sociology through grassroots knowledge production to demand truth, justice, and reparation. Drawing on the case of 'Cartography and Identification of Mass Graves', an initiative led by victims in Eastern Antioquia, this study explores how civil society actors challenge official narratives, reconstruct social cohesion, and contribute to transitional justice processes. In the aftermath of the 2016 Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC, transitional justice mechanisms such as the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CEV) were established. However, beyond formal processes, victims' communities have become proactive in producing and mobilizing knowledge. This presentation highlights the 'Cartography and Identification of Mass Graves' initiative and its significant role in facilitating healing, mourning, and solidarity among victims' families, challenging state-controlled narratives and contributing to a more inclusive and participatory form of transitional justice.

2. Public Sociology from the Ground Up: Connecting Undergraduates in Sociology Programs to Sociological Work

Tom Buchanan, Mount Royal University

A recent survey reveals that sociology is one of the most misunderstood career paths, with many undergraduates unaware of the professional opportunities in sociology. While many students successfully move on to graduate programs, those who choose sociology as a major often struggle to find sociological jobs after graduation. As a result, many end up under-employed or abandon their passion for sociology. In this presentation, Tom Buchanan will discuss simple yet effective strategies for connecting sociology undergraduates with career opportunities. By presenting actionable practices that sociology departments can adopt, Buchanan aims to help students transition from academic study to sociological work in various sectors, ensuring that their academic training leads to meaningful employment and continued engagement with sociological principles.

(RAE6) Speaking Truth to Power: Confronting anti-Palestinian Racism, Indian Residential School Denialism, and Islamophobia

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

In his 1993 Reith Lecture, "Representations of the Intellectual", Palestinian Scholar Edward Said addressed the question of what it means to speak truth to power articulating the need to avoid the kind of cultural chauvinism that leads to pontificating "about abuses in someone else's society [while excusing] exactly the same practices in [one's] own." In his book Orientalism (1978), he addressed a specific need to challenge dominant narratives that reproduce hierarchical power relations where some forms of knowledge are considered more intellectually and culturally sophisticated than others. These insights continue to have resonance for those committing community engaged sociology and social science research in the current sociopolitical climate where propaganda and misinformation not only increasingly guide social policy, but also often govern the actions of communities of practice. Panelists Deema Abushaban, community educator, teacher and MA candidate, and Dr. Caroline Hodes, Associate Professor will be discussing the importance of auto-ethnographic and counter-storying approaches that challenge polarization in the context of genocide and its denial. As Blackfoot scholar Mike Farbis Krebs (2012) reminds us, Canada and Israel share similar methods of restricting the lives of Indigenous Peoples, and as Regan (2010), and Lowman and Barker (2015) remind us, the problem of genocide denial is not an Indigenous one, it is a settler problem that requires collective work to change. Through personal accounts that are inextricably linked to collective ones, the presenters will connect different forms of settler colonial violence that despite taking place at different times in different places, share common histories and thereby provide the foundation for reframing togetherness in ways that challenge mainstream articulations of belonging and dominant stories of self-defence.

Session Organizer and Chairs: Caroline Hodes, University of Lethbridge and Deema Abushaban, University of Lethbridge

Presentations:

1. Beloved Community, Co-Liberation, and Decolonizing Palestine Solidarity

Jess Notwell (nehiyaw/Métis/settler), King's University College

The very "coloniality of peace" (Maldonado-Torres, 2020) that perpetuates ongoing Israeli settler colonial genocide in Palestine has provoked unprecedented levels of violent anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia across and beyond Turtle Island. In post-secondary institutions, deployment of anti-Palestinian racism and weaponization of antisemitism racializes and erases the truths shared by Palestinian students, staff and faculty about Zionism and Israeli settler colonialism (Ayyash, 2022). Learning and enacting decolonization with Indigenous Elders, Palestinian community and students at King's University College, our stories illustrate that co-creating beloved community (King, 1968) across campus and with wider Palestinian, Muslim, Arab communities re-visibilizes and amplifies the truths and wisdom of Palestinian communities through solidarity as a "practice of decolonization" (Walia, 2014) rooted in decolonial empathy (Zembylas, 2021), hope, and decolonial love (Atallah, 2023). This paper highlights our annual From Turtle Island to Palestine Film Festival, Land Day Actions, and Elder-led Healing Circles as counter-stories of beloved community as/for co-liberation. Despite being labelled radical, revolutionary and uncivilized, we continue to act within

"constellations of co-resistance" (Simpson, 2017) as a tiny contribution to the struggle to free Palestine and to free us all.

2. Committing Sociology at the Times of Genocide

Benazir Shah, York University and **Rezvaneh Erfani,** University of Alberta

This paper examines how universities in Canada are complicit in naturalizing, dehumanizing, and dispossession of Palestinian people, promoting Zionist narratives, funding genocide, and silencing students from addressing the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We explore the role of academic institutions, seemingly the sites of knowledge production and dissemination, in particular on anti-colonial/ post-colonial theories (Said, 1978), while at the same time policing platforms of solidarity, advocacy, and critical discourse. We aim to contextualize this dehumanization, silencing and criminalization of students and teachers on campus in the processes of neo-liberal commodification of graduate schools. Drawing on global solidarity movements such as the Black Lives Matter (BLM), Palestinian solidarity movements, and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movements, we aim to examine how students engage in confronting the academic institutions and question their endorsement and funding of colonial violence. We draw on Edwards Said's (1978, 1993) theoretical contributions to the post-colonial, imperial, and anti-colonial struggles to study the complicity of Western universities and resistance/ solidarity movements.

3. Their Two-Spirit Journeys

Mickey Doyley, Western University

This research stems from an interest in colonial and religious impacts on gender, sexuality, and the roles individuals fulfill within society, along with passion for creating textile art. Self-determination continually arises in conversations about what it means to be Two-Spirit; understanding that the term Two-Spirit exists to aid Eurocentric populations in their attempt to understand a part of Indigenous culture and existence. While exposing one's queerness in the Western world is referred to as "coming out," Wilson (2016) provides a beautiful description of Two-Spirit folx interaction with identity: In the narratives of two-spirit people, "coming in" is not a declaration or an announcement. Rather, it is an affirmation of interdependent identity: an Aboriginal person who is glbt comes to understand their relationship to and place and value in their own family, community, culture, history and present-day world. (p. 196) I emphasize the importance of community and sharing culture, history, tradition, and knowledge; expressing power in creating space for others and building relationships with communities. Understanding that "Two-spirit identity is about circling back to where we belong, reclaiming, reinventing, and redefining our beginnings, roots, communities, support systems, and collective and individual selves. We 'come-in'" (Wilson, 2016, p. 198). My original undergraduate research with Two-Spirit (Laing, 2018) individuals uses Sharing Circles and interviews to explore the unique experiences of culture, tradition and Ceremony, including "coming in" (Wilson, 2016), as well as the impacts of colonization on their everyday lives. Reciprocity consisted of Sharing Circles with a Two-Spirit Elder to build community - a significant act of reciprocity (Wilson, 2008) due to difficulties experienced by many Two-Spirit people in connecting with community due to the ongoing impacts of colonization (Wilson, 2016). I will present handmade embroidery art honouring the stories of, and representing key research findings related to the embodied experiences of Two-Spirit participants.

4. Settler philanthropy, Palestine, and the colonial politics of distraction

Sanaa Ali-Mohammed and Fahad Ahmad, Toronto Metropolitan University

This paper contributes to a growing body of critical research examining how Canadian settler philanthropy constructs and operationalizes discourses of "justice" in their organizational policies and practices (Jung et al, 2023; Scott & Leach, 2024; Francis, 2019). To do this, we focus on philanthropy's engagement with Israel's devastating settler-colonial—and, according to human rights organizations, genocidal (Amnesty International, 2024)—violence in Gaza since October 2023. Specifically, we examine how philanthropic foundations have responded to the recent surge of grassroots Palestine solidarity in Canada. By critically analyzing the discourses mobilized by Canadian settler philanthropy (Jensen, 2013; Trimble, 2023)—conveyed through websites, newsletters, industry publications, podcasts, and professional development resources—between October 2023 and December 2024, we examine how the sector characterizes the Palestine solidarity movement and responds to its demands for decolonization and structural change. Our research highlights that the sector mobilizes a "politics of distraction" (George, 2020) through several discursive tactics. These help obscure settler colonial state violence, white supremacy, racism, genocide, and their contributing structures, in which settler philanthropy is often implicated. We argue that by relying on the politics of distraction while responding to the movement for Palestine solidarity, settler philanthropy mobilizes discourses of "justice" primarily to uphold and reproduce elite wealth and power. This raises questions about foundations' accountability to the racialized and Indigenous communities they claim to serve (Saifer & Zanoni, 2024).

(SOM1a) Sociology of Migration Open Session 1: Policy and politics of migration

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

The first of the three SOM open sessions broadly features studies on the processes/politics of policy-making of im/migration and immigrant political activities. Two papers explore politics surrounding specific policies (the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement and the 1973 Adjustment of Status Programs). Two other papers draw on theoretical perspectives, such as conditional hospitality, new economics of displacement, and stepwise international migration, in their explanations of states' im/migration policies and journey of displaced people. Another paper compares different levels of commitment to non-institutional political activities among Asian immigrants in Canada.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University
Presentations:

1. Framing immigration policy in the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement

Monica Gagnon, Toronto Metropolitan University

In a global climate of increasing volume and scrutiny of migration, this research interrogates how contemporary discourses of asylum-seeking are produced and reproduced in Canada and how they influence policy making. The work focuses on recent developments in the Canada-United States Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA). STCAs require asylum seekers to claim asylum in their first "safe" country of arrival. Because Canada considers the United States a safe country, asylum seekers

arriving at the land border with the United States may be turned back. However, the agreement has faced legal challenges on the basis that the United States is not safe, and refusing asylum seekers entry into Canada puts them at risk and violates Canada's international human rights commitments. This has become an increasing concern with the 2024 reelection of Donald Trump and his sweeping anti-immigration agenda. The research question guiding this work is: What are the origins of contemporary discourses around asylum seeking and how are they mobilized in Canadian immigration policymaking? The research focuses on discursive norms and policy developments beginning in 2017, when Trump's first term sparked renewed criticism of the STCA. My research unearths the political and moral arguments mobilized by different stakeholders, examines how they resonate with Canadians and Canadian political cultures, and shows how discourses inform policies and are in turn reproduced through policymaking. The overall goal is to better understand how immigration policies are justified. The paper argues that forces that shape Canadian immigration policy must be scrutinized, as they can have deleterious effects on people's lives. Policies that illegalize immigrants and asylum seekers create divisions between those who are considered belonging and not-belonging in Canada, calling into question Canada's identity as a multicultural nation. This work is especially important in our current historical moment of normalized nationalist and xenophobic discourse.

2. Negotiating Regularization: Lessons from the 1973 Adjustment of Status Program

David Moffette, University of Ottawa

In his 16 December 2021 mandate letter to the newly appointed Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship (IRCC), Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked him to "explore ways of regularizing status for undocumented workers who are contributing to Canadian communities". Those of us working with undocumented immigrants have followed closely - and at times attempted to shape - discussions about this potential regularization program. By the summer of 2024, it became clear however that there was no political will to go forward with such a program. This context led me to engage in archival research about the history of regularization programs in Canada to understand how and when they are used, and what is necessary for them to succeed. This paper looks at negotiations at play during the most significant regularization program in Canada's history, the 1973 *Adjustment of Status Program*. In the contested politics of mobility, programs to regularize undocumented immigrants always act simultaneously as progressive tools for social inclusion, and as bordering devices organized around states' assessment of desirability. Drawing on an analysis of institutional archival material, parliamentary debates, and news articles from that era, this paper explores the logics and practices of governmental actors involved in designing, promoting, and implementing the program. I show how, constrained by a short timeline and the pressure of advocacy groups, government officials repeatedly opted to ease the assessment of eligibility criteria. Ultimately, the paper demonstrates that a politics of regularization is fundamentally a politics of negotiation, and draws lessons that could inform contemporary programs. In his 16 December 2021 mandate letter to the newly appointed Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship (IRCC), Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked him to "explore ways of regularizing status for undocumented workers who are contributing to Canadian communities". Those of us working with undocumented immigrants have followed closely - and at times attempted to shape - discussions about this potential regularization program. By the summer of 2024, it became clear however that there was no political will to go forward with such a program. This context led me to

engage in archival research about the history of regularization programs in Canada to understand how and when they are used, and what is necessary for them to succeed. This paper looks at negotiations at play during the most significant regularization program in Canada's history, the 1973 *Adjustment of Status Program*. In the contested politics of mobility, programs to regularize undocumented immigrants always act simultaneously as progressive tools for social inclusion, and as bordering devices organized around states' assessment of desirability. Drawing on an analysis of institutional archival material, parliamentary debates, and news articles from that era, this paper explores the logics and practices of governmental actors involved in designing, promoting, and implementing the program. I show how, constrained by a short timeline and the pressure of advocacy groups, government officials repeatedly opted to ease the assessment of eligibility criteria. Ultimately, the paper demonstrates that a politics of regularization is fundamentally a politics of negotiation, and draws lessons that could inform contemporary programs.

3. Asian Landed Immigrants' Participation in High versus Low-Commitment Political Activities

Hongshu Wang, Western University

Existing Canadian studies have rarely examined landed immigrants' races/ethnicities and their participation in the increasingly popular non-institutional political forms like protests and petitioning. For this reason, this project focuses on (East, South, and Southeast) Asian landed immigrants' non-institutional political participation patterns because many Canadian landed immigrants are from the regions, and non-Canadian studies have found Asian immigrants to be less political due to their source countries' political culture influence. This Canadian study examines whether Asian immigrants from authoritarian regimes differ in their non-institutional political participation likelihood compared to those from democratic regimes. It also examines different participation likelihood in two high-commitment (1. attending political meetings and 2. protesting) and two low-commitment political activities (1. boycotting and 2. petitioning). The project used the 2021 Canadian Election Study that had variables on landed immigrants' country of origin. Authoritarian or democratic regime types are examined using the 2021 Democracy Index. Through running logistic regressions, I found that Asian landed immigrants were more likely to participate in high- but not low-commitment activities compared to native-born Canadians. However, regime types are not associated with forms of political activities. Still, Asian landed immigrants' higher likelihood to participate in high-commitment activities implies that the shared experience of racial discrimination may motivate them to use the more effective high-commitment political forms, suggesting their specific demands in Canadian societies and the need to address their concerns. Their lower likelihood to participate in low-commitment activities may be related to their preference for high-commitment political activities.

4. The Making of Performative Cosmopolitanism in Immigration Policy: The Paradox of State-Controlled Hospitality

Chenyu Liu, University of Manitoba

As two traditional immigration countries, the United States and Canada have shifted from relatively open-border policies toward newcomers and would-be immigrants to forms of stringent regulations and exclusionary measures. The recent radical discourses surrounding the potential implementation of policies aimed at deporting mixed migrant and refugee families and denying natural citizenship to newborns whose parents are non-citizens or non-permanent residents in the

U.S., along with the Immigration Minister's use of the phrase "not everyone is welcome" to Canada, significantly jeopardize the realization and preservation of cosmopolitan virtues—freedom to voyage across borders and rights of residence in foreign places without being treated as vagabonds or enemies. Indeed, cosmopolitanism has been undermined by the resurgence and endorsement of Trumpism and right-wing autochthonous nationalisms and localism. This paper first synthesizes the literature on the intrinsic interconnectedness of international migration and cosmopolitanism. It then argues that the cosmopolitan ideals embraced by the two countries are more confined to the "performative" realm than expressing authentic universal hospitality and empathy to newcomers and would-be immigrants. Drawing on Jacques Derrida's notion of *conditional hospitality*, the paper articulates a paradox of contemporary immigration policies within the North American context. It manifests in the gap between rhetorical commitments to global mobility and inclusivity and increasingly exclusive immigration policies that reinforce border securitization, economic selectivity, and migrant exclusion and deportation. As "a matter of life and death," the frequent delays and denials caused by bureaucracy and confusing immigration regulations—as public policy scholars Pamela Herd and Donald Moynihan call *administrative burdens*—make international movements increasingly challenging. The paper demonstrates how state-controlled hospitality upholds global inequalities between North and South instead of helping mitigate them, inherently undermining genuine cosmopolitanism and making it elusive to realize in liberal democracies.

5. Negotiating Refuge: Stepwise Migration of Sociological Refugees

Alicia Poole, McGill University

Forced migration journeys are typically years long processes fraught with uncertainties, including, but not limited to, precarious legal status, access to education and employment, varying levels of material and social support from UN organizations and NGOs, and decisions of whether to wait for the chance of resettlement, return home, or attempt to move further independently. While there is a growing literature investigates clandestine refugee journeys to seek asylum in Europe, there is less research on the migration journeys of those who use 'legal' migration channels to settle in the Global North. Interviews with Iraqis displaced in the years following the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, the subsequent occupation, and ensuing war and sectarian violence who settled in Canada as refugees and economic migrants reveal the strategies that sociological refugees use over the changing course and conditions of their displacement. Building from the new economics of displacement and stepwise international migration theories, I outline the unintentional stepwise international migration trajectory that sociological refugees take to secure permanent residence outside their country of origin.

(URS1) Urban Policy and Public Spaces

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Urban Sociology Research Cluster

This session features papers that focus on the theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues pertaining to urban sociology.

Session Organizer: Andrew Crosby, Carleton University
Session Chairs: Daniel Kudla, Memorial University and Matthew Patterson, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. Public Space on Wheels: Social Norms and Order in City Buses

Susan Goli, Memorial University

This paper examines how social order and norms are maintained and challenged in city bus as a public space. Using ethnography, I study instances of accepted norms and their violations, such as loud conversations, the performance of privacy, and verbal and non-verbal cues of social order within a bus. Unlike the existing literature emphasizing urban nodes and metropolitan areas, where public transportation is the most logical option to save time and avoid traffic, to study the microcosm of buses, this study takes place in a relatively small city, St. John's, where public transportation is limited to bus and taxi, changing the meaning of bus riding. As a somewhat rural area, St. John's residents primarily use personal cars and buses are already additionally stigmatized as being for those from lower socio-economic classes, students, and newcomers. Findings show that age, locality, and clothing are the prominent factors in determine who can bend social order, establish a norm, or face the social consequences of challenging social orders.

2. "I Don't Count": Identity Negotiation and Family Language Dynamics of Rural-Urban Migrants

Ziwen Mei, University of British Columbia

This ethnographic case study investigates the language dynamics of Chinese families who migrated from rural to urban areas, often referred to as rural migrant families, in relation to their identity negotiation. Despite rural migrants' central role in urban growth, they are relegated to urban peripheries. Navigating the urban langscape with constrained resources, rural migrant families' language dynamics constitute multifaceted decision-making, such as societal integration through the mainstream language, family bonding through their hometown topolects, and future advancement through recognized linguistic skills in the host city. With the framework of family language policy (King et al., 2008) and the lens of identity (Darvin & Norton, 2015), I collected data through six-month participant observation with five rural migrant families, semi-structured interviews with each family member, direct observation via audio recordings, and collecting multimodal artifacts. Findings revealed that, while families aspired for an urban identity, they often enacted "self-exclusion," distancing themselves from the specific host city. This self-exclusion manifested differently across families and individual members, with varying criteria for identifying as "non-local." Parents navigated a complex interplay between maintaining their hometown topolects and fostering aspirations for their children's assimilation into urban society through standard Mandarin. Some children positioned themselves as neither-nor between their birthplace and the host city, with the use of hometown topolects mediating their attachment to the birthplace. In contrast, two adolescents in these families self-excluded themselves from daily family interactions as a means of severing their connections to rurality. I argue that rural-urban migration is a protracted and conflicted process, wherein identity transitions from rurality to urbanity are not necessarily tied to physical relocation. Family language dynamics and identity negotiation reciprocally shape each other in the process, often with costs to individual and familial well-being.

3. Governance Responses to Urban Informality: A Study on the Global North-South Divide

Wasifa Tasnim Shamma and Daniel Kudla, Memorial University

Homelessness and informal housing are global issues that need to be understood in regional contexts, and multiple policy dynamics. Across the Global North, including Canada and the United States, homeless encampments are a growing crisis in the cities. In Canada, homelessness is a structurally induced condition, and the rise of homeless encampments is directly associated with a national human rights crisis. In the Global South, the burgeoning of slums, and squatter settlements is a product of rapid urban growth during the last five decades. The slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh have become the warehouse of an overwhelming number of urban poor, unhealthy living conditions, and criminal activities due to unplanned urbanization and lack of legal governance structures. Globally, city-level governance operates with distinctive political economies and different mechanisms to address the increasing crises and precarity of informal housing. Although several studies have already explored governance responses to these informal urbanization processes, reworking is needed to understand whether city-level authorities are currently implementing right-based approaches for combating the housing crises of the urban poor across the Global North-South divide. Therefore, it is central to our research to explore the non-typical and non-punitive governance responses to the housing crisis, and precarity for portraying a richer and regional picture of inadequate housing, informal settlements, and city-level responses. Also, this study has robust promises to identify the opportunities and obstacles to creating rights-based premises to help the governance across spaces shape and reshape their policies and strategies for coping with the current housing crises. We will purposively select Toronto, a mega city of Canada, and Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh as the huge concentration of urban marginality and employ a review of existing policies and programs of urban governances, and in-depth interviews with slum and encampment residents and city officials of both poles.

4. The Global NTE Model Space: Examining the Shape and Adoption of NTE Policy Discourse in Anglophone and Chinese Cities

Tong Wang, University of Toronto

The nighttime economy (NTE) has emerged as a centerpiece of urban development in the post-industrial city. The expansion of the NTE comprehensively pushes urban operations into a new temporal frontier, prompting the recent emergence and rapid international diffusion of distinctive NTE governance initiatives: over 40 cities have created "night mayors" to identify working solutions in the NTE; many have issued dedicated strategies to create a vibrant nightlife as a key competitive edge. While a small urban literature examines the international variation of NTE governance institutions, we need a larger, more comprehensive exploration of the adoption of specific components of initiatives, especially the substantive content of documents across cities. There is an overall neglect of rapid developments of NTE initiatives in China, which has been identified as a key exception in the overall Western-centered policy mobility literature due to its unique political and cultural context. The rapid growth of NTE policies across both Anglophone and Chinese cities provides an opportunity to examine the potential policy diffusion across drastically distinct policy-making terrains. Mobilizing the framework of Urban Model Space (Keidar and Silver 2022), this paper employs Structural Topic Modeling and multiple regression to examine the global discursive space of the NTE model using a corpus of 86 policy documents across 13 Anglophone cities and 7 Chinese cities. It is guided by the following two-part research question: First, using topic modelling, I ask, what are the key discursive topics of the emerging NTE urban model space across Anglophone and Chinese cities? Second, using regression analysis on the topics identified, I ask, what plausible

causes predict the adoption of these topics? Preliminary analysis of the Anglophone sample identifies eight NTE discourses clustering around "Economic and Cultural Significance", "Negative Externalities" and "NTE Strategies", and finds various factors along the dimensions of temporality, scale and position that significantly affect the adoption of discourses.

(CRM5) Women as Offenders: Gendered Stereotypes and Social Realities
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

Mass media narratives serve as a powerful lens through which to analyze and interpret the multifaceted reality of criminality at the intersection of gender and crime. From films and television shows, to news articles, online forums and social media content, how women are represented in crime both reflects and shapes societal responses. These narratives tend to sensationalize or dismiss the severity of a crime due to the offender being a woman, thereby reinforcing stereotypes surrounding traditional modes of violence, crime, masculinity and femininity. This session features contributions that highlight the intricate role the mass media plays in perpetuating stereotypes related to the perception of female offenders.

Session Organizer and Chair: Anastasia D'Amario, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. The Sociology of Rural Girls in Conflict With the Law: What We Know and Do Not Know
Walter S. DeKeseredy, West Virginia University; Donna Selman, Washington State University

Few North American researchers have examined rural girls' pathways to crime, deviance, and confinement in penal settings. Most of the extant literature on you in conflict with the law, in fact, centers on inner-city boys, especially those who are African-American and Latino, which sidelines the experiences of girls from rural and remote communities characterized by patriarchal norms, values, and beliefs. The main objective of this paper is to describe the current state of sociological knowledge about North American rural girls in conflict with the law and to suggest new directions in understanding this problem. More specifically, answers to these questions are provided: What do we know? How do we know it? What are the next steps?

2. What/Who Can be a "Good Mother" In Prison Space?
Neha Anna Thomas and **Olga Marques,** Ontario Tech University

Through the frame of collective memory and a narrative tracing of the documentary *Prison Moms*, by VeraCity (CityTV), this paper reimagines the literature on mothering while prisoned. *Prison Moms* follows the experiences of three federally prisoned Canadian women, as they navigate mothering during and after their sentences. While Correctional Service of Canada does not collect this data, the Office of the Correctional Investigator estimates that approximately 66% of federally prisoned women are mothers. While the *Prison Moms* documentary focuses heavily on the Institutional Mother- Child Program, the reality is that in the over 20 years that this program has existed, only 154 mothers have participated. An average of 5 mothers per year across Canada. We unravel notions of idealized motherhood and mothering in general, in recognition of the historical injustices and violences inflicted upon mothers, particularly Indigenous and racialized mothers. This paper focuses on the rearticulations of appropriate or *good*motherhood by the carceral state as a

regulatory practice that mirrors historical policies of forced child-parent separation and removal under the guise of 'best interests' and rescue.

3. A Carnival of Crime in Happy Valley: An Exploration of Gender and Policing

Emma Smith and **Doug Thomson,** Humber Polytechnic; Sophia Pacini, McMaster University

Police-centered television series immerse audiences in a world of suspense, justice, and moral complexity, while simultaneously shaping public narratives around crime and law enforcement. Popular policing storylines—focused on chase and apprehension—remain compelling across cultural contexts, particularly in the United Kingdom. This paper examines the character tropes, narrative structures, and gender dynamics in *Happy Valley* (2014-2023), focusing on the ways gendered representations of police officers are constructed. Presdee's (2000) 'carnival of crime' concept, used to emphasize the colliding experiences of boredom, escapism and transgression in late modernity, serves as the theoretical lens for this research paper. This cultural criminology investigation calls for a reconsideration of audience privilege, an examination into mainstream media's active critique (and reproduction) of the true crime genre and a greater awareness on the institutional controls and gendered stereotypes in our present lives.

4. Every Boy's Dream?: How Media Narratives Minimize Female-Perpetrated Sexual Abuse and Male Victimhood

Anastasia D'Amario, Toronto Metropolitan University

This paper examines the pervasive cultural denial of male victimhood in cases of female-perpetrated sexual abuse, arguing that society's discomfort with acknowledging such cases stems from stereotypic notions of hegemonic gender norms and power dynamics. These harmful beliefs are imparted and exacerbated by biased media narratives in the framing of female teacher-male student sexual abuse cases. This research highlights how hegemonic perceptions of 'masculinity' and 'femininity', shaped by media framing, affect legal and social attitudes, resulting in a dissonance where female agency is minimized and male victimhood is denied. Female offenders are often portrayed as less culpable, and male victims as willing participants in their own rape, due to gender-stereotypic presumptions exacerbated by the narratives surrounding understandings of criminality and victimhood. The phenomenon of male victimhood denial can be attributed to 'gender blindness' as a result of this media conditioning. In this paper, gender blindness refers to the failure of social institutions - such as news media, school boards, and the criminal justice system - to recognize and adequately address the impact of gendered biases, framed by the media and gender-specific laws, on understanding and acknowledging male experiences of sexual victimization. Within this context, rape has been framed almost exclusively to consist of a male perpetrator and a female victim, which has shaped gender-specific legal definitions and policies. As a result, the recognition of male rape victims has progressed far slower, leading to a significant gap in the literature for addressing the experiences of noninstitutionalized, vulnerable young males who are not subject to extensive study by the academic community. This narrow focus has not only contributed to considerable harm for and marginalization of male victims, but has also resulted in a lack of punitive responses and treatment for female sexual offenders. Essentially, society regards male sexual abuse as less of a problem (or not a problem at all). In addressing the intersections of gender, power, and crime, this research seeks to inform a more inclusive discourse on gendered sexual abuse and social and legal responses.

(EDU5b) Sociology of Education in K-12: School Leadership and Teacher Perspectives
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features papers that draw on empirical, theoretical or methodological issues in the realm of K-12 education.

Session Organizer and Chair: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

Presentations:

1. Countering Institutional Adultism: How School Leaders Engage Racialized Student Voice

Janay Eccles, University of Toronto

During the COVID-19 pandemic, independent school students of colour requested channels to share voice with their senior leaders about their school experiences (Mastroianni, 2021). However, little research has been conducted on how these executive-level leaders have continued to engage with racialized student voice in the years following 2020. While previous research has focused on how public-school principals facilitate student voice, there is a dearth of literature on racialized student voice, particularly in Canadian independent school contexts. Thus, this qualitative study explored how eleven senior leaders in independent schools conceptualized racialized student voice, what barriers they encountered when seeking to engage with students of colour, what opportunities existed for engagement with racialized student voice, and what strategies leaders employed to hear voice. Adultism and culturally responsive school leadership provided lenses through which to understand senior leaders' experiences. Data was derived from two rounds of semi-structured interviews, document review, and an observation of one senior leader's practice. After multiple cycles of coding, seven themes emerged: (1) differentiating between student voice and racialized student voice, (2) redefining voice as more than projection, (3) critiquing assumptions related to student voice, (4) reimagining school culture and traditions, (5) moving from 'power over' to 'power with', (6) adopting critical self-reflexivity, and (7) welcoming all stakeholder voice. The findings from this study contribute to nascent scholarship on how adultism is perpetuated in schooling through personnel, personal practices, school programs, and school structures. Moreover, the study's findings elucidate how educational leaders are enacting relational power and treating community members as partners, not clients, in order to engage with racialized student voice in schools. The study concludes with implications for practice and considerations for future research.

2. How equitable are our schools? A school division investigation into staff and students' perspectives of equity

Alison Molina-Giron, University of Regina

Unequal educational outcomes among First Nation, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students along with a steady increase in minoritized student population prompted the Four Corners (FC) school division to investigate the perceptions of equity and inclusion among staff members and students in Grades 6 to 12. For example, in the 2023-24 academic year, 51% FNMI students graduated in three years after entering Grade 10 compared to 81% of non-FNMI students (Board of Education, 2024). Similarly, 46.7% of FNMI read at or above grade level compared to 71.5% of non-FNMI students (Board of Education, 2024). An important goal of this division-wide research is to identify, from the perspective of stakeholders, school division policies, practices and procedures that lead to unequal

educational student outcomes. Three questions guide this school equity survey research: a) What are the perceptions of equity and inclusion in the FC school division among students, teachers, and staff? b) Are there any differences in the perceptions of equity and inclusion between minority and non-minority students, teachers and staff? If so, what explains such differences? c) Are there any differences in the perceptions of equity and inclusion between students and educators (e.g., teachers and staff)? If so, what explains such differences? Data collection took place between November 2024 and January 2025. A total of 7514 Grade 6-12 students, approximately 51%, and 1004 staff members, approximately 60%, completed the I Belong Surveys. The surveys ask questions regarding stakeholders' experiences with equity, diversity and inclusion in their schools and their sense of belonging. It also collects identity-based data (e.g., race/ethnicity, Indigenous identity, and sexual orientation). Preliminary data analysis seems to indicate that school staff (e.g., teachers) have more positive perceptions of school equity in comparison to especially minoritized students, findings supported by previous research (Bottiani et al., 2016; Debman 2014, 2021).

3. Teacher Mentorship in the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Dual Auto-Ethnography from a Small Ontario School Board

Yvonne Runstedler, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and **Stacey Fraser,** Wellington Catholic District School Board

Effective, timely, and responsive new teacher mentorship is a challenging practice at any stage, but the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges involved in this endeavour. As consecutive NTIP leads in a small south-western Ontario school board, we first explain mentorship in the COVID-19 pandemic context. We situate our methodology in dual transformative auto-ethnography, then contextually review our own planning and programming for NTIP in the pandemic. We follow this review with reflexive analysis, applying Hernandez, Chang and Bilgen's (2022) transformative auto-ethnographic framing questions and intersectional considerations. We conclude by noting that the tensions of providing meaningful transformative mentorship, with grassroots teacher-centered intersectional considerations can be hindered by the systemic nature of NTIP.

4. An Intersectional Narrative Inquiry into Why Black and Racialized Teachers Quit the Profession

Laxana Paskaran, York University; Salsabel Almanssori, University of Windsor

Why do Black and racialized teachers leave the teaching profession, and what systemic factors and lived experiences contribute to their decisions? Our study uses narrative inquiry methodology, a qualitative research approach that centers on the lived experiences of participants to explore how they make sense of their personal and professional realities through storytelling. We use an intersectional framework to address gaps in understanding teacher attrition among Black and racialized teachers by examining the interconnectedness of race, class, gender, and other social categories. Recognizing these intersections is crucial for unpacking the unique experiences of groups such as Muslim and Black women, whose challenges in the profession are shaped by overlapping systems of oppression that extend beyond generic discussions of teacher attrition. Our study yielded six thematic threads: emotional labour and cultural taxation, subtle and overt systemic racial violence, the tension between identity and professionalism, technology-facilitated harassment, and disillusionment with school leadership and institutional inaction. Out of the five participants, two were American and three were Canadian, thus, our study considered race and racism in both

contexts. The findings reveal the compounded challenges Black and racialized teachers face, where professional demands intersect with systemic marginalization. While contemporary institutional failures impact all teachers, these challenges are multiplicatively exacerbated for Black and racialized educators, as pervasive systemic inequities intersect with their social locations. Our study's findings remain consistent with existing literature on the issue, including racially specific stressors, such as workload and proving competency, tensions between personal teaching philosophies and educational practices, and disillusionment with school administration. In addition, our study expands existing literature by naming the online harm faced by racialized teachers, as technology-facilitated violence.

(ENV3) Biodiversity and Society
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

It is widely understood that the sixth mass extinction is underway and will only escalate in future decades. Yet even in the midst of this crisis, many communities, such as many Indigenous communities, natural-history groups, and conservation practitioners are consistently cultivating close relationships with the natural world and advocating for programs and policies to maintain, protect and/or restore the environment. Papers submitted to this session may address the variety of ways people interact with the animals, plants, fungi, and other aspects of ecological systems that are at once meaningful relations to many and increasingly at risk. This may include but is not limited to the loss of biodiversity, the ways different communities are working to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems, discourses related to biodiversity or wildlife, and policy and governance related to biodiversity. This is a joint session between the Environmental Sociology research cluster and the Environmental Studies Association of Canada.

Session Organizers: Christine Beaudoin, Université de l'Ontario français and Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico
Session Chairs: Christine Beaudoin, Université de l'Ontario français and Lisa Seiler, York University

Presentations:

1. Quantifying nature in Québec : actors, political scales and local stakes around biodiversity indicators
Claire Burnel, Université de Montréal

This PhD project aims to study the socio-political processes at play in biodiversity conservation in Quebec, by observing the current production and development of biodiversity indicators in the province. The idea is to propose an ethnography and a socio-history of the development of indicators for protected areas and endangered species, in order to understand the actors at play in these two examples, and the power relationships between them. Who is and isn't considered a legitimate expert in biodiversity conservation in Quebec? What political intentions might these experts claim? What kinds of controversies and debates take place between the stakeholders who do have a seat at the table? What is the influence and importance of the different juridical scales in the choice of indicators? This last point is particularly important as indicators are pushed into national and local political agendas by international political arenas such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. Moreover, Quebec has its own particularities regarding its policies on

biodiversity which must be put into perspective with federal policies. Indigenous input must also be investigated to see if and how Indigenous communities are heard when developing these technical tools to manage biodiversity. As quantitative tools which are seen as paramount to policymaking and decision-making, biodiversity indicators sometimes hide whatever debates and controversies preceded their use in policymaking behind a "black box", which is difficult to put into question once they're institutionalized. They also crystallize the power relationships and local stakes when focusing debates on what should and should not be taken into account when measuring biodiversity health, all the while some actors are absent from these debates. As such, looking into their production allows us to understand how and by whom the indicators are measured, and how these actors might normatively affect representations and management of biodiversity.

2. Surveying Participants of the Canadian Bat Box Project

Christine Beaudoin, Université de l'Ontario français; Karen Vanderwolf, University of Waterloo, James Page and Emily Becker, Canadian Wildlife Federation

Supporting bats throughout their life cycle is a conservation priority, as bats provide many benefits such as pollination and control of insect pests. Unfortunately, the disease white-nose syndrome, among other threats, have had devastating effects on bat and three bat species are now endangered in Canada. The purpose of bat boxes is to replace habitat destroyed by humans to help conserve bat populations. From 2020 to 2023, the Canadian Bat Box Project was a citizen science that gathered data on bat boxes owned by people in Canada (e.g. styles, dimensions, number of chambers, mounting conditions), the microclimates of different boxes, the presence of pathogens in the boxes, and the number of bats of different species that use bat boxes. Approximately 1500 people from across Canada participated in the project, generating ecological data about bat boxes. Yet, we have more to learn about the environmental attitudes and behaviors of these citizen scientists. We will present preliminary results of a post-project survey with people who participated in the Canadian Bat Box Project. By surveying participants about their experiences with the Canadian Bat Box Project, we explore engagement with the citizen science project, opportunities and barriers to participating in citizen science as well as attitudes and behaviors towards bats. The project has three objectives: (1) Describe engagement in the Canadian Bat Box Project, (2) Understand how participants of the project view environmental issues and how they behave in relation to the environment and (3) Use the results to write practical and policy recommendations for bat conservation in Canada and for future citizen science projects. We aim to inform practice, policy, and decision-making relating to bat conservation in Canada, thus supporting organizations with a mission to conserve biodiversity such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation, key partner in the citizen science project and post-project survey.

3. Tick Talk: Black-Legged Ticks as Actants in Outdoor Nature Activities

Lisa Seiler, York University

With a warming climate, black-legged ticks have moved into and spread across much of Ontario, bringing the threat of Lyme disease and other serious diseases with them. Their presence has caused changes in the behaviour of hikers and other outdoor nature enthusiasts. It has also affected the behaviour of the clubs that support them and the parks where they spend their time. Taking an actor-network theory approach (Latour 2005), my research traces the arrival of ticks in Ontario and their subsequent effect on outdoor nature enthusiasts, as mediated by parks, nature-related clubs,

and other organizations. My research question is: How does the consideration of non-human actants improve our understanding of outdoor nature enthusiasts' response to climate change? My primary sources of data are in-depth interviews with representatives of nature-related organizations as well as social media posts from those organizations, supplemented by other textual material.

4. One Goes Up and One Goes Down: can Ecological Footprint be used to Measure Human Impacts on Biodiversity?

Peri Dworatzek, York University

An enormous impact of climate change is loss of biodiversity around the world, including a catastrophic loss of wildlife. For decades there have been debates about how to measure biodiversity and human impacts on biodiversity. One metric that has been identified as measuring human impacts on the environment and biodiversity is ecological footprint. Ecological footprint measures human production and consumption of the Earth's renewable resources, while comparatively biocapacity measures the regenerative capacity of lands and waters and their capacity to absorb waste generated by humans. This accounting system measures flows of biomass from ecosystem services, which provides the ability to monitor pressures on the environment caused by humans. Ecological footprint and biocapacity data is produced on an annual basis for all countries around the world from 1961 to the last present year - thereby an extensive, reliable, and updated source for assessing impact. In this paper the ecological footprint, not biocapacity, was found to be a suitable and valuable measurement of human pressures on biodiversity, however, it should not be used alone. Additionally, through statistical analysis a significant negative correlation was found between ecological footprint and vertebrate species loss on a global scale.

(FEM2c) Resisting Violence: Gendered and Feminist Interventions in the Struggles for Justice

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session brings together papers that explore interventions and resistance to gender-based violence, with a focus on the legal system, feminist anti-violence work, and grassroots and transnational feminist organizing.
Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presentations:

1. Rape Myths in Court

Natalie Snow and Brook Madigan, Niagara University

Identifying rape myths is crucial because they perpetuate harmful stereotypes and misconceptions about sexual assault, which can lead to victim-blaming and a lack of support for survivors. These myths can deeply impede the administration of justice within sexual assault trials, as they may influence the perceptions and decisions of jurors and judges. Accepting rape myths can result in

survivors experiencing re-victimization during trials, further traumatizing them and discouraging others from coming forward. It is essential to challenge and debunk these myths to ensure a more robust system that protects survivors and promotes fair trials. Additionally, extensive training for the judiciary is needed to prevent the influence of rape myths in courtrooms and to uphold justice for survivors. The study explores the prevalence of rape myths in sexual assault trials in superior court of Ontario on CANLII. Rape myths not only cause harm to survivors of sexual assault, but they also deeply impede the administration of justice within sexual assault trials. Employing content analysis, the study identifies five primary themes analyzed in 70 randomized sexual assault cases in Ontario. The study found rape myths to be present among the cases analyzed. Findings conclude that (1) there needs to be a more robust system in place ensuring justice and protection of SA survivors from experiencing re-victimization during sexual assault trials, and (2) more extensive training is needed in the judiciary who preside in sexual assault cases in Ontario.

2. Success on the Front-Lines?: Defining "Success" in Feminist Anti-Violence Work

Lisa Boucher, Trent University

What counts as "success" in feminist anti-violence work? How do those working in the sector characterize this "success"? And what kinds of supports and resources are needed to ensure individual and organizational success in the future? With goals to meaningfully address gender-based violence and to support victims/survivors of this violence, many feminist anti-violence organizations offer services while also working towards more long-term visions of social, political and cultural change. Fulfilling multifaceted and complex roles, organizations and anti-violence workers navigate challenges at the micro, meso and macro levels. They engage in demanding gendered labour which requires specialized skills and knowledge, but which is also routinely undervalued, under-resourced, and overlooked. Despite constraints and challenges facing their work, feminist anti-violence service organizations persist and continue to provide vital services and advocacy. Informed by social movement theory and a feminist political economy lens, this paper offers reflections on the continuation of feminist anti-violence work in Canada. Drawing on a qualitative study with two feminist sexual assault centers, I explore how feminist anti-violence service providers conceptualize "success" in their work. Additionally, I discuss factors which contribute to, or impede and undermine, organizational success and social justice goals. This study included in-depth interviews, a content analysis of organizational documents and the use of photovoice to examine how individuals and organizations make sense of and articulate challenges and successes on the front-lines of struggles to respond to gender-based violence. While feminist anti-violence workers spoke of a range of factors which facilitated both individual and organizational success, they also identified structural barriers to success, as well as the resources needed to ensure their work is sustainable in the face funding challenges and growing and complex community need.

3. Transnational Feminist Relationality and Intervention in Violence

Jane Ku, University of Windsor

This paper proposes an anti-imperial transnational feminist intervention of the violence engendered by racial neoliberal capitalism and neo-imperialism that have been firmly supported by securitization and militarization by the US and many of its allies. Taking lessons from scholars on pluriverse and multiple worlds (Blaser 2009; 2013; de la Caldena 2010; Fitzgerald 2024; Ling 2014; Mignolo 2021; Rojas 2016) who question the political ontology of modernist world that imposes the

universality of human/nature, male/female and other essentialist binaries that have normalized scarcity thinking, competition, militarism, surveillance, extractivism, labour and sex exploitation and marginalization of beings that are deemed less than human, the paper proposes an alternative for thinking about feminist solidarity and analyzing global and local power relations. This paper demonstrates the connections and parallels between for example, racisms against Muslims and Asians stemming from colonialism and imperialism that also dispossessed Indigenous peoples and enslaved Blacks Africans. It names the way racialized, colonized diasporic peoples are flattened into "migrants" and outsiders through the historical amnesia of nationalism and settler colonialism, along with the distortions and the general lack of knowledge about our collective imperial histories that continue to exalt white European subjects and Christian superiority (Thobani 2007) while demarcating racialized diasporics as beings from undemocratic and authoritarian spaces of Communism, Islamic Fundamentalism, Terrorism and Underdevelopment. Such ahistoricized views and discourses have justified and produced racialized gender violence across the world. The paper explores popular and progressive social movement discourses to identify the activation of relationality and pluriversal care built upon ontological parity of multiple worlds and articulating a discursive and actual solidarity among, by and for diversity of peoples.

(GAS10) Advancing LGBTQ2S+ Quantitative Health Research for Public and Social Policy
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

This session features scholars who utilize quantitative approaches to explore health disparities and well-being within LGBTQ2S+ communities. The recent inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in key datasets—such as the 2021 Canadian Census, the Canadian Community Health Survey, and large-scale linked sources like the U.S. All of Us Survey and the UK Household Longitudinal Survey—presents new opportunities for understanding the health trajectories and social determinants impacting LGBTQ2S+ populations. Presentations assess the impacts of health policies, social interventions, and structural influences on LGBTQ2S+ health.

Session Organizer and Chair: Antony Chum, York University

Presenters:

1. Disparities in Emergency Department Visits Among Children from Same-Sex Versus Opposite-Sex Couples: a study using linked Canadian Census data
Peiya Cao, Yihong Bai, Kristine Ienciu, and Antony Chum, York University; David Brennan, University of Toronto

Due to minority stress, children from same-sex couples may be more likely to report poorer health than those from opposite-sex couples; however, prior evidence was based on self-reported health outcomes. This study adds to the literature by examining disparities in emergency department (ED) visits between these groups. Using linked health administrative data, we used Coarsened exact matching to identify comparable groups of children from same-sex and opposite-sex couples from Ontario and Alberta. We then performed Cox regression to estimate the hazards of mental health between the 2 groups. We further classified mental health into broad diagnostic categories: substance, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and deliberate self-harm-related behaviors. Children of same-sex parents had a 1.52 times higher risk of mental health-related ED visits (95% CI: 1.05-

2.20) compared to those of opposite-sex parents. Elevated risks were observed for male children, younger children aged 10-14, and urban residents. Children of female same-sex parents faced higher risks for anxiety and mood disorders compared to those of opposite-sex parents, while no significant differences were observed for children of male same-sex parents. In a large population-based sample of residents from Ontario and Alberta, this study identified that children from same-sex couples are at an elevated risk for mental health-related ED visits. Increased education and awareness among health professionals are essential to enhance sensitivity and provide better support for children from same-sex couples.

2. Exploring Sexual Orientation Disparities in Avoidable Emergency Visits and Hospitalizations Across Canada

Gwen Ehi, Kristine Ienciu, Chungah Kim, Peiya Cao, Antony Chum, and Yihong Bai, York University

This study investigates healthcare disparities across sexual orientations in Canada, focusing on avoidable emergency department (ED) visits and hospitalizations related to Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs). ACSCs, such as asthma, diabetes, and hypertension, are preventable or manageable with timely primary care, making their rate of hospitalization an essential marker of healthcare inequities. While research on mental health disparities among sexual minorities is growing, non-mental health-related healthcare outcomes, such as preventable ED visits and hospitalizations, remain underexplored. This study aims to fill that gap by analyzing ACSC-related hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits among sexual minorities using comprehensive data from Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres (RDC), including the linkage of Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) data to the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS). The research uses an intersectional approach, considering how overlapping identities—such as sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and geographic location—impact healthcare access and outcomes. This research will offer evidence-based recommendations for public health policies and clinical practices to reduce these disparities and improve healthcare access for LGBTQ2S+ populations. This study contributes to advancing health equity by highlighting systemic barriers sexual minorities face in accessing timely, appropriate care. By identifying and quantifying healthcare disparities, the research provides critical insights to inform inclusive healthcare policies and practices designed to reduce preventable healthcare outcomes in marginalized communities.

3. Gender Identity and Disability: A National Study on Transgender and Non-Binary Canadians

Kristine Ienciu, Yihong Bai, Peiya Cao, Chungah Kim, Inthuja Selvaratnam, and Gwen Ehi, York University; Brittany Jakubiec, Egale Canada, David Brennan, University of Toronto, and Alex Abramovich, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Activity limitations, disabilities, and functional limitations refer to challenges in performing daily tasks due to impairments or environmental and contextual factors. Research has indicated that transgender individuals are more likely to report activity limitations more than cisgender individuals, but many of these studies have critical limitations such as reliance on convenience samples, exclusion of non-binary individuals, lack of differentiation among types of activity limitations. With the rise of transphobia and anti-transgender legislation internationally worsening health outcomes and activity limitations, our study's objective is to examine the risk of activity limitations across different gender identities. This study uses data from the 2021 Canadian long-

form census, logistic regressions were used to estimate the adjusted odds of reporting activity limitations (seeing, hearing, mobility/dexterity, mental, cognitive, and other) across gender identities. We find that non-binary AFAB (assigned female at birth) individuals had the highest predicted probability of reporting any activity limitations (76.13%), followed by non-binary individuals assigned male at birth (AMAB) at 61.56%, transgender men (44.71%), and transgender women (34.41%). Cisgender men (19.31%) and cisgender women (21.98%) had the lowest probabilities. Mental limitations showed the largest disparity across gender identities. Mental limitations showed the largest disparity, with 39.4% of non-binary AFAB individuals affected, compared to 4.9% of cisgender men. These findings highlight significant disparities in activity limitations across gender identities. Our findings highlight the need for targeted policies to address challenges faced by gender-diverse populations and future research should investigate potential mechanisms behind these disparities.

4. Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Regarding Sexual Health and HIV Prevention among LGBTQ+ Individuals: Community-Based Intervention

Nazia Malik and Zoya Zafar, Government College University Faisalabad Pakistan

This research examines how LGBTQ+ individuals understand sexual health and HIV prevention while looking at community programs that help reduce health gaps. Health services in their communities often prevent LGBTQ+ individuals from getting proper HIV prevention care so they become more at risk for infection. The research uses survey questionnaires to measure how well LGBTQ+ populations understand HIV prevention and safe sexual behavior. The study applied the purposive sampling approach to find its subjects. The research looks at people and thoughts about sex education programs while studying their healthcare options and local community initiatives. Pakistan experiences an increasing HIV outbreak particularly among the homosexual and transgender communities. Based on Pakistan National AIDS Control Program findings MSM have a HIV infection rate of 7.1% and transgender people have 21.6% exposure to HIV showing they face extreme health risks.. The research will be conducted in fsd city. The stigma LGBTQ+ people experience prevents them from accessing HIV-prevention information while 75% lack proper understanding about HIV transmission. We will discover knowledge gaps about sexual health and blockages to health services for LGBTQ+ communities while showing how local organizations create spaces for healthy sexual development. LGBTQ+ communities make up a large percentage of people getting infected with HIV worldwide. Statistical data shows MSM (Male sex male) face a 28 times higher risk of getting HIV than regular men when UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on AIDS) evaluated their 2022 research. Transgender women represent a risk 49 times greater than average people according to UNAIDS research from 2022. Despite strong HIV prevention tools like PrEP and ART many LGBTQ+ individuals continue to face higher risks because they still face barriers to healthcare services and ongoing stigma. This research is significant due to its subject area and scope in the society.

(HEA6) Sociology of (forgotten) first responders, healthcare workers, and Public Safety Personnel
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

In recent years there has been a growth of research dealing with topics like stress and resilience, mental health, and wellbeing among first responders, healthcare workers, and public safety personnel. Some public safety agencies and services are beginning to hire staff psychologists and grow peer support group networks. Yet much of the existing research on these topics adopts a biomedical approach to these subjects which risks neglecting the sociological dimensions of the problems. This panel discussion will bring together researchers who deal with the broad theme of the sociology of these professions and who provide sociological perspectives to the institutional, structural, and cultural issues within these fields. Some discussions may include sociological analysis of paramedics at work, public health broadly, first responders, and any research dealing more broadly with a subgroup who are becoming known as forgotten first responders (victim services, tow truck drivers, emergency medical dispatchers, etc).

Organizer and Moderator: Chris William Martin, Algonquin College

Panelists:
Diana McGlinchey, Algonquin College
Ashley Murfin, Algonquin College
Michael Corman, University of the Fraser Valley
Elizabeth Donnelly, University of Windsor

(ITD4a) Social movements and digital technology I
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

Social movements are central to how citizens, groups, and organizations voice their dissatisfaction with existing power structures, trends, and current affairs with the aim of social change. Many social movements take advantage of the new possibilities afforded by digital media and integrate them into their mobilization and communication strategies, such as using hashtag campaigns on X (Twitter) and posting to TikTok and Telegram to mobilize and coordinate activities. Digital technologies are not neutral, they shape how social movements spread and engage.

Session Organizers: Andrey Kasimov, McMaster University, Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University, and Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary
Session Chair: Andrey Kasimov, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Mediating "the Fringe": A cross-platform analysis of collective identity frames
William Hollingshead, Toronto Metropolitan University

In an increasingly "platformed" society, it is paramount that social movement scholars be attuned to movements' use of multiple social media platforms. Here, it is important to consider how users' negotiations of social media's affordances within each platform results in divergent practices, and conventions - understood as "platform vernacular" (Gibbs et al., 2015) - that shape users'

engagements. This invites sociologists to think of social media as pluralistic technology, where one platform cannot serve to generalize the whole system. While scholarship is increasingly attuned to social movements' multi-platform usage, particularly in the context of identity construction, little research in this area has been dedicated to the study of TikTok, and even less so in a comparative fashion. To address this gap, I explore the 2022 *Freedom Convoy* protests and supporters' use of TikTok and Facebook in framing their collective identity. Through a qualitative thematic analysis of 813 TikTok videos, and 628 Facebook posts, I contribute to our understanding of what is "unique" and what is "shared" between each platform in relation to political activism, further disentangling "when, how, and why [...] cross-platform differences make a difference" (Matassi & Boczkowski, 2023, p. 83). Moreover, this work aims to contribute to a limited body of scholarship that situates contentious politics "...along platform lines" (Vaughan et al., 2023, p. 19). Overall, my work finds that, while users' frames of collective identity *can* be transferred across platforms, they are often rigidly constrained by a platform's affordances. Far from being a static phenomenon, my work demonstrates that social movements' collective identities are altered by, and shaped through, each platform's particularities. My work shows that platforms' "vernaculars" inform the format, appearance, tonality, and organization of collective identity, producing different "registers of meaning" that effect *how* a social movement is read (Gibbs et al., 2015, p. 258).

2. Queer Activism in Bangladesh: Exploring Facebook as the 'Right Tool' for Change

Tanveer Rouf, University of Toronto

Netnography, qualitative interviews and Adele Clarke's situational analysis methodology was used to examine Facebook's design and structural features to understand how the platform became the "right tool" for enabling queer activism in Bangladesh, where legal repression and socio-cultural homophobia severely limit offline activism. The findings identify five key issues around Facebook's "rightness" as a tool. First, Facebook's accessibility and popularity in Bangladesh make it an ideal platform for reaching a wide and diverse audience, including rural and isolated communities. Second, its ability to support anonymity through pseudonymous profiles allows activists to be visible with their queer advocacy while keeping their real identities invisible. I term this balance that is a major attraction of Facebook as "visinvisibility". Third, Facebook serves as a gateway to queer identity formation in Bangladesh by allowing individuals to express themselves and form communities that foster a sense of belonging and solidarity, which is often hard to find in their offline or real lives. I call this form of digital intimacy that serves as liberatory resistance as "entimacy". Fourth, Facebook provides opportunities for transnational activism in the form of Bangladeshi queer activists leveraging the privilege of being in queer friendly places abroad to support local communities. The platform allows Bangladeshi activists located inside the country to connect with international queer community. Finally, Facebook is an imperfect tool for queer activism in Bangladesh because activists face significant challenges in the form of homophobic harassment, mass reporting, rampant misinformation, and algorithmic biases that favor polarizing and homophobic content. Facebook has so far not taken significant steps towards these challenges even though they claim to be an inclusive and queer-friendly organization. In the face of such inaction, activists mitigate these risks by utilizing Facebook's design features like restricting comments on posts, blocking homophobic users and using anonymous profiles.

3. Viral Beliefs: Mapping Conspiracy Theory Diffusion in Online Protest Movements

Deena Abul-Fottouh and Rachel McLay, Dalhousie University; Jan Eckardt and Mathieu Turgeon, Western University

During times of crisis, conspiracy theories often emerge as coping mechanisms. This was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when anti-vaccine groups propagated claims such as the virus being engineered in a lab or vaccines being a collusion between pharmaceutical companies and governments. In this paper, we examine the case of the 2022 Canadian Freedom Convoy protests, which were driven by anti-vaccine sentiments and, according to anecdotal evidence, led by right-wing extremists spreading conspiracy theories. Using discussions from three pro-convoy X (formerly Twitter) hashtags, we employ large language models to assess the prevalence and types of conspiracy theories circulating within these networks. Unlike prior literature, which primarily focuses on the characteristics of those who spread conspiracy theories, our study investigates how these narratives proliferate through social networks. Building on theories that suggest conspiracies do not spread indiscriminately but remain concentrated within like-minded communities, we apply social network analysis to map the flow of conspiratorial content. Our research identifies key actors responsible for spreading conspiracy theories and evaluates their positions within the network—whether central or peripheral. Additionally, we examine the lifecycle of conspiracy theories, comparing their reach, speed of proliferation, and engagement (e.g., likes) against non-conspiratorial posts. By addressing the structural dynamics of conspiracy proliferation, this study highlights how social movements mobilize and spread their ideas online, shedding light on the digital strategies underpinning the Freedom Convoy's communication and influence.

(KNW4) Knowledge Actors and Knowledge Structures: States, Thinkers, and Practices Shaping Communities

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster

How do actors mobilize to shape what we know, and what is the role of this knowledge in influencing, creating or challenging social structures? This session features papers that explore how knowledge actors and practices shape social structures and beliefs in societies. This can include research on the role of academics, politicians, governments, researchers, popular figures, and others, in shaping both the content of knowledge, and the organizational structures and practices that reify knowledge.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. Constructing Citizens: A Critical Examination of Knowledge-Based Testing in Naturalization Procedures

Luisa Cruz, Toronto Metropolitan University, York University

Civics testing has become an integral, largely uncontested part of naturalization procedures in many countries. These tests, often framed as assessments of civic knowledge and language proficiency,

are widely accepted as necessary tools for evaluating potential citizens; however, most of them have been relatively recently implemented, with the practice becoming widespread and standardized amongst most European, North American and British Commonwealth governments (with few other exceptions in other geopolitical regions, such as Central America) only at the turn of the 21st century. Despite such ubiquity, the historical origins and implications of citizenship testing remain under examined in public discourse. This presentation thus investigates and problematizes the links between knowledge testing and citizenship, as well as the sociohistorical roots of civics testing for naturalization procedures: such threads can be traced back to the late 19th century, for instance, through policies developed by the Immigration Restriction League, a nativist organization from Boston which lobbied for mandatory literacy testing for immigrants arriving at Ellis Island, culminating in the Immigration Act of 1917. Here, historical analysis is coupled with more recent citizenship convergence theories from the 21st century (Bloemraad, Jopkke, Paquet, among others) to understand how these practices spread and became reified in many countries in recent decades. After all, as Paquet (2012) states, "citizenship tests neither objectively measure citizenship nor create it", calling attention to the symbolic dimension of these practices. By examining these historical procedures, this presentation aims to critically evaluate the role of contemporary knowledge-based testing in the construction of citizenship, ultimately interrogating our current engagements with the narratives and representations of naturalized subjects amidst systems of governmentality, and probing into alternative dimensions of assimilation and belonging.

2. Do states make scientific fields?

Gabriel Lévesque and Peter McMahan, McGill University

Do states make scientific fields? States regulate the institutions of science, govern the dynamics of professionalization in scientific disciplines, and set ethical, theoretical and empirical standards on scientists' work. They also orient the substantive priorities of scientists through explicit incentives such as public funding, or through tacit incentives like the emulation of research in evidence-based policy. Through their expert bureaucracies, states also directly influence scientific knowledge by engaging in the production, curation, interpretation and dissemination of research. Extant research thus documents various mechanisms through which states shape the content of science by orienting its substantive priorities, normative commitments and political inclinations. Yet, researchers have seldom looked at the role of states, and especially expert bureaucracies, in shaping the structure and boundaries of scientific fields. We explore the role of the state in shaping scientific fields through an empirical study of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), an agency that has outsized prominence in the biological sciences both within the United States and globally. Our project analyzes the impact that CDC-published scientific articles have on the structure and substance of the subfields to which they contribute. We derive a corpus of 16,069 CDC publications from OpenAlex (Priem & Orr 2022) and identify the subset of all publications within the same scientific domain as each of them. Our analysis uses time-series cocitation networks within each of these domains to identify the effects of CDC publications on the structure of the subfields. Preliminary findings suggest that publications from the CDC incentivize scientists to synchronize the framing of subsequent publications to those of the CDC's articles, decrease the diversity of ideas in a scientific domain, and promote publications that are in line with the state-sponsored presentation.

3. Haunted by history: Chadwick, Virchow, and Engels in contemporary public health.

Stella Medvedyuk, York University

Three Victorian-era public health giants—Edwin Chadwick, Rudolph Virchow, and Friedrich Engels—each considered the social origins of health and illness and addressed the social conditions that promote or threaten health, now known as the social determinants of health. Revisiting these thinkers through a critical materialist lens can assist our understanding of how the issues they identified over 170 years ago continue to haunt present-day society and influence contemporary public health knowledge structures. This paper considers the continuities between the different approaches of these three thinkers and present-day conceptualizations of health, social determinants of health, and means of promoting health. It raises questions about why their findings continue to be considered - for better or for worse - by both the mainstream public health community and those working within the critical social science tradition. The first part of this paper examines who these thinkers were and their contributions to public health through an analysis of biographies and primary documents. The second part is a scoping review of contemporary literature from 2000 to 2023 - a period of increased interest in their writings - in 12 academic health and health history journals to understand their influence on public health discourses. The study finds that these figures continue to shape contemporary health discussions. Virchow's concern with public policy continues to be the most evoked in contemporary discourse, yet Engels's influence is increasing, and Chadwick's is waning. Chadwick's focus on government-led public health reform of sanitation, Virchow's advocacy for political reform, and Engels's critique of capitalism persist in modern public health discourses of settings and environments, public policy, and critical political economy respectively. While settings and environments approaches dominate, and progressive policy reforms are subject to elected officials, it may be that health equity can best be achieved through reform of the economic system.

4. Investigating embodied knowledge for social impact through martial arts

Tia Bankosky, York University

Using interspersed embodied autoethnography from Noy (2012), I demonstrate the impact of embodied knowledge and discipline of rehearsal practiced in traditional Japanese martial arts on responses to community needs through reflective phenomenological analysis. I draw from Svitych's (2021) arguments that a moral philosophy of the body practiced, taught, and learned through the principles of *budo* in traditional Japanese martial arts lead to beneficence, a responsibility to community. *Budo* means to embody the philosophies of martial arts as a way of living that encompasses humility, responsibility, reciprocity, and awareness beyond the physical exercises of self defence (Adam, personal communication, 2022; Svitych, 2021). Using Merleau-Ponty's concepts of the body schema and habit-body, I examine Purser (2018) and Tanaka's (2011) descriptions of how embodiment can be (re)learned and embodied skills can be translated into new situations. I ground this analysis in personal storytelling to increase relatability and demonstrate social impact. I argue that through the rehearsal of traditional martial arts it is possible to learn new ways of being-in-the-world that embody *budo* and enable responses to community needs to be rooted in values of reciprocity, beneficence, and humility. The description of embodied knowledge through language removes the intimacy that is felt and inherent to experience (Brown et al., 2011). Therefore, I would also facilitate a short exercise to introduce *being-in-relation* through the martial arts practice of *zanshin.* This is an exercise of awareness through grounding in a sense of self by harmonizing

mind, body, and spirit (Abbott, 2022; Clear, n.d.). From this exercise, I would engage participants in discussion on the transferability of these experiences to their communities of research, knowledge, or activism. In conclusion, I aim to demonstrate how traditional Japanese martial arts are rich spaces of world building and knowledge production useful for building skilled individuals capable of social impact.

(PSM6) Politicizing Gender and Sexuality: Marginalization and Resistance
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

Recently, three Canadian provinces have passed "parental rights bills" proposing that educators inform parents if their child is going by a different name or gender than that which was given during school registration. This political marginalization of queer and gender non-conforming youths is part of a larger "anti-gender ideology" movement spurred on by right-wing governments across North America and Europe. Alongside these attacks, there has also been political mobilization and resistance in Canada to confront anti-gender ideology and support affirming care and reproductive rights. This comes at a time when queer folks are increasingly targeted by the mainstreaming of transphobic sentiments in right-wing governments in which Canadian "parental rights bills" are just one iteration. In this session we also hope to examine the nature and dynamics of political mobilization of far right anti-gender movements and resistance to these movements by queer activists, including but not limited to movements and organizations that support affirming care and outreach to queer youths who are being targeted by anti-gender policies.

Session Organizers: Kayla Preston, University of Toronto and Lexie Milmine, McMaster University
Session Chair: Kayla Preston, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Deploying Heteronormativity: A CDA of Reddit Forums Discussing Drag Story Hour Protests
Tyler McCormick and Erin Fredericks, St. Thomas University

Drag Story Hour (DSH) are events at local libraries featuring drag performers reading story books to children that have been growing in popularity throughout Canada. While these events have been noted for fostering a sense of inclusion, creativity, and critical thinking by introducing children to diverse perspectives, DSH has also sparked controversy and debate over gender ideology, often attracting abuse and threats towards library staff, drag performers, and parents alike. Detractors share common sentiments regarding the well-being and protection of childhood vulnerability, contesting that drag is "sexually inappropriate" for children. In the internet age, numerous individuals express their dissatisfaction with DHS events through various online platforms and forums, such as social media sites, blogs, and discussion boards. By applying the framework of *compulsory heterosexuality*, referring to the societal expectation and institutional structures that presume and enforce heterosexuality as the default or "natural" sexual orientation, I argue detractors to DSH co-opt discourses of protecting childhood vulnerability in defence of the "public child"—how communities view themselves as collectively responsible for children's well-being—reenforcing the practices and ideologies regulated through compulsory heterosexuality. I performed a critical discourse analysis (CDA) of an online Reddit forum discussing the CBC article "LGBTQ+ community turns out to defend drag storytime sessions from possible protests", to

describe the duality of how compulsory heterosexuality is both reinforced and contested through debates defending childhood vulnerability. My analysis seeks to describe how anonymous, online discussions contribute to ongoing public discourse and local debates about gender, sexuality, and childhood, offering insight into the ways digital spaces can both reflect and shape public perceptions and power relations.

2. The Countering Disinformation About the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community in Rural Canada Project

Luc Cousineau, Canadian Institute for Far-Right Studies, Dalhousie University; Amy Mack and Mariel Cooksey, Canadian Institute for Far-Right Studies, and Paula Revecca, Saint Mary's University

The anti-gender positionality of the right has been steadily increasing since the rise of the feminist movement, moving further right through second wave feminism, and with far-right/extremist activism picking up beginning in the 1990s forward (Dragiewicz, 2011; Dragiewicz & Mann, 2016). Anti-gender in this context goes beyond women under misogynist pressures, and includes members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. While the intellectual origins of far-right anti-gender lie mostly in the US and Europe, it has found fertile ground across Canada; evinced by anti-trans legislation in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, as well as the rise of a "parents' rights" rights movement that opposes educational curriculum related to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). This movement and the publicity it receives have tangible social, political, and educational impacts on Canadians (Martino & Kuhl, 2024). In light of this rising pushback against SOGI education and information, the *Countering Disinformation About The 2SLGBTQIA+ Community in Rural Canada* project was developed. A partnership between Sait Mary's University and the Canadian Institute for far-right Studies (CIFRS), funded by the Canadian Heritage, this project used interviews with pro and anti-SOGI activists, focus groups, and visits to Pride and anti-pride protest events to establish how SOGI content is being discussed and processed in rural parts of Nova Scotia, Alberta, and British Columbia. Findings of the project demonstrate similar exposures to SOGI-related content across rural spaces in these provinces, but with very different outcomes for members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities to live open, full, and safe lives. Even as political maps begin to look similar (see Alberta and Nova Scotia provincial election results) 2SLGBTQIA+ experience in rural zones of these provinces is vastly different. This presentation will give an overview of the project and share its most significant findings with a particular focus on how SOGI content is politicized across Canada.

3. Contesting Hate: Hate Crime Legislation in Canada

Matthew Arkinstall, Lauren Pollack, Bidushy Sadika, and Kaitlynn Mendes, Western University

Canada is purported to be a multicultural and welcoming country, however hate crimes disrupt this image and ideal. Hate crimes are one of the most disturbing acts to be committed. They specifically target a marginalized group and as an act they have the impact of creating further distress in the target community, making them and other vulnerable groups feel less safe. Because of this, hate crimes must be dealt with appropriately. In Canada, there are a few federal laws on the books targeting hate crimes, and a number of uneven hate crime laws in provinces. People from a wide range of backgrounds and ages were polled as part of a large qualitative and quantitative survey on their experiences with hate in Ontario. In this research, we have examined a subset of the survey's qualitative responses, specifically people's opinions on how better to change the definitions of hate

crime and hate incidents in Canada. Many people stated that hate crime legislation did not go far enough to ensure the respect for all in society, others did not understand the need for hate crime legislation, and finally some felt that definitions of hate crimes and hate incidents could be more easily interpreted by the public. The research showcases the need for accessible definitions; the need for comprehensive legislation to reduce discrimination and prejudice; and laws that specifically target hate crimes in society. Finally, the research shows that the public should be made more aware of the discrimination and hate that marginalized groups encounter in society and the necessity of hate crime legislation more generally.

(RAE3) Race, Masculinity, and the Politics of Power
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This session critically examines the intersections of race, masculinity, and power, beginning with an exploration of how neoliberalism and gentrification are reshaping the lives of Black young men in Canada, particularly concerning health and socio-economic challenges. It then shifts to the growing influence of inceldom on Black masculinity, exposing the dark side of online culture and its impact on racialized manhood. Building on the theme of challenging toxic culture, the session will highlight the often-overlooked gender discrimination faced by Black men while also considering their role in gender-based advocacy, reframing Black masculinity in Canada. Broadening the discussion, the session explores the experiences of Bangladeshi men in Canada, examining how migration and cultural contexts reshape ideas of masculinity. Finally, it addresses gendered expectations within diasporic Afghan communities, offering insights into how patriarchal structures shape masculinity across generations. Through these powerful, diverse perspectives, this session will challenge attendees to rethink how masculinities are shaped, oppressed, and reconstructed in today's climate of social and political upheaval.

Session Organizer: Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University
Session Chairs: Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University and Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University

Presentations:

1. Negotiating Racialized Masculinities: The Impact of Transnational Migration on Bangladeshi Men in Canada
Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad, Concordia University

This study explores how Bangladeshi migrant men in Canada navigate the intersection of transnational migration and masculinity, with a focus on the complexities of racialized masculinities. Using an intersectional and transnational theoretical framework, this research examines the ways in which Bangladeshi men construct, negotiate, and transform their masculinities in response to migration-related challenges. Through 24 semi-structured interviews, analyzed using constructivist grounded theory and thematic analysis, the study uncovers how these men define masculinity through roles as providers, protectors, and hard-working individuals. However, exposure to Canadian gender norms and cultural shifts prompts significant reconfigurations of their masculinities, leading to a departure from traditional hegemonic ideals. Participants describe tensions between pre-migration cultural values and post-migration realities, especially in areas such as gender equality, familial roles, and societal expectations. While some struggle with the

contradictions of Canadian gender norms, others note that these shifts lead to personal growth and more equitable familial relationships. Despite these transformations, participants retain strong ties to Bangladeshi cultural norms, underscoring the persistence of cultural heritage in shaping their gender identities. This study contributes to scholarship on transnational migration, masculinities, and race, highlighting how migration reshapes gender identities among racialized men in the Canadian context. By challenging dominant Western-centric narratives of masculinity, the research provides critical insights into the experiences of Bangladeshi migrant men. It offers implications for policies aimed at supporting migrant communities and promoting inclusive, culturally sensitive approaches to gender. The study's findings align with the conference's focus on sociology's potential for social impact, particularly in addressing issues of race, power, and identity.

2. "They praise the man, and the woman just doesn't exist": The reconstruction of gendered expectations among diasporic Afghans in Canada

Ferdouse Asefi, University of Toronto

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 marked the return of a Taliban regime. The Taliban regime have imposed ongoing gendered restrictions for women, including banning schools for women and girls' grade seven and up and restricting opportunities for employment. This paper investigates the transnational racialized and gendered consequences of the Taliban regime on the Afghan diaspora in Canada. I also extend Mbembe's concept of necropolitics to Afghanistan to understand how the instituted gendered restrictions (re)produce conditions that systemically work to erase Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan. In adopting a racialized and gendered lens, and drawing on semi-structured interviews with Afghans in Ontario, I examine how participants come to experience the gendered restrictions imposed on Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan. In doing so, I illustrate the strategies that participants employ to contest gendered expectations and patriarchal ideologies that shape identity, trauma, and (re)settlement experiences in Canada. Overall, this paper demonstrates how Afghan men and women are autonomous social actors who reconstruct and renegotiate gendered cultural practices.

3. "I'd avoid this site if I were Black": Black Masculinity and Inceldom

Alicia-Ann Pauld, McGill University

Although the incel (involuntary celibate) identity focuses most overtly on members' gender and sexuality, recent literature has identified the notable role of race in discussions among the incel community. While such work has found a conspicuous link between inceldom and white supremacy (Czerwinsky, 2024) and the ways that racial tropes shape their language (Bogetić, 2023), a fully intersectional analysis of race and gender and how this intersection is understood by members is lacking. This ethnographic content analysis uses data from a popular public incel forum to look at the way this community constructs and situates Black masculinities within their own sexual market value theory, using the hybrid bloc of masculinities and the pyramid of masculinities as frameworks. Attention is given to the voices opposing this structure, notably Black incels', and how they describe their masculinities and experiences in the dating scene and society. This study examines how and where disagreements and contradictions occur to increase our understanding of Black men's place in this community and the nature of the relationships within this group. Findings include disagreements regarding the power Black men hold in the heterosexual dating scene because of racist and misogynistic essentialist beliefs upheld by the community, the construction of Black

masculinity being in alignment with anti-Black American tropes. Moreover, internalized racism and low racial esteem are dominant discourses among Black incels. They hold a complex position as their experiences are often invalidated because of their assumed privilege, simultaneously with the upholding of white supremacist beliefs framing them as inferior beings, leading to a racially hostile environment that affects intracommunal relationships. Black men's presence in far-right communities requires further inquiry to understand how they engage with those identities, why they join these communities, and how incels of all ethnic backgrounds fit into far-right discourses.

4. Neoliberalism, Gentrification, and Health: Their Impact on Impoverished Canadian Black Young Men

Kevin Tachie and **Warren Clarke,** University of Manitoba

Black, impoverished young men who reside in low-income areas exist at the crossroads of gentrification, neoliberalism, anti-Blackness, and white supremacist thinking. Despite the paucity of sustained empirical data, we know that young Black men in impoverished areas are socially recognized as troublemakers and are perceived to be delinquents who deserve to be in police custody. This article discusses the impacts of this positioning on first and second-generation Black young men residing in impoverished areas in three Canadian cities: Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. Using Frantz Fanon's theories of colonial oppression and a series of interviews, it considers the ways in which the processes of gentrification and neoliberalism impact the well-being of impoverished young Black men.

(SOM1b) Sociology of Migration Open Session 2: Temporary migration

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

The second of the three SOM open sessions highlights studies broadly engaging in the trajectories of and challenges to integration experienced by temporary migrants (e.g. international students, temporary foreign workers). Specific topics include: 1) status trajectories of temporary foreign workers in Canada; 2) school-to-work transitions of international students in Canada; 3) challenges faced by migrants with open work permit; and 4) irregular border crossing of Afghan migrants in Turkey.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Session Chair: Shirin Khayambashi, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. A typology of temporary immigrants' status trajectory : a sequence analysis based on CEEDD data

Danièle Bélanger, Université Laval

This study aims to examine the status trajectories of temporary foreign workers admitted to Canada between 2006 and 2013. Specifically, it seeks to identify the trajectories leading to permanent residency and those that do not, as well as to determine the characteristics and determinants of different pathways to PR. More specifically, the paper examines the role of labour sector and

country of origin, as well as the category of entry as PR transitioning form temporary status. Our analysis is based on longitudinal administrative data from the Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamics Database (CEEDD). This database combines information on temporary and permanent residents as well as their labor market activity. We employ a sequence analysis method (Robette, 2021) to identify different trajectories and to determine the characteristics and determinants of these trajectories. We analyze the trajectories of 3% of individuals whose first permit is a work permit and who immigrated to Canada between 2006 and 2013 (sample of 24,000 individuals). The results include the presentation of seven types of trajectories that account for more than 90% of the individuals of the sample. While 75% of the individuals were still temporary workers by the end of the seven-year observation period, 25% had acquired PR by the end. We note different patterns among our seven types and different effects of the covariates analysed.

2. Pathways to Employment: The Experience of Alumni International Students in Canada

Jana Borras, Mercedeh Safarian, **Nancy Mandell**, and Larry Lam, York University

Alumni international students in Canada face unique challenges during their transition from completing university degrees to searching and securing full-time jobs that match their educational credentials, skills and training. In this paper, we focus on international students who successfully completed the school-to-work transition. We present findings from 19 alumni international students who found and secured jobs after graduation in Canada. Using a social resilience approach (Preston et al. 2022), this paper examines the social resilience of alumni international students and their efforts to secure employment in Canada. Specifically, we look at the employment barriers alumni face at two levels— institutional and individual— and the strategies they employ to manage discrimination, financial, health, isolation and employment challenges.

3. Sortie du travail non libre : Échec d'une mesure canadienne de mitigation

Geneviève Fournier and **Danièle Bélanger,** Université Laval

Au Canada, plusieurs programmes régissant les migrations de travail se fondent sur le principe d'attribution à un employeur spécifique, concrétisé par l'octroi de permis de travail fermés. Les travailleurs admis dans le cadre de ces programmes n'ont pas la possibilité de changer d'employeur, ils sont donc captifs en emploi et particulièrement exposés aux risques d'exploitation par leur employeur. Cette captivité en emploi est un exemple saillant de la production étatique du travail non libre dans le contexte canadien. En 2019, pour pallier les abus recensés dans le cadre de ces programmes, le gouvernement du Canada met en place le *Permis de travail ouvert pour travailleurs vulnérables* (PTO-V). Ce permis, d'une durée maximale de douze mois, permet aux travailleurs dotés d'un permis de travail fermé de quitter un employeur abusif et de contracter une nouvelle relation d'emploi, toujours sous un permis de travail fermé. À travers une analyse de 47 parcours de travailleurs victimes d'abus en Ontario, en Colombie-Britannique et au Québec, cette étude contribue à la compréhension du PTO-V, particulièrement quant à son rôle au sein du système migratoire canadien. Bien que le PTO-V soit présenté comme une voie de sortie pour les travailleurs non libres, nous soutenons plutôt que ce programme contribue au système étatique produisant la captivité des travailleurs migrants. Les parcours documentés dans cette recherche témoignent de la difficulté d'émancipation des travailleurs sous un permis de travail fermé, ainsi que de la faible contribution du PTO-V à ces tentatives d'émancipation. Ultimement, cette analyse conclue que le PTO-V ne remet pas en question le système de travail non libre mis en place par l'État, mais le

solidifie plutôt en offrant une voie de sortie illusoire aux travailleurs victimes d'abus. Ce faisant, le PTO-V détourne l'attention de l'État en tant que producteur de travail non libre au Canada.

4. The game counter-geographies: Spatial practices and imaginaries in 'irregular' migration to Europe

Baran Fakhri, Simon Fraser University

In this paper, I take the case of 'irregular' migrants crossing Turkish-Greek border and look into their spatial imaginaries emerging in their informal migration journeys to (West) Europe, or what they refer to as the *game*. The game is long and fragmented, unrelenting and repetitive due to hostile borders, high chance of pushbacks, detention, and deportation. This paper is based on my ethnographic research among Afghan migrants in Turkey, and game anecdotes from those who already attempted the game several times. Since these failed game vignettes are told in a way to explain why the migrants have failed in predicting the border control, I would call them "cautionary game tales." Drawing on these tales, I explore the collective construction of real and imagined Europe and its borders among these 'irregular' migrants before reaching the Balkan Route, which is the focus of the existing literature. My intervention and contribution comes from *khod-andaz*, a specific game with its ritualized (counter)practices, accumulated knowledge, and communities for predicting, dodging and countering European carceral border and asylum regimes. I show that through these cautionary tales, irregular migrants conceptualize and share their perceptions of Europe with others, and reclaim and insert their spatial agency. Khod-andaz communities constructs a Europe with real and imaginary layers beyond its official cartographies, indicating where is European enough or not, and places requiring specific border performances. Their Europe(s) consists of metaphorical places, imaginations and daydreaming imbued with strong sense of directionality where one's status and position is life is tied to where they are positioned within these real and imaginary geographies. The game communities map moral and political borders of Europe in a specific way, extending border confinement beyond its common zones, find it spreading across rural and urban areas marking where and who they should avoid, not trust, nor interact.

(THE5) Symposium for Early Career Theorists (SECT)

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

The Social Theory Research Cluster invited paper proposals for its eleventh annual Symposium for Early Career Theorists, a dedicated session that spotlights the work of emerging social theorists at an early stage in their careers (PhD Candidates who are ABD status and those who are no more than five years beyond completion of their doctorate).

Session Organizers: Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta, Mario Marotta, Université du Québec à Montréal, and Sarah Badr, McGill University

Session Chair: Mario Marotta, Université du Québec à Montréal

Session Discussants:
Thomas Kemple, University of British Columbia
Erika Katzman, Western University
Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. The Sociology of Significance and the Parametric method

Khalil J. Martin, University of Toronto

How do some situated objects, places, events, personalities become realized as more significant than others? This is the central question of the 'sociology of significance' whose subject is *charismatic action*. This paper agues that this kind of action, oriented towards realizing significance, requires some reciprocity between *concrete action situations*, and a *sense of wholeness* against which the significance of actions can be established. While popular interactionist approaches tend to neglect agents' abilities for paradigmatic thinking (imagining the whole from situations-as-parts); more systematic approaches tend to presuppose a whole which exhibits *one* kind of (collective) behaviour, inspired by one mereological metaphor or another (e.g. organism, ecology, field). In short, the former are myopic, while the latter may be arbitrary. This paper introduces the Parametric method to help address this challenge. *Order parameters* are intensities, or quantities, that help explain *phase transitions* between one regime of collective behavior and another. For example, pressure and temperature are two order parameters identified to help explain the phase transitions among solid, liquid, and gas—different collective behaviors, united within the same *phase space*. Another important notion which helps explain these phase transitions is the *local limit*, the limitations experienced by all participants conveyed individually. In the above example, the local limits of intermolecular forces are breached when melting and boiling occur. Many other examples of order parametrization exist in the natural sciences (e.g. related to magnetic systems, liquid crystals, chemical reactions). To order parametrize the conditions of charismatic action means to imagine specific ways in which *second-order action* (participation oriented to other participations) has been (or can be) revolutionized. To demonstrate the Parametric method, I identify three order parameters—*scale*, *focality*, and *responsibility*—to explore the differences between three different modes of charismatic participation—Folk Culture, Mass Culture, and what the paper introduces as *Swarm Culture*. Scale is the number of individuals perceived to be participating; it addresses the local limit that is the capacity for associating with strangers. Focality is the perceived concentration of collective attention; it addresses the local limit that is the capacity for appraising novelties. And responsibility is the perceived ability to respond publicly; it addresses the local limit that is the capacity for tracing influence. The paper explores how 21st-century mobile and platform technologies allowed charismatic participation to maintain the scale of Mass Culture, while increasing responsibility, and dynamizing focality. The emergent mode, Swarm Culture, is further described through the notions of 'buzz' (versus lore, and trivia), and the 'peritheatrical' (versus theatrical, and amphitheatrical) form of discourse. Ultimately, these concepts prompt us to think not just about what becomes significant, but the spatiotemporality of this figure-ground relationship in the hybrid in-person-virtual matrix. The purpose of this demonstration is not to claim that Mass Culture or Folk Culture, or any such mode, has been surpassed by Swarm Culture. These modes may be parallel and interacting realities. The purpose is rather to show how paradigmatic thinking in cultural sociology can be turned into a method. What are the underlying social realities (or, order parameters) which define the differences between one kind of culture and another, one kind urbanism and another, one kind of modernity and another, etc.? The Parametric method is a tool of synthetic theorizing as it places different regimes of collective behavior within the same n-dimensional parameter space. However, as the paper also demonstrates with the theorization of Swarm Culture, the Parametric method can also be used to

probe and imagine new paradigms of explanation. The paper ends with a discussion of the advantages and limitations of the Parametric method, and its compatibility with other methods such as Computational Social Science, and Participatory Observation.

2. Repenser la théorie sociologique du handicap à l'aune de la réalité franco-canadienne

Jean-Francois Filiatrault, Université de Montréal

Au Québec, et plus largement dans la francophonie, on observe un intérêt grandissant pour les analyses critiques du handicap. Ceci se concrétise notamment par une tendance à aborder le handicap et ce qui l'entoure en termes de construction sociale, d'oppression et de capacitisme (ou de validisme en France). Les principaux cadres conceptuels qui sont accessibles dans les milieux universitaires québécois présentent cependant des lacunes pour de telles perspectives, notamment du fait qu'ils peuvent venir renaturaliser le handicap, échouent parfois à le décentrer des individus ou encore tendent à dématérialiser les rapports sociaux qui président à sa construction. Cette communication aborde ces éléments afin de rendre compte des enjeux théoriques auxquels doit répondre la sociologie francophone du handicap. La première partie comporte deux aspects visant à contextualiser la présentation. D'abord, quelques spécificités distinguant les contextes francophones de ceux anglophones dans le champ du handicap sont détaillées. Par la suite, certaines approches sont sommairement présentées afin d'en rendre les principales lacunes. Sont abordés quatre courants, concevant respectivement le handicap comme : 1) situation contextuelle (Fougeyrollas, 2010); 2) condition liminale (Blanc, 2015), 3) produit d'une norme fantasmagorique (Baril, 2013); et, 4) effet de rapports capitalistes (Oliver, 1990). La seconde partie revient sur une recherche doctorale portant sur la participation des personnes handicapées aux marchés du travail et dont certains résultats sont discutés. Ceci permet d'exposer que le handicap peut être pensé comme produit de rapports sociaux matériels historiquement ancrés. La présentation prend la forme d'un essai épistémologique et théorique. Pour soutenir ce propos, en plus des résultats d'une recherche doctorale, des écrits sociologiques matérialistes (Guillaumin, 2002; Juteau, 2015) sont mobilisés. Ceci permet de proposer une perspective sociologique qui évite les définitions terminologiques et réductrices du capacitisme comme une discrimination basée sur les capacités - physiques ou psychiques - des individus.

3. The origin story of vital materialism

Francis Leveille, Concordia University

This paper presents Jane Bennett's overlooked first book, *Unthinking Faith and Enlightenment* (1987), as the basis of her later, heavily-cited environmental theories. Through this reading, I argue that Bennett's work - and much of new materialism - is supported by an engagement with the 'background' of modernity. This understanding of new materialist theories allows for a more sustained connection with contemporary sociological theory at large. Bennett's book takes as its starting point the dialectic of Faith and Enlightenment presented by Hegel in *The Phenomenology of the Spirit.* Bennett argues that the transition from Faith (a holist, enchanted worldview where divine signs structure reality) to Enlightenment (a disenchanted rationalized order) is central to understanding modernity's epistemological commitments. By revisiting the moment when Faith gave way to rationalization, Bennett theorizes an 'ethics of awe' that is foundational for her later theorizing. As she was writing *Vibrant Matter* (2010), her most widely known work, Bennett noted in a written interview that her overall theoretical project stemming

from this first book is animated by the goal of "[finding] ways to better cope - more artfully, more wisely - in a world that's neither a divine creation, docile matter, nor completely lawful." (Khan 2009:96) Bennett's later concept of thing-power, developed in *Vibrant Matter (2010)*, can thus be read as a critical response to the dialectic of Faith and Enlightenment. By rejecting the strict subject-object division of Enlightenment thought, she reintroduces elements of pre-modern holism while avoiding a return to theological determinism. Ultimately, my paper situates Bennett's vital materialism as a response to the impasse of modernity, offering a new framework that acknowledges the agency of non-human entities without reverting to pre-modern theological determinism. This critical genealogy highlights how vital materialism emerges not in isolation but as part of an ongoing dialogue with past ontological frameworks.

(URS2) Urban Sociology II: Cities and Civil Society
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Urban Sociology Research Cluster

Cities are central sites of organizing, conflict, and action in civil society. Papers on this panel explore and analyze both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the relationship between urban space and civil society. Combining insights from urban sociology and contemporary social theory, contributors address current research on public space, everyday solidarity, and community-building, and consider practices that re-imagine how we understand the relationship between civil society and the contemporary city.

Session Organizers: Andrew Crosby, Carleton University, Mervyn Horgan, University of Guelph, and Saara Liinamaa, University of Guelph

Session Chair: Andrew Crosby, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Understanding new frontiers of community-engagement: Navigating Vancouver Chinatown's physical and digital presence
Grace Chen, University of British Columbia

In the age of growing digitalization, interpersonal interactions are increasingly reliant on online platforms. Methods of community-building for social and political causes have also taken distinct digital forms through social media . At the same time, community-building within contentious urban spaces is reliant on the physical environment itself. While the contributions of social media to community organizing and social movements have been extensively documented, little research has been done regarding how contentious urban spaces balance the online space and the physical urban environment. This presentation asks: how are interactions and aspects of community-engagement formed and changed via these two mediums? Shaped by the external constraints of gentrification and tensions between organizations and institutions all while housing a largely lower-income population, Vancouver's Chinatown is a unique urban space home to many community-based organizations aiming to bring their vision of Chinatown to reality (Pottie-Sherman, 2023). These constraints make Chinatown a particularly precarious place for community-engagement, where organizers and participants alike grapple with the changing urban landscape. Through semi-structured qualitative interviews, organizers of Chinatown-based or affiliated organizations and event participants remark on their own experiences navigating socialization and community-

building via the digital and physical space. The research is also supplemented by ethnographic observations of community events and Chinatown-at-large. Expected findings may have implications for community-based organizations in their methods of organizing and mobilization, and potential policy guidance for the City of Vancouver regarding Chinatown's land use and social infrastructure.

2. Urban commons in Bologna (Italy): from post-capitalist resistance to community cohesion

Charmain Levy, University of Quebec in Outaouais and Marco Alberio, University of Bologna

Through a comparative study of five urban commons experiences in Bologna, this study analyses the differences and similarities among them in terms their mission, characteristics, scope of activities and socio-political goals. The urban commons are not a homogeneous subject and can mean different things to different people - both the researchers and the researched (commoners). According to what characteristics, values and actions can urban commons be considered post-capitalist or a post-industrial alternative to state or private run urban spaces or forms of resilience and social cohesion? Are urban commons a means for social movements, community and citizen groups more than an end in themselves? Do they represent continuity or rupture with other past forms of urban citizenship (social movements, collective action, community organizing)? The composition of the group of commoners, their mission, goals and values will determine their alliances, practices and interests in common as well as their relation to the state. This in turn leads to a diversity of common experiences - some that question the socio-economical and political status quo looking to create non-capitalist models and others that are more concerned with improving collective living in their neighbourhood or among a delimited group or territory. We have chosen the follow examples of urban commons in the city of Bologna: LABAS, PLAT, Cassero, InStabil, and Leila Bologna. LABAS and PLAT self identify as anti-systemic, anti-capitalist, while Leila questions the sustainability of the mass consumption capitalist model and Cassero aims at a more inclusive society that recognizes the rights of the LGBTQ+ communities. InStabil is a community-based group that aims at creating social cohesion in its neighbourhood. In order to document and analyse the different characteristics, goals and nature of urban commons experience, we compare five different experiences in the city of Bologna which offers a critical mass of urban commons experiences given the city's progressive history as a "red" municipality and especially since the 2014 Bologna Regulation and Pact. Our working hypothesis is that not all urban commons are post-capitalist and certain experiences are in continuity with community organizing and social movement collective action. In addition, there are certain degrees of post-capitalism within urban commons experiences.

3. Urban Civil Spheres and Solidaristic Social Action

Saara Liinamaa and **Mervyn Horgan,** University of Guelph

Initial iterations of civil sphere theory (CST) implicitly viewed the civil sphere's boundaries as coincident with national boundaries. More recent CST scholarship has begun to push these boundaries, both upward toward theorizing transnational and/or global civil spheres, and downward to examining sub-national, regional and local civil spheres. The interplay between spheres at different levels produces a range of new tensions and new analytic possibilities. Working with the downward movement, in this paper we posit the urban civil sphere as an analytically distinct domain of solidaristic social action. A city is not simply a setting or container for the unfolding of national level dramas. Rather, the urban civil sphere is a distinct realm of collective

mobilization and solidaristic social action, with intrinsic differences from the national or international level. Cities have their own communicative institutions (e.g. local newspapers and tv, community message boards) and regulative institutions (e.g. municipal governance, zoning, by-laws). The urban civil sphere provides interactional, discursive and symbolic resources that can act as ballast against punitive national level movements and policies. Homing in on select examples around municipal policy, migrant inclusion, and everyday urban interaction, we demonstrate how, because of cities' specific characteristics—including density, heterogeneity, mobility, public realm—the urban civil sphere's internal tensions and dynamics, while shaped by national-level civil spheres, retain both analytic and empirical autonomy from broader civil spheres.

4. Prime, Marginal, and Sacred: Towards a Three-Part of Urban Space

Matt Patterson, University of Calgary

Is urban space primarily a commodity defined by its use- and exchange-value? Or a cultural objected imbued with meanings and sentiment? This debated has been waged within urban sociology at least since Firey (1945). This paper presents a new synthesis designed to avoid assigning causal primacy to either economics or culture. I propose a three-part theory that categorizes space as either "prime", "marginal", and "sacred" with properties and cut across institutional domains and levels of analysis. Prime and marginal spaces refer to those areas of the city characterized respectively by high or low investment and social control. Urban political-economists have long argued that elites purposely underinvest in certain areas of the city, creating stigmatized zones that can later be targeted for clearance and redevelopment into prime space. To this dynamic, I add a third space: the sacred. Sacred spaces are areas of the city imbued with high levels of social sentiment and, as a result, have been shielded from the swings of the market. Sacred spaces are typically created when an advocacy group attracts sufficient public support, leading to regulatory changes and financial commitments needed to remove a particular place from the open market. To illustrate the utility of this framework, I apply it to analyze anti-gentrification activism within historic Chinatowns in Canada and the United States.

(AIS4) Workshop for Anti-Islamophobia and Critical Muslim Studies Scholars and Community Organizers

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: CSA Anti-Islamophobia Subcommittee

Is urban space primarily a commodity defined by its use- and exchange-value? Or a cultural objected imbued with meanings and sentiment? This debated has been waged within urban sociology at least since Firey (1945). This paper presents a new synthesis designed to avoid assigning causal primacy to either economics or culture. I propose a three-part theory that categorizes space as either "prime", "marginal", and "sacred" with properties and cut across institutional domains and levels of analysis. Prime and marginal spaces refer to those areas of the city characterized respectively by high or low investment and social control. Urban political-economists have long argued that elites purposely underinvest in certain areas of the city, creating stigmatized zones that can later be targeted for clearance and redevelopment into prime space. To this dynamic, I add a third space: the sacred. Sacred spaces are areas of the city imbued with high levels of social sentiment and, as a result, have been shielded from the swings of the market. Sacred spaces are typically created when

an advocacy group attracts sufficient public support, leading to regulatory changes and financial commitments needed to remove a particular place from the open market. To illustrate the utility of this framework, I apply it to analyze anti-gentrification activism within historic Chinatowns in Canada and the United States. This workshop is open to community organizers and academics working in the field of systemic Islamophobia and critical Muslim studies. This will be a collaborative space to together build a collective of folks who are working in this area to connect, share, and imagine possibilities for partnership and action. We especially encourage graduate students and junior scholars to attend. We recognize that many of us are working across institutional divides and neoliberal silos related to community and academy, language and regional areas, disciplines, and particular areas of focus, but that our work is webbed and dependent on one another. To this end, we will together explore the following question in this workshop: How can we collaborate effectively?

Session Organizers: Nadia Hasan, York University and Ayesha Mian Akram, University of Calgary

(EDU-RC) Sociology of Education Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

Sociology of education covers a wide methodological, theoretical and conceptual terrain. While research in this area is most associated with examinations of schools, inequality, and economic development, this scholarship intersects with a variety of research including studies of early child development, parenting, childhood and adolescence, and health. The Sociology of Education Research Cluster will serve to enhance dialogue and networking among sociologists of education in Canada. Our meeting will more comprehensively envision the goals and priorities of the cluster.

Session Organizer: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

(ENV-RC) Environmental Sociology Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

The CSA Environmental Sociology Research Cluster brings together a diverse network of sociologists whose research helps us better understand the social causes and consequences of environmental issues, and provides insight into transitions towards ecological and social sustainability. This research cluster will have its annual meeting at Congress 2025 to provide an overview of recent activities and next steps, and also provide space for open discussion. New and returning participants are welcome!

Session Organizers: Lisa Seiler, York University and Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico

(FEM-RC) Feminist Sociology Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

The CSA Feminist Sociology Research Cluster welcomes both continuing and new members with a feminist sociological approach. This cluster provides a communications hub and meeting places for

feminist scholars within sociology to share ideas and research, to discuss common concerns within the discipline, and also to connect and converse with feminists within and across geographic and disciplinary lines. It encourages and organizes feminist sessions within sociology and also with other disciplines. This meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University; Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University; Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar; and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

(KNW-RC) Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster

The Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster would like to welcome everyone to our annual meeting, which is open to any scholars or students—current members or otherwise—who are interested in the study of knowledge in all its forms. The cluster's mission is to connect and empower social scientists who see knowledge as a vital topic of research and education, particularly scholars who are interested in developing growth, diversity, reciprocity, and meaning in their collegial relationships. Anyone with knowledge, skills, or ideas that might be of benefit to the field in general, or to the cluster in particular, is encouraged to attend.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

(SCY7) Drama as a Research Method with Children: An Interactive Workshop

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster

This workshop introduces several drama-based approaches as participatory research methods in child- and youth-centered research projects. Drawing from past research in the field, feedback from over 100 child and youth participants, and consultation with institutional and community-based researchers, this workshop highlights a variety of simplified, accessible methods that can be adapted to support a range of child-centered projects and participant needs. Whether you are an active researcher, an emerging scholar, a graduate student, or a research methods professor, this workshop will provide a range of ideas and practical examples for using drama-based approaches to explore young people's lived experiences and perspectives in matters that affect them. Please note that some interactive activities may involve moving around the space. Light food and refreshments will be provided. This workshop is part of a project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Facilitators:

Abigail Shabtay, York University
Rebecca Raby, Brock University
Rachel Berman, Toronto Metropolitan University

(CRM2a) Caught in transition: Insights into control, resistance and freedom in the criminal justice system I

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

This session examines the complex processes of navigating the criminal justice system, from arrest to reintegration. Centering on how individuals move through and engage with justice institutions, support networks, and social systems, it explores the ways these transitions are structured, experienced, and negotiated. By offering in-depth insights into how different social actors adapt to, resist, or are shaped by the system, this session contributes to critical conversations on power, control, agency, and the challenges of entering and moving through justice systems.

Session Organizer and Chair: Alysha McDonald, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Between grief and relief: Navigating the emotional ambivalence of imprisonment

Natasha Martino, Alysha McDonald, and Luca Berardi**,** McMaster University; Kevin D. Haggerty and Sandra Bucerius, University of Alberta

Collateral consequences and secondary prisonization have highlighted the harms of incarceration on loved ones of incarcerated people. However, they overlook loved ones' plurality of attitudes toward incarceration. Drawing on 181 longitudinal interviews with 29 loved ones of incarcerated men across Canada, we apply the sociology of emotions literature to explore how they navigate the incarceration of a family member or friend. Our findings highlight three complex, overlapping, and at times ambivalent emotions experienced as a result of a family member's or friend's incarceration. We find loved ones struggled with the open-endedness of their kin's absence but tempered their anticipatory excitement for their return with apprehensions about release. Some also appreciated incarceration as a "respite" from the unstable and unsafe environments of their kin in the community. Our discussion connects these orientations to broader sociological themes, and we conclude by outlining areas for future research.

2. Organizational actors' perceptions of sociolegal responses to sex offenses

Abigail Baah, University of Calgary

In response to the growing global concerns regarding sexual assaults, stricter measures or policies have been implemented by lawmakers to address and manage people who commit sex offenses. This research uses semi-structured interviews to explore the views of 31 organizational actors such as reentry coordinators, social workers, clinicians, and trained volunteers on sex offender laws and their role in community reintegration and desistance. The study focuses on the familiarity with Canada's sex offender laws of professionals who work closely with organizations that assist persons previously incarcerated for sex offenses in their attempts at community reintegration. The study underscores the connections between sex offender laws and desistance from crime by reviewing the responses from the interview. Findings reveal that the stigma, perceptions, and treatment stemming from these laws hinders the reentry process for people who have been convicted of sex offenses, making it difficult for them to establish a new life.

3. Restorative justice as a neoliberal enterprise? Offender status as contested terrain

Konstantin Petoukhov, Carleton University

In recent decades, restorative justice has enjoyed much attention from criminologist, sociologists, and legal scholars in relation to its procedural and substantive aims as their relate to the roles of offenders, victims, and community members in resolving the aftermath of wrongful acts. Notably, critical victimological research in restorative justice has enjoyed much less theoretical and empirical attention, while research exploring offender status and their experiences in restorative justice has been seemingly absent altogether. This presentation, which is based on the findings of a SSHRC-funded research postdoctoral research project, seeks to adjudicate a debate in restorative justice scholarship with regard to the constructions of offender status. Drawing on a critical victimological approach, neoliberal scholarship, and governmentality literature, it considers the complexities involved in the constructions of offender status through the interactions of offenders with victims and restorative justice caseworkers. Specifically, it seeks to construct a nuanced approach that interrogates several persisting assumptions in critical restorative justice scholarship that present a totalizing view of restorative justice as a neoliberal enterprise. This presentation examines perspectives of offenders, victims, and restorative justice caseworkers with a view to consider some of the strategies that are deployed to responsibilize offenders for the crimes they have committed against their victims. Particular focus is on the constitutive power of the restorative justice process that lends itself to critique as a tool of governance and management of criminal conduct and for its tendency to individualize and isolate wrongful acts from their structural origins.

(CSA1) Sociology Book Award Plenary

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

This plenary will feature presentations by the 2023 and 2024 Canadian Sociology Book Award recipients and the 2024 Global Sociology Book Award recipient. These awards honour outstanding publications which advance sociological knowledge within and beyond the Canadian context.

Our plenary speakers:
2024 Global Sociology Book Award: Dr. Pallavi Banerjee
2024 Canadian Sociology Book Award: Dr. Andrew Crosby
2023 Canadian Sociology Book Award: Dr. Saara Liinamaa

Moderator: Liam Swiss, Acadia University

Presentations:

1. Resisting Eviction: Domicide and the Financialization of Rental Housing

Andrew Crosby, Carleton University

Resisting Eviction: Domicide and the Financialization of Rental Housing centres tenant organizing in its investigation of gentrification and eviction, arguing that racial discrimination, property relations, and settler colonialism inform contemporary urban redevelopment efforts and impact affordable housing loss. How can the City of Ottawa aspire to become "North America's most liveable mid-sized city" while large-scale, demolition-driven evictions displace hundreds of people and destroy a community? Troubling discourses of urban liveability, revitalization and improvement, *Resisting*

Eviction examines the deliberate destruction of home—domicide—and tenant resistance in the Heron Gate neighbourhood in Ottawa, on unceded Algonquin land. Heron Gate is a large rental neighbourhood owned by one multi-billion-dollar real estate investment firm. Around 800 people—in predominantly lower-income, racialized households—have been demovicted and displaced from the neighbourhood since 2016, leading to the emergence of the Herongate Tenant Coalition to fight the evictions and confront their financialized landlord-developer. Through the Heron Gate case study and engagement with the Herongate Tenant Coalition, this research sheds light on the investment strategies of financialized real estate investment firms as well as tactics that they deploy to attempt to demobilize tenant opposition. The research further demonstrates the role of municipal governance actors in facilitating gentrification initiatives, and how gentrification is produced through discourses of improvement—such as liveability, revitalization, and community wellbeing—that work to unmake the homes and communities of marginalized, racialized, populations, and remake these homes and communities for more affluent, white populations, contributing to how we understand the evolution of racialized property relations in settler society. This book informs a broader understanding of the financialization of rental housing, larger impacts on affordable housing, and the role that grassroots tenant movements can play in defending their buildings and neighbourhoods.

2. The New Spirit of Creativity: Work, Creativity, and Compromise

Saara Liinamaa, University of Guelph

"They say artists don't know how to compromise, but they don't work here." Kat, study participant
This talk advances a sociology of creativity that draws on resources from sociology and related disciplines to better understand cultural work and occupations. Based on fieldwork conducted at Imagination University(pseudonym), I present the day-to-day work, organization, and administration of artistic creativity and its clashes with a "new spirit" of creativity that has widely taken hold. The combined uncertainties of higher education and cultural work make for a volatile mix. There are intense critiques and disagreements over creative values and practices, and organizational life requires magnified negotiation and compromise. For artists, designers, and other creative practitioners employed at the art school, a day at work can involve quarreling over planning objectives, funding allotments, and evaluation formats. But more deeply felt, workers must navigate heightened ambiguity around artistic identities and creative excellence. Accordingly, compromises of different orders and consequences emerge between artistic creativity and the new spirit; I will illustrate how this book rethinks the relationship between creativity and compromise within cultural work. While creativity may be inequitably recognized and rewarded across the art school, compromise, given its close companionship with critique, can support *or* erode creative diversity.

3. The Opportunity Trap: High-Skilled Workers, Indian Families, and the Failures of the Dependent Visa Program

Pallavi Banerjee, University of Calgary

The Opportunity Trap explores how Indian immigrants grapple with experiences of being workers and being people as they migrate with their families to the U.S. for work. Drawing on extensive qualitative data from in-depth interviews, observations, and archival research, this is the first book to compare the work and family lives of two distinct groups of Indian immigrants--male high-tech workers and female nurses. Relocating with their spouses who arrive on H-4 dependent visas,

Banerjee unravels the dissonance between the state's perception of the migrant skilled worker and the immigrant subject's tribulations when negotiating the contradictory expectation of being ideal citizens/workers/families without having the security of permanence in the U.S. She also shows how restricting the spouses of temporary workers, who are on dependent visas in the U.S., from working for pay, constrain and fracture individuals and their families leaving many to refer to the dependent visas as "vegetable visas" and "prison visas." *The Opportunity Trap* reveals how visas policies strip women and men of basic rights within the home, at the workplace, and in civil society by creating gendered and racialized structures of dependence comprising the state, work organizations, transnational global processes, and migrant workers and their families. Visa policies that are legally gender and race neutral, in fact, have gendered and racialized ramifications for visa holders and their spouses. Those whose worlds are tied to these visas struggle to negotiate their lives as they are legally governed by what Banerjee calls a visa regime embedded in a gendered and racialized system of oppression.

(EDU5c) Sociology of Education in K-12: School Discipline, Violence and Exclusion
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features papers that draw on empirical, theoretical or methodological issues in the realm of K-12 education.
Session Organizer and Chair: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

Presentations:

1. Prevent, address, support: A multiperspectival inquiry into secondary schools' institutional responses to technology-facilitated violence
Salsabel Almanssori, University of Windsor

Deriving from a broader study of technology-facilitated violence (TFV) in secondary schools in Ontario, Canada, this article features insights from teachers, administrators, and students on how schools can effectively prevent TFV, respond to harm in real time, and provide meaningful support to victims in the aftermath of harm. TFV "is an umbrella term that refers to sexual and non-sexual violence. TFV emphasizes how technology enables harmful behaviors and recognizes the impact that online interactions can have beyond digital spaces" (Shariff et al., 2023). Twenty-nine semi-structured interviews that inquired into the nature, ubiquity, and institutional responses to TFV in secondary schools were analyzed initially using thematic analysis and then situational analysis, an additional interpretive phase using the conceptual framework of institutional betrayal and courage. The analysis yielded three overarching themes. To prevent TFV, participants emphasized the importance of avoiding victim-blaming language in school messaging, thoughtfully integrating media, technology, and emotional literacy into curricula and leadership, and adopting complex portrayals of TFV that reflect a broad continuum of digital harms in prevention initiatives. To address TFV, participants emphasized that institutions should treat it as seriously as non-tech-based harm, take responsibility for the normalization and replication of harm, and recognize and acknowledge the limits of educator and administrator roles in managing TFV cases. For robust TFV support systems, participants called for dedicated support staff, accessible safe spaces, and clear protocols for handling disclosures, alongside survivor-centered approaches that prioritize agency

over victimization, such as through restorative justice pursuits. By prioritizing the tenets of institutional courage, including transparency, accountability, and proactive measures (Gómez et al., 2023), schools can shift from reactive and superficial responses to trauma-informed and survivor-centered approaches to preventing harm, addressing it in real time, and supporting survivors in the long-term.

2. Exclusionary School Discipline and Racial Disparities: Examining Suspension Predictors for Latin American Students in Toronto

Alice Romo, University of Toronto and **Karen Robson,** McMaster University

Numerous correlational studies have demonstrated the negative patterns of exclusionary school disciplines on students on their academic achievement and increases the likelihood of being convicted of a crime or incarcerated later on in life. For this reason, it is important to further explore what factors can predict higher incidents of student suspensions rates. This study seeks to further look at racial predictive factors on student suspensions, particularly for the case of Latin American students in Toronto, Canada. Logistic regression models were employed to examine the predictive strength of race, family structure, gender and neurodivergence on suspension rates. An interaction model with time was also employed, to further examine if there is there is further risk of suspensions on students over time. Results indicate that Latin American students are more likely than their White counterparts to be suspended. However, statistical significance over time was not found, indicating that despite policy efforts to reduce suspension rates, differences with race and other demographic differences have remained. The results demonstrate a need to create programs and task forces that address the specific barriers that Latin American students and other racial minority students face.

3. The Double Role of Social Media: Managing Stigma and Supporting Reintegration for Probationary Students in Canada

Leili Jafarikardgar, University of Alberta

The probationary youth and young adults' reintegration into society and resuming their education raises a number of issues, given the existing stigma and barriers. Social media is an additional challenge in this process as it both enhances the experience of stigma and provides a means of power. Although the permanence and visibility nature of online content exacerbate public and self-stigma, social media also offer opportunities for positive storytelling, community support, and advocacy. This paradox shows that there is a critical time to develop targeted strategies that help to reduce adverse effects and tap into the abilities of social media to build up people's strengths and integrate them back into society. Grounded in Goffman's Stigma Theory, this paper explores the complex interplay between social media and stigma, focusing on how digital environments shape identity reconstruction for probationary youth. It critically examines cases, including R v. NG and R v. Craig, which demonstrate the damaging effects of unchecked online stigmatization. Simultaneously, initiatives like the Correctional Service Canada's "Lift Me Up" series illustrate how social media can support reintegration through narrative transformation and community engagement. To solve the problem of the double role of social media, this paper suggests applying a sociological, educational, and legal analysis. The main strategies are to improve digital literacy, apply restorative justice approaches, and engage various stakeholders such as teachers, probation officers, families, and policymakers. In this way, this study also seeks to shift the focus from social

media as a source of stigma to a tool for empowerment, promoting resilience, and ensuring successful reintegration. These findings contribute to a growing discourse on the intersection of digital environments and social equity, offering actionable recommendations for practitioners and policymakers.

(ENV1a) Environmental Sociology I: Justice and the Environment
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Papers in this open call for environmental sociology investigate issues of discourse and power; justice and the environment, social policy and guiding theoretical frameworks, managing environmental change, and addressing inequalities connected with the environment. Grassroots groups, corporate actions, governance decisions, and aspects of race, class, and gender are addressed by papers in these open sessions.

Session Organizer: Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico
Session Chair: Kailey Walker, Queen's University

Presentations:

1. The Rise of the Wellness Industry, Consumerism, and Environmental Harms
Brooklyn Bartlett, Queen's University

My paper explores the rise of the 'wellness industry' in the context of contemporary consumer culture, focusing on how the wellness industry creates new markets, commodity forms, and routine consumption practices that potentially contribute to major environmental harms. Section One reviews some of the key sociological literature on the development of consumer culture, identifying and discussing three key aspects that help us understand contemporary 'wellness'. The context of consumer culture then serves as a foundation to situate key elements of the wellness industry. Section Two examines the case of the 'wellness' industry as an exemplary consumerist phenomenon, focusing particularly on how 'wellness' has become a commodified, commercialized, and marketed phenomenon over time. Wellness is situated through the frame of commodification, supplemented by the identification of key examples that exemplify this, including the marketing of food, wellness influencers, wellness products used to achieve self-optimization, and marketing strategies to sell wellness products. I discuss how the commodification of wellness reproduces gendered, classed, and racialized inequalities. I then argue that the most significant process in the rise of 'wellness' is how marketing manipulation endorses paradoxically harmful images of the self and the body with regard to unfeasible and unsustainable modes of consumption and production. Second, I argue that the wellness industry and two key goals of commercialized wellness—'purity' and 'optimization'—produce the opposite of wellness concerning environmental sustainability. The third section outlines potential environmental consequences that result from the consumption and production practices promoted by the wellness industry. The use of advertising, misinformation in the wellness industry, extractivism, corporate power, and self-optimization and identity are outlined as elements that contribute to environmental damage. The paper concludes by stating that these environmental consequences create complex problems that require a multifaceted approach with multiple points of intervention to create an impactful change.

2. Behind the Green Curtain: Social Media as a Platform for Greenwashing

Fatemeh Zahmatkesh, Memorial University

With the growth in public awareness of environmental sustainability, social media is used more as a platform to promote eco-friendly initiatives. However, this rise in sustainability marketing has also brought about a surge in greenwashing—making misleading or exaggerated environmental claims appear more environmentally responsible than reality supports. This study examines how corporations use platforms like Instagram, X, and LinkedIn to project a sustainable image by analyzing the language, visuals, and strategies employed to engage audiences. Using a content analysis approach, I focused on industries with high environmental impacts, such as fashion, energy, and food production. Sustainability-related hashtags were key indicators for post-selection. Posts are coded and analyzed for patterns in greenwashing, including buzzwords, nature imagery, vague claims, and the absence of supporting data or third-party validation. The study also incorporates audience engagement metrics—such as likes, comments, and shares—to assess public reactions to these posts. In addition, sustainability claims are cross-checked against external sources, such as corporate reports and watchdog assessments, to determine their validity. Preliminary findings indicate that the most dominant practices are superficial tactics that foreground aesthetics over transparency, while audiences' reactions have ranged from trusting to outright skepticism. This research delves deeper into the business's social responsibility discourse by analyzing the practices of greenwashing on social media and the environmental issues tied to it. By uncovering the mechanisms of social media greenwashing, this study contributes to broader conversations on corporate accountability, environmental justice, and the ethical use of digital platforms for sustainability communication.

3. The Centrality of Grassroots Feminist Voices: Food Sovereignty Activism in La Via Campesina

Terran Giacomini, Independent Scholar

This paper aims to throw light on the importance of diverse grassroots feminist contributions to movements seeking deep transformations in power relations locally and globally. I share findings from my PhD research based on participant observation and interviews as well as nearly two decades of deep engagement in La Via Campesina - a global movement of small-and-medium scale food providers fighting for food sovereignty and agroecology. Drawing on literatures from a range of critical anti-capitalist, anti-colonial, anti-imperialist and Indigenous feminists, I show that relationships are at the heart of the participants' practice in all areas of their lives - within their families, communities, on the land and in social movements. This deep and defining focus on relationships is a manifestation of a politics grounded in relational worldviews and intrinsic values that honour nature, ourselves and others, including nonhumans, and defends the web of life and the interdependence that sustains us. This feminist politics, multifaceted and varying across social locations and geographies of resistance, not only prioritizes resistance to commodification and the state but the defense and affirmation of ancient and Indigenous cosmovisions and feminist care economies based on cooperation and solidarity. This visionary and transformative politics offers crucial lessons for social and environmental justice movements and environmental sociologists seeking to better understand and value the role of grassroots peasant and Indigenous feminist perspectives and practices for deep, visionary social change and solidarity across struggles. In this time of crisis, when the commodification of everything is deepening power divisions and

significantly undermining the existence of humanity and many other species, this relational politics is showing what changes are important and necessary to healing our world.

(FEM2b) Gendering and Queering Cultural Contexts
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session brings together papers that explore the social and cultural contexts shaping gender, sexuality, and kinship, highlighting acts of resistance, agency, and alternatives to normative social relations.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: Lisa Smith, Douglas College

Presentations:

1. Trendy or Troublesome? Deconstructing the "Epidemic" of Sexualization in Competitive Dance
Natalie Tacuri, McGill University

In a world of glitz, glamour, and glitter, young competitive dancers are immersed in a culture in which performances of sexualization are becoming increasingly pervasive (Clark, 2004; Hebert, 2016; Risner et al., 2004; Russell et al., 2018; Sandlos, 2020; Schupp, 2017). Dance teachers and choreographers are under immense pressure to create and reproduce routines that are considered "trendy," despite debates surrounding age appropriateness in competitive dance across Canada and the United States (Gold, 2002; Hebert, 2016). In the dance world, the distinction between cute and sexy is ambiguous and is complicated by pedagogical practices and the reinforcement of gender norms by dance parents, teachers, choreographers, judges, and other professionals in the competitive dance industry (Hebert, 2016; Risner et al., 2004; Sandlos, 2020; Zinga et al., 2019). Research suggests that this has significant ramifications for young dancers, as they learn to define themselves by historically and culturally situated standards of competitive dance culture that "glorifies objectified presentations of their bodies" (Sandlos, 2020, p. 306). Thus, the ways in which dancers may perceive their value and desirability is deeply entangled within unattainable standards of beauty, femininity, and (hetero)sexuality targeted specifically towards young, white girls in Westernized contexts (Sandlos, 2020). In this presentation, I aim to examine how sexualization trends are experienced and reproduced in competitive dance culture while also contextualizing these practices within discussions circulating among girlhood studies scholars about the sexualization of culture. The sexualization of culture refers to the "mainstreaming" of sex in which sexualized imagery, behaviours, and values have become normalized and pervasive (Attwood, 2009; Donaghue, 2014; Gill, 2012). The sexualization of culture is of particular importance to my work on competitive dancers, as it creates a conceptual and analytic space for thinking about the sexualization of girls and women in dance through a broader Western cultural perspective. As such, I will examine the following three research questions: (1) What is the sexualization of culture? How does it operate? (2) How are trends in sexualization experienced and reproduced in competitive dance contexts in North America? (3) How does the sexualization of culture inform the ways in

which girl dancers are understood within Western societies? By applying perspectives from the sexualization of culture, I argue that new spaces are opened for talking about girl dancers outside of the repressive, conservative rhetoric being reproduced among dance education scholars. Rather than positioning girl dancers as passive and in need of protection, I contend that discussions within the sexualization of culture allow dance educators to subvert and challenge these dominant scripts by making visible girls' ability to exercise agency, speak for themselves, and reclaim power in the competitive dance world while also guiding them in a safe and responsible space.

2. The Radical Potential of Queer Friendship in Disrupting Mononormativity

Rowen Francisco, University of British Columbia

The family as an institution is upheld by narratives that emphasize the importance of monogamy and uphold the nuclear family as the hegemonic standard. Queer feminist theory has problematized these ideologies, identifying a relationship hierarchy that underpins normative kinship expectations. The relationship hierarchy is used to illustrate how monogamous romantic partnership is valued more than other forms of intimacy, particularly friendship. Despite existing theory emphasizing how deconstructing this hierarchy is essential to subverting patriarchal kinship ideologies that perpetuate the dominance of the nuclear family, this framework has not been utilized in empirical research. My research draws on this body of literature to explore how queer university students are conceptualizing and practicing friendship in relation to romantic relationships in order to extend the existing theoretical framework. I performed 11 in-depth semi-structured interviews to collect data on how queer university students in Metro Vancouver between 19 and 25 years old are practicing and conceptualizing friendship, romantic partnership, and family. Preliminary findings have revealed that participants are rejecting the ideologies that uphold the relationship hierarchy in a variety of ways. The most radical of approaches involve rejecting the labels tied to particular forms of relationships entirely, while others seek to get married and have children while implementing a community-oriented approach to domestic life. This is significant as identifying alternative relationship practices has implications for family law, as marriage is the only way relationships can be legally legitimized despite the diversity of significant relational forms. Further, this research offers a gateway to future research surrounding relational practices that disrupt patriarchal expectations as there is minimal empirical research in this vein.

3. Maternal Ambivalence and Loss in Changing China from a Daughter's Perspective

Zixuan Liao, Brock University

This reflection explores the intricate dynamics of the mother-daughter relationship amid the sociocultural transformation of post-Mao China from the 1980s to the present from a daughter's perspective. Employing an autoethnographic method combined with cultural and theoretical analysis, this study first examines how concepts such as maternal ambivalence, self-silencing, and feminine attachment behaviors manifest within the unique sociocultural context of China. The second section connects these theoretical and cultural frameworks to my narration of my mother's story, focusing on three key dimensions: her mothering, romantic suffering, and terminal illness. This study argues that my mother's maternal identity and personal suffering were deeply intertwined with the conflicts between traditional family hierarchies and the rise of emotional intimacy as a societal ideal for mother-daughter relationships in the 1990s. Her avoidant coping mechanisms, shaped by romantic trauma and socio-cultural pressures, not only led to her

precursory delusion and eventual death but also created silences in our bond that complicated my grieving process and deepened the transmission of trauma across generations. By weaving personal epiphanies with cultural and theoretical insights, this article contributes to the scholarship on motherhood, grief, trauma, and the evolving mother-daughter bond within the context of modernizing East Asian societies.

4. Preliminary analysis of abortion care in Manitoba

Lindsay Larios, **Emma Cowman**, Olivia Thomas, and Melanie Paterson, University of Manitoba

Although abortion is recognized as a necessary form of healthcare in Canada (Canada Health Act, 1985), access in Manitoba remains fraught with barriers, including provider shortages, geographic disparities, and persistent stigma (Gowriluk, 2020). A history of violence against providers (Burnett, 2019), outspoken anti-abortion politicians (Sanders, 2025), and ongoing anti-choice organizing across Southern Manitoba further complicate access. This research explores the lived experiences of individuals who have sought abortion care in Manitoba. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combines a survey, narrative interviews, and policy-resource mapping. The survey identifies access trends, while interviews provide deeper insight into individual experiences of accessing care. Guided by a reproductive justice framework, the preliminary findings are organized under three key themes: *Rights, Access,* and *Dignity*. The theme of *Rights* is expressed through a tension of gratitude for the right to abortion care, coupled with political anxiety over the fragility of reproductive rights in Canada and the U.S. *Access* barriers - including geographic healthcare deserts, long wait times, and provider scarcity - contribute to uncertainty and delay. Lastly, *Dignity* emerges as a central theme in participants' interactions with healthcare providers, ranging from supportive care to experiences of paternalism, judgment, and misinformation. This study maps the systemic and policy-level factors shaping abortion access in Manitoba while contributing to Canadian reproductive justice scholarship and informing efforts to improve equitable access to abortion care.

(HEA11) Death, Dying, and Grief

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster and Social Theory Cluster

This session features theoretical and empirical papers in the broad area of death, dying, and grief (DDG).

Session Organizer, Chair and Discussant: Zohreh BayatRizi, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. Biopolitics and Brutalism: From Foucault and Agamben to Esposito and Mbembe

Rabindra Chaulagain, Acadia University

This paper explores issues of biopolitics, thanatopolitics and necropolitics in responses to the work of Michel Foucault by Giorgio Agamben, Roberto Esposito, and Achille Mbembe. It advances three claims: (i) that, *contra* Foucault, Agamben treats biopolitics as expressing a political imperative of unity and order tied to sovereignty; a politics of and over *death* that engages sovereign power *by definition*, in predetermined ways; (ii) that Esposito's genealogical understanding of biopolitics asserts that, despite an othering embedded in the biopolitical defence of the human, especially in its "thanatopolitical turn," an "affirmative biopolitics" is possible; (iii) that Mbembe's reassertion

- *via* Agamben, Foucault and Bataille - of biopower as directly implicated in modern sovereignty, places the politics of life and death at the center of contemporary issues of human rights and the very definition of the human. Mbembe applies a necropolitical analysis to the "humanitarian" management of displaced peoples in the context of a resurgent authoritarian nationalism and an expansion of warfare to incorporate modes of security in the control or elimination of populations treated as both threat and surplus.

2. Situating Grief: Historical Trajectories and Abjection

Rebecca Deutsch, York University

This paper provides a historical inventory of grief in Western societies. I primarily focus on the eighteenth century onwards due to the substantial changes that occurred in this period. The essence of how historical processes have impacted individual lives is obfuscated and normalized when not critically examined, thus in order to render starkly visible how abnormal this moment in western history is, it is necessary to slow down. While elaborate mourning rituals and varying expressions of grief were / are recognized and accepted in notable ways throughout history across the globe, in this time and place extensive grief has come to be considered pathological. Moral concerns have defined what was and was not acceptable in grief according to gender and other social characteristics throughout the Victorian Era; however, these moral concerns evolved as new forms of material relations emerged. Mourning rituals decreased around the 1920s and, shortly thereafter, new forms of pathology became included in the DSM. By taking the time to examine this complicated historical trajectory, it is easier to see the places where failure and porosity can serve as a rich soil in which to cultivate the seeds for other forms of relationality, other understandings of what it means to be alive and embodied, and what it means to know.

3. Affective Liminality: Grief across political and ontological borders

Zohreh Bayatrizi, Univeristy of Alberta

Grief is a liminal affective state, bordering attachment and detachment, disaster and normalcy. Diaspora life is also liminal. One crosses political borders without ever completely crossing cultural and identitarian boundaries. The politics of homeland and memories of home haunt the diaspora. Drawing on conversations with immigrants in Canada, this paper sketches the affective contours of this double liminality. Framed by sociological theories of diasporic political identity and collective trauma, our research asks: What do immigrants lose when they experience loss? How does the diasporic landscape of loss look like? How do people travel in it, across it, beyond it and back within it? How do the liminal affective experience of immigration and grief intersect? How do they amplify each other? What strategies do people use in order to make sense of this double liminality and to make it livable?

4. At What Cost? Framing mental illness in news media coverage of MAiD (2020-2024)

Danielle Landry and **Aisha Khan,** Toronto Metropolitan University

How journalists report on social issues not only shapes the content of public discussions, but has real world implications. The way media stories are narrated delimits which issues are worthy of public discussion and the possibilities for their debate. For instance, when lives are measured in light of dominant economic discourses, such as cost-benefit analyses, the vulnerabilities that come with illness, disability and aging get framed as deficiencies, costs or burdens. However, when quality

of life is measured and described holistically, indicators such as social belonging place value on our interdependence throughout the life course. This presentation shares findings from our study on news media coverage of medical assistance in dying (MAiD) in Canada, specifically the impending expansion of eligibility criteria to include mental illness in 2027. Focusing on news coverage from the introduction of Bill C-7 (2020 to 2024), we conducted a critical discourse analysis of 431 national, provincial and local news stories gathered through Factiva. Engaging the concept of social suffering (Bourdieu & Arccardo 1999; Kleinman, Das & Lock 1997; Marques 2018; Soldatic & St.Guillaume 2022), we consider the social risks and potential harms of current reporting practices, specifically for disabled, racialized and Indigenous populations at higher risk of suicide. Analytic attention is paid to clickbait headlines, contrasts in form (news reports versus opinion columns), and the language used to describe MAiD and 'account' for the lives of people diagnosed with mental illness. Our findings contribute to a recent and growing body of scholarship on the shifting terrain of MAiD in Canada. We underscore concerns related to the politics of media reporting and representation, including the dominance and reliance on Factiva within social science research in media analysis, in part because it eliminates the possibility of large-scale analysis of visual components within news articles.

5. An Institutional Ethnography of Palliative Care in the Necropolitical Singaporean State

Hazirah Mohamad, University of Toronto

Are Singaporeans potentially at risk of being prematurely streamed into palliative care, not because it is the optimal form of care that aligns with their goals, but due to the lack of affordability for curative treatment? If so, what is the impact on the grieving process undergone by patients with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers revolving around decision-making for end-of-life (EOL) care? Utilizing Dorothy Smith's institutional ethnography (IE), this paper addresses knowledge gaps and issues of domination surrounding EOL decision-making and palliative care. By adopting the standpoint of EOL patients and caregivers, findings combining year-long fieldwork with patients, caregivers, palliative care physicians, nurses, medical social workers and policy staff with the lived experience of the researcher as a caregiver will be presented. The methods consist of; 1) text-based analyses of policy, means-testing and medical savings account documents, 2) semi-structured in-depth interviews with 32 participants, and 3) ethnographic observation across 18 different sites. Findings demonstrate the enactment of ruling relations presented in the form of a publicly accessible and navigable tool (https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVNHBPXEo=/). This map cartographically illustrates regulation of healthcare for different classes of citizens, especially EOL patients deemed as 'economically unproductive'. Findings explore dimensions of financial suffering faced by patients and caregivers, and its resultant impact on EOL decision-making by charting aspects of domination within the healthcare system. Results also demonstrate how healthcare subsidies affects decision-making and access to both treatment and EOL care for patients from different income levels, compounding grief in the already fraught process of EOL decision-making. The analysis is extended by applying Foucaldian biopower and Mbembe's necropolitics in the examination of the healthcare financing structure and the making of 'death-subjects'. Finally, a normative analysis of the healthcare financing structure through Iris Marion Young's conception of social justice and the five faces of oppression will be discussed.

(ITD7) Work, Play, Display: Exploring the Shifting Landscape of Time, Media, and Technology in Post-Pandemic Society

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

This session features inquiries into the intertwined narratives of work, leisure, media, time, and technology, notably against the backdrop of a post-pandemic context. It aims to explore the shifting digital landscape where the boundaries between work, leisure, and social connections have been redrawn. This session aims to spark discussions on the contemporary challenges and transformations in the post-pandemic world, setting a platform for future explorations. We anticipate engaging contributions that dissect the complex interplay of media, technology, work, and leisure, shedding light on the evolving social dynamics in these uncertain times.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Christian de Vrij and Spencer Huesken, Queen's University

Presentations:

1. Am I Being Productive? Managing time, technology, and expectations among university students

Adri Prattas, Queen's University

Popular news articles suggest that time management is a crucial skill, not just for mere productivity, but in getting "the best out of your working life and, well, *life* life," (Marr 2022). Research in domains including the domestic sphere and the workplace has shown how time management and responsibilization take different forms, particularly with regards to pervasive 'smart' and connected technologies, such as temporal scheduling, the organization of time at work, and attempts to manage a 'work-life' balance (Berker 2005; Duxbury et al. 2013; Gregg 2019; Kitchin 2023; Nansen et al. 2009; Silverstone 1993; Wajcman 2019). While limited, research in the university setting suggests that students are facing similarly increasing expectations to effectively organize, schedule, and manage their own time and the pressure they feel surrounding these expectations (Bunn et al. 2018; Liao et al. 2013; O'Brien 2023). Building on this, this paper examines how and in what ways undergraduate students interpret, negotiate, and manage expectations around the organization of their time through devices, platforms, and apps, in the institutional context of the university. This paper uses preliminary data from time-use diaries and in-depth interviews with 15 undergraduate university students from three different faculties, each with different institutional schedules, varying informal normative expectations regarding time spent on extracurricular activities, and the amount of much temporal autonomy versus structured time: Engineering (N=5), Business (N=5), and Arts and Science (N=5). These conditions produce comparatively distinct temporal arrangements and expectations and thus require different management. Drawing on this preliminary data, I will demonstrate how there are many layers of temporal constraint and investigate how everyday temporal management is complicated through institutional arrangements and rising discourses surrounding time management. Critically approaching narratives of 'time management' and productivity, and exploring how these are navigated, is vital for understanding issues around students' well-being.

2. An Analysis on the Complex Nuances of Ghosting in the Digital Era

Shantambi Wamunyima, Memorial University

With the growth of the digital era, we see a shift in the way intimate relationships are being formed and dissolved in online spaces—with ghosting being one of the leading dissolution methods, which prioritize efficiency and control over emotional depth. It involves the abrupt ending of a personal relationship with an intimate partner by withdrawing all forms of communication without any explanation. Though ghosting is widely practiced in society, particularly in online spaces, there is little academic research on the sociological implications it has for users looking to establish romantic social connections online. It is enabling the desensitization and lack of critical thought towards the negative social interactions that occur in online dating spaces, which is ultimately diminishing the quality of user experience of people seeking genuine connections online. Psychological studies show that ghosting can affect one's mental health, social skills, and self-esteem, especially for the person ghosted. However, my focus is on the underlying implications of how ghosting disproportionately affects the ghoster and the ghosted in terms of gender and social control. Through the lens of conflict theory and symbolic interactionism, this research aims to expose the presentation of self in online dating and how that affects existing power structures in those spaces. Data will be sourced from comprehensive reviews of scholarly literature on ghosting, with participant observation from TikTok and Hinge. By drawing attention to the micro-societal behaviour of ghosting in online dating spaces, this analysis aims to spread awareness of the underlying effects of ghosting in society and provide recommendations to advocate for healthy online dating practices for all users. Altogether, this on ghosting culture study attempts to provide a new perspective on the effects of ghosting culture in the digital age, to foster more engagement from a scholarly audience, and draw attention to the topic.

3. Governing work(ers): Surveillance, mediation, and control in the digital workplace

Danielle Thompson and Adam Molnar, University of Waterloo

Employee monitoring applications (EMAs) are a type of digital surveillance software that employers can install on employee devices to monitor the behaviours and activities of their workers. These applications draw on a myriad of features including email monitoring, time tracking, location tracking, keystroke logging, and screen recording - many of which are highly invasive to employee privacy. Marketed as beneficial for managing a dispersed workforce, the adoption of EMAs by Canadian companies has skyrocketed since the increase in remote/hybrid work alongside the pandemic (Thompson & Molnar, 2023). While previous research has examined EMA adoption and use (e.g., see Thompson & Molnar, 2023) and has analyzed vendor website descriptions of these technologies to theorize about their invasiveness and expansiveness (Munn, 2024), there is an absence of research that engages directly with the app's interface. Documenting socio-technical characteristics of apps is crucial for understanding how software design constructs 'legitimate' subjects of surveillance. We conducted a user-centered app ethnography of 10 EMAs including apps like Hubstaff, Clever Control, and Spyera. Through this walkthrough method (Light et al., 2018; Harkin & Molnar, 2020) we gathered information on the app's intended purpose, vision, operating model, design, embedded cultural meanings, features, and the affordances provided to operators. In this presentation, we outline how EMAs shape the behaviours of surveillance agents (i.e., managers/employers) and subjects (i.e., employees). We argue agent behaviour to be shaped by the app's prescription of what constitutes 'good' and 'bad' workers through default settings,

benchmarks, and data presentation (e.g., graphs, comparisons). Subject behaviour is shaped by app features that encourage self-surveillance and competition between workers (e.g., employee dashboard, idle-time accountability prompts). The use of EMAs to govern work(ers) has adverse social and psychological impacts on worker well-being, and undermines worker autonomy, privacy, and other human rights.

(JFP1) Speaking of Palestine: Issues of Academic Freedom and Reprisal
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: CSA Justice for Palestine Subcommittee

This session seeks to map and explore struggles of academics who stand with Palestine and Palestinians in the context of rising anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia on Canadian campuses since October 7, 2023. A recent report by faculty members of York University, Toronto provides a comprehensive overview of the routine practices of silencing, intimidation and surveillance that stand in opposition to both standards of equity and academic freedom. This session aims to provide a wider platform for exploring these issues across Canadian campuses. We are particularly interested in bearing witness to and documenting experiences of silencing, chilling, doxing, reprisal, and other punitive measures mobilized against pro-Palestinian academics and student organizers, including but not limited to the use of administrative, risk management, complaint, and other procedures to cancel events, thwart evidence-based discussion, and mute pro-Palestine dissent in academic spaces.

Session Organizers: Azar Masoumi, Carleton University, Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Malak El-Outa, Carleton University

Session Chair: Azar Masoumi, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Israel, Canada and the Intellectuals: Public Sociology and Truthful Speaking
Peter Eglin, Wilfrid Laurier University

If it is the responsibility of the intellectual to speak the truth and to expose lies what may be said about the exercise of that responsibility by administrators and faculty in Canadian universities as Israel's assault on the people and society of Gaza unfolded in the weeks, months and year following 7 October 2023? How does it relate to its exercise before 7 October 2023? How may we characterize the same intellectuals' response to the positions and actions taken by Canada's governments and political parties? Before explanation is attempted the question is one of adequate description - in cognitive, affective and evaluative terms (to use the language of a forgotten sociologist). The paper draws on the author's thirty-five years' experience of "academic freedom and reprisal" while studying, observing and combatting both Israel's oppression of the Palestinians and Canadian intellectuals' complicity in it, as documented in his book *Analyzing The Israel Effect in Canada: A Critical Autoethnography* (Routledge, 2024), culminating in what he argues has become a socio-cide in Gaza.

2. Academic freedom and the Palestine exception. takeaways from the 2024 "Surveilled and Silenced" report
Shirin Shahrokni, **Soma Chatterjee**, and **Enakshi Dua,** York University

In this paper, some of the authors of the 2024 Report on anti-Palestinian racism in a Canadian university come together to 1. discuss the chain of events which made the gathering of data on anti-Palestinian racism on their campus not just a necessary but an urgent task. 2. unpack the key findings of the document about the range of repressive measures, from the classroom to the rallies, that the university's administration has deployed to suppress Palestinian voices and pro-Palestinian solidarity movements during the genocidal campaign by the State of Israel against Palestinians in Gaza. 3. provide a critical analysis of the administration's reaction to the report - from attempts to delegitimate its findings to the institutional definition of APR it has endeavoured to put forth and the fragmented measures it has implemented since, to respond to the report's recommendations. The paper concludes with reflections on what this political moment has revealed about gaps and contradictions of post-secondary institutions which take pride in "decolonization, equity, inclusion, diversity" programs and initiatives, while censoring freedom of speech on, and solidarity work with, Palestine, reinforcing in the process colonial epistemologies and marginalizing materially and socially its most vulnerable members; it further unpacks the underlying financial and ideological interests and alliances sustaining the making and remaking of empire in the western university. The paper finally points to the mobilizations, pedagogical initiatives, and solidarity alliances, internally and across universities and sectors, that this moment has also simultaneously consolidated among students and workers, and invites us to further envision ways to contribute, from our locations in the academy, to anticolonial struggles and Palestinian liberation.

3. The University and Genocide: Bureaucratic Operations of Dissonance

Azar Masoumi, Carleton University

Since October 2023, Palestinians and their allies have endured colossal loss and grief due to the indiscriminate and violent assaults inflicted by the state of Israel on the people of Gaza and the West Bank, as well as Lebanon and Syria. Despite this devastation, Canadian universities have consistently undermined the ability of pro-Palestine students and academics to express solidarity with Palestine, divest from genocide, or even engage in evidence-based scholarly discussions of Palestinians' deprivation of basic human rights. This presentation uses auto-ethnography and document analysis to explore the seemingly incongruent functions of the university, as both an agent of social change (where ideas about a better and more just world are repeatedly professed) and social inertial (where any action to bring about a better and more just world is vehemently opposed). It draws on experiences of repeatedly hurdled and repressed pro-Palestinian activism at Carleton University to examine how the university resists pro-Palestinian change. I document the various bureaucratic arrangements of the university that allow easy stalling of resistance against genocide and the host of administrative measures that are used to dissuade and exhaust pro-Palestinians in their quest for justice.

(KNW3a) Social Processes of Knowledge I: Creating Disciplinary Knowledge

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster

We advocate an expansive view of knowledge encompassing all representations of reality and social life, including organizational knowledge, practical knowledge, historical knowledge, Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledges, embodied and tacit knowledge, beliefs, myths, facts, customs, routines, identities, and more. Presentations focus on classic theories of knowledge, such as

phenomenology, social constructionism, and ethnomethodology, as well as contemporary approaches to the sociology of knowledge.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. The Rejection of Modernist Binaries as the New Common Sense: Canonization in Modern Physics and Cultural Studies

Yanki Doruk Doganay, Middle East Technical University, York University

The rejection of modernist dichotomies, particularly the Cartesian subject-object divide, has become a dominant theme in contemporary science and knowledge studies, especially within new materialism. Many contemporary theorists seek to establish an epistemological intersection between the hard sciences and the humanities by emphasizing their shared discursive space and mutual rejection of modernist binaries. Cultural studies and quantum physics are often seen as disciplines that transcend the binaries rooted in modernity. My research asks whether such a scientific transformation is narrated and, if so, how it is portrayed. Unlike new materialist approaches, which frequently study science in its abstract form, this research focuses on the canonization of knowledge through widely-used scholarly textbooks. To this end, two seminal textbooks are analyzed: *Concepts of Modern Physics* by Arthur Beiser and *Introducing Cultural Studies* by Longhurst et al. Using Gaston Bachelard's analytical framework, particularly his concepts of the "epistemological obstacle" and "epistemological break," this paper explores how these texts narrate the transformation of knowledge production, especially in the shift from modernist paradigms to contemporary understandings. Three key findings emerge from this analysis. First, both textbooks narrate a break from the modernist, Cartesian subject. However, they remain firmly rooted in the modernist perspective within the underlying logic of their explanations. Lastly, while the modernist logic persists, the originally modernist concepts undergo significant transformations through multiplication and particularization. In Longhurtst's textbook, the complexity of social phenomena is often reduced to a set of essentialized variables—such as age, gender, class, and race—which are treated as fixed identities. In Beiser's textbook, the indeterminate and contingent characteristics of quantum phenomena are distilled into a few absolute constants—such as Planck's constant—and pre-defined effects derived from these constants, including photon absorption, emission modes, and atomic orbital energy levels. I aim to show that the rejection of modernist logic is the new common-sense canonized in textbooks but this process involves the complex reproduction and particularization of modernist concepts instead of simple rejection.

2. Ignorance as Flexibility: Constructing Ignorance of Colleague's Grading as a Resource for Flexibility in Accounting for Practice

Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

This paper explores how tenure-track faculty in psychology at Canadian institutions frame the information they have about their colleagues' grading practices as "not really knowing" how their colleagues grade, establishing a collective ignorance where they neither know, nor are expected to know this information. This claim of ignorance is contrasted, in the same sample, by descriptions of interactions with both colleagues and teaching assistants, about the substantive and philosophical

approaches to grading in their work environments. These interactions are framed as being outside of real knowledge of their colleagues grading, so that the interactions themselves, and descriptions of them, can coexist alongside claims of not knowing. This ignorance is not neutral, it becomes a resource for faculty to construct their own grading, and, by extension, themselves, in positive ways, as being consistent with, or superior too, disciplinary norms of grading. The shared claims of not knowing how one's colleagues grade contribute to a collective ignorance, against which an individual's claim about their own grading can be made but is unlikely to be contested.

3. Students as Producers: Institutional Ethnography, Agency, and the Politics of Knowledge Production

Breanna Kubat, Carleton University

The past decade has been marked by a global increase in calls for universities to confront their connections to colonization, imperialism, and the trans-Atlantic slave trade. These calls to reckon with past injustices are often amplified by student activists and community allies, yet official narratives often fail to acknowledge the central role that students play in this reckoning and institutional change. Building on Mike Neary and Gary Saunder's (2016) argument that students should be understood as producers rather than consumers, I not only challenge dominant neoliberal narratives of students as having solely a transactional and temporary relationship with universities but also emphasize the methodological importance of considering agency when discussing the politics of knowledge production. Informed by Dorothy Smith's (2022) institutional ethnography (IE), which emphasizes the importance of learning from people rather than institutions, and specifically the IE concept of "ruling relations," defined as conventions where participation is imposed by power structures that are informed by dominant forms of authority and knowledge. I consider the intersection of institutional change, agency, and the politics of knowledge production to examine how designations of agency impact epistemological practices regarding how and what knowledge is collected, shared, and distributed. Specifically, I investigate how the neoliberal narrative of students as consumers shapes not only the institutional legitimisation of students' lived experiences and reactions to institutional (in)action but also impacts what knowledge sharing methods are made available, and subsequently what official narratives are formed. As such, this research offers vital insight on how to produce narratives that centre individuals as opposed to institutions and demonstrates how methodology can be a site of resistance and allyship.

(PSM5a) Boundaries of the Right: The Overlapping Relations between Conservative Politics and Far-Right Extremism

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

Where and how do far-right political organizations overlap and interact with established electoral politics? How do we identify the boundaries across conservative politics and far-right activism during the rise of global right-wing populism? In this panel, Boundaries of the Right I, scholars explore how far-right mobilizations as social contentions establish legitimacy and sympathy in a liberal democratic regime. From a comparative perspective of Canada and the U.S., this panel demonstrates the mechanisms of convergence, in both political and social forms, across populism, ethno-nationalism, and conservativism via grounded empirical cases. A well-selected paper for the

session offers new and innovative approaches to examine the far-right's impact across socialization, political activism, and state policies.

Session Organizers: Zitian Sun, McGill University, Alessandro Drago, McGill University, Taisto Witt, McGill University, and Thomas MacMillan, Concordia

Session Chair: Zitian Sun, McGill University

Presentations:

1. "I Began to Think More Like A [White] Canadian": How Second-Generation South Asian and Chinese Canadians Confront Racism by Becoming Conservative Voters

Emine Fidan Elcioglu, University of Toronto

This study demonstrates how voting for a right-wing party that represents the interests of white, wealthy citizens can be a way for second-generation South Asian and Chinese Canadians to seek acceptance in a society where power is linked to race. Drawing on 50 in-depth interviews with the children of immigrants living in the Greater Toronto Area, I show how white-adjacent groups contending with the model minority stereotype may support right-wing politics in an effort to embody the traits and behaviors of the privileged. Paradoxically, then, excluded groups may seek inclusion not by favoring but by *rejecting* inclusionary political platforms because this rejection signals proximity to whiteness and, concomitantly, distance from racialized foreignness. The study thus illustrates a powerful mechanism contributing to the political reproduction of inequality. Nonetheless, the findings also show how even brief exposure to the social sciences can disrupt the attractiveness of rightwing politics.

2. Turning to the Far-Right: American Right-Wing Youth's Explanation for Their Vote in 2024

Kayla Preston, University of Toronto

Many studies have reported a rise in interest on the right within the United States in the past five years (Crosby, 2021; Mudde, 2019). This comes during a period of political and social shifts in the Republican party who have been accused of turning toward anti-elitist right-wing ideas. Major shifts in the policy and social and economic stances of the Republican party have also come alongside young adults becoming more interested in the GOP. In the 2024 election, 56% of young men between 18 and 29 voted for Trump, with young women also being less likely to vote Democrat than they were in 2020 (Vanderlaan, 2024). Data on the United States shows that there has been an increase in the idea that democracy is failing among this demographic. Between 2005 and 2009, about 5% of individuals aged 18-29 stated that the US. was undemocratic. However, by 2017-2022, this number had increased: 9.3% of people in this age group made the same statement (World Values Survey, 2023). Given these shifts, why did young people vote for Trump in the 2024 US election? To answer this question, I conducted six months of participant observation with right-wing groups and 36 interviews with Republican voters aged 18-29. My fieldwork occurred before, during and after the November 2024 presidential election. My participants noted three main reasons why they voted for Trump. First, they feared the destruction of Christian values in a 2024-2028 Democrat presidency. Second, they believed immigration needed to be curbed, referencing a flow of illegal immigration. Third, they argued that American values and nationality have been destroyed, citing a desire to be proud to be an American again. I argue that while these youths valorized Republican politicians, their vote often hinged on far-right talking points suggesting a

connection between the GOP and the far-right supported by their young, often political active, supporters.

3. Support for the Freedom Convoy Among Canadian Adults

Naiomi Perera, York University

The events of the 2022 Freedom Convoy protests challenged notions of Canadian exceptionalism, showing the potential for radical right mobilizations in a political community considered somewhat immune. This paper uses Canadian survey data collected by the Consortium on Electoral Democracy to investigate predictors of support for the Freedom Convoy, with the goal of developing a stronger understanding of the Canadians that were united by its cause. The rise of the populist radical right has typically been attributed to the convergence of populist, ethno-nationalist, and authoritarian attitudes, but the Convoy's libertarianism and the limited role of nativism and ethno-nationalism in Canadian conservatism complicate this picture. This analysis uses ordered logistic regression to examine demographic factors alongside single item attitudinal factors to illuminate how and where traditionalism, authoritarianism, nativism, populism, petro-politics, and political alienation overlap in Convoy support. The findings indicate strong connections between right-wing, populist, and libertarian sentiments and Convoy support. Support was also higher among those who do not regularly consume news media. Additionally, demographic characteristics and attitudes surrounding the energy sector reflect the presence of material grievances among supporters that appear to have added resonance to the Convoy's cause. This paper helps to clarify which Canadians are sympathetic to the Freedom Convoy, and what ideas motivate their support.

(SOM1c) Sociology of Migration Open Session 3: Refugees

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

The last of the three SOM open sessions showcases three studies pertaining to refugee migration /sponsorship processes and refugee integration in host countries. It entails wide-ranging topics: 1) decision-making of sponsors of refugees; 2) challenges of private sponsorship perceived by sponsors; and 3) vulnerability of Afghan refugees crossing the Iran-Afghanistan border.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Session Chair: Fernando Mata, University of Ottawa

Presentation:

1. Social Ties Facilitating Migration: Kinship, Vulnerability, and Adaptability

Ian Van Haren, McGill University

Theories that explain international migration operate at different levels, from individual-level decision-making towards global processes that undergird migration trends. Increasingly, due to limited migration opportunities, transnational networks facilitate immigration through sponsorship and other opportunities where individuals in receiving countries enable aspiring migrants to cross borders. These meso-level processes are key to understanding global migration. However, the factors that influence how and when individuals in a migrant-receiving destination take action to

facilitate immigration are underspecified. In this study, I focus on the decision-making process of sponsors who facilitate refugee immigration. Based on interviews with over 50 sponsors, I find that kinship, vulnerability, and adaptability are overlapping key considerations that determine who groups and individuals will help to migrate. Identifying these factors increases our understanding of when individuals receive opportunities to immigrate and, consequently, refines our understanding of migration theory.

2. Middle Class Logic: Canadian Private Refugee Sponsors Make Sense of Challenges

Jennifer Peruniak, University of Toronto

Private sponsorship is an initiative that allows for refugees to resettle in Canada with support and funding from private and joint government-private sponsorship. It examines the highly intimate relationship between sponsors and newcomer refugees as they aid in their settlement during their first 12 months in Canada. This paper analyzes 23 in depth semi-structured interviews with private sponsors of refugees in Ontario, these were conducted in person and on zoom before the COVID-19 pandemic. This research asks: how do sponsors navigate and cope with challenges of private sponsorship? It finds that sponsors navigate sponsorship through a white middle-class lens that idealizes Canada as a gift. Nguyen's concept of the gift of freedom, whereby, liberal conceptions of freedom erase legacies of coloniality (2012), showcases the cyclical relationship between notions of gifts, and those who receive, are expressed through the triad of native/settler/alien. By studying how sponsors describe refugees, it reveals how such discussions contextualize broader discourse about Canadian landscape of immigrant and non-immigrant relations, underscored by power. The concept of Canada as a gift, one that is given by white citizens to non-white immigrants, percolates beneath the surface of these interactions. Findings indicate that sponsors enact their white middle class privilege through their actions toward refugees, leading to tension within their relationships. In their relationship, sponsors view themselves as acquiring huge risk, despite refugees encountering greater risk through their experiences of migration. Despite good intentions, sponsors who engage in this volunteer work reproduce white middle class understandings of how refugees should integrate, and thereby help reproduce, rather than mitigate inequality in Canada. Logics of power are articulated through sponsors' perceived challenges in the financial, cultural and gender dimensions. This research has important theoretical and policy applications for future private sponsors of refugees and adds nuance in understanding how these intimate dynamics operate.

3. Deadly Crossings: Afghan Migrants Death and Disappearances at Afghanistan-Iran Border

Neela Hassan, University of Waterloo

For many Afghans, Iran is recognized for its harsh immigration policies and widespread hostility towards Afghan refugees. Despite this, it remains one of the primary destinations for Afghans seeking refuge from the ongoing conflict, violence, and poverty in Afghanistan, a crisis that has continued for over four decades. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in August 2022, over 2.3 undocumented Afghans were living in Iran. Since the Taliban's takeover in 2021, there has been a significant increase in Afghan asylum seekers crossing the unofficial land borders into Iran, coupled with escalating violence, abuse, and rising death tolls at the border Reports indicate that since 2021, thousands have faced arrests, beatings, mass shootings, and deaths perpetrated by border guards, smugglers, and criminal gangs. Many others have lost their lives due to illness and exhaustion stemming from the harsh conditions at the border

crossings, including a lack of food and water, dangerous transportation, and insufficient healthcare. Drawing on the testimonies and stories of Afghan refugees sharing their experiences of border crossings, detention, and deportation with local media, this study draws connections between increased violence and hostility against Afghan refugees, Iran's migration policies and practices, and public attitude towards Afghan refugees in Iran. I argue that the death toll and disappearances at the Iran-Afghanistan border can be reduced by enhancing coordination and responsibility-sharing at the international level, providing legal pathways for Afghan migrants, and shifting public attitudes towards Afghan migrants in Iran.

(THE3) Separatism as a Social Phenomenon: a Discourse on Partitioning People and Making Boundaries

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

The proposal of a two-state solution, grounded in the desire for sovereignty, is typically almost exclusively associated in the popular consciousness with the Israel-Palestine conflict whereby Palestinians, for some time now, have been agitating for an independent state free of Israeli occupation. Yet, the desire for sovereignty, enacted via separatism, has long preoccupied various populations the world over and has animated numerous, and seemingly intractable, struggle and strife, many of which have engendered acts of violence, whether originating with the population that believes itself to be the victim of illegitimate rulership or with the internationally recognized state that views itself as acting within its rights to suppress a rogue constituency.
This session of the CSA, oriented to committing sociology for social impact, is directed to developing a discourse on separatism and its grounds that applies not only to Israel-Palestine, but to Russia-Eastern Ukraine, Canada-Quebec, Spain-Basques and Catalans, UK-Scotland, and more. The session examines and formulates how separating different people is grounded in the relation of: originals to derivatives (who is first and who is second); owners to borrowers (who owns the property and who is parasite); producers to consumers (who produces the value of the property and who benefits and lives off this); insiders to outsiders (what makes insiders images of the whole and outsiders images of parts of the whole); and what authorizes any policy document of sovereignty as if a sacred.

Session Organizer and Chair: Saeed Hydaralli, Roger Williams University

Presentations:

1. Separatism and the Desire for Distinct Forms of Life

Saeed Hydaralli, Roger Williams University

Separatism, by definition, entails division. As a feature of that division, some treat the whole as inviolable, as if it has a timeless precedence, and any fragmentation represents an inestimable diminishment and loss. Yet others argue that the refusal of fragmentation, of the recognition that the whole is constituted by parts, different in degree and kind, and incommensurable, is the violation, the violation of a part's desire for recognition, distinction, self-determination and the like. Thus, one view calls for the erasure of differences, something like a common identity and shared priorities, while the other calls for the assertion of differences and the identities and priorities commensurate with those differences. Animated by Durkheim's provocation that sociology does not make opinions (in the words of Arendt, "think something") but rather can only observe, examine and make them more conscious of themselves (in Arendt's terms, "think about something"), this

paper is directed to recovering the unspoken and untheorized discourse that grounds separatism, that which "lies beneath" and is the "source of life" of phenomenon (Arendt). This work of analysis will be facilitated by the metaphor of the rural-urban divide where the metaphor permits for bridging the gap between visible and the invisible as it relates to the discourse that grounds separatism. The rural-urban separation is perhaps mutually desired in the way that the ethnic elements that comprised the former Yugoslavia largely wished to separate themselves from each other.

2. Irish Independence: A Case Study in the Desire for Sovereignty

Kieran Bonner, St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo

This paper addresses the Irish struggle for separation from Britain in light of the desire for sovereignty. The 1916 insurrection in Dublin sought to make what was part of Britain into a whole in its own right. The desire for sovereignty for the island of Ireland as a whole, and the failure to fully achieve that led to Ireland's civil war and to the violence in Northern Ireland, England and the Republic of Ireland in the last half of the 20thcentury. These events are examined considering Arendt's critique of sovereignty and its tyrannic and authoritarian tendencies. Is the desire for sovereignty good in itself or good for its consequences or both? Is it a means to an end or an end in itself? Sovereignty is, for Arendt, profoundly anti-political and anti-democratic but it can also be understood as a means to establish political and democratic realms. What is the relation between this desire and the issues of violence, justification and legitimation? Can a reflexive analysis of this case study help (or not) throw light on these tangled concerns?

3. Borders and Boundaries: on the Logic of Partitioning

Alan Blum, York University

Separatism evokes the general idea of political conflict over sovereignty between two parts of a society as in current disputes over the world and shows the import of creating boundaries and separation not only between the contending parts but between each part and the 'whole'. This makes partitioning the focus of our panel. I want to separate myself from these exchanges of opinion by reviving Plato's method of examining its participation in a discourse that it leaves unexamined. We can understand the various Platonic dialogues as illustrating the struggle of an inquirer to move through obstacles presented by the habits and conventions of its day and here, to engage the habits and conventions governing disputes about separatism and the absolutistic conceits of image makers and believers. For any case we study, such as separatism, the inquirer challenges the rigidity of the normative order that enables one to see oneself as if two persons both participant and spectator. In Plato's dialogue *Meno,* fundamental ambiguity is first experienced in a striking way as the difference between being familiar with a usage or topic (in this case, *virtue*) and having knowledge of it, where the character Socrates shows how making the familiar unfamiliar in the way of question-asking that assumes the prospect of an answer, must still preserve familiarity in order to measure itself as adequate. How then, might we make unfamiliar the concept of partitioning with which we are familiar through what Hannah Arendt calls the human way of question-asking? I ask in this panel how we might analyze the discourse of partitioning in ways that bring up what Hegel calls its real story? Thus, my analysis must move from the manifest topic separatism, to the discourse on partitioning, to the creation of a case study that here must be the example of the Congress manifesto.

(WPO2) Healthcare Institutions and Organizations, Work, and Immigration: Exploring the Trajectories and Mobility of Healthcare Workers

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

In recent years, the global pandemic has underscored the essential role of healthcare workers in sustaining healthcare systems worldwide. In Canada, a large proportion of these workers are employed on the frontlines, many of whom are recent immigrants. Notably, several have navigated multiple migrations, bringing valuable experience from other healthcare systems prior to arriving in Canada. Particularly on the frontlines of healthcare work, the pandemic has exposed the disproportionate risks and structural inequalities affecting frontline workers, especially along the lines and intersections of race and ethnicity, occupation, citizenship, and socioeconomic status. These roles, deemed essential and among the most stressful and demanding, are predominantly held by racialized women. This session will explore the complex intersections between healthcare institutions, work and labour, and immigration, examining the unique challenges and opportunities that arise at the convergence of these domains. We will pay particular attention to issues of im/mobility and stratification experienced by healthcare workers within institutional and organizational structures. Addressing these challenges is crucial for developing equitable organizational and management strategies, optimizing service delivery, and improving worker retention within healthcare institutions. The labour of healthcare workers is essential for the effective functioning of healthcare systems, quality patient care, and the mentorship of new professionals.

Session Organizers: Valerie Damasco, Trent University and Eugena Kwon, Trent University
Session Chair: Valerie Damasco, Trent University

Presentations:

1. Home care work needs migrant justice: Immigrant caregiving organizing during the pandemic

Mary Jean Hande, Trent University; Leah Nicholson, Independent Scholar; Mehmet Yavuz, Kansas State University; Susan Rodriguez, Migrante Manitoba; and Nelli Agbulos, Bayan Canada

Immigrant home care workers in Manitoba, Canada, provide essential support with daily living for older disabled people living in the community (outside of nursing homes). During the pandemic, this support was often provided under grueling circumstances (e.g. low pay, no sick days, and harassment). Early race-based provincial COVID-19 data showed that Manitoba-based immigrant workers had disproportionately high COVID-19 rates. Nevertheless, immigrant home care workers were effectively excluded from provincial COVID-19 policy responses and had difficulty navigating limited settlement services and health supports in the province. Mutual aid organizing and care activism, beyond their formal care work, were thus necessary for supporting themselves and their communities. Based on a community-based participatory research project, partnered with migrant justice group Migrante Manitoba, this presentation explores the practices and transformative potential of im/migrant workers' care activism. Between November 2020 and April 2022, we conducted semi-structured online interviews with 18 Manitoba-based immigrant home care workers employed during the pandemic, 7 community leaders serving these immigrant workers, and insights from our project policy forum. We draw on frameworks of migrant justice, care activism (Tungohan, 2023), and transnational communities of care (Francisco-Menchavez, 2018) for analyzing the challenges and possibilities of care work and activism in the context of intersectional

exclusions (Lightman, 2021) during the pandemic. We outline care activism discussed in our interviews and explore how it strengthened the collective wellbeing of immigrant communities, supported transnational family ties, and called for transformative government policy change in home care systems and beyond. We conclude by arguing that the home care sector needs migrant justice organizing to thrive. Moreover, such expansive care activism and cross-movement/community solidarity with care receivers might transform the ways that care relationships manifest and move us towards more ethical and just care practices that can challenge the intensifying precarity, violence, and privatization in Canada's home care sector.

2. Everyday poison: The workplace violence experienced by gendered-racialized pharmacists in Southern Ontario

Alison Starkey, University of Toronto

The demands of converging and diverging multilevel relationalities at the nexus of state, civil society, and the influence of capitalist forces complicates various obligations for healthcare workers caring for vulnerable people in commercial contexts. This work will describe and interrogate work experiences and relationalities between gendered racialized women pharmacists, their colleagues, coworkers, patients, and customers to reveal aspects of race, gender, and class that cohere, overlap, and reverberate to effect work-life quality. As the conditions of work are the conditions of care and the conditions of care are the conditions of work (Mehra, 2020), describing and interrogating emotion experiences at work in retail pharmacies will serve to elucidate challenges in recruitment, training, service provision, work/life balance, career progression, and retention within the pharmacy profession. Empirical data on experiences of workplace violence (WPV) requiring engagement of nine professional individuals' 'emotion practice' (Cottingham, 2022) will reveal how gendered racialized women pharmacists exercise and deploy unintentional habits and active strategies along a fluid continuum to cope with daily challenges, work intensification, and WPV. Cross-application of Gunaratnam's (2003) double-research method, working both with and against racial and ethnic categories, acknowledges historic demands and generates potential future adaptations. Combining these approaches engages with the complications of emotional engagement in a hierarchically structured and unequal world, in relational experiences occurring in the present, but informed by histories, experiences, and practices leading up to it. Through these practices, hierarchies, micro- and macrolevel processes are (re)produced. Emotions, as both signals and resources, constitute this milieu, within routinized, embodied, interconnected complexes of bodily activities and behavioural acts; holistically considering articulations of context, social location, and interactional targets interrogates this dynamically. Doing so suggests potential interventions that address issues in recruitment, training, service provision, and retention, key challenges in a healthcare environment beset by ever evolving polycrises.

3. Immigrant Working Conditions, De-skilling and Experiential Knowledge in Community Outreach Programs

Jean-Francois Filiatrault and Yanick Noiseux, Université de Montréal; Isabelle Ruelland, Université du Québec à Montréal

Faced with major challenges in reaching groups that are distant from traditional service structures, a growing number of health organizations in Quebec are implementing programs based on citizen knowledge (Ruelland & Coget, 2024). These outreach practices rely heavily on "non-professional "

workers from disadvantaged communities, particularly those with an immigrant background. Due to their migratory backgrounds and social statuses, these community outreach workers find themselves simultaneously on the margins of the healthcare system (Torres et al., 2017) (for which they work, whether directly or indirectly), citizenship, and work. This presentation is based on a series of case studies conducted over the past three years by an interdisciplinary research team, focusing on three community outreach teams in the Greater Montreal area. It aims to address how the fragmentation of labor markets (Durand, 2012), the idea that some practices are non-professional, and the status of the people who carry out these practices contribute to the precarization of community outreach workers. The first part describes the three initiatives studied, examining their specific organizational contexts and situating their objectives. The second part draws on the interviews (individual and collective) conducted with community outreach workers. It describes the precarious employment conditions in which these workers operate, the way in which their migratory and employment histories inform their relationship to work, and the process of "de-skilling" to which they are subjected. Finally, the third part of the presentation reflects on the civic nature of these initiatives, and what they tell us about transformations occurring in Quebec's labor markets and healthcare system.

Confrontées à d'importants défis pour rejoindre les groupes éloignés des structures traditionnelles de services, un nombre grandissant d'organisations communautaires et étatiques québécoises mettent en place des initiatives fondées sur des savoirs « citoyens » (Ruelland, 2022). Ces pratiques de proximité reposent ainsi largement sur des travailleurs « non-professionnels » provenant de communautés défavorisées, notamment celles issues de l'immigration. De par leurs parcours migratoires et de leurs statuts sociaux, ces « agents de sensibilisation communautaire » se retrouvent en même temps aux marges du réseau de santé (Torres et al., 2017) (pour lequel ils travaillent, que ce soit directement ou indirectement), de la citoyenneté et du travail. Cette présentation est basée sur une série d'études de cas menées au cours des trois dernières années par une équipe de recherche interdisciplinaire et qui porte sur trois équipes de sensibilisation communautaire dans la région métropolitaine de Montréal. Elle vise à rendre compte de la manière dont la centrifugation des marchés du travail (Durand, 2012), l'idée que des pratiques sont « non-professionnelles » et le statut des personnes qui les portent se conjuguent pour mener à la précarisation des agents de sensibilisation communautaire. La première partie décrit les trois initiatives étudiées, en examinant leurs contextes organisationnels spécifiques et en situant leurs objectifs. La deuxième partie revient sur les entretiens (individuels et collectifs) menés auprès des agents de sensibilisation communautaire. Elle permet d'exposer à la fois les conditions précaires d'emploi dans lesquelles ces travailleurs évoluent, la manière dont leurs parcours migratoires et d'emploi informent leur rapport au travail, et enfin le processus de déqualification (Kergoat, 2012) dont ils font l'objet1. Finalement, la troisième partie de la présentation propose une réflexion sur le caractère citoyen de ces initiatives et sur la manière dont elles nous informent des transformations des marchés du travail et du réseau de la santé québécois.

(BCS1) Towards a Black Sociology of Liberation: Connections and Contemplations on Community Organizing Inside and Outside of the Academy

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster and CSA Black Caucus

This session engages with discussions about the development of a Black sociology of liberation. The location of African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) graduate students with a liberatory praxis within the academy - as activists within and outside of the institution - is part of a longstanding tradition of resistance. Through this session, we reflect on the co-optation of Black sociological discourses of liberation in relation to the "negro problem" within the academy, whereby "black faculty and students are unwanted outsiders in disciplines, like sociology, founded on their exclusion as intellectual equals" (see Coburn and Crichlow 2020: 475). From this position, ACB students who are engaged with a liberatory praxis or community activist work are viewed as risks to be managed and often face institutional violence. A continuous choice is made to be disruptive - to highlight and act against the patriarchal white supremacist forms of oppression and exploitation that allow for the reproduction of anti-Black racism within academic disciplines such as sociology. While this is a spectacularly exhausting position to take up, it is one rooted in commitment to Black liberation in the afterlives of enslavement and colonialism in a global context (see Hartman 2007).

Session Organizers: Sarah George, Carleton University, Joanis Sherry, Carleton University, and Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University

Session Chairs: Sarah George, Carleton University and Joanis Sherry, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Reworlding the Canadian University: Using Critical Race Theory in the Trump Era

Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University

This presentation offers an autoethnographic account of mobilizing Critical Race Theory (CRT) for institutional change as a Black graduate student within a Canadian university. Inspired by the student-led activism of Harvard's Black Law Students Association and the Black feminist scholarship of Kimberlé Crenshaw, I explore how CRT can challenge systemic racism and inequality within higher education through my experiences organizing at the Decolonial Perspectives and Practices Hub. In the face of mounting opposition to CRT—especially with the return of Trump's influence—this session provides concrete steps to "reworld" the university, drawing from Gayatri Spivak's (1985) notion of *rewording*—an interrogation of colonial relations of space, time, and memory. In 2019, I founded the Decolonial Perspectives and Practices Hub to expose and address the colonial legacies of anti-Black racism, Indigenous erasure, and Eurocentric knowledge within Canadian higher education. Over four years, the Hub, a team of graduate leaders and undergraduate interns, mobilized within the university, navigating bureaucratic hurdles, tokenism, and burnout—all while employing core CRT principles: 1) mobilizing theory into social action, 2) privileging Black and racialized experiences as knowledge for systemic change, and 3) continually reflecting on how to sustain institutional change. We worked to reworld the institution by re-centering student leadership, fostering antiracist coalitions between students, faculty, staff, community organizers, and other stakeholders, and revising the curriculum to reflect Black, Indigenous, and marginalized perspectives. In an era marked by political dissent and heightened attempts to silence critical discourse, this session reflects on the relevance and urgency of CRT in its fifth decade of theorizing, offering strategies and hope for continuing the tradition of the *Black Sociology of Liberation*, which emphasizes resistance, transformation, and the role of Black students in reshaping academic spaces. By sharing my experience, I aim to offer insights into how we can persist in the face of adversity and reimagine the university as a space for collective transformation.

2. Developing a Politics of Love: Reflections on Private Intimacies Within and Against Racial Capitalism

Joanis Sherry, Carleton University

In this presentation, I reflect on 15 interviews with Black and Indigenous organizers living in Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto. Specifically, I contemplate how the people I interview make sense of their intimate relationships with interracial lovers and if and how these relationships impact their ability and desire to participate in organizing in pursuit of the end of settler colonial racial capitalism. The socio-political understandings my participants ascribe to their intimate relationships allows me to make connections to and between my own organizing (both inside and outside of the academy) where I host a market/gathering space for Black folks and their kin who live on unceded Algonquin territory. The market itself is a space designed for and by Black folks, with a particular interest in ensuring Black artists, thinkers, and chefs can share their work with community in ways that do not prioritize capitalist consumption. Taken together, I reflect on the relationship between the academy, one's organizing, and their private, intimate relationships. Rooted in Black and Indigenous feminist traditions, as well as Black Marxism, I ask: in what ways does being in community with other Black and Indigenous folks and non-Black and Indigenous folks allow us to better understand, take apart, and apply academic theory? In what ways is the academic research process antithetical to the relations made and sustained in community for and by Black folks? Finally, I explore the question: what and how our loving relations teach us about developing anti-capitalist futures that prioritize Black and Indigenous livingness, especially given the diverse array of needs of people experiencing exploitation and dispossession at the hands of the settler-state? I conclude my analysis by offering recommendations for organizers who wish to advance an anti-capitalist politics rooted in love and care.

3. Umoja Lived Here: Mobilizing Sociologies of Black Canadian Liberation

Sarah George, Carleton University

Sociologies of Black liberation question the university as a space of ambivalent freedom and uncover longstanding legacies of resistance. This presentation will analyze how students of the Black Radical Tradition (BRT) mobilized intellectual traditions such as Pan-Africanism following the racial reckoning in 2020. Further, it will illuminate the possibilities for collective mobilization through Black liberatory sociological thought in a population as diverse as Black Canadians. The liberatory potential of Black sociologies will be observed via a case study and autoethnographic reflection on the establishment and eventual dissolution of the Umoja Black Community Engagement Program (2022 - 2025) at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. Umoja is a provincially funded, student led initiative that is managed by the university's student affairs. The program was primarily intended to support Black high school students transition into university, but also provides support for current university students, and African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) community members. The case study will explore institutional resistance via the history of ACB graduate student activism at Carleton, before examining the circumstances that enabled the creation of the program and its operations. Finally, I will analyze the experiences of the students who negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the university to shut the program down. The autoethnographic contribution will emphasize my experience as a founder and strategic lead of the program. I argue that building on existing Black intellectual traditions, such as a sociology of Black Canadian liberation, might strongly inform collective resistance by scholars and graduate

students of African descent in Canadian universities. Moreover, this resistance may be catalyzed through collective and direct critical action taken by Black graduate students to archive their efforts to eradicate anti-Black racism within and beyond the walls of academia.

(CRM2b) Caught in transition: Insights into control, resistance and freedom in the criminal justice system II

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Cluster

This session explores the lived experiences of individuals transitioning through the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on their post-release journey. Centering on how incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people navigate justice institutions, social services, and support networks, it examines how these transitions are structured, experienced, and negotiated. By offering in-depth insights into how individuals adapt to, resist, or are shaped by the system, this session contributes to critical discussions on power, control, agency, and the challenges of exiting justice systems and rebuilding one's life after incarceration.

Session Organizer and Chair: Alysha McDonald, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Between transition to adulthood and transition in the criminal justice system

Marie Dumollard, Camille Petrarca, and Sophie Gagnon, Université de Montréal; Elsa Euvrard, Université Laval; Anta Niang, IUPLSSS et Université de Sherbrooke

In Quebec, civil age structures the penal justice system. Before the age of criminal majority at 18 years old, individuals are processed under the juvenile justice system, where interventions are based on educational and rehabilitative aspects combined with risk management. After 18, individuals are monitored under the criminal justice system, which has a greater punitive dimension. However, the social and identity changes central to transition to adulthood extend well beyond the criminal majority age, up to the early 30s. Moreover, indicators of transition to adulthood for justice-involved youth reveal they face a range of challenges that persist well after 18. The transition to adulthood for justice-involved youth (18-29 years old) is thus a complex process which needs tailored support and interventions. This presentation aims to understand how the criminal justice system addresses the complex situation of justice-involved youth transitioning to adulthood (18-29 years old). It relies on a scoping review of the international literature on interventions targeting those youth. English and French literature in criminology, psychology, sociology, and social work from ten databases was analyzed using Covidence and NVivo software. The findings show that the age of criminal majority at 18 is being increasingly questioned in several Western countries, based on the understanding that psychosocial and brain development continues until 25. They highlight the detrimental effects of disruptions in services as youth transition from the juvenile to the criminal justice system at 18, as well as the lack of preparation of criminal justice system interventions to the complexity of transition to adulthood. Then the analysis identifies three forms of adaptation within the criminal justice system that have been implemented to counter the fragmentation of the criminal justice system. These conclusions will lead to recommendations for practitioners to better support the challenges justice-involved youth face during transition to adulthood.

2. Conditions for successful reentry amongst formerly incarcerated women

Jenna Robinson, University of Calgary; Jana Grekul, University of Alberta

Women are the fastest growing segment of the incarcerated population, and most will return to society. Existing research on women's reentry post-incarceration focuses on criminal justice system determined indicators of success: recidivism, employment, abiding by parole conditions. However, little is known about experiences of success from the perspectives of formerly incarcerated women (FIW). In this qualitative research project, we interviewed fifteen FIW and fourteen community frontline personnel to explore the perspective of FIW's success upon community reentry, the supports they need, and the challenges they face during this journey. Employing a critical feminist criminological lens to the readiness to change model, we identified person-specific and context-specific conditions and *barriers* that are largely influenced by pervasive experiences of trauma amongst FIW, especially amongst Indigenous criminalized women. Person-specific conditions included survival; personal development and employment; healing: religion and culture; and relationships. Context-specific conditions and barriers included (a lack of) institutional support; experiences of reoccurring, short-term provincial incarceration; and community support. Our findings indicate that these conditions and barriers are gendered and for Indigenous women present additional challenges because of ongoing colonialism, intergenerational trauma, and other forms of systemic discrimination and racism. While a woman's individual readiness to change is critical to self-defined experiences of success, success is not merely a personal choice; the institutional and structural contexts that surround FIW deeply influence experiences of success. Recommendations arising from this analysis include the enhancement of re-entry programming inside correctional institutions and removing barriers to community supports.

3. "Brick wall, after brick wall, after brick wall": Navigating the Path to a Pardon.

Erika Canossini, University of Toronto

In 1971, The Criminal Records Act established a process for sealing conviction records of 're/habilitated' Canadians who have completed their sentences for several years in order to help them find employment and housing. The requirement to apply for a pardon (recently renamed 'record suspension') to achieve this aim has made the process less accessible to eligible individuals. Reforms to the process in the early 2010s have furthered intensified accessibility concerns. Advocates and applicants have described the process as complex and cumbersome, yet the specifics of these challenges remain vague. This article examines the difficulties faced by record suspension applicants in Canada, drawing on parliamentary debates from the 1960s to the present, as well as semi-structured interviews with 21 applicants and 31 frontline staff in the Penal Voluntary Sector. This study indicates that recent reforms to improve access to the pardon program, such as a fee reduction and increased governmental funding for community organizations supporting applicants, are band-aid solutions that do not address the pervasiveness of "administrative burdens" in citizens-state interactions within this policy domain. By integrating 'access to justice' scholarship and the 'administrative burdens' framework, this study provides a first comprehensive understanding of the barriers individuals encounter when applying for record suspensions in Canada. These insights underscore the need for policy reforms that take a broad view of policy implementations and have implications about perpetuating socio-economic inequality in the Canadian context.

4. "I'm Not Free, I'm Just Not Wearing Orange:" How PIM Negotiate Freedom Under Confinement

Alysha McDonald, McMaster University

Despite extensive research on reintegration, much of the literature prioritizes surveillance and risk management to prevent recidivism. This overlooks how previously incarcerated men navigate constrained freedom to achieve long-term reintegration. Drawing on 90 in-depth qualitative interviews with previously incarcerated men, 11 interviews with frontline social service workers, and 400 hours of participant observation with these groups, this paper explores the strategies previously incarcerated men use to regain control and a sense of normalcy post-release. In response to the pervasiveness of the justice system, participants developed three adaptive orientations — (1) hypervigilance, (2) compliance, and (3) edge-walking — to establish control within the confines of their release. Using theoretical frameworks of social marginality, anomie, and edgework, I position freedom as a balance of risk taking and self-regulation that shapes previously incarcerated men's perceptions of self, the justice system, and reintegration. I conclude with policy recommendations that integrate community safety with freedom to better support long-term reintegration.

(EDU2) Transforming Education: The Impact of Educational Interventions on Student Success

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

In this session, we will examine the transformative impact of educational interventions on student outcomes, focusing on how targeted programs and initiatives can shape academic success and promote long-term achievement. By fostering collaborations between researchers, educators, and community partners, these interventions can address systemic barriers and provide critical support to diverse student populations that are essential for student well-being and achievement. We feature papers that explore innovative approaches to educational interventions - from after-school programs to culturally relevant practices - and examine their role in fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments. By examining various contexts, we aim to highlight strategies that can drive positive change and improve educational access and equity for all students.

Session Organizer: Alexandra Pulchny, McMaster University

Session Chairs: Aleah Klein-Gebbinck, Athabasca University and Alexandra Pulchny, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Shaping the Future: Revitalizing Indigenous Education for Lasting Change

Aleah Klein-Gebbinck, Athabasca University and Michael Holland, Northwestern Polytechnic

This paper bridges a gap in current sociological literature by employing the Social Determinants of Health framework to examine the systemic barriers impacting Métis, First Nations, and Inuit communities in Canada. Focusing on educational inequalities and cultural expression, the study explores how funding disparities, lack of representation, and the absence of culturally relevant practices perpetuate inequities within predominantly White-dominated systems. These structural challenges undermine educational outcomes and cultural well-being, creating significant obstacles

to fostering equity and inclusion in Canadian society. The research employs qualitative methods, including a document analysis of secondary sources such as academic studies, government reports, and policy documents. Thematic analysis was applied to identify patterns and trends, focusing on how systemic barriers are constructed, reproduced, and maintained within educational institutions. This approach highlights the ways in which inequitable funding models and the exclusion of Indigenous ways of knowing contribute to broader societal divides, exacerbating both educational inequalities and cultural erasure. Findings reveal that Indigenous students and communities face compounded challenges due to the chronic underfunding of schools, the lack of culturally relevant curricula, and limited representation in decision-making processes. These systemic disparities hinder both educational opportunities and the preservation of cultural identities. The paper argues that addressing these barriers is essential for advancing Reconciliation and ensuring a more inclusive and equitable future. Recommendations include increased Indigenous leadership in education, equitable resource distribution, and reforms to prioritize culturally relevant practices, policies, and Indigenous-led decision-making initiatives. This paper calls for immediate and transformative action to dismantle these inequities. Failure to do so further deepens societal divides, limiting the potential of Indigenous students and communities while further hindering Canada's progress toward mutual respect, shared prosperity, and equity. By addressing these systemic issues, Canada can create equitable educational systems that genuinely reflect values, aspirations, and meaningful inclusion for all its citizens.

2. "I have a place here": A Case Study of a STEM ASP for Underrepresented Youth

Alexandra Pulchny and Karen Robson, McMaster University; Sehrish Zehra, Mathstronauts

Canada is now a world leader in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, showing a significant increase in STEM education and employment opportunities. However, specific demographics of youth who are underrepresented in STEM education, specifically those from low-income communities who are often racialized face barriers in access to quality educational programs. After-school programs (ASPs) targeted at providing the STEM and soft-skills necessary for post-secondary education (PSE) can fill gaps that school creates in skill development and can serve as alternative support systems for youth who lack effective support systems in school and/or family environments. We conducted a case study of an intervention strategy in supporting successful PSE transitions by way of an after-school STEM program for high school students which was developed and run by Mathstronauts, a non-profit organization in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. This case study shows how after-school programming plays a crucial role in supporting underrepresented and at-risk youth not only pursue their PSE goals, but they also provide immense support in developing sense of belonging and community outside of the school setting.

3. Designing Educational Interventions for Social Impact: Lessons in Health and Food Security

Scott McLean, University of Calgary

In the early 2000s, I led two major programs of applied research and educational intervention designed primarily for social impact. The first, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China (MOA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), aimed to promote food security and rural development across China by strengthening the capacity of a network of over 25,000 agricultural schools linked by media of radio, television, and the internet. The second, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Government of

Saskatchewan, aimed to promote population health across Saskatchewan by strengthening the capacity of thirty regional health districts. Both programs achieved significant social impact: the first was recognized by the MOA as being the project having had the greatest social impact of all projects ever funded by the FAO in China; the second was undertaken in collaboration with Dr. David Butler-Jones, who subsequently became the first Chief Public Health Officer of Canada. My presentation to CSA 2025 will first describe the contexts, stakeholders, interventions, and outcomes associated with these two applied research programs and then analyze the key factors that led them to achieve social impact. Those factors include rooting educational interventions in thorough needs assessment and evaluation research; employing a carefully designed logic map to link educational interventions with organizational capacity development and social impact; nurturing partnerships between educational institutions, funding agencies, government departments, and civil society organizations; building teams of academic and professional consultants to work together over a period of several years; and delivering carefully-designed educational interventions for multiple stakeholders across organizations. These historical and autoethnographic case studies will provide insight and inspiration for contemporary efforts to achieve social impact through educational research.

(ENV1b) Environmental Sociology II: Discourse and Power
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Papers in this open call for environmental sociology investigate issues of discourse and power; justice and the environment, social policy and guiding theoretical frameworks, managing environmental change, and addressing inequalities connected with the environment. Grassroots groups, corporate actions, governance decisions, and aspects of race, class, and gender are addressed by papers in these open sessions.

Session Organizer: Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico
Session Chair: Kailey Walker, Queen's University

Presentations:

1. The strength of human-nonhuman ties in animal advocacy
Yasmin Koop-Monteiro, University of British Columbia

I present findings from an interview study of 42 animal rights (AR) activists, which examines how personal connections to wild, companion, and farmed animals serve as critical motivators for AR advocacy. The study demonstrates that activists' social ties to animals drive participation in both conventional and high-risk, high-cost forms of activism—an understudied phenomenon within social movement research—including tactics such as open rescues and trespassing to document conditions at fur and egg battery farms. These results empirically support environmental sociology theory underlining the importance of social bonds with animals in fostering support for animal rights, and help to address the ongoing invisibility of animals in the discipline. Moreover, by foregrounding non-instrumental, social relationships between humans and animals, this research extends the literature on social-ecological network analysis, which has traditionally framed animals as natural resources or providers of ecosystem services. Overall, this study contributes to our understanding of human-nonhuman interrelations and is relevant to a variety of social movements

advocating for the nonhuman world, including environmental, Indigenous, and Rights of Nature movements.

2. How Fukushima disaster survivors pursue justice: Examining injustice claims in English language Japanese Newspapers, 2011-2021

Wei Chieh (Jeremy) Tsai, Western University

My research examined injustice claims in the context of the Fukushima triple disaster, which occurred when an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear reactor meltdowns struck northeast Japan on March 11, 2011. Economic, sociocultural, and political injustice that followed the disaster is well researched. Injustice claims include undercompensation, discrimination against Japanese women survivors, and undemocratic policymaking (Feldman, 2015; Kimura, 2016; Brown, 2018). Missing is the consideration of injustices seen through the Shinto-animistic belief system, which is a central belief system in Japan of sacred connections between humans and nonhumans (Morimoto, 2023). However, exploitation of the latter and spiritual partnerships are not well known. In my content analysis of 579 English language Japanese newspapers between 2011 and 2021, I coded 84 news articles: 54 were about economic injustice, 1 on sociocultural injustice, 29 on political injustice, and 0 on nonhuman injustice. The majority of news articles focused on equitable compensation through the Direct Compensation System, the Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the judicial system. Political justice was the second most frequent framing where protestors and the general public practiced democratic policymaking through protests, petitions and civil lawsuits. Only one article talked about organizations that advocate the knowledge of Japanese women survivors and none mentioned spiritual partnerships with nonhumans. I conclude from the findings that prioritizing economic and political injustice does little to remediate other forms of injustice and their effects on the marginalized, both humans and nonhumans.

3. Land Dispossession, Environmental Justice, and Subaltern Resistance

Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick

A British mining company planned to build an open-pit coalmine in a rural area of Northwest Bangladesh inhabited by several vulnerable and marginalized ethnic minority communities (*Adivasis*). Such corporate desire led to the emergence of a grassroots movement against the fossil fuel extraction project. A persistent movement involving multi-scalar coalitions of local, national, and transnational advocacy groups forced the Bangladeshi government to shelve the project. Despite long-standing conflicts between Bengali Muslims and *Adivasis*, grassroots resistance to the coalmine united them. While land dispossession and environmental contamination are the main issues for both groups, *Adivasis*' grievances are far more complex than those of their Muslim neighbors, which also include the sociopolitical climate in which their lived experiences are reproduced. Drawing on my *Adivasi* interlocutors' narratives (in-depth qualitative interviews), this chapter analyzes anti-extractive subjectivities in relation to their struggle for social justice in Bangladesh's postcolonial sociopolitical context, where *Adivasis* face state policies and actions that perpetuate their marginalization and vulnerability. Environmental justice scholarship is concerned with the unequal distribution of environmental harms. This chapter builds on this scholarship and analyzes the multilayered and complex grievances of *Adivasis*, who played a critical role in shaping the collective political agency against land dispossession and environmental contamination. Connecting grassroots concerns about the extraction of fossil fuel with their struggles for social justice broadens the scope of environmental justice scholarship in the Global South. Such an

approach that considers the lived experience of marginalized *Adivasis* offers a comprehensive understanding of environmental justice.

4. Finding answers to perceived failure of social impact through key informant interviews in Niger Delta's oil communities

Obasanjo Oyedele, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Since the end of the popular amnesty program for repentant youths involved in violent and criminal activities as a response to capitalist extractivism and neglect by the government and oil companies in Nigeria's Niger Delta, formalized and transnational environmental organizations have become critical players in the struggle to improve people's standard of living and promote environmental, economic and social justice. Reports and impartial impact evaluation are two standardized tools mostly used by environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs) and their funders (foreign partners) to measure the impact of their development projects and practices located in the oil-rich but environmentally and economically dislocated communities in the Niger Delta. After years of sponsoring development projects and practices and impact assessment in the Niger Delta, the expected outcomes are still a mirage. In this study, I adopted key informant interviews to investigate changes in outcomes (social impact) and gaps in foreign and local development assistance in the Niger Delta. I leveraged the lifeworld/experiences of community leaders in the Niger Delta as an informal tool for assessing the social impact of ENGOs and their foreign funders in oil-rich communities where environmental degradation from resource extraction, poverty and social injustice co-exist with reports of huge development projects and practices. This informal tool and the outcomes of my research have implications for development financing and social impact assessment by transnational non-governmental organizations involved in development financing in Nigeria and other African countries.

(GAS4a) Gender & Sexuality: Health and Wellbeing across Institutional Sites

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

The presentations in this session focus on the health and wellbeing within the context of gender and sexuality.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. Lived experiences of women with disability in a teaching hospital in Ghana

Hannah Taylor-Abdulai and Jeffrey Amo Tawiah, University of Cape Coast

The study explored the lived experiences of women with disability in a teaching hospital in Ghana. The intersection of gender and disability, highlights how overlapping systems of ableism plays out. The complex intersections of gender and disability greatly affect the ways in which health care is utilized as well as offered to persons with disability especially women. Using a Phenomenological approach, 19 women with disability receiving treatment at various units of a teaching hospital in Ghana were interviewed to explore how societal norms, institutional structures, and cultural

narratives shape the experiences of women with disabilities across various socioeconomic spectra. The main thematic areas highlighted were disparities in areas such as healthcare access for women with disabilities, social inclusion in decision making, gendered expectations, stigma, limited autonomy, and exclusion from decision-making processes. The findings revealed how traditional gender roles and ableists perpetuate inequalities in access to health, and economic opportunities for participants with low social status. Participants with low educational achievements were found to be less likely to engage in lucrative economic ventures leading to low socio-economic status, physical and financial barriers to seeking healthcare. Again, participants with low socio-economic status were found to have less autonomy and low social support from significant others. They invariably suffered from structural, self and enacted stigma. The findings underscore the urgent need for policies that will address the effects of gender and disability inequalities by providing the congenial environment for persons with disability to thrive. Additionally, there is the need to advocate for a comprehensive intersectional approach to gender and disability studies, ensuring for an inclusive framework that focuses on equity and empowerment to shatter systemic barriers among women with disability in Ghana. Ultimately, it will help achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 3, 5 and 10.

2. Policing and Fatherhood Identities: A Typology of Police Fathers' Adherence to Cultural Scripts and Fatherhood Ideologies

Danielle Thompson, University of Waterloo; Debra Langan, Wilfrid Laurier University

The needs of fathers have historically gone unacknowledged at work, leading scholars to examine the 'invisibility' of fathers and their positioning as "metaphorical ghosts in the machine" (Burnett et al., 2013, p.634). Many point to the resistance that fathers experience when using family friendly work accommodations (e.g., parental leave, hybrid working etc.) (Andrés Fernández-Cornejo et al. 2019; Coltrane et al. 2013; Kaufman 2018), suggesting that fathers are more likely to experience suspicion (Doucet & McKay 2020), heightened scrutiny (Pettigrew & Duncan, 2021), and harsher penalties (Andrés Fernández-Cornejo et al. 2019; Coltrane et al. 2013; Duxbury et al. 2020). Yet, research also underscores a movement away from traditional conceptualizations of fathers as uninvolved breadwinners, towards an image of the nurturing 'involved father' (Duxbury et al., 2020; Humberd et al., 2015). In line with this, we see accounts of organizational acceptance where fathers experience little to no resistance when utilizing family friendly accommodations (Brandth & Kvande 2019; Kvande & Brandth 2019). However, fatherhood remains something that is seen as more flexible and negotiable within the workplace than motherhood (Amjahad et al., 2022; Thompson & Langan, submitted) - particularly within hegemonically masculine organizations like policing.
Our research analyzes data from interviews with 18 Canadian police officers in Ontario and Alberta. We examined interactions between micro-level investments in fatherhood ideologies and meso-level investments in police cultural scripts (Campeau, 2019) to determine how police fathers are positioned within their roles as fathers and police officers (Hojgaard, 1997; Van Gasse et al., 2023). We argue that the level and type of investment at the micro-fatherhood and meso-cultural levels is evident in the types of involvements that police fathers exhibit at home and at work. Our analysis generated a typology of four 'ideal types' (Weber, 1949) of police fathers: the co-parent, organization man, entertainer, and regretful provider.

3. Within the confines of gender: Anxious masculinity and mental health

Connor MacMillan, York University

As a result of rapidly shifting norms and gendered expectations, men are left with a sense of anxiety over the constitution of "appropriate" gender presentations. Performances that were previously considered normative of masculinity are often stigmatized and rebuked by society, such as those typified by hegemonic masculine tropes of a strong and dominant man. The resultant change in normative expectations has perpetuated a sense of anomic unease, or that of anxious masculinity in which some men perceive those once normative structured expectations that guide a presentation of self as devoid of directional instruction. While numerous scholars have focused on the harmful impacts that hegemonic masculine presentations have on men, often labeled as toxic masculinity, I argue that a rise in uncertainty of gendered expectations for presentation of self within anxious masculinity, precipitates a perception of a dissolution of societal stability that negatively impacts the wellbeing of men, specifically those who have previously endorsed or been socialized to accept hegemonic presentations of masculinity. As such, men have continually advocated for better systems of support that are necessary to ebb the prevalence of death by suicide among men within Canada. To better understand the experiences of men within a changing gendered context, interviews were conducted with men from a range of socio-economic backgrounds across Canada. While the men within this study emphasized a willingness and desire to alter their gender performances, the uncertainty of what such a masculinity should look like left a lot of these men with a sense of displacement and insecurity for their place within society. Underlying conversations about masculine expectations was a need for greater forms of mental support geared towards men.

4. Sexuality, HIV Criminalization and Racialized People Living with HIV in Canada

Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

This paper focuses on the experiences of 25 Indigenous, Black, and other racialized people living with HIV (RPLWH) in Canada (from a larger qualitative study of 75 people living with HIV) as they navigate disclosure, sexuality, relationships, and life under HIV criminalization. RPLWH in the study report the experience of high amounts of HIV stigma in their communities. RPLWH employ various strategies to navigate the law and the high levels of perceived community stigma which, in turn, impact their sexual expression. These include keeping their HIV status hidden, having firm boundaries between and within communities, avoiding HIV networks, abstaining from sex and relationships, and leaving the country to have sex.

(HEA7a) Political Sociology of Health I

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

Despite decades of research on social determinants of health, inequalities persist and are widening. Political sociology—the study of power and its social organization—offers valuable tools to understand health disparities, especially those not fully explained by the social determinants approach. A political sociology of health perspective examines how the distribution of social determinants (often political), rather than just their effects, shapes health outcomes. This session

features research that applies this perspective, exploring how interactions between individuals, societies, and political institutions influence health disparities.

Session Organizers: Joanne Ong, York University and Cary Wu, York University
Session Chair: Joanne Ong, York University

Presentations:

1. Conspiracy, Crisis, and Confidence: Understanding Public Trust in Canada's COVID-19 Response

Meli Limani, University of Western Ontario

This study examines the impact of misinformation, particularly conspiracy theories about the origins of COVID-19, on vaccine acceptance and public satisfaction with government and health officials' responses in Canada. The COVID-19 pandemic, accompanied by an "infodemic"—a surge of both accurate and false information—has shown how misinformation undermines trust in institutions, fuels vaccine hesitancy, and fosters public dissent. Using data from the *Recovery and Resilience: COVID-19* survey (2020), this study employs regression models to explore how misinformation interacts with demographic factors, political ideologies, and regional disparities to shape public health attitudes and behaviors. Findings reveal that belief in COVID-19 conspiracy theories significantly reduces vaccine acceptance and satisfaction with pandemic responses. Older individuals (65+) and those with higher incomes are more likely to vaccinate and express greater satisfaction with government and health officials. Women report higher satisfaction with public health officials, while individuals identifying as "other genders" are the most likely to vaccinate. Regional differences highlight higher satisfaction levels in the Maritimes and significantly lower satisfaction in Quebec and the Prairies. Political ideology plays a critical role, with conservative-leaning individuals less likely to vaccinate or trust pandemic measures. Social media usage is associated with lower satisfaction with public health officials, underscoring its role in shaping institutional trust. This study emphasizes the need for transparent communication and tailored, context-sensitive interventions to mitigate the effects of misinformation and rebuild public trust during health crises. By identifying how demographic, regional, and ideological factors intersect with misinformation, this research contributes to broader sociological discussions on institutional trust, public health governance, and the societal effects of misinformation.

2. Health Equity Impacts on Marginalized Populations: Assessing Hospital Policymaking during the Pandemic

Maria Ahmed, Western University

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, maternity wards around the world implemented stringent policies to limit viral transmission to and from the public. For example, researchers have reported on the separation of mother and infant in both confirmed and unconfirmed cases of infection as well as the exclusion of support persons for the labouring mother (Davis-Floyd et al., 2020; Tomori et al., 2020). These decisions were made under great uncertainty and with the utilitarian purpose of limiting further viral transmissions; however, researchers now debate whether these "birthing alone" policies caused more harm than good (Friesen et al., 2021). This study seeks to examine the impacts from the implementation of these hospital policies on the health women of colour, who are more susceptible to marginalization within institutionalized spaces due to structural discrimination (Homan et al., 2021). This paper examined policy documents of 13 hospitals in

Ontario using a digital archive database program that captured obstetrics policies posted on hospital websites between 2020 and 2023. A thematic content analysis explored six key policy areas: masking, visitors, smoking, infection testing, proof of vaccine, and doula support. Using a Health Equity Impact Assessment perspective (Canadian Public Health Association, 2020), findings show a high degree of variability in how the Ministry of Health policies were implemented by hospitals. Moreover, there is evidence that a utilitarian and efficiency-informed approach served as the guiding principles for policymaking and this may have had adverse mental and physical health impacts on marginalized communities. This study encourages policymakers to incorporate marginalized voices to better conceptualize what constitutes "essential care" for women's health and to use evidence-based discourse to improve trust in public health.

3. Mapping Home Care Power in Ontario: Towards Care Justice

Megan Linton, Carleton University and **Mary Jean Hande**, Trent University; Cynthia Cranford, University of Toronto; Laura Funk, University of Manitoba; and Alana Hart, Trent University

Low-income older adults, disabled people, and immigrant direct care workers often experience institutionalized forms of care, such as long-term residential care facilities, as precarious, exploitive, and even violent. As such, the need and demand for socially just, and community-driven home care services has never been more urgent. Yet, Canada's existing home care systems are under-resourced and fragmented, leaving people with inadequate access to community and home care services provided by precarious workers. Moreover, despite growing public scrutiny of for-profit provision in long-term residential care (ref ref), there has been less public attention to or understanding of profitization in the home care sector (Yamamoto et al., 2023). This is of particular concern if we wish to expand and come to rely more greatly on this sector in the years ahead. Given the growth of financialization in the care sector in recent decades, we argue that it is imperative important to study the complexity of interconnections between the range of actors, stakeholders, and profiteers within long term care such as home care; social network research methodologies are well suited to such investigations (Carroll, 1986; 2004; 2016; 2020). When studying home care, it is also particularly important to look beyond narrow, medical funding or service model categories to analyze instead how the multiple social programs and privatized sectors that provide home-based personal support services intersect with various labour, employment, and migration policies that govern home care work.

4. From Disease to Deviance: Medicalization, Criminalization, and Addiction Models in Canadian Policy

Aleda Wedekind, University of Toronto

Addiction policy in Canada has long been shaped by competing frameworks that influence public perceptions, institutional practices, and policy development. This paper critically examines the three dominant models of addiction—moral, criminal, and disease/medical—and their roles in shaping Canadian addiction governance. While the moral and criminal models have historically framed addiction as a personal failing or legal infraction, the disease model has sought to reframe substance use as a medical condition requiring treatment. However, the coexistence of these models has resulted in policy contradictions, where medicalization and criminalization intersect to produce fragmented and often harmful approaches to care. In Canada, approximately 6 million

people will meet the criteria for addiction in their lifetime (Canadian Mental Health Association, 2023), yet existing policies often fail to address the social and structural determinants of substance use. Drawing on Critical Addiction Studies, this paper explores the historical trajectories, core assumptions, and limitations of each model, highlighting their enduring influence on Canadian policy and practice. The analysis considers how tensions between medicalization and criminalization are reflected in the operation of drug courts, the surveillance of harm reduction spaces, and the broader systemic barriers faced by people who use drugs. Drug courts, often framed as therapeutic alternatives to incarceration, frequently reinforce punitive surveillance and compliance mandates, while harm reduction services remain vulnerable to police interference and political resistance, limiting their accessibility and effectiveness. By situating addiction within its broader social, political, and economic contexts, this paper argues for a paradigm shift toward structurally informed, equity-oriented, and community-led approaches that prioritize social justice and lived experience. This analysis underscores the pressing need for comprehensive, evidence-based policy reforms that move beyond punitive measures and address the root causes of addiction, ensuring a more compassionate and effective addiction policy landscape in Canada.

(ITD5) Crime, Deviance, and Media
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

The relationship between crime and the media is a complex one, often focusing on the more traditional investigation of the (mis)representation of crime, criminality, and deviance. However, we should always consider the exploration of that relationship to include an investigation of how people might use media to engage in and represent their own such activities, as well as how they might navigate newly acquired deviance or criminal identities as a result being represented in media.

Session Organizer and Chair: Duncan Philpot, St. Thomas University

Presentations:

1. Rape threats in an online incel forum : a critical discourse analysis
Océane Corbin, Université du Québec à Montréal

The rise of social media has led to the development of a multitude of online subcultures, including incels (involuntary celibates). In addition to several mass killings committed by men claiming to belong to this community, incels have attracted particular attention due to their misogynistic discourse, as well as their particular vocabulary and imaginary. By analyzing 60 threads of conversation (i.e. around 1,180 messages) on one of their main forums (incels.is), the aim of the research carried out was to understand the constructions of meaning and linguistic specificities that contribute to the misogynistic and violent character of their discourses, as well as to perceive the way in which women are represented on the forum. Based on Johnson and Johnson (2021), who indicate that rape culture is based on five components (traditional gender roles, sexism, problematic sexual beliefs, hostility towards women and the acceptance and promotion of violence), the results obtained were analyzed and compared with these categories. It can thus be said that incels are particularly present in the (re)production of rape culture : the considerable amount of rape threats indicates that it is used as a tool of control and punishment. They use a wide

range of discursive strategies to assert their authority and domination over women, including naturalistic arguments and insults. Incels make strategic use of rape culture: since they position themselves as victims, and see women as inferior, rape becomes "justified" in their ideology.

2. Exploring extremist manifestos: unpacking incel narratives of violence

Karmvir Padda, University of Waterloo

This presentation examines the narratives embedded in extremist manifestos, with a particular focus on the writings of the incel (involuntary celibate) community. The urgency of this research is underscored by the recent Antioch High School shooting on January 22, 2025, where the perpetrator's manifesto revealed a deep adherence to inceldom extremist beliefs. This tragic incident illustrates how such writings not only reflect but actively fuel ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE), offering a disturbing insight into the pathways from ideology to action. Through qualitative discourse analysis, this study explores how incel manifestos articulate grievances of societal rejection, alienation, and entitlement, while framing violence as a justified response to perceived injustices. These writings reflect a digital subculture where extremist ideologies are shared, normalized, and amplified through online communities, showcasing how media platforms serve as both spaces for identity construction and tools for radicalization. This research situates the incel phenomenon within a sociological and criminological framework, examining the broader implications of media representation and digital self-representation in the construction and dissemination of deviant identities. By dissecting the narratives in these manifestos, the study uncovers how incels construct victimhood, legitimize misogyny, and use media to propagate their ideologies, providing key insights into the role of digital platforms in enabling and sustaining IMVE. Contributing to the broader discussion on crime, deviance, and media, this presentation highlights the urgent need to address the intersection of digital spaces, extremist narratives, and violent behaviour. It emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to understand and disrupt the ideological pathways that underpin radicalization, with the ultimate goal of fostering safer and more inclusive digital environments.

3. The CSI Effect, Race, and Jury Decision-Making: Exploring the Connection

Zainab Teja, University of Guelph

Crime shows have gained popularity over the past several decades, bringing to question how they might relate to criminal justice in practice. Applying cultivation theory, this study explores how the race of the accused may influence the CSI effect. The CSI effect suggests that increased viewing of crime shows can lead jurors to develop unrealistic expectations of forensic evidence, thereby influencing jury deliberations. The overrepresentation of racial minorities as criminals in crime shows has been well-documented, though current empirical findings suggest that racialized individuals may no longer be overrepresented; what remains unclear is whether this offsets any previous racial bias. This research expands our understanding of the impact of crime media on jury decisions by exploring the potential relations between the CSI effect and racial stereotypes, contributing to the broader discourse on resistance and belonging by highlighting potential inequities within the criminal justice system. Utilizing survey data from 324 Canadian jury-eligible participants from the pool of undergraduate University of Guelph, this study asks: to what extent does the race of the accused shape the CSI effect? The research findings will demonstrate how this novel relationship influences juror perceptions and decision-making.

4. Evoking Innocence: Photographic Narrative in The Menendez Brothers Documentary

Madeleine Vaight, Toronto Metropolitan University

This study examines how *The Menendez Brothers* documentary utilizes images and narrative techniques to shape perceptions about the Menendez brothers' case. In the early 1990s, Lyle and Erik Menendez were tried and convicted for the murder of their parents. Accused of committing the crime for financial gain by both the courts and the media, the brothers have maintained over the decades that the murder of their parents was the result of a lifetime of sexual abuse that began in early childhood. The Menendez brothers' case has received increasing public interest over the last few years and support for their plea for a retrial or resentencing has also increased. Due to recent societal changes in how male sexual abuse and child sexual abuse are perceived, there has been a reframing of the brothers from cold-blooded murderers to victims of abuse, not only at the hands of their parents but also the legal system and the media. In late 2024, Netflix released *The Menendez Brothers* a documentary focused around interviews with the brothers, where they provide their perspective on the case and speak about their experiences with childhood sexual abuse. This study examines how *The Menendez Brothers* combines the use of photographs with narrative techniques to shape audience perception about elements of the case. The documentary utilizes numerous photographs of the Menendez family, particularly of the brothers as children, throughout the documentary. A semiotic narrative analysis of *The Menendez Brothers* was employed focusing on the use of these photographs and how they intersect with the narrative. This study examines the relationship between those photographs and narrative elements of the documentary and how that interaction seeks to shape audience's perception of the brothers.

5. The Presumption of Guilt: Media Narratives of Criminality in Newfoundland and Labrador

Lauren Slade, Memorial University of Newfoundland

This presentation explores the role of news media in Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly the VOCM radio station and website, in the social control of criminalized individuals. Drawing on Foucault's concept of disciplinary power and surveillance, it analyzes how media narratives reinforce societal hierarchies and extend punishment beyond formal legal mechanisms. News outlets such as VOCM play a critical role in shaping public perception by publishing names, photos, and alleged offences of individuals before trial, effectively branding them as guilty before they have begun their trial, thereby removing a critical component of due process. This presentation critiques such practices, arguing they perpetuate public shaming and surveillance akin to historical practices of punishment described by Foucault. Using a qualitative methodology, this study analyzes selected VOCM news articles containing keywords such as "RCMP," "charged," and "offender." Articles were chosen to represent various crime severities, accused individuals, and contexts. The analysis identifies patterns of sensationalism and selective reporting, particularly in cases involving marginalized groups. Themes explored include the stigmatization of individuals experiencing poverty or substance use, as well as the disproportionate representation of police officers, whose actions are downplayed. By employing a Foucauldian lens, the presentation highlights how these narratives sustain class divisions, criminalize vulnerable populations, and create a form of social control that extends beyond physical institutions like prisons.The findings reveal a disjunction between VOCM's public-facing philanthropic foundation's efforts and its news reporting practices, which often ostracize the very communities the foundation claims to support. This paper calls for policy reforms to prohibit media outlets from publishing identifying information about accused

individuals prior to trial and advocates for more nuanced, contextual reporting. Ultimately, the study emphasizes the urgent need to address the broader systemic issues embedded within media practices that contribute to societal inequities and perpetuate control over marginalized populations.

(JFP-MT) Justice for Palestine Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: CSA Justice for Palestine Subcommittee

This meeting of the Justice for Palestine Subcommittee is open to all CSA members interested in opposing anti-Palestinian racism. Anti-Palestinian racism (APR) is a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians or their narratives. APR is a particular concern for us as sociologists given the ongoing educide and epistemicide against Palestinians, and the ongoing harassment and discrimination against scholars who speak in support of Palestinian self-determination or criticize anti-Palestinian violence. At this meeting we will discuss our experiences in different academic environments and discuss what we can do to resist silencing and make space for Palestinian scholars and Palestine-related discussions.

Organizers: Katie MacDonald, Athabasca University and Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University

(KNW3b) Social Processes of Knowledge II: The Role of Language, Emotions and Interaction in Knowing
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Knowledge Research Cluster

What are the processes through which knowledge is created and experienced in the social world? This session features papers that focus on the interactions, mediums, and community structures which shape knowledge and its legitimacy. We were especially interested in bringing together papers that focus on the processes through which knowledge, knowing and not-knowing work - including day-to-day practices, beliefs, norms, emotions, and meanings. They session will build an understanding of how sociologists conceptualize, empirically investigate, and draw conclusions about the social processes through which knowledge is achieved and challenged.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. Tracing 'Sketchy': A Raymond Williams-Inspired Diachronic Exploration of Keywords and the Cultural Practice of Drawing Lines
Liz Pirnie, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

In *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society (1976),* Raymond Williams introduced a theoretical justification for the analysis of "keywords" to reveal how certain words construct cultural and social tensions, meanings, and power dynamics. Through a diachronic investigation of the word "sketchy," this paper will demonstrate the role such reflexive designations play in

processes of discrimination and Othering. Historically, the artistic origins of the term "sketchy" referred to a drawing that was incomplete, a loosely outlined representation of a reference object. By the late twentieth century, the term's meaning shifted towards connotations of suspicion, unreliability, and moral ambiguity, mirroring societal anxieties around trust, risk, and perceptions of the Other. Drawing on nineteenth-century art sources, mid-twentieth-century journalism, and contemporary popular culture and political discourse, this paper traces the historical semantic developments of "sketchy." So while 80s-themed television shows like *Stranger Things*illustrate the present-day use of "sketchy" to highlight discomfort arising from ominous, fantastical circumstances, political figures and news outlets use "sketchy" to describe questionable dealings or challenging claims to truth, implicitly constructing prejudicial profiles of particular groups. Through the examination of multiple discursive sites (e.g., news media, popular culture, late-night comedy, etc.) this research analyzes not only the term's semantic flexibility, revealing shifting cultural values around security, credibility, and social boundaries, but also its constitutive and normalizing role in processes of Othering. This analytical exercise is intended to demonstrate the continued utility of Williams's analytical project by drawing attention to the historical and cultural weight of the language we use every day, and its real-life consequences.

2. Unverifiable Realities: Social Knowledge Processes in Spiritual Conspiracy Hypotheses on YouTube

Annika Barzen, TU Chemnitz

The study explores the construction of unverifiable realities through the analysis of a YouTube video and its associated comments on the Prison Planet theory—a spiritual and non-falsifiable conspiracy hypothesis. Employing Grounded Theory, the research examines the video transcript of 54 Minutes and 450 comments. In this case the findings reveal that unverifiable knowledge about the Prison Planet is regarded as credible by many viewers. This credibility is established through the close interplay between video content and viewer comments, fostering a collective epistemic authority. This authority is grounded in the perceived trustworthiness of the content creator, his emotional appeal and existential meaning-making, as well as the interactive validation provided by the community in the comment section. The results raise critical questions about the role of social interactions and emotional resonance in knowledge formation. The discussion addresses how epistemic uncertainties and collective identity processes shape the construction of reality in digital communities. Additionally, it critically examines the dual role of digital platforms—as spaces for meaning-making and as venues for the commercialization of spirituality. This study contributes to understanding the mechanisms by which alternative realities emerge and become legitimized in the digital sphere, filling a research gap in the social construction of conspiracy hypothesis.

3. Holistic Positivism and Method Decisions

Barbara Hanson, York University

This paper demonstrates some method possibilities in holistic positivism on the points of context and cybernetic causality. An expansive interpretation of Aristotlean empiricism allows for ideas from systems theory and constructivism to work together in contexts of social diversity. It also allows working outside the constraints of qualitative quantitative debates. Analysis illustrates the way theory and method are actively connected in practice by giving some examples from work on senile dementia and cancer in families. Being present in the process of data creation allows

immediate adjustment to what is learned. In this practice data co-emerges from fluid models of multidirectional cause. This allows researchers to be sensitive to emotional aspects of interaction and include metaphors as part of the findings from a project. This shows the potential of holistic positivism for including a wide range of epistemological and practical ideas in a project. This is timely given the way interest in holism and systems thinking has responded to post-pandemic interest in complexity.

4. Relinking Myth and Memory: Multimedia Art Strategies as Alternative Knowledge Production

Somayeh Rashvand, Concordia University

This study examines the reconfiguration of Kabous, a nightmare-inducing jinn from Persian folklore, in Morehshin Allahyari's *She Who Sees the Unknown* as a case of multimedia art strategies serving as an alternative form of knowledge production. It situates Kabous within a decolonial framework and explores how Allahyari employs VR, sculpture, and speculative storytelling to create new ways of understanding collective trauma, intergenerational memory, and diasporic displacement. This essay explores how Allahyari's art challenges dominant epistemologies by using immersive technologies to evoke the emotional and sensory experience of fear, vulnerability, and rupture. Kabous, traditionally a figure of terror, is transformed into a site of embodied and relational knowledge, bridging mythological narratives with contemporary sociopolitical contexts. Through these multimedia strategies, Allahyari disrupts linear and hierarchical modes of knowledge, presenting an affective, decolonial epistemology rooted in cultural specificity and lived experiences. The study situates Allahyari's practice within the Sociology of Knowledge, exploring how speculative and affective art methods can produce alternative forms of understanding Iranian society. By refiguring Kabous through an interplay of historical narratives and innovative technologies, the immersive installation becomes a space for engaging with trauma, resilience, and identity in a diasporic context. These strategies foreground the capacity of art to act as a dynamic and inclusive form of knowledge production. Ultimately, this essay argues that multimedia art offers critical pathways for decolonizing knowledge systems. Allahyari's refiguration of Kabous demonstrates how cultural memory, myth, and sensory engagement can resist erasure and reimagine possibilities for collective healing and resistance, challenging Western-centric frameworks of knowledge while advocating for relational and affective approaches.

(PSM5b) Boundaries of the Right II: The Overlapping Relations between Conservative Politics and Far-Right Extremism

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

In contrast to Boundaries of the Right I, the far-right organizations, emboldened the 2022 Freedom Convoy, the rise of Maxime Bernier, and Trump's electoral victory in 2024, encompasses more implications than impacts on everyday politics. Far-right organizations and political parties incorporate not only radical alternatives toward contemporary democracy, but also a set of extreme ideological commitments, gender constructs, and world view. In this panel, Boundaries of the Right II, scholars explore how these organizations construct, manipulate, and mobilize based on those understanding in relation to contemporary politics. Selected paper for the session offers a critical

view, from both theoretical and methodological perspectives, to demonstrate how far-right influences across the globe.

Session Organizers: Zitian Sun, Alessandro Drago, Taisto Witt, McGill University, and Thomas MacMillan, Concordia

Session Chair: Zitian Sun, McGill University

Presentations:

1. Smiling through submission: Tradwives and the promise of happiness

Meaghan Furlano, Kaitlynn Mendes, and Charlotte Nau, Western University

From academic literature to the popular mediascape, happiness is universally accepted as a social good. Happiness is regarded as a "good" feeling and something that makes us "good." Hence, happiness functions as a social imperative. Critical happiness scholars actively interrogate happiness discourses and point to their social consequences, especially happiness's role in reproducing neoliberal capitalism. Continuing in this tradition, I deconstruct the relationship between happiness, neoliberalism, and tradwives. Tradwives, or traditional wives, are luminous social media influencers who espouse gender "traditional" ideologies and have attained popularity and visibility in mainstream spaces. Scholars define tradwives as alt-right (or alt-right adjacent) actors whose regressive cultural work aims to annihilate civil rights and sustain neoliberal capitalism. In this theoretical article, I examine how tradwives use happiness discourses to legitimize their lifestyles and the regressive cultural work they perform, shutting down critical dialogue about their activities—what I call "the happiness defense." Specifically, I trace how tradwives draw on broader social anxieties to depict feminists as "undateable," such that adopting an alt-right orientation is the only path toward happiness. When tradwives speak about unhappiness, they deploy what I call "regressivist anger," making them "(unsuccessful) killers of feminist joy."

2. From aspirational domesticity to political extremism: Mapping Red Pill Women's radicalization pathways

Pauline Hoebanx, Saint Mary's University

The pathways to women's radicalization within conservative and far-right movements have been a critical focus in studies of gender and extremism, with many emphasizing the influence of religion and familial ideologies. However, existing research often neglects the role of online communities and the aspirational allure of traditional lifestyles in shaping these trajectories. However, existing research often neglects the role of online communities and the aspirational allure of traditional lifestyles in shaping these trajectories. This paper examines how women enter the manosphere—a network of antifeminist online communities—and transition from discussions of homemaking and traditional domesticity to more radical far-right beliefs. Through a longitudinal analysis of randomly selected Red Pill Women (RPW) on Reddit, I trace the evolution of their online engagements, paying close attention to the content, language, and interactions that signify a shift toward extremism. By "backtracking" the digital traces of RPW users who express far-right beliefs, I argue that the framing of traditional lifestyles as aspirational serves as a gateway to radicalization. However, my findings also reveal a paradox: the ideals of traditional domesticity often conflict with the active political participation required by far-right movements, limiting women's roles within these communities. This study highlights the importance of online spaces in shaping radicalization pathways and

examines the tipping point where conservative ideals intersect with far-right extremism. By exploring the digital journeys of Red Pill Women, this project contributes to a deeper understanding of the overlapping boundaries between conservative politics and far-right ideologies.

3. Global Media Dynamics and the Rise of Far-Right Politics

Julia Pfau, Bielefeld University

Since Donald Trump entered the political stage in 2016, anti-liberal views challenging democratic systems have gained more supporters, pushing radical groups into leadership positions. This phenomenon is amplified by influential actors such as U.S. billionaire Elon Musk, who in 2024 published a guest article in the German newspaper *Welt* supporting the far-right party *Alternative for Germany* (AfD). His assertion that only the AfD could save Germany raised significant concerns about the influence of foreign actors on domestic politics. Given the current success of far-right parties globally, this study highlights the complex links between globalized media and the mobilization of anti-system forces. Specifically, actors opposed to democratic systems are using the media in ways that increasingly impact conventional politics. Concurrently, due to the commercialized nature of the journalistic field, news providers are tempted to feature controversial figures to attract attention. This contribution aims to provide theoretical insights into current events in the U.S. and Germany. By adopting a field-theoretical approach, this paper examines anti-system actors and their interventions in the political field. For example, by supporting far-right networks and downplaying their radical tendencies in the media, people like Musk and Trump promote an ideological realignment of Western politics. In addition to the extensive influence of the journalistic field, current developments in political radicalization reveal field dynamics that highlight a growing convergence of both fields. Conceptualizing these linkages and the globalization of media could contribute to effective analyses of the overlapping boundaries between the political center and the extreme right.

(SAS2) South Asian realities: Transnational expressions and experiences

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: South Asia Research Cluster

This session will examine how everyday South Asian realities negotiate historical, geographical, and liminal places and spaces. It aims to center the voices of South Asian individuals and groups in a transnational and global framework. Some of the questions that this session will explore include the intersection of race and gender in the lived experiences of South Asian women, how movements help understand feminist resistance in urban settings, and how research on marginalized South Asian women is excluded from the mainstream academic discourse. This session will also consider how transnational digital activism has important consequences for homeland politics in South Asian countries. This session aims to shed light on the complex intersections of power and identity and how they impact the lived realities of South Asian individuals and groups as they navigate positions of precarity across local and transnational landscapes.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Navneet Kaur, York University and Shreyashi Ganguly, York University

Presentations:

1. Geographies of Hope and Fear: Public Manifestations of Contrasting Political Ideologies in Two Socio-Political Movements in Lahore, Pakistan

Sumbal Gillani, York University

This study examines the spatial and ideological dimensions of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), a right-wing religious movement and the Aurat March, a feminist movement. Anchored in the theoretical frameworks of Fascism and the Right to the City (TRTTC) the study explores how these movements contest, reclaim, and transform urban spaces in Lahore, reflecting broader struggles of power, resistance, and identity. Through a qualitative methodology, including ten semi-structured interviews and an analysis of public demonstrations, the research investigates themes such as classism, harassment, and the reclaiming of public spaces. By focusing on the symbolic and material geographies of these movements, the study sheds light on the interplay between hope and fear in shaping socio-political realities. This work contributes to urban studies, feminist scholarship, and political sociology, offering a nuanced understanding of Lahore's contested urban landscape.

2. Silenced Voices, Marginalized Mothers: South Asian Women and Educational Advocacy

Rashmee Karnad-Jani, University of Toronto, York Region District School Board

According to Statistics Canada (2024), as highlighted in this poster, the immigration of South Asian people to Canada has nearly quadrupled over the 25 year period from 1996 to 2021. In spite of the South Asian immigration numbers emphasized above, and although scholarly data highlight the barriers faced by South Asian immigrant women in navigating educational trajectories for their children (Chaze, 2015; Karnad-Jani, 2015), these studies are not actively taken up as mainstream research to inform relevant decisions as seen from the citations listed on York Space. A unique situation therefore comes into view wherein the marginalization of researchers and topics that highlight the experiences of marginalized South Asian women are excluded from the dominant conversations around educational equity and social justice. Intentionally situating the researcher's reflexivity and blended standpoint (Karnad-Jani 2021), this paper highlights key points from data gathered through multilingual in-depth interviews with South Asian immigrant mothers in a large publicly funded school board (2013) as well as with mothers and teachers across five regions in the GTA (2019). The data from these two research projects are rooted in two decades of professional, academic and lived experience in the K-12 public education sector in Ontario. This paper highlights South Asian women's social organization of knowledge as they navigate life changing events beginning with their families' decision to leave the Global South to come to the Global North. The demands of learning about a new education system while attending to their own skills upgrading processes, employment seeking stresses and domestic demands while making sense of structural and systemic barriers that are often invisibilized come into view. This paper discusses the importance of noticing Standard North American Family or SNAF (Smith, 1987) as a powerful and pervasive sorting tool through which South Asian women are viewed. In conclusion, the paper argues the importance of deepening methodological expertise in graduate programs by showing how a carefully selected method of inquiry, Institutional Ethnography, brings into view textually mediated Relations of Ruling (Smith, 1987, 1993) that operate locally, extra-locally and translocally to regulate the everyday gendered labour of South Asian women marginalized through pervasive and powerful forms of common sense sexism, racism and related exclusions.

3. Social Media Activism and Political Mobilization in Bangladesh's 2024 Uprising

Adri Ananya, York University

Social media activism has played a vital role in mobilizing national and global public opinion in the context of the student-led mass uprising of July 2024 in Bangladesh, ultimately forcing the downfall of an autocratic regime led by the Bangladesh Awami League. Amidst widespread censorship on mainstream media including newspapers and television channels that had become commonplace under the League's rule followed by a week-long internet shutdown during the peak of the student-led protests in an attempt to obscure the situation from the international community, many prominent Bangladeshi figures living abroad including academics, activists, and journalists took to the digital space to convey their messages to the larger population both at home and abroad. Given the turn of events, I assert that this online activism had a significant impact on people's political consciousness both within and outside of Bangladesh. It prompted those within Bangladesh to take to the streets in July, and compelled Bangladeshi citizens around the world to post updates online and organize demonstrations in various places in which they reside. Furthermore, even after the League's fall, the digital space continues to play an indispensable role in resisting the surge of disinformation from a section of the Indian mainstream and social media alleging communal violence against minority groups and attempting to depict Bangladesh as a militant state. Therefore, my aim in this paper is to craft a detailed analysis of a variety of social media content from July 2024 onwards and to show how these social media sites effectively morphed into a greater space for digital activism against the backdrop of the uprising. Additionally, it is also my aim to critically analyze the back and forth of information and disinformation between Bangladesh and India, examining its impact on public perception, diplomatic relations, and the broader narrative surrounding the uprising and its aftermath.

4. Mapping Migration: A Qualitative Analysis on the Federal Immigration Process and Experiences of Sikh Women in Canada

Jasmine Padam, University of Victoria

Current immigration policies in Canada create significant challenges for Sikh immigrant women. This is important to address given that Canada holds the largest Sikh population outside of India — the place of Sikh origin (Aujla-Bhullar, 2020; Jakobsh & Walton-Roberts, 2016). Previous research shows that despite Canada being a multicultural nation, Sikh immigrant women face ongoing struggles when trying to establish themselves within everyday Canadian culture. For instance, studies have found that these women often lose their autonomy and become financially dependent on their husbands with higher risks of becoming victims of psychological and physical abuse (Thobani, 2000; Walton-Roberts & Pratt, 2005). Sadly, these women face additional internal scrutiny from the Sikh-Canadian community when they attempt to voice their victimization (Basra, 2018). Thus, there is need to better qualitatively understand the everyday lived experiences and social context of this group of Canadians (Jakobsh & Walton-Roberts, 2016; Walton-Roberts & Pratt, 2005). Currently, only quantitative research exists, focusing mostly on demographics related to income, marital status, and members within the household (Basra, 2018). My research will address the gap that currently exists through a qualitative approach that contextualizes the experiences of Sikh immigrant women in Canada. My research will explore how the current policies, such as the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and *Citizenship Act,* implicitly contribute to and reinforce elements of racism and patriarchy for Sikh immigrant women trying to adapt to life in

Canada. Using an intersectional feminist lens, I will examine how race *and* gender intersect in the everyday lives of these women (Chuang et al., 2023). The following questions will guide my research: *How do Sikh immigrant women interpret and experience federal immigration regulations? And, in what ways do these experiences affect the manner in which Sikh immigrant women adapt to Canadian society?*

(SOM2) Recent Developments in Gender and Migration Research
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

This session features empirical works pertaining to gender and migration. The first two studies explore how Bangladeshi men in Canada navigate shifting masculinities and how Japanese immigrant women negotiate cultural identities amidst power dynamics. The session also highlights the challenges in employment and social integration faced by Ukrainian women refugees in Canada. The final study investigates how queer Haitian migrants use online dating to form transnational connections.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Session Chair: Max Stick, Mount Saint Vincent University

Presentations:

1. Navigating Shifting Sands: Exploring the Intersections of Gender, Migration, and Family Dynamics among Bangladeshi Men in Canada
Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad, Concordia University

This study explores the shifting dynamics of masculinity among Bangladeshi transnational migrant men in Canada, focusing on the intersection of migration, gender, and social inequality. Employing a transnational analysis, it investigates how migration to Canada reshapes familial and domestic dynamics, particularly in the context of evolving gender roles and socio-cultural expectations. While migration and gender studies often prioritize women's experiences, recent research highlights the need to understand how migrant men navigate privileges and marginalizations. Historically cast as the primary breadwinners within patriarchal family structures, many Bangladeshi men face significant challenges in reconciling their identities with sociocultural shifts in their new Canadian context. The research draws on semi-structured interviews with 24 Bangladeshi migrant men from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Using an intersectional framework, it employs constructionist grounded theory and thematic analysis to explore the fluidity of masculinities in transnational contexts. Findings reveal that while many men maintain traditional gender norms, others adopt more egalitarian approaches, particularly concerning domestic responsibilities and parenting. This reflects the transformative impact of migration on gender roles and masculinities. Additionally, the study highlights the psychological and social pressures these men encounter, particularly in their roles as financial providers for both immediate and extended families. These shifting dynamics often result in intergenerational tensions, where traditional values conflict with emerging gender norms. This research contributes to the broader discourse on migration and masculinity by offering a decolonized perspective on the lived experiences of non-Western, non-

White migrant men. It underscores the intersection of cultural, social, and economic factors in shaping identities and emphasizes the need for equity-driven policies that support migrant families. Situated within the broader South Asian Canadian context, this study enriches conversations about belonging, community resilience, and resistance to systemic discrimination.

2. Cultural negotiation among Japanese immigrant women in Canada: Power dynamics, social location, and shadows of imperialism

Izumi Niki and **Izumi Sakamoto,** University of Toronto

Since the 2000s, 76% of Japanese immigrants in Canada have been women, many of whom are in interracial marriages (Ohki, 2023). This trend highlights the importance of examining their unique experiences, positionality, and identities. This study utilizes the cultural negotiation model (Sakamoto, 2001, 2006a, 2006b) to explore how Japanese immigrant women navigate cultural values, societal structures, and personal agency in Canada. The model outlines six states—cultural encounters, acculturation, resistance, re-enculturation, reevaluation, and transculturation—shaped by intersecting systems of power and individual agency. The research is based on six focus groups conducted in 2023 and four individual interviews in 2024 with 38 Japanese-speaking women aged 50-69 who have lived in Canada for over five years. Through interpretive thematic analysis, three key findings emerged. First, immigration often serves as a form of cultural negotiation. For some, migration reflected resistance to traditional Japanese patriarchal norms and a desire for autonomy. Second, participants faced constraints in cultural negotiation due to financial dependence, familial dynamics, and societal expectations. They created community spaces to preserve cultural heritage and support childrearing in mixed unions. Even seemingly negotiable aspects, such as language use, required significant effort and determination. Third, participants navigated dual identities, valuing Canadian multiculturalism while embracing Japanese ethics. Many perceived their children as embodying a "New Japanese" identity, integrating values from both cultures. The findings reveal cultural negotiation as a subtle form of resistance shaped by gender, financial independence, and family roles. Participants' preference for Japanese identity over a hybrid "Japanese-Canadian" identity suggests a legacy of imperialism influenced by education and nationalistic narratives. This study advances the cultural negotiation model by integrating power structures at personal, societal, and historical levels, shedding light on the interplay between individual agency and systemic forces in shaping immigrant women's identities.

3. 'I can't plan anything': How Ukrainian refugees experience integration in Canada

Valeriia Yakushko and Teresa Abada, Western University

The Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in the largest refugee crisis in Europe since WWII, with nearly 6 million Ukrainian refugees recorded globally. In response to this challenge, countries around the world implemented various policies to address the needs of people fleeing Ukraine. These policies can generally be divided into two main models: temporary protection (used by EU and some non-EU countries) and extended temporary residence (used by Canada). Over the past two years, Canada has accommodated close to 300,000 Ukrainian refugees through the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel program (CUAET). While some studies focus on the integration of Ukrainian refugees with temporary protection status in EU countries, little is known about the integration of refugees in Canada, whose policy approach significantly differs from one in Europe. Based on the theoretical framework of successful refugee integration in the host

communities, this study explores how Ukrainian female refugees experience integration in Southwestern Ontario as well as the successes and challenges they encounter. Drawing on the in-depth semi-structured interviews with female Ukrainian refugees, this study reveals that their primary successes are related to employment, fostering social connections, and building resilience in the host country. Yet, they face the most significant challenges due to the uncertainty regarding the temporality of their residence status in Canada. Overall, this study contributes to the understanding of forced migrants' integration in Canada, particularly Ukrainian refugees, and provides insights to inform policies and practices toward refugees and asylum seekers.

4. Queer Transnational Space: How Queer Haitian Migrants and Nonmigrants Use Online Dating to Form Intimate Connections and Engage in Transnational Migration and Mobility

Carlo Charles, University of Windsor, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Using a Haitian case study, this paper creates a dialogue between the fields of queer migration, transnationalism and online dating to demonstrate that dating apps and instant messaging platforms are pivotal in how co-ethnic/co-national queer migrants and nonmigrants form romantic connections and foster intimate relationships across national borders. Emerging scholarship on queer/sexual migration has provided valuable insights into how migration intersects with sexuality to shape not only why and how LGBTQ+ individuals migrate across national borders but also how they integrate into their host societies. Yet, they have often overlooked the role of dating apps like Grindr and instant messaging platforms such as Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp in fostering cross-border connections among queer migrants and nonmigrants, leading to their migration and/or mobility across transnational social spaces. Conversely, transnationalism scholars have shown how cheaper communication and travel technologies have intensified transnational connections and relationships among migrants and nonmigrants worldwide. Still, they rarely consider how dating and instant messaging apps permit LGBTQ+ migrants and nonmigrants to form transnational connections and relationships. Lastly, the literature on online dating often emphasizes how internet technology has revolutionized the pursuit of romantic and/or intimate connections in the digital age. However, they seldom consider how online dating shapes intimate transnational connections and relationships among queer migrants and nonmigrants. Drawing on eleven months of ethnographic fieldwork and forty-four in-depth interviews with queer men in northern Haiti, this paper illustrates how Haitian queer migrants and nonmigrants use dating and instant messaging apps to form transnational connections and intimate relationships in the digital age.

(THE4) Committing Sociology and the Problem of Social impact

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

Dr. Blum will relate the CSA conference theme to the impact of academia as an attempt to remove itself from its ivory tower makes central its relation to a public outside academia while glossing as unspoken and untheorized the struggle within the academic community for many reflective parties to make an impact. As a contrast, the relations of academics to their colleagues 'inside' to those reputed to be alike and similar, is a definitive precondition for reflecting upon their relation to the 'outside. The exploration of the discourse on the impact of a field on the public must be fundamentally ambiguous and open to inquiry.

Moderator: Saeed Hydaralli, Roger Williams University

Keynote Speaker: **Alan Blum**, York University

I note that the focus of this conference on the impact of academia as an attempt to remove itself from its ivory tower makes central its relation to a public outside academia while glossing as unspoken and untheorized the struggle within the academic community for many reflective parties to make an impact. As a contrast, the relations of academics to their colleagues 'inside' to those reputed to be alike and similar, is a definitive precondition for reflecting upon their relation to the 'outside. The exploration of the discourse on the impact of a field on the public must be fundamentally ambiguous and open to inquiry. I ask first, how can academics achieve something like an impact in their own environment—that includes administrators and resistant colleagues—without forfeiting their integrity and if such impact depends upon groveling, a winning "personality", or are there other paths? My objective in this Plenary is to try to exemplify such alternative paths open to us all for engaging the notions of impact and influence as a contested domain that invites dialogue in contrast to opinionated declarations. For example, one opinion we must speak to is Max Weber's description of us, of we who are academics, and how the problem of our impact on the public can be handled well by such people as us: "specialists without spirit, sensualists without heart; this nullity imagines that it has attained a level of civilization never before achieved."(Weber, The protestant Ethic) Even more, he claims that we academics already exercise our influence in ways that invite dialogue. "It is horrible to think that the world could one day be filled with nothing but those little cogs, little men clinging to little jobs and striving towards bigger ones - a state of affairs …playing an ever-increasing part in the spirit of our present administrative system, and especially of its offspring, the students. This passion for bureaucracy ... is enough to drive one to despair." Is this possibly true and if so, what kind of social inquiry can we pursue in the context of such a normative order? Is our belief in our influence an institutionalized and self-deceptive conceit and yet necessary equipment for living? I propose to discuss this notion of impact by advancing a poetics of social inquiry that is meant to mock the standard of market value by gorging on ambiguity in its analyses.

(WPO1) Advocacy for Worker Rights on Higher Education Campuses

Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

While universities and colleges are promoted as trailblazers in terms of the exchange of ideas on innovation, social progress and equity, they have also become sites where some workers are employed under dismal conditions. These include contract instructors as well as service workers, such as those doing caretaking, security and food-related jobs on campus. We invite papers which focus on strategies, campaigns and advocacy efforts globally which have attempted to facilitate the establishment of norms, practices and procedures through which universities can become decent work employers for all workers. The session will explore decent work campaigns within the higher education sector in Canada, US, UK and globally in order to identify strategies which have been attempted to bring about the shift institutions of higher education towards greater coherence between their rhetoric of equity and their treatment of service workers on campus.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Kiran Mirchandani, University of Toronto and Michelle Buckley, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Service Worker Activism at the University of Toronto

Kiran Mirchandani and **Michelle Buckley,** University of Toronto

This paper will describe service worker activism at the University of Toronto drawing from interviews conducted with student and labour activists. These interviews reveal a rich and varied history of organizing to improve the working conditions of food service, security and caretaking workers. We describe three strategies. First was the establishment of a General Assembly in 2010, which brought together a coalition of staff, food service workers, students and faculty to develop an alternative mode of governance for the university. Second has been ongoing anti contracting out initiatives which has been led by public sector unions. Finally, we explore attempts to influence procurement policies and develop fair wage standards for campus workers situated within the recognition of the university as a public sector anchor institution.

2. Subcontracting on Campus: The Case of University of California Service Workers

Kelly Quinn and Ken Jacobs, UC Berkeley Labor Center

Across national contexts, an erosion of state funding for higher education has led both public and private universities to implement cost-saving strategies. To this end, universities have begun to use outsourcing and subcontracting to staff many on-campus service positions, including custodial, security, and cafeteria services. Evidence, however, suggests that a significant portion of the cost savings realized through outsourcing occurs because workers receive lower wages and fewer benefits than their directly employed counterparts. Despite this trend, in 2019, the Regents of the University of California adopted a policy limiting the outsourcing of service positions and requiring equal compensation for outsourced jobs in response to advocacy efforts led by AFSCME Local 3299. This research uses the University of California policy change as a case study to examine the efforts by unions and worker advocates to secure better compensation and protection for workers. To do so, we rely on in-depth, semi-structured interviews with workers and AFSCME staff to detail the employment conditions before and after the policy change, as well as the advocacy strategies deployed to pressure the University. We will also interview university officials to understand their role and perspective in shaping the policy. We supplement the interviews with a review of documents like meeting minutes, collective bargaining agreements, and news articles to detail employment terms before the policy change. By analyzing these data sources, the study aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on advocacy efforts to improve working conditions for low-wage service workers, particularly in response to outsourcing on university campuses.

3. Pedagogical strategies on worker advocacy in a private Catholic university in the United States

Howard Rosing and **Sanjukta Mukherjee,** DePaul University

This paper explores pedagogical strategies we have used in our classrooms that have led to successful advocacy campaigns and greater awareness about the conditions under which service workers like security guards, custodians/cleaners and food service are employed at a private Catholic university in the United States. On one hand our institution is deeply embedded within a Vincentian mission committed to social justice and considers itself a champion of marginalized peoples and communities; yet it operates within typical neoliberal structures within which private institutions of higher education are embedded in the United States marked by an underbelly of

non-tenure track and part-time faculty, outsourced/subcontracted service staff and prohibitions on unionizing and collective bargaining. We draw on our experiences in teaching an experiential learning course on food justice and a research methods course in women's and gender studies to demonstrate the pivotal role students can play within private institutions which have limited scope for unionizing its workers.

4. Organizing to end outsourcing: notes from an in-sourcing campaign at SFU

Aaron Windel, **Kayla Hilstob**, **Yameena Zaidi**, **Cristina Figueroa,** and Enda Brophy**,** Simon Fraser University

Contract Worker Justice @SFU is a coalition of Simon Fraser University community members - workers, students, and faculty - that started campaigning in 2020 to end the outsourcing of cleaning and food service work on the university's several campuses. The campaign has paired advocacy for in-sourcing with research into the reality of contract work on campus and the consequences for workers; the strategies, decisions, and tactics of the university in establishing and defending its contracts with major for-profit companies; and recent successful in-sourcing campaigns, especially in BC. This presentation introduces the Contract Worker Justice campaign, situates it in the history of SFU (as neoliberal university), and highlights successes and challenges so far.

(CSA4) Open Access Textbook Initiative - Open Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 5:30pm

The Canadian Sociological Association invites you to attend this meeting to discuss the formation of a working group. The object of this initiative is to gather a collection of open access textbook material and resources for introductory sociology students.
Session Organizers: Zohreh BayatRizi, University of Alberta and Lisa Smith, Douglas College

(SCY-RC) Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 5:30pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster

Please join us to review the past year and to plan ahead for the Sociology of Childhood and Youth Research Cluster. This meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. This is a great opportunity to learn about the cluster, shape the cluster, and build connections. Looking forward to seeing you!
Session Organizer: Hunter Knight, King's University College at Western University

(SOM-RC) Sociology of Migration Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 5:30pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

Members of the CSA are invited to attend this brief but important Sociology of Migration Research Cluster meeting. The winner of the best student paper award for the SOM cluster will be announced. Come prepared to share new ideas and to propose possible themes for sessions and panels for the 2026 annual CSA meeting of the Sociology of Migration Cluster. The mission of the Sociology of Migration Cluster, and the CSA-related sessions, is to cultivate diverse and enriching conversations

that bring together students, faculty, independent researchers, and research institutes/centers from across Canada together to share research results and policy-relevant developments.
Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

(URS-RC) Urban Sociology Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 03 June 2025 @ 5:30pm
Affiliation: Urban Sociology Research Cluster

This Urban Sociology Research Cluster engages sociologists whose work seeks to understand human interactions and institutions in urban areas both in Canada and globally. This includes research on topics that explore the various and interrelated dimensions of cultural, economic and social life in cities such as housing inequality, gentrification, race, gender and sexuality in the city, the changing nature of work in the sharing economy, and relationship between urban design and sociability. This meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities.
Session Organizer: Andrew Crosby, Carleton University

(CSF6) The space(s) between: Collective care, resistance, and collaboration in parent-scholar communities
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

In academia, where metrics of productivity and individual achievement often overshadow relational and care-centered values, parent-scholars frequently face a hostile and unsupportive environment. The challenges of navigating institutions that devalue caregiving labor are compounded by systemic inequities that marginalize divergent identities in relation to factors such as race, gender, class, sexual orientation, (dis)abilities and sanism. This panel discussion explores the process of building a collective framework of care among eight parent-scholars striving to resist and reimagine the academic structures that perpetuate competition, burnout and isolation. Our discussion is rooted in the praxis of care, collaboration, and shared resistance. Through this process-oriented exploration, we aim to share how we have cultivated a space to support one another as individuals navigating intersecting demands of parenting and academia. We reflect on the strategies that have enabled us to reclaim agency, including peer mentorship and mutual accountability. By centering care work as a valuable and radical act within academia, we challenge the pervasive narratives that render caregiving invisible. This panel offers insights into how collective care can function as a form of resistance to institutional toxicity, while also addressing the emotional, intellectual, and logistical labor required to sustain such efforts. Session attendees are invited to join a conceptual space that reimagines care as a cornerstone of scholarly and community flourishing. Together with the attendees, we hope to open up a conversation about emergent and tentative ideas regarding how to hold each other up and foster cultures of collective care in academia.

Session Organizer and Chair: Chizuru Nobe-Ghelani, Toronto Metropolitan University

Panelists:
Anh Ngo, Wilfrid Laurier University
Brenda Polar, Renison University College, University of Waterloo
Chizuru Nobe-Ghelani, Toronto Metropolitan University
Julia Janes, Memorial University
Maria Bernard, Kings University College, University of Western Ontario
Marisa Barnhart, Trent University
Sangyoo Lee, York University

(ECS1a) Economic Sociology and Political Economy I
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Economic Sociology Research Cluster

This session focuses on new theoretical and empirical developments in economic sociology and political economy.

Session Organizers: Dean Curran, University of Calgary and Zhen Wang, University of Toronto
Session Chair: Dean Curran, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. User Assetization in the Crisis State

Tatum Weicker, Acadia University

This contribution critiques the idea of data privacy and security as the main focus of digital sociological research. Rather, focus should be placed on the depersonalization of users into corporate assets by Big Tech social media firms that convert individuals into their time, use, and effort spent on a platform: Big Tech's power is grounded in this process, rather than from the ownership of data. Recent development of a monopolized digital economy has created a never-before-seen type of corporate entity, whose influence exceeds in its capacity. Users are forced into ecosystems of assetization and limited interoperability, creating a ripple-effect of exploitation and offline social divergence. Users are unknowingly exploited when they engage with social media platforms; performing unpaid digital labour through consumption of digital content. This new, innovative source of monetization far exceeds traditional waged relationships and aids in the wealth accumulation of corporations. Linking user assetization to class-based social inequities, this paper analyzes Big Tech monopolization. The market power that Big Tech extracts from control over technological innovation, development, and platform services maintains and amplifies the active use of dominant digital platforms. Class inequality has skyrocketed with unprecedented costs of living existing in conjunction with surplus profits, hoarded by corporations, demonstrating the repercussions of unregulated monopolies. With Big Tech CEOs entering the political sphere, potential for corruption of state regulation in the tech-industry has increased. The lower- and middle-classes rely on state interventions and legislation to avoid monopoly powers dominating the economy. Permitting corporate actors in legislative power compromises the reliability of the state to manage the capitalist market. In the tech-industry, user assetization, increasing use of paid subscription systems, monetized access to critical data for researchers and other relevant actors and successful corporate profiteering represent an urgency for market regulation to avoid corporate social dominance.

2. Saying Good or Doing Good? ESG Practices among Firms

Anson Au, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) has risen to prominence in corporate America as a set of beliefs about contributing to societal wellbeing. This has resulted in a significant number of shareholder resolutions by institutional shareholders and corporate disclosures by firms that stress their commitments to improving environmental stewardship, social equity, and equitable corporate governance. While much research has evaluated the merits of these corporate disclosures, little work has been conducted on assessing the extent to which firms place these commitments into practice. Do firms simply say they will "do good," or put it into practice? This study sheds light on this puzzle by drawing on an original sustainable finance dataset of publicly listed firms on the NASDAQ and NYSE. This study assesses the extent to which institutional investor ownership predicts changes in key measures of ESG: carbon emissions, female representation, and intra-firm wage inequality. The results show that despite their vocal calls for ESG, institutional investor ownership produces mixed effects on actual measures of ESG. On the one hand, institutional investor ownership predicts parametric emissions reduction and greater female representation among managerial roles. On the other hand, institutional investor ownership predicts significantly greater infra-firm pay disparities between CEO and employee wages.

3. The Normalization of Sports Betting: Implications for Social Connection and Sport Identity

Braden Simpson, University of Calgary

Following the 2021 easing of legislation surrounding sports betting in Canada, sports betting has rapidly been both culturally and socially accepted. Yet, scholars debate whether this new found surge in sports betting has consumers more or less engaged in sport. That is, are sports betters more engaged with the sport or has sport become merely a vehicle for a wager? This ambiguity is cause for concern, given the seemingly ubiquitous presence of sports betting platforms and advertisements, particularly in professional sports contexts. People are betting on sports more than ever before and vulnerable populations, such as youth, seniors, newcomers, and the racially marginalized are disproportionately affected by negative sports betting outcomes, such as financial loss, increased family tension, addiction, and comorbid mental and physical ailments. This research argues that the normalization of sports betting alters traditional fan identities. The rise of betting-driven fandom affect's fan identity by rebalancing consumer focus on the collective team identity versus individual financial stakes. This research challenges the cultural acceptance of sports betting as an engagement enhancer for professional sports, while simultaneously positing that sports betting acts as a catalyst for shifting away from the "team", potentially exacerbating negative individual outcomes. This rethinking and theorizing of the way consumers interact with and consume sports betting and sports betting's impact on sports, challenges the legislative acceptance and widespread adoption of sports betting. Analyzing social identity in the context of sports betting provides a unique perspective on how the intersection of culture, legislative institutions, and perceived economic incentives (gambling) affect engagement with the sociocultural element of sport.

(EDU6a) Sociology of Education in Higher Education Institutions: Faculty Experiences
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features papers that draw on empirical, theoretical or methodological issues in the realm of higher education.

Session Organizer: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

Session Chair: Julia Moniz-Lecce, University of British Columbia

Presentations:

1. Gendered Patterns of Time Management around Grading for Higher Education Faculty

Anastasia Kulpa, University of Alberta

This paper explores how tenured and tenure-track faculty in psychology at Canadian medical-doctoral institutions discuss time and time management in the context of interviews predominantly focused on the practice of assigning grades to undergraduates. While all participants in this study describe a sense of time pressure and employ strategies to minimise the time required to grade, the strategies used appear to be gendered. Both male and female participants aim to minimise the time they spend grading through creating clear assignment guidelines and rubrics, but male faculty describe these exclusively as time management strategies, while female faculty describe them as pedagogical and time management strategies. There are also some attempts to manage the time spent grading through teaching fewer classes, and ensuring those classes have smaller enrollments, including "scaring away" students, but these are employed only by male faculty. Another approach to manage the time spent grading is to intentionally frame this work as central to positive academic identity, rather than a peripheral activity to real academic activity. Faculty using this strategy, who are disproportionately likely to be female, discuss the time they spend grading as being an essential interaction supporting student learning, valuable, even if it is time consuming. This strategy does not reduce the time spent grading, but reduces the discomfort about time being used in this way. Overall, it appears that male faculty can use strategies exclusively to manage the time they spend grading, while female faculty feel the need to present their time management strategies as both a way to manage time, and a way to support the quality of student learning.

2. Bridging Theory and Practice: Mentorship as a Tool for Collective Empowerment in Criminology

Evangeline Kroon and **Jessica Braimoh,** York University

The graduate student journey is often characterized by a transformative period of intellectual growth, self-discovery, and transition, yet there can also be a dark side. This journey is marked by a unique isolating state—a "betwixt and between" phase situated between the worlds of student and professional, which can lead to high levels of stress, anxiety and depression in graduate students struggling with low levels of support and "often-unspoken expectations" of their degree (O'Regan, 2022). Canadian graduate students do years of isolated self-directed work, with very little guidance and, as is increasingly more common, if they take longer to finish their work than their allotted time, they are cut off by their institutions, losing access to resources and support, making graduating infinitely harder (Canadian Association for Graduate Studies, 2003; Canadian Historical Association, 2022; Langford & Carstairs, 2023; SupportOurScience, 2022). This isolation and anxiety, if not

addressed, has the potential to extend beyond the graduate degree. Fried (2018) notes how the norms and expectations of higher education are "both invisible and taken for granted" (p. 45). These factors exert a slow, steady effect over time. Once set adrift from their graduate institutions, on top of potential family planning, debt repayment, housing costs, etc. new scholars increasingly feel the pressure of the mass market, neoliberalism, and globalization; the payoff of a decent/relevant job after graduation is becoming increasingly slim (Bosanquet et al., 2020; Grady et al., 2014). Engaging with Congress 2025's theme of Reframing Togetherness, this paper uses a shifting voice perspective (Njambi and Spenkle, 2004) where three differently positioned academics, one graduate student, one recently graduated student, and one junior faculty member consider their own experiences navigating meaningful connection and community during their graduate studies and beyond. In talking back to each other's experiences, our paper highlights the ways that mentorship mitigates the negative experiences of graduate school, and is a call to action for institutions to address this growing issue.

3. A MAD General Education Proposal: A Cross-Departmental Collaborative Student Assignment

Robert Savelle, Durham College

This presentation aims to discuss the first iteration of an inter-institutional collaboration between two seemingly unrelated college programs as an exemplar to further engage students learning. During the 2024 winter semester at Durham College, a General Education (GNED) course teamed up with a Media Art and Design (MAD) gaming course to pilot a collaborative student project. Students from the MAD course were offered the opportunity to enroll in a GNED History course. For those in the Game-Art program who enrolled in the course, an assignment was created to support their work within their MAD gaming course, while still meeting the learning outcomes for their GNED History course. The end result was a collaborative project that, while evaluated separately, sought to integrate diverse themes and topics into a cohesive and creative project.

An important requirement for students in college and university programs in Ontario (and elsewhere) is the successful completion of multiple courses outside their main area of study. Specifically, students enrolled in most diploma programs in Ontario's 24 publicly funded colleges are required to take three GNED courses to graduate. However, for some students, particularly those in specialized programs or vocations, the link between GNED courses and their area of study can seem tenuous. This disconnect can be challenging and frustrating for both students and professors. This collaboration seeks to bridge that gap by grounding the GNED course more closely with students' programs and career paths. After the first iteration of this cross-disciplinary initiative, research has begun as to its successes, challenges and potential for future collaborations. Interviews and data processing are ongoing, but the feedback thus far has been informative as to the project's benefits for students, as well as suggested modifications to improve student motivation and course learning outcomes for both classes.

(GAS2b) Transgender Studies: Constituting Trans Subjectivities

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

This session explores sociological contributions to transgender studies, an interdisciplinary field of knowledge production about transgender and non-binary phenomena. Scholarly interest in trans

phenomena has proliferated throughout the academy and in sociology since the emergence of transgender studies in the 1990s, prompting explorations of gender and gendered regulation and calls for empirical research about trans and non-binary people. This session asks how the sociology of gender and sexuality can participate in this expansive knowledge production about transness and extends an invitation to imagine "the shape of trans yet to come" (Weil 2023).

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. Spontaneity: Queer Time in Yong People's Accounts of Becoming Queer

Sydney Patterson, University of Toronto

Anti-queer rhetoric has long been framed around protecting children from external queer influence- notions of indoctrinating, recruiting, or confusing young people into being queer became prominent in the North American context with the 1970s "Save Our Children" movement and have been revived in the context of gender affirming care for youth and comprehensive sexual education in schools. Those refuting this rhetoric often use arguments rooted in the thoughtfulness and capacity of young people, the innate nature of queerness ("born this way"), and long-term process of reflection and gatekeeping prior to naming a queer identity, coming out, or transitioning. I argue that this albeit well-intentioned rhetoric overlooks the importance and commonality of spontaneity in queer lives. While many decisions such as identity labelling, coming out, and transitioning often *are* long-term, internally debated, and made in consultation with gatekeepers, they are also made quickly- in the sense of acting or deciding spontaneously, and in the 'queer time' sense that refuses the linearity of cause and effect, finding desired futures and premeditation coming together in a moment of action. Using a dataset of interviews with queer and/or racialized young women, I highlight experiences of coming out, hooking up, transitioning, and realization that young people narrate as happening spontaneously - revealing a queer ethos of living which demands more than meditation and is willing to encounter unexpected results. In the current context of doubting and restricting young people's autonomy to live queerly, I challenge the counter-argument that impulse and short-term feelings are unreliable, instead demonstrating the necessity of spontaneity and risk in living queer lives.

2. Trans/Fat Matters: An Investigation of Trans, Fat Embodiment

Van Slothouber, Bloorview Research Institute

There has been little attention paid to how trans subjects in particular experience their fat bodies in relation to their trans gender (Friedman, 2020; Ingraham, 2015; White, 2014; White, 2020). White (2014, 2020, 2021) suggests that although there has been an increase in academic attention to both trans identities and fat identities, there has been a dearth of interest in the intersection of fat/trans. In fact, White (2020) argues that fat studies research that deals with gender is "almost entirely cis-centric" (110), while research on trans embodiment has "operate[d] with the assumption of slenderness" (114). White (2021) contends that contemporary approaches to understanding the relationship between fat and gender tend to conceptualize fatness as an added "layer" that complicates gender, failing to account for the "role it plays in producinglegibly gendered bodies" (86). Following from scholars working at the intersection of fat and trans embodiment, my project attended to the significance of fat embodiment to gender identity and expression, including how

fatness impacts one's experience of their own gender, how they are gendered, or perceived, by others, and how fatness factors into decisions made regarding trans gender expressions and/or social and medical transitions, both on a personal and institutional level. While scholars such as White (2020) have begun to conduct qualitative research with fat trans and nonbinary individuals, their work is UK-based. My project explored these questions in a Canadian context. As such, this paper draws on data collected from in-depth, semi-structured interviews conducted in 2022 with 19 adult (18+) participants living in Canada who self-identified as both fat and trans and/or nonbinary. Using Braun and Clarke's (2006) method for thematic analysis, the following themes were developed: 1. Fat embodiment as gender failure; 2. Fat as restricting trans gender identity and expression; 3. Fat as facilitating trans gender identity and expression; and 4. Fat trans representation.

3. Understandings and Enactments of Non-Binary Transmasculinity

Alexander Murphy, University of British Columbia

Masculinity studies, when investigating populations other than cisgender men, have focused largely on cisgender women or transgender men. When non-binary people are included, little distinction is drawn between them and trans men. The lack of attention to non-binary transmasculine people (who transition towards masculinity but do not identify as men) leaves questions about how they may uniquely construct masculinity, especially given West and Zimmerman's (1987) assertion that one "does" masculinities to be read as a man, which may not be desirable for non-binary people. This research asks *how do non-binary transmasculine people understand and enact masculinity?* Eighteen qualitative, semi-structured interviews were used to investigate transmasculine non-binary people's relationship to masculinities and how they enact masculinity in their lives. Preliminary findings suggest a diversity of understandings of masculinity, with common themes of masculinity as related to the physical body, and as something that is both interactional and intrinsic. Participants often expressed not wanting to be misgendered as women while also feeling uncomfortable when their enactments of masculinity meant being perceived as men. However, participants also frequently expressed a sense of freedom from gender norms and the ability to embrace femininity through their non-binary identification. These findings have implications for expanding understandings of who needs access to gender-affirming care and for what reasons (given the reported importance of physical masculinity), and for better understanding the experiences of transmasculine non-binary people.

4. How We Became Transgender: Anatomy of a Category

Toby Anne Finlay, York University

This paper traces the categorical emergence of 'transgender' in trans social movements from the late-1970s to the early-1990s. Whereas transgender historiography typically situates the emergence of this term in San Francisco in the 1990s (Stryker 2017; Valentine 2007), this paper traces an alternative genealogy through the publications of trans community organizations in Canada from 1978-1995. How was the term transgender first introduced into activist discourse and how did the arrival of this new social category reorganize trans social movements? Prior to the categorical emergence of 'transgender,' trans social movements aligned themselves with the medico-psychiatric definition of 'transsexuality' and tended to reinforce normative conceptions of gender and sexuality. These transsexual activists sought to professionalize by building a network of

trans service organizations that included transsexuals and other gender-nonconforming groups like transvestites, requiring the introduction of a new collective term and the entry of 'transgender' into discourse. This new terminology was hotly contested, as transsexual activists objected to their association with anyone other than 'true transsexuals' and projected the sexual non-conformity associated with sex work, homosexuality, and transvestism onto the transgender other. Conversely, a new contingent of transgender activists began to organize themselves under this name, brimming with "transgender rage" (Stryker 1994) and addressing a wide array of social issues that affected trans people including HIV, sex work, women's shelters, and racism. Transsexual was never fully displaced as a category but rather was resignified with the introduction of transgender, decoupling the term from the normative constraints of medico-psychiatric discourse and stretching it to encompass the multitude of trans people's experiences. The categorical emergence of 'transgender' thus affected a shift from the transsexual health-consumer activism of the 1980s to the transgender politics of the 1990s, capacitating new forms of resistance to medico-psychiatric authority.

(HEA4) Navigating and Waiting for Health Care
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

This session showcases new research and approaches to studying and thinking about the phenomenon and experiences of waiting for health care. We all wait throughout our lives, although mostly ordinarily. However, waiting for health care is extraordinary, yet also expected and normalized in the Canadian health care system. Indeed, exceptionally long medical wait times are defining characteristics of Canada's health care system. When people seek care, they wait -- for appointments, diagnosis, specialist care, results, surgery, and answers. As a social phenomenon, waiting is not neutral - it shapes the lives of those accessing care, is laden with power, inequality, structural violence and is filled with expectations and responsibilities that are gendered, normative, and cultural. It is also relational, with other people and institutions, shaping the social organization of many aspects and domains of life. When people wait, they are in a complicated state of stasis, suspension, but also active waiting. Those waiting may imagine future possibilities, consider who and what they are waiting for, and are living in precarity where their lives are marked by suspension. Despite the centrality of waiting in health care, it is an under-explored aspect of research and practice.

Session Organizers: Katelin Albert, University of Victoria and Vera Caine, University of Victoria
Session Chair: Katelin Albert, University of Victoria

Presentations:

1. Palliative and End-of-Life Care Experiences of People who are Precariously Housed: Three Institutional Ethnographic Stories
Courtney Petruik, University of Calgary

Alberta is currently experiencing housing and healthcare crises. With over 250000 people living with homelessness (PLWH) on any given night, a shortage of affordable housing, and a province that continues to retrench public healthcare funds, it is increasingly difficult for equity-deserving groups, primarily PLWH, to manage their life-limiting illnesses. Mainstream healthcare is still largely based on the biomedical curative model. PEOLC, which accounts for social aspects of the human

experience is underfunded and undervalued. For people nearing the end of life, PEOLC is imperative for ensuring that individuals have a dignified end of life. For PLWH, healthcare access is already attenuated and for PEOLC, it is increasingly so. Academic literature shows that PLWH experience barriers to PEOLC that the general population does not. However, few studies show *how* barriers are assembled through policies, procedures, and normative practices of people that make up our health and social care institutions. Using an institutional ethnographic approach, this study investigates how systemically embedded processes and practices generate challenges for PLWH necessitating a specialized approach to PEOLC not offered in the mainstream health system. Data includes one-on-one interviews and approximately 100 hours of observations of a community palliative care team providing services to PLWH. This study offers three institutional ethnographic narratives showing how individuals face complex challenges and experience institutionally based barriers warranting an alternative type of community-based PEOLC outside the mainstream publicly delivered health system. Findings highlight four points of interest: what PLWH *do* to manage their illness, *how* they navigate their healthcare needs, what they value about a community-based PEOLC program, and what enables and constrains the program from working in the way they do. Findings inform policy and practice in PEOLC and have implications for program development for PLWH who need PEOLC.

2. A Critical Phenomenology of Diagnostic Delays Among Ontario Women

Kelly Gregory, University of Toronto; Pia Kontos, KITE ResearchInstitute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network

There are a number of diseases and conditions that have notoriously long diagnostic periods which disproportionately manifest among women. Endometriosis, for instance, takes an average of three to ten years to diagnose. During a diagnostic delay - when the period becomes prolonged between seeking care until the point at which a diagnosis is made - women continue to suffer from symptoms, lose confidence in healthcare provision, and experience interruptions to their lives, relationships, and sense of self. Several investigations have produced descriptive accounts of the factors that contribute to this phenomenon, yet they leave unaddressed women's embodied experiences of diagnostic delays and how they are shaped by social forces such as gender. This presentation will outline my dissertation research which seeks to address this gap, and more specifically, my theoretical framework, study design, and preliminary findings.

3. Migrant People and the Experience of 'Waiting' for Access to Provincially Funded Healthcare in Newfoundland and Labrador

Sobia Shaheen Shaikh and James Chang-Yu Wu, Memorial University; Dome Lombeida and Maria Dussan, Anti-Racism Coalition, NL

This presentation reports on an early-stage institutional ethnographic study exploring migrant people's everyday work and experiences of accessing healthcare and Newfoundland and Labrador's Medical Care Plan (MCP). The study builds on four years of engagement with the "Healthcare for All Campaign" led by the Anti-Racism Coalition NL (ARC-NL), a grassroots community organization advocating for equitable healthcare access for all residents of NL, regardless of immigration or work/study status. For migrant individuals without permanent residence or Canadian citizenship, healthcare access has been patchy and inconsistent, shaped by precarious and fluctuating immigration statuses. ARC-NL has documented numerous instances where individuals delay or

avoid seeking healthcare due to their exclusion from MCP coverage, illustrating how immigration and healthcare policies intersect to exacerbate vulnerabilities. As community-engaged scholars embedded in ARC-NL, our inquiry is grounded in the everyday realities of migrants who must navigate the fraught juncture of healthcare, MCP, and immigration systems. This presentation unpacks the phenomenon of 'waiting' for healthcare, not merely as a temporal experience but as a socially organized process laden with structural inequalities and systemic violence. Drawing on the standpoint of migrant people we have engaged in community, we discuss the study's conceptual framework and emerging insights into the social relations of waiting. We provide the study's background and detail the stories that shaped its problematic, focusing on how individuals actively negotiate their decisions to delay or forgo care based on their precarious immigration status.

(ITD11) Repression, Resistance, and Resilience in the Digital Age: Research Reflection, Opportunities, and Challenges

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

The digital age has fundamentally transformed how power is exercised and challenged. Governments and institutions increasingly use digital tools to monitor, control, and suppress dissent, creating new avenues for repression. At the same time, technology serves as a powerful tool for resistance, providing activists with online platforms to organize, mobilize, and confront authority. However, the post-COVID world has introduced complex challenges for scholars studying these dynamics. In today's digital landscape, accessing social media data has become increasingly difficult due to heightened regulation and restrictions. Rising international tensions, alongside ethical debates surrounding the study of sensitive topics, further complicate the research environment. These changes have forced both qualitative and quantitative scholars to rethink their methodologies and approaches to researching governance, repression, and resistance, especially in politically restrictive or authoritarian contexts. The discussion will focus on the practical and theoretical challenges researchers face, especially as it becomes harder to access online media data and conduct fieldwork. Panelists will explore innovative approaches to studying repression and resistance in a tech-driven society, offering insights into how digital technologies reshape governance and activism while reflecting on the resilience of both research subjects and scholars in the face of growing restrictions.

Session Organizers: Rui Hou, Toronto Metropolitan University, Muyang Li, York University, and Zhifan Luo, McMaster University

Session Chair: Zhifan Luo, McMaster University

Panelists:
Shreyashi Ganguly, York University
Yu-Hsuan Sun, University of Toronto
Muyang Li, York University
Zhifan Luo, McMaster University

(MIG2) Migrant Networks in the Integration Process
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am

The process of migrant integration is multifaceted and influenced by various factors, including economic opportunities, cultural adaptation, and social networks. While all these components play pivotal roles, the influence of social networks, in particular, has garnered increasing attention. Social networks, comprising relationships and connections, can significantly impact migrants' experiences in their destination countries. This session aims to explore the intricate dynamics of how migrants form new ties and the profound effect of these networks on the overall integration process.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Emmanuel Kyeremeh, Toronto Metropolitan University and Jonathan Anim Amoyaw, Dalhousie University

Presentations:

1. Class Position of Chinese Immigrants in Canada

Qi Ji, University of Windsor

This study investigates the class position of Chinese immigrants in Canada and compares it with Canadian-born populations and other immigrant groups. Despite their educational and skill advantages, Chinese immigrants often face barriers such as language difficulties, credential recognition issues, and racial discrimination, leading to lower income and occupational status. Additionally, their tendency to concentrate in specific urban areas contributes to social isolation from mainstream society. The study reviews mainstream class theories, including Marx's focus on ownership and exploitation, Weber's multidimensional stratification, Bourdieu's emphasis on capital intersections, and Wright's redefinition of class through authority and expertise. These theories highlight the complexity of class formation and provide frameworks for analyzing social inequality. Using data from the 2021 Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) Census, the study employs a Marxian class framework, categorizing individuals into bourgeoisie, petty bourgeoisie, managers, professionals, and surplus population (e.g., homemakers, retirees, and students). Key variables include education, language proficiency, length of residence, city of residence, and marital status.
Preliminary findings reveal that while Chinese immigrants excel in highly skilled professions, they still earn less than Canadian-born counterparts and face limited opportunities for promotion. Over-reliance on ethnic networks further restricts their economic mobility. Second-generation Chinese immigrants show improved educational and occupational outcomes, yet integration remains uneven. This research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the structured inequalities faced by Chinese immigrants in Canada. By analyzing class position through the lens of social division of labor and cultural capital, it seeks to inform policies that promote equity and integration for immigrant communities.

2. Social Networks and Employment Opportunities: The Case of Bangladeshi Immigrants in Newfoundland

Ashiqul Islam Khan, Memorial University

The Bangladeshi diaspora in Newfoundland can be distinguished by its multigenerational makeup, including first and 1.5-generation immigrants and second-generation Canadians of Bangladeshi origin. Every generation has different experiences when it comes to networking and employment opportunities. This paper explores how the network differences influence the employment

opportunities of various Bangladeshi generations in Newfoundland. The paper argues that the first generation has a weaker social network, often leading them to stick with low-paid jobs. They maintain more strong ties in their social network than their 1.5 and second-generation counterparts. While the first-generation immigrants broadly tend to network with fellow countrymates, the 1.5 and 2nd-generation immigrants include Bangladeshi and non-Bangladeshi people. Though both 1.5- and second-generation immigrants have higher social capital than first-generation ones, the percentage of second-generation reporting having their desired jobs is very low. The lack of job opportunities and necessary investments have been identified as common challenges across all generations. The study findings indicate the factors behind the diversity in network building, the necessity of establishing language learning facilities for newcomers and addressing the institutionalised racial discrimination.

3. Exploring Roxham refugee claimants' settlement trajectories: Exposing the predation and support within social networks that guide or hinder claimants' Work of Status.

Giovanni Carranza, York University

Canada implemented the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) to securitize its border to prevent undeserving migrants from spontaneously claiming asylum at the land border. Record numbers of migrants responded by engaging in innovative, but dangerous, strategies to circumvent the STCA and enter Canada through the unofficial port of entry at Roxham Road on the border of Quebec and New York State to claim asylum. Once in Canada, refugee claimants claiming their substantive rights must navigate the social service and settlement sector to negotiate access to resources from street-level bureaucrats who differentially engage in bordering practices. This paper utilizes a discursive analysis of 16 interviews with refugee claimants in Canada and 40 interviews with street-level bureaucrats and refugee advocates who interact with claimants. Recruited participants reside in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, as well as New York and Michigan. The findings revealed that claimants' ability to access formal and informal social networks heavily structured their settlement trajectory. Social networks either supported or hindered claimants' Work of Status (WoS) as they learned how to refashion themselves into legibly deserving claimants when negotiating access to vital supportive services. The findings also demonstrated how migrants' context of reception shaped their ability to connect with networks to support their WoS. Claimants who arrived before COVID-19 shut down the land border received drastically more support from their social networks than claimants who arrived after COVID restrictions were lifted. Post-Covid claimants arrived to an overwhelmed social service and settlement sector that struggled to provide timely support, leaving claimants in limbo. The discussion highlights how social networks, especially ethnic communities, can be both a source of guidance and material support that strengthen claimants' WoS or a source of misinformation and predation that lead to their asylum denial and transition to non-status.

4. Gaining wisdom through internation migration: the role of personal networks

Emmanuel Kyeremeh, Toronto Metropolitan University

Wisdom research has been the preoccupation of philosophers and psychologists over the years. Psychological scholarship on wisdom is predominantly quantitative in nature and devoid of any geographic nuances or sensitivity. However, in recent times, a handful of critical geographers have begun veering into this research niche. The seminal works on the geographies of wisdom are conceptual, which singles out one geographical process—international migration—and

theoretically specifies that immigrants are more likely to conceive their migration and cross-cultural experiences as beneficial for personal wisdom development. These theoretically grounded studies were followed by a few empirical studies, demonstrating that international migration facilitates personal wisdom development through exposure to new cultures, changes in perspectives, broadening of one's horizons, and learning of new things in life. Scholars have recently theorized how immigrants' transnational engagements are likely to culminate in personal wisdom development through political, cultural, and economic activities. Within migration literature, scholars have emphasized the importance of immigrants' networks, often influencing and shaping the perceptions of immigrants and assisting them in diverse ways. Similarly, scholars have also noted that immigrants maintain ties with their significant family members back home, with these transnational engagements influencing their migration outcomes and processes. However, research investigating the dual role of immigrants' transnational engagements and social networks in personal wisdom development is nonexistent. To fill this scholarly gap, this project seeks to interrogate how African immigrants' transnational practices and social networks promote their personal wisdom development in London, Ontario. Specifically, (1) How do African immigrants conceive of wisdom, and how do transnational engagements make one wiser than their old selves? (2) Who are the social ties in their network and how do they influence their wisdom development? (3) What are the boundary conditions militating against personal wisdom development within the context of transnationalism? The study will employ in-depth interviews and qualitative social network analysis—a new way to visualize and answer research questions. The study will focus on Ghanaian immigrants who are a part of the marginalized and understudied groups in Canada.

(PSM1f) Political Sociology and Social Movements VI: Perspectives on Politics, Nationalism, and the State

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This panel brings together several papers examining everyday resistance and embodied activism of marginalized groups, the crimes of states in the context of 'the state of exceptionalism' and the future of globalization in an era of growing illiberalism. Collectively, these papers present robust theoretical and empirical materials to critically engage with some key issues in political sociology and social movements.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, and Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University

Session Chair: Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University

Presentations:

1. The Crimes of States, "The State of Exception" and World Alienation

Ladan Adhami-Dorrani, York University

The brilliant and ever relevant Hannah Arendt in *The Human Condition* speaks of world alienation. Arendt as a proponent of participatory democracy, well-aware of the crimes of authoritarian and totalitarian states as exemplified in Nazi Germany, invests her heart in law and a solid constitution that is mindful of all citizens despite the inherent plurality and conflicting views of its inhabitants. While Arendt in *Eichmann in Jerusalem* attends to the violence of Nazism and how ordinary citizens

were implicated against the Other by laws that made them criminals, she still sees the solution in the state and its laws along with political participation. I argue that crimes of states should not be considered as aberrations. In line with Walter Benjamin, I contend that "the state of exception" has become the rule and states and their laws are behind the biggest crimes, leading to world alienation.

2. Mapping Participatory Styles and Organizational Architectures: Re-examining Civic Life

Qian Wei, Wilfrid Laurier University

We explore the diverse participatory styles of civic organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, analyzing how they engage internal staff and external constituents in critical organizational tasks. Using cluster analysis on a random sample of 300 nonprofits, we identify four participatory styles: Guild, Parliament, Collective, and Venture, each demonstrating distinct patterns of engagement. Through a novel method of network filtration analysis, we analyze the coherence of relationships among organizational practices, uncovering the core elements that define each participatory style. Parliament merges professional management with inclusive decision-making; Guild champions a traditional civic ethos buoyed by robust volunteer involvement. Collective blends professionalism with volunteerism, while Venture features centralized leadership and selective involvement. Our findings shed light on how different styles of civic organizations provide divergent opportunities for involvement in key decisions, raising questions about when civic participation is more a promise than a reality. We argue that the organizational experience of participation is consequential for understanding the possibilities of citizenship, which range from engagement to disaffection.

(RAE5) Racism, Discrimination, and Health: Exploring the Connections

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This session features scholars, researchers, practitioners, and activists exploring the intricate connections between racism, discrimination, and health. The impact of racism and discrimination on health outcomes is profound and pervasive, with substantial evidence highlighting how systemic inequities and interpersonal racism drive disparities in both physical and mental health.
Racial and ethnic minorities often experience higher rates of chronic illnesses, limited access to healthcare, and increased exposure to stressors associated with racism and trauma, all of which detrimentally affect their overall well-being. This session aims to critically examine how systemic racism and discrimination contribute to these health disparities, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches that integrate insights from both the Race and Ethnicity cluster and the Sociology of Health.

Session Organizer and Chair: Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University

Presentations:

1. The Phenomenology of AIDS Activism: Racial-Spatial Politics in Queer Memory

Jade Da Costa, University of Guelph

Drawing on interviews with Black and Brown queer, feminist, and trans youth activists in Toronto, this presentation argues that the historical myth of the (white) AIDS activist haunts collective memories of the movement through a phenomenology of whiteness designed to orientate queer memory towards "white futurity" (Smith & Vasudevan, 2017). Framing queer memory as a

collective memory making project co-constituted by affect, time, and history (Barash, 2016), but which is particular to queer history and politics (Moskowitz, 2021), I examine how queer memories of AIDS activism are shaped by the historical narrative of the "first occurrence typology" (Cheng et al., 2020; Murray, 2021). The first occurrence typology refers to the belief that HIV/AIDS "first occurred" among white gay cis men within the global north, making them the "first subjects" of HIV/AIDS, and thus the leaders of the HIV/AIDS movement (Patton, 2020, p. ix). With this came the mythologization of the (white) AIDS Activist figure: the militant AIDS activist of the late 1980s and early 1990s who took to the streets of urban metropolises like New York and Toronto at the onset of the pandemic to advocate for treatment through direct action (Gill-Peterson, 2013; Catungal, 2018). The mythology of the AIDS activist is not that it existed but that its existence dominants AIDS activism, thus erasing queer, trans, and feminist activists of colour. Examining the impacts of this on their intergenerational counterparts, I argue that the AIDS activist figure operates according to a phenomenology of whiteness (Ahmed, 2007), and in writing this phenomenology into history, the first occurrence typology enables the transference of white futurity into queer memory, ordering our "symbolic sense" (Barash, 2016, p. 48) of the past around white time and space. I thus conclude that queer memory, like history itself, it subject to the hegemonies of whiteness.

2. A new gaze on critical gerontology: Understanding aging of racialized immigrants and participation in senior centres through critical race theory

Uzma Danish, Trent University

Engaging with critical gerontology and critical race theory, this presentation aims at offering a conceptual framework within which to analyze racialized older adults' aging experience/process at a senior's community center in Canada. Critical gerontology (CG) offers explanations about aging processes from a life-course perspective to understand the accumulative disadvantages such as socioeconomic status, health disparities, and access to resources that impact outcomes in later life (Bengtson et al., 2009). For racialized immigrant older adult population, CRT reinforces critical gerontological perspective by alerting us about "race consciousness" as we strive to understand the daily life (Geneviève et al., 2024). However, critical gerontological literature does not interact with CRT to explain the aging experiences of racialized older adults and the exclusion of older immigrants in Canadian senior community centres. In this presentation, I will show how CG informed by (CRT) can offer significant insights into understanding 1) racialized people's aging experience, 2) exploring the effects of race and racism on older adults' experiences of daily lives, and 3) explanation of limited services for and participation of racialized older adults in Canadian senior centres.
CRT-informed CG analysis could not only offer a new conceptual framework but also underscore its critical importance in addressing the urgent need for inclusive and anti-racist services for racialized older adults in Canadian senior community centres.

3. Exploring Racialized Trauma Stemming from Citizen Encounters with Police Tactical Units

Tandeep Sidhu, University of Waterloo

Police tactical units, or what are commonly referred to as 'SWAT' teams, are considered the paradigmatic example of police militarization. The Canadian literature in this area is characterized by a larger debate interrogating the expansion and normalization of tactical units into general policing duties. The racially disparate nature of police militarization has not been investigated in the Canadian context, highlighting a substantial gap in the literature. This paper engages with the

racialized nature of trauma stemming from citizen interactions with police tactical units and uses data obtained from semi-structured interviews with 25 respondents. The findings demonstrate that experiences of trauma and mental health challenges are ubiquitous among individuals who have encountered tactical units. However, the findings also demonstrate that the nature of the trauma features a racialized component. Black participants draw on the idea of communal trauma and suggest these encounters with tactical units can be further contextualized as a tool of racialized social control directed against the Black community. The results indicate that Black participants situate the challenges they experience as a result of these encounters in relation to systemic discrimination targeting the Black community. These findings demonstrate the racialized character and consequences of police militarization as a mechanism of racialized social control. Using a critical race perspective, I demonstrate how the racially disproportionate character of police militarization is colourblinded by race-neutral appeals to crime control and public safety. As such, my work suggests that individual and communal-level trauma is dismissed by the institution, which limits the capacity for police reform. The use of colourblind discourses obfuscates the capacity of police militarization to produce racialized harms, which allows the institution to maintain and expand the use of this policing strategy. The significance of this research is contextualized in relation to the contemporary discussion surrounding systemic racism in Canadian policing.

4. Can Community Wealth Contribute and Give Access to Community Health?

Jacqui Getfield, Caribbean African Regenerative Project and **Marwa Douelrachad**, York University

Through a scan of media reports, podcasts, and YouTube videos, this paper reveals discriminatory health practices and racial discrimination against African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) patients, donors, recipients, and their families in health spaces in the USA, England and Canada. We explore concepts of diversity, inclusion, accessibility, belonging and equity as we contemplate how relationships are constructed between health professionals and ACB patients, their families and caregivers. This paper explores connections between racism, discrimination and health and suggests ways to reimagine access to healthcare from the margins, using the intersectional perspectives of members of the African Caribbean and Black communities. In this paper, we employ stories obtained from African, Caribbean and Black patients and their families at CARM online webinars and in-person conferences to explore barriers to accessing health care in Ontario. Crenshaw's intersectionality lens as well as Critical Race Theory are used to explicate the concepts and analyze the experiences of patients, their families, transplant donors and recipient. In particular, Tara Yosso's Cultural Wealth Model provides the foundation on which to build as we examine the role of community and reimagine access to health. For many who can see or know their desired "health destination," there is frustration and continued disappointment. This is because many are challenged and thwarted by barriers that block access to health. Some complain of doctor mistreatment; others do not have access to their doctors and so there is no oppotunity to discuss their illnesses. Still yet, some doctors simply do not refer very sick Black patients to much needed specialists. What does access to healthcare really mean for the African Caribbean and Black communities in Ontario? This paper explores community wealth as a path to community health.

5. Anti-Black racism as narrative: 'HIV-endemic' risk and Black women's access to services

Tola Mbulaheni, University of Toronto

Although Black women continue to navigate disproportionate rates of HIV diagnoses in Canada and globally, an ever-growing discourse among HIV scientists, scholars and service workers hails that the 'end of AIDS' is imminent due to advancements in biomedical prevention technogies (e.g. HIV testing, antiretroviral treatment). Admist this claim that 'we' are on the verge of ending the epidemic, burgeoning public health and critical social science scholarship increasingly implicates racism as a social determinant of health. This work fundamentally contributes to a context where the epidemic's end is foreseeable despite its ongoing acute effects on Black women. Yet, analytical emphasis continues to be placed on interpersonal rather than structural forms of racism, prescribing anti-racist interventions to HIV service access barriers limited to the purview of the clinical encounter. This paper aims to think about structural racism more expansively by positioning narrative as an articulation sustaining access service barriers. An 'HIV-endemic' master-narrative is put forth as a public health discursive practice of HIV risk shaping Black women's suboptimal access to much-needed services. 'HIV-endemic' is a standardized construct of risk in Canada's public health response used to clinically profile Black communities and pervasively inform risk assessments, diagnostic protocols and other clinical policies and practices shaping access to prevention technologies. Research findings framed by a critical race narrative approach are presented to illustrate the ways HIV risk is discoursed as biomedically, socially and racially 'endemic' to Black women and makes salient connections to their storied experiences of discriminatory service access. In disruption of the colourblind logics that present this master-narrative as wholly rational and race-neutral, we situate 'HIV-endemic' within a genealogy of scientific throught constructing the black (female) body and African and Caribbean spaces as physical and geographic terrains of risk, respectively. Counter-narrative is also featured prominently to re-position 'HIV-endemic' as a site from which Black women collaborate, commune and collude to access the services they need from the marginal site of an 'endemic' status.

(SOM3) Sociology of Migration: Advancing theories of migration
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

This Sociology of Migration research cluster-sponsored session contains four papers that critique/advance the existing theories of migration. Papers unpack four "types" of relations that can define the bilateral migration space of Canada and the United States; consider climate migration research, in an early attempt to identify common theoretical perspectives, how environmental considerations integrate with contemporary migration theories, and existing gaps where climate migration research can continue to enhance migration theory. Papers also examine economic utility and identity-maintenance intersections in order to better understand public perceptions of temporary foreign workers; and presents a model for the decentering of knowledge production in migration studies by highlighting artists as collaborators in the praxis of migrant solidarity.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Session Chair: Howard Ramos, Western University

Presentations:

1. The Bilateral Management of Migration: A Typology

Nathan Ly, Cornell University

Migration research has increasingly turned away from single states as its unit of analysis. Two related, but thus far isolated, strands of literature form part of this movement: work on bilateral migration management and work on migration issue linkages. In this paper, I argue that each of these research areas can be advanced if considered together. To do this, I propose a theoretical framework which takes into account both the degree of issue linkage (from isolated to linked) and the nature of the bilateral relationship (from negotiation to coercion). This framework produces four "types" of relations that can define the bilateral migration space. To illustrate, the paper engages with four cases from the bilateral relationship between Canada and the United States, one of the closest relationships of the modern era: the 2017-2024 irregular migrants to Canada; the immediate and then long-term border changes following the September 11, 2001 attacks; and the trade war during the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) leading up to the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

2. Theorizing Climate Migration: Emerging Perspectives and Future Directions

Camden Church, McMaster University

The relationship between climate change and migration has received growing attention within migration studies. As global climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of environmental crises, and as more individuals and/or communities face displacement (or the threat of displacement), it is increasingly vital to understand the interconnected relationship between environmental factors and patterns of human (im)mobility. Despite the increasing scholarship on the topic, climate migration theorization remains relatively underdeveloped and has had limited engagement with, and impact on, broader contemporary migration theories. The purpose of this paper is to synthesize and tie together the theoretical threads woven throughout the field of climate migration research, in an early attempt to identify (1) common theoretical perspectives emerging from the field, (2) how environmental considerations are being integrated with contemporary migration theories, and (3) gaps where climate migration research can continue to enhance migration theory. This paper shows that migration researchers remain divided as to the overall emphasis that should be placed on environmental and climactic factors in shaping migration patterns or outcomes. This debate extends primarily from climate migration research using push-pull models of migration that inconsistently describe environmental factors as either isolated or interconnected contributors to (im)mobility. I also show how researchers have integrated environmental and climactic factors within new economics of labour migration and stress-threshold theories, primarily through migration as adaptation and vulnerability-resilience framings. I argue that the dominance of these framings, while an important first step in theorizing climate migration, too often focuses attention on individual or household-level decision-making, thereby individualizing responsibility for adapting to climate stressors. This paper highlights the potential for new avenues of theoretical inquiry that examine how environmental factors interact with structural forces, such as the economic and political dynamics of global markets, that shape both climate migration patterns and environmental stressors themselves.

3. Public Perceptions of Canada's Temporary Foreign Workers: Looking at the Intersections of Economic Utility and Identity-Maintenance Considerations

Emma Hébert and Jennifer Elrick, McGill University

Immigration policy has long been understood as balancing two distinct considerations: economic utility and identity-maintenance. Recent scholarship has challenged this though, showing that immigration policy is better understood through the intersections of economic and identity concerns, with Western liberal-democratic states designing policies to maintain a middle-class national status group (Elrick & Winter, 2018). Public perceptions play a role in shaping these policy dynamics, through "imagined immigration" (Blinder, 2015), i.e. the picture people have in their heads of who immigrant groups are in socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic, racial, and moral terms. Existing scholarship on perceptions of Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) has focused on how they are characterized legally in immigration policy, or by domestic workers as potentially economically threatening (i.e. in terms of economic utility). We argue that given the potential link between public perceptions and policymaking, and the recent rise in public backlash against the TFW program, it is important to deepen our understanding of public perceptions of TFWs by looking at the intersections between economic utility and identity-maintenance considerations. We present findings from a qualitative content analysis of 10 group discussions, with 5 to 7 members each, which are currently being conducted with undergraduate students in Montreal. Participants are asked to discuss appropriate target admission levels for TFWs and give reasons for their decisions. We assess the ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, moral, gender, and other markers used to delineate the TFW group and related notions of its social and economic (un)desirability. We compare findings on how TFWs are "imagined" to social constructions of TFWs in legal terms as well as the social constructions of other immigrant categories and their desirability.

4. Rethinking migrant solidarity through the lens of art activism

Nick Dreher, Toronto Metropolitan University; Kushan Azadah, York University

Notions of solidarity as they are articulated in migration studies are generally understood through the lens of modern Western intellectual traditions. As scholars have sought to bring decolonial and decentering perspectives to the study of migration, it has become critical to examine knowledge production in migration studies by examining core concepts in the field that are grounded solely or predominantly in Western traditions. This project proposes a pathway for scholars in migration studies to consider alternative framings of the concept of solidarity by learning from the work of artists and theorists engaged in questions of solidarity. In pursuit of this endeavour we bring (a) the mainstream literature on migrant solidarity within migration studies into conversation with (b) decolonial intellectual traditions through (c) a thematic analysis of a 2020 artistic summit in Cape Town, South Africa. By weaving these three threads together, we identify a threefold consideration of solidarity praxis which includes: (1) a situating of solidarity in spatial and historical context; (2) the centrality of embodied/affective experience; and (3) solidarity as ongoing and evolving process. Our analysis highlights the role of artists as collaborators in the praxis of migrant solidarity. In doing so, it presents a model for the decentering of knowledge production in migration studies.

(VLS2) Collaborating in Research and Action on Harassment and Violence at Work
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Violence and Society Research Cluster

Harassment and violence at work is a pervasive issue in Canadian workplaces with profound impacts and costs for individuals, communities, workplaces, and governments. This continues despite the existence of legislation on international, national, and subnational levels (Berlingieri et al., 2022). Despite decades of research on various forms of harassment and violence, effective prevention and intervention strategies remains an under-developed area of the literature. A collaborative approach to research and practice where knowledge is co-created with all stakeholders adds vital "on the ground" knowledge and experience that can directly shape organizational practices to create safer workplaces. Working collaboratively has many benefits including better targeting of real-world problems and improved implementation of research findings (Wathen & MacMillian, 2015). It has been recognized by the Canadian government and the International Labour Organization that collaboration that honours a tripartite approach is the way forward. That is, we cannot understand how to effectively prevent and address harassment and violence at work without collaboration between employers, labour groups, and governments. Academics and community groups also have an important role to play in this model. Our session presents projects that are built on collaborative relationships between academics and multiple stakeholders. The presentations aim to share the vital importance of these collaborations and best and promising practices for working on multi-disciplinary teams. These projects are led by researchers at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC) and Western University and focus on harassment and violence at work, including forms of gender-based violence such as sexual harassment and intimate partner violence at work.

Session Organizers: Alexa Clerke, Adriana Berlingieri, and Joanna Piatkowski, Western University

Session Chair: Adriana Berlingieri, Western University

Presentations:

1. Building Interdisciplinary Partnerships to Prevent and Address Harassment and Violence at Work

Adriana Berlingieri and **Alexa S. Clerke,** Western University

The Respect at Work area at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children (CREVAWC), at Western University, focuses on projects related to preventing and addressing forms of harassment and violence at work. Through actionable research, which aims to identify solutions to real-world problems like harassment and violence at work, we develop effective, evidence-based resources and knowledge mobilization to keep workers and workplaces safe from harassment and violence. A fundamental aspect underlying the success of actionable research generally, and all our projects specifically, is a commitment to collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, including researchers and experts in the field, labour groups, for-profit and non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, and government. Through these partnerships, we have created possibilities for knowledge to be co-created and shaped by the diverse perspectives and experiences of all stakeholders. The result is that the development of resources, original research, and knowledge mobilization efforts are better aligned with ongoing issues in Canadian workplaces and improved implementation of research findings. In this

presentation, we will present lessons learned, including 1) developing and maintaining ongoing collaborative relationships, 2) working with interdisciplinary teams, and 3) raising voices of those with lived experiences to tailor project deliverables and outcomes to maximize their usefulness for target audiences. Specific examples from Respect at Work projects will be used to illustrate key moments of collaborative thinking, supported by engaged partners, that resulted in significant enhancements to project deliverables and development in the field of harassment and violence at work.

2. Co-Creating Solutions: Stakeholder Collaboration & Practical Solutions for Supporting Federally Regulated Workers who Experience Sexual Harassment and Violence at Work

Christine Wildman, Western University

While research on harassment and violence in the workplace is abundant, effective prevention and intervention strategies remain underdeveloped. One key barrier is the lack of collaboration between academics and stakeholders, despite the demonstrated benefits of integrated knowledge translation (Wathen & MacMillian, 2015). Collaborative research fosters the co-creation of knowledge, blending academic expertise with stakeholders' on- the-ground experiences, leading to more targeted solutions and improved implementation of findings. According to Statistics Canada (2024), workplace harassment and violence are pervasive, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups, with higher prevalence rates among women, individuals with disabilities, Indigenous populations, racialized communities, immigrants, and members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Recognizing the need for improved support, The *Respect at Work* team brought together representatives from Sexual Assault Centre's (SAC's) from across Canada for a one-day knowledge sharing event. Activities included group discussions, a wishing activity, brainstorming, and prioritization exercises to assess current levels of support, identify barriers, and explore solutions for assisting federally, regulated workers navigating the sexual harassment and violence reporting process. Findings revealed significant variability in SAC's knowledge and support capacity related to federal harassment and violence Legislation, resulting from staff turnover and resource constraints. This variability highlighted the need for consistent, accessible training. In response, we developed micro-modules—concise, narrated videos and audio recordings—to equip SAC staff with the tools to better support workers through federal reporting and human rights complaints processes. This initiative highlights the power of stakeholder collaboration to address systemic issues and create practical, scalable solutions to improve support for all employees of federally regulated workplaces.

3. Working Together to Measure and Address the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Workplaces

Audra Bowlus, Western University

Intimate partner violence (IPV) affects a large number of people in Canada with 44% of women and 36% of men reporting IPV experiences during adulthood. These experiences not only affect individual health and wellbeing and family dynamics and outcomes, but also workplaces through absenteeism, lateness and reduced productivity. Work in other countries has documented substantial losses to employers and employees due to IPV. The SSHRC Partnership Development Grant entitled "Estimating the Financial Costs of Intimate Partner Violence to Workplaces" brings together researchers, employers, unions and non- profit organizations, like the Conference Board

of Canada (CBOC), to study this issue in Canada. The project has two main objectives: (1) the development and deployment of a survey tool to measure the prevalence and impact of IPV on individual workplaces and (2) the development of a managerial training program that utilizes the survey findings to bring about awareness and a change in managerial practices with regard to IPV. By working together, we are able to tailor the survey as needed to the individual workplace settings, e.g. IPV policies and managerial practices, and we are able to develop the training with feedback from the employers. In addition, the CBOC has been instrumental in helping us identify interested employers and has utilized their expertise in developing communication packages intended to increase survey participation and engagement. As a result, together we have been able to work toward achieving our goal of identifying and better addressing the needs of employees with IPV experiences so as to improve workplace productivity and enhance the wellbeing of all employees.

(WPO4c) Employment Experiences of Students and Early-Career Workers
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

Research related to work, professions and occupations with a focus on early career experiences.

Session Organizers: Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph, Tracey L. Adams, Western University, and Karen Hughes, University of Alberta

Session Chair: Tracey L. Adams, Western University

Presentations:

1. The juggling rhythms of working student life
Alison Taylor, University of British Columbia

Although the majority of Canadian undergraduate students work while studying, little research has examined how they juggle school and work. My presentation addresses this gap, based on findings from a SSHRC-funded longitudinal study at a Canadian university. I draw on my forthcoming book entitled 'Juggling rhythms: Working-student life in the 21st century' to discuss students' day-to-day survival strategies and engage larger questions around how they prepare for volatile labour markets. This presentation draws on multi-modal data (e.g., focus groups, life maps, audio diaries) and "circus arts" metaphors to accent different aspects of students' experience. The *student as juggler* highlights what different students take on at university, how they manage the pace and flow of the polyrhythms associated with manipulating different props, what promotes arrythmia, and what it means to be "in sync." *Student as high-wire walker* directs our attention to the kinds of adjustments students make as they move along a path toward further education or the labour market that twists and turns. The *student as contortionist* invites us to reconsider flexibility in universities as well as in workplaces by examining how students bend for work and studies. This metaphor also directs attention to how perceived pressure from universities, employers, and families impacts whether students bend in the direction of work, school, or other activities. The metaphor of *sword swallowing* highlights what different students feel compelled to "swallow" in activities that appear to threaten their wellbeing and ability to flourish. Students were more likely to perceive themselves as *sword swallowers* when their activities were out of sync, their aspirations were unclear, and they felt the need to bend in ways that contradict who they wish to become.

Although students' experiences are diverse, commonalities indicate areas where more attention and support are needed from policy-makers, pedagogues, and scholars of education.

2. Dancing with Capitalism: Exploring the Lives of Students and their Experiences of Work

Emily Hammond, University of Toronto

In Canada, the costs associated with a post-secondary education, such as tuition, books, and living expenses, are higher than ever before. Research indicates that the cost of post-secondary tuition has increased by approximately 40% over the past decade, and that Canada is amid a student debt crisis (OECD, 2015). This makes work a necessary part of obtaining a post-secondary education for many students. Currently, over half of undergraduate students in Canada are engaging in paid work while studying full-time (Maury, 2020). This paper uses mixed methods to better understand why students engage in the workforce. Through a combination of both focus groups and in-depth individual interviews, I interviewed 62 students who are working while attending a university or college in the Greater Toronto Area. This sample size enabled me to capture the experiences of a range of students, including a broad spectrum of gender identification and students who are diverse by class, race, and citizenship status. Moreover, it allowed me to talk to students working in an array of jobs. In consideration of the various reasons why students work, this paper develops a typological schema to classify their experiences. This typology comprises four groups of students. The first group is students who are working for their families. These students are either giving part of their earnings to their families or their upward mobility is tied to their family's dreams. The second group is students who are working for themselves. From paying the costs associated with their education to their living expenses, these students are working to self support. The third group comprises those who work to improve their social wellbeing. These are students who require an income to participate in the culture of post-secondary through social consumption, those working to boost their social opportunities by building community through work, and students seeking greater independence. Finally, the fourth group is students who are working to enhance their future employability. These students have a future-oriented mindset regarding networking and enhancing skills to make themselves more marketable to employers. Findings illuminate various situated realities in terms of what students hope to achieve through their labour market participation.

3. Can Young Women be Ideal Workers? Organizational Logic Shaping Women's Early Careers

Olesya Kochkina and Galiba Zahid, University of Alberta

Joan Acker's concept of gendered organizational logic reveals how male-centric assumptions embedded in work structures—such as policies, job descriptions, and pay scales—perpetuate gender inequalities. Although gendered organizational logic is increasingly studied, its effect on women's early careers lacks understanding. Our mixed-method study explores how gendered organizational logic shapes women's early career paths in Southeast Asia's emerging One Health Workforce (OHW). One Health (OH) is an interdisciplinary field linking environmental, animal, and human health. The One Health Workforce (OHW) is rapidly growing, with academic programs offered globally, including the Southeast Asian One Health University Network (SEAOHUN), which connects 104 universities across eight countries. As OH-related fields like veterinary medicine feminize, particularly in Southeast Asia, young women still face significant barriers to employment of their choice despite achieving education levels on par with their male peers. This is partly due to the organizational logic with an underlying image of the "ideal worker" as male—someone who

prioritizes work above all else. However, the construction of the ideal worker image remains unclear in emerging fields like OH. Our study investigates whether the OHW offers more equitable career paths for young women transitioning from education to employment. We focus on how organizational logic within various contexts shapes their professional identities within this interdisciplinary field. Our preliminary results show that women in the OHW shared similar early career ambitions as men, e.g., aiming for leadership roles. Women expected OHW to offer more equitable opportunities but faced barriers due to entrenched gendered structures in OH-related organizations. Despite being able to dedicate significant time to work, women still didn't meet the "ideal worker" standard. Our research demonstrates how women reshaped their professional identities, using OHW to expand beyond traditional roles. While some women successfully leveraged opportunities, structural changes are necessary for greater gender equality in OHW.

From Palestine to Turtle Island: Food as a Weapon of Colonialism and a Tool of Liberation - Part One

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 9:30am

This two-part keynote panel directly addresses these issues by bringing together a panel of Palestinian, Indigenous Canadian, and allied scholars and practitioners to reflect on issues of settler colonialism, imperialism and structural injustice. The speakers will delve into the historical and contemporary realities in the Indigenous territories of Palestine and Canada as a lens to understand the function and evolution of settler colonial capitalism in relation to land and food systems. By exploring how capitalist strategies of accumulation and dispossession operate across settler colonial space and time, the panels will consider pathways and strategies for reviving, repairing, and sustaining life and justice for colonized peoples within diverse colonial contexts. The concept of food sovereignty goes well beyond peoples' right to food to address issues of power and control of food systems. Through food, the speakers will explore the necessity of working together across geographies and the intersection of struggles for self-determination, land rights, and cultural survival in Palestine and Canada.

Featuring Ahmed Abu Shaban, Fathi Nimer, Shayma Nader, Shady Hafez, Moayyad Bsharat, and Danya Nadar.

This session is sponsored with the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID) in collaboration with the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

(DEV1) Social Problems, Development, and Policy in Africa

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: Sociology of Development Research Cluster

Across Africa, as elsewhere internationally, there have been renewed interests in addressing social issues such as corruption, environmental degradation, child malnutrition, gender inequality, and food, water, energy, and housing insecurity, which threaten social progress and human development. Although these issues have received considerable attention from development and academic communities, initiatives to address them have not only been an academic exercise. Local community stakeholders are working with national agencies and regional organizations to

implement strategies and develop policies aimed at enhancing social protection, basic infrastructure, education, labour and employment, agriculture, health, environmental sustainability, climate governance, and other key aspects of human development. The overall goal of this session is to stimulate a critical discussion by academics and social researchers on case studies, approaches, and best practices related to the problems mentioned, examine the public policy implications of these challenges, and assess the effectiveness of initiatives that have been implemented.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Jonathan Amoyaw, Dalhousie University and Godfred Boateng, York University

Presentations:

1. Towards Democracy and Sustainable Development in Sudan: Re/claiming its Black History

Amal Madibbo, OISE, University of Toronto

Against the Backdrop of corruption, poverty and resource insecurity, and armed conflict in Sudan, in 2018-2019 the youth of Sudan, in Sudan and the diaspora, have ignited a powerful revolution which ousted a dictatorship regime that lasted for more than three decades, leading to a democratic regime. Shortly afterwards, in 2021, the military overthrew the democratic government, which eventually contributed to the eruption of the current war in Sudan in 2023. These socio-political crises wreak Sudan, necessitating solution-orientated mechanisms and policy to help foster peace and sustain development. The youth are currently engaged in a struggle to re-establish their revolution to end the war and strengthen stability. Using decolonization theories, and a qualitative research methodology consisting of a content analysis of interviews conducted in Alberta and Ontario, and documents about the youth in Sudan, I analyze the successful revolutionary tactics of the youth that led to the -short-lived democracy, focusing on their engagement with and reclaiming Sudan's Black history, especially the legacy of Sudan's women, the ancient Queens named *the Kandakas*, as a site of resistance. I also posit neo/colonial ideologies and policies that contributed to the setback. I argue that reviving Sudan's Black history served as a decolonial space which stressed Sudan's long history of achievements and fostered contemporary gender empowerment and resilience. I argue that this social change is hindered by neo-colonialism which seeks to erase Sudan/Black history to implement identity divisions and conflict, while neocolonial powers exploit the country's rich resources. I conclude that turning the youth's strategizing into educational policy that re-cognizes and re-centers Sudan's Black history and the role of women in its socio-political development, strengthens identity safety and solidarity and sustains development to pave the way for an inclusive future. The youth can re-establish their revolution by helping to apply and extend the policy.

2. Overlooked Challenges: Gendered Impacts of Armed Conflict on Female Small-scale Farmers in Northwestern Cameroon.

Mbuli S. Clodine and **Louisa L. Shei**, and Ezekiel Yuha Nji, Independent Researchers

Armed conflicts in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon have disproportionately affected women subsistence farmers, exacerbating vulnerabilities and creating new layers of complexities. Women in Cameroon face multiple challenges including patriarchy and rigid customary norms which affect their decision-making power and access to, and control of agricultural resources. The 'feminization of vulnerability' or the emphasis on farm women's vulnerability reinforces gender

inequality and power imbalance in local agricultural communities. The recent conflict in English-speaking regions of Cameroon is an added layer of complexity to farm women's challenges considering that there is little State attention to gendered vulnerability even amidst conflict with multiple challenges including rigid cultural norms, poor infrastructure, unequal land rights, conflict-related gender-based violence, and climate change, ill-equipped smallholder farm women are caught in the vicious cycle of low productivity, poverty, and inequality. This study examines the challenges of female smallholder farmers in conflict-affected local farm communities. It will be based on an in-depth qualitative study of 30 female farmers in Nkambe, Northwest region of Cameroon. The paper argues that transformative agriculture requires attention to women's limited capacity, power imbalances in local agricultural communities, and the recognition of women's contribution to the sustainability of the local agricultural sector.

3. Household Energy Poverty Experiences Scale: development and psychometric evaluation of a household energy poverty measure across Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Godfred O. Boateng, York University; Mobolanle Balogun, University of Lagos College of Medicine, Felix Dada, University of Lagos, Patrick M. Owuor, Wayne State University, and Ellis A. Adams, University of Notre Dame

Household energy poverty, which is households' inability to maintain adequate energy services at an affordable cost, is a significant challenge for several households in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). While several efforts have been made to measure energy poverty, there are currently limited measures on experiences of household energy poverty, and no measures have been validated cross-culturally. Therefore, the objectives of this study were to develop and validate a household energy poverty experiences (HEPE) scale and assess its equivalence across LMICs with a focus on accessibility, availability, and affordability. Using a complementary set of qualitative and quantitative techniques, we developed the initial HEPE scale from data collected in Ghana (N=347) and Nigeria (N=945). Following best practices for scale development and validation, we identified nine items and performed exploratory factor analysis, which resulted in a unidimensional scale using the Ghana data. Confirmatory factor analysis was assessed using the data from Nigeria, which produced satisfactory fit indices and the scale's external validity. In phase two of the study, we used new data collected from the Resource Insecurity and Wellbeing Study in Informal Settlements (RisWIS) study in Ghana (N=1036), Kenya (1010), and Malawi (1031) to test for the measurement equivalence of HEPE scale using multigroup confirmatory factor analysis and alignment optimization technique. Our analysis showed that the nine items about household energy poverty experiences formed a unidimensional scale and were invariant at the configural, metric, and scalar levels. We also established the scale's predictive, convergent, and discriminant validity. This study shows that the nine items reflect comparable household energy poverty experiences across low-and middle-income countries. This new tool will propel the quantification and assessment of household energy poverty's prevalence, causes, and consequences and contribute to energy policy and programmatic interventions.

(ECS1b) Economic Sociology and Political Economy II
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Economic Sociology Research Cluster

This session focuses on new theoretical and empirical developments in economic sociology and political economy.

Session Organizers: Dean Curran, University of Calgary and Zhen Wang, University of Toronto
Session Chair: Zhen Wang, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Alienation and technologies in contemporary labour. Alienation as a framework and special indicator in job quality studies.

Eugenio Capitani, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

This paper examines the often overlapping and insufficient definitions related to job quality, drawing from labour sociology, economic sociology, political philosophy, and social philosophy (Munoz de Bustillo et al., 2011; Findlay et al., 2013). A critical point of investigation is whether job quality should be considered a corollary of labour process theory or as a distinct sociological theory, influenced by digital studies and alienation theory. This work aims to identify the ambiguous use of the concept of well-being, which can refer to both individual dimensions, such as psychophysical well-being and personal aspirations, and social dimensions, such as management, labour division, and security. The challenge lies in reconciling the multidimensional and interdisciplinary nature of job quality to align descriptive and empirical needs with theoretical demands from various disciplines. The paper proposes a systematic framework for job quality that accounts for both subjective and organizational aspects. The discussion reflects on the lack of agreement on indicators and the necessity of clear definitions, arguing that job quality dimensions should form the basis for deriving indicators. It suggests that dimensions of job quality encompass geography, politics, economics, job satisfaction, good versus bad jobs, wage dichotomies, surveillance, digital impact, and new forms of alienation, especially from digital transitions and international platforms. The analysis concludes by advocating for a clear distinction between dimensions and factors, and the need for a socio-material perspective to address the non-neutrality of technology in job quality assessments and including alienation (especially in digital transitions) as a key indicator.

2. The commodification of relational work: insights from multilevel marketing practices

Claudel Lamoureux-Duquette, Université de Montréal

This paper draws on the concept of emotional labor to explore how relational work is being commodified by multilevel marketing (MLM) companies.
Relational work in economic sociology involves negotiating intimate ties within economic contexts. It emphasizes how economic activity is used to create, maintain, and navigate relationships, which are categorized to determine appropriate transactional practices and mediums of exchange. Relational work focuses on crafting suitable combinations for these relational dynamics (Zelizer, 2005, 2012). Hochschild (1983) demonstrates that emotions, once confined to the private sphere, have now become a public resource, both exploitable and exploited in the workplace. Since emotional labor is performed in exchange for compensation—often in the form of wages—it acquires an exchange value, and emotion thus becomes commodified. This leads us to ask whether

the same can be said of relational labor in certain contexts. Since relational labor takes place within intimate economic exchanges, is it possible for companies to appropriate this relational negotiation of economic intimacy and use it to achieve their commercial objectives? If so, how can companies commodify this process? MLM companies provide a relevant framework for analyzing this, as they blur boundaries of exchange: profit-driven activities, often perceived as impersonal, are conducted within networks of personal relationships, as personal networks are often repurposed as client networks. The business model and success of MLM companies rely on the relational and emotional strategies implemented by distributors. In doing so, distributors perform unpaid labor that not only fails to generate income but results in financial losses. It can then be argued that relational work is commodifiable and that incorporating this dimension into its theoretical framework would enrich the concept. From this perspective, applying the concept of relational work provides deeper insight into the foundations of the MLM business model, a subject relatively underexplored in sociology.

3. "It's your choice, but…": Emotion and risk in childhood COVID-19 vaccination decision-making

Terra Manca, Athabasca University; Robin Willey, Concordia University of Edmonton, Emmanuel Marfo and Shannon E. MacDonald, University of Alberta

Decisions about childhood vaccines, and overall parenting styles, are informed by feelings of love, competing risks and responsibilities, and cultural contexts. Nonetheless, researchers typically focus little on emotion or children's roles in decision-making about health risks, including childhood vaccination. This study applies cultural approaches to theory about risk, emotion, and blame (e.g., Ahmed, Douglas, Lupton) to explore qualitative interviews about how parents made decisions about COVID-19 with and for their children. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 48 parents of children over 11-years-old in the Spring and Summer of 2022. We purposefully invited respondents who demonstrated some hesitancy towards COVID-19 vaccines and diversity across demographic characteristics (ethnicity, education, geographic location, etc.). We closely read and coded transcripts using a feminist discourse analysis approach in NVivo. This study produced three primary findings. First, participants described vaccine decision-making as a family response to competing risks. Second, the pandemic affective economy structured how participants and/or children informed decisions. Third, the symbolic value of COVID-19 vaccination and families' social networks shaped approaches to decision-making. Many participants contextualized vaccination decision-making as socialization towards children informing and making independent decisions about their health. Unsurprisingly, diversity among parenting practices and families' social networks (including parents and children's networks) shaped how participants described parenting processes related to protecting, socializing, and vaccine decision-making with or for children. We conclude by critically analyzing the implications of contextualizing the family process of vaccination decision-making among emotional, cultural, and social milieux.

4. Representation as Intervention? Money, Markets and Economics

Dean Curran, University of Calgary

Building on J.L. Austin's account of 'doing things with words', a growing body of literature has sought to overcome the account of science as passively recording society and nature. This literature has often sought to highlight the 'performative' nature of social science - that social sciences do things, rather than just representing them. Most of these accounts have sought to overcome passive, neutral accounts of science by rejecting the representational role of social science. In terms of

Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, this literature conceives of social science more in terms of making than discovering social reality. This paper proposes an alternative account of the *active* nature of social science. Rather than rejecting a representational account of social science, this paper proposes to account for the active nature of social science through an account of *representation as intervention*. Representation as intervention illuminates this active characteristic of social science in two ways. First, it highlights how different *methods of representation* produce different representational accounts of social life. Second, it highlights how different representational accounts of social life in turn *intervene* in social life in different ways. As such, this approach can speak to the key performative insight of social science, which is that it does things in the world, without abandoning the fundamental representational insights of social science - that is, that social science is *about* social life, even if it perceives it in certain, specific ways and that these forms of representation actively reshape this reality. Having motivated an account of 'representation as intervention', this paper develops a provisional investigation of economics' account of money and market as both a *form of representation*, and as a *form of intervention through their representational qualities* in contemporary social life. In this way, this paper aims to connect debates regarding the role of representation in social science more closely to contemporary debates in economic sociology revolving around economic performativity and economic sociology.

(EDU6b) Sociology of Education in Higher Education Institutions: Student Experiences in Higher Education

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features papers that draw on empirical, theoretical or methodological issues in the realm of higher education.

Session Organizer and Chair: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

Presentations:

1. Gender and Parental Education on Field of Study Choice Among Canadian Students

Alysia De Melo, University of Toronto

In the early 90s, women surpassed men in Canadian full-time university enrolment and since 2000, women have accounted for approximately 60% of full-time university enrolment (Balfour and Usher 2024). Superficially, women have achieved equality in Canadian university enrolment, however, the gendered division of universities is much more complex as there is a gendered division of post-secondary fields of studies. In the 2015 Canadian post-secondary graduating class, women made up 77% of education graduates, 72% of social and behavioural sciences and law but only 17% of architecture, engineering and related technologies graduates as well as 27% of mathematics, computer and information sciences graduates (Statistics Canada 2024). Science, technology, engineering and mathematics or STEM fields of study are ubiquitously regarded as reputable fields and labour market outcomes tend to be more favourable than non-STEM fields (Balfour and Usher 2024). Bourdieu and Passeron (1990) theorized privileged students would use their cultural capital to maintain their status or to achieve upward mobility through various means such as selecting a lucrative field of study. Further, Bandura's (1977) social learning theory explains children often model their parents and learn gendered behaviours from their same-gendered parents (Van Der

Vleuten et al. 2018). As a result, parental education can be used as a predictor in their children's post-secondary fields of study selection. Using microdata from the Canadian National Graduate Survey (NGS) for the graduating classes of 2009/2010 and 2015, this study conducts a multi-nominal logistic regression to investigate the relationship between parental education, gender and field of study outcomes among Canadian post-secondary students. Early results suggest that women with higher-educated parents are more likely to select lucrative fields of study: architecture, engineering and computer science which are typically associated with men.

2. Cultural Capital in Higher Education: A Case Study of Extension-Asking

Jiarui Liang, Yale University; Jonathan Horowitz, University of Toronto

Recent literature conceptualizes accommodation-seeking behaviors as a form of cultural capital. However, quantitative research on this type of cultural capital is limited. In this paper, we quantitatively examine a particular form of cultural capital—asking for extensions on assignments or tests. We present empirical findings from a short survey to post-secondary students at a large research university in Canada. We find evidence that 1) higher SES students negotiate institutional rules more often (i.e. ask for more extensions), and 2) cultural capital could be transmitted via social networks. We do not find evidence that 3) cultural capital leads to higher academic achievements. Furthermore, we find evidence of interdisciplinary variations in how social class is associated with cultural capital. We discuss how our findings extend scholars' theoretical understanding of cultural capital and how cultural capital reproduces social inequality.

3. Education Inequity and the Canadian Carceral State

Grisha Cowal, Dalhousie University

Notions of education are often accompanied by ideas of social inclusion, prosperity, and individual growth; however, little focus has been given to the ways in which prisoners are marginalized within academia. This paper will examine the barriers that federally incarcerated prisoners experience to accessing post-secondary education as well as current initiatives taking place aimed at reducing inequities. Access to post-secondary education within Canadian federal prisons remains limited due to a lack of institutional capacity, minimal learning spaces and equipment, insufficient funding, and security policies that poorly impact service delivery (Eizadirad & Chambers, 2023; Fayter, 2016). In 2002 The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) banned internet and personal computer access within prisons, posing one of the largest barriers to participating in post-secondary education (Kerr & Bondoux, 2019). Under the Commissioner's Directive 720 (*Education Programs and Services for Offenders*) libraries within Canadian prisons are obligated to provide services and resources comparable to those offered by community libraries as to increase educational development for prisoners (Government of Canada, 2017). Despite this directive, a review of libraries within federal Canadian prisons found that libraries were becoming increasingly inaccessible to prisoners to due local staff shortages, poor material/book tracking systems, inadequate books and learning materials, and insufficient access to general purpose computers (Office of the Correctional Investigator, 2016). A lack of funding and support offered to prisoners contributes to low numbers in post-secondary enrollment (Office of the Correctional Investigator, 2018). Grounded in an abolitionist feminist framework, Dr. El Jones of Mount Saint Vincent University developed a grassroots Prison Education Program in which a small group of professors and students create unique solutions to course delivery that meet the needs of incarcerated students. Initiatives aiming

to increase education access for incarcerated students are strongest when connected to abolitionist efforts that reject carcerality and promote community care.

(FEM4) Interrogating Feminist Intersectionality in Theory, Research, and Praxis
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session critically engages with the concept and practice of intersectionality as an academic and political project. In seeking to understand its intellectual and activist origins, co-optations, and continuing relevance, the session poses the following questions: How is intersectionality articulated and applied today, what does it offer? How do analyses and action that are intersectional transform and expand feminist and sociological projects? Can intersectional frameworks account for complex identities and social locations without privileging particular oppressions or statuses of social stratification? Is it helpful to supplement intersectional analysis with other frameworks (e.g. queer theory, crip theory)? What is the role of intersectional research in challenging Whiteness, carceral/militarized state violence, sexual and gender-based violence, and other multidimensional oppressions? What strategies does intersectionality bring to address inequality and advance inclusiveness? How does intersectionality shape coalition and solidarity building strategies? What can intersectionality contribute to both social justice struggles and to productive world-making and joy producing practices?

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presentations:

1. Populism, the Manosphere, and Sex Education in Ontario: Examining the Ideological Intersection
Milan Kang, York University

Populist movements in Ontario have increasingly challenged reforms supporting gender diversity in sex education. Demonstrations such as the "1 Million March for Children," which frames lessons on varied gender identities as contrary to family values, signal an upsurge in conservative rhetoric. Under Premier Doug Ford, the province rolled back some sex education initiatives. It introduced contentious measures (including a "snitch line" for reporting educators), echoing online masculinist communities that oppose feminist principles and enforce rigid gender expectations. This study uses intersectional feminist and psychological approaches to examine how political populism, driven by cultural grievances and anti-elite sentiment, links with the hypermasculine beliefs found in incel and manosphere networks. Policy analyses, media reports, and online discourse reveal that reverting—and later partially reinstating—Ontario's sex education framework became a unifying issue for different but interrelated groups. Events such as the 2018 Toronto Van Attack show how incel-inspired violence, rooted in a sense of unjust loss, can merge with populist frustrations to cause severe outcomes. Public reactions across Canada, including recent policies in New Brunswick and plans in Saskatchewan, illustrate that these efforts extend beyond Ontario and pose wide-ranging risks for 2SLGBTQ+ youth. The research demonstrates how Ford's approach supports "parental

rights" activism while amplifying radical views online, spurring broader discussions about gender, curriculum planning, and exclusionary politics. It also emphasizes the importance of transparent policies, media literacy, and community advocacy to protect marginalized groups, support democratic accountability, and reduce damaging ideologies in schools and online spaces. This work incorporates evidence from academic studies showing that inclusive learning environments improve student well-being and reduce intolerance. It sheds light on the broader social repercussions of populist opposition to equitable education and offers perspectives on advancing approaches that benefit all learners while countering harmful narratives.

2. "After" Effects: Online Response the Romanticization of Abuse in Young Adult Literature

Alyssa Brew, Brock University

This paper is an exploration of how youth interact with and negotiate the constructions of masculinity and femininity in young adult (YA) literature and how they use social media to discuss these representations. My focus is on the *After* series by Anna Todd, written in 2014. It was released and read over 1.6 billion times on Wattpad, a site that targets teen readers. With an audience this large, this paper offers much-needed introspection on the after-effects of this series. Young readers tend to select the books they want to read, interpret them, and then apply them to their own lives as an expression of identity. More specifically, literature can influence how young women construct their desires, understandings of gender subjectivities, and awareness of power relations. When harmful behaviours in relationships are marketed to youth as 'exciting', it can become easier to excuse or justify these forms of abuse in real life. This phenomenon is particularly concerning when it is considered that young adult romance fiction provides misogynist gender discourses and normalizes heterosexual romantic relationships that place men and women in the positions of dominance and submission. My methodology employs feminist post-structural theory, by first drawing on Judith Butler's theories of gender performativity to complete a discourse analysis of the popular YA series *After.* Then, drawing on Sara Ahmed's affect theory, I analyze social media posts on Reddit to explore how youth interact with the texts and with each other regarding the texts. This paper specifically advances knowledge on the role that social media platforms play in normalizing and facilitating discussion on potentially harmful literary tropes of violence and abusive relationships in YA fiction. Each online response provides a better understanding of the complex interactions between young readers and the constructions of gender and relationships in the media they consume.

3. Women, Peace and Security in Mali: Implementing gender equality initiatives in conflict-affected regions

Atsena Abogo, University of Canada West

In this presentation, I discuss on the complexities of understanding gender equality initiatives in conflict-affected regions, especially in Mali. Using an interdisciplinary approach that combines sociology and anthropology, the first part of my presentation will expose some key findings themes of my fieldwork experiences with women leaders and young women leaders, including in-person interviews and participant observation in the cities of Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao from October 2020 to March 2022. In the second part, I use the concept of "Womanism" of Oyeronke Oyewumi (2012) to criticize and to give a new meaning to the discourse on gender representation in Africa, mostly portraying women as assisted beings dominated and controlled by men. I illustrate here the

necessity of culturally informed approaches to understand the active participation of women in peace and security efforts and to achieve sustainable development and lasting peace. The last part of my presentation will underscore the significance of education and advocacy in empowering women and girls in Mali. I argue here that programs aiming at building leadership skills and raising awareness about gender-based violence are crucial for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society, tighten with informed strategies, effectively promote gender equality and empower women within this unique socio-cultural landscape of Mali.

Reference: Oyeronke Oyewumi (2012) " Beyond Gendercentric Models: Restoring Motherhood to Yoruba Discourses of Art and Aesthetics" in Gender epistemologies in Africa: Gendering traditions, spaces, social institutions, and identities. Chapter 10, pp. 223-238.

(GAS2a) Transgender Studies: Exploring Trans Phenomena
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

This session explores sociological contributions to transgender studies, an interdisciplinary field of knowledge production about transgender and non-binary phenomena. Scholarly interest in trans phenomena has proliferated throughout the academy and in sociology since the emergence of transgender studies in the 1990s, prompting explorations of gender and gendered regulation and calls for empirical research about trans and non-binary people. This session asks how the sociology of gender and sexuality can participate in this expansive knowledge production about transness and extends an invitation to imagine "the shape of trans yet to come" (Weil 2023).

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. LGB…T?: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) Perceptions of Access to Support and Care Systems.
Anthony Lenarduzzi, University of Guelph

The main aim of the project is to investigate how TGNC individuals within Guelph perceive their own access to support and care systems. Support and care systems in the context of this research project are categorised into three groups: those that address physical health concerns, those that address mental health and wellbeing concerns, and those that address personal safety concerns. These bigger categories help to define some of the social determinants of health, as: physical health concerns include healthcare providers, safe injection sites, and prevention organisations; mental health and wellbeing concerns include counselling services, community support groups, and activity and play; personal safety concerns include victim services, women's crisis centres, and overnight shelter housing. This research project was initiated following the closure of the HIV/AIDS Resources and Community Health Centre (ARCH) in Guelph in early 2024, which provided transgender and queer healthcare alongside community building and education resources. It also comes in light of increasing tensions in media and real life for TGNC folks. Now more than ever, research driven by and for TGNC communities is vital to continue to make progress amidst mountainous setbacks. As such, the project specifically focuses on TGNC individuals' perceptions of what may stop them from seeking support or care (barrier) or make them more willing to seek support or care (facilitator). Preliminary findings in the literature review engage with polarization of identity and gender in the

Canadian context, risks associated with this polarization, and the impacts on TGNC individuals health and wellbeing. Previous research on TGNC access more broadly has typically focused on healthcare access, for both gender affirming care and general health care. This presentation is a synthesis of this literature, as well as identifying opportunities for research in the context of the current project and others that may be needed.

2. Prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of sexual victimization among Hong Kong secondary-school students: Intersecting gender identity, sexual identity, ethnicity, and migration status

Ping Lam Ip, University of Alberta; Day Wong, Hong Kong Baptist University

Research on the prevalence and correlates of sexual victimization among young people and emerging adults has been largely focused on the experience of cisgender females. Because of the gendered and heteronormative nature of sexual crimes, more scholars have begun paying attention to LGBTQ+ youth's experience of victimization. However, studies on the prevalence and factors of victimization among young people identifying as gender and/or sexual minorities remain scarce, largely centered on the higher education context in Western countries like the U.S., and dominated by individualistic, victim-blaming explanations such as drinking behaviors. Due to the global decline in the age of first sexual encounters, it is imperative to explore the risk of victimization among pre-college youth. In addition, how gender and sexual identities interact with other social identities in accounting for sexual victimization is under-researched. The aim of this study was to investigate the intersectional effects of gender identity, sexual identity, ethnicity, and migration status on the risk of sexual victimization in a representative sample of Hong Kong secondary school students (n = 8,009). A total of 18.6% of respondents suffered from sexual violence in their lifetime. The unconditional logistic regression model indicated that cisgender females, transgender students, and respondents with an uncertain gender identity had significantly higher risks of lifetime victimization than cisgender males. The difference between transgender youth and cisgender males in the odds of victimization was the highest. Those with a plurisexual and uncertain sexual identity were significantly more likely than heterosexual students to have experienced victimization. The risk of non-Chinese students was also significantly higher than that of Chinese ones. A significant interactional effect on victimization was found between gender identity and sexual identity, and between gender identity and migration status. Asexual-transgender students (.34) and transgender new immigrant respondents (.40) had the highest estimated probability of lifetime victimization.

(HEA3) Social Media, Health, and Wellbeing

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

It is estimated that over 5 billion people are using social media across the world. It has been estimated that about 20% of social media users use these platforms as a source of health information, while 16% have sought out users having similar health issues online. Social media has become deeply implicated in health and wellbeing as a vehicle for information, misinformation, and health promotion, and through direct impacts on emotional wellbeing and behaviour. With social media use projected to increase in the future, these issues are increasingly important.
This session highlights empirical and theoretical research that engages with the intersection of social media and wellbeing. Papers in this section address issues such as: information dissemination,

online social networking, cultural impacts of social media, health behaviours, medicalization, methodological considerations, and policy implications.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Sydney Patterson and Nicholas Spence, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Consumer boundary-work around biomedicine and CAM on Facebook

Darryn DiFrancesco, University of Northern British Columbia

Healthcare in North America increasingly positions individuals as consumers responsible for making their own healthcare choices. This presentation examines how healthcare consumers engage in boundary-work online through an 18-month internet ethnography of two Facebook parenting groups with divergent approaches to health: one "natural" and one "science-based." Drawing on observational data and interviews with group members (n=19), I demonstrate how consumers construct, maintain, and extend group boundaries in ways that mirror broader power relations between complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) and biomedicine. These findings advance boundary-work theory by revealing how healthcare consumers take up ideological positions in online spaces, while also providing insight into the pre-existing sociocultural dimensions that may have underpinned polarization during the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers increasingly turn to online spaces to navigate complex healthcare decisions, understanding how these spaces shape healthcare beliefs and choices becomes increasingly important for sociology of health scholarship.

2. Mediatized Medicine; Medicalized Media: Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Health Policy

Bill Kirkpatrick, University of Winnipeg

In the sociology of medicine, the siloing of health and medicine raises longstanding theoretical and methodological problems. This is especially true in the realm of policy and politics: the tendency to give the health sector preeminence—even prepotency—in our scholarship on health policy, while understandable, should be better supplemented by co-constitutive perspectives on related social systems and institutions. I demonstrate such perspectives through an examination of the co-constitutive nature of health and media policy, i.e., the ways that media policy affects health policy and vice-versa. Using this lens, I argue that modern medicine is *mediatized* medicine, inseparable from the mediatized structures through which modern health care systems emerged and persist. Media have saturated the institutions, practices, and ideologies of modern medicine; media have shaped the legal and cultural parameters within which medicine and health policy arrived at its current forms, requiring health fields to adapt to social changes brought about by media cultures. Simultaneously, modern media are *medicalized* media: medical thinking has shaped media technologies and structures, medical authority has dominated media regulation, and ideologies of health and wellness have served as fundamental contexts and justifications for biopolitical interventions into media industries. I use a comparative historical example—U.S. and Canadian health and broadcasting policy before World War II—to demonstrate the co-constitutive nature of health and media policy, arguing that the divergent trajectories of media policy help explain the divergent trajectories of health policy in the two countries, *and*vice-versa. Through this case study, I also demonstrate the theoretical and methodological benefits of co-constitutive perspectives on the sociology of medicine, revealing medicine and media as indispensable factors in each other's development and sociological significance, positing biopolitical management as a lens on how the

policies, structures, and economies of the health sector and the media shape and inflecte each other to this day.

3. Representations of Track 2 MAiD in Canadian News Media

Nicholas Turkovich, University of Guelph

Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) policy is the subject of continued controversy for its lack of sensitivity toward the experiences of marginalized groups. Track 2 of MAiD, which was introduced in 2021 and allows MAiD access to those without a reasonably foreseeable natural death, has been critiqued for it's potential to devalue the lives of those with illnesses, diseases, and disabilities, and for its disregard over the coercive natures of healthcare inadequacy and inaccessibility, financial disparity, and social stigma in end-of-life decision making. Conversely, Track 2 has also been praised as a necessary - and promising - healthcare treatment option that offers autonomy and dignity at the end of one's life. This ongoing project, underpinned by Giddens' structuration theory, employs a thematic analysis of mainstream Canadian news media articles to explore how Track 2 MAiD is represented in major Canadian news media and what those representations suggest about how and why it is currently accessed. As the future of MAiD remains uncertain, with an ongoing Ontario Superior Court case challenging the constitutionality of Track 2, this research is timely in its exploration of how Track 2 is both viewed and interacted with by mainstream Canadian news media outlets and the public. This analysis is one of the first of its kind to focus specifically on perceptions of Track 2 since its introduction in 2021 and can thereby offer unique insights into how Canadians affect and are affected by MAiD and what that indicates for how power is distributed across Canadian society with regard to the maintenance of health and the provision of healthcare.

4. Steroid Use, Masculinity, and Information: A Scoping Review

Sydney Patterson, Dorian DiTommaso, and Nicholas Spence, University of Toronto

Globally, it is estimated that the lifetime prevalence of anabolic androgenic steroids (AAS) use is 3.3%. Misuse of AAS is illegal in many regions and associated with a variety of health risks, yet they are often used to achieve an idealized physique, traditionally associated with the pursuit of hegemonic masculinity (National Institute on Drug Abuse 2023). Social norms surrounding health and fitness, including AAS, gender, and information sharing evolve over time, particularly with the proliferation of the internet. Public discourses surrounding "toxic masculinity" have taken shape and awareness of gender non-conformity has spread (Scheibling & Marsiglio 2021; Smith & Stewart 2012). Meanwhile, alt-right and "redpill" online masculinity content has surged in popularity (Riberio et al., 2020). These changing norms surrounding gender and information may have implications for male perceptions of, access to information about, and use of AAS. In terms of masculinity, the formation of masculine identity through steroid use and the relationship of (un)healthy behaviours to hegemonic masculine ideals (Courtenay 2000; Bird and Rieker 1999) are evolving. Additionally, the state of knowledge on changing sources of information about anabolic steroids, given public online discourses, has yet to be synthesized. Finally, the role of social networks, in relation to the spread of information on use of AAS in online and in-person communities has not been comprehensively examined. This research seeks to synthesize the state of knowledge on men's use of AAS in relation to masculinity, information sources, and social networks, with potential implications for addressing misinformation in online communities by

bridging the gap between academic and lay expertise, curbing dangerous misuse. It will be conducted in accordance with the scoping reviews extension of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA-ScR). Inclusion criteria include original research articles published between 2020-2025 in English, among Western countries. Databases will include SCOPUS, PubMed, PsycINFO, and Google Scholar.

International School of Radical Relationism (ISRR) Project
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Attendance by invitation only

Meeting Organizers: Mónica J. Sánchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University and Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University

(ITD6a) Intersecting Identities in Media: Sociological Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Representation in Digital Spaces
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

These presentations explore how race, gender, and intersecting identities are portrayed (or overlooked) in mainstream media, digital platforms, and algorithm-driven contexts. They underscore sociological implications for equity, policy, and public discourse.

Session Organizer and Chair: Elahe Nezhadhossein, University of New Brunswick

Presentations:

1. Exploring Race and Gender Representation in AI-Driven News Aggregators
Elahe Nezhadhossein, University of New Brunswick

Exploring how AI-driven news aggregators may shape or reflect coverage of race- and gender-related topics in Canadian media remains a key sociological concern. This study investigates the frequency and prominence of race/gender articles featured by a leading news aggregator (Google News) compared to the direct front-page coverage of major Canadian outlets (CBC, CTV News, The Globe and Mail). Over three months, weekly snapshots of "Top Stories" and corresponding outlet headlines will be collected, resulting in approximately 150-200 articles. Drawing on media gatekeeping theories and scholarship on AI-driven platforms, the research will use quantitative and qualitative content analysis to examine how often issues such as equity, harassment, or policy debates surface in aggregator feeds versus direct outlet reporting. By identifying patterns—whether AI-based selections amplify or downplay intersectional topics—this work expands sociological discussions on representation and the socio-technical nature of algorithms. Findings will offer valuable insights for scholars, journalists, and policymakers aiming to ensure equitable visibility for race- and gender-related news in an increasingly algorithmically curated media landscape.

2. From Inquiry to Impact: Analyzing Canadian Media Portrayals of MMIWG Post-2019
Spencer Hill, University of Guelph

On June 3, 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) concluded that the violence faced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada constitutes a genocide. The *Final Report* emphasized systemic, institutional, and cultural factors contributing to this crisis, including the role of media representations in perpetuating harmful stereotypes and marginalization. This presentation explores the portrayal of MMIWG in Canadian mainstream media between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2024, focusing on how the tone, frequency, and representation in three major newspapers: *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, and *Vancouver Sun*, align with or diverge from the recommendations outlined in the *Final Report*. By employing qualitative content analysis, this research examines the narratives, ideologies, and power structures embedded in media coverage. Using an inductive and deductive thematic approach, it analyzes language, imagery, and framing techniques to reveal broader patterns in the depiction of MMIWG. The study's timeframe allows for an assessment of media practices following the release of the *Final Report* and its call for equitable and respectful reporting. As this research is in its early stages, its objective is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Canadian mainstream media constructs narratives about MMIWG, and to evaluate whether these representations challenge or reinforce systemic inequalities and stereotypes. While prior literature highlights significant shortcomings in equitable representation, this study seeks to build on these findings and offers potential insights into the media's role in shaping public perceptions of gender, race, and Indigenous identity. This research is significant for fostering discussions on advancing inclusive and intersectional media practices, aligning with the session's focus on addressing biases within digital platforms. Ultimately, the study aims to contribute to public awareness and social change by advocating for media practices that uphold justice and equality for MMIWG.

3. Exploring the Representation and Experiences of Marginalized Voices on Social Media in Pandemic Canada

Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University; Nadia Caidi and Hong Shi, University of Toronto, and Louisa Taylor, Refugee613

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted marginalized minorities, exacerbating existing social, economic, and political disparities. This study investigates how social media narratives on X (formerly Twitter) represented the personal and collective experiences of marginalized communities in Canada, with a specific focus on refugees, newcomers, and racialized groups. Drawing from sociological theories on social media as a public sphere and imagined community, we analyze how these communities used X to share experiences and shape discourse during the pandemic. Using computational methods of text and social network analysis, this study identifies the voices shaping conversations on X, revealing the perspectives of racialized minorities, the topics they engaged with, and the credibility of shared information. Key influencers driving discussions within these communities are also examined, alongside their role in amplifying or challenging systemic inequalities. Our findings highlight the significant role of media and public discourse in shaping social media narratives, often overshadowing governmental and institutional voices. Despite efforts to combat misinformation, we find that refugees and newcomers were particularly vulnerable to low or mixed-veracity content. The pandemic also amplified racialized disparities, as evident in systemic vaccine inequalities, disproportionate exposure to police violence, and the loss experienced by refugees fleeing war, only to face heightened vulnerability in their new homeland. By comparing discussions within marginalized communities to broader Canadian discourse, this

study underscores the compounded effects of systemic racism during the pandemic. It offers critical insights into how digital platforms mediate representation and engagement for marginalized communities, contributing to discussions on inclusive media practices and strategies for addressing biases in digital spaces.

(PSM1e) Political Sociology and Social Movements V
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This session presents empirical analysis of diverse political contexts involving interesting topics such as political practices through critical street art, political autonomy of independent community action organizations, and the structural and ideological factors shaping linguistic preservation and pedagogical needs.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, and Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University
Session Chair: Niloofar Moazzami, Université du Québec à Montréal

Presentations:

1. Réflexions pour une intégration réussie d'une langue autochtone dans le curriculum scolaire : le cas du kali'na en Guyane française
Laïsa Pivert, Université Laval

Cette communication vise à mettre en lumière l'introduction de la langue kali'na dans le curriculum scolaire en Guyane française. Cette intégration a été possible grâce à la mise en place de cours en langue kali'na donnés par des Intervenants en Langue Maternelle (ILM) et de classes bilingues kali'na-français. Les résultats discutés ici sont le fruit d'une recherche doctorale basé sur une quarantaine d'entretiens semi-dirigées qui cherchaient à comprendre le sens que les différents acteurs sociaux donnaient à l'intégration de la langue dans deux écoles primaires situées dans des communautés kali'na de la Guyane. Les résultats de cette étude ont permis de découvrir les motivations qui sous-tendent la demande d'introduction linguistique, d'examiner les obstacles et les résistances émergents au sein des communautés kali'na et du milieu éducatif en lien avec des tensions idéologiques, de mettre en évidence les défis rencontrés, mais aussi de souligner les retombées observées. Certains résultats de cette recherche sont présentés ici et mettent en lumière les tensions qui existent entre les objectifs de préservation linguistique et ceux de réussite scolaire, au sein d'un cadre institutionnel hérité de l'histoire coloniale. Cette présentation illustre comment des idéologies éducatives opposées - d'un côté, l'assimilation et l'homogénéité linguistique, et de l'autre, la revendication identitaire et culturelle - s'affrontent et influencent les perceptions des différents acteurs, qu'ils soient enseignants, parents ou autres. En explorant ces tensions, cette communication contribue à documenter les obstacles structurels et idéologiques qui limitent la conciliation entre préservation linguistique et exigences pédagogiques. This communication aims to shed light on the introduction of the Kali'na language into the school curriculum in French Guiana. This integration was made possible through the establishment of Kali'na language courses taught by Native Language Instructors (ILM) and bilingual Kali'na-French classes. The results discussed here stem from doctoral research based on around forty semi-structured interviews aimed at understanding the meaning that various social actors attribute to the integration of the language in

two primary schools located in Kali'na communities in French Guiana. The findings of this study revealed the motivations underlying the demand for linguistic integration, examined the obstacles and resistance emerging within the Kali'na communities and the educational environment linked to ideological tensions, highlighted the challenges encountered, and underscored the observed outcomes. Some results of this research are presented and highlight the tensions that exist between the goals of linguistic preservation and those of academic success within an institutional framework inherited from colonial history. This presentation illustrates how opposing educational ideologies—on one hand, assimilation and linguistic homogeneity, and on the other, identity and cultural affirmation—clash and influence the perceptions of various stakeholders, whether they are teachers, parents, or others. By exploring these tensions, this communication contributes to documenting the structural and ideological obstacles that hinder the reconciliation between linguistic preservation and pedagogical requirements.

2. La configuration Lefebvrienne de l'espace et l'occupation de l'espace — une étude de cas

Niloofar Moazzami, Université du Québec à Montréal

Dans cette présentation, j'essaye de montrer comment une société particulière comme Cuba se comporte face à la production et à la présence d'œuvres d'art critique sur les murs dans la ville. Ici, ce qu'on peut témoigner est la jonction entre pratiques artistiques et pratiques politiques. La pratique des artistes de la rue est une création sociale, spatiale et symbolique. En effet, la présence des murales, des graffiti et des tags dans la ville entraîne des considérations sur la notion d'espace : elle signifie à la fois l'occupation artistique des murs et la matérialisation des revendications dans l'action créatrice. Je me penche sur le concept de l'espace et la production de l'espace élaborés par Henri Lefebvre (1981) où se déploient les pratiques artistiques et son occupation par les artistes. Il s'agit à la fois de l'occupation physique des rues pendant l'acte de peindre et de l'occupation des murs par les images et les mots. Selon Lefebvre, l'espace contient des rapports sociaux ainsi que des contradictions. Il considère que l'espace comme le produit de ces éléments : la pratique spatiale, les représentations de l'espace et les espaces de représentation, ce qui se présente à son tour dans trois moments, le perçu, le conçu et le vécu. La pratique spatiale associe dans l'espace perçu la réalité quotidienne, une pratique qui se définit par la vie quotidienne. On le vit avant de s'en concevoir. Dans ma présentation, je schématiserai la réalité quotidienne des Cubains pour comprendre leur perçu. Les représentations de l'espace constituant l'espace conçu, forme l'espace de conceptions, qui est élaboré intellectuellement (des planificateurs, des urbanistes, etc.), et qui impose l'ordre à des connaissances, à des signes, à des codes, etc. Les représentations de l'espace (l'espace conçu) peuvent mêler l'idéologie et la connaissance dans une pratique (sociale-spatiale). C'est l'espace dominant dans toutes les sociétés. L'espace conçu lié au savoir ou au pouvoir diminue les espaces de représentation. Les espaces de représentation, qui constituent l'espace vécu, sont les espaces où des images et symboles accompagnent les habitants. En même temps, ces espaces tentent vers des symboles et signes non verbaux plus ou moins cohérents. Ces trois composantes d'espace interviennent différemment dans la production de l'espace, selon leur qualité, les sociétés et le temps. En même temps, les rapports entre les trois ne sont ni stables ni simples. Quand les représentations de l'espace (espace conçu) dominent et se subordonnent aux espaces de représentation (espace vécu), cet espace vécu est réduit à des figures symboliques de cette domination. Je veux examiner comment le pouvoir forme l'espace vécu à travers l'espace conçu

dans ce pays, et comment les artistes de la rue perturbent les lois et les règles de ces espaces à travers leurs œuvres et l'occupation de ces espaces.

(RAE2a) Sociology of Race and Ethnicity I
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This session examines social construction of the "other" and the persistence of racial and ideological exclusion through various theoretical perspectives. We explore how institutions, ideologies, as well as individual cognitive processes, shape and reinforce racial and ethnic hierarchies and systemic oppression. Case studies on sectarian violence in Pakistan, Canada's Vertical Mosaic, and the resurgence of authoritarianism highlight how racial prejudice is formed, justified, and contested globally. We consider how political and economic structures sustain inequality, how emotions and cognitive processes fuel discrimination, and how social categories of belonging and exclusion evolve over time. Through this comparative approach, we seek to uncover global patterns of oppression while interrogating the shifting boundaries of race, ethnicity, and identity in contemporary societies.

Session Organizers: Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University and Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University
Session Chair: Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University

Presentations:

1. The Roots of Prejudice and Racism: A Multidisciplinary Perspective
Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University

Social scientists have long been invested in understanding the origins of racial prejudice and racism. Disciplines such as sociology, political science, and anthropology explore the differential treatment of racial and ethnic groups in society, as well as the historical conditions that shape the status of these groups and their intergroup interactions. Theories within these fields elucidate how political, economic, legal, educational, and other institutions create, justify, and perpetuate bias and inequality among groups. In contrast, early research in psychology emphasized individual differences, often linking prejudice and racism to personality traits or psychopathology. Evolutionary psychology, on the other hand, interprets intolerance and hostility toward out-groups as survival strategies ingrained in human nature. Neuroscience researchers focus on uncovering subconscious brain and cognitive processes that underlie prejudice and stereotyping. Meanwhile, social psychologists redirect attention to social identities and group dynamics, investigating interactions among individuals, groups, and their broader social contexts. Other scholars emphasize the role of emotions in these processes, examining how individual emotions, such as fear and existential anxiety, as well as collective emotions, like hostility and aggression, contribute to social biases. This paper presents a dynamic, multidisciplinary model for studying prejudice and racism by integrating foundational principles from various theoretical frameworks. It further argues that even our most fundamental neural and social cognitive processes are deeply intertwined with cultural frameworks. Social definitions of the "other" and the "out-group" are not innate but are shaped through social processes.

2. Theodor Adorno and the fascist tendencies of liberal democracies

Anas Karzai, Laurentian University

After fleeing the fascism of 1930s Germany, Theodor Adorno and colleagues who had founded the Frankfurt School for Social Research, remained dedicated to researching why individuals become susceptible to fascist propaganda and develop deep-seated prejudices against outsiders. This research resulted in a groundbreaking study titled *The Authoritarian Personality* (1950); an extraordinary sociological analysis that continues to resonate with the contemporary political climate of many Western liberal democracies—most notably, the United States. Although the study was initiated in Germany and finalized in the United States, Adorno and his collaborators focused on the psychological and social dynamics that compel individuals to support leaders and policies rooted in exclusion, fear, incarceration, expulsion, and violence. They examined how certain objective social forces give rise to patterns of thinking that fuel fascism, prejudice, stereotyping, and the fear of targeted groups. In 1930s Germany, this fear was directed at Jews, who were constructed as existential threats to German society and its values. This paper revisits Adorno's seminal study to explore parallels between the Realpolitik of Weimar Germany leading into the 1930s and the current political climate in the United States. Today, similar patterns of thought—those that Adorno and his colleagues warned against—have resurfaced. The United States is witnessing the rise of a new authoritarian personality, alongside the emergence of alt-right movements, which serve as a stark reminder of the persistence of fascism in the 21st century. Under the guise of economic prosperity, racial purity, and an exclusionary nationalism, this new authoritarianism perpetuates a manufactured fear of the immigrant "Other." These developments demand urgent scrutiny, as they echo the ideological precursors of fascism in Weimar Germany, underscoring the grave risks posed by the resurgence of such ideologies in liberal democracies today.

3. A Critical Discourse Analysis of Sunn-State Formation and the Making of Shi'a "other"

Benazir Shah, York University

In Pakistan, between 2012 and 2017, there have been more than twenty-five attacks on *Imambargahs*(community spaces for Shi'a Muslims) and at least two thousand Shi'a Muslims have been killed in different sectarian related attacks (Ali, 2021). In Karachi city, in September 2020 alone, at least four large anti-Shi'a rallies were held by different orthodox Sunni groups. In this paper, I question, how do we understand the sectarian violence in Pakistan and in diaspora, in a way that does not solely see it as a cultural problem between Muslims or solely as a problem of imperial design in Muslim societies. I argue the importance of going beyond the competing frameworks of culturalism and imperialism to understand how sectarian violence, a complex and multilayered historical relationship between Shi'a and Sunni Muslims is understood and addressed. I use a transnational approach to analyze the intersections of US imperialism and its connections to Pakistan's Sunni state-formation in the context of Pakistan. Combining historical analysis of Pakistani state-formation with a discursive analysis of educational curriculum, textbook, and policies, I situate contemporary sectarian violence against Shi'a communities in Pakistan and outside in its historical relationship to colonial capitalism and ongoing US imperialism on the one hand, and postcolonial Sunni state-formation on the other. This framework is important because it allows us to question global and regional Islamophobia that feeds on stereotypes about violence in Muslim countries as solely "internal issues."

4. An Examination of the Evolution of The Vertical Mosaic through the Lens of Whiteness Theory: Ethnic Socioeconomic Disparities among White European Immigrants in Canada

Isabella Palumbo, Brock University

The Vertical Mosaic, a 1965 book authored by prominent Canadian sociologist John Porter, analyzed how class and power dynamics produced and sustained ethnic inequality in Canada during the middle third of the twentieth century. Since the publication of John Porter's seminal book, generations of scholarship have been published on the persistence of ethnic inequalities in Canada. This paper contributes to ongoing debates about the vertical mosaic debate in Canada and situates these debates within the context of racialization theories and whiteness theories. I explore the historical perception of white ethnic groups as the racialized 'other,' chronicling their gradual acceptance as 'white' and how this process has been influenced by the increasing presence of BIPOC populations. As the construction of whiteness evolved, I argue that a 'white' identity was ascribed to many European immigrants, lessening their marginalization and leading to a decrease in the socioeconomic inequalities they once faced. By way of this analysis, I consider how whiteness has influenced the evolution of the vertical mosaic. Furthermore, amidst a historical trend whereby Canada's vertical mosaic has been resituated along racialized lines, I address how some Southern and Eastern Europeans, notably Portuguese Canadians, still experience socioeconomic disparities. Hence, while European ethnic groups generally experience less discrimination, specific groups continue to be hindered by social and cultural capital-related factors. By situating my analysis within the vertical mosaic debate, racialization theories, and whiteness theories, I examine how minority European ethnic groups have gradually come to be seen as 'white' and how this has been influenced by the hegemonic construction and othering of BIPOC populations. I aim to contribute to scholarly debates on social inequalities in Canada by fostering a theoretical understanding of the dynamics and outcomes of racial discrimination along with the diverse and complex experiences of European immigrants.

(SOM5) For or Against: Attitudes towards Immigration

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

For the first time in 25 years, nearly 60% of Canadians say too many immigrants are accepted into Canada, the highest since 1998 (Environics Institute 2024). How can we understand such reversal of pro-immigration opinion among Canadians? In this interdisciplinary open plenary, we address this timely question by inviting two well-known scholars. Dr. Keith Banting will discuss whether the shift in attitudes is primarily about immigration levels, or whether it represents the beginnings of a deeper polarization and backlash against immigration and multiculturalism of the sort found in many contemporary democracies. Dr. Irene Bloemraad then directs attention to Canadians' views on the rights of migrants. Drawing on her survey experiments, she discusses the degree to which legal status and race affect how Canadians view the abuse of police powers (a civil or negative rights situation) and the situation of someone going hungry (a social or positive rights situation). The session concludes with remarks by the discussant, Dr.Aryan Karimi, and questions from the audience.

Thank you to our co-sponsors, the Canadian Population Society (CPS) and the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Moderators: Monica Boyd, University of Toronto and Lisa Kaida, McMaster University

Discussant: **Aryan Karimi**, University of British Columbia

Panelists:

Can We See Where We Are Going? The Prospects for Immigration in Canada

Keith Banting, Queen's University

Dr. Banting, a former CPSA president and renowned expert on public opinion and multiculturalism, will share his insights from his analysis of the 2024 Environics Focus Survey and other research, including his own. He will ask whether the shift in attitudes is primarily about immigration levels, or whether it potentially represents the beginnings of a deeper polarization and backlash against immigration and multiculturalism of the sort found in many contemporary democracies. In exploring the issues, Banting will also draw on his research on the role of 'membership" in Canada, and its implications for public support for the political agency of immigrants and for their inclusion in the redistributive programs of the welfare state.
Dr. Banting is the Stauffer Dunning Fellow in the School of Policy Studies; Professor Emeritus and Research Chair Emeritus in the Department of Political Studies at Queen's University.

Do Canadians Think that Undocumented Residents have Rights?

Irene Bloemraad, University of British Columbia

According to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit…" But does the public agree that rights extend to residents who have fallen out of status and are living undocumented in Canada? Drawing from survey experiments into Canadian attitudes on migrant inclusion, Dr. Bloemraad examines the degree to which legal status and race affect how Canadians view the abuse of police powers (a civil or negative rights situation) or the hardship of going hungry (a social or positive rights situation). She finds that rights are more recognized for citizens than out-of-status migrants, and legal status interacts at times with racialized minority status. Rights appear far from universal in the minds of Canadians. Given narrowing pathways to permanent residency in Canada and harsh anti-immigrant measures in the US, these findings carry important implications for how Canada might deal with irregular migration in the future.
Dr. Bloemraad is the Director, UBC Centre for Migration Studies and President's Excellence Chair in Global Migration at the University of British Columbia.

(VLS6) Anti-Violence Research, Collaboration, and Knowledge Mobilization

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Development Research Cluster

Violence research is multidisciplinary in nature and interconnects with knowledges of survivors, those with lived experience, activists, legal professionals, policymakers, and service providers,

among others. As the recognition of structural dimensions of violence and its various intersections become increasingly prevalent across professional, political, and public discourses, sociologists are well positioned to contribute to the on-going formation and mobilization of anti-violence projects with a multitude of social impacts. Efforts to integrate sociologically imaginative understandings of violence with the experiences of survivors, advocates, and front-line practitioners provide exciting opportunities for the cross-pollination of critical insights on and ways of understanding violence.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Robert Nonomura, Western University and Sarah Yerich, Capilano University

Presentations:

1. Bridging Justices: Perspectives on Restorative Justice Options for Sexual Harm

Mandi Gray, Trent University and **Christian Denino**, Toronto Metropolitan University; Jessica Evens, Toroto Metropolitan University, Kate Crozier, Community Justice Initiatives, and Sabrina Dourado-Jaffer, Trent University

Within the last decade, there appears to be growing interest among victim-survivors, feminist academics, and gender-based violence (GBV) practitioners in seeking alternatives to the criminal legal system for sexual harm (Burnett & Gray, 2023). In this research, we explored the possibility of expanding restorative and transformative (RJ/TJ) options for sexual harm. RJ/TJ is a victim-centered, community-involved approach to responding to harm. A major barrier to expanding access to RJ/TJ options in Ontario is a Crown Attorney policy that prohibits the use of "alternative measures"— a diversionary mechanism permitted under s.717 of the *Criminal Code*—for criminal charges of sexual assault. This work critically examines the policy and presents potential reform options. The present study is a community-engaged research project in collaboration with Community Justice Initiatives (CJI), an organization based in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, that provides RJ options for sexual harm. From an intersectional, feminist, and socio-legal perspective, the current study is the first to critically assess GBV service providers' support as well as any potential concerns about expanding the availability of RJ/TJ for sexual harm in Ontario. Using a mixed-methods approach, including semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and a web-based, cross-sectional survey, this research engages with the prevailing perspectives of diverse GBV practitioners across Ontario representing a wide range of organizations, geographical locations, and social locations. Preliminary findings suggest general support from the GBV sector in expanding avenues for responding to sexualized harm. Regarding an effective operationalization of RJ/TJ, practitioners cited the need to improve education for survivors, practitioners, and lawyers on the use of RJ/TJ in cases of sexual violence; as well as a call for a survivor-led, intersectional, and cultural/context-sensitive deployment. Concerns around the professionalization and institutional co-optation of RJ/TJ that limit both the flexibility and its broader grassroots ethos, as well as the risk of victim-survivor re-traumatization, were expressed.

2. Workplace Sexual Harassment in Restaurants: Understandings, Prevalence, and Attitudes

Rochelle Stevenson, and Jenn Johnson, Thompson Rivers University; Meaghan Hagerty, Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre

In 2017, the #MeToo Movement sparked attention to the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace. The numbers were, and still are, staggering across all industries. In 2020, Statistics Canada conducted the Survey on Sexual Misconduct at Work. Nearly half of respondents (47%)

stated that they had either witnessed or experienced some form of sexual harassment in the past 12 months (Burczycka, 2021).The food and beverage service sector is an industry where workplace sexual harassment is particularly prevalent, with estimates that nearly 90% of women and 70% of men have experienced workplace sexual harassment (Johnson & Madera, 2018). This community-engaged research project is a partnership with Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre, aimed at understanding the prevalence of workplace sexual harassment, the formal and informal safety processes, and the attitudes around sexual harassment in the food and beverage service sector in Kamloops, BC. The three phase project included short telephone interviews with restaurant owners/managers, an anonymous survey of food and beverage sector employees, and in-depth qualitative interviews with industry staff. The presentation will discuss the findings as a whole, focusing primarily on: 1) industry personnel understandings of sexual harassment and differences among groups; 2) the prevalence and experience of workplace sexual harassment; and 3) attitudes and beliefs of individuals experiencing, witnessing, and perpetrating sexual harassment. Recommendations, including specific avenues for improved education, will be shared.

3. Strong Allies, Stronger Communities: Engaging Men in Allyship to End Gender-based Violence

Allie Wall, University of Western Ontario; Chantel Butterfield, The Centre

Gender-based violence (GBV), which includes violence against women and gender diverse people, is a pervasive issue indiscriminately affecting individuals across demographics throughout the world. The severe repercussions of GBV are widespread, negatively impacting individuals' health, well-being, and daily functions, including work and caregiving (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2024). Allyship education has emerged as a crucial tool in addressing GBV and social inequalities, particularly in male dominated workplaces. Engaging men in allyship has been shown to improve workplace culture and is an essential ingredient for promoting gender equity, healthy relationships, and preventing GBV in workplaces, homes, and communities (Yoon, Joshi, & Dang, 2023; Warren et al., 2021). Further research is needed to better understand how to effectively involve men in community-based allyship programming, especially those who are living in rural communities and working in the industrial and construction trades sectors. The "Strong Allies, Stronger Communities" project is a community-based collaboration based in Ontario, Canada that aims to develop GBV allyship programming targeting men and young men who are either working or training in the industrial and construction trades sector. Programming theory applies a combination of the social norms approach to engage men in violence prevention (Pascoe et. al, 2022), and the "EThIC model of virtue based allyship development" (Warren & Warren, 2023). The community-based educational program has three components, including (1) an initial GBV awareness and prevention social campaign; (2) a short-form online allyship educational module; and (3) a GBV ally peer support group facilitated by trained male-identifying allies. Programming aims to engage men in allyship by shifting harmful cultural norms, promoting men's pathways into supportive services, and providing opportunities for men to develop the critical knowledge and skills needed to identify and respond to GBV in both workplace and community settings. Programming theory and preliminary pilot evaluation results will be presented.

4. Transforming Discourse: Framing Strategies in Disability Feminist Advocacy Against Gender-Based Violence

Valérie Grand'Maison, University of Guelph

Activists within feminist disability organizations have long sought to bring visibility to violence against women with disabilities. This paper examines how the DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN Canada) advocates to prevent and address this issue. Through document review and interviews, I conducted a social movement frame analysis to trace discourses and practices related to violence against women with disabilities from 1985 to 2023. Four distinct phases of anti-violence advocacy were identified, marked by shifts in discourses and strategies shaped by funding, political, and leadership dynamics. Initially, feminist disability activists framed gender-based violence (GBV) as rooted in structural violence and lack of livelihood options for women and girls with disabilities1. They expanded the definition of GBV to include caregiver violence and violence perpetrated by women, based on lived experiences gathered through support groups, interviews, and workshops. As funding became scarcer and project-oriented, DAWN Canada professionalized while diversifying in terms of race, gender, and sexual identity. Understandings of GBV expanded to include conditions of trauma and racism. Recently, the organization has shifted towards government advocacy and policy influence, leveraging statistical evidence on violence against women with disabilities. A key frame throughout its history is that women with disabilities experience the highest rates of GBV compared to other women. While this narrative was balanced through peer support and collective action in DAWN's initial phases, it promotes discourses that equate being disabled as being vulnerable and victimized. Furthermore, such framing forecloses opportunities for intersectional coalition building as it positions women with disabilities as different from other groups. This study contributes to illustrating key actors in shaping GBV understandings and policies, from the lens of women with disabilities. I hope that the findings can foster generative ideas about building broad-based coalitions to address GBV.

(WPO4a) Technology and Work-Related Outcomes
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

Research relating to work, professions and occupations in the context of technology and work-related outcomes.

Session Organizers: Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph, Tracey L. Adams, Western University, and Karen Hughes, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Tracey L. Adams, Western University

Presentations:

1. Improving Patient Outcomes through Language-Adapted Medical Documents: Evaluating the Impact of the MedLingua Initiative

Dayana Davodi and **Cindy Sinclair,** University of Toronto

The MedLingua Initiative is a student-led program that aims to improve healthcare access for non-English-speaking patients through the translation of medical documents. By providing linguistically accurate and culturally relevant translations of documents such as consent forms and discharge instructions, MedLingua seeks to address the language barriers that often hinder effective communication between patients and healthcare providers. This research project investigates the impact of receiving language-adapted medical documents on patient outcomes, focusing on quality of life, perceived health outcomes, satisfaction with care, and trust in the healthcare system. The

project will engage non-English-speaking patients who receive translated materials and assess how these translations affect their understanding of medical information and their overall healthcare experience. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, the study will collect pre- and post-survey data from involved patients at Toronto General Hospital, in order to measure changes in health literacy, satisfaction, and trust in healthcare providers. Surveys will include validated scales to evaluate health literacy and patient satisfaction, while interviews will offer deeper insights into the patients' experiences with the translated documents. Additionally, healthcare providers will be interviewed to gauge the effectiveness of the language-adapted documents in enhancing patient-provider communication and improving care delivery. The research aims to identify the specific benefits of providing culturally adapted medical information and its role in reducing healthcare disparities. At the end of the study, the findings will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of language adaptations in improving patient empowerment, satisfaction, and outcomes. The results will provide evidence-based recommendations for integrating language-adapted materials into healthcare practices to foster a more inclusive, equitable, and accessible healthcare system.

2. Bootcamps and the Tech Lifestyle Dream

Natalie Adamyk, **Emily Hammond,** and Sharla Alegria, University of Toronto

Tech coding bootcamps are short-cycle, low-barrier, flexible, certificate programs that set out to train workers without programming skills for entry level tech jobs. At costs typically around $10,000, these programs are part of a larger for-profit-education industry. While the tech industry generally struggles to recruit and retain women, black, and Latin workers, these programs tend to attract larger shares of underrepresented workers. This paper asks whether and under what conditions tech coding bootcamps provide mobility pathways, particularly for underrepresented workers, or whether the programs are better described as examples of predatory inclusion? Drawing on 69 longitudinal and retrospective interviews with 45 graduates of coding bootcamps, we find that these programs do generally function as mobility pathways, though that mobility is not necessarily upward. While some graduates experience upward mobility, moving into entry-level tech jobs without university degrees, workers more often enroll in them with modest career goals of moving between professional jobs. The programs tended to compliment, rather than transform graduates' previous labour market experiences. We use the metaphor of bridges, ladders, and cul de sacs to conceptualize graduates' moving between professional jobs, into professional from non-professional work, or return to the same labour market position they were in prior to the program. Critically, we find gender- and immigration-related patterns in these experiences. Women tended to set modest aspirations for how transformative the programs might be, combining them with already high levels of education to move between professional jobs. Immigrant workers were more likely to enter the programs only to return to the occupations they had been in before moving to Canada. Insomuch as the programs promised the dream of a high paying job making futuristic technology with great work-life balance, they fell far short, but they did offer students something they wanted and valued.

3. Racing Technology to the Bottom: The Rise of Internet-Promoted Law Firms in China

Sida Liu, The University of Hong Kong

The legal profession in China is increasingly embracing technology. Since the 2010s, a new type of law firm, commonly known as "internet-promoted law firms" (IPFs), has emerged as a significant

force, particularly in areas such as debt collection, personal injury, and labor cases. These IPFs typically collaborate with online platforms and legal consulting companies, entities that are not regulated by the bar association or the justice bureau, to market their services through search engines like Baidu and popular apps such as Douyin and Xiaohongshu. The lack of stringent regulation on these practices has led to problems such as unfulfilled promises to clients, fraudulent or exaggerated credentials, and irresponsible representations. Furthermore, the rise of IPFs has considerably driven down the prices of individual legal services, eliciting numerous complaints from traditional law firms. This trend has also depressed the salaries of early-career lawyers and exacerbated their already challenging working conditions.

(ECS-RC) Economic Sociology Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Economic Sociology Research Cluster

This meeting of the Economic Sociology Research Cluster is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizers: Dean Curran, University of Calgary and Zhen Wang, University of Toronto

(GAS-RC) Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

The sociology of gender and sexuality is among the most significant and exciting fields in contemporary sociological research and thought. The purpose of this research cluster is to promote research, teaching, networking and other professional activities for those interested in the study of gender and sexuality. This meeting of the Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities.

Session Organizers: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

(HEA-RC) Sociology of Health Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

The Sociology of Health Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizer: Claudia Chaufan, York University

(ITD-RC) Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

We would like to invite interested delegates to attend the annual business meeting of the Internet,

Technology, and Digital Sociology research cluster. At this meeting we aim to facilitate networking and collaboration among those who share research and teaching interests related to the social implications of the Internet and digital technologies, broadly defined. It will provide an opportunity to connect like-minded sociologists and to set our agenda and directions for future initiatives and CSA conferences. This meeting is open to anyone interested in joining our membership or just learning more about the cluster.

Session Organizers: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph, Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary, and Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University

(RAE-RC) Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizers: Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University and Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University

(RES-RC) Relational Sociology Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Relational Sociology Research Cluster

This Relational Sociology Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. In our 2025 meeting, we will discuss the identity and aims of our cluster group within an inclusive, transformative and broadly critical orientation. We seek to expand our network and activities and discuss the structure and roles of our Relational Sociology research cluster. This will also be an opportunity to introduce participants to our ongoing International Online Seminar on Relational Research and share conference and publication opportunities, as well as membership expansion and engagement.

Session Organizers: Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University and Mónica Sánchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University

(VLS-RC1) Violence and Society Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 12:45pm
Affiliation: Violence and Sociology Research Cluster

The Violence and Society Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. The cluster is especially welcoming new participants and emerging scholars who would like to contribute their opinions to the activities of the cluster or to volunteer their time to its work. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Robert Nonomura, Western University

(DEV4) Development, War, and the Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Development Research Cluster

This session invites scholars who work on the subject of development and war, with a particular focus on the Israel-Palestine conflict but also the wider conflict emerging in the region. We feature papers that examine political economy factors that have induced violence and/or shaped its trajectory as well as the consequences of violence for any facet of development such as health, gender, economy, environment, education, and culture.

Session Organizer: Jasmin Hristov, University of Guelph
Session Chair: Liam Swiss, Acadia University

Presentations:

1. Foreign Aid and Civil Society Reconfiguration: Lessons from Lebanon's 2024 War
Charlotte Gaudreau, McGill University

From September 17th to November 27th 2024 the life of millions of residents of Lebanon got brutally uprooted. The Israeli assault that was ongoing for nearly a year in the south had finally reached full proportions. The war unfolded within Lebanon's broader context of neoliberal economy and sectarian governance, where decades of state absenteeism and foreign influence have made disasters nearly predictable features of social life. Though technomoral solutions led by NGOs and experts have been promoted as remedies to these recurring crises, established sectarian welfare organizations and INGOs—key pillars of Lebanon's regime—proved inadequate in supporting 1.2 million displaced persons. Instead, *ad hoc* collectives and grassroots organizations effectively filled this void. This situation raise the question: How has the interplay between warfare, neoliberal reconstruction, and foreign influence shaped development actors and grassroots activism in Lebanon? Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork and in-depth interviews, this paper examines the reconfiguration of Lebanon's 'civil society' through the dual forces of imperialism(s) and sectarian neoliberalism. It challenges narratives of Middle Eastern "exceptionalism" by revealing how foreign and local NGOs, operating as vehicles of capitalist hegemony and middle-class mobility, actively reinforce the sectarian political *status quo* rather than resist it, and impact local subjectivities. Even as successive social movements (2011, 2015, and 2019) called for regime change, they struggled to articulate more than technocratic reform projects, revealing an apparent erosion of alternative political imagination. However, beneath these visible mobilizations, new networks of sectoral groups, cooperatives, and social spaces have quietly developed. I argue that these conditions ultimately made prefigurative politics a crucial repertoire of action, as evidenced by the effective grassroots response to the ongoing Israeli war. This paper thus acknowledges foreign funding's role in shaping civil society and activist subjectivities, but advances a nuanced approach, positioning prefigurative politics as both a survival mechanism and a potential catalyst for progressive change.

2. The Project of Alienation: A methodology to further Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR)

Abeer Mirza, University of Toronto

What is the process of highlighting an individual as being alien, or the 'other'? How does the dominant demonize their subjects to feel better about exploiting them? This study investigates the project of alienation, by a re-examination of Marx's early theorization of alienation - a Eurocentric approach to alienation, encapsulated and re-envisioned in the works of native revolutionary leaders: Frantz Fanon and Muhammad Iqbal. Furthermore, I draw upon Critical Race Theory's (Gillborn & Ladson-Billings, 2019) three tenets: (a) racism is endemic; (b) Differential racialization; and (c) Storytelling and the role of voice in counter-narrative. This theory and methodology allow me to present an analysis of alienation in light of the current Palestinian crisis, and the role of healthcare in the making of the 'other'. The paper seeks to present a detailed view, focusing on Palestine, on the systematic erasure of a nation through a self-sustaining humanitarian catastrophization that feeds itself beyond bullets and bombs through the destruction of the healthcare system, leading to the devaluing, erasure of a people of color, maintaining White supremacy. The paper concludes by outlining the immediate, short, and long-term actions that are needed to be taken in order to rebuild Gaza's healthcare system and pave the road to recovery.

(ECS3) Confronting Contemporary Capitalism

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Economic Sociology Research Cluster

The 2008 financial crisis massively destabilized the neoliberal regime of capitalism. Yet, despite greater state intervention in responses to the crises, including COVID-19, neither do we appear to have returned to Keynesianism. So, what is the current conjuncture of capitalism? This session will discuss theoretical and empirical interventions that aim to speak to contemporary capitalism and the challenges it faces, as well as the challenges we face in analyzing it.

Session Organizers: Dean Curran, University of Calgary and Zhen Wang, University of Toronto

Session Chair: Dean Curran, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. Marketing 'Progress': Woke Capitalism and Institutional Redress

Breanna Kubat, Carleton University

In the past decade, there has been a drastic increase in calls for institutions to not only reckon with and apologize for their complicity in historical injustices but also commit to addressing systemic issues and structural inequalities. For many, including universities, this has manifested in the integration of diversity language in mission statements and branding as well as the creation of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives. Simultaneous with this growing demand for institutions to be held socially responsible has been the further entrenchment of neoliberalism, capitalism, and marketization into society. This paper explores the complexities, tensions, and intersections between calls for institutions to expand their use of diversity language and EDI initiatives and the economic pressures of an increasingly neoliberal capitalist society. I draw on Carl Rhodes (2022) discussion of 'woke capitalism' and Sara Ahmed's concept of 'non-performative' (2006) to analyze the use of diversity language as a marketing tool, with an emphasis on its use in higher education. Specifically, I ask: how do demands to address systemic issues and structural

inequalities interact with the increased corporatization of universities? What are the consequences of these interactions? How can we reconcile institutions adopting social justice demands solely to advance their neoliberal capitalist objectives and enhance their brand image? What is the influence of the neoliberal tenet of individual responsibility on the use of diversity language as a marketing tool?

2. Racial Capitalism and the Exploitation of Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers in Ontario

Gregory Urbanczyk, Independent Scholar

This completed Master's research examines the exploitation of Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers (TFAWs) through their representation, via a qualitative context and textual analysis, in 38 news media articles published between June 2014 and June 2024 from three traditional news media outlets: *The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail*, and *National Post*. The theoretical frameworks of racial capitalism, chosen for its focus on racial inequality and capitalism, was applied by means of a Foucauldian discourse analysis (Gintova, 2023; Guo, 2015; Liu 2023). The concepts of *expropriation by domination* and *labour superexploitation* were especially applicable in discussing the conditions and vulnerabilities faced by TFAWs (Burden-Stelly, 2020; Osuna, 2022; Hall, 2022). Articles published prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, before March 2020, did not include specifics on the conditions faced by TFAWs, and were further complicit in the reproduction and propagation of racial capitalism. In contrast, articles published during the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially since 2022, were much more descriptive and open about the conditions and vulnerabilities faced by TFAWs. This analysis reveals the exploitation carried out by farm owners and government bodies. As well as highlighting potential solutions for positive change, namely getting TFAWs out of their current status of "permanently temporary" (Fitting et al., 2023). Despite these positive developments, there was still an underlying bias towards the economic prosperity of farm owners present throughout the articles, given the lack of attention to certain exploitative practices and systems. My research underscores the critical role of traditional media outlets in shaping public discourse surrounding TFAWs, and highlights how racial capitalism perpetuates structural inequalities in labour systems. By situating this research within these broader contexts, this study not only highlights the urgency of addressing exploitative practices but also points toward actionable pathways for fostering equity and systemic change to labour conditions for TFAWs.

3. Public Funds, Private Gains: Offshore Havens and the Limits of De-Risking Decarbonization

Nicolas Viens, University of British Columbia

This paper has received the 2025 Economic Sociology Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award.

State-led decarbonization policies increasingly aim to mobilize private capital for low-carbon investments by socializing risks, with public development banks playing a central role. However, these institutions remain underexplored, particularly as contested sites among various actors over climate policy design. I examine the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) to assess its influence on low-carbon infrastructure development. Through document analysis and a review of the financial structures of its private-sector partners, my findings reveal that, despite adopting a de-risking strategy to attract institutional investors, the CIB struggles to mobilize private capital for large-scale projects. Moreover, partnerships with firms linked to offshore tax havens raise concerns about facilitating private accumulation over public interest. These findings question the CIB's ability to

advance Canada's decarbonization. More broadly, this study contributes to research on power dynamics within the state-finance nexus, while highlighting some of the limits of hinging decarbonization goals on private investors through a de-risking framework.

Les politiques de décarbonation étatiques visent de plus en plus à mobiliser des capitaux privés en socialisiant les risques associés aux investissements à faibles émissions de carbone. Pour ce faire, les banques publiques de développement jouant un rôle central dans ce processus. Cependant, ces institutions demeurent peu étudiées, en particulier en tant qu'arènes de contestation entre divers acteurs quant à la conception des politiques climatiques. J'examine la Banque de l'infrastructure du Canada (BIC) afin d'évaluer son influence sur le développement des infrastructures décarbonées. À travers une analyse documentaire et un examen des structures financières de ses partenaires du secteur privé, mes résultats montrent que, malgré l'adoption d'une stratégie de socialisation du risque (« de-risking ») pour attirer les investisseurs institutionnels, la BIC peine à mobiliser des capitaux privés pour des projets de grande envergure. De plus, des partenariats avec des entreprises liées à des paradis fiscaux offshore soulèvent des préoccupations quant à la facilitation de l'accumulation privée au détriment de l'intérêt public. Ces résultats remettent en question la capacité de la BIC à faire progresser les objectifs de décarbonation du Canada. Plus largement, cette étude contribue à la recherche sur les dynamiques de pouvoir entre l'État et la finance, tout en soulignant certaines limites des stratégies de décarbonation reposant sur les investisseurs privés via un cadre de socialisation du risque.

4. Media, Culture War, and the Political Contradictions of Capitalism

Stephen Marmura, St. Francis Xavier University

Modern mass media were instrumental in the rise of the nation-state and eventual consolidation of the mass consumer societies that took shape within liberal democracies beginning in the early twentieth century. Today however, mass and digital media appear increasingly implicated in processes of social fragmentation and political polarization, a trend highly visible with respect to the so-called 'culture war' in America. I contend that the shift in the media's role from facilitating collective identity at the level of national publics to its current role in exacerbating cultural and political cleavages is best understood through reference to Nancy Fraser's work on the political contradictions of capitalism. Consistent with Fraser's (2015) thesis, economic globalization has eroded the liberal state's capacity to guarantee capitalist accumulation over the longer term while simultaneously limiting its ability to respond to the electorate and provide public services. Similarly, I argue that under post-Fordism commercial media practices that once facilitated social control and helped forestall the possibility of a political legitimation crisis now serve to undermine any basis for a broadly shared national identity, even as they fuel popular dissatisfaction with the status quo. While state policies that might effectively enhance the media's democratic (i.e. informative, watchdog, and representative) capacities and better serve the public interest clearly exist, they remain directly at odds with the present trajectory of global/financialized capitalist accumulation, making their implementation problematic.

(EDU6c) Sociology of Education in Higher Education Institutions: Policy and Practice
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session features papers that draw on empirical, theoretical or methodological issues in the realm of higher education.

Session Organizer and Chair: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

Presentations:

1. Engaged Pedagogy within the Neoliberal University

Jade Da Costa, University of Guelph

From September 2016 to April 2023, I acted as a teacher's assistant (TA) for the department of Sociology at York University. For the courses that I assisted, undergraduate students were asked to complete two ten-percent assignments that were entirely designed by their TA. In the winter of 2020, I began assigning the Student Choice Project as one of my tutorial activities. The design of the project is as named: students are asked to choose a platform through which they can explore and apply course material. The only requirement is that students must select a platform that is either creative and/or personalized. I have received countless submissions of wonder, art, and beauty since first assigning the Student Choice Project five years ago and consider the overall success of these assignments to be a testament to the project's inspiration: bell hooks' (1994) engaged pedagogy. Yet, I would be amiss if I said that students did not also struggle with the project. I have found myself having to repeatedly assure students that they would not be penalized for their creativity or ingenuity. Many seemed to feel that the project's intentional accessibility was a trick, whereas others found the agency of the project to be overwhelming, if not debilitating. Overtime, I have come to regard these reactions for what they are: symptoms of the neoliberal university (Mintz, 2021). Within this educational climate, emergent students and scholars are trained to follow strict, bureaucratic guidelines that not only encourage them to fear agency, but to disavow their embodied experiences and creative energies as legitimate sources of knowledge. Taking this realization as my point of entry, I explore what it means to do engaged pedagogy within a postsecondary climate that is increasingly defined by neoliberalism.

2. Exploring the Institutional Politics of Promoting Social Impact: University Extension in Canada

Scott McLean, University of Calgary

While "social impact" has recently become a trendy concern at Canadian universities (with substantial attention now being paid to initiatives such as knowledge mobilization, community engagement, and service learning), I argue that Canadian universities were more concerned with social impact a century ago than they are now. From the 1890s through the 1960s, universities across the country engaged in major initiatives explicitly designed to disavow their "ivory tower" reputation and have an impact on the broader society. Such "extension" initiatives included delivering evening, extramural and summer session courses, engaging in research dissemination and outreach activities, offering public lectures at off-campus locations and over the radio, and facilitating co-operative and community development through fieldwork. Why did universities across Canada devote so much attention to social impact through extension work in the first half of the twentieth century? Why did such work wither away in subsequent decades, only to be

rediscovered more recently (cloaked in new vocabulary)? I argue that the answer to these questions is found in universities' existential pursuit of social legitimacy, political capital, and financial resources. As the Canadian political-economy evolved over time, and as the institutional landscape in post-secondary education became denser and more complex, the pathways to social legitimacy, political capital, and financial resources changed - at times favoring and at times discouraging a focus on social impact on the part of university leaders. My presentation at CSA 2025 will compare the rise and fall of extension work at ten Canadian universities: Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dalhousie, Laval, Toronto, Queen's, McMaster, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. This comparison will provide a descriptive overview of the evolution of universities' concerns with social impact and explain such concerns through an analysis of universities' material interests.

3. Higher ED, dire ED, or die in ED? Social pathologies and well-being in sociological practice

Eva (Evalyna) Bogdan, York University and **Ronjon Paul Datta,** University of Windsor

Recent changes in the political economy of higher education (e.g., international student cap) means that faculty members face escalating stress and workload. The already troubling rise in premature morbidity and mortality—often tied to overwork—invites critical reflection and reform. This session explores four interrelated dimensions shaping professors' lives with the goal of illuminating how institutions might better support holistic wellness. First, expectations about professionalism and the broader civic contribution of academics as researchers and educators affect well-being and standards of self- and peer assessment. Viewing this reflexively via classical and critical theory we consider the overdetermination of academic work by other pertinent social relations (familial, communal, interpersonal) and their impact on human flourishing. Second, a holistic framework highlights the mind-body-social-spiritual nature of life. Rather than conceiving academics as purely intellectual labourers, this perspective stresses the need for physical health, social connectedness, and spirituality. Third, the (dis-)organization of academic work itself warrants scrutiny. While faculty typically enjoy autonomy in structuring tasks, they also face unrelenting, overlapping demands across teaching, research, mentoring, and administration. This can also leave them on the hook when things go wrong while giving administrators a "pass." Academic hierarchies also impede more humane and reasonable decisions about the working conditions of faculty. Finally, with the corporatization of Canadian academia, the political economy of higher education compounds these pressures as institutions increasingly require academics to address many socio-economic challenges (e.g., innovation; policy frameworks) to boost institutional and national productivity despite budgetary constraints, fluctuating enrollments, and diminishing control. Although awareness of one's wellness is critical, excessive neoliberal responsibilization means their efficacy is limited absent organizational changes. This session is intended to spur reflexive sociological participant discussion about strategies for fostering healthier day-to-day practices while advocating broader transformations in academic culture and governance.

(FEM1) Women's Caucus Meeting
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

The CSA-SCS Women's Caucus is a space that provides opportunities for women to reflect together on diverse and shared features of our lives and professional work that are shaped by contemporary EuroPatriarchy and women's movements for change. The grounded and collaborative thinking of the Caucus helps members/attendees to identify emergent issues and action priorities that aim to change discriminatory and/or biased practices, especially within Congress and scholarly institutions.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

(GAS8) Tracing Gender and Sexuality in Canadian Schools
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliations: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster and Queer Studies in Education and Culture (QSEC).

This session uses a sociological lens to examine the ways in which gender and sexuality are regulated in Canadian schools amidst a climate of growing anti-2SLGBTQ+ sentiment. To combat rising hate and support young people, it is important to trace these appearances, and the ways in which they are shaped by ongoing settler colonialism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and classism. Homophobia and transphobia are rapidly spreading across North America and the globe through legislation and educational policy, leading to structural, discursive, and physical violence. Schools have been critical sites upon which the 'culture wars' about gender and sexuality have been fought. This session will ask: How are discourses of gender and sexuality being mobilized in and around schools to uphold an increasingly rigid cisheteropatriarchal status quo? What contextual readings of schooling practices make visible the ways in which schools are a critical site for examining the interplay of growing anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate and its attendant anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, and classism? Looking forward, what theories, policies, or pedagogical praxis help support 2SLGBTQ+ children and young people's thriving in specific school spaces such as physical education, sexuality education, or gender-based violence prevention education? In what ways are queer and trans joy and other resistive strategies appearing in the geographies of schooling?

Session Organizers and Chairs: JJ Wright, MacEwan University and LJ Slovin, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Silencing of Queer Educator Voices: Making Space for New Possibilities
Carlos Avelar Rodas and **Kenneth MacKinnon,** University of Prince Edward Island

The systematic suppression of queer voices in North American schools mirrors cultural, institutional, and political norms that foster invisibility and exclusion (Kokozos & Gonzalez, 2020). Even with legal advancements aimed at protecting 2SLGBTQ+ rights, queer educators and students still face experiences steeped in oppression. This presentation investigates how fear undermines queerness within educational settings, using data collected through a duo-ethnographic approach. Our data collection focuses on reflective duo-ethnographic discussions between two queer educators, offering a critical analysis of our lived experiences in schools. This dialogue explores how fear,

institutional pressures, and societal biases contribute to silencing us. We emphasize that fear acts as a widespread force. For example, queer educators often encounter both implicit and explicit pressures to conceal their identities to avoid negative reactions from administrators, parents, and peers (Cole & Surette, 2024).. This anxiety frequently arises from societal biases, such as the erroneous belief that queerness is synonymous with inappropriateness or immorality. Also, many queer teachers opt to remain silent about their identities, resulting in a lack of representation and leaving queer students without visible role models. We wonder, however, if visibility and representation through this lens is really the answer. Do we really want to create space for ourselves in these cisheteronormative spaces, or do we want to create our own spaces to express our Queerness (Wright & Falek, 2024; Slovin, 2024)? We found that our duo-ethnographic approach provided a space in which we could explore our Queerness through a lens of Queer Joy steeped in the creation of a self-defined and relational way of being joyfully Queer.

2. Has the policy reached the classroom?: Exploring SOGI inclusive curriculum in Teacher Education

Julia Sinclair Palm, University of British Columbia

Canadian schools, and especially those in British Columbia, are starting to approach LGBTQIA+ issues in schools using a new framework called SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) 123. This inclusive education initiative seeks to make schools safer and more inclusive for students of all genders and sexualities, and research documents how current BC policies that reference SOGI can reduce discrimination for all students (Saewyc et al. 2024). Despite these great strides, teacher candidates still report feeling unprepared to teach and discuss LGBTQIA+ issues in schools and that teacher education programs are still failing trans and nonbinary teacher candidates (Airton and Martin 2022). In this paper, I review existing B.Ed. SOGI-inclusive course contents to explore how current teacher candidates are being prepared to discuss gender and sexuality. In addition, I will also discuss current SOGI policies in B.C schools and B.Ed. programs to explore the support teachers are receiving to attend to LGBTQIA+ issues in schools. Teacher candidates are seeking tools and strategies for addressing and responding to the need for SOGI inclusive education, and it is unclear how SOGI is making its way into the curriculum in teacher education programs. Drawing on Ahmed's critique of inclusion policies and practices, I will analyze how issues of gender and sexuality are incorporated into the curriculum. Although this planned inclusion of SOGI is only a start to supporting teacher candidates, it is important to study approaches to SOGI inclusive curriculum in teacher education and will provide a foundation from which to build on.

3. Trans Desire Paths: Seeking Equity through Imagination and Collaboration

Jaeden Wilson, McGill University

As rigid gender norms in our schools are imposed on trans students, they ceaselessly tread new paths to survive, succeed, and carve out spaces for joy. These paths are forged by the labour that trans youth carry out daily in school. The activist, creative, educational, as well as inter- and intrapersonal work that these youth take on is often unrecognized, but highly valuable to their well-being (Slovin, 2024). This paper frames that labour as a form of desire path across marginalizing school landscapes (Nichols, 2014). Much like the beaten dirt paths that cut across fields in parcs, trans desire paths are responses to unfulfilled needs and desires. They represent the unofficial means by which trans students find shortcuts and circumvent obstacles while navigating their school

spaces. When faced with the knowledge of these paths' existence, educators must decide what to do about them. They can be fenced off, ignored, or paved and officiated. This paper argues that work with trans youth aiming to create equitable, welcoming schooling environments can do so by acknowledging these students' agency and the work they are already doing to forge pathways across educational landscapes. Rather than try to invent solutions in isolation from youth who already find ways to create joy and success in school, educators can work with youth to support them in their efforts. Thus, this paper will share emerging research on how educators can use the concept of desire lines to imagine better schools with trans youth, rather than on their behalf. Ultimately, it will argue that building up from trans students' labour is a strong means to making change and improving school equity.

4. Cripping Sex Ed: Queer Disabled Reflections on the Implications and Possibilities of Ontario's Sex Education

Emily Kirby, Queen's University

In a climate where violence against the 2SLGBTQ+ community is increasing in prevalence, the Canadian education system--and specifically sex education--must actively and intentionally work against the cisheteropatriarchal systems that promote this oppression. A unique experience of this oppression occurs at the intersection of queerness and disability, a demographic that has been under- and misrepresented in Ontario's sex education curriculum. Integrating comprehensive sexuality education within a framework that prioritizes diversity and inclusion for all learners, including disabled and queer individuals, cultivates a more inclusive understanding of diverse identities (Vargas & Cruz, 2021). This research project explores the intersection of queerness and disability, inquiring into the firsthand accounts of queer disabled individuals who participated in sex education in Ontario public schools, problematizing current sexuality education practices and elucidating the systemic exclusion of disabled 2SLGBTQ+ students from comprehensive sex education. Through in-depth interviews with queer, disabled individuals who engaged in sex education in Ontario public schools, this project examines the failings of the education they received, the impacts this had on their lives, and how they accessed the information they needed. It further provides insights into the ways in which community plays a crucial role in the access to necessary sexual knowledge, as well as in providing a space for finding identity, safety, and joy. Building on the perspectives from the queer, disabled community, this project furthers a necessary conversation and invites other researchers, policy-makers, educators, caregivers, and community organizations to intentionally engage with this community to understand their needs as sexual individuals and strive to meet them in meaningful ways.

5. 'Danielle Smith is Mid': Albertan 2SLGBTQ+ youth surviving draconian anti-queer and anti-trans laws through humour, rage, and queer joy

JJ Wright, MacEwan University and **Gillian Robinson,** University of Alberta

The province of Alberta recently passed the most draconian anti-2SLGBTQ+ laws in Canada, and this paper highlights how Albertan queer and trans students are coping with and resisting the government's far-right agenda in schools. Recognizing the "joy deficit" in sociological research (Shuster & Westbrook, 2022), this paper shares findings from the Queer Joy! Project, which is engaging Canadian 2SLGBTQ+ students in conversations about methods of resistance to rising anti-queer and anti-trans hate inside and outside of schools. The paper elucidates findings from research

workshops that engaged Albertan 2SLGBTQ+ youth in participatory visual arts-based methodologies - specifically DIY collage and cellphilming (creating short films on phones)- to understand their struggles amidst the hostile political climate in Albertan schools. These youth described three central ways in which they were affected by and responding to rising hate: through rage, humour, and the promotion of queer joy. As affects form the basis of new cultures (Cvetkovich, 2012), we draw on feminist and queer affect theory to demonstrate how students' joy, rage, and humour were powerful instigators for social change that potentiate new, more liberatory educational institutions and worlds. To discuss the findings from the paper, we first turn to how queer and trans youth used the power of rage to channel frustration away from pain. As the youth discussed and demonstrated through their artwork, we must not shy away from rage but rather listen and learn from it and let it direct us to address injustice (Lorde, 1981). Next, we examine how these youth deployed humour about the state and themselves to render homophobic and transphobic narratives ridiculously refutable. Finally, we discuss queer joy and the ways in which 2SLGBTQ+ youth carve out space for joy - particularly with their queer friends and allies - as a method of both resisting rising hate and forging more livable futurities for themselves and their communities.

(HEA2) Racial History and Harm Reduction: how society views, understands, and envisions substance use

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

This session opens up diverse and complex discussions on how society views, understands, and envisions substance use. In a world that is colonial and driven by neoliberal markets, substance use is reduced and simplified as an individual problem that must be objectified and solved like a mathematical equation. This objectifying methodology that is framed within a western culture of rationality helps to conceal and hide the implication of structures power in the issues facing those who use drugs. Such a western and colonial modality looks at substance use through a singular and easy logic; therefore, failing to look at the issue as an intersected and compounded one. This helps individualize the issue of substance use in ways that help sanitize power structures while problematizing the individual as broken and dangerous. Issues of substance use have overtime been employed to punish and discipline marginalized communities by marking them as social deplorable and therefore creating an impression that such communities must be treated in ways that are expendable. Such treatment employs punitive rationalizing methodologies meant to mark the line between those who are citizens against drug users who are marked as aliens. This punitive idea that individualizes substance use fails to consider how structures of power are equally implicated in the issues facing those who use drugs.

Session Organizers: Rose Ann Torres, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gaming, Center of Excellence in Anishinaabe Education and Dionisio Nyaga, Algoma University

Session Chair: Claudia Chaufan, York University

Presentations:

1. Gender-Informed and Place-Based Harm Reduction Services Across Atlantic Canada.
Katharine Dunbar Winsor, **Alexandra Burman**, **Hannah Denberg**, and Melody Morton-Ninomiya, Wilfrid Laurier University

Our research investigated the implementation and challenges of harm reduction strategies, emphasizing gender-informed approaches and geographical disparities across Atlantic Canada. Despite compassionate principles aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of substance use, harm reduction strategies face significant opposition from policymakers and the public. Gender-informed harm reduction services address unique risks faced by different genders in substance use, including the differential impacts of gender roles and expectations. Tailored programs addressing mental health and experiences of violence and trauma benefit women and gender-diverse individuals. However, such services are often limited and concentrated in urban centers, leaving gaps in smaller provinces/territories and rural settings in Canada. Health and social spending reductions have exacerbated the inaccessibility of holistic harm reduction services. Time-limited support and services are a significant barrier. Programs are often time-limited and fail to address the shifting needs of individuals, especially pregnant and parenting women and gender-expansive individuals assigned female at birth (AFAB). Strong collaborations and place-based approaches are essential for equitable access to services and well-being during pregnancy and postnatally. Flexible, long-term support systems for both parent(s) and child(ren) are necessary, and reduce common fears and experiences of judgement, stigma, and child welfare involvement that deter people from seeking care. Our presentation will highlight findings and recommendations from an environmental scan study of federally-funded Canadian harm reduction projects in Atlantic Canada was conducted. Data analysis using open and focused coding revealed critical gaps in service provision and strides in regional offerings. Findings indicate a need for gender-specific services, a comprehensive continuum of care, and equitable geographic distribution of services. Addressing these gaps through tailored, informed, and inclusive strategies can enhance the effectiveness of harm reduction, improving long-term health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities across Atlantic Canada.

(ITD6b) Intersecting Identities in Media: Digital Spaces, Communities, and Discourse on Gender and Identity
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

Focusing on online communities and digital platforms, these papers analyze how moderation, community norms, and platform design shape gender discourse. They reveal the tension between seemingly empowering spaces and the exclusionary or radicalizing ideologies they can perpetuate.

Session Organizer and Chair: Elahe Nezhadhossein, University of New Brunswick
Session Co-chair: Zahra Falahatpisheh, Western University

Presentations:

1. Online Regulation in Geek and Masculine Coded Online Communities
Kyle Baanders, University of British Columbia

Integral to the nature of online communities are their moderation and regulation tendencies, both formally in terms of what content is permitted or removed by moderation tools and informally in terms of what internal content is pushed back against by community members. Of online communities, a disproportionately influential subgroup are masculine-coded geek communities formed around fandoms or online commentators - fandoms which themselves often serve as entry points for more extremist communities centred around misogyny and toxic masculinity. Much of the literature on this field focuses on these extremist spaces, leaving a gap of research on the moderate communities which serve as spaces of radicalization. My research question is thus: what drives moderation on these geek-adjacent masculine coded online communities centred around commentary content creators? This includes discrepancies in formal versus informal moderation, which subgroups moderation is directed toward, and how community members regulate themselves by discouraging or encouraging specific behaviour. A discrepancy of internal or external moderation will also be considered, or the balance between preventative internal regulation and reactionary, site-driven, intervention. I conduct an ethnography observing a small number of different forums hosted on two prominent platforms of online communities, Reddit and Discord. Prior to direct observation, searches through each communities' history were conducted. Subsequent data analysis will focus on aforementioned themes of masculinity, group identity and community and moderator interactions to understand what concerns drive explicit and implicit regulation. Analysis here is expected to reveal how the moderation of these spaces influences the displayed sense of community and shared identity, as well as how they radicalizes younger men. The significance of this research lies in that understanding the regulation of these communities can provide further insight into an under explored side of online communities, as well as provide meaningful information as to some of the mechanics of how radicalization occurs in these spaces.

2. Succubus or Demon? Discovering How Media Impacts Transgender Deviance Discourse

Mickey Doyley, King's University College

Despite living in a time where people are taught that they should not believe everything they read, they are quick to accept the discourse and normalization of false narratives toward transgender folx, regardless of the perpetuated harms. This presentation will seek to examine the impact of media on discourse surrounding transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals' existence by analyzing film, literature, academic articles, and lived individual experiences to demonstrate the implications and finally, to propose solutions. Data was collected through fieldnotes while observing media, literature analysis, and discussion of thoughts, ideas and experiences gained from a semi-structured interview. Much of transgender discourse is formed based on those in power controlling a narrative to maintain power. Understanding this power imbalance, we will delve into issues of deviance that have developed from discourse over more than a century, and how experiences of fetishization and over-sexualization of transgender bodies in horror and media have created the harmful societal views that are held today. Mythology illustrates the succubus as a demon that assumes female form to have sexual intercourse with men against their will (Merriam-Webster, 2024b), and it defines a demon as an evil spirit that acts to intentionally cause harm to others (Merriam-Webster, 2024a). We will look at the ways that media conflates the transgender experience within horror, films and literature that impact how we perceive and interact with others, historically and in contemporary contexts. This research aims to empower transgender and gender-diverse people through an understanding that academic research is being done about them, for

them, and by them. There is potential to watch as media and discourse shift, and we will discuss how we can better represent and respect transpeople in future media so it refrains from spoon-feeding misinformation that contradicts the reality surrounding the gender-diverse experience that has been ignored for decades.

3. Trad attraction: a thematic analysis of the visual and discursive practices used in tradwife recruitment

Alanna Acchione and **Zahra Falahatpisheh,** Western University

This study explores the "tradwife" trend, a movement gaining popularity on social media, particularly TikTok, where influencers promote traditional gender roles as an ideal lifestyle. Using thematic analysis, we examine how tradwife influencers attract followers by presenting an appealing, simplified lifestyle, often through aesthetics that emphasize homemaking, and clear gender roles. We analyze how tradwife content challenges or aligns with modern feminist values and how aesthetics become powerful tools to promote this lifestyle. By comparing influencers like Nara Smith, Ballerina Farm, and Estee Williams, we identified themes relating to heteronormativity, presenting submission and homemaking as paths to personal peace and self-discovery. Additionally, we compared influencers' TikTok content with discussions on the Tradwives subreddit (r/tradwives). We found four themes of presenting a lifestyle of privilege, the natural way of life, absolvement of responsibility, and a sense of community. The recruitment techniques were similar to cult movements, targeting vulnerable individuals (e.g., teenage girls), using loaded language like 'natural roles' or 'homemade', using thought-terminating cliches such as 'that's just the way it is', and in-group vs. out-group language. Interestingly, the subreddit discussions indicate inclusivity beyond biological sex and traditional gender roles, expanding traditionalism to include gender-queer identities. Influencer representations of tradwives were very similar but had diverse expressions of wealth and religiousness. Discussions on r/tradwives also express skepticism toward influencer portrayals and the traditional lifestyle itself. While TikTok tradwife influencers dominate recruitment efforts, r/tradwives maintain this community by discussing and reproducing the group's values and ideologies. This study also discusses how the tradwife community frames "freedom" through traditional roles: women are portrayed as liberated from the pressures of modern life, while men remain responsible for financial support.

4. From Empowerment to Exclusion: The Femosphere's Role in Shaping Online Feminist Discourse

Brittany Melton, Western University

The rise of the manosphere online has been well-documented in both mainstream media and academic scholarship. However, its less-explored counterpart—the "femosphere"—represents a potentially harmful space for women and girls. This presentation builds on the foundational work of Balci et al. (2024) and Kay (2021; 2024), who have defined and analyzed the femosphere as an online ecology that claims to empower women but often reproduces reactionary and exclusionary ideologies. Specifically, I examine gender discourse within women's ideological subreddits on Reddit, spaces that appear supportive yet frequently propagate transphobic and bio-essentialist narratives. The femosphere is characterized by online communities that critique liberal feminism while adopting the affective and rhetorical strategies of the manosphere (Balci et al., 2023). These spaces, such as FemaleDatingStrategy, embrace a "brutal realism" that purports to protect women

but ultimately reinforces regressive logics, including a rejection of liberationist feminism and a reliance on exclusionary gender frameworks (Kay, 2024). My research investigates why users are drawn to these subreddits and how Reddit's platform design facilitates the policing of gender expression. Through semi-structured interviews with subreddit users and moderators, I explore how the femosphere leverages Reddit's affordances—such as personalized participation and community structures—to disseminate harmful ideologies while renegotiating dominant narratives about gender identity. These findings suggest that Reddit's unique platform dynamics play a crucial role in perpetuating the paradoxical nature of the femosphere: spaces that critique misogyny while simultaneously reinforcing regressive ideologies. This presentation will share initial findings from my dissertation research, offering insights into the motivations and experiences of users within the femosphere. By analyzing user narratives, platform affordances, and the broader implications of these interactions, I aim to provide a nuanced understanding of how these communities shape embodied gender experiences. Feedback from this session will inform the development of my larger dissertation project.

(PSM4b) China and the Global South in a Multipolar World - CSA
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This is a joint session to be held between the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) and the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA). This session is hosted by the Canadian Sociological Association.This session provides an opportunity for scholars of China and the Global South, from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, to share their research and have open-ended discussions about the changing global political economy and potential new directions for future research. We also aim to reach out to reputable journals in sociology and political science to discuss the possibility of publishing a special issue based on the papers presented in our session, assuming the works are of high quality.

Session Organizers: David Chen, University of Toronto, Lynette Ong, University of Toronto, Erdem Kaya, York University, and Kristin Plys, University
Session Chair: David Chen, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Multipolarity, New State Capitalism, and Transnational Corporate Networks in the Twenty-First Century
David Chen, University of Toronto

Much of the globalization argument - as exemplified by Thomas Friedman's famous flat world thesis - about world integration, free trade, and the emergence of a transnational society beyond national borders, was established during the golden era of globalization, which lasted roughly from the 1980s to the 2008 global financial crisis. Winds have changed as the world has dived into the second and third decades of the twenty-first century. Geopolitical conflicts, resurgent nationalism, the consolidation of power blocs, and trends of anti-/de-globalization have once again dominated international politics. My study builds on the long sociological tradition of studying globalization and global capitalism through the analysis of transnational corporate networks, providing an updated account of how the emerging multipolar world - marked by the rise of China, its Belt and

Road Initiative, and the recent expansion of BRICS - have reshaped much of the US-led international order and the traditionally Western-centered global business and corporate elite networks. In doing so, I aim to make a dual contribution: incorporating a geopolitical dimension to the traditional globalization scholarship (which often viewed the territorial and capitalistic logics as oppositional), and reconceptualizing the relational methodology of social network analysis (SNA) through a political geographic and international relations (IR) lens.

2. Sinocapitalism and Dependent Development in the Global South

Erdem Kaya, York University

The US informal empire promoted neoliberal globalization in ways that advanced the interests of US/Western multinationals and subordinated the developing economies of the global South. The spatial diffusion of neoliberalism to the periphery proceeded in three partially overlapping waves, each superimposed on a particular historical-structural context that deepened the North-South divide. The first wave derailed the import-substitution industrialization (ISI) model in Latin America, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa and, while the second steered the post-communist transition economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia into the Western orbit. Finally, the third wave, mainly through the IMF's response to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, has disembedded the domestic autonomy and undermined the developmental state in East and Southeast Asia. Overall, neoliberal globalization has restored Ricardian comparative advantage, blunted industrial policy instruments and narrowed the development space across the global South, leading to premature deindustrialization and trapping them in dependency, except in a few cases in East Asia. Against this backdrop, China's state capitalism, or Sino-capitalism, has emerged as a particular form of developmental state, a source of capital and know-how for the developing world, and appears to have not only revitalized South-South cooperation but also provided an alternative to neoliberal capitalism. China's competitive manufacturing exports, foreign direct investment as well as various forms of development finance have created both challenges and opportunities for the global South. Against this background, this paper asks how the expansion of Chinese state capitalism has shaped the North-South divide and fits into the pervasive problem of dependency in the global South.

3. Renewing Dependency Theory

Adam Alimi, York University

The twenty-first century crisis of neoliberalism spawned various experiments in developmentalism. Latin America and Eastern Europe uniquely exemplify this trend in the (semi)-periphery. At the center of this revitalized development project is an implicit rejection of the Washington Consensus, namely the thesis in which comparative advantage and open market policies causes global economic convergence (between the rich and the poor nations). In that sense, the climate harkens back to the period of development theory animating the better part of the 20thcentury. Indeed, the call to renew dependency theory in academia attests to this search for alternative frameworks to explain development challenges, and be the basis for structural change. This paper engages the resurgence of dependency theory, or more accurately paradigm/ research programme. It explores the wide spectrum of institutional and Marxist approaches in their attempts to sharpen the development paradox. It reconsiders old questions of internal versus external factors in the contemporary study of global capitalism. This perspective is all the more important in the seeming horizon of crises and polarity, multi-polarity, and post-neoliberalism more generally. While the

scope of this paper is broad mapping out renewed approaches on dependency, special attention is given to more unique and negative perspectives to consider their analytical purchase in these uncertain times. Among other things, these insights help contextualize China's (alternative?) worldmaking.

4. The evolution of ideological frameworks and their role in state legitimacy in post-1989 China

Ding Wang, York University

This research examines how ideological frameworks evolved in post-1989 China, concentrating on their role in state governance, institutional logic, and the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) legitimacy. The analysis begins with Mao Zedong Thought and emphasizes how Marxism-Leninism, peasant revolutions, and the eternal class struggle have shaped the CCP's basis and tradition for political legitimacy. It then considers Deng Xiaoping's pragmatic quest for economic development through partial acceptance of capitalist tools under the socialist label, revealing how the Party adjusted to market forces while retaining Leninist structures to avoid being "peacefully evolved." Jiang Zemin's "Three Represents" broadened Party membership to include private entrepreneurs, reflecting an ideological recalibration shaped by emerging social strata. The inquiry continues with Hu Jintao's "Scientific Outlook on Development," which sought to address imbalances resulting from decades of rapid growth, focusing on social equity and sustainability. Xi Jinping's Thought signals a strengthened approach to Leninist organization, accompanied by the "Chinese Dream" that fuses nationalism with historical identity and moral renewal. The text also illustrates how the Party's discourse is marked by strategic ambiguity, ensuring that concepts like state capitalism, crony capitalism, authoritarian capitalism, populism, and pragmatism remain fluid enough to unify competing factions. Through systematic historical review and theoretical perspective, this research aims to underscore that ideology remains a key axis of governance, shaping administrative decisions and reinforcing elite authority. By blending market logic with ongoing references to Marxist-Leninist foundations, the CCP manages contradictory demands and affirms its dominance. Ultimately, these evolving doctrines demonstrate how a flexible ideological system can sustain performance legitimacy, accommodate diverse interests, and articulate a unifying national vision while preserving the Party's leading status. The Party's evolving ideology further weaves performance-based legitimacy with historical legacies, including the memory of past humiliations and struggles, to strengthen national cohesion. This ongoing ideological renewal underscores how leadership transitions and policy shifts anchor continuity across distinct eras despite possible tensions between official doctrine and on-the-ground practices. Consequently, the paper indicates that ideology remains the Party's central axis for political continuity, even as it navigates the complexities of modern governance.

(RAE4a) From Margins to the Forefront I: Black Canadian Studies Across Time and Transformation

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This session will critically examine the emergence and transformation of Black Canadian Studies, focusing on how Black scholars, activists, and communities have reshaped the field. It will begin with Dr. Afua Cooper's personal and institutional reflection on the field's evolution, detailing the founding of the Black Canadian Studies Association and advancing Black Studies as an academic

discipline in Canada. The discussion will then explore the internal dynamics of Canadian universities, highlighting how academic structures have historically limited and, more recently, expanded Black scholarship. Presenters will also address community-driven knowledge reclamation, emphasizing how grassroots movements have resisted mainstream narratives and reclaimed Black history. Presenters will also discuss community-driven knowledge reclamation and the intersection of Black and Indigenous histories, exploring coalitions that challenge colonial frameworks. Finally, the session will engage with anti-imperialism and Black radical thought, analyzing how these intellectual traditions continue to challenge colonial frameworks and shape the future of Black Studies in Canada.

Session Organizers: Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University, Sarah George, Carleton University, and Joanis Sherry, Carleton University
Session Chair: Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University

Presentations:

1. Putting Black Studies on the Front Page: The Beginning of the Black Canadian Studies Association and Its Evolution. A Personal and Institutional Journey

Afua Cooper, University of Toronto

In May 2009, at Simon Fraser University, the Black Canadian Studies Association was born. At the time, I was serving as the Ruth Wynn Chair in Women's Studies at SFU, and part of my professorship had a community engagement segment. Inspired by my research on Black history, and its future, I called, organized, and chaired a 3-day symposium on Black Canadian Studies. I invited scholars, artists, community activists, and others working in various disciplines and dimensions of Black Studies from across Canada, and the world. In total, 50 people attended the symposium. Everyone was eager and excited. We spent three days talking about Black Studies as concept and practice, and how each one of us "did" Black studies in our institutions and places of work. At the end of the three days, I proposed the formation of the Black Canadian Studies Association. The proposal was unanimously accepted. This was an important moment in the scholarly trajectory of Black Canadian Studies. I chaired the Association for the next ten years. In this period, I organized and co-organized five conferences, and two symposia. The work was hard, and sometimes a thankless task. But the Association endured with the commitment of a small band of scholars who wanted to put Black Studies on the map. In the last year of my chairship, I joined the BCSA to the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. Since 2019, when I ended my formal affiliation with the BCSA, it has grown under new leadership as a vibrant and strong association dedicated to the centering of Black Canadian studies in the academic mainstream and beyond. In the decade that I served the BCSA, I developed a memory archive of the Association. This presentation will therefore discuss the founding of the BCSA, and its evolution by looking through the lens of visual culture. Using photographs, and videos I will show how the BCSA contributed to the cementing of Black Studies in Canada, and the impact this has made on scholarship.

2. Black Canadian Studies: We Move: Pan-Africanism and Black Consciousness in Canada's Capital

Sarah George, Carleton University

There is a rich body of work about the African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) experience in Canada that should be influencing the global field of Black Studies (Hudson & Kamugisha 2014). Although

imagined as "perennial newcomers" due to high rates of contemporary migration, the Black population is also the longest standing non-white settler group (Mullings et al. 2016). A majority of African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) Canadians live in urban areas such as Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and Calgary, respectively. Notably, the national capital region is home to a fast-growing ACB population, which is now the largest racialized minority in the city and third largest in the nation. Ottawa is also home to over 50 ACB led/serving organizations, present in every social sphere that adversely impacts Black people's lives. Four overarching research questions were explored through the lenses of Black Feminism and Afro-pessimism: 1. Who are the activists and leaders, recognized by either the state or the people? 2. How do leaders understand race, racism, colonialism, and anti-Blackness? 3. Does previous experience with colonialism influence current understandings? 4. Is the concept anti-Blackness suited to articulate African Canadian experiences? Twelve in depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with ACB "leaders" who have served the Black community for the past two to twenty-five years. There are four major findings. First, Canada is an underexplored site of the BRT, especially in cities such as Ottawa and Calgary. Next, there are multiplicities of Canadian Blackness that are influenced by positionality. Third, there is a distinct rise in Pan-Africanist organizing in the region. Finally, definitions of ant-Blackness require a Pan-Africanist extension that accounts for both slavery and varying forms of imperialism on the African continent and in the diaspora (see Sexton 2010, Wilderson 2020). Centering the Black Canadian experience may present heuristics with globalized liberatory possibilities.

3. The Year of Return: Gendering diasporic relations

Océane Jasor and **Nalini Mohabir,** Concordia University

In 2019, Ghana hosted the Year of Return for descendants of the victims of human trafficking during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The Year of Return emphasized roots tourism, diaspora resettlement and reunification, as well as economic development. Similarly, there is a growing message of diasporic return in Benin, as in other West African countries, which has been articulated through various initiatives, policies, and cultural movements. We are interested in a feminist analysis of returns and encounters between the Black diaspora and those on the continent. While one wave of scholarship on the African diaspora emphasizes cultural survivals and continuities, a significant body of work offers more ambiguous explorations of ties between Africa and 'New World' Black people problematizing a relationship to Africa solely through the fixity of 'homeland' and 'origins' which tethers the diaspora to the past, obscuring an interrogation of *contemporary* and mutual African and Black diasporic realities. In this exploratory overview, we examine perspectives in the literature regarding diasporic returns and encounters, thinking alongside feminist scholar Grace Adeniyi-Ogunyankin's (2022) statement: "I think it's important to have these difficult conversations (including the distinction between anti-blackness and anti-Africanness), even as we work on linking our oppressions." Our goal is also to contribute to ongoing discussions about current Black Studies formations within the Canadian academy, including the place of Caribbean and African studies.

4. Black women scholars redefining scholarly inquiry through Black artistic expression

Stephanie Fearon, York University

The arts have long offered us, Black Canadian women, opportunities to centre our humanity and futurities. Black art is a freeing space where we share our stories, wield our agency, and dream. We leverage "the arts to help sustain who we are, as we recall and (re)member in the midst of chaos

what it means to thrive"(Love, 2019, p. 111). In Canada, Black women scholars use art to reconceptualise conventional inquiry in our own voices and realities (Escayg, 2022; Fearon, 2023; Onuora, 2015). Black art invites us, Black women researchers, to retain the parts of ourselves that dominant forms of inquiry and anti-Blackness have sought to erase. Indeed, in the afterlives of slavery, academia has long shunned creative methodologies that embody Black Canadian women's storied lives, knowledge systems, and cultural values. In the reflexive piece, *Black Women Scholars Redefining Scholarly Inquiry Through Black Artistic Expression*, I explore the ways Black Canadian women continue to centre Black art in research methodologies allowing opportunities for storytelling, story listening, and Black refusal. Specifically, in this presentation, I interrogate Black women researchers' use of Black art to address power differentials inherent in inquiry processes. Guided by Endarkened Feminist Epistemology (EFE) and a power-conscious framework, I critically reflect on an arts-informed research study I led with a group of Black Canadian mothers who are adult literacy learners. In so doing, I highlight the ways Black art supports Black women researchers, including myself, to address power differentials inherent in inquiry processes. I conclude the presentation with a series of reflective questions challenging scholars, especially Black women scholars, to redefine traditional academic boundaries and reimagine research in Black studies through the arts.

(RES2a) Radical Relationism I
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Relational Sociology Research Cluster

The word 'radical' has the same Latin root as 'radish' and refers to roots. Radical relationism 'goes to the root' in two ways: by reconceptualizing all fixed, fast-frozen "things" as consisting of or constituted by relational processes, and by using relational thinking to critique and challenge social structures in pursuit of radical social equality. Replacing dualisms of subject and object, society and nature, individual and collective with complex heterogeneous tangles of relations/processes, radical relationism explores openings and connections beyond Eurocentrism and anthropocentrism, and towards antiracism, feminism, trans liberation, decolonization, pluriversality, socialism, and other emancipatory projects.

Session Organizers: Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University and Mónica Sánchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University
Session Chair: Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. Rituals of substantive change: Vulnerability and the Relations of Eating/Eaten
Iowyth Hezel Ulthiin, Toronto Metropolitan University

The act of talking to our food—when considered a ritual of everyday intimacy— enables our encounters space for emergent inter-personhood to form through the act of eating. In drawing close the intimacies between subjects and objects, I argue that substance is maleable to symbolisation through ritual. To engage in rituals of intimacy, I argue that personhood emerges from all around, potentiated by the recognizability afforded by the regularization of the intimate. Evoked via the whisper, the space of whispering requires attendance to our agential experience. Listening with our whole bodies, whispering to objects, invokes a listening that wavers between the

recognition of self in other, and other in self, where the potential histories and interrupted futures of food become objects through ritual; by becoming abstracted, people become meat and meat people. Living in intimacy with space, land-based ways of knowing potentiate embodimed sense-making when/where time and space are one (Deloria, 2012) and where realities containing many perspectives become layered and in tension (de Castro & Skafish, 2014), the same real place taken different ways. It is at the convergence of time and space where the present opens up, where space itself potentiates compassionate awareness through our attendance to ourselves as in the world, able to perceive beyond forms, ranks, and categorizations. An ecological awareness of body-as-self draws us into interpersonal intimacy with space, necessitating a mutual recognition of other in self and self in other, that allows for a body-full negotiation within our encounters. Here, the object dissolves into process, making way for our suffering and desire, in an attentiveness turns to our vulnerabilities, especially those posed by our dependencies on food, water, air. In this way the creation of "food" is a vital matter, that shares its materiality with us. By drawing our attention to ordinary rituals of transubstantiation, deploying a somewhat heretical description of how rituals make people into food and food into people, I further develop the concept of thanatophany, as the affirmative realization of corporeality. In the knowledge that we are meat and meat is people, we face a vital truth—that *we* are alive.

2. Poison pill: A relational sociology of gendered-racialized women retail pharmacists in Ontario

Alison Starkey, University of Toronto

Pharmacists negotiate relationships between their employer who pays them, the state who licenses them, their professional body which polices them, and patients, whom they serve. The demands of converging and diverging multilevel relationalities at the nexus of state, civil society, and the influence of capitalist forces complicates legal, professional, and personal obligations for pharmacists who care for vulnerable people in clearly commercial contexts. This work will present empirical data on experiences of workplace violence (WPV) requiring the engagement of nine professional individuals' emotion practice (EP)(Cottingham, 2022). This will reveal how gendered racialized women pharmacists exercise and deploy unintentional habits and active strategies along a fluid continuum to cope with day-to-day challenges, work intensification, and WPV. Describing and interrogating the relationalities between these pharmacists, their colleagues, coworkers, patients, and customers will reveal aspects of race, gender, and class. These dimensions of experience cohere, overlap, and reverberate beyond the microlevel and expose the transnational dimensions of each. Emotions, as both separate from and alongside conceptual information, entangle and interpellate with identities and mindful bodies, acting simultaneously as locations and sources of both constraint and change, as encompassed in Barad's (2007) notion of 'dynamic specificity.' Cross-application of Gunaratnam's (2003) double-research method, working both with and against racial and ethnic categories, acknowledges historic demands and generates potential future adaptations. This approach engages with the complications of emotional engagement in a hierarchically structured and unequal world, in relational experiences occurring in the present, but informed by histories, experiences, and practices leading up to it. Through these practices, hierarchies, micro- and macrolevel processes are (re)produced, and individual and collective identities are formed. Emotions, as both signals and resources, constitute this milieu, within routinized, embodied, interconnected complexes of bodily activities and behavioural acts;

holistically considering articulations of context, social location, and interactional targets interrogates this dynamically.

3. Radical relationism and racializing bodies; the violence and trauma of coloniality and white supremacy culture.

Monica Sanchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University

This paper conceives of racialization and racism as both material and symbolic processes of power where human embodiment is entangled materially. A radical relational perspective considers the embeddedness of human bodies in racialized and symbolic exchanges. This materiality includes especially the intergenerational consequences today of the history of institutions of colonization on racialized people in terms of standards of living, health, criminalization and intergenerational trauma (Kendi 2019). However, it also considers the consequences of colonial violence and trauma in the world population, including non-racialized people (Menakem 2017). In this paper, I briefly discuss that critical race theory (CRT) shows that racialization and racism continue to be systemic problems by giving voice and focus to the lived experience of people with racialized and gendered bodies. I then briefly discuss Henrich's claims in his book *The WEIRDest people in the world; how the West became psychologically peculiar and particularly prosperous*(2020) as an example of a substantialist theory that uses big data science and affirms ongoing late capitalist oppression comparable to white supremacy culture (Okun 1997), with a determinist causal source through cultural evolution. I propose that radical relationism helps us keep firmly in mind that such world historical processes are complex and relational, require reflexivity and an embodied, situated, embedded, and storied perspective to investigate the presence of colonial trauma and the possibilities of healing. A radical relational perspective centers and illustrates the importance a bodily biology and materiality, which includes emotional involvement in approaching racialization as a process of power. Preserving embodied awareness of colonial violence in global capitalism is essential to understand the main argument of this paper: that while colonial/capitalist violence is suffered especially by those whose bodies are racialized and gendered, this violence is also suffered today by all human working bodies all over the world.

4. Compassionate care as relational praxis: Transforming suffering through relational understanding and action

Pamela Lamb, McGill University

Suffering, whether psychological, emotional, or existential, is often an isolating experience for patients that leaves them feeling alone in their suffering. This paper explores compassionate care through the lens of relational sociology, focusing on radical relationism—a framework emphasizing the transformative potential of human relationships in shaping individual experiences. Compassion, in this view, is not merely an internal emotional reaction, but an active relational force that disrupts the isolating experience of suffering. Building on relational sociology, the paper argues that suffering is a social phenomenon, shaped by interactions with others. Compassionate care becomes an intervention that can undo a patient's sense of aloneness, by offering a space for meaning-making and psycho-socio-emotional healing. Through relational understanding and action, clinicians help disrupt patients' isolating experience of suffering, transforming it into a shared relational experience. Drawing from healthcare sociology, radical relationism, and the sociology of emotions, the paper also examines how compassionate care challenges the traditional hierarchical

model of patient-clinician relationships. It proposes that the relational dynamics within compassionate care—characterized by mutuality, vulnerability, and solidarity—reshape both the patient's experience of suffering and the clinician's role. These deep connections, aligned with radical relationism's focus on transformative relationships, open avenues for the alleviation of patient suffering and enhanced clinician well-being. In conclusion, this paper contends that compassionate care, viewed through the lens of relational sociology, is a radical force that redefines both suffering and healing. Healing, it argues, is not an individual endeavor, but a relational process that restores a patient's sense of belonging, interconnectedness, and dignity.

5. Crafting mis/connections in the diaspora

Gabrielle Mundaka Riquelme, University of Windsor

Drawing on doctoral fieldwork conducted in Wallmapu known as southern Chile, amongst Chileans (the non-Mapuche) and Mapuche, Gabrielle puts forth Ontological Relation Solidarity (ORS). ORS is an embodied praxis, it refers to corporeal movements that create kinesthetic waves with non-human earth and beyond beings. Our sentience with the land-territory as diasporic peoples plays a significant role in how we learn to care for the land-territory; the land-territory where we are emplaced, our ancestral lands and/or where we are displaced from. It is not only the land-territory we live on that informs us, but it is also our diasporic and/or our ancestral lands -be that in Spain or Latin America and the Caribbean.The third component of ORS is Solidarity, this refers to mutual aid across worlds and realities.

(SOM4a) Evidence-based research on immigrant integration 1

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

This session on new research on immigrant integration offer new insights. Seeking to bring organizations back into the sociology of migration, the first paper focuses on cosmopolitan organizations that are universally accessible to local residents, while also providing settlement services for newcomers. The second paper highlights the disconnect between government policies granting immigrants privileged access to the labour market and the perceptions and practices of human resource management professionals. The third paper studies how ideological models of national identity—civic versus ethnic—affect attitudes toward immigration policy in European countries, and how non-ideological factors (self-interest) moderate the effect. The fourth paper interviews 80 Syrian and Afghanistan women and finds that Canadian immigration as well as refugee systems tend to select for newcomers who are economically but also culturally middle-class in their home countries. The final paper focuses on the dilemma of refugee governance in order to illuminate better management of the Rohingya in Bangladesh.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Session Chair: Jana Borras, York University

Presentations:

1. Cosmopolitan Organizations: A Place-based Approach to Integration

Gabrielle Abando, Frances Cabahug, and **Sean Lauer**, University of British Columbia

How do place-based cosmopolitan organizations with diverse staff and clientele contribute to unique processes of newcomer integration? Immigrant settlement and integration experiences regularly include encounters with organizations and organizational settings. Canada's government-funded settlement services are crucial to newcomers' integration experience. Many other immigrant experiences take place within intracultural organizational settings. However, non-immigrant-focused social service organizations play an equally important role in immigrant experience. Responding to recent calls to bring organizations back into the sociology of migration (Bloemraad, Choudhary & Gleeson, 2022) and community sociology (Marwell and McQuarrie 2013), this paper explores organizational practices of staff working in place-based community organizations which serve local communities. We call these organizations cosmopolitan because they are universally accessible to local residents, while also providing settlement services for newcomers. Through interviews with ten service providers across Vancouver who work in such organizations, we examine how these respondents describe their work, organizational practices, and their work with newcomers. We identify two distinct repertoires, those addressing the value of intracultural interactions and service provision, and those that address the value of intercultural interactions and service provision. We argue that cosmopolitan organizations offer unique integration opportunities by providing spaces for intracultural and intercultural exchanges and rooting these diverse relationships in their immediate neighbourhood environment. We highlight how diversifying how we define organizations can prompt new directions for organizational research in the context of immigration.

2. Labour Market Gatekeepers: HRM Hiring Professionals Defining and Excluding Immigrants

Chene Redwood, University of Calgary and **Carieta Thomas**, Carleton University

The underutilization of immigrant skills costs the Canadian economy $50 billion annually. Despite being admitted to Canada as "the best and the brightest" and holding permanent residency status, immigrants face underemployment, low wages, and poverty. While many studies address the challenges of immigrant labour market integration, they often focus on the immigrant perspective, with few examining the role of local policy actors, such as human resource management (HRM) professionals, who make and influence hiring decisions. This study explores the perspectives of HRM professionals in Alberta to understand the factors they deem most important for immigrants' employment eligibility. Using interviews and relational inequality theory, the presentation examines how HRM professionals categorically define and evaluate immigrant candidates. Findings reveal that HRM professionals often fail to distinguish immigrants from temporary migrants (temporary foreign workers and international students) when hiring. Immigrants are frequently categorized as temporary foreign workers, assumed to be without the right to work and preference in hiring. This misclassification has significant negative consequences. Markers of perceived temporary foreign worker status, such as foreign names, accents, credentials, and being racialized, trigger heightened scrutiny. HRM professionals question immigrants' legal work eligibility, language proficiency, relevant experience, and credential equivalency, framing these as administrative burdens or risks. Ironically, immigrants, as permanent residents, do not pose these legal, financial, or administrative risks attributed to them. These findings underscore a disconnect between

government policies granting immigrants privileged access to the labour market and HRM professionals' perceptions and practices.

3. Beliefs and Benefits: The Influence of National Identity Ideologies and Self-Interest on Attitudes toward Immigration Policy

Vanessa Zhu, University of Toronto

This study explored how ideological models of national identity—civic versus ethnic—affect attitudes toward immigration policy in European countries, and how non-ideological factors (self-interest) moderate the effect. Specifically, I aimed to answer three questions: (1) How do ideological models of national identity—civic versus ethnic—influence the attitudes toward immigrants and immigration policy support in European countries? (2) How does self-interest moderate the effect of the ideology of national identity on the attitudes toward immigrants? And (3) what are the roles of social contact and religion in framing such attitudes? Using data from the seventh round of the European Social Survey (ESS) with 21,116 observations in my selected sample, I conducted multiple linear regression analysis and moderation analysis. Findings showed that ethnically conservative ideology of national identity is negatively correlated with openness to immigrants from different racial/ethnic backgrounds. Social contact frequency and quality, as well as religiousness are positively related to openness to immigrants. Moderation analysis revealed that self-interest, particularly perceived immigrant utility and sense of deprivation, can moderate the effect of national identity ideology on the attitudes towards immigrants. These results suggest that immigration policy is shaped by both ideological and non-ideological factors.

4. Durable Multiculturalism Requires One Shared Axis to Build Intergroup Affinities

Sophie Xiaoyi Liu, Aryan Karimi, and Rima Wilkes, University of British Columbia

Multiculturalism scholarship conceives of the ethnoracial majority and minority relations and their group rights with national boundaries. The impact of intra- and intergroup class differences on maintaining multiculturalism requires further empirical and theoretical attention. Recently, class analyses have emerged in the Canadian context. These new debates, from a macro-level viewpoint, show the multiple ways that policymakers couple selective immigration policies with expansive multicultural integration policies to build a middle-class nation. To explore the micro-level implications of this new thesis on middle-class-nation-building, instead of economic immigrants, we rely on 80 interviews with the recently displaced Ukrainians and Afghan refugee women in Canada. We find that Canadian immigration as well as refugee systems tend to select for newcomers who are economically but also culturally middle-class in their home countries. Providing evidence for the middle-class-nation-building thesis, our data show that newcomers' origin-country middle-class habitus creates transnational affinity with Canadian middle-class habitus and, in turn, facilitates intergroup interactions in multicultural Canada. As such, on a theoretical level, we conjecture that a durable multiculturalism depends on the presence of one shared intergroup axis to create micro-level group affinities and blur differences. The shared class habitus plays such a role in Canada.

5. Refugee Governance Conundrum in Bangladesh: A Case of Myanmar's Rohingya

Ishrat Sultana, North South University

Bangladesh and Myanmar are neighboring countries. For the sake of humanity, Bangladesh temporarily admitted the Rohingya, who became victims of genocide in 2017. While the responses

of Bangladesh have been globally recognized as a symbol of humanitarianism, the governance of the Rohingya in Bangladesh has raised some crucial questions. Bangladesh provides them shelter, but it does not grant the Rohingya refugee status. In-camp rudimentary education is available for them, but the credentials are not accepted in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has failed to repatriate the Rohingya, but does not explore alternatives to manage the Rohingya better. Based on these situations, this qualitative research examines the reasons for the conundrum in Rohingya governance. Repatriation of more than one million Rohingya is now an illusion. Resettlement has been going on quite slowly, and only in the form of a token action. Reintegration of the Rohingya is a taboo topic in Bangladesh. But, the safety and security of Bangladesh - in terms of environment, economy, law and order situation-- has become a great concern. Hence, in this paper, I argue that in order to govern the Rohingya better and protect the interests of Bangladesh, Bangladesh should adopt the SWEP model. SWEP stands for Status (recognizing the Rohingya as "refugees"), Work (involving them in both formal and informal economic sectors with refugee status), Education (providing them access to mainstream education in Bangladesh as refugees), and P (developing a national refugee policy). The context of Bangladesh may not completely embrace the idea of Hyndman's (1997) refugee self-management in Africa or Kaya, Rottmann, Gökalp-Aras, and Şahin-Mencütek's (2021) border management, protection, and integration of refugees in Turkey. Yet, a critical examination of the dilemma of refugee governance may shed some light on better management of the Rohingya in Bangladesh.

(VLS3) Sociology of Military Conflict and Terrorism
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Violence and Society Research Cluster

Michael Mann's recently published comparative history On Wars was the motivation for this session. We welcome all discussions of general sociological theories about the social and economic motivations for warfare including those that support and contradict Mann's perspective. Canadian sociologists have tended to shy away from research on military power. For that reason, we also welcomed in the session all research about contemporary collective violence.

Session Organizer and Chair: Stephen H. Riggins, Memorial University

Presentations:

1. "Just Watch Me": A Biopolitical Retrospection on State Control, Terrorism Framing, and Human Rights in Quebec's FLQ Crisis
Md Nazmul Arefin, University of Alberta

Throughout history, self-determination struggle groups and separatist movements have faced different forms of proscribing and repressing strategies by the governments they challenge. Among a wide spectrum of countermeasures, 'framing terrorism' as a means of control has been a recurring practice to delegitimize these groups and movements, diminish public sympathy, and generate support for repressive state measures. The history of the FLQ movement and the October Crisis remains deeply ingrained in Canada's national identity narrative. During this period, FLQ separatists were persistently labelled as 'terrorists,' further entrenching the association between separatist movements and threats to national security. While significant research has analyzed the dynamics of the FLQ separatist movement and governmental responses, the intersection of government

power and the framing of terrorism remains underexplored. This paper examines state strategies of 'framing terrorism' and the use of force in response to the FLQ separatist movement in Quebec. Moving beyond the dominant configurations of mainstream state-centric analyses, the paper aims to present a critical biopolitical approach to understanding the Canadian government's terrorism framing strategies, state control measures, and their human rights implications. The research draws upon a diverse range of sources, including books, journal articles, human rights reports, media coverage, opinion pieces, and political interviews. By critically analyzing the political and military strategies used by Pierre Trudeau's administration, it discusses how the systemic production of the state of exception led to criminalization, othering, tribalization, banning, rightlessness, and colonial subjugation in the name of fighting terrorism.

2. The Socio-Semiotics of Conflict: Signifying Violence Beyond Agency

Gary Genosko, Ontario Tech University

In *War and Semiotics: Signs, Communication Systems, and the Preparation, Legitimization, and Commemoration of Collective Mass Violence*, editor Frank Jacob includes a chapter by Gal Hertz, "Semiotics beyond agency: Violence and meaning in the theater of war." Working with three theatrical case studies, Hertz analyzes the "crisis of signification" in each play in which "violence … [is] a response and an acting out of a semiotic impasse." The mutual imbrications of violence and language disturb signification and precipitate both an emptying of signs and a performative reconstitution of meaning. For Hertz, violence destabilizes signification, and the theatrical examples he discusses lead to a focus on what violence does, rather than symbolize or signify. Hertz concludes in pursuit of "a semiotic of performance - beyond agency." This presentation is concerned with the theoretical relationship between violence and agency, noting a conceptual shift in understanding agency in a de-individuated and de-structured sense, beyond the pre-figured individual exercising capacities, "committing violence," and expressing intentions. Whether the appeal is then to fields of affective force, distributed perception, matrices of becoming, events, process, etc., and how they influence action, neither marks a move beyond responsibility, either individual or organizational, nor a retreat into the "discourse of war" as a mechanism of rational explanation and justification of irreducible differences and exhaustive classifications. Rather, a move toward "agency without agents" resists the discourse of war's incorporative reach. Yet some recalibration of this movement exists in the form of Frantz Fanon's lessons on violence from *The Wretched of the Earth.* It may be in the decolonization struggle that the "false theory" of individualism, ego, subject, "disappear" for the sake of a collective, group subject . However, violence as Fanon admits still bathes individuals as a "cleansing force," and a "source of freedom," yet links together colonized peoples in a "great chain" of unification. The question remains: is this distribution to the common, group, mass, and people a shift toward the signification of "violence beyond agency" or "agency without agents"?

3. The Sociology of Nuclear Weapons, 2025

Metta Spencer, University of Toronto

In its annual update, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* last moved the Doomsday
Clock from 90 seconds to 89 seconds from midnight - the closest it has ever been. Why now? The global total of nuclear weapons was far greater (63,000) in the mid-1980s. After the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty was adopted in 1987, the number reduced sharply, but then arms control negotiations slowed and have stopped. The US, Russia, North Korea, and Iran are building

up their capacities. NATO retains tactical weapons in Europe for deterrence. These could be used on the battlefield if, as Putin has warned, Russia would initiate nuclear use to prevent its defeat by conventional weapons. The US is undergoing a huge modernization of its arsenal, which is especially ominous in view of the expirations and withdrawals from key treaties. The US withdrew from the Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002 and from the Iran Nuclear Agreement (JCPOA) in 2018. Russia withdrew from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019 and the Open Skies Treaty in 2020. North Korea withdrew from the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear War in 2003. India, Pakistan, and Israel never signed the NPT and do possess nuclear weapons. While China is modernizing and expanding its strategic capabilities with about 300 warheads. Like Russia, it is developing anti-satellite capabilities. In 2017 the UN adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It has been ratified by 73 countries and entered into force in 2021; however no nuclear weapons state is likely to accept the treaty's terms.

(WPO4b) Challenges, Change and Continuity at Work
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

Research relating to work, professions and occupations exploring work challenges.

Session Organizers: Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph, Tracey L. Adams, Western University, and Karen Hughes, University of Alberta

Session Chair: Cindy Sinclair, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Workplace Belonging and Burnout: Canadian Perspectives on Job Satisfaction

Peyton Twardochleb and **Vanee Kachroo,** Queens University

This paper provides an overview of Canadian workers' perceptions of workplace belonging, burnout, and job satisfaction. Using the General Social Survey Cycle 30 *On Canadians at Work and Home*, we employ ordinal logistic regressions to analyze how workplace belonging and burnout impact job satisfaction. Three hypotheses guide this study; H_1: High workplace belonging predicts significantly higher job satisfaction, controlling for burnout, and the combination of belonging and burnout; H_2: Low burnout predicts significantly higher job satisfaction, controlling for belonging and the composite impact of belonging and burnout; H_3: The combined effects of low burnout and high workplace belonging predict significantly higher job satisfaction, controlling for their independent effects. To test each hypothesis, we control for three demographic variables, respondent age, sex, and visible minority status, based on their relevance in existing literature on workplace belonging and job satisfaction. We find that when respondents feel low levels of workplace belonging and are very burnt out, job satisfaction decreases. Additionally, workplace belonging and burnout are both significant predictors of job satisfaction, with workplace belonging having the strongest effect on participants' job satisfaction. While age was a significant predictor of job satisfaction, visible minority status and sex had small and insignificant impacts on job satisfaction. Despite limitations stemming from the use of pre-existing census data, these findings provide preliminary insights into workplace wellbeing in Canada.

2. Employment Stability Trends: New Evidence Using the PSID 1981-2019 and Event History Analysis

Vesna Pajovic, McGill University

The consensus view in sociology is that attachment to employers and employment stability have declined significantly in Western economies in the decades following the 1960s. This study provides new evidence focusing on new job entrants between 1981-2019, and has several contributions to this research: a) it more accurately situates the worker within the historical years that their employment occurs, b) it is less sensitive to selection effects due to the inclusion of individuals who have spent some time unemployed or out of the labour force, and c) it assesses the influence of qualitatively distinct economic periods, including the most recent decade from the early to the late 2010s which helps evaluate employment stability trends post Great Recession. This study uses U.S. panel data from the 1981-2019 PSID on a sample of 3,882 men and 4,736 women and event history analysis, including Cox proportional hazards regression. The results provide little evidence for general declines in employment stability. Instead, we find more evidence for enduring inequality in access to stable employment by gender, education, and race. Although this study tempers the conclusion that there has been general and ongoing destabilization of employment post 1980s, it does not deny the precarity of contemporary employment nor that there has been a fundamental historical shift in employment relations and job market behaviour in the post WWII period towards lower commitment between employers and workers. Rather, it presents qualifying evidence concerning the conceptualization of time and historical period in the analysis of employment stability trends, which is discussed in relation to prior research.

3. Ranks and goals at workplace: Employees' organizational commitment in a manufacturing start-up in China

Yan Xu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

This paper has received the 2025 Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award

Organizational sociologists have advocated for the incorporation of job natures and organizational traits, along with personal characteristics, in understanding employees' organizational commitment towards firms. However, this work has overlooked variations in the meanings of organizational commitment within the same profession across ranks, and how the disparity in worker goals—occupational potentials and compensation rewards—affects their interpretation of employees' commitment to a firm. Based on participatory observation in a fledgling high-end manufacturing firm in China, this study illustrates how employees with different goals create different meanings of organizational commitment across different ranks. This study theorizes six ideal types of worker commitment based on organizational roles and workers' expectations. Top management individuals with a focus on occupation potential goal conceptualize organization commitment as an effect exertion pattern. Their roles characterized by autonomy, complexity, and challenges emphasize their appreciation for the ability to impact organizational decisions. Conversely, employees driven by a compensation-oriented goal find motivation in potential stock options, aligning them with an asset realization pattern, where their primary commitment lies in meeting investor demands. Middle managers and engineers driven by personal growth objectives,, positioned as intermediaries, are ingrained in a functional interdependence pattern, given their frequent need for collaboration with peers. Those seeking economic incentives yet operating on a relatively fixed

salary exhibit a norm identification pattern, adhering to normative rules such as work-life balance and control over work conditions. Front-line production workers, aspiring for individual development, often reveal an intentional growth pattern, characterized by proactive job rotations and close mentorship relationships, as they resist being confined to low-skilled repetitive tasks. Meanwhile, hourly-wage structures encourage production-line workers focused on financial gains to seek extended overtime hours and swift job promotions,fitting into a labor trading pattern.

4. The Cost of Steel: An Examination of Past Working Conditions at Stelco

Daniah Kolur, McMaster University

This archival research examines the past working conditions at the steel factory Stelco in Hamilton, Ontario. At the height of its reign in the 1970's, Stelco had over 25,000 employees, and its union strike in 1946 was said to have changed the face of Canadian labour forever. Despite its immense past presence within the city of Hamilton and Canadian labour overall, there has been limited formal contemporary research exploring it. Moreover, Stelco continues to have a profound impact on the city and its residents today. As a result, I have aimed to pay homage to Stelco employees and Hamiltonians as a whole. Through exploration of the Stelco fonds at McMaster University, this project has found six themes: racism, unsafe working conditions, stonings at the picket line, bureaucratic strain, company as community, and sexism, all situated within the broader context of steelmaking and industrial work overall. In analysing the data, I have utilized a grounded theory approach, seeking to make conclusions based on the archival data itself. Furthermore, I have drawn upon theoretical perspectives such as Braverman's Labour Process Theory and Conflict Theory to further situate my understandings. Ultimately, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of Stelco's complex history and its ongoing impact on Hamilton, while also shedding light on the broader social and economic contexts that have shaped the lives of industrial workers in Canada.

(ECS4) Sociology of Finance

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Economic Sociology Research Cluster

This session focuses on recent developments in the sociology of finance, both theoretical and empirical. Potential themes include: financial innovation; high-frequency trading, trends in financial regulation, themes in valuation, the performativity of economic knowledge, systemic financial risk and fragility, finance and inequalities, finance and culture, and the financialization of the economy and of everyday life.

Session Organizers: Dean Curran, University of Calgary and Zhen Wang, University of Toronto

Session Chair: Zhen Wang, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. It Quacks Like a Duck: A Comparative Analysis of How Fintech Companies and Traditional Banks Package Financial Risks in the New Era of Digital Finance

Zhen Wang, University of Toronto

The exponential growth of fintech since the 2010s coincides with increasing distrust in traditional banks after the 2008 financial crisis. The crisis exposed predatory lending, subprime securitization, and risky derivatives, revealing weaknesses in regulatory frameworks. Fintech companies have emerged as innovative alternatives, offering accessible, consumer-friendly products while avoiding the stricter regulations governing traditional banks. My research examines how fintech companies and traditional banks package and communicate financial risk differently in digital finance. It investigates fintech strategies to gain legitimacy, build trust, and encourage consumer risk-taking, contrasting these with traditional banks' pre- and post-crisis practices. By analyzing annual reports, advertisements, and app interfaces from 20 leading U.S. fintech firms and traditional banks from 2010-2023, I explore themes of empowerment, convenience, and financial inclusion while coding for risk obfuscation and trust-building. My findings reveal that fintech companies mimic traditional banks to cultivate legitimacy but differentiate themselves as disruptors. They replace "trust the expert" rhetoric with narratives positioning financial participation as tools for empowerment and inclusion, appealing to marginalized populations without financial access. Gamification in fintech apps transforms financial products into engaging experiences, masking risks through rewards and personalization while downplaying uncertainties. Digital barriers, such as AI customer service, separate consumers from those responsible for managing and investing their deposits, increasing the opacity of their financial products and risks. In contrast, traditional banks operate within stricter regulatory constraints, emphasizing transparency and using government protections like FDIC insurance to boost trust. However, both actors employ "scientific" risk management language. My research contributes to financialization studies, sociology of risk, and organizational theory, uncovering how fintech reshapes consumer relationships, redefines risk communication, and challenges regulatory frameworks in the digital age. It highlights the evolving dynamics of financialization, with new actors and tools reshaping institutions and consumer trust.

2. The 'Risk-Takers' in Contemporary Finance: Comparing Financial Risk-Taking in Toronto and New York City

Dean Curran, University of Calgary, **Andrew Bauer** and Tim Bauer, University of Waterloo

Senior executives in finance have been depicted in many cultural and academic works as *risk-takers*, who seek out and take financial risks in their position as employees. In fact, many discussions have ascribed excessive risk-taking by traders and executives in finance as a key cause of the financial crisis and as a continued source of systemic risk in finance. This paper seeks to critically examine the cultural and economic dimensions and implications of risk-taking in contemporary finance. Building on interviews with over 30 financial professionals in Toronto and New York City, this paper explores the extent to which the cultural imagery of risk-taking in finance matches the reality of the social practices of making and managing risk in contemporary finance. The second part of this paper seeks to further develop a critical analysis that 'drills down' to move beyond the cultural imagery of risk-takers in high finance by comparing the attitudes towards risk and competitive pressures in Bay Street, Toronto in contrast to Wall Street, New York City, thus suggesting that market structures, institutional expectancies, and cultural ideologies play a much more important role than existing edgework psychological interpretations of risk-takers in finance as a 'separate breed'. The paper concludes by suggesting that greater theoretical and empirical work that compares dominant cultural tropes of finance to the systemic flows of risk in finance can aid in illuminating the relations of power, inequality, and fragility associated with contemporary finance.

3. Navigating Rising Mortgage Costs: Canadian Homeowners' Strategies, Decisions, and Experiences

Addison Kornel, University of Guelph

Household expenses and debt are rising across Canada. The conversation around these rises is presently dominated by macroeconomics, leaving a gap in understanding as to the lived experience of Canadians. My proposed research will focus on mortgage costs as one facet of this issue. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) estimates that 1.2 million mortgages will renew in 2025, the vast majority of which were contracted at interest rates far below the current level. Renewing a mortgage at a higher interest rate portends budgetary adjustments to manage increased payments or the long-term prolongation of mortgage debt. My proposed research will deploy qualitative interview methods to understand how Canadians navigate this occurrence. I will conduct semi-structured interviews with Canadian homeowners to explore such topics as: the sources of support and knowledge that homeowners draw from to make financial decisions related to increasing mortgage expenses; strategies for managing such increases and who is involved in making them; and the potential impact of deploying those strategies on family and friend-circle dynamics. This research is designed to contribute to a recent qualitative turn in housing studies, currently lead by research on housing careers. Housing careers scholars, while methodologically innovative, have not given housing crises due attention. Moreover, their studies center on tenure - whether one owns or rents - having little to say about the influence of mortgage types. My proposed research centers mortgage rate adjustments to remedy this gap and will apply existing theoretical tools found in the housing careers literature to an under-analyzed current event that may prove consequential to a substantial number of Canadian homeowners.

(EDU7) Committing Social Impact in Educational Research

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

This session draws on papers that draw on empirical research that addresses the topic of social impact in education. We were interested in research that aims to 'commit social impact' including papers that draw on research partnerships between academia and community organizations or educational institutions.

Session Organizer and Chair: Maria Brisbane, University of Waterloo

Presentations:

1. Does the development of pedagogical tools through educational research lead to more egalitarian educational practices?

Xavier St-Pierre, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, **Sivane Hirsch**, Université Laval and **Corina Borri-Anadon**, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

All educational research implies a certain activism. It presupposes not only documentation of what is, but also reflection on what could or even should be. While these two intentions are often placed in opposition in educational research, for example by distinguishing so-called fundamental research from research focused on the needs of educational environments, we postulate that they are rather embedded, particularly in the reflection on the research process itself. Our field of research in Quebec, which is called - not without some debate or even discomfort with the chosen terms -

"taking into account ethnocultural, religious and linguistic diversity at school" presupposes a reflection on the aims of intercultural and inclusive education: social transformation and equity (Borri-Anadon et al., 2015). These clearly call for a change in both practices and orientations in education, and to explicit the way we conceive school and inequalities that permeate it. While school claim to respond to these inequalities by setting up a meritocratic system from compulsory training to post-secondary education, it actually tends to reify these categories of power. Our presentation aims to provide a critical reflection based on our experiences as researchers and trainers, in dialogue with theoretical writings regarding critical pedagogy and the situated nature of knowledge. Various issues encountered in this context will be addressed, including recognizing the complexity of educational situations, avoiding a priori determined and generalizable responses (Author 1, et al., forthcoming), making room for multiperspectivity in the representation of mobilized knowledge (Moisan et al., 2020) and supporting the participation of those concerned in the process of developing and disseminating tools. We will be giving particular thought to our positioning in this context. Various conditions likely to foster the development of tools with a transformative perspective will then be proposed.

2. Exploring the State of Wellbeing among School Staff Members in Alberta, Canada

Emily Milne and **Samantha Mullin**, MacEwan University, **Terry Wotherspoon**, University of Saskatchewan, **Peter Barron** and **Keith Gamblin**, St. Paul Education Regional Division

The mental health and wellbeing of students and staff has become an increasing focus of attention in schools in Canada and other nations. Wellbeing has a positive impact on health, academic performance and quality of life outcomes for both students and staff. However, staff frequently experience stress and exhaustion in their professions which have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic and subsequent developments. Recent research suggests that staff wellbeing and overall mental health have not rebounded since the pandemic, contributing to high staff turnover and a shortage of school staff. This paper discusses wellbeing challenges school staff across Alberta are feeling with strategies to improve staff wellbeing as essential to post-pandemic education recovery. It explores findings from a community-engaged participatory research project focused on identifying barriers students in K-12 education are facing in achieving their educational goals and strategies to address these barriers. Although wellbeing was not the initial focus of this study, it emerged as the key challenge faced by students and staff related to educational success. The paper draws from interviews and focus groups conducted with 108 school staff participants in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 school years across 10 school divisions in Alberta. Their accounts highlighted that staff wellbeing emerged as an unexpected theme as a barrier for staff to meet all of their students' needs. Low staff wellbeing was expressed through feelings of being overwhelmed and under-supported, impacting the experience and success of students and the functioning and success of schools and school divisions. Staff wellbeing significantly impacts the health and achievement of students, influencing school climate and staff morale and satisfaction. This paper adds to the emerging literature on this area and offers actionable strategies for the development and implementation of more effective practices and support to enhance the wellbeing of school staff members.

3. Knowledge mobilization, social innovation, multi-sectoral social work, upstream model, youth homelessness prevention

Rebecca Stroud, Carleton University; Jacqueline Sohn, York University, and Lisa Deveau, Queen's University

Research advances new ways of addressing social disparities illuminating key foci for social innovations, which utilize broad-spectrum efforts, processes, and approaches to address social challenges (e.g., Bode, et al., 2019). Effective knowledge mobilization (KMb) facilitates conceptual shifts, which in turn facilitates tangible shifts towards addressing complex social--"wicked problems". These conceptual shifts are critical to establish stakeholder motivation and confidence for enacting change in community. Youth homelessness represents a wicked problem due to its complexity, including intersectional issues interfacing with the phenomenon, the diversity of epistemological responses, and debates over definitions, which complicate access to social supports (Gaetz et al., 2024). This issue has been addressed via crisis management strategies, which can be likened to putting a Band-Aid: it may protect the wound but will not cure it or prevent future wounds. The shift toward prevention has been slow and has yet to be realized with broad scalability. Efforts have been purposeful and rare, focusing first on communities where a conceptual shift for prevention readiness work has occurred in the Canadian context. Prevention work, therefore, requires novel approaches to be realized through social innovations in a community ready for such experimentation. Community adoption of prevention-focused social innovations requires effective knowledge mobilization (KMb) to contribute to shifting diverse stakeholders' perspectives and equip them with confidence and tools to enact change. This presentation shares early findings from a study exploring the role of KMb in social innovation regarding youth homelessness prevention work. Interviews with key stakeholders (sector leaders/research 'users'; research producers) were conducted. Findings include the mapping of a timeline for the shift to prevention in one Canadian community, which has experienced outcomes to warrant the expansion of this prevention strategy. We share the details of these and provide questions yet to be probed for future social innovation work that utilizes KMb.

(FEM9) From Margin to Center: Theorizing the Unmarked and Unexamined

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

Following the lead of critical race theory, feminist scholarship, and disability theory—which reoriented some of their critiques toward deconstructing whiteness, masculinity, and 'normality,' respectively—this panel redirects our focus 'from the margins to the center' (hooks 2015). Dominant, unmarked, and unexamined categories will be the center of this panel's analysis which welcomes proposals about cisness, endosex embodiment, monogamy, heterosexuality, masculinity, whiteness, and 'normality,' among many others. This session will draw connections across fields to better understand systems of power that are often rendered invisible in everyday life.

Session Organizer and Chair: Jennifer Hites-Thomas, SUNY Oswego

Presentations:

1. Intersex or Endosex? How Medicine Constructs its Objects of Knowledge

Jennifer Hites-Thomas, SUNY Oswego

There is a long history of social scientists objectifying intersex people by gesturing to their sex variation as demonstrative of how the sex binary is socially produced (Koyama and Weasel 2002). Comparatively, limited research examines the social construction of endosex bodies, which fulfill normative expectations for binary sex as female or male. Existing scholarship explains how western medicine surgically, chemically, and discursively (re)frames the intersex body as endosex (Costello 2023; Garner 2011; Hites-Thomas 2022; Kessler 1990). However, little is known about the broader medical logics and boundary work that categorize some bodies as intersex while organizing others into the sex binary as endosex. This project investigates how medical authorities assign different sex modalities (i.e. intersex and endosex) to two patient groups with overlapping medical profiles. These two groups share the same genetic variation, similar symptoms, treatments, infertility, and variations in sex traits that do not align according to binarist cultural expectations. Despite this meaningful overlap, medical authorities attribute sex differently to these bodies; one group is categorized as endosex with a 'reproductive disorder' while the other is assigned intersex and diagnosed with a 'disorder of sex development.' Those considered intersex are often subject to nonconsensual, irreversible, medically unnecessary surgeries on their sex traits, whereas those assigned endosex are not subject to this form of medical violence. This project asks, *how are the bodies of people assigned endosex medically constructed as binary despite sharing symptoms, treatments, infertility, sex variation, and the same genetic cause as an intersex variation?How does medicine construct the border between intersex and endosex bodies, creating differential access to affirming medical care?* Comparing similar patient groups around which different discursive systems form demonstrates the medical assumptions underlying the assignment of different sex modalities, and reveals alternatives for intersex medical care beyond the interphobic violence of the "corrective surgery" model.

2. Decentering Whiteness: Black early childhood educators' resistance of anti-Blackness

Janelle Brady, Georgiana Mathurin, **Salado Abdulle**, and **Ella Ballentine,** Toronto Metropolitan University

In the Western context, such as Canada, early childhood education and care (ECEC) programs continue to perpetuate Whiteness in spaces that contribute to further marginalizing Indigenous and racialized children due to the dominance of Eurocentric knowledges (Butler et al., 2019) and colour-blind approaches (Berman et al, 2017). Whiteness disenfranchises Black and racialized children's ways of knowing and being in ECEC settings, whereby Black children are forced to learn and thrive in an educational system that was not designed for them (Neitzel, 2023). The dominance and normalization of Whiteness have been constructed through White patriarchy in ECEC (Pérez, 2019) and remains superior as the default (Butler et al., 2019; Stirling-Cameron et al., 2023). Thus, Blackness becomes unnoticed, undervalued, silenced, and invisible, while Whiteness continues to be at the forefront of ECEC policies, practices, and decision-making. White early childhood educator (ECE) voices continue to take priority over Black ECE voices regarding Black children (Pimental et al., 2023; Stirling-Cameron et al., 2023), as Black ECEs are undervalued as experts of care in ECEC (Massing, 2018). Black ECEs often need to resist dominant narratives due to pushback from colleagues and childcare centres (Massing, 2018). ECEC settings "can become a potentially powerful space of resistance and change" (Butler et al., 2019, p. 1). This presentation is part of a larger study, *Honouring Black Refusals,* which explores the lived experiences and counterstories of Black ECEs, Black Elders, and Black Mothers (Brady & Berman, in press). Based on nine semi-structured

interviews, the presenters employ Black Feminisms, Critical Race Theory, and Black Critical Theory to explore the significance of Blackness and pro-Black intersectional practices in ECEC programs. The presenters highlight the counterstories of Black ECEs as resistance to Whiteness and the need to address the dominance and normalization of Whiteness in ECEC policies, practices, and pre-service training contributing to anti-Blackness.

3. Navigating Inclusion and Exclusion: Gender, Identity, and Advocacy in Male-Dominated and Cisnormative Workplaces

Michelle Nadon Bélanger and **Elliot Fonarev,** University of Toronto

This paper explores how gender- and identity-marginalized workers navigate inclusion in traditionally exclusionary workplaces, focusing on the strategies they employ and the broader implications for equity. Drawing on two qualitative studies—one on women jazz musicians in a male-dominated industry and another on trans and nonbinary professionals in corporate and public sector organizations—we examine how marginalized workers often achieve inclusion by adapting their behaviors to align with hegemonic norms, such as hegemonic masculinity or cisnormativity. Our findings reveal that women jazz musicians adopt strategies like performing emphasized femininity or mirroring stereotypical masculinity, while trans and nonbinary professionals balance authenticity with tempered radicalism, strategically advocating for inclusion while managing visibility and stigma. In both contexts, inclusion is frequently conditional on workers reproducing, rather than challenging, dominant workplace norms, raising questions about whether inclusion initiatives truly advance equity or simply mitigate harm within unchanged systems. We argue that current approaches to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) risk perpetuating systemic inequalities if marginalized workers are valued for their ability to conform to existing power structures rather than for their distinct identities and perspectives. Drawing on theories of hegemonic masculinity, gendered organizations, and tempered radicalism, we propose a shift from inclusion as an endpoint to equity as a process that actively challenges workplace power dynamics. By integrating insights across creative and corporate workplaces, this paper contributes to sociological discussions on workplace inequality and offers practical recommendations for rethinking DEI initiatives. We call for strategies that prioritize systemic change, decouple inclusion from conformity, and center marginalized voices in ways that disrupt, rather than reinforce, hegemonic norms.

4. Men's Rights and Masculinism: Communities of Care Under Erasure and Radicalization's Soft Entrée

Luc Cousineau, Dalhousie University

Online communities provide spaces and places where (almost) anyone can find like-minded others. These spaces of digital leisure practice, belonging (Yuval-Davis, 2006), and mattering (Flett, 2018) have become essential to the ways that we build senses of self in a digital age. While the tendency as researchers is to highlight those communities that bring folks on the margins together in solidarity (Mock et al., 2013), digital leisure communities perform in the same ways for dominant, unmarked, and under-examined categories of people; especially men's rights and other masculinist groups. In these groups, while they are engaged with acts of misogyny and supremacist discourses, some men meet the fundamental need "for meaningful social connection, to be part of a group, and to belong," as well as to heal the "modern alienation" that many people feel in an increasingly isolated world (Glover & Sharpe, 2020, p. 1, 4-5). More than simple gatherings, when these groups

for men mark themselves into positions of disadvantage, formed around a perceived alienation from the mainstream, their online communities become spaces of belonging and where they believe they can act together to create change. This formation and community concept creates what Southern (2007) describes as a *community of care*. This paper establishes these groups as communities of care, but where this care exists under Derridian erasure (care). In this conceptualization, the communities are simultaneously locations of group identity, safe support, and solidarity in experience, while also being locations of problematic social undercurrents, denigration of men who choose other ways of being, and anti-feminist misogyny. This makes them important avenues for recruitment into ideologies of exclusion and violence, but through cultures of leisure inclusion and belonging - a soft entrée into masculinism. This masculinism is the creation of a minoritized and marked other derived from a dominant identity.

(GAS1) Theorizing Sexuality and the State
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

This invited panel examines the ways in which the state has produced and regulated sexuality and how sexuality produces the state. Panelists will consider the relationship between the state and sexuality, including what assumptions lie behind ideas of sexuality, and how bodies are linked to the state through prevailing logics of sexuality. Presentations will consider the relationship between sexuality and capitalism, religion, and nation, and how the relationship between the state and sexuality is raced and gendered.

Session Organizer and Chair: Melanie Heath, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Sexual Governance and the Politics of Belonging: Muslim Parents, Media Discourses, and the Canadian State
Fauzia Husain and **Christina Pilgrim,** Queen's University

Sex education has emerged as a key battleground for contests over state authority, parental rights, and Canadian cultural values. While provincial governments dictate curriculum and school policy, media discourse plays a central role in shaping national debates, constructing moral boundaries, and defining who belongs within the Canadian nation. Muslim parents frequently appear in these discussions as complex and ambivalent figures: at times portrayed as resistant to progressive values, and at other times as strategic targets for right-wing groups who, despite their Islamophobic views, seek to secure Muslim votes by appealing to conservative stances on sexuality and public schooling. In both framings, Muslims are positioned as critical to governance—simultaneously depicted as threats to state efforts to promote secular, inclusive values and as political resources to be mobilized in broader struggles over national identity. Drawing on an analysis of major Canadian newspaper coverage, this paper examines how media narratives construct Muslims as subjects of sexual governance, revealing the racialized and politicized ways in which sexuality is used to regulate belonging in Canada.

2. Creating Queer Subjects: Human Rights and the Adjudication of LGBTI Asylum Claims
Anna Korteweg, University of Toronto

Those seeking asylum are increasingly interpreted not as rights-seeking persons under the 1951 Refugee Convention but as duplicitous subjects, who try to use narratives of persecution to gain access to wealthy countries that are otherwise closed to them (Gill and Good 2019). Nation-states in the global north have moved towards a system of refugee adjudication that centers a believable narrative and performance of membership in a persecuted group. Thus, refugee determination policies not only regulate but also constitute subjects. Using the Dutch case as an illustration, this chapter shows how queer performativity is managed in the interface between state actors who adjudicate asylum claims and activists assisting refugee claimants. The resulting processes of queer subject formation reflect the persistence of Arendt's (1968) claim that human rights, or the rights associated with innate personhood, can only become meaningful within the confines of the state. Applying Puar's (2018; 2013) concept of homonationalism, or the mobilization of gay rights to demonstrate legitimacy for exclusionary state projects, shows that those state-bound rights are always partial and to some extend fragile.

3. Surveilled Desires: Disability, Sexuality, and the State's Watchful Eye

Alan Martino, University of Calgary

How do social structures shape disabled people's sexualities, and what role does the state play in surveilling and restricting those desires? Drawing on Barbara Risman's multi-level analytical framework—which examines societal phenomena at the individual, interactional, and institutional levels—this presentation posits that disability itself functions as a social structure. By moving beyond the notion of disability as merely a physical or mental condition, we can uncover the complex and often oppressive ways it is socially constructed and maintained. At the individual level, ableist norms and internalized stigma shape how disabled people perceive their own sexuality. Interactionally, social expectations about "appropriate" desire limit possibilities for intimacy and sexual expression, imposing rigid standards on relationships involving disabled individuals. At the institutional level, policies ranging from guardianship regulations to funding for care facilities systematically constrain the sexual rights and freedoms of disabled people, reinforcing an environment of oversight and control. By applying Risman's multi-level model to disability, this talk will illuminate how the state's regulatory practices—from medical gatekeeping to legal restrictions—uphold a broader ableist system that curtails the sexual autonomy of disabled people. Ultimately, recognizing disability as a social structure not only reveals how these mechanisms interlock to surveil and regulate disabled sexualities but also opens pathways to resist, reimagine, and reclaim a more radical understanding of desire and embodiment for all.

4. State Monogamy: How the State Relies on Monogamy to Define Itself

Melanie Heath, McMaster University

Understanding how the state regulates sexuality and how sexuality shapes the state has been key to the study of state control and definition (Puri 2016). Little attention, however, has been paid to how state apparatuses treat monogamy as central to sexual regulation. Drawing on theories of the state and sexuality, this presentation considers how monogamy dovetails with colonial and racial histories in state boundary work in creating what I call the monogamous state. In its grid of intelligibility that connects colonial understandings of perverse sexuality to polygamy, state definition relies on moral and productive monogamy as central to its project. I examine the case of France, which offers a compelling example of a country with a colonial legacy that has long sought

to repudiate and/or regulate polygynous populations in former colonies and in the metropole. France demonized the racialized, polygynous Other as part of its civilizing mission to make monogamy central to citizenship and public order.

(HEA1) Community-engaged research for social impact: Addressing health inequities and community wellbeing
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

This session foregrounds the dynamic research program of the CERC Health Equity and Community Wellbeing (CERC HECW) at Toronto Metropolitan University. The CERC HECW aims to not only understand and reduce health disparities that are inextricable from their social contexts, but to embed community knowledge into health-care institutions, systems and models of delivery. The program aims for a paradigm shift - one that challenges a siloed, expert-driven approach to health and wellbeing and moves instead towards a community-engaged, preventative model of wellbeing. Foregrounding our interdisciplinary team's approach to community-engaged research through partnered projects, presenters will speak concretely about a selection of their current projects, and how they have sought to commit themselves to rigorous research for social impact.

Session Organizer and Chairs: Danielle Landry and Karen Soldatic, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. Diverse Disability Identities: Gender and Sexuality, Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Indigeneity
Danielle Landry, Toronto Metropolitan University

A major critique of disability studies paradigms is that they have failed to fully consider and centralize the diversity of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally. It is mostly assumed within theory, research and policy that disability is a homogenous category and little attention is paid to how disability intersects with other social identities, such as Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, religion, class, sexuality and gender diversity. Disabled people are too often perceived as exclusively or primarily disabled. This way of thinking has major consequences for disabled people's opportunities to live equal lives and to participate fully in society. This applies no less in cases where disabled people face marginalization and discrimination on several grounds. In the planning and implementation of measures to ensure the engagement, rights and inclusion of disabled people, it is necessary to consider all dimensions of their identities. This paper draws upon a series of in-depth interviews with Canadian and Norwegian disabled people who also identify across a multiplicity of identities - Indigenous, ethnic and racial minorities, sexual and gender diversity. Applying an intersectional analysis, the research seeks to understand the experiences of disabled people as complex persons informed by multiple realities, social identities, and lived experiences across two distinct national landscapes, yet with similar indicators of equality and wellbeing across international frameworks including the Human Development Index and the OECD. This comparative analysis highlights some significant differences between the participants indicative of longstanding practices of settler colonialism in Canada versus the politics of Norwegianization. Importantly, a key distinction is that within the Canadian context, disability intersectionalities can be conceptualised within interlocking forms of oppression whereas within the Norwegian context, disability is de-

emphasised and participants propel their other markers of diversity as an agential force to defy the socio-political constraints imposed upon disabled people.

2. Exploring the Impacts of Arts Participation on Healthy Ageing

Temba Middelmann, Independent Researcher; Flavia Novais, Toronto Metropolitan University

Older adults in Canada face a range of inter-related health issues, many of which were worsened by the pandemic, exacerbating patterns of isolation and loneliness along with chronic illnesses, disability, and other factors. As recognition of the links between arts, healing and wellbeing grows, it is important to deepen our understanding of these links and develop stronger evidentiary bases for the different ways and levels at which arts participation and engagement can promote individual and community health. This project is based on a partnership between the CERC Health Equity and Community Wellbeing (CERC-HECW) and Rexdale Community Health Centre (RCHC) in north Etobicoke, who are working with the Franklin Carmichael Art Group (FCAG) under RCHC's Ethno Cultural Seniors Program. Funded by a New Horizons for Seniors Grant, FCAG is offering a series of art classes to RCHC's older adult clients, aiming to reduce social isolation for 'at risk' seniors, especially those who are vulnerable, racialized, newcomer, minority and those living with disabilities. These are important social factors in determining individual and community health. A key goal is helping increase social participation and inclusion for local seniors to strengthen the community and support healthy ageing. Ultimately, the research questions ask whether facilitating access to participation in the arts can be part of shifts towards preventative, holistic, community-based healthcare? The research aims at collaborative, iterative learning amongst the art class participants, community health partners, researchers and art teachers to explore the conditions that allow art to facilitate and/or hinder processes of community building and healthy living. Utilizing focus groups with participants, observations of classes, and interviews with staff from the senior's program at Rexdale CHC and from FCAG, the research explores how different factors interact to produce health and wellbeing outcomes in the process of coming together to learn about and create art.

3. AI Powered Technology-facilitated Violence

Enas Altarawneh and Deeksha Chandola, Toronto Metropolitan University

Technology-facilitated violence (TFV), encompassing cyberbullying, threats, exploitation, and cyberstalking, is an escalating global issue, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, particularly disabled women. These individuals face unique challenges, including ableism, social isolation, and limited digital literacy, which make them more susceptible to online harm. Additionally, the use of shared devices with caregivers complicates the detection and prevention of TFV, rendering current technologies inadequate. This study aims to develop an innovative AI system utilizing Contextual AI to detect and address TFV targeting disabled women. By incorporating interdisciplinary expertise, we will model context-sensitive AI solutions that enhance reporting mechanisms and empower disabled women to seek help without fear of retaliation. The project focuses on four main objectives: (1) Context Modeling and Interdisciplinary Collaboration to create disability-inclusive AI designs, (2) Dataset Development to establish a comprehensive, diverse dataset reflecting the experiences of disabled women, (3) AI Model Development and Evaluation, applying advanced algorithms like Graph Neural Networks and Large Language Models to detect TFV, and (4) Pilot User Interface Study to assess the AI's effectiveness in real-world settings. This

research will contribute to gender-disability justice, creating safer technological environments and improving support systems for disabled women in Canada.

4. Tracking Pathways Through Education and Employment: A Longitudinal Study to Advance Health Equity for Equity-Deserving Youth in Canada

Mikyung Lee, Michelle Forde, Lee Hodge, and Karen Soldatic, Toronto Metropolitan University

Post-secondary education is a critical determinant of economic competitiveness, labour market success, and financial stability, all of which significantly impact lifelong health and wellbeing. However, systemic discrimination and structural barriers, such as institutional racism and transphobia within educational systems, hinder underrepresented youth from accessing and succeeding in higher education. This is particularly the case for youth who experience multiple layers of oppression within the Canadian context, such as disabled Black youth. Recognizing the intricate connection between education, employment, and health among underrepresented youth including Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, disabled, Two-Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary, and/or Other Gender Diverse youth, this research aims to understand factors that impede or facilitate successful transitions into and through post-secondary education and labour market, and how these transitions affect their health. Taking a mixed-method intersectional approach and a community-engaged partnership model, the research will collaborate with organizations representing these groups to collect comprehensive longitudinal quantitative data along with qualitative data on each underrepresented group. This approach will capture nuanced insights into students' experiences and wellbeing as they navigate critical educational and career milestones. The longitudinal nature of the data will illuminate specific and evolving barriers each group faces which will allow us to pinpoint when and where they need the most support. The findings will inform policymakers with recommendations for progressive policy changes tailored to the unique needs of underrepresented youth at critical transition points that are necessary to facilitate lifelong socioeconomic mobility, and health and wellbeing.

(HEA9d) Sociology of Health: Global Research

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

This session features presentations on research with a global perspective.

Session Organizer: Claudia Chaufan, York University
Session Chair: Shreyashi Ganguly, York University

Presentations:

1. Does Social Capital Matter for Subjective Well-being in the Least Developed Country Context? Using A Novel Dynamic Pseudo-Panel Approach

Kelemu Fenta Gebeyehu, Yuying Tong, and Lei Jin, Chinese University of Hong Kong

While it is well noted that the different forms of social capital are vital socioeconomic and cultural resources that people in the least developed countries use to influence their psychosocial well-being, the existing piecemeal local studies have yet to uncover such realities. Notably, the dynamic effects of subjective well-being and social capital were not the focus of the previous studies. Therefore, this study examined the effect of the diverse forms of social capital on the perceived and

experienced well-being in the least developed country of Ethiopia. We adopted the recent novel method of dynamic pseudo-panel approach using the World Gallup Poll data collected from Ethiopian households between 2013 and 2020. We used gender and year of birth to construct 26 age groups and 208 pseudo-panel observations. Then, the synthetic panel data was used to examine the dynamic effects, which were estimated using Arellano and Bond's generalized method of moments (GMM) estimator. We ran several models to check the robustness of our findings using critical statistical tests of GMM and ordinary least squares (OLS) estimation. The study supplemented the open theoretical hypothesis that the various elements of social capital have a statistically significant effect on perceived and experienced well-being. Interestingly, the study also uncovered that the different aspects of social capital have differential effects on perceived and experienced well-being. Finally, it was discovered that past life satisfaction and past experienced emotions were significant predictors of subjective well-being between 2013 and 2020. In other words, the current perception of life satisfaction and emotional experiences are significantly associated with past satisfaction and experiences. Beyond confirming the typical hypothesis that social capital is a significant predictor of subjective well-being, it uncovered the dynamic effect of previous experiences on subjective well-being. The pseudo-panel approach provided a new avenue to assess the dynamics of social issues, which was impossible through a single cross-sectional data set. It also transformed the readily available cross-sectional data into a meaningful pseudo-panel dataset that links micro and aggregate-level issues. The dynamic perspective could enable policymakers to understand the dynamics of well-being and social capital to develop targeted interventions.

2. Impact of COVID-19 on Education and Health: Bangladesh Perspective

Abdullah Abusayed Khan, Khulna University

The COVID-19 pandemic has a significant impact on health, education, economic and psycho-social behavior and aftermath. It is an ever-negative factor that disrupts social functionality and setback both lives and livelihood opportunities. This study explores the adjustments followed by the community in Dhaka, Cumilla, Khulna and Mymensingh to the 'new normal situation' analyzed through a sequential mixed-method design. The study observations suggest that people has the will to adjust and cope with the new normal situation. The poor have easy access to relief and supports from wealthy neighborhoods. However, the effect of COVID-19 for middle-class community is a double-edged sword most of whom has deprived of their regular jobs, and their perceived societal dignity restricts them of availing livelihood supports from wealthy neighbors. COVID-19 has a very short-run, short-run, mid-run, and long-run effect on the country's health, education, and economy. The study shows that 56% of respondents' routine life is affected by COVID-19; 51% have mental depression; 63% suffer from anxiety, and 34% of the respondent's livelihood has changed significantly. The McNemar test in the study also showed a significant difference in the income among the respondents who lost their work during a pandemic and those who did not lose their work. A significant difference in respondents' mental health whose income was reduced during the pandemic is also evident. The impact of COVID-19 on primary, secondary, and tertiary educational systems (both formal and informal educational systems) is enormous as study showed. This warrants application of effective measures maintaining national and international linkages that would reduce impulsive tension to resettle in the new normal situation.

(ITD6c) Intersecting Identities in Media: Cultural Narratives, Representation, and Identity in Popular Media
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

These presentations examine how identities, norms, and power relations are negotiated in gaming, film, and pop culture. From adolescent roleplaying on social media to big-budget action tropes and holiday movies, each study highlights the ways media narratives reinforce or challenge dominant ideologies.

Session Organizer and Chair: Elahe Nezhadhossein, University of New Brunswick
Session Co-chair: Kathleen Rose, University of Windsor

Presentations:

1. Choose Your Character: Exploring Adolescent Female Roleplaying and Identity Building on Instagram

Zakirah Allain, **Destiny Hopkins**, and **Abigail Waldman,** York University

In the early to mid-2010s, adolescent members of fictional media fandoms created Instagram accounts to adopt alternate reality personalities based on popular media and cultures of the time. These personalities, often of a different race or class than the fan, were canon characters or original characters (OCs) adapted from predetermined narratives of fictional universes. Often, these characters, mainly white and heterosexual, were played by young girls of different ages and races. Through roleplaying or OC creation, users were able to modulate their identity to fit social norms and could escape into fantastical or fictional worlds where race and class were non-existent or socially desirable, while sexuality was a status quo. These female communities shared similar practices as they navigated their interests and identities in typically male-oriented spaces. By accessing an online community, many young women placed themselves in the roles of their favourite characters, often changing their race or class and 'playing' with other fans, allowing young girls to act as the mystical "other" as a way of either conforming to or deviating from societal expectations. While these fandoms have dwindled in popularity, these practices have continued and changed for contemporary female fans. This research evaluates how our selected digital personas help us understand our identity and representation as we move through and display ourselves in the real world. We use Tajfel and Turner's (1978) Social Identity Theory to explore the concept of identity. Through a literature review and case study of popular fandoms, we analyze digital roleplaying, its digital affordances on Instagram, and its intersections between race, class and identity by questioning how it reinforced and challenged social norms by providing an anonymous space for users to test out a chosen identity.

2. It's All Fun and Games: Gender and Body Positivity in Gaming

Kathleen Rose, University of Windsor
This paper has received the 2025 Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award (Honourable Mention).

Video games comprise a large proportion of media consumption for youth. They tell our youth what is normal (Compton, 2019), with implications for intersectional identities (gender expression, self-esteem, body-image, sexuality, and racial identity (Crenshaw, 1991; Gray, 2012)). Identity formation

in youth is influenced by media consumption, with gender stereotyping happening early in the development of self (Klimmt et al., 2009; Gerwin, 2020). Positive female representations in games and opportunities for diverse expression are scant. The Body Positive influence on gaming design is slowly changing the diversity of representation in some modern games but is it resulting in real-life body positivity for the players? In creating and manipulating an avatar in a game, how is gender performed? This online world does have the capacity to provide a space for diversity of self-representation and expression (Schelfout, 2019): media images allow people to represent and challenge ideologies, and to reflect or oppose existing dominant ideologies and stereotypes (Murray, 2018 Cote & Mejeur, 2022) because games are not isolated from politics, gender and power (Brathwaite, 2014; Murray, 2018). It is through this lens of power and diversity that I will examine participants' reflections on gender expression and self-image. With the framework of Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis, I will conduct interviews with 5-7 female-identifying long-term gamers, using open-ended questions and object elicitation (an image of their avatar). I hope to examine how gender and sexuality operate in the gaming world, how they affect female players and their body identities online and in real life. Of special interest is how body positivity and gender performance relate.

3. Rewriting Heroes and Villains: Quantitative Analysis of Representation and Narrative Outcomes in 40 Years of Action Films

Alex Miltsov, **Trevor Coulombe**, and **Markayza Mitchell,** Bishop's University and **Geneviève Harvey**, Université de Montréal

As globally influential cultural products, films shape societal values and worldviews by reflecting dominant norms while influencing public perceptions and beliefs. Action films, the most profitable and widely consumed genre, play a particularly significant role in shaping cultural narratives. While historically perpetuating stereotypes—such as male-dominated roles and underrepresentation of non-white characters—recent trends indicate a growing effort to diversify representation and challenge traditional tropes. This paper is based on a large-scale, quantitative analysis of 820 top-grossing action and thriller films released over the past 40 years. The project examines trends in character representation and their narrative outcomes. The paper focuses on two key questions: What factors determine the narrative outcomes for main characters, including protagonists and antagonists? Who resolves the antagonist's arc, and how do their identity factors—such as gender, race/ethnicity, age, and occupation—shape these resolutions? By exploring the intersections of identity and narrative resolution, this research seeks to uncover long-term patterns of representation and underrepresentation in action film genres. It contributes to media sociology by applying a novel quantitative approach to a traditionally qualitative field of inquiry. It bridges a critical gap in understanding the evolution of representation in action film narratives and offers insights into the cultural significance of these changes over time.

(PSM1a) Political Sociology and Social Movements I: Dynamics of Activism

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social MovementsResearch Cluster

This session brings together several papers about the dynamics of social movements and protests. They focus on a wide range of issues such as the role of music, cultural symbols, and collective

trauma, and movement strategies responding to institutional responses. These papers present empirical cases from Kenya, Bangladesh, and Canada and examine structural and cultural factors shaping Gen-Z movement, Pro-Palestinian student movements, and diaspora mobilization.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University
Session Chair: Rex C Wang, York University

Presentations:

1. Sounds of the 2024 Kenya Gen-Z Protests

Devon Wright, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Through a qualitative content analysis of publicly available, but anonymized, social media postings by Tik Tok, Instagram, and X users, this research analyzes how Kenyan activists used music as a means of mobilization during the country's anti-tax demonstrations. Emerging shortly after publication of the proposed Finance Bill on May 9, 2024, and culminating on June 25th, its most deadly day, with 39 fatalities as tallied by Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya experienced a nation-wide conflagration of youth-driven protests aimed at pressuring its government to reform society. Like movements across the globe in the Information Age, Kenya's Gen-Z activists mobilized through social media but particularly framed their grievances, gave meaning to, and organized their demonstrations through reposted musical content. I, therefore, rely on social movement frame theory and frame analysis to conduct a systematic time-series analysis organized according to various protest hashtags including #RejectFinanceBill2024, #Rutomustgo, #Totalshutdown, #OccupyStateHouse, #OccupyParliament, #JusticeForRex; and the related claims of police abductions of civilians hashtags, including: #FreeShad, #FreeOguda, #FreeJaprado, #FreeFranje, #FreekasmuelMcoure, #Freeharriet, #Freeosama (DFRLab. 2024). Research questions guiding this analysis include the following: How were protestors using songs to frame their grievances against the government? For songs predating the Gen-Z generation, how had their usage been reinterpreted to frame social conditions in 2024 Kenya? Which songs, if any, seemed to have had a measurable impact on driving up participation and on changing tactics? How were songs used alongside imagery featured in the content of social media posts to frame an issue worthy of activism? In this research, I found that music came to define and reflect core protest concerns far beyond immediate anger at the Finance Bill, including ostentatious displays of corruption by politicians, massive youth unemployment, unsustainable cost of living, and government-sanctioned violence against the civilian population.

2. Graffiti and the Youth Subculture in Bangladesh: Secular and Religious Expressions in the July Uprising of 2024

Abdul Wohab, North South University and **Fariha Nowrin,** Canadian University of Bangladesh

The July 2024 student-led uprising brought hope and opportunities to thousands of youths in Bangladesh, rebuilding the socio-political landscape so the country would be free from corruption and an undemocratic political system. The process of the uprising ultimately allowed them to show their frustration and anger through graffiti and street art. The forms of expression, however, depict criticism in social media platforms and public domains that the popular youth subculture attempts to shape Bangladesh in a way where reflections of a secular Bangladesh are gradually failing. The reference the social media platform mainly uses, for example, graffiti and street art, does not reflect

secular content or images but somewhat religious content, particularly from Islamic perspectives. This article attempts to bring this debate to the forefront by content analysis of graffiti and street art collected (720 graffiti) from eight divisional cities in Bangladesh. The findings reveal that youth in Rajshahi (a division on the northern side of Bangladesh far from the capital city) are more open to hybrid expressions of faith. In contrast, Rangpur's (north side of Bangladesh) graffiti prominently showcases Islamic calligraphy. In comparison, artwork from other divisions (Dhaka, Khulna, Chattogram, Mymensingh, Sylhet, and Barishal) focuses on political and social reform, promoting a nationalist perspective without bias toward any specific religion, reflecting a vision for a new popular subculture within Bangladeshi society.

3. Strategies, Repertoires, and Institutional Responses: A Comparative Post-Mortem of Canadian Pro-Palestinian Encampments

Charlotte Gaudreau-Majeau, Zitian Sun, and Taisto Witt**,** McGill University

Transnational solidarity movements for Palestine have a long history, but the events of October 7, 2023 catalyzed one of the largest recent transnational movements for peace and national liberation. Students, activists, and human rights agencies, particularly in advanced capitalist democracies, mobilized through existing repertoires such as flash-mobs, protests, occupations, and direct actions. Within universities, campus encampments emerged as a privileged repertoire of collective action, spreading quickly through the United States to Canada. Yet their various outcomes, from mass arrests at Columbia University to a seventy-four-day stalemate at McGill University, pose a classical sociological question: What are the determinants of social movement political success? Within the literature, student movements occupy a distinctive analytical perspective in examining outcomes of contentions. Classical approaches identify biographical availability, geographic distributions, organizational networks, and interpersonal ties as factors shaping the emergence of student mobilizations (McAdam, 1988; Morris, 1981; Zhao 1998). Recent studies generally adhere to these orientations by explaining the context and dynamics of student activism (e.g., Berrey et al. 2024; Drago 2021), but few research attempts to assess their substantive results. In general, social movement political outcomes are typically explained through three primary dimensions: resources and organizational forms, framing and tactics, and political opportunity structures—yet findings remain limited by a scarcity of comparative research (Amenta et al., 2010). Our research addresses this gap by examining the dynamics of student encampments for Palestine in Canada. With approximately 23% of Canadian universities experiencing actual or attempted encampments—all raising similar demands for transparency and divestment—this case offers an ideal comparative framework. Using a mixed-method approach, we mapped mobilizations, created a dataset of 26 encampments capturing key variables like duration, tactics, and outcomes, and selected cases for in-depth comparative analysis. Through process-tracing, we aim to illuminate the complex mechanisms driving success or failure in contemporary pro-Palestinian student activism.

4. Mobilizing Collective Trauma: How the PS752 Victims' Families Association Transformed Grief into Collective Resistance

Ahmadreza Mohammadpouryazdi, and Marc Lafrance Concordia University

This paper has received the 2025 Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award

The downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 on January 8, 2020, by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was a catastrophic event that claimed 176+1 (one unborn baby) lives, predominantly affecting the Iranian-Canadian diaspora, where 57 of the victims were identified as Canadians. This tragedy, compounded by state denial and conflicting narratives, catalyzed the transformation of collective grief into organized socio-political activism, spearheaded by the Association of Families of Flight PS752 Victims. This study examines the Association's dual role as a meta-organizer and meta-mobilizer, exploring its impact through sociological, anthropological, and political frameworks. The paper highlights how the Association utilized rituals, public memorials, and strategic advocacy to channel grief into collective resilience, fostering unity within the diaspora. Drawing on theories of cultural trauma, it demonstrates how these practices facilitated the transformation of individual loss into a collective identity rooted in justice and accountability. The Association's work exemplifies the sociological concept of mobilizing structures, as it organized mass protests, lobbied for policy changes—such as the designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organization—and influenced Canadian and international policy. Initially, the focus was on seeking justice for the victims of the PS752 tragedy. The Mahsa uprising in 2022 further spurred the diaspora into extensive political activities. This dual response underscores the diaspora's ability to engage effectively in both legal and political advocacy, showcasing their vital influence in shaping socio-political discourse and actions in response to traumatic events. This aligns with Castells' theory of networked social movements, illustrating how diasporic communities can mobilize emotions like grief into sustained collective action. Anthropologically, the Association acted as a cultural broker, translating global human rights discourses into locally meaningful actions. Through rituals of mourning, such as vigils and memorials, it created spaces for collective expression and resistance, reinforcing the emotional and symbolic dimensions of the movement. Politically, the Association served as an intermediary between grassroots activism and formal institutions, leveraging political opportunities to amplify its cause. By framing the tragedy as a systemic failure and human rights violation, it constructed a powerful counter-narrative that challenged the Iranian government's explanations and galvanized transnational advocacy. This framing process, informed by Snow and Benford's theories, resonated with broader audiences, fostering cross-cultural alliances and enhancing the diaspora's visibility. The Association's efforts also align with Tarrow's concept of political opportunity structures, as it capitalized on shifts in public opinion and international support to advance its goals. Furthermore, the Association embedded the tragedy into the diaspora's cultural memory, ensuring the long-term salience of Flight PS752 as a unifying symbol of justice and resistance. Through public discourse, documentation, and advocacy, it transformed trauma into a mobilizing cultural memory, sustaining engagement across generations. The Association's dual role as a meta-organizer and meta-mobilizer underscores its ability to coordinate resources and strategies while fostering solidarity and emotional energy within the movement. In conclusion, the Association's work highlights the transformative potential of diaspora organizations to navigate the intersections of grief, identity, and advocacy. By creating solidarity, driving systemic change, and leveraging transnational networks, the Association exemplifies the power of diasporic communities in reshaping narratives and influencing global justice. This case study offers valuable insights into the dynamics of social movements, demonstrating how collective trauma can be harnessed to challenge systemic injustices and foster resilience.

(RES2b) Radical Relationism II
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Relational Sociology Research Cluster

The word 'radical' has the same Latin root as 'radish' and refers to roots. Radical relationism 'goes to the root' in two ways: by reconceptualizing all fixed, fast-frozen "things" as consisting of or constituted by relational processes, and by using relational thinking to critique and challenge social structures in pursuit of radical social equality. Replacing dualisms of subject and object, society and nature, individual and collective with complex heterogeneous tangles of relations/processes, radical relationism explores openings and connections beyond Eurocentrism and anthropocentrism, and towards antiracism, feminism, trans liberation, decolonization, pluriversality, socialism, and other emancipatory projects.

Session Organizers: Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University and Mónica Sánchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University
Session Chair: Mónica Sánchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University

Presentations:

1. Habermas's Muffled Critique of Capitalism: Its Relational Core and Contradictions
Zoltán Lakatos, Budapest University of Technology and Economics

While Jürgen Habermas's roots in and contribution to relational currents of thought are recognized, he hardly comes to mind as a radical(ly) relationist thinker. This has to do with what many assume to be a shift away from the critique of capitalism in his early work to a defense of Western liberal order at the turn of the last century. Over the last decades, this evolution has been the focus of debates, with both critics and "Habermasians" often taking for granted that it stems from a change in perspective. Undeniably, Habermas's trajectory includes sensibilities (e.g., Eurocentrism), standalone works, even periods and especially public positions that lend themselves to such an interpretation; still, the relational affinities of his body of work are so profound as to justify the label "radical". Specifically, a radical relationist framework is evident in at least four areas of study: the public sphere, communicative action, discourse ethics, and political legitimation. Underpinning them is the pragmatist insight that truth is processual rather than fix and delineated — in Dewey and Bentley's word: knowns are know*ings*, engagement with practical problems. Regarding human collectives, this presupposes non-coercive communication and its corollary, rational-critical publicity — domains that the systemic imperatives of capitalism seek to compromise. The refeudalization of the public sphere, with its focus on entertainment, celebrities, scandals and reliance on hidden perlocutionary goals serves these imperatives. Crucially, all of Habermas's related predictions — economic and legitimation crises, ecological emergency, the disturbance of anthropological balance — have been borne out. Less discussed but equally significant is his account of what other scholars have termed the "hidden developmental state", namely, capitalism's reliance on government intervention in key areas of the economy, including technological innovation and the financial sector in order to persist.

2. Radical Relational Antifasicm
Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University; Melody Devries, Allegheny College

Radical relationism unites an uncompromisingly relational onto-epistemology with an open commitment to systemic egalitarian social transformation. Radical relationists explore the sociopolitical openings revealed when we reconceptualize what has been treated as fixed substance or essences as processual relations instead. This paper brings that approach to antifascist praxis. In contrast with realist approaches that define fascism as a form of false consciousness, we take an irrealist approach that treats experiential realities, like those of the fascist adherent, as constituted by local and contingent configurations of practical relations involving humans, non-humans, and historical social forces. In doing so, we are able to examine how far-right worlds are constituted and made compelling to supporters out of ingredients made available from liberal society. A radical relationalist anti-fascism also contrasts with individualist approaches that define fascist 'beliefs' as a static set of propositional commitments held in people's minds. Instead, we treat fascism as a shifting assemblage of ideas, structures of feeling, practices, and relationships that people can become part of or have a part in, even without having far-right ideological intent. By theorizing the key features of a radical relationalist antifascism, we search for the moments wherein the processes that strengthen the fascist assemblage might be disrupted. The goal of this disruption, however, is not to restore a liberal-capitalist status quo, but to redirect such energies of world-formation towards an egalitarian and emancipatory socialism.

3. On Intra-becoming: Relational Pathways for Transformative Change

Rebeccah Nelems, Athabasca University

The 'relational turn' can be credited to a multitude of the intersecting, pluralistic anti-oppression and justice traditions, and growing awareness of our inter-connectedness has caused many to question the legitimacy of mainstream individualist logics. However, the transition towards relational ways of being at the societal level remains elusive; Historically rooted in and reproduced through individualist and colonial logics, dominant political, economic, and social systems across Turtle Island do not foster relationality. Indeed, Anishinaabe legal scholar Aaron Mills contends that individualist logics actively thwart and antagonize relational ways of being. In times of hyperindividualism and intensifying polarizations, it is more urgent than ever to consider the proposition that another world is not just possible, it is actual already. James Tully argues that relational practices and ways of being are often at play - even where they may not be encountered or experienced as such amidst the multiple, intersecting crises of disconnect at the level of self, society, and earth. In this paper, I first explore the Tully Wheel, and James Tully's five civic actions for freedom, to consider relational practices (including those we might imagine or are currently engaged in) and pathways by which to enact transformative social change. I then introduce a Tree Canopies theoretical framework that weaves together lessons from the ecology of tree canopies with wisdoms drawn from Indigenous theory, phenomenology, (com)post-humanist theory and critical race theory, to theorize about our relational world through the concept of *intra-becoming*. My understanding of relationality (and complex relationalities as explored by Gina Starblanket), is guided by Indigenous and Indigenous feminist theoretical traditions, due to their rootedness in thousands of years of lived relationality with the land, as enacted through lifeways, knowledge, ontology, governance and legal systems. Through the tree canopies framework and the concept of intra-becoming, I strive to spark both relational imagination and experience (and simultaneously disrupt individualist logics and experience) in ways that might contribute ultimately to transformative social change towards greater relationality.

4. Dialectics and Utopia: A Place for Idealism in Radical Intersectional Struggle

Salmaan Khan, Toronto Metropolitan University

Marx celebrated the relational dimensions of the dialectic as its most radical feature. Yet in utilizing the relational dialectic as inherited from Hegel, Marx likewise sought to afford his philosophical system rational and objective validity. It was a validity and epistemic authority built not on the objectivity of the empiricists, which relied on the compartmentalization of reality into a collection of identifiable 'things' and distinct objects, but one premised on a philosophy of history and an evolutionary pattern of human development. If consciousness was rooted in its corresponding relations, it was only through the progressive development of those relations that one could suggest the progressing development of consciousness; of the distinction of lesser from higher truths; lesser from higher civilizations; and truer from more limited assessments of reality. This paper seeks to explore the question of what a relational and dialectic critique and assessment of existing social relations can look like without utilizing, as did Marx and Hegel, an otherwise stadial and Eurocentric account of human historical development. Does this necessitate an abandonment of the mantle of rational validity? And if so, is there wisdom to be drawn from historical and contemporary movements for social change which may otherwise be categorized as idealistic or utopian, as distinguished from the more scientific programs offered through the lineages of Marx and Engels? How does letting go of the mantle of science change our perceptions of what both Hegel and Marx emphasized as the value of the concrete vs. the abstract? These questions, informed by epistemic as well as political concerns, are imperative at a time when racialized, gendered, colonial and imperialist conditions of capitalism continue to demonstrate the archaic and chaotic, as opposed to rational and objective, character of our existing modes of production.

(SOM4b) Evidence-based research on immigrant integration 2

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Migration Research Cluster

This second session on migrant integration covers interrelated topics but also breaks new ground with respect to methodologies, foci and conclusions. Papers examine the effects of income and friendships in local regions on life satisfaction varies across Canadian regions; demonstrate how 40 middle class Mexican migrants in 4 Ontario cities differ in forms of civic engagement and citizenship identities'; uncovers the integration and dietary experiences of international students studying at small-to-mid size universities in Ontario; analyse differences in moving decisions between South Asian immigrant/immigrant offspring compared to other ethno-racial groups (i.e. Chinese and Whites) and compares the characteristics explaining the moving decision and its impact. The session concludes with a focus on the participation of immigrants and ethnic minorities in various types of neighbourly help exchanges taking place across Canada.

Session Organizers: Lisa Kaida, McMaster University, Monica Boyd, University of Toronto, and Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Emmanuel Kyeremeh, Toronto Metropolitan University

Presentations:

1. Regional Variations in Life Satisfaction: Exploring Immigrants Conditions In Canada

Grace Kim and Yoko Yoshida, Western University

Previous research on immigrant integration demonstrates that economic success and the social ties that immigrants develop have a significant impact on life satisfaction (Balassa, 1991; Becker, 2022; Houle and Schellenberg, 2010). While much of the existing literature primarily focuses on immigrant experiences in urban centers (Zhuang & Lok, 2023; Radford, 2007), it often overlooks regional differences in opportunities for economic success and the development of social ties. To the extent that their opportunities vary across regions, their impact on life satisfaction is also likely to differ. This study examines the association between economic and social outcomes among immigrants in Canada, using data from the 2020 Canadian General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 35. Specifically, we investigate how regional context moderates the effects of income and local friendships on life satisfaction. We assess these moderation effects using OLS regression models with interaction terms between regions, income groups, and friendships. Preliminary findings suggest substantial moderation effects for both economic and social measures. Higher income does not have a linear positive effect on life satisfaction in smaller regions, while income in regions with large urban centres shows no strong effect on life satisfaction relative to rural areas. For social ties, the effect on life satisfaction was monotonically positive in urban regions, whereas in rural regions, the relationship was curvilinear—suggesting that having more close friends does not necessarily lead to higher life satisfaction beyond a certain point. While these findings highlight distinct dynamics, they signal the need for future investigation. We offer several possible interpretations to guide future research.

2. Mexican middle-class migration in Canada: Immigrant integration and civic engagement

Omar Lujan, Trent University

The objective of this presentation is to contribute to the migration literature by providing empirical evidence of how immigrant social and cultural integration underscores a mutuality constitutive process of civic engagement and citizenship identity formation. Migrant literature has identified civic engagement as form of immigrant integration. In the context of migration, the development of civic practices become increasingly multidimensional as migrants are exposed to national narratives, socio-cultural values, and political discourses from immigrant receiving countries, potentially expanding immigrant's awareness of citizenship rights and civic responsibilities to a more multinational and plural-cultural milieu. Immigrants' civic practices develop in an ever-changing context of social and cultural intersectionalities where opportunities for civic engagement and personal growth are linked with immigrants' diverse socio-economic circumstances and capabilities. In this presentation, I will provide a comprehensive picture of how different forms of civic engagement and citizenship identities develop in the context of Mexican middle-class migration in Canada. This presentation is based semi-structured interviews conducted with forty Mexican immigrants in Toronto, Ottawa, London, and Waterloo in Ontario. The qualitative data presented was part of a doctoral thesis successfully defended in 2017 in the Toronto Metropolitan University's PhD in Policy Studies program. This presentation will shed light on how the research participants developed different forms of civic identity and civic practices conducive to their social and cultural integration: (1) Cosmopolitan Civic Identity, Mexican Canadian Civic Identity, Latin-American Civic Identity, and a Pluricultural Transnational Civic Identity. This presentation will

conclude by arguing for an immigrant centric approach to the study of immigrant integration, inspired by the philosophy of Jose Ortega y Gasset, and informed by the research findings.

3. Food for Thought: Uncovering the Factors Influencing International Students' Dietary Patterns and Health at Ontario Universities

Abbigail Stronach and Eugena Kwon, Trent University

International students are an integral part of Canada's social, educational, and economic landscape. In fact, in 2018, international students provided a $21.6 billion increase to Canada's gross domestic product (Firang & Mensah, 2022). However, despite their obvious importance to the country, previous research suggests that this group often endures difficult acculturation experiences while in the country, including dietary acculturation. Dietary acculturation describes the undertaking of a change in diet that aligns with the normative dietary behaviours of the host country, and it often occurs due to the stress of immigrating and integrating into a new cultural environment (Lesser et al., 2014; Sanou et al., 2014). Considering this, this research study aims uncover the integration and dietary experiences of international students studying at small-to-mid size universities in Ontario, specifically those studying in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and Peterborough Area. The objective of this study is to understand how international students' integration experiences (such as their financial situation, access to transportation, availability to access culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, and other structural factors) might influence their dietary patterns and lifestyle choices while studying relative to their geographical location. Through a mixed-method approach, our study aims to address the following research questions: What are the factors and trends impacting the dietary acculturation processes of international students studying at universities across Ontario? How do the dietary patterns of international students studying at universities in small-to-mid size cities differ from those studying in larger cities in the GTHA? With the data collected from 146 quantitative online survey responses and 15 semi-structured qualitative interviews, we draw on theoretical insights from Cockerham's health lifestyle theory to uncover the ways in which structured circumstances and individual choices construct the lifestyle - and subsequent health - of international students (Cockerham, 2013). Factors including time constraints, access to culturally appropriate foods, and financial flexibility were considered key themes identified from the data, all of which point to the structural factors potentially impeding the practice of a healthy lifestyle. Importantly, access to culturally appropriate foods appeared to be dependent on city size. However, a number of themes regarding the agency of international students also emerged, including the act of connecting with other students to reduce the likelihood of experiencing acculturative stress and searching for healthy lifestyle tips online, sharing the cost of groceries and meals with others, and participating in healthy eating patterns to mitigate illness or disease. There is little literature discussing the implications of acculturation pertaining to international students' ability to engage in healthy lifestyle choices. As such, our findings may inform policy and programming recommendations that can be implemented by universities to ease international students' acculturative processes.

4. Neighbours Helping Neighbours: A Look at Canada's Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities

Fernando Mata, University of Ottawa

Exchanging help with neighbours strengthens social networks and contributes to a higher level of social cohesion in the communities of residence. Neighbourly exchanges of help are vital for

individuals in terms of fostering densely knit connections, mutual awareness of problems and ease in the delivery of required aid. The General Social Surveys (GSSs) of 2013 and 2020 offer researchers an excellent opportunity to study the neighbourly help exchange phenomenon in Canada. Using a pooled sample drawn from these surveys, this paper focuses on the participation of immigrants and ethnic minorities in various types of neighbourly help exchanges taking place across the country. The pooled GSS sample used for the study totalled approximately 59 thousand individuals (43% drawn from GSS 2013 and 57% from GSS 2020). A four-fold typology of help exchanges was constructed for analytical purposes consisting of four of possible exchanges: no exchanges, receive only, give only and both give and received help (type 4 or bidirectional). Participation rates in the various types of help exchanges were examined for the Canadian-born and foreign-born reporting several ethnic origins and visible minority markers. Although bi-directional types of help exchanges were found the most prevalent pattern in the Canadian population, their rates appear to have considerably diminished between the 2013 and 2020 observation points. Pandemic environment conditions affecting respondents to the later survey (lockdowns) may have partly influenced these results. Overall, groups such as recent immigrants as well as visible minority individuals reporting South East Asian, Chinese, Filipino, Latin American diversity markers displayed the lowest propensities to participate in any type of help exchanges with their neighbours at both periods (Type 1). Multivariate analyses using linear probability models with selected covariates related to demographic, socio-economic status, social capital, residential and place-related characteristics revealed that age, as well as other immigrant and diversity markers, played significant roles in explaining non-directional and bidirectional help exchanges with neighbours.

(VLS7b) Violence as a Cultural Process: Culture, Intervention and Prevention
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Violence and Society Research Cluster

How do people construct the meanings they attach to violence? A large portion of sociological literature studying violence and culture has looked at the institutional end of this question - from media representations of violence to national narratives of trauma. On the other end, symbolic interactionists and behavioural scientists have looked at how people participate in and enact violence. But how do individuals make sense of experiences and develop ideas about violence? This session aims to advance sociological theories, methods, and empirical explorations of how people come to see various experiences as violent - whether lived, observed or distant.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia, Marie Laperrière, University of Manitoba, and Hannah Scott, Ontario Tech University

Session Chair: Robert Nonomura, Western University
Presentations:

1. Intimate Partner Violence

Nazia Malik, Government College University Faisalabad, Pakistan

Violence is a complex phenomenon, and understanding violence against women is more complex, especially when it's happened between two spouses and intimate relationships are considered private matters, which increases its complexity to a severe level. The objective of this systematic review is to identify the consequences and determinants of intimate partner violence and how IPV

affects the , mental, and physical health of women as found in scientific literature reviews. At the searching stage, 53 research articles were identified by using key terms and combinations through differentdatabases and search engines such as Google Scholar, Science Direct, Web of Science, Taylor & Francis.The criteria for the included studies were: (1) published articles; (2) published in "W" and "Y" category research journals recognized by HEC; (3) fully accessed articles; and (4) research articles published inEnglish. At the final stage, 12 studies were included in the systematic review. The findings of the included studies revealed that socio-cultural determinants such as education, wealth index, rural urban residence, ethnicity, type of marriage, conflicts with in-laws, social support, lack of control over decision-making, women's asset ownership, and health effects were associated with IPV with increased and decreased prevalence. The finding summed up that IPV influenced women's health even after its end; it may have an effect on the mental, social, psychological, and physical health of women who experienced IPV as compared to non abusive women.

2. Patterns of Ambulatory Care Utilization Following Intimate Partner Violence: A Cohort Study

Gabriel John Dusing, York University, MAP Center for Urban Health Solutions, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St Michael's Hospital; Chungah Kim, York University, Beverley Essue, University of Toronto, Patricia O'Campo, University of Toronto, and Nicholas Metheny, Emory University

The negative physical and mental health effects of intimate partner violence (IPV) are well established. However, the societal costs of IPV, particularly its impact on healthcare systems, remain underexplored. This study critically examines the long-term healthcare burden of IPV by analyzing patterns of ambulatory care utilization among women in Toronto, Canada. We used baseline data from the population-representative Neighborhood Effects on Health and Wellbeing (NEHW) study (2009-2011), individually linked via OHIP number to the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) database for the proceeding decade (2009-2020). IPV exposure was categorized as no IPV, non-physical IPV alone, or both physical and non-physical IPV. Participants' presentation to ambulatory care were calculated using negative binomial regression, accounting for sociodemographic and health-related covariates. Women exposed to physical and non-physical IPV had significantly higher incidence rates (IR) of overall ambulatory care utilization per 100,000 person-years (IR: 145.16; 95% CI: 111.69-178.64) compared to women reporting no IPV (IR: 98.74; 95% CI: 88.93-108.56). Utilization was particularly elevated for less-urgent presentations (IR: 47.94; 95% CI: 32.75-63.13) and walk-in visits (IR: 146.43; 95% CI: 114.09-178.77). Screening for IPV in healthcare settings remains a critical first step in the complex road to recovery for survivors. However, once IPV is detected, its downstream societal effects, particularly on the healthcare system, are already in motion. Addressing IPV requires a broader focus on societal and cultural change, including challenging patriarchal norms that normalize violence and fostering healthier relationship dynamics. Considerable financial and social resources can likely be saved by shifting resources from reactive biomedical approaches to holistic prevention of violence.

3. Socio-ecological determinants of intimate partner violence among Nigeria-based Canadians: A comparative analysis

Ismail Nasirudeen, University of Alberta

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a critical global public health concern that disproportionately affects women, with significant variations across cultural and geographical contexts. This study argues that IPV is more prevalent in the Global South (such as Nigeria) compared to the Global North (such as Canada) due to differing socio-ecological determinants. In Nigeria, cultural and societal norms often normalize or justify IPV, while socio-economic instability, weak legal protections, and entrenched patriarchal values create an environment where IPV is widespread, underreported, and exacerbates women's vulnerabilities. Conversely, Canada's stronger legal frameworks, accessible support systems, and public awareness initiatives contribute to a societal environment that discourages IPV. Despite the growing scholarship on IPV, gaps remain in understanding the nuanced socio-ecological determinants that drive IPV in different cultural contexts. Specifically, there is limited knowledge about how the experiences and perceptions of IPV shift when people transition from Global South to Global North. This study explores the socio-ecological determinants of IPV through the perceptions of Nigerians residing in Canada, aiming to address gaps in understanding how migration influences experiences and perceptions of IPV. Utilizing qualitative semi-structured interviews, the study examines participants' reflections on IPV in both Nigerian and Canadian contexts. Preliminary findings reveal that socio-economic instability, lawlessness, and patriarchal norms intensify IPV in Nigeria, whereas structural differences in Canada reduce its prevalence. Participants reported that transitioning to Canada shifts IPV determinants from ecological pressures to individual and relational factors. This study provides valuable insights into the socio-ecological determinants that shape IPV across cultural settings and underscores the importance of addressing root causes in Nigeria while supporting immigrant communities in Canada. By highlighting the socio-ecological determinants that perpetuate IPV, the study hopes to contribute to human rights initiatives and global public health strategies by offering actionable recommendations for policymakers, social workers, and public health practitioners to combat IPV effectively.

(WPO4d) Professional Work: Complexities and Contradictions
Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

Research relating to the complexities experienced in professional work.

Session Organizers: Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph, Tracey L. Adams, Western University, and Karen Hughes, University of Alberta
Session Chair: Natalie Adamyk, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Managing Professional Ignorance Through Everyday Clinical Interactions

Michael Slinger, University of Ottawa

This paper has received the 2025 Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award

Mental health and psychotherapy are complex forms of professional knowledge and work that create opportunities for ignorance that can undermine and/or strength professional authority. While mental illness is defined through the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, the concept of "mental health" is not codified and remains poorly understood. The practice of psychotherapy is

likewise opaque, with practitioners predominately identifying as "eclectic"—i.e., using an idiosyncratic combination of psychotherapeutic techniques. Using a grounded theory approach, I conducted 15 in-depth, semi-structured interviews with clinical psychologists and general practitioner psychotherapists, examining how participants manage and produce ignorance in their day-to-day clinical work. There are two principal strategies practitioners use to manage ignorance in psychotherapy, both centered around managing perceptions of treatment efficacy. First is the *downplay-achieve* strategy. Discrepancies between promised therapeutic goals and actual outcomes can be a serious threat to practitioners' professional authority. Practitioners use different enactments of mental health to encourage patients to set downplayed, "realistic" goals that can be achieved. The second interactional ignorance management strategy is the *three-legged stool*. Practitioners can appear ignorant if the techniques they use fail to conform to patients' expectations of what therapy should look like. Practitioners must balance three potentially conflicting demands: the therapy the patient wants, the therapy the practitioner wants, and the therapy the research recommends. In sum, practitioners are deeply concerned with ignorance, needing to convince patients of their professional competency within everyday patient-practitioner interactions, shifting the focus of research on ignorance management from public discourse to practice. Managing ignorance around both mental health and psychotherapy is central to constructing perceptions of treatment effectiveness, thereby managing patients' trust in both the profession and the practice. The supposed complexity of mental health and psychotherapy can thus be used by practitioners to keep patients enmeshed in medical frameworks and under the practitioner's supervision.

2. Fostering Cultural Competence in Medical Education: Evaluating the Impact of 'The Art of Intercultural Education - Beyond Boundaries

Cindy Sinclair, **Dayana Davoudi, Amanvir Virdi**, and Thineesha Gnaneswaran, University of Toronto

Equipping medical students with the skills needed to serve multicultural communities is necessary to bridge the gap between healthcare and sociology. Integrating a structured and experiential curriculum on cultural competence within medical education ensures the development of cultural competence from early on, fostering a more just and inclusive healthcare system. This focus on cultural competence should be complemented by evidence-based methodologies that address systemic inequities and unconscious biases in healthcare delivery. The Art of Intercultural Education - Beyond Boundaries program is a six-week interdisciplinary program that offers first-year medical students at U of T the opportunity to explore and understand the diverse cultures, ethnicities, and lifestyles within local communities in Toronto. The program integrates both theoretical and practical components, ensuring students critically reflect on lived experiences and their implications for healthcare practice. Students will engage in hands-on experiences within unfamiliar or underrepresented communities to learn about health beyond the textbook clinical medicine taught in the classroom. This program uses an integrated, multimodal approach that combines informal conversations, storytelling, community exploration, journaling, and analysis of self-directed community experiences with a social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion lens. Active mentorship from community leaders and professionals will be included to enhance contextual learning. At the end of the project, students will have the opportunity to present their experiences in a modality of their choice, such as case studies, oral presentations, or multimedia portfolios. The program will be evaluated with comprehensive pre- and post-assessments to gauge knowledge and attitude shifts.

Quantitative measures, such as validated cultural competence scales, will be combined with qualitative analysis of student reflections. Group and individual projects will also be evaluated based on cultural sensitivity, the depth of critical thinking, and practical relevance to healthcare challenges

3. No Ladder to Climb: The Silent Struggles of Career Stagnation on Schoolteachers in Bangladesh

Ishrat Zakia Sultana and Iffat Jahan, North South University, Bangladesh; Tauhid Hossain Khan, Jagannath University, Bangladesh, and Ellen MacEachen, University of Waterloo

The teaching profession is pivotal in shaping the future of a nation, yet schoolteachers in Bangladesh face limited or no opportunities for promotion and career advancement, which significantly impacts their health, well-being, and professional satisfaction. In the case of primary and high school teaching alike, around 99% of teachers commence their teaching career as assistant teachers and remain in the same position during retirement, though their yearly increment is a lump sum amount. This qualitative study explores these impacts through six focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in three administrative divisions: Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet. These discussions included approximately 50 primary and high school teachers representing diverse groups, including male and female teachers from government and private schools in both rural and urban areas. Additionally, 17 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with stakeholders across the education system, including education administrators, union leaders, and members of school management committees. Thematic analysis of the verbatim-transcribed interviews revealed that while government secondary school teachers have limited promotion opportunities, most private and semi-government schoolteachers lack any career advancement pathways. Similarly, regardless of whether they work in government or private institutions, primary school teachers face a complete absence of promotion prospects. These experiences result in frustration, demotivation, and diminished self-esteem among teachers. Interestingly, respondents viewed the issue primarily through the lens of social status and dignity rather than financial hardship. This study highlights the urgent need for policy interventions to establish equitable and transparent promotion pathways and address systemic challenges in the teaching profession. Improving career advancement opportunities could enhance teachers' well-being, professional satisfaction, and overall productivity, contributing to the quality of education in Bangladesh. These findings underscore the critical importance of addressing teachers' concerns to foster a motivated and respected teaching workforce, which is essential for national development.

4. Hitting the Limit: What ruptures in practice can teach about discourses of competency and care

Marisa Barnhart, Trent University, York University

What makes a limit? What makes a rupture? What sense can we make of stopping?
Deploying autoethnography, which uses personal narrative in concert with the ethnographic wide gaze (Ellis, 2003; Chang, 2008), I explore narratives of rupture, of departure, and limit in social work practice, using the entry point of my own departure from social work practice. In 2020, like most people, I was navigating the challenges of pandemic conditions, working in a hospital setting with survivors of interpersonal violence, layered with significant care responsibilities, including multiple and complex personal engagements with medical systems. In the midst of all this, I experienced the loss of a dear friend to suicide. While before his death I had resisted carceral logics in which liberal

responses to distress and suicide are embedded, in my grief, I could not continue to navigate these tensions actively in practice. More specifically, I worried that my therapeutic approach to sit with people in crisis would be overridden by the urge to call emergency services. Using field notes, journals, and constructed vignettes from the period just preceding and after my departure from work, as well as letters to my friend after his death, I explore the story of my departure from practice, knowing I hit the limit, how I knew, and how I came to know what I could not hold. In the context of other narratives of stopping, rupture, and "quit lit," pervasive and validated during the (ongoing) pandemic, I examine the unique structures that made it possible to stop, and the ways that these shaped my ability to mitigate the harm of hitting the limit and my subsequent departure, and make sense of the harm of continuing. Finally, using discourse and narrative analysis in tandem (Liveholts & Tamboukou, 2015), I examine this practice rupture to explore what is possible to see about the narratives of competency and care, which constituted the topic of my dissertation work prior to 2020.

From Palestine to Turtle Island: Food as a Weapon of Colonialism and a Tool of Liberation: Part Two

Wednesday, 04 June 2025 @ 4:15pm

This two-part keynote panel directly addresses these issues by bringing together a panel of Palestinian, Indigenous Canadian, and allied scholars and practitioners to reflect on issues of settler colonialism, imperialism and structural injustice. The speakers will delve into the historical and contemporary realities in the Indigenous territories of Palestine and Canada as a lens to understand the function and evolution of settler colonial capitalism in relation to land and food systems. By exploring how capitalist strategies of accumulation and dispossession operate across settler colonial space and time, the panels will consider pathways and strategies for reviving, repairing, and sustaining life and justice for colonized peoples within diverse colonial contexts. The concept of food sovereignty goes well beyond peoples' right to food to address issues of power and control of food systems. Through food, the speakers will explore the necessity of working together across geographies and the intersection of struggles for self-determination, land rights, and cultural survival in Palestine and Canada.

Featuring Ahmed Abu Shaban, Fathi Nimer, Shayma Nader, Shady Hafez, Moayyad Bsharat, and Danya Nadar.

This session is sponsored with the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID) in collaboration with the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

(EDU1a) Sociology of Education: Ethical Teaching and Learning I

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

Neoliberalism as an ideology focuses on market rationality to reduce life into a commodity that can be sold in the marketplace. This form of coding life for profits has continued to define how people's daily lives are organized and managed. In the words of Michel Foucault, life under capitalism must

be ordered in ways meant to train and control the masses in ways that are scientific and led by truth. Truth becomes the hallmark of governing the population. This kind of government must decide who moves and who must be removed to allow the continuous process of existence of some at the expense of others. This form of biopolitical control must be rethought more so in the age of neoliberalism. This session therefore reconceptualizes leadership under the current neoliberal governmentality, where true leadership is given credence since it's assumed to be scientific and truth-driven. Such leadership is given prominence under neoliberal capitalism such that its end is to enhance surplus value. We find this kind of leadership in most transnational corporations, where everything must be gauged under terms such as efficiency, transparency, effectiveness, and accountability. This session pays attention to these neoliberal concepts that help define true leadership to start asking other questions of whether we can equally have other concepts that are situated in people's lived experiences and values, and that would help reimagine leadership in strange ways.

Session Organizers: Rose Ann Torres, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gaming, Center of Excellence in Anishinaabe Education and Dionisio Nyaga, Algoma University

Session Chair: Annie Luk, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. The influence of racialized women's intersectional identities on their entrepreneurship education experience

Besma Soltan, Trent University

This research discusses the intersection of gender equality, economic prosperity, and decolonial approaches - or lack of - in contributing to the unique experiences of oppression and privilege for racialized women pursuing entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurship supports provided in academic and non-academic learning spaces continue to be employed to foster employment possibilities in addition to entrepreneurial attitudes, knowledge, and skills for learners as a response to unstable precarious work influenced by disruptive technology and continuous economic fluctuations. However, the frameworks utilized in entrepreneurship education adopt a "one-size-fits-all" approach, ignoring the racial diversity of learners accessing entrepreneurship supports that reach 69% in certain regions. Entrepreneurship education focuses on the development of skills and attitudes through identifying and pursuing opportunities that maximize profits while managing risk. This paradigm concentrates on the economic benefits of venture creation that affirm capitalist approaches and expand capitalistic behaviors, fostering the development of identities that align with the needs of capitalism, overlooking alternative perspectives as lacking and "othered". These traditional approaches to entrepreneurship education have been critiqued as extensions of colonial techniques, emphasizing individualism, and measuring success by the level of wealth while assimilating into the dominant system without disrupting the status quo and the existing power imbalances. It overlooks communal work towards an inclusive form of entrepreneurship, encouraging individual gain over community values and benefits. This research examines the dominant approach and perspectives in entrepreneurship education and its perpetuation of systemic barriers and marginalization. It scrutinizes the performative actions of equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives that focus on representation rather than transformation, highlighting social entrepreneurship as a growing field that provides renewed approaches to these issues. Critical pedagogy and intersectionality are utilized as a theoretical framework, along with an

intersectional qualitative approach as a methodology to construct emancipatory entrepreneurship education approaches.

2. A Voice Not Heard: Hidden Barriers to Academic Engagement of Undergraduate Students at University of Tehran, Iran

Padideh Paridari, Islamic Azad University

In higher education, student voices are often overlooked or disregarded, regardless of the governance model—centralized or decentralized. This lack of student involvement in institutional planning and decision-making negatively impacts the quality of education, curriculum development, teaching effectiveness, resource allocation, and employability initiatives. Understanding how to better integrate student voices into these processes is crucial for improving academic engagement and overall institutional outcomes. While previous research highlights low levels of student engagement, this study aims to explore the underlying barriers to academic involvement from the students' perspectives. Specifically, it examines how students' idealized perceptions of university life—often viewed as a utopian environment—contrast with the realities they face, uncovering the factors that hinder their full academic engagement. This qualitative study employs grounded theory methodology, using Strauss and Corbin's constant comparative method and a paradigmatic model for data analysis. Data were gathered from 13 semi-structured interviews, each lasting 40 to 60 minutes. Initially, purposive sampling was used, evolving into theoretical sampling as data collection progressed. Two focus group sessions were conducted for validation, with adjustments made to themes and categories based on participant feedback. The analysis revealed 92 concepts organized into 22 subcategories and six main categories. These were structured into a paradigmatic model across five axes: (1) causal conditions (personal motivations, soft-structural deficiencies, inverted professors), (2) intervening conditions (hard-structural deficiencies), (3) contextual conditions (culture of silence, rotten traditions), (4) strategies (hidden protest), and (5) outcomes (brain drain, academic stagnation, emotional distress). The findings highlight pervasive stagnation of academic engagement, driven by both systemic and individual factors. This study reveals that student disengagement is influenced by multiple factors beyond traditional academic structures, including faculty behaviors, curriculum design, and family dynamics. Faculty attitudes, particularly disconnection or authoritarianism, hinder student involvement, while rigid, outdated curricula exacerbate disengagement. Family support and expectations also play a significant role, with misalignment leading to emotional distress. Additionally, a lack of belonging and a "culture of silence" within institutions further isolate students, preventing meaningful engagement. To improve student engagement, universities must adopt a holistic, student-centered approach that integrates student voices into decision-making, revises curricula, and fosters supportive faculty-student relationships.

3. Ethical Learning

Nob Doran, University of New Brunswick

A generation or so ago, analyses of neo-liberalism drew our attention to technologies of 'life-long learning' (Donzelot 1981) and 'perpetual training' (Rose 1999:160-64) as features of the shift to neo-liberalism (or 'advanced liberalism' as Rose wants to call it, Rose 1999, 2017) that occurred aroung that time. And subsequent analysis suggests that such technologies (along with several others) were also being found in the neo-liberal university too (Larner and Leheron 2003). Moreover, although

there has been evidence of successful resistance to such neo-liberal transformations (Doran 2009), oftentimes these transformations have been more subtle and more successful. Yet, despite this emphasis on 'life-long learning' as an integral component of neo-liberalism, this paper argues that such an endeavour (albeit from below) can be used to help individuals talk back (Winter 2019, hooks 1986) to such practices. Specifically, this paper will build on Foucault's final lectures (2010, 2011) where he reflects on his own career and unearths the ancient 'greek practice' of 'care of the self' - which entailed a very different type of life-long learning. Moreover, this 'care of the self' not only formed the content of these lectures, but it applied to Foucault's own career, one in which he had also cared for his 'self' in this Greek fashion (Doran 2015). Building on this foundation, this paper extends that investigation of Foucault's life-long learning and demonstrates how he then turned to the political and ethical dimensions of 'care of the self'; and eventually ended up with the formation of the 'parrhesian' speaker who now has the courage to talk back to power (Doran forthcoming). Moreover, Foucault finishes by suggesting the parrhesian speaker can be found throughout history, not just in Antiquity. Thus my paper concludes by advocating the need for more sholars to explicitly engage in this parrhesian 'life-long learning' so as to talk back to contemporary knowledge/power, and not just power.

(FEM3a) Gender at Work, Gendered Work: Gendered Perspectives on Care Work and Social Reproduction
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session presents gendered perspectives on paid and unpaid care work, and the intersection of paid work with family life. Women, girls, and marginalized groups earn less and have fewer opportunities for employment: they contend with discriminatory norms, policies and practices. Their paid and unpaid labour is often segregated and routinely devalued.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: MacGregor Goodman, York University

Presentations:

1. Racing Against a Hidden Clock: The Prospective Motherhood Penalty and Gendered Ageism in China's Workplace
Rose Xueqing Zhang, University of British Columbia

This study examines the prospective motherhood penalty encountered by women white-collar workers of childbearing age, regardless of their childbearing status, in China's non-state-owned enterprises. Drawing on 85 qualitative interviews with white-collar employees, this study identifies several intersecting factors that increase women's vulnerability to the penalty, including age, marital status, sexual orientation, and gender expression. This study reveals that white-collar women encounter an intersection of obstacles that I label the "gendered age trap": prospective motherhood bias, a prevalent overwork culture, ageism, and societal expectations imposed on women. To navigate these multifaceted challenges, women adopt diverse strategies: those

intending to have children employ strategic timing and planning, while those determined to remain childless—particularly childfree lesbian women—engage in strategic gender performance and identity negotiation. These strategies further illuminate the complexities of women's workplace dilemmas. Drawing on narratives from women of varied backgrounds, this study highlights that discrimination due to prospective motherhood affects not only mothers but women as a whole. These findings improve understanding of the prospective motherhood penalty and emphasize the importance of incorporating age-related cultural paradigms when studying women's barriers in the workplace. Such paradigms may exacerbate tensions between work and family aspirations and amplify gender discrimination for women at particular career stages.

2. Workplace authority and the gender division of housework in China

Manlin Cai, University of British Columbia

A rich body of literature has examined the relationship between the gender division of housework and paid work, focusing mainly on the role of work hours and earnings. However, paid work involves more than just time and money. Workplace authority is a critical resource and direct measure of power at work, but few studies have empirically investigated how it translates into power at home and shapes the division of household labour. Drawing on nationally representative, longitudinal data from the China Family Panel Studies (2010, 2014-2022), this study examines how a couple's workplace authority is associated with their housework division. Focusing on married different-sex dual-earner couples, results reveal that when both spouses hold authority at work, they both spend less time on housework compared to couples where neither has authority, even after accounting for other socioeconomic resources. When only wives have workplace authority, their housework hours decrease, but this effect is largely explained by their higher earnings. By contrast, when only husbands hold workplace authority, their own housework hours decline, net of other resources, leading to an increased share of housework for their wives. These findings broaden the understanding of how socioeconomic resources influence domestic labour in gendered ways and illuminate the unique role of workplace authority that particularly benefits men. This research sheds light on the pathways through which power at work extends to the family and shapes gender inequality.

3. Imagining Solidarities: Class Consciousness in the Context of Care

MacGregor Goodman, York University

Care work has increasingly been framed in policy and in discourse as an individual responsibility rather than a collective one. In the context of neoliberalism, family carers face multifaceted pressures to "fill in the gaps" of an underfunded and hostile healthcare system. Yet, supportive materials for informal carers often misrepresent the experience of caring, and frame unpaid care as an obliged and deeply moralized act. This narrative depoliticizes care, decenters the role of the state, and masks the structural conditions and systemic failures that contribute to the immense challenges family carers face. This paper examines emerging solidarities expressed by 36 diverse family carers with both paid and unpaid carers. In doing so, we highlight the potential for transformational coalitional organizing, founded in a growing recognition of broad, structural exploitation of both paid and unpaid care work. While discourses, policies, and structures themselves foster mistrust and division between and among carers, our research illuminates the development of class consciousness in care work. We explore how family carers, despite forces that

shape their challenges in care as a private trouble, are increasingly interpreting their struggles as being shaped by broader structural forces and conceptualizing the disparate impacts of these forces on other carers. Along this same vein, we amplify their calls for change. While recognizing a growing class consciousness in the context of care, this research also identifies barriers to mobilization, including real and perceived resource scarcity, and the often-isolating nature of care work.

(HEA9b) Sociology of Health: Inequality and Intersectionalities
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

The presentations in this session highlight the inequalities experienced in healthcare services within marginalized communities.

Session Organizer: Claudia Chaufan, York University

Session Chair: Megan Linton, Carleton University

Presentations:

1. Understanding the Effects of Social Capital in Mental Health Reported Outcomes: A Bourdieusian Lens

Gabrielle Duval, Carleton University

The term 'Social capital' has long been used in social research as a way of understanding inequalities within given communities. More recently, this term has garnered interest in the field of health and medicine as a way of understanding health inequalities and health-related decisions such as accessing health care (Riumallo-Herl et al., 2014; Paccoud et al., 2020). Informed by Bourdieu's lens of social capital and using data from the Mental Health and Access to Care Survey 2022 (Statistics Canada, 2024), this paper explores how cultural, symbolic, economic and social factors effect reported mental health outcomes in Canada. Using an ordinal logistic regression, we examine the effects of gender, age, marital status, population location classification, number of times consulting a family or friend, having a trustworthy person to consult, education and occupational groups on reported mental health in Canada. The findings suggest that social capital factors such as symbolic and cultural capital do in fact play a role in reported mental health outcomes for Canadians.

2. "A legitimate cause to be bitching": Examining diagnostic narratives and functional neurological disorder

Reece Ronan, St. Thomas University

Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) is a broad-spectrum disorder characterized by motor, sensory, or cognitive symptoms that cannot be explained by another recognized disorder, previously known as 'conversion disorder'. Despite being referred to as a 'rare' condition, FND is one of the most common neurological diagnoses - with women making up over 70% of patients. This gender disparity raises questions about the gendered nature of the diagnosis, as it is used to categorize women's distress. By analyzing 5 semi-structured interviews from North American women who disagree with their FND diagnosis, recruited from online FND support groups, I answer the following question: *how are the health narratives of women on online FND support groups shaped by epistemic injustice?* Preliminary results describe participants' disillusionment with

medicine, preference for natural methods, the importance of a support system, and barriers of communication with care providers. Rather than solidifying biomedical expertise, an FND diagnosis may further entrench women's distrust of a system they feel overlooks their distress. By examining narratives of women who navigate these challenges, the study will shed light on the intersection of gender, medical authority, and patient autonomy. Findings have the potential to inform both clinical care and patient advocacy, highlighting the need for greater sensitivity to gender bias in biomedicine.

3. Inequalities in the health of queer and trans people: Cis-heteropatriarchy as a theoretical approach

Aida Parnia, University of Toronto

Minority stress theory serves as the primary analytical framework for explaining mental health disparities associated with sex, gender, and sexuality among queer and trans individuals. Although this theory illustrates the interplay between stressors and sources of resilience in shaping mental health outcomes, it inadequately addresses the mechanisms underlying the distribution of specific stressors within the population. In particular, simply being a minority does not elucidate the rationale behind the oppression faced by particular groups, nor does it clarify the implications of such oppression on their lives. Cis-heteropatriarchy links health inequalities with structural conditions, thereby influencing our experiences of sex, gender, and sexuality. This binary conception of gender and sex engenders distinct social roles, with associated harms and privileges. Heterosexuality further institutionalizes these dynamics within the spheres of intimacy, familial structures, employment, and religious practices. The nuclear family exerts a pivotal role in the social reproduction processes characteristic of capitalist societies, significantly impacting those marginalized by its framework. Queerness and gender transition interrogate the normative constructs upheld by cis-heteropatriarchy, resulting in diverse consequences for individuals. Applying this theoretical framework to empirical quantitative research presents several advantages. Firstly, it provides an established vocabulary for articulating the injustices associated with health inequalities. Secondly, it forms a foundational basis for comprehending disparities within queer and trans communities, which are often erroneously perceived as homogenous in analytical studies. Thirdly, it enables the nuanced measurement of sex, gender, and sexuality, recognizing the diverse social contexts emergent from these identities. Finally, it allows for the development of indicators that reflect the structural forces defined by cis-heteropatriarchy, thereby enhancing our understanding of health inequalities.

4. Unequal Outcomes: Substance Use, Workforce Participation, and the Protective Role of Education

Aleda Wedekind, University of Toronto

Substance use is both a pressing public health challenge and a critical socio-economic issue, with far-reaching implications for individuals, families, and the broader economy. In 2022, 48.7 million Americans were reported to have a substance use disorder (SUD), illustrating the magnitude of this crisis and its potential to disrupt lives and livelihoods (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2023). Substance use undermines workforce participation by increasing absenteeism, reducing productivity, and fostering job instability. At the same time, precarious labour market conditions—such as low wages, job insecurity, and limited access to treatment—

exacerbate substance use, creating a reinforcing cycle that deepens socio-economic inequities (Richardson & Epp, 2016). Understanding this intersection is essential for advancing public health, promoting economic stability, and addressing broader patterns of social stratification. This study will examine the relationship between substance use and workforce participation, focusing on how educational attainment influences this dynamic and how structural inequities shape outcomes across race/ethnicity, gender, and geographic contexts. Grounded in stratification theory, the research emphasizes education as a critical resource that may mitigate the adverse effects of substance use on employment. However, systemic barriers to high-quality education may constrain this protective effect, particularly for marginalized groups. Additionally, the study explores how these relationships vary across demographic and geographic contexts, reflecting the compounding effects of inequality on workforce outcomes. Using data from the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), this research will analyze the short-term impacts of past-month substance use on employment and the moderating role of education. By examining these intersections, the study aims to contribute to sociological understandings of stratification and inform equity-driven policies that address employment disparities, reduce stigma, and support individuals with substance use histories.

(ITD8a) Promises and Challenges of AI Technologies
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

This session highlights scholarship that critically discusses the many promises and challenges associated with artificial intelligence and other algorithmic technologies. Presentations will cover AI in the contexts of higher education, strategic decision-making, hiring decisions, digital surveillance, and community engagement.

Session Organizers: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph, Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary, and Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University

Session Chair: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. From Chalkboards to Chatbots: AI and Post-Secondary Education
Hya Ali, Toronto Metropolitan University

This paper investigates the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on Ontario's post-secondary education system, exploring how new digital technologies are reshaping learning, teaching, and institutional processes. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the accelerated usage of AI by students in educational settings has sparked significant shifts in how students engage with course materials, how curricula are designed, and how assessments are conducted. This research critically examines the unintended consequences of AI, particularly the growing trend of students using AI to complete assignments, prompting questions about why students are turning to these tools and what it reveals about their engagement, motivation, and academic integrity. By analyzing secondary sources such as scholarly articles, government reports, and institutional resources, this paper offers a nuanced view of AI's potential and its limitations within Ontario's higher education landscape. Central to this inquiry is the tension between the promises of AI in enhancing educational experiences and the risks it poses in undermining critical thinking, creativity, and independent

learning. The study argues for a paradigm shift away from traditional, standardized educational models toward more holistic approaches that prioritize active learning, creativity, and critical engagement. In doing so, it highlights the need for a pedagogical transformation that not only integrates AI but also challenges students to learn in ways that foster deeper engagement and lifelong learning. Ultimately, this research sparks new conversations about the relevance and future of learning in an increasingly digital society, emphasizing the need for educational approaches that empower students to thrive without over-reliance on AI while navigating a technology-mediated world.

2. AI in Procurement: Enhancing Strategic Decision-Making

Christiana Enebeli, Royal Roads University

Organizations face pressure to make quick decisions, which procurement professionals experience as they are responsible for strategic procurement decisions aligned with the organization's goals. However, human limitations impede such quick decisions due to time constraints and difficulties in processing large amounts of data. Additionally, procurement data is underutilized within organizations. To address these problems, data from internal stakeholders and external organizations such as suppliers could be used for efficient and effective decision-making by implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in strategic procurement decision-making. The study explores how procurement professionals and AI can be mutually utilized for decision-making in the procurement strategic sourcing process. Hence, the research aims to answer the question, "How can AI be implemented in the procurement strategic decision-making process?". Based on decision theory, the proposed study's themes include purchasing portfolio management, such as the Kraljic purchasing matrix (KPM) as part of the procurement strategic sourcing process, decision-making and AI. Decision theory provides a framework for choosing between options; KPM is a diagnostic tool used by procurement for making the strategic decision of minimizing supply risk and maximizing the buying power of the organization from four options: leverage, bottleneck, strategic and non-critical; decision-making is a human activity that is done either intuitively or analytically, although both decision-making types are important, intuitive decision making is better done by humans while analytical decision-making could be harnessed with AI because AI cannot be intuitive as humans. The objectives of the research are as follows: 1. To unravel how AI could either automate or augment some or all of the strategic decision-making made by procurement professionals. 2. To identify what challenges procurement professionals may face when integrating AI into procurement decision-making. 3. To explore how AI can be implemented in multi-criteria decision-making in complex scenarios. 4. To identify benefits and biases procurement professionals may have with implementing AI in the procurement strategic decision-making process. The proposed study will explore creating an AI model to simulate decision-making scenarios based on data sources. While it is too early to finalize the data source for the model, potential sources include open-source procurement data from government websites. These could include details regarding the purchase type or supplier classification and awarded cost of products and services. Analyzing the data through the lens of KPM and decision theory could help determine patterns that could be used to build an AI model. In conclusion, the study aims to explore the potential use of AI in supporting procurement professionals in fulfilling their role as value drivers for their organizations.

3. Responsible AI in Hiring: Single and Intersectional Algorithmic Bias

Genan Hamad, University of Alberta

Algorithmic hiring technology, such as automated job descriptions, resume screening, and video interviews are increasingly influencing applications of job seekers. Hiring AI systems may disadvantage members of marginalized groups based on their identity categories such as race, gender, and class (De-Arteaga et al., 2019). Current efforts of AI researchers and practitioners for tackling this algorithmic bias - defined as "errors in AI systems that lead to inequitable outcomes for different groups" (Russell & Norvig, 2021, p. 3) - take only the single social attribute (e.g., race) approach into account. Recently, feminist scholars criticized this approach and emphasize the importance of considering intersectional bias which has complex negative impact on subgroups defined by an intersecting combination of attributes (e.g., race and gender) (Kong, 2022; Yesiltepe et al., 2024). The purpose of this study is to review the literature to understand how AI practitioners and researchers tackle the problem of algorithmic bias in AI-supported hiring, and whether they adequately address intersectional algorithmic bias in these systems. The findings show that AI scholars have tackled the problem of algorithmic bias in the recruitment system in three ways including, proposing and examining algorithms and techniques for bias mitigating or detection (pre-processing, in-processing and post-processing) in the hiring process, exploring stakeholders' perspectives on algorithmic bias, and drawing on theories from multiple disciplines, such as the feminist approach and systems thinking theory, to develop frameworks that provide guidelines and prompts to aid AI practitioners and improve outcomes towards designing and implementing ethical and responsible AI systems. This study also reveals that intersectional algorithmic bias in the hiring pipeline is not adequately addressed in the literature. This finding indicates that this is an area ripe for future investigations due to the fundamental role of intersectionality for developing responsible AI tools.

4. The politics and practice of CCTV-FRT

Simin Rouzgard, Toronto Metropolitan University

This study examines the impact of Artificial Intelligence(AI)-powered surveillance technologies, such as Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) systems integrated with Facial Recognition Technology (FRT), on public perceptions of autonomy and privacy in shared public spaces. Moving beyond a purely functional perspective (e.g., crime reduction), this study explores how these technologies are *not* merely *tools* for observation but actively shape human experiences and core values like freedom. Drawing on Martin Heidegger's phenomenological approach (1962, 1977), particularly his concept of Enframing *[ge-stell]*, the study reveals how surveillance technologies do not merely serve a functional role (i.e., observing) but actively alter individuals' behaviors and perceptions, embedding themselves in the fabric of public spaces and transforming the experience into what Heidegger (1977) describes as a "*mode of revealing*." As phenomenology invites us to consider how existence reveals itself through our everyday interactions, surveillance, through this lens, can be understood as a silent force that shapes these interactions, gradually redefining what it means to navigate and interact within society. This study uses data from the Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel Wave 99 (ATP Wave 99), a continuous, sequential public opinion survey, to answer two central research questions: (1) How does the presence of FRT influence public perceptions of autonomy and privacy in public spaces? (2) In what ways does the presence of FRT alter individuals' sense of agency and behavior in public spaces? Additionally, might these alterations correlate with

the creation of different views about the security apparatus in public opinion? Employing statistical methods, including logistic regression and path analysis, the study explores the broader social and ethical implications of this technological shift by examining the relationships between perceived fairness, security benefits, and privacy attitudes, contributing to the growing literature on surveillance and its influence on human behavior.

5. Artificial Agents in Our Community

Dennis Papadopoulos, Seneca Polytechnic

I propose that artificial intelligences (AI) and the costly infrastructure that sustains them, might be thought of as an "ecological" feature of a cybernetic human-modified environment. That is to say, respect for AI includes respecting not just its user-end services (which might appear intelligent), but also the impacted labour, logistics, and ecological ecological communities that might benefit from restraint in our rapid adoption of AI-empowered systems. This analogy to ecological entities is meant to challenge property-centric or individual rights-based conceptions of AI ethics in favour of community-centric relational approaches, like ubuntu, that might include the many stakeholders affected by AI. How do we respect ecological entities? In the "rights of nature" literature inanimate natural entities, like rivers, are conceived of as rights holders, which draws on Indigenous ontologies where ecological entities as agents, sometimes even ancestors. Through their role in the community as a provider, sustainer, and knowledge holder, ecological entities practice interactive agency. A river, like the Whanganui, Ganges, or New Credit, provides water for human and non-human communities, sustains life across generations, and offers a model of loving and giving that we can learn from. As a result, we ought to respect not only our relationship with these beings, but also all the other communal and ecological relationships they have. By analogy then, AI entities are similar nodes for connection between human communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, labour and logistics environments. Because of their interactive role in the community, they practice a kind of agency (often as a knowledge holder, perhaps less like an ancestor however and more like a descendant whose "education" as a knowledge holder is a community concern.

(MIG3) Gender, Transnational Migration, and Social Reproduction: Intersectionalities

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am

This session brings together theoretical and empirical research papers examining the experiences, agencies, and activism of individuals within immigrant families who are engaged in the work of caring/social reproductive work, both locally or transnationally. In particular, the papers will address the following questions: How do social, economic, political, and cultural processes shape women's social reproductive work locally and/or transnationally? How does the intersectionality of gender with other identities (e.g., race, class, sexual orientation, age, ability, citizenship status, language proficiency) complicate social reproductive/care work locally and/or transnationally?

Session Organizer and Chair: Guida Man, York University

Presentations:

1. Navigating Transnational Motherhood: The Lived Experiences of Nigerian Mothers in Canada

Iyesogie Iyiewuare, University of Saskatchewan

This paper examines the lived experiences of Nigerian mothers navigating motherhood in Canada with a focus on how transnational migration, cultural negotiation shape their mothering practices. The increasing migration of Nigerian women to Canada has created certain dynamics in their maternal practices, as they negotiate parenting roles within a new social context. These mothers' dual positioning of navigating cultural norms from home while adapting to systemic and social challenges in Canada remain largely understudied in migration literature. Drawing upon an intersectional framework, and Bourdieu's Theory of Practice, this study investigates how these mothers negotiate the complexities of transnational migration, cultural expectations, and systemic challenges. Utilizing semi-structured interviews with 30 Nigerian born mothers residing in Canada, the study explores how these mothers leverage their cultural capital and social networks to navigate their new environment while maintaining ties to Nigeria. Initial findings suggest that Nigerian mothers employ various strategies such as digital maintenance of cultural connections, development of hybrid parenting approaches, and selective adaptation of maternal practices to demonstrate their agency in reshaping transnational motherhood. This study highlights the resilience and agency of immigrant mothers in navigating cultural and societal challenges, contributing significantly to an understanding of transnational motherhood and the interplay of gender, migration, and social reproduction across borders.

2. Envisioning Transnational Eldercare: Intersectional Life Course Perspectives of Older Filipino Care Workers

Alana Hart, Trent University

Filipino immigrant care workers play a critical role in Canada's care and domestic economies, often providing care to children, people with disabilities, older adults, and within their own families and communities. Yet, little is known about the aging experiences and desires of these immigrant workers, despite their unique perspectives on caring for older adults. This presentation draws on a qualitative study that employed a life history narrative course approach to conduct five in-depth, semi-structured individual interviews with older Filipino immigrant care workers who have cared for older adults in community-based and residential settings. The purpose of this study was to understand how the transitions and trajectories in their respective life courses influence how they dream of their own care in old age. The intersectional life course perspective (Ferrer et al., 2017) was used to contextualize the lived experiences of these marginalized people to reveal how social, economic and cultural processes throughout the life course influence how they imagine care in old age. This analysis revealed that older Filipino immigrant care workers dream of care in old age in three ways: (1) aging-across-place; (2) networks of care; and (3) aging elsewhere. After decades of care work in Canada, these Filipino care workers often find themselves dreaming of the aging care possibilities in the Philippines or elsewhere as they struggle to see a future within the dominant care systems and models available to older adults in Canada. Therefore, these older Filipino immigrant care workers are left navigating complex individual and structural factors when thinking about where and how their care needs will be met in old age. I conclude by arguing that there is a

need to consider the voices of older immigrant care workers to ensure culturally appropriate, accessible, and desirable care for older Filipinos within Canada.

3. Mortgaging Women's Lives: A Critical Analysis of Othermothering in Jamaican Schools

Giselle Thompson, University of Alberta

The economic context of public education in "post"-colonial Jamaica is severely under-resourced, particularly since 1977 - the year that International Monetary Fund (IMF) structural adjustment austerity policies (SAPs) took root in the country to "help" placate its rapidly growing debt to external creditors. Since then, inflation and the IMF's forced devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, which is a requirement for loan recipient countries along with diminishing their public spending, have limited the Ministry of Education and Youth's (MoEY) capacity to provide an accessible and effective public-school program (Thompson, 2021, in press). SAP austerity measures have resulted in under-funding, overcrowded classrooms, deteriorating school facilities and an increasing reliance on Black women teachers engaged in extra-contractual work such as hosting fundraising initiatives, cleaning, and facilities maintenance (Miller, 1992; Rowden, 2011; Thompson, 2021, in press). Such a complex composite of structural poverty compels teachers to invoke a transhistorical form of socially reproductive labour in African/Black traditions known as "othermothering"/ "motherwork," which is the formal or informal assumption of responsibility for a child that is not one's own (Collins, 2008; James, 1993; Wane, 2000). And according to Dillard (2021), it is deeply embedded in the work of Black women who teach from continental Africa to those who have been diasporized through the Middle Passage and other migratory routes (Hall, 1994). Given that most teachers in Jamaica are Afro-descendant, this paper draws on ongoing ethnographic, activist, and non-profit work to delineate their articulation of this phenomenon within the conditions/constraints of the SAP-era context of education at a moment wherein teachers are speaking out about the MoEY "overworking and exploiting" (Anonymous TeacherTK, 2022) them to fill resource gaps. To that end, I argue that motherwork is a critical teaching praxis and profoundly political labour of love that is acutely necessary. One that is a form of "life-work," i.e., work that sustains life (Mullings 2021), that occurs as an agential act in opposition to the social and political constrictions of modern capitalism.

4. The Politics of Justice: The Laboured Life Stories of Vietnamese Refugee Women

Annie Chau, University of Toronto

An estimated million refugees fled a Vietnam reunified under communist rule after the fall of Saigon in 1975 (Vu and Satzewich 2022). Between 1979 and 1980, 60,000 of these refugees resettled in Canada (Hou 2021). While the anti-communist sentiment of Vietnamese refugees has been documented (Nguyen 2019), this paper shows that their politics are more complex because though they certainly suffered under communism, they also struggled under capitalism. Further, while conditions of their often underpaid, precarious employment in Canada have been examined to some degree (Samuel 1987, Hou 2021), the labour of Vietnamese refugee women both outside and inside their homes has been ignored. Through life story interviews with Vietnamese Canadian refugee women, this paper: 1) points to how the Vietnam War and its refugees are predominately understood in Western-based binaries and nationalist and patriarchal discourses, leaving Vietnamese refugee women and their complicated politics disappeared; and 2) offers first-hand accounts of Cold War politics amidst global neoliberalism through an anti-racist, decolonial feminist analysis. The findings indicate contradictory notions of politics and justice that complicate and make

more human this group (Nguyen 2017). Espiritu (2014) reminds us "the messiness, contingency, and precarious nature of refugee life means that refugees, like all people, are beset by contradiction: neither damages victims nor model minorities, they - their stories, actions, and inactions - simultaneously trouble and affirm regimes of power" (2). This paper suggests that life story methodology provides a way to commit sociology that centres contradiction. If committing sociology requires a criticality against the dominant world order, i.e., capitalism, then it also necessitates a criticality of alternatives, i.e., communism/socialism especially as it is expressed by nation-states. How is justice articulated by people who have experienced injustices on both sides of 'the wall'? What might committing to justice entail when justice itself is contested?

(PSM1b) Political Sociology and Social Movements II: Movement Tactics, Tensions, and Outcomes

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am

Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This session examines various key themes of social movements such as tensions within movements, social movement policing, social movement learning, and movement outcomes. With cases from a diverse political context, these papers present empirical analyses of collective solidarity, ableist mechanism of social movement policing, productive engagement between universities and community organizations, and outcomes of environmental mobilization in a hybrid political regime.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, and Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University

Session Chair: Yi-Cheng Hsieh, McGill University

Presentations:

1. Micro-fragmenting Gig Workers: Solidarity under Tensions

Youngrong Lee, University of Toronto

The gig workforce is highly heterogeneous, shaped by the low entry barriers of gig work and platforms' preference for recruiting non-committed workers. My research investigates the phenomenon of "micro-fragmentation" among gig workers—divergences marked by various dimensions, including economic dependence, platform loyalty, and means of production—and its impact on worker solidarity. Through 21 months of international comparative ethnography conducted in Seoul and Toronto, I examine how micro-fragmentation undermines solidarity rooted in shared commonalities by introducing complex layers of heterogeneity among workers. For example, Baemin, Seoul's largest food delivery platform, implemented a two-track system that differentiates full-time motorbike "Riders" from part-time "Connectors" (couriers using bicycles, e-bikes, e-scooters, cars, or walking). These categories are further divided by distinct reward and penalty structures, fostering disparities. In Toronto, prior to Foodora's exit from the Canadian market, the company recruited bicycle couriers for downtown deliveries and car couriers for suburban areas, creating additional divisions among workers based on differing conditions and experiences. This micro-fragmentation has generated tensions within the gig workforce, even among unionized workers. Despite these challenges, gig worker unions are working to organize these diverse groups into an industrial union. They aim to foster collective class consciousness while

addressing the specific demands of each subgroup. My research highlights how platforms' control mechanisms deliberately exacerbate worker heterogeneity to weaken solidarity and explores the significant obstacles unions face in organizing a workforce marked by such profound and deliberate fragmentation.

2. The War on Disability Activism: Ableism in Social Movement Policing as Counterinsurgency

Nolan Krahn, York University

There is a well-established literature on the role of the police as a military appendage (Bieler 2016; Kraska and Kappeler 1997). Scholarship around the police disruption of social movements often analyzes it in terms of the police's paramilitary tendencies. I make two amendments to this understanding of social movement policing. First, to say that the police are "paramilitary" assumes that they are separate from the military, when in actuality, both of these institutions serve the same project of regulating social order (Neocleous 2011). Second, the state's counterinsurgent project, which is inherently anti communist and anti democratic (Bevins 2020; Schrader 2019), has an ableist core that relies on the conflation of disability with disorder. In this paper, I assert that domestic social movement policing, rather than being paramilitary, actually developed under the same framework as the counterinsurgency tactics used to combat terrorism overseas. Furthermore, I argue for using Critical Disability Studies to unveil the ableist mechanism at the core of these counterinsurgent policing tactics. I look to the historic use of kettling (now a commonplace protest policing tactic in North America) by British police against disability rights protesters in 1995 as a case study to illustrate this ableist mechanism. My exploration serves as an imperative for future research to look at the ableist facets of counterinsurgent social movement policing and its effects on activists with disabilities. More broadly, this paper evinces the ways in which ableism is mobilized by other structures of oppression like white supremacy, patriarchy, and settler colonialism.

3. The Difficult Work of Social Movement Learning: Connecting Students with Grassroots Organizations

Stuart Schussler, University of Waterloo

Social movements make history, and member-led community organizations are the driving force of social movements. Furthermore, they are sites of social innovation, creating novel forms of decision-making and mutual aid. Yet the very characteristics that create such dynamism - their inclusive and non-hierarchical membership, the flexibility of not having legal status, their ability to respond to current events and emergent crises - mean that universities seldom engage community organizations as viable sites of service learning. Furthermore, when universities take note of community groups, they are often inundated with short-term, untrained volunteers simply looking to complete an assignment. How can university faculty and staff expose students to grassroots organizations, in a way that adds capacity rather than draining it? Furthermore, how are professors to navigate their own barriers, including administrators' skepticism and a lack of job stability. This paper synthesizes interviews with a dozen university faculty and staff across three countries, each of which have overcome (and sometimes succumbed to) institutional barriers in connecting their students with community organizations. These are paired with interviews with members of grassroots organizations who have received university students. This range of experiences is synthesized into an array of options educators can consider emulating, as well as best practices and potential limitations for each mode. Across them all, I highlight the importance of long-term trust

building with grassroots organizations, thorough student orientation, and adopting a flexible, can-do disposition when engaging university staff and administrators. These conclusions are useful lessons both for university faculty and staff looking to expose their students to the sorts of grassroots organizations that make history, as well as community members looking to hold institutional actors accountable while also needing all the support they can get.

4. Neoliberal Development, Political Settlement, and Social Movement Outcomes

Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick

Popular mobilizations against an open-pit coal mine in a densely populated agricultural area (*Phulbari Protirodh Andolon, PPA*) and a coal-fired power plant near an ecologically vulnerable mangrove forest (*Sundarban Raksa Andolon, SRA*) were the most contentious cases of social movements contesting Bangladesh's neoliberal development agenda in recent years. Slow violence (dispossession and injustice due to delayed destruction of livelihood resources resulting from environmental dangers), lack of social license to operate (consultation and deliberation with local communities), and evasion of various laws and policies were their key grievances. Grassroots mobilization forced the government to accept the PPA's key demands. On the other hand, the government did not pay any heed to the SRA's grievances. Sociological research on development in the Global South focuses on how specific modes of development (e.g., the neoliberal model) generate social movements challenging the state's policy choices. Social movement scholars consider the effects of both internal (organizational characteristics) and external (political opportunity or threat) factors in shaping movement outcomes. Building on these conceptual insights, this paper examines the divergent outcomes of these movements in the context of the political environment in which they emerged and developed. A critical feature of such a political environment is its hybrid political regime, characterized by authoritarianism and extractive political institutions. Using empirical findings gathered from a set of in-depth interviews with movement activists, this paper argues that such characteristics of the Bangladeshi political environment influenced social movement dynamics in such a way that their outcomes remained far short of victory. Adding further insights from the 'political settlement' framework, which considers the distribution of power among social organizations in a polity, particularly in the Global South, this paper problematizes the interplay of internal and external contexts of social movements to develop a nuanced understanding of movement outcomes.

(RAE2b) Sociology of Race and Ethnicity II

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This session critically examines the social construction of race, racialization, and belonging in Canada through the lived experiences of racialized communities. Drawing from diverse case studies—including African Nova Scotians, transracial adoptees, and racialized students—we will explore the enduring impacts of systemic racism, state violence, and social exclusion. Engaging with Critical Race Theory, Black Feminist Thought, and theories of racial identity formation, the presenters will analyze how race shapes individual and collective experiences within institutions such as the criminal justice system, education, and family structures. They will also discuss the relationship between race,

space, and social trust, considering how racialized communities navigate discrimination, belonging, and identity in historical and contemporary contexts.

Session Organizers: Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University and Jamilah Dei-Sharpe, Concordia University

Session Chair: Secil E. Ertorer, Canisius University

Presentations:

1. Tracing the Impact: Intergenerational Black Canadian Experiences with Police

Jessica Bundy, University of Guelph

Nova Scotia is home to Canada's oldest and largest multigenerational Black community, with roots tracing back to the late 17th century. African Nova Scotian communities have been perpetually impacted by acts of state violence, silence, and oversight. This impact is apparent in the historical and current social, political, and economic standing of African Nova Scotians, and the continued discriminatory treatment of African Nova Scotians by police and criminal justice system. This paper examines this historic Black Canadian community's perceptions using interviews, while acknowledging the significance of engaging with an intergenerational Black community in the Canadian context. Focusing on creating a community narrative through centering Black voices in the lens of Critical Race Theory and Black Feminist Thought, the realities of navigating everyday racism and disproportionate police discrimination and violence are examined, and concepts of safety and protection. Further, the particular regional nuances of how this Black Canadian community experiences discriminatory policing to extend the discussion of anti-Black racism and policing to the east coast. The pervasive nature of such anti-Black racism in such a historical Black community stresses the importance of additional exploration, understanding, and centering the experiences of Black people in Canada.

2. Understanding Student Perspectives: Racism, Discrimination, and Belongingness at an Ontario University

Jeffery Denis, **Sarah Masri**, **Thirumagal Gowrikanthan**, **Leilani Xue**, and **Rishika Sen,** McMaster University

This study analyzes data from the *Racism, Discrimination, and Belongingness in an Ontario University Environment* survey, which investigated student experiences and perceptions of racism and discrimination at McMaster University. The aim of the survey was to provide actionable insights to foster a more inclusive campus environment for racialized students. A total of 283 undergraduate students participated.

3. Triple Consciousness and Transracial adoptees' Conceptualization of Racial Identity

Jennifer Peruniak, University of Toronto

This article examines how Canadian transracial adoptees experience racial literacy and socialization within white adopting families. Recent research has argued for a reimagining of DuBois' scholarship in contemporary understandings of race (Itzigsohn & Brown 2020). However, this has yet to be applied to the case of transracial adoptees and how they understand their own racial identity. Building on scholarship which focuses on theorization of racial identity and its socializing influences, this article examines how transracial adoptees understand their own racial identity within white

adopting families in Canada. By engaging with scholarship on double consciousness this research analyzes how transracial adoptees understand their positioning within their families, and how this process reveals the paradoxical expectations of individuals' sense of identity within the Canadian milieu. This article uses 43 semi structured interviews with transracial adoptees across Canada. First, it outlines socializing factors that impact transracial adoptees experiences of racialization. Second, it describes the modifications of double consciousness to triple, based on transracial adoptees experiences, and argues that it remains a useful concept to understand subjects whose racial identity exist on the margins of belonging. Transracial adoptees in this study are a rich case study based on their family composition, as they are middle class white people living in insular communities who adopt BIPOC children with inherently different life experiences and trajectories. These ideas contribute to literature on how race is theorized and understood within a Canadian context. By theorizing from those on the margin, this paper will contribute nuance and complexity to scholarship on the conceptualizations and constructions of racial identity, and how central race is to parent-child relationships. Drawing on their lived experiences, the results of this study support the idea that double consciousness can be expanded to encompass triple consciousness.

(VLS10a) Violence and Society I: Interpersonal Violence
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 9:00am
Affiliation: Violence in Society Research Cluster

In this session we feature papers that examine violence and aggression in all forms, from varied perspectives including, but not limited to, those of the victim(s), the offender(s), witnesses, the social context(s) in which violence occurs, reactions to norm violations from both formal (governments, police, courts, etc.) and informal systems, recovery and resilience, and prevention. Papers in this session are from multiple disciplines that examine harms and their effects, including papers that seek to re-imagine alternatives to how we identify and respond to violence.

Session Organizer and Chair: Hannah Scott, Ontario Tech University

Presentations:

1. Interpersonal Violence Victimization: Examining Offender Relations and Reporting Patterns

Emma Spano and **Haya Rebh,** Queen's University

The present study utilizes data from the 2019 Cycle 34 General Social Survey of Victimization to examine the factors that influenced victims of sexual assault to report to the police compared to physical assault, focusing on the nature of victim-offender relations, while controlling for the difference between assault-type. The investigation of how the degree of familiarity within victim-offender relationships impacts subsequent reporting behaviour was measured through a binary logistic regression model of 5522 responses. This revealed that knowing one's single victimizer decreases the reporting odds by 21.5% compared to incidents where the offender was classified as a stranger. Though the findings were statistically significant, it is uncovered that sexual assault victims are 84% less likely to report than physical assault victims ($p < .001$). The findings from this study highlight the need to address barriers to reporting incidents within offences of acquittance-facilitated assault, which disproportionality impacts victims of sexual assault compared to physical assault.

2. Prevalence and risk factors of sexual harassment in the workplace by female readymade garment (RMG) workers in Bangladesh

Humayun Kabir, Kim Usher, and Myfanwy Maple, University of New England, Australia

Bangladeshi female readymade garment (RMG) workers' experience of sexual harassment in the workplace is a serious concern that questions the overall working conditions of the garment sector. Female workers' feelings of being unsafe and threatened in the workplace have been considered an alarming issue for international buyers/brands who aim to ensure sexual harassment-free workplaces as a condition of sourcing clothing items. We examined a range of risk factors (such as workers' demographic characteristics, geographical location of factories, working nature, and trade union activity) associated with experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace. To our knowledge, there has been no previous research on the experience of sexual harassment by female garment workers and its connections to such a variety of risk factors. Cross-sectional data were collected from 332 (mean age=26.10 years; SD=6.54 years) currently employed female garment workers in Bangladesh, between February and July 2018. Data were analysed using bivariate and multivariate logistic regression modelling. In the past six months, nearly one-quarter (22.0%) of workers reported experiencing frequent sexual harassment inside the factory mainly by male co-workers (37.0%), supervisors (32.9%), security guards (27.4%), and factory owners (2.7%). Workers from the factories located in Chattogram (a peripheral region compared to Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh) reported more frequency of sexual harassment than those working in factories located in Dhaka. Overall, the percentages of unmarried and young female workers who experienced sexual harassment were almost double compared to married and aged female workers. Workers' frequent experience of sexual harassment at the workplace was associated with factory location (β 0.67, 95%CI 1.02, 3.76), night shift (β 2.58 95%CI 6.92, 25.18), and non-existence of an anti-sexual harassment cell inside the factory (β 0.62 95%CI 0.97, 3.55). Urgent improvements in overall workplace conditions and anti-sexual harassment programs are needed to safeguard female workers in the Bangladeshi RMG sector.

3. Using others in the workplace to bully coworkers: A mixed methods analysis

Hannah Scott and **Amy Webster,** Ontario Tech University

Workplace mobbing and member to member (M2M) bullying are phenomenon whereby workers and or clients bully a target in their place of work. Both can be done vertically, by those in positions above (i.e., managerial roles) and/or below (i.e., contra-bullying; e.g., teachers by students) the rank of the target, or laterally between workers. Bullying, in any form, can result in physical and psychological stressors and serious negative health outcomes. This mixed methods study uses reports by bullied targets specifically describing bullying in the form of M2M and mobbing and the reactions of others in the workplace including outcomes of reporting. Data from an online survey (N=1172), were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative thematic analysis looking at patterns of coworker bullying and employer response in effort to test the power-control model of workplace abuse. This paper argues that the power-control model offers that M2M and mobbing may be a result of managerial encouragement and/or neglect whereby others in the workplace have been used as a tool by management against the target. Inappropriate mentorship in organizations where bullying is present, including the encouragement of the use of covert and overt bullying tactics, contributes to toxic work environments. Employers tend to responsibilize targets and/or bullies for inappropriate behaviour, rather than responding to it as a workplace safety issue. Implications

include that bullying by others in the workplace should result in grievances with the employer for not providing a safe work environment and not be handled simply as an issue between individuals.

4. Illuminating Target Voices: Unmasking Workplace Bullying in Canadian Universities

Amy Webster and **Hannah Scott,** Ontario Tech University

Workplace bullying is a topic of concern in higher education. Much of the current research on workplace bullying in academia is conducted on universities in the United States and Europe, with little focus on the prevalence in Canadian universities. Utilizing a mixed-methods study approach of a quantitative survey with qualitative open-ended questions embedded within it, this research will aim to examine tenured, tenure-track, or untenured professors' experiences of workplace bullying in Canadian universities with an emphasis on target reporting and outcomes (for both the target and offender as told by participants). Social-ecological theory will be used to examine the multidimensional nature of workplace bullying, where individual, interpersonal and organizational forces impact experiences of victims. Social-ecological theory will emphasize that workplace bullying is not only an individual or relational issue, but a more complex interaction between individual, interpersonal and structural factors within academia. Additionally, the workplace power-control wheel will be used to provide insight into targets' experiences of workplace bullying, highlighting the tactics used by workplace abusers. Expected results will highlight potential risk factors for bullying in academia (tenure status, gender, sexual orientation, and race) while also shining light on reporting procedures and outcomes for faculty who choose (or choose not to) report bullying. The study has the ability to contribute to the existing literature on workplace bullying in academia while also highlighting its prevalence in Canadian universities. Additionally, insight into reporting procedures and outcomes may also provide valuable information for the design and implementation of effective reporting systems that can work to prioritize target well-being and ensure perpetrator accountability.

(CSA2) Outstanding Contribution to Sociology Award Lecture

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Dr. Howard Ramos was selected to receive the 2024 Outstanding Contribution to Sociology award in recognition of his research, publication, and service to advance the discipline of sociology.

Moderators: CSA President: Liam Swiss, Acadia University and CSA President-Elect: Mark C.J. Stoddart, Memorial University

Keynote Speaker: **Howard Ramos**, Western University

Sociology in Existential Times

Social science is largely shaped by understanding the social and political context and phenomena formed by the Industrial Revolution and later the modern and post-modern periods. In recent years a number of real or perceived existential threats, ranging from war, the climate crisis, falling birth rates and Artificial Intelligence have challenged the foundations of how researchers understand and explain society. There is a need to consider what social and political forms best account for the social trends in existential times.

Equity and Social Science Outside the Academy
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 12:00pm

This session brings together three high-profile social science researchers who use their skills outside of academic settings. The aim of this session is to provide examples, to early-career and established professionals, of how a person can take their social science skills outside of academic settings and still do high-quality work that advances equity and social justice.

Hosted by the Canadian Population Society in collaboration with the Canadian Sociological Association. This session is made possible with the financial support of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Session Organizer: James Iveniuk, The Bridge at NORC
Guest Speakers:
Kofi Hope, CAMH
Allen Davidov, Environics Analytics
Meg Gassanov, Strategic Measures
Karen Myers, Blueprint Canada

(EDU1b) Sociology of Education: Ethical Teaching and Learning II
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

Neoliberalism as an ideology focuses on market rationality to reduce life into a commodity that can be sold in the marketplace. This form of coding life for profits has continued to define how people's daily lives are organized and managed. In the words of Michel Foucault, life under capitalism must be ordered in ways meant to train and control the masses in ways that are scientific and led by truth. Truth becomes the hallmark of governing the population. This kind of government must decide who moves and who must be removed to allow the continuous process of existence of some at the expense of others. This form of biopolitical control must be rethought more so in the age of neoliberalism. This session therefore reconceptualizes leadership under the current neoliberal governmentality, where true leadership is given credence since it's assumed to be scientific and truth-driven. Such leadership is given prominence under neoliberal capitalism such that its end is to enhance surplus value. We find this kind of leadership in most transnational corporations, where everything must be gauged under terms such as efficiency, transparency, effectiveness, and accountability. This session pays attention to these neoliberal concepts that help define true leadership to start asking other questions of whether we can equally have other concepts that are situated in people's lived experiences and values, and that would help reimagine leadership in strange ways.

Session Organizers: Rose Ann Torres, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gaming, Center of Excellence in Anishinaabe Education and Dionisio Nyaga, Algoma University

Session Chair: Padideh Paridari, Humber Polytechnic

Presentations:

1. Understanding of Corporal Punishment in Educational Settings in China

Yujia Huang, University of British Columbia

Corporal punishment in schools has been a subject of heated debate in China for decades. Despite its apparent prohibition in the Compulsory Education Law, corporal punishment persists, with differing interpretations among teachers, parents, and students. However, the impact of people's social location and experience on their understanding of corporal punishment in school has been under research. This paper explores people's experiences and perceptions of corporal punishment in a Chinese context by conducting in-depth interviews with nine former students, two parents, and two teachers. Semi-structured and active interview techniques gathered nuanced data, focusing on participants' lived experiences and interpretations of school corporal punishment. Grounded theory and thematic analysis are the two theoretical foundations for data analysis to capture the participants' experiences as accurately as possible.Preliminary analysis suggests that participants' perceptions of corporal punishment remain divided. Some believe it is a necessary disciplinary method, while others view it as unjust and arbitrary. Participants' personal experiences with corporal punishment, unequal access to educational resources, and broader social factors contribute to the interpretations. The interviews reveal a massive gap between top-tier city residents and the rest in the light understanding and practice of school corporal punishment. We may also find that the acceptance of corporal punishment in school has declined, with the decline of belief in teacher authority. The research would contribute to the literature on Chinese public culture and social life in the twentieth century. It might address social inequality in the practice of school disciplinary measures.

2. Silent Exodus: Investigating the Quiet Attrition of Ontario College of Teachers

Shamiga (Shamy) Arumuhathas and **Diana Petrarca,** Ontario Tech University

The 2023 Focus on Teaching: A Survey of Ontario Teachers published by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) (College of Teachers, 2023), revealed that some teachers anticipate early retirement due to the sheer volume and complexity of the workload, lack of respect, safety, mental health, and difficulties with work-life balance. While 74.8% of the teachers delineated their intentions to remain in the profession until retirement age, a notable 18.1% of teachers expressed their uncertainty, and 2.6 % explicitly reported their planned exit from the profession. These alarming findings, coupled with personal observations within our respective initial teacher education (ITE) programs, where we noticed increasing numbers of ITE program graduates opting for daily occasional work as opposed to securing full-time teaching positions, served as the motivation to explore more deeply the complex conditions in Ontario classrooms. While teacher shortages are not new and often cyclical (Darling-Hammond & Podolsky, 2019), there exists a need to explore more deeply the working experiences and classroom conditions faced by Ontario teachers, including the potential circumstances that contribute to their decisions to stay or remain in the profession. Failing to understand this phenomenon can incur long-term effects on Ontario's education system. Specifically, our mixed-methods study (in progress) investigates the lived experiences of K - 12 educators in Ontario to gain a deeper understanding of how the teaching experiences and classroom conditions exacerbate and contribute to teachers' employment decisions. By illuminating the lived experiences of OCT certified teachers, our research is necessary and timely. Our study, framed within socio-political contexts described by Labaree (2000), an education historian with a

sociological orientation and Lortie (1975), has the potential to identify the root causes of teacher attrition and support policymakers and administrators in developing informed strategies, resources, and changes to the current infrastructure to retain our experienced educators. In doing so, we preserve teachers' institutional experience and expertise for a sustainable educational system.

(FDS1a) Sociological Perspectives on Poverty and Food Insecurity I
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Food insecurity can be defined as the "inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so" (Government of Canada, 2020). Dietitians of Canada (2016) contends that food insecurity is a serious public health issue with profound effects on physical and mental health and social well-being and that all households in Canada must have sufficient income for secure access to nutritious food after paying for other basic necessities. Notably, the most recent data from Statistics Canada's 2022 Canadian Income Survey revealed that 8.7 million Canadians, including 2.1 million children, in the ten provinces lived in food-insecure households. Certain groups are more susceptible to food insecurity, including Black, Indigenous, and racialized peoples, individuals with disabilities, single parents, immigrants, and single people aged 18 to 64 who live alone (Uppal, 2023). This session features papers that address public perceptions of poverty and food insecurity issues and the various challenges faced by individuals experiencing poverty and food insecurity based on empirical research.

Session Organizers and Chair: Henry Chow, University of Regina

Presentations:

1. Food Insecurities in Early Life: Survey Results from Canada and the United States
Lesley Frank, **Ruby Harrington**, **Alyssa Gerhardt,** and Elizabeth Rondinelli**,** Acadia University

Household food insecurity [HFI] is measured and monitored in Canada using the Household Food Security Survey Module [HFSSM]. The HFSSM is an 18-item module comprised of a 10-item adult scale and an 8-item child that together measures the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity. The newest data from the Canadian Income Survey show 2.1 million children in the ten provinces lived in food insecure households in 2023.[1] It is possible that this is an underestimation because the child scale does not include indicators specific to very young children. This paper reports new survey findings from the Fed Family Lab at Acadia University conducted in late 2024 designed to test indicators of HFI in early childhood and capture data on emerging shocks to first-food systems (those that provision food to our youngest people). We will present descriptive statistics of (N=993) responses from Canadian and U.S. caregivers with young children, including the prevalence of HFI and additional indicators of food insecurity in early life related to mothers' food access while breastfeeding, access to infant formula, and compromised feeding due to affordability problems and infant formula shortages. The data also describe social dimensions of food insecurity in early life, the extent to which institutions help, and caregivers' confidence in institutions. This research reveals the co-mingling of commercial, financial, and social drivers of food insecurity as well as gaps in policy needed to prevent and/or mitigate the harm of food insecurity in early life.

2. The struggle is real: Food insecurity and coping strategies among postsecondary international students

Jonathan Amoyaw, **Rachel MacLeod**, and **Michelle Wang**, Dalhousie University; Barbara Twum-Antwi, University of Saskatchewan

International students make a significant contribution to their host institutions and countries. However, studying at a university or college in another country can be a demanding and stressful experience, especially in the initial stages. It requires resilience to adapt to a new learning environment, culture, and way of life while juggling academic demands, work, and family obligations back home. These challenges may be exacerbated by financial pressure to cover academic and non-academic expenses such as tuition and rent, which increases the risk of experiencing food insecurity. Although there is extensive research on the reasons for increased food insecurity among postsecondary students in general, only a few focus on the unique experiences of international students. Additionally, there are limited studies that synthesize insights from existing research on the risk factors of food insecurity among international students and the coping strategies they adopt to address their food needs. Insights from our scoping review and photovoice study suggest that international students face multiple challenges related to the quantity and quality of food they consume and their access to cultural foods. Our findings highlight not only the salience of logistical and socio-economic risk factors, but also shed light on the diverse self-reliant coping strategies international students adopt in meeting their food needs, often at the expense of their health and wellbeing. These insights can stimulate further discussions about the role of social and institutional support in addressing food insecurity among international students.

3. A Seat at the Table: Food-Insecurity & Accessibility Barriers to Sustainable Food

Julia Lunot, McGill University

Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) have emerged as a "resilient" alternative framework for food distribution and production in response to pandemic-related challenges and rising food insecurity in Canada (Weinkauf & Everitt, 2023). SFS initiatives, such as community gardens, farmers' markets, and urban agricultural projects, aim to enhance food security, foster ecological consciousness, and unite communities through food and place (McClintock, 2010; Weinkauf & Everitt, 2023). Despite their targeted-inclusion strategies to facilitate food access for lower-income, racialized, and other demographic groups, their effectiveness in integrating these communities remains under-explored. This study addresses this gap by identifying access barriers within urban SFS through ethnographic fieldwork at three Montreal-based initiatives and semi-structured interviews with SFS workers. Drawing on Mallory's (2012) place-making framework, this research reveals how SFS foster connections to local landscapes through imagery, symbols, and messaging that emphasize ecological sustainability, beauty, and organic food. While these priorities align with green policies and aesthetic values, they risk further alienating disenfranchised groups, particularly in gentrifying neighbourhoods where displacement of lower-income residents is prevalent. Additionally, structural barriers, such as restrictive eligibility criteria and funding limitations, exacerbate exclusion, undermining the community-building and food security goals central to SFS missions. The findings underscore a critical tension in SFS between ecological sustainability and social inclusion, and highlights the role of governmental priorities in shaping these initiatives' recruitment strategies. The study concludes with policy recommendations to recalibrate SFS initiatives, balancing ecological objectives with the need to enhance accessibility for diverse groups. By addressing these challenges,

SFS can more effectively contribute to food security, community engagement, and equitable resilience in urban settings. This research provides a critical lens on SFS's potential and limitations, offering insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to strengthen sustainable food networks across Canada.

4. Students are Starving: Social capital as investment in student food security

Jenna Sportak, **Sydney Gallant**, and **Meagan Sharpe,** Vancouver Island University

The rising cost of living in Canada, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has steadily increased the prevalence of food insecurity, plunging Canadians further below the poverty line. Poverty is a public crisis, and yet 'stuverty' - an expected form of poverty experienced by students- remains largely an individual burden. These forces are negatively impacting students and their ability to maintain both physical and social well-being. It is time society shifts the narrative away from the starving-student mentality and towards institutional responsibility, where post-secondary campuses are encouraged to create a networked community to provide the relief and repair needed to combat student hunger. Our research utilized a mixed-methods approach, investigating the state of food insecurity across Vancouver Island University's (VIU) regional campuses, located in Nanaimo, Cowichan, and qathet Regional District (formerly Powell River). Thus, ensuring a community-based research approach to include students' experiences and their diverse needs. We analyze the data collected by examining the link between 'stuverty', social capital, and the intersectionalities among our student population. Through the lens of Pierre Bourdieu's forms of capital, we determine that students' knowledge, or lack thereof, of food initiatives, programs and supports on campus impact students ability to use current resources; ultimately impinging their access to adequate and safe food. Furthermore, we draw on symbolic interactionism to demonstrate the unique experience of student food insecurity. By acknowledging the diverse public VIU inhabits, we are better prepared to serve vulnerable populations, and those who are most at risk. Through strengthening ties between institutional policies, programs, and the student populace, we propose that increasing students' social capital will generate solutions to address food insecurity on post-secondary campuses.

(FEM3b) Gender at Work, Gendered Work: Issues of Gender Equity, Precarity, and Allyship

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session explores the material conditions of gender and work, including precarious and digital workers, the role of the state, policies promoting equity at work, and the contribution of allyship to gender equity. Presentations address persistent gender inequalities in workplaces and the labour market, as well as struggles for gender equity.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University

Presentations:

1. Gender and Precarity: Female Ride-hailing Workers in China's Platform Economy

Xing Luo, University of Saskatchewan

The recent rise of platform work is widely recognized as the latest stage in the ongoing process of precarization. However, discussions on platform work and precarity often overlook the role of the state. Additionally, research on gendered experiences in the platform economy remains limited. This study investigates the role of the state in shaping and structuring precarious work in China's platform economy, focusing on the everyday practices of female ride-hailing platform workers in Shenzhen, one of China's largest cities. Using Institutional Ethnography, the research analyses how institutional ruling relations are organized in the local settings of female platform drivers. Key texts related to labour relations and women workers are collected and analysed to identify various institutional discourses, while participant observation and interviews with female platform drivers uncover the ways in which institutional texts are activated and come into play in female workers' everyday practices. Findings suggest that the state plays a crucial role in facilitating women's entry into China's on-demand platform economy while simultaneously marginalizing them through labour laws, policies, regulations, and the social welfare system. This research enhances our understanding of gendered labour and the varieties of labour precarity shaped by historical, socio-economic, and political contexts.

2. Teaching in the Digital Age: Unveiling Gender Gaps in Bangladesh

Ishrat Zakia Sultana and Iffat Jahan, North South University, Bangladesh; Tauhid Hossain Khan, Jagannath University, Bangladesh

This study investigates the differential impacts of digital teaching on the lives of school teachers, with a focus on gender disparities. It contends that the transition from traditional to digital teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic significantly highlighted gender inequalities in Bangladesh. While existing scholarly work has predominantly explored women's motivation to engage in digital teaching, the gendered implications of this shift, particularly within the Bangladeshi context, remain underexplored. To address this gap, six Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with 50 school teachers and tutors from three divisions in Bangladesh. Participants were selected based on principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, considering factors such as rural-urban settings, private-public institutions, English-medium and vernacular schools, and gender. Findings reveal that female teachers were expected to manage their domestic responsibilities alongside conducting online classes, whereas their male counterparts were able to focus exclusively on their professional duties. These results underscore the complex interplay between socio-cultural contexts, gender inequality, and the mental stress experienced by teachers due to the dual burdens of technological adaptation and parallel domestic and professional responsibilities. Additionally, the study highlights the potential risks to marital stability stemming from the unequal distribution of digital teaching-related tasks. Employing the concept of intersectionality, the analysis organizes data into thematic categories, including teachers' perceptions of gender equality, the nature of challenges faced, and variations in these challenges between rural and urban areas. Based on these findings, the study offers actionable recommendations, such as ensuring equitable access to technology for teachers irrespective of gender, fostering social awareness of gender equality, and implementing relevant policy measures to mitigate observed disparities.

3. Disrupting menstrual stigma at work? A thematic analysis of menstrual leave policy announcements across five countries

Meaghan Furlano, Western University

Menstrual leave is a policy allowing menstruators to take paid or unpaid time off work if experiencing painful menstrual cycle-related symptoms or illnesses. Scholars have displayed an increased interest in menstrual leave, primarily owing to the rise in companies offering menstrual leave. Efforts have been made to theorise the potential benefits and drawbacks of menstrual leave. Building on prior work, this article conducts a thematic analysis of twelve menstrual leave policy announcements from companies in five countries. Guided by an intersectional feminist theoretical framework, the article uncovers two themes in menstrual leave policy announcements: (1) recognition of menstrual stigma and the potential to normalise menstruation and menstrual health; and (2) the potential for increased worker power. It subsequently develops two critical arguments: (1) menstrual leave may perpetuate (hetero)sexist beliefs and attitudes, and (2) menstrual leave may reify individual responsibility to manage menstruation and facilitate a positive culture around menstrual leave. This research adds to menstruation literature by being one of the few studies to investigate company-level menstrual leave policy announcements in a transnational context. A broader conceptualisation of menstrual leave, including the transition to 'menstrual flexibility' as an umbrella term, could help such policies become equity tools.

4. An Anti-racist Marxist Feminist Analysis of Pay Equity Advocacy and Legislation

Alaa Abdelhamid, York University

My doctoral research explores historical pay equity advocacy and policy changes leading to the Pay Equity Act (1987) in Ontario from an anti-racist Marxist feminist lens. Among labour and social justice scholars, it is well-established that pay inequities persist based on gender, race, class, dis/ability, age, indigeneity, immigration status, and sexuality (Drolet & Amini, 2023; Howard, 2024; Ontario Equal Pay Coalition, n.d.). Advocacy for the pay equity addressed gender-based wage gaps due to discrimination and occupational segregation, but largely ignored intersecting identities, so the advocacy and resulting legislation primarily benefited middle-class cisgender white settler women working unionized jobs. The purpose of my project is to contextualize pay equity within the settler-colonial white supremacist capitalist state of Canada, and to examine the state's regulation of the labour market along race, gender, and class lines using pay equity as an entry point. Explicitly taking up this historical context and its ongoing salience in shaping political, economic, and social relations around pay equity in Canada, can help explain why the legislation does not benefit all women. Methodologically, I analyze archival documents from sources representing the perspectives of the provincial government, the labour movement, and the feminist movement addressing pay equity in Ontario between 1951 and 1987, as well as oral history interview data with key informants involved in shaping pay equity policy.

(HEA9c) Sociology of Health: Teaching and Care
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

The presentations in this session explore knowledge sharing among health professionals and scholars.

Session Organizer and Chair: Claudia Chaufan, York University

Presentations:

1. Incorporating Spirituality Within Sociology of Medicine Health and Illness Course Designs

Nancy-Angel Doetzel, Mount Royal University

Spiritual deficiency, related to muted discourses about spirituality, within many Sociologies of Medicine Health and Illness course designs is the issue that would be discussed in this session. Articulating and teaching aspects of spirituality within Medicine, Health, and illness courses would introduce "secular sacred" discourses; thus, a spiritual context applied does not endorse a particular religion but could assist Sociology educators and students to monitor and adjust their thoughts. This thought adjustment could bring more hope about health situations and healing, while also assisting with cultural safety. There has been a renaissance of interest in paths of the health and spirit, and this resurgence of spiritual values crosses racial, political, cultural, and class lines. In the context of health and illness, "spiritual" could be viewed as an intercultural addition to content within this course. It is hoped that participants in this session would share their views about challenging spiritual deficiency within many health care education models and thus Sociology of Medicine, Health and Illness course designs. This topic honors the theme "Committing Sociology for Social Impact" by discussing the importance of introducing an intercultural teaching model, which includes spiritualty, into Sociology of Medicine Health and Illness courses.

2. Emotion and work in informing decisions about vaccination in pregnancy

Terra Manca, Athabasca University

Gender relations govern pregnant individuals towards intensive work informing choices to optimize fetal development. Such choices subject women and pregnant people to blame if anything goes wrong even when there are gaps in available evidence. In 2021, there was a dearth of evidence and recommendations to guide pregnant individuals' choices about COVID-19 vaccination. As a result, the choice to get vaccinated required both acceptance of the protective qualities of vaccination *and* uncertainty about rare adverse events. In this talk, I present findings from a study into how emotion and gender shaped accounts of decision-making about three vaccine products in pregnancy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Analysis is based on qualitative interviews with participants (N=39) who identified as women who were pregnant (n=31) and/or prenatal healthcare providers (n=12). Informed by Ahmed's contributions about *affective economies* and *complaint*, and Lupton's *emotion-risk assemblage*, I compare how participants informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination to influenza and whooping cough vaccinations. I found participants relied more on trust and less on supposedly rational risk-benefit assessments when evidence and clear recommendations were available (influenza and whooping cough vaccination). However, they engaged in emotionally intensive risk-benefit analysis when there was a dearth of information or recommendations to support such work (COVID-19 vaccination). Finally, I interpret participants'

motivation to take part in this study as a form of complaint against that work. I argue that intensive "rational" risk-benefit analysis simultaneously intensifies emotional work and potential for blame if something goes wrong.

3. Integrating the Sociology of Suffering and Compassion in Health Professions Education

Pamela Lamb, McGill University

This paper explores the integration of the sociology of suffering and compassion into health professions education, arguing that a deeper understanding of the social dimensions of suffering is essential for cultivating compassionate, patient-centered care. Traditional medical training often prioritizes biomedical models, which overlook the emotional, psychological, and existential aspects of patient distress. Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives from sociology, psychology, and medical education, this paper advocates for a shift toward teaching students not only the clinical aspects of care but also the social and relational factors that shape how suffering is experienced and responded to. The paper highlights promising pedagogical approaches, such as narrative medicine and reflective practice, which help students recognize the sociocultural contexts and relational dynamics of suffering. These methods encourage students to engage compassionately with patients, acknowledging the intricate social dimensions of their experiences. Furthermore, the paper emphasizes the importance of teaching compassion as a relational practice, recognizing that compassionate care extends beyond individual emotions and is profoundly shaped by societal structures and professional norms. Challenges to integrating these approaches into health professions curricula are examined through a sociological lens, including institutional resistance, time constraints, and the psycho-social-emotional engagement of both students and faculty. The paper concludes by offering recommendations for future research and curricular development, advocating for a sociological approach to teaching compassionate care that prepares healthcare professionals to respond to the multifaceted nature of suffering. By fostering awareness of the social meanings of suffering and compassion, this approach aims to improve patient outcomes, enhance healthcare professionals' well-being, and contribute to a more humane healthcare system.

4. Expanding Sociological Perspectives Through 'Omics Research

Dorian DiTommaso, Cesar Ramirez, and Nicholas Spence, University of Toronto

The sociology of health has generated unique theories, frameworks, and empirical research on the role of society in understanding health processes and outcomes. However, there has largely been a lack of engagement with a particularly promising body of research rooted in biology called 'omics. 'Omics research encapsulates a holistic study of molecular processes, including genomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics, epigenomics, and proteomics, which have significantly advanced understanding of, and optimized interventions for, physical and mental health. For a variety of reasons, such as legacies of biological reductionism and disciplinary silos, sociologists have often been hesitant to fully engage with this area of inquiry. However, the intersections between 'omics research and sociology's core theories and frameworks, such as the stress process model (Pearlin 1989), life course perspective (Elder 1998), and intersectionality, are fertile ground that provide a mutually beneficial opportunity for both areas of inquiry. For example, features of the stress process (e.g., stressors, mediators, and outcomes) are ripe for the inclusion of 'omics data that elucidates pathways at a more granular level (Conley and Bennett 2000; Damaske, Zawadzki, and Smyth 2016) and may inform interventions in novel ways. Meanwhile, the life course perspective can offer

insights into how biological processes may be particularly responsive to social factors during specific life stages as well as how biological changes throughout the life course and intergenerationally may affect social outcomes. Our narrative review of the literature will explore these intersections. Further, it will identify limits to the current state of social 'omics research and provide future directions for potentially fruitful interdisciplinary work between sociology and fields which have dominated the landscape to date (e.g., biology, environmental science, public health, medicine). Finally, this work will provide insights on how this approach may enhance social policy to optimally address inequality in society.

(ITD8b) (Social) Media Representations of Resistance and Empowerment
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

This session highlights scholarship that offers unique insights into the ways that traditional media and social media represent, impact, and enable forms of resistance and empowerment. Presentations will use content analysis methodologies to discuss the construction of athletes that resist gender-sexuality norms, the ways in which social media platforms differently shape emotional expressions and reactions to political discourse, and the differences in coverage and constructed realities of protest events between traditional media and social media.

Session Organizers: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph, Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary, and Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University

Session Chair: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. "Read All About It!": The Construction of LGBTQ+ Athletes in Indian and Canadian News Media

Suman Mondal and **Kayla Lui,** McMaster University

Although the Global South and North's representation of LGBTQ+ athletes in sports and media differ in quantity, the overarching messages and nuances are similar. This research explores how Indian and Canadian news media construct their LGBTQ+ athletes. Past information on LGBTQ+ Indian athletes is limited. Still, there is a discussion on how gender and sexually-diverse athletes (particularly female lesbian athletes) are discriminated against since they do not conform to feminine and heterosexual norms. Furthermore, intersex athletes are required to affirm their biological sex through testing. In contrast, Indian queerness is seen as a form of rebelliousness that counters the hegemonic understandings of gender and sexuality (Ghosh, 2015; Travers, 2017; Mohapatra, 2021; Humayun, 2024). In the Canadian context, the *Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport* states there is no literature to support banning transgender women athletes (2022). However, the sex-binary plays an important role in the sports system and places athletes in rigid categories that are constructed by biological sex assigned at birth. This excludes those who identify outside of the binary; thus, preventing some LGBTQ+ Canadian athletes from competing (Braumüller, Menzel, & Hartmann-Tews, 2020). Using a social constructionist perspective, 30 Indian and 30 Canadian newspaper articles (a total of 60 articles) are analyzed to understand how diagnostic, motivational, and prognostic frameworks are highlighted and work to construct LGBTQ+ athletes (Berger & Luckmann, 1996; Best, 2017). The preliminary findings show that Indian media constructs LGBTQ+

athletes as either a moral issue or as a form of resistance against gender-sexuality norms. It views athletes' queerness as either a threat to Indian culture or portrays LGBTQ+ athletes as being harmed. Finally, the coverage either argues that athletes should not project any gender-based ideology, or portrays a demand for protection of LGBTQ+ Indians. In addition, Canadian LGBTQ+ athletes face the moral issue of being marginalized due to their sexuality and identity; becoming victims of regressive views, and requiring social, political, and legal change and protection. Overall, this research demonstrates that marginalized populations in the Global South face similar experiences to those in the Global North. Hence, this shows how queer and transphobia are not only regional, but social, political, legal, and cultural understandings of it are universal.

2. Content Analysis of Iranian Users' Emotional Expression on Social Media; The Café Instagram versus Twitter Square.

Shayan Morshedi, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

In this study, I argue the agentic role of cyberspace by studying how different social media platforms (SMP) affect Iranian users' reactions to specific events. People express and share their emotions and thoughts with others through social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. Nevertheless, is it accurate to consider these platforms as a glass into which we pour our emotions and reactions? Or can SMP influence our thoughts and emotions? Scholars discussed that our thoughts are engaged within the context and situation. Considering cyberspace as an agentic player with noticeable and independent effects on social life, using different SMPs may provoke different reactions and emotional expressions. However, the impact of different SMPs on users' emotions and reactions remains relatively understudied. In this study, I argue that cyberspace is agentic by studying how different SMPs affect users' reactions to specific events. To do this, I have conducted a qualitative content analysis of Iranian users on Twitter and Instagram, comparing their reactions to five specific events. In the early stages of analysis, two major themes emerged from the data. The users on Twitter acted as "Aggressive complainers," while users on Instagram were the "Nice mourners." In the lens of emotions, Twitter was triggering more hot emotions, while Instagram was the space for expressing cold emotions. Twitter content was more active, collective, and target-based, while Instagram posts were more passive and individualistic. Thus, I conclude with a metaphorical theme: Instagram as a café and Twitter as a square/street. Also, borrowing the discussion about the role of glass shape in the taste of drinks, I argue how the metaphor of SMPs acting as drinking glasses is reasonable. This study demonstrates that users' behaviour on different SMPs varies while bridging cyberpsychology to the sociology of social media.

3. Social Media in Community Empowerment: Case of the Citizen Protests in Serbia

Jelena Arnautovic, University of Toronto

This paper will examine the evolving role of social networks and national television in the ongoing mass citizen protests in Serbia. The protest was started by some university students in November 2024 as a reaction to the collapse of the Railway Station's concrete canopy that killed 15 people. The collapse was a consequence of a human mistake in the expensive and vague renovation project led by the Serbian government. Students at the protest requested punishments for all the responsible politicians and the bigger responsibility of the relevant government institutions. Since the government hasn't responded to any of the requests, students blocked the universities and the protests became mass and frequent, but still peaceful, encompassing students, professors, and

various social groups from all parts of the country. At least, that is what can be seen on social networks and in one private media service, independent from the government's control. In national television programs, controlled by the government, the same social reality is presented differently - mass protests are either ignored and neglected or presented as a ridiculous or violent gathering of a handful of people. By comparing two opposed media constructions of the actual events - social media's 'reality' and national television's 'reality', I would discuss the complexity of today's media-saturated world where the constructed media realities sometimes become more real than the actual physical reality. Here, digital space is seen as a space of freedom and empowerment, unlike national television services which disseminate distorted and absurd images of social realities. The interdisciplinary research is based on the concept of multiple constructed social realities, as defined by A. Schutz and J. Searle, Baudrillard's concept of simulation and simulacrum, A. Gramsci's theory of cultural hegemony and S. Hall's theory of representation, and R. Peterson concept of production of culture perspective.

(MIG5) Navigating Belonging: Migration, Identity, and the Search for Home
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Migration is more than a geographic movement; it is a deeply social and symbolic process shaped by imaginaries, histories, and aspirations. This session explores the multifaceted experiences of migration, identity, and belonging across different diaspora communities. Drawing from diverse case studies, our session examines how migrants conceptualize home and belonging, navigate transnational identities, and respond to the evolving sociopolitical landscapes of both homeland and hostland. We begin with an autoethnographic reflection on returning to India, examining the tensions between memory, place, and transnational belonging. Next, we explore the role of social imaginaries in shaping emigration and return migration, particularly among Iranian migrants, illustrating how conceptions of homeland and hostland evolve dynamically throughout the migration journey. The discussion then turns to intergenerational identity transmission in Hong Konger families, unpacking how parents navigate diaspora identities and shape their children's cultural affiliations. Further complicating notions of belonging, we examine ethnic Chinese international students in China, whose strategic identity negotiation highlights the fluid yet constraining nature of national belonging. Concluding the session, we shift to an urban perspective, exploring the decline and resurgence of Chinese corner grocery stores in Toronto, reflecting resilience in the face of gentrification and social change. Together, these papers foster a deeper understanding of how migrants imagine, construct, and negotiate their place in the world.

Session Organizer: Sara Hormozinejad, University of Toronto

Session Chairs: Capri Kong, University of British Columbia and Sara Hormozinejad, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. "Permanent" Departures and "Temporary" Returns: An autoethnography of Home, Identity, and Belonging
Kruti Patel, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

"*Home is where the heart is*," but what happens when the home and heart occupy multiple worlds? Central to migratory experiences lie important questions about transnational belonging, including the intricacies of conflicting cultural identities, feelings of (dis)connection and (un)belonging, and emotional (un)attachment to place. Drawing on Boccagni's (2022) conceptualization of "homing," which involves migrants' current experience of place in reference to the memories of past homes and future imaginaries of a desired home, this paper interweaves existing literature on home-identity processes and autoethnography-an approach that uses personal narratives to understand broader cultural experiences (Adams et al., 2022)-to posit the dynamic relationship between home, identity and belonging. I reflect upon my temporary return 'back home' from Canada to India in February 2024 to (re)conceptualize '(multiple) home(s)' as rooted in a *oneness* of being: two distinct worlds coming together as one to foreground the transnational migrant identity. I argue that the 'home,' as a physical, emotional, relational, and symbolic space, evokes full-body experiences that make migrants feel both 'at home' and 'away from home.' Through my narrative, I demonstrate how (a) 'home(s)' can be (a) space(s) of simultaneous familiarity and strangeness, belonging and out-of-placeness, and comfort and confinement. (In)tangible entities have allowed me to (re)claim and (re)imagine a (forgotten) past self two decades later. I conclude by suggesting that 'home' is an expression of one's sense of self which is lived through cultural practices, local mannerisms and immersion, sensory experiences, familial and emotional attachments, and nostalgia. 'Home' is not only imagined and felt, but is a lifelong process of remembering, imagining, experiencing, becoming, and belonging in multiple worlds. This paper thus offers a deeper understanding of the inter-relations between home (as a real and imagined space) and identity (as rooted in the past and reimagined in the present).

2. Imagining Homeland Roots and Utopian Hostlands: Investigating the Role of Social Imaginaries in Migration Aspirations Among Iranian Migrants

Sara Hormozinejad, University of Toronto

This study investigates how collective social imaginaries influence migration aspirations. Social imaginaries are understood as symbolic frameworks through which individuals collectively imagine the world. These imaginaries are not mere fantasies or nostalgic sentiments - though both fantasy and nostalgia are also social - but instead, they are cultural models that guide collective behaviour. As Appadurai (1990) asserts, imagination is not produced in a vacuum; it is both a social action and a cultural practice embedded within the sociocultural context from which it emerges. Accordingly, a social imaginary extends beyond collective imagination to influence decisions and actions. This study analyzes Iranian migrants' collective social imaginaries of utopian hostlands (*kharej*) and deep-rooted connections to the homeland (*reesheh*). In the narratives of Iranian migrants who participated in this qualitative study (n=20), *kharej* and *reesheh* signify imagined places of belonging, reflecting processes of home-(un)making and the desire to migrate or return. These metaphors represent shared imaginations embedded in Iran's social context and informed by hostlands' settlement experiences. They reveal the struggle to find belonging in a world characterized by unequal power dynamics. The meanings of these concepts are neither static nor homogenous; instead, they are dynamic and change over time and across intersectional identities. Despite this fluidity, these shared imaginaries influence Iranians' aspirations and decisions regarding migration, settlement, and return. Through these imaginaries, Iranian migrants position themselves as agents who interpret and give meaning to their migration journeys. *Kharej*

and reesheh operate as shared understandings that enable common practices and provide a sense of legitimacy for migration and return within the collective. According to Levitt (2010), migration scholars often prioritize economic aspects of migration over socio-cultural dimensions. This study responds to her call for greater attention to the socio-cultural dimensions of migration.

3. Roots: Here, There, or Nowhere? Transmitting Diaspora Identity in Hong Konger Families

Ka Po Kong and Miu Chung Yan, University of British Columbia

This study examines how parental interpretations of diaspora identity influence their children's acculturation experiences and identity development. As global diaspora populations continue to grow, studying the transmission and formation of diaspora identities becomes increasingly important for understanding integration experiences across diaspora generations. However, existing research on this topic often relies on retrospective, child-centric perspectives that assume uniform and consistent parental intentions to transmit cultural heritage. This approach tends to overlook the complex and potentially divergent ways parents negotiate and navigate their diaspora identities, ultimately limiting the understanding of the diverse pathways of intergenerational identity transmission. Our study addresses this gap by prioritising the viewpoints of diaspora parents. Using semi-structured interviews with twelve Hong Konger parents, we identify two hybrid forms of diaspora identity: separated, prioritising homeland connections and returns, and integrated, balancing belonging in both homeland and hostland contexts. Our findings demonstrate that these parental identities directly influence children's acculturation and identity development, shaping their navigation of multiple cultural affiliations and even fostering a sense of global citizenship. We challenge the notion of diaspora identity as a singular construct defined solely by opposition to the host society, revealing its nuanced, coexisting, and reciprocal nature. Our findings contribute to broader sociological discussions on identity formation, acculturation processes, and the dynamics of belonging in an increasingly interconnected world.

4. Hometown Guests or Hometown Folks: National Identities of Ethnic Chinese International Students at Chinese Universities

Vanessa Zhu, University of Toronto

This empirical study explores how the rigid framework of "nationhood" provided an effective tool to acquire resources and social recognition for those who were ethnic Chinese and held non-Chinese passports studying in Chinese universities as international students. Using methodologies including field observations, semi-structured interviews (N=10), and questionnaire survey (N=94), I examined the strategic presentation of national identities through civil model and ethnic model. The findings revealed the malleability of national identity within the rigid framework of the "nation-state". Through keen understanding of surroundings, judicious selection of a favorable identity, and meticulous presentation of desired details, participants constructed their favorable identities that facilitated resource access and social recognition. Finally, the study provides a perspective to approach the concept of "nationhood" by pointing out that participants' ambiguous national identities, paradoxically, both challenged and reinforced this constructed concept.

(PSM1c) Political Sociology and Social Movements III: Polarization, Political Trust, and Citizen Satisfaction

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm

Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This session deals with various aspects of polarization and political change, political trust, media ideology shaping policy disputes, and the relationship between citizen satisfaction and political trust. In doing so, the panelists enrich our understanding of the dynamics of polarization, political trust influencing voluntary compliance, the role of media, and citizen satisfaction in Canada and elsewhere.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, and Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University

Session Chair: Jessica Stallone, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Polarization and other frames: How do Canadians make sense of political change?

Rachel McLay, Dalhousie University

Polarization has often been used by academics, pundits, and politicians as a "master narrative" (Zimmer, 2019) for understanding and describing contemporary political divides. Despite its many possible meanings, and despite mixed evidence, it is frequently spoken of as an objective empirical phenomenon rather than as a particular lens for making sense political differences and conflicts. A diagnosis of polarization is not a neutral, objective analysis, but rather reflects a set of normative, largely unconscious assumptions about politics. Who sees political polarization? Is the perception of political polarization broadly shared? What can other perceptions of political change tell us about the limits of the polarization narratives as a lens for understanding democratic crisis? To answer these questions, I look to Atlantic Canadians' perceptions of political change, using data from a 2019 survey. My preliminary analysis finds that, while some participants referenced polarization narratives, the majority did not. Instead, the most common theme was increasing negativity and disillusionment with politics in general, as well as with political elites, especially Justin Trudeau. This paper will consider more closely whether and in what ways these perceptions might be linked to polarization, both empirically, by examining the expressed political views of the disillusioned, as well as theoretically, by considering how insights from research on populist discourse can be brought to bear on the problem of polarization.

2. Trust and Compliance: A Cross-National Investigation of the Relationship between Political Trust and Adherence to Public Health Measures

Andrew Dawson and **Hanie Fard,** York University

Political trust is a largely considered to play an integral role for voluntary compliance, whether to state law or public health directives. High political trust is thought to foster a sense of legitimacy, encouraging broad adherence to public health measures, while minimizing resistance. However, the empirical record analyzing the effect of political trust is mixed, with some studies finding that political trust is associated with voluntary compliance with public health measures, while others find no connection. This mixed record may be explained by mediating factors, as some suggest trust in experts and the media may either mitigate the effect of political trust, or trump its effect, on

compliance with public health directives. Trust in experts is considered by many as the most direct or proximate determinant of compliance with public health policies, particularly in the absence of political trust. Trust in the media is argued to enhance compliance with public health directives, as it disseminates information and frames narratives that influence public perceptions of both political leaders and experts. We empirically test the association between political trust and compliance to public health measures cross-nationally, and the extent to which trust in experts and trust in the media moderate this relationship. Using confidence in the healthcare system as a proxy for compliance, with a dataset of over 100,000 respondents from 45 countries over the period 2008 to 2020, mediation models find that political trust has a positive relationship with confidence in the healthcare system. Political trust has the largest total (direct and indirect) effect on trust in the healthcare system and, contrary to past findings, has the largest direct effect - surpassing that of trust in experts. Moreover, the results suggest that most the effect of trust in the media operates indirectly via political trust. The analysis therefore suggests that political trust may be a more important correlate of compliance with public health measures than much of the literature suggests.

3. Culture War across Morality Policies: Effects of Media Ideology and News Genre on Framing Policy Disputes in the English-Canadian News Coverage

Yi-Cheng Hsieh, McGill University

While culture war studies debate whether public opinion has been polarized, fewer have conceptualized culture war as cultural constructs, such as media discourse (Hunter, 2006). Similarly, media studies on political polarization focus on favorable coverage and agenda-setting, with less attention to how culture war is constructed through media frames—interpretive schemata shaped by media outlets with diverse ideological stances. Recent research highlights the Canadian media system as ideologically diverse (Thibault et al., 2020), making it a valuable alternative to the U.S.-focused studies. Integrating Entman's (1993) and Van Gorp's (2007) framing theories, I define culture war frames as connecting policy disputes to fundamental value differences through devices like word choices and causal linkages. Using Knill's (2013) policy typology—manifest, latent, and non-morality policies, this study examines three Canadian policies: pronoun policy and gender curriculum, affordable housing, and immigration policies. Applying structural topic modeling and principal component analysis, I test hypotheses on the use of culture war frames, the role of media ideology, and the effects of news genres across policies. Results indicate that culture war frames are prominent in gender curriculum and immigration policies. However, affordable housing is closer to gender curriculum in the latent text-space, likely due to both disputes leading to protests and policing, while immigration policies remain in the state level. Surprisingly, as a latent morality policy, immigration policy has been the most contentious, with the most topics predicted by media ideology. Across morality policies, news reports emphasize information, while opinionated stories deploy culture war frames. This study contributes to culture war and media studies by highlighting culture war frames as shaped by media ideology, with heterogenous effects across different morality policies. It suggests that latent morality policies—blending instrumental and moral elements, might be the most politically contentious, while manifest morality policies, already moralized, require less media framing effort.

4. Trust the Proccess: Canadian Trends of Citizen Satisfaction and Political Trust

Rex Wang, York University

What is the relationship between citizen satisfaction and political trust? Citizen satisfaction has long been measured in myriad forms throughout the existence of socio-political discourses, ranging from generalized democratic satisfaction to more area specific service-performance satisfaction. While citizen satisfaction has traditionally been used as an indicator for citizen perception of institutional performance, in recent years it has seen an uptick in usage being utilized not only as an indicator, but also as a driver for contingent outcomes such as voter turnout and political/institutional trust. This project focuses on the latter relationship, specifically on the interaction between targeted political satisfaction and political trust. Though there is existing literature on global and nation specific relationships of satisfaction and trust, within Canadian contexts this interaction has gone either unstudied or limited to niche scopes. Utilizing consecutive waves of Canadian Democracy Checkup Survey, this presentation will provide both a statistical analysis of the relationship between trust and satisfaction as well as observations of any longitudinal trends or patterns that may have emerged overtime in Canada. This presentation will not only add to the existing literature on the relationship of satisfaction and trust by providing a Canadian perspective, but also set the groundwork for a larger project aimed at better understanding the detailed mechanisms behind these interactions.

(RAE7a) Anti-Asian Racism in Canada: Anti-Asian/Chinese Racism and COVID-19

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

This session brings together papers that address theoretical debates and/or empirical research studies from diverse conceptual frameworks and methodologies that examine the historical, social, economic, political, and cultural policies and practices of anti-Asian racism and its hateful rhetoric before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The experiences, agencies, and activism of individuals who are the targets of anti-Asian racism are also examined.

Session Organizers: Guida Man, York University and Keefer Wong, York University

Session Chair: Guida Man, York University

Presentations:

1. Pandemic Racism, Asian Canadians and a Legacy of Dis-ease

Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University

The sharp increase in racial violence against Chinese Canadians, and, other Asian Canadians, more broadly, during the COVID-19 pandemic is rooted in longstanding tropes that have associated Asians with disease. Pervasive tropes of foreignness and disease were reactivated during the COVID-19 pandemic and Asian Canadians were seen as disease carriers, and thereby as threats to public health. The hate attacks and discrimination that followed resulted in significant negative impacts on the physical health, economic wellbeing and mental health of Asian Canadians. Drawing upon surveys, polls, media coverage and scholarly literature, this paper examines the impact of pandemic racism on the lives of Asian Canadians. Alerting us to the persistent racial mythologies that helped to unleash contagions of stigmatization and misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic, it

points to the critical need for public education on the historical entanglement of race, racism and infectious disease in Canadian public discourse. Such a critical engagement would be the first step towards fostering equitable, multi-racial co-existence as it could allow us to understand the differential impacts of COVID-19 on racialized communities and meaningfully engage with the long-term impact of pandemic racism. Attending to the suffering and grief of Asian Canadians could ensure that anti-Asian racism during COVID-19 is not erased from our collective memory of the pandemic or written off as an aberration.

2. Tracing anti-China narratives in early Canadian media coverage on COVID-19

Sibo Chen, Toronto Metropolitan University

Xenophobic and racist crimes targeting people of Chinese descent have increased drastically across North America since the global COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020 and have not alleviated in 2024 due to mounting geopolitical tensions between China and the United States. Along with this trend, there has been notable anti-China sentiment manifesting in the Canadian public sphere. Following a qualitative thematic analysis approach, this study examines how four major Canadian news outlets (CBC News, the Toronto Star, the National Post, and the Globe and Mail) handling of COVID-19 during the first quarter of 2020, a critical period during which the virus' initial outbreak in China rapidly grew into a global pandemic. The analysis of 338 news items revealed that while the Chinese government's implementation of lock-down and other authoritarian public health measures was persistently conflated with political authoritarianism, their approval by the Canadian government in March 2020 was deemed justifiable. In short. the Canadian media's framing of China and its people as the national or racist "Other" has unavoidably resulted in tensions and divides, rather than a united front against a global health catastrophe.

3. Anti-Asian Racism in the Workplace in the Time of COVID-19

Guida Man, **Keefer Wong, Elena Chou,** and **Victoria Ogley**, York University and **Ernest Leung**, University of Saskatchewan

Recent research has demonstrated that the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes and the experience of discrimination during the pandemic are rooted in historical and institutional structures that are xenophobic, exclusionary and reinforced. However, there is a dearth of research on how anti-Asian/Chinese racism at the institutional level impact the experience of individual Chinese worker during COVID-19, and in particular, there is a paucity of research which delves into the way institutional racism in the workplace interacts with intersectional identities of individual Chinese to reproduce inequality. Our chapter will fill the lacunae in existing research. In this chapter, we adopt an intersectional framework and an institutional ethnography style approach to examine the experience of racism of individual Chinese residing in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). We draw on data analysis from a SSHRC funded research project, and focus our analysis within the institutional setting of the workplace. We demonstrate that while institutional racism in the workplace which impacts individual worker's experience has persisted prior to COVID-19, the pandemic exacerbates precipitating racist policies and practices, allowing them to manifest and proliferate. In particular, our paper elucidates how institutional racism in the workplace interacts with individuals' intersectionalities (i.e., race, class, gender, age, ability, knowledge of English/French, immigration/citizenship status etc.) to further complicate how individuals are differentially targeted

and how they experience racism differently. As well, our chapter illuminates how individual interviewee utilizes his/her agency to devise strategies to deal with institutional racism.

4. A New Theoretical Approach to anti-Asian Racism in Canada: The Nexus of Geopolitics, History and Pandemic

X. Alvin Yang, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science; Karl Yan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

This article examines the rise of anti-Asian racism, particularly against Chinese Canadians, during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. It introduces a novel theoretical framework that challenges traditional international relations theories that overlook race and migration on the one hand and migration studies that ignore geopolitics on the other. Specifically, this theoretical approach bridges international and domestic dimensions by integrating top-down geopolitical dynamics with bottom-up societal processes. Using Canada as a case study, it illustrates the complex dynamics of how Sino-American contestation and the resurgence of nationalist movements worldwide interact with Canada's historical and social contexts as well as COVID-19 discourse, which contribute to the rise of anti-Asian racism in Canada.

(VLS10b) Violence and Society II: Space and Place

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 2:00pm
Affiliation: Violence in Society Research Cluster

In this session we feature papers that examine violence and aggression in all forms, from varied perspectives including, but not limited to, those of the victim(s), the offender(s), witnesses, the social context(s) in which violence occurs, reactions to norm violations from both formal (governments, police, courts, etc.) and informal systems, recovery and resilience, and prevention. Papers in this session are from multiple disciplines that examine harms and their effects, including papers that seek to re-imagine alternatives to how we identify and respond to violence.

Session Organizer: Hannah Scott, Ontario Tech University

Session Chair: Amy Webster, Ontario Tech University

Presentations:

1. Asian Displacement and Enclosure: Navigating Colonialism and Environmental Racism in the City of Darkness

Alison Lam, University of Toronto

As the world boils and humanity wages war against nature, as consumers dig and drill to line coffers, the results of environmental degradation impact disadvantaged groups and marginalized communities disproportionately. Throughout history, there have been numerous examples of communities around the world, in both the global north and south, that have been targets of environmental racism. In many of these examples, the root cause can be traced to decisions made by the government for economic gain; ecological sustainability is sacrificed in the name of capitalism. However, what happens when the war against nature is not a byproduct but the *purpose* of governmental planning and negotiation? What happens when the destruction of nature is intentional and not simply an inevitable outcome of greed? Kowloon Walled City (KWC) is the prime example of significant change that occurs after a disaster or crisis, followed by

exploitation of the crisis. When Hong Kong was surrendered to British colonial rule for 99 years after the Opium Wars, many inhabitants found themselves both physically and culturally displaced. Not British, but not exactly Chinese, the population of Hong Kong lost both identity and nationality in the resulting peace treaty. As a reaction, those who could not accept British colonial rule created KWC. Over its decades of existence, KWC became a pawn in the power struggle between Britain and China, with each nation state leveraging political power from its degradation. This paper seeks to take a deep dive into the ecosystem of KWC, examining it for its resilience, for its adaptability, and for the way in which environmental racism is used as a tool by two opposing governing bodies in repeated attempts to bring the other to heel.

2. The Interplay of Maslow's Needs and Gender Violence: A Sociological Review

Oluwaseun Bamigboye, Federal University Oye Ekiti, Nigeria; Olapade Bamigboye, Akwa Ibon State University, Nigeria

Studies have found that GBV in Nigeria affects both genders, though women disproportionately bear the brunt, reinforcing gender inequalities, limiting autonomy and opportunities, and hindering socio-economic development, with issues like domestic violence, and child marriage. This research explored the interplay of Maslow's needs and gender violence. This study conducted a scoping review to shed light on the existing literature, pinpoint key concepts, and expose research gaps within the Nigerian context. Findings indicate that unmet basic needs, particularly physiological and safety needs, increase vulnerability to violence, while the lack of love, belonging, and esteem exacerbates trauma and hinders recovery. Despite the critical role of Maslow's needs in empowering individuals, GBV persists even when Nigerian women achieve economic stability, social belonging, and self-esteem, owing to entrenched societal norms, cultural expectations, and structural inequalities. The study also emphasizes the dual role of self-actualization, which can either mitigate or perpetuate cycles of violence based on individual circumstances. Key themes include the necessity of economic stability, social support, and educational opportunities in addressing basic and higher-level needs to prevent GBV. Even if women achieve economic security, social belonging, and self-esteem, they may still face GBV due to structural inequalities and pervasive cultural biases. The study calls for holistic interventions integrating societal transformations, legal protections, and shifts in gender norms in Nigeria. This comprehensive approach is essential to combat GBV effectively and support survivors' well-being, reinforcing the importance of policy and practice in creating sustainable change.

3. Exploring the Association Between Neighbourhood Resources and Violent Crime: Toronto, 2012-2022

Carly Richards, McMaster University

The topic of violent crime remains a popular one in criminological and sociological research. This study uses both Social Disorganization Theory and the concept of collective efficacy to suggest that neighborhood resources, such as greenspaces and community centers, can help reduce the negative link between collective efficacy and violent crime rates in different neighborhoods. I use an exploratory lens to examine violent crime patterns, neighbourhood community resources, and demographics across Toronto neighbourhoods to provide a comprehensive overview of the Toronto neighbourhoods. Specifically, it asks: *How have crime rates, neighborhood community resources, and demographics in Toronto's neighborhoods changed between 2012 and 2022*To answer this

research question, I use several data sets from Toronto, Ontario: the Neighbourhood Effects on Health and Well-Being study, crime data from the City of Toronto, and the Canadian Marginalization Index (CAN-Marg) which uses aggregate census data from Statistics Canada . I combine all these datasets and analyze them using correlation tables to provide a comprehensive overview of the Toronto neighbourhoods. The results of this study will offer a comprehensive overview of Toronto's neighborhoods, providing valuable insights into their unique characteristics. Additionally, the findings will lay the groundwork for further examination of the relationship between violent crime, neighbourhood community resources, and the social and demographic qualities of Toronto's diverse communities.

4. The Exposure Continuum: The Language of Toxic Events and Chronic Toxicity

Sarah Bock, University of Calgary

Language is a primary axis upon which our lives exist. We use language to communicate important information like food recalls or toxic spills, but language, when its messages are hidden or its narrative twisted, can hold a violent edge. What we communicate is just as important as what we don't. There were several Class I food recalls in the United States during 2024; these recalls garnered much media attention. In comparison, many do not know that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS" or "forever chemicals") are in consumer items, such as toys or food wrappers, and drinking water. The lack of communication from the media and public awareness on PFAS creates a level of invisibility to the long-term exposure of millions of Americans. This selective ignorance is defined by what I call the exposure continuum. The exposure continuum is the difference in knowledge between toxic events, or short-term exposures, and chronic toxicity, a continued long-term form of exposure. This research will analyze news articles and social media posts on Class I food recalls and PFAS pollution. This analysis will examine how the public understands different types of toxic exposure. Exploring Slavoj Žižek's concept of violence, where violence appears in both a subjective and objective manner, this research will examine the violent axis of non-communication. To view gaining awareness of food recalls or PFAS exposure as a violent intrusion of everyday life, I will investigate why different forms of violent intrusions create different reactions in the individuals who experience them. This paper will address two questions: 1) How does public response and knowledge differ between toxic events and chronic toxicity?; 2) What are the implications of miscommunication and non-communication surrounding exposure events?

(EDU3) Critical Sociological Approaches in Adult, Community and Higher Education: Pushing Policy towards Social Change

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Education Research Cluster

In this session, we examine the implications of educational policy through critical approaches in education and sociology to understand how concepts such as access and equity manifest themselves in adult, community and higher education settings. Educational policy as text, discourse and actions of day-to-day people (Ball 1992, 2015; Lipsky, 2010) has been used to push for shifts and changes towards a more just and equitable world. Generally, these developments in educational policy have shared the common objectives of either increasing, enhancing, and/or formalizing educational participation with spaces of adult, community-based and higher education

or making such spaces more inclusive. The presentations in this session seek to argue that while the intention of using educational policy for social change through educational participation and inclusion may be honourable, the reality of an equitable society through educational policy remains elusive for those who continue to be excluded from and marginalized through higher education and the labour market. Even for adults in community settings where informal education is more flexible and readily available, equitable access to adult education is often a struggle. The session is especially interested in studies that address the policy implications for those looking to work on their literacy and those who have recently arrived in Canada. By examining educational policy for adult, community, and higher education through critical sociological lenses, we hope to highlight the importance of moving beyond simply aspirational educational policy into ensuing meaningful changes for those who have long been marginalized by various educational institutions in terms of access and success (Ahmed, 2007).

Session Organizers: Annie Luk, University of Toronto, Paula Elias, Brock University, and Norin Taj, University of Toronto

Session Chair: Paula Elias, Brock University

Presentations:

1. Negotiating Cultural Capital: Highly Skilled Immigrant Women's Labour Integration in Canada

Norin Taj, University of Toronto, OISE

This paper presentation examines the labour market experiences of highly skilled, racialized immigrant women in Canada, focusing on the role of cultural capital in their integration. Drawing on Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital, I explore how policies related to multiculturalism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Ontario's skill recognition programs influence immigrant women's ability to participate in the labour market. Through a critical sociological lens, this presentation will analyze how cultural capital—embodied, objectified, and institutionalized—shapes these women's access to employment and economic opportunities. A key issue explored is the notion of "Canadian experience," which has emerged as a significant barrier for racialized immigrant women. Labour market policies often privilege cultural capital, including their credentials and skills, that align with Western, Eurocentric norms while devaluing non-Western experiences and knowledge. The concept of "Canadian experience" plays a pivotal role in perpetuating exclusionary practices, as it limits opportunities for immigrant women to have their skills recognized, contributing to ongoing inequalities in the labour market. Bourdieu's framework of cultural capital provides a useful lens for understanding how these systemic inequalities are maintained. Employers, many of whom have immigrant backgrounds themselves, uphold these inequitable norms by demanding that immigrant women conform to the established "rules of the game." This paper argues that the internalized preferences of employers and the broader Canadian labour market contribute to the exclusion of racialized women, making it more difficult for them to gain recognition for their cultural and professional experiences. Using a critical sociological approach, this paper presentation argues that the current labour market framework, rooted in neoliberal values, needs to shift towards recognizing diverse forms of knowledge and experience. Such a shift would enable immigrant women to access better opportunities for career advancement and economic integration. In doing so, we can promote social change and push for a more just, inclusive society. This presentation will suggest that for immigrant women to achieve equitable integration into the labour market, it is crucial for educational institutions, employers, and service agencies to recognize a broader range of

cultural capital. By moving beyond the narrow definition of "Canadian experience" and embracing a more inclusive understanding of cultural capital, it is possible to foster a labour market that values immigrant women's skills and experiences, ultimately contributing to their full economic participation. This presentation aims to highlight the highly skilled, racialized immigrant women's labour market experiences and skills in Canada at the intersection of cultural capital, education policy, and integration. It advocates for policy changes that recognize the legitimacy of immigrant women's cultural capital, thereby addressing systemic inequality and fostering a more equitable labour market.

2. Decolonizing Education: The Learning Journeys of Hispanic Immigrant Women in Texas

Yidan Zhu,Royal Roads University; Cindy Pena, National Autonomous University of Mexico; Bingbing Li, University of British Columbia

This study explores the decolonization journey of Hispanic immigrant women in Texas through adult learning. Using critical pedagogy, postcolonial, and feminist theories, it examines how adult learning shapes their perspectives, challenges colonial influences, and fosters community engagement. Through in-depth interviews with 14 participants, the research highlights barriers, strategies for unlearning biases, and ways they navigate systemic inequalities. By centering their experiences, this study contributes to decolonized, community-based educational approaches that better understand Hispanic immigrant women's aspirations and offer insights beyond traditional paradigms to empower their learning experiences.

3. Critical Race Theory: Commodification of International Students in Canadian Higher Education

Loraine Illeperuma, York University

This paper examines the Canadian Federal Internationalization Strategy (IS) in higher education (HE), highlighting the economic, social, and systemic implications on International students and Canada. The IS aims to position Canada as a leader in global education by attracting international students but frames them as key economic contributors rather than individuals seeking educational opportunities. By employing Critical Race Theory (CRT), the paper investigates systemic inequities perpetuated by the IS, focusing on racialized students from South Asia and the global south—specifically, the commodification of international students in Canada and how they are used to bolster our economy. The main ideas in this paper include exploring how international students are framed within the policy, investigating the structural barriers these students face in education, employment, and society and finally considering the social and economic impacts on locals as the influx of students impacts housing, public services, and racism among Canadians, by examing how IS commodifies international students, prioritizing their financial contributions over their educational experiences and well-being. Furthermore, I explore the performative nature of diversity within Canadian HE institutions, which often ignore systemic barriers faced by international students, including high tuition fees, inadequate support systems, and racism—utilizing CRTs interest convergence (Ladson-Billings, 2013) and understanding "racism as normal" (Ladson-Billings, 2013, p. 371) to reveal how policy primarily serves dominant groups' economic and political interests while marginally benefitting international students. In my paper, I highlight that Canada's internationalization efforts reinforce systemic inequities by leveraging international students' financial contributions without addressing their holistic needs. Despite promoting inclusivity, the IS prioritizes economic gains by revealing the performative nature of diversity initiatives. This research

underscores the importance of equitable international education policy and offers insight into how policy frameworks in HE can better align with principles of equity and inclusion for racialized students.

4. Borders and Barriers: Refugee and Asylum-Seeker Access to Education

Zuhra Abawi, Niagara University

The paper seeks to interrogate the salience of whiteness informing state policy in terms of refugee in access to education within the European context. This work explores the experiences of predominantly Muslim refugees as they attempt to access education in their European host nations; and highlights the divisiveness in policy enactment and responses along Global North/South divides. Although the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and 1967 Protocol guarantee the right to education for refugee and asylum-seeker children and youth, they have been widely subjective (Abdelaaty, 2021; Howard et al, 2022; Mayblin, 2014; Overlid, 2022). The current political climate across the Global North perpetuates a harmful narrative that depicts refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers as dangerous and innately foreign to their host countries; and as such, these discursive practices seek to dehumanize, other, and effectively justify heightened surveillance and barriers to human rights; including education. The paper details the barriers to accessing education for Muslim refugees and migrants in the United Kingdom and European Union against the backdrop of rising right-wing nationalism, Islamophobia, and white supremacy. The subjectivity of the enactment of humanitarian laws, in this case and the right to an education irrespective of status in Europe speak to wider entanglements of Islamophobia, xenophobia and coloniality informing how and when such policies ought to apply and to whom. The paper is a timely piece in terms of thinking and re- thinking educational policies for refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers as the movement across the globe is expected to surge due to climate catastrophe, the harmful implications of transnational corporations and western military imperialism which the Global North is the culprit of.

(FDS1b) Sociological Perspectives on Poverty and Food Insecurity II

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Food insecurity can be defined as the "inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so" (Government of Canada, 2020). Dietitians of Canada (2016) contends that food insecurity is a serious public health issue with profound effects on physical and mental health and social well-being and that all households in Canada must have sufficient income for secure access to nutritious food after paying for other basic necessities. Notably, the most recent data from Statistics Canada's 2022 Canadian Income Survey revealed that 8.7 million Canadians, including 2.1 million children, in the ten provinces lived in food-insecure households. Certain groups are more susceptible to food insecurity, including Black, Indigenous, and racialized peoples, individuals with disabilities, single parents, immigrants, and single people aged 18 to 64 who live alone (Uppal, 2023). This session features papers that address public perceptions of poverty and food insecurity issues and the various challenges faced by individuals experiencing poverty and food insecurity based on empirical research.

Session Organizer and Chair: Henry Chow, University of Regina

Presentations:

1. Multidimensional Effects of Attribution Styles and Background Variables on Poverty Attitudes

Qian Gao, University of Regina

Poverty is a global social issue with complex causes. As noted by Blair et al. (2024, p. 418), "poverty overlaps with and is the underlying cause of so many other social problems facing families and communities." Despite substantial resources invested by governments and social organizations to alleviate poverty, public attitudes toward the impoverished remain significantly divided, affecting social empathy and policy support. Antonio Guterres stressed that, "Young people are on the front lines of the struggle to build a better future" (United Nations, 2021). Understanding youth attitudes toward poverty is therefore essential for shaping policies and fostering sustainable development. This paper is based on a study carried out at a Canadian university in a prairie city. Using a convenience sampling method, a total of 361 undergraduate students participated in a survey exploring attitudes toward poverty. Statistical analysis was conducted to examine the major factors influencing students' attitudes toward poverty. Results reveal that attribution styles were the core factors influencing poverty attitudes, with different attribution patterns showing varying levels of sympathy among university students. In addition, political orientation and family economic background emerged as significant factors shaping attitudes toward poverty. Notably, the findings challenge traditional assumptions and provide crucial empirical evidence for poverty education in higher education and public policy making.

2. Food Insecurity and Psychological Distress Among Young Adult Post-Secondary Students in Canada: A Mixed-Effect Analysis.

Mohsen Monji, Concordia University

Food insecurity is a growing public health concern among young adults, particularly post-secondary students in Canada. This population faces heightened vulnerability to food insecurity due to rising tuition fees, economic challenges, precarious employment, and high living costs. Despite this, limited research has explored the association between food insecurity and psychological distress in this demographic. Using nationally representative data from the 2022 National College Health Assessment Survey-Canadian Reference Group (N = 10,025), this study employed mixed-effects linear models to examine the relationship between food insecurity and psychological distress among post-secondary students in Canada. To account for clustering within institutions, schools were included as random effects in the models. The results indicated that institutional differences did not significantly contribute to variations in psychological distress. However, food insecurity was consistently and significantly associated with higher levels of psychological distress, even after adjusting for socio-demographic characteristics, including age, gender, sexual orientation, race, immigration status, living arrangements, and financial difficulties. The findings highlight the pivotal role of food insecurity in influencing psychological distress among young adult post-secondary students in Canada. By identifying food insecurity as a key social determinant of psychological distress, this study contributes to the growing research on young adults' mental health in Canada. The findings underscore the need for targeted national policies to mitigate food insecurity and improve mental health outcomes for young adult post-secondary students in Canada.

3. Awareness of Food Insecurity among Post-secondary Students: A cross-sectional survey

Damola Salami and Henry Chow, University of Regina

Food insecurity a global phenomenon, is the "inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so" (Government of Canada, 2020). Thus, awareness of food insecurity and its mitigation measures is imperative. It has been linked to numerous negative physiological, mental, psychological, social, and subjective well-being outcomes, especially for the socially excluded including children, indigents, students, and gender and ethnic/racial minorities, to mention a few (Olauson et al. 2018; Bottorf et al. 2020). In other words, the vulnerable population is at a higher risk of food insecurity and its devastating consequences. The academic and non-academic community recognizes the precarity of food insecurity and the need to mitigate it (Bruening et al. 2017; Nazmi et al., 2018; Government of Canada, 2024). Research is ongoing on effective systemic, social, and individual measures for reducing food insecurity and its consequences (Bruening et al. 2017; Farahbakhsh et al., 2017). In Canada, efforts to minimize food insecurity have taken the form of food policy enactment, food security survey measures development, and the setting up of food advisory councils at the federal and provincial levels (Government of Canada, 2024). That said, studies show that post-secondary students in Canada are among the most vulnerable populations exposed to food insecurity (Hanbazaza et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2023). Therefore, relying on a self-administered survey and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression analysis of data from university campus students from a midsized city in Prairies Canada, this research aims to investigate the awareness of food insecurity impacts and mitigation measures among post-secondary Students.

4. Experiences of and Attitudes toward Food Insecurity among University Students in Regina

Henry Chow and **Amit Sarkar,** University of Regina

Food insecurity is a critical health issue in Canada. Food insecurity exists "whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable food in socially acceptable ways is limited or uncertain" (Radimer, 2002). According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (2025), individuals are considered to be food insecure "when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life." In Canada, Statistics Canada monitors the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity through its population surveys, enabling research on the predictors of food insecurity, the impact on health and health care, as well as the effects of different policy interventions. In 2022, according to data from statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, 18.4% (i.e., 6.9 million) of people in the ten provinces lived in a food-insecure household, including nearly 1.8 million children. Notably, the proportion of families who were food insecure in the 12 months preceding the survey increased from 16% in 2021 to 18% in 2022. Among those who were more susceptible to food insecurity were single mothers, Indigenous families, and Black families (Statistics Canada, 2023). Previous studies reveal that the major reasons why people experience food insecurity include a lack of financial resources (e.g., inadequate incomes, limited financial assets, limited access to credit, etc.), lack of access to nutritious food at affordable prices, lack of access to food due to geographical isolation, and lack of knowledge about a nutritious diet (Marmot & Allen, 2014; Rosier, 2011). Based on a campus survey of undergraduate students undertaken in a Western Canadian city during the academic year 2024-25, this paper will (1) examine respondents'

experience in food insecurity and (2) disentangle the key factors contributing to respondents' attitudes toward food insecurity using regression analysis.

(FEM3c) Gender at Work, Gendered Work: Gender Inequality in Academia, Disaporic Art Workers, and Cooking as Ecofeminist Practice
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session examines the persistent inequalities faced by women faculty members in academia, and the structural inequalities experienced by precarious art workers. Moving beyond cooking as "women's work" this session explores how the practice of cooking builds community and connection.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chair: Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University

Presentations:

1. Navigating Gendered Academia: The Lived Experiences of Women Faculty Members
Sami Falkenstein, University of Guelph

This study examines the impact of gendered norms and expectations on the experiences, professional identities, and career trajectories of women faculty members at the University of Guelph. Although significant progress has been made in increasing women's representation in academia, gender disparities persist. Using a qualitative methodological approach, the research draws on semi-structured interviews with women professors on their lived experiences of, and perceptions on, prevailing gendered norms and expectations within academia. The interviews explore how gendered expectations influence women faculty's professional trajectories, identities, and sense of belonging within academic institutions. Although the ideal of meritocracy is often emphasized within academia, this study reveals a paradox: whether inadvertently or not, gendered norms and expectations are often placed on women professors. These expectations regularly pressure women professors to 'perform' in ways that align with traditional gender roles in order to maintain a 'favourable' professional image and advance their careers. Gendered norms are particularly evident in the disproportionate number of women in service roles, the ways women's opinions are treated, and even in how motherhood status can exacerbate these challenges. The findings highlight the persistent challenges women faculty face in navigating academia - challenges that, while less overt than issues like the pay gap, are nonetheless areas that many women professors deem a topic worthy of more recognition.

2. Gendered spaces: Women faculty's experiences in the academic workplace
Anne-Marie Bresee, Western University

Office space is regarded as an effective tool for institutional and personal branding, signaling professionalism through markers of autonomy, expertise and service toward others (Macdonald, 1989). The relationship between physical workspace and professional identity is evident in how

factors such as office size, location, window count, and furniture quality are commonly used as indicators of professional rank and status (Macdonald, 1989; Elsbach, 2003). Within this physical environment, personal, social, and professional identities are constantly enacted, reproduced, and challenged (Brown, 2017). However, little research has been directed toward how the personalization of office space impacts professional identity and well-being. This study, utilizing photovoice, explores how women professors actively manage their office spaces to navigate the tension between work, home life, and identity while maintaining their well-being. Studies often focus on specific segments of the academic profession, particularly contract faculty, offering a narrow view of women's experiences in academia. In contrast, this study provides a more inclusive albeit small sample of women faculty holding contract, tenure-track, and tenured positions. The resulting images and discursive discourse provide insight into the workplace experience of five women professors who teach at the undergraduate level at an Ontario university in the faculties of humanities, social sciences, and arts. By giving voice to women faculty, who remain underrepresented in academia, photovoice helps "unsilence" their experiences through the documentation of their daily lived realities. The resulting photographs expose how office spaces become sites of negotiation, where women professors balance the demands of their professional roles and personal lives while actively managing their well-being.

3. Precarious Smiles: The Invisible Labour of Diasporic Craftswomen in Contemporary Art Production

Somayeh Rashvand, Concordia University

This study examines the often-overlooked contributions of diasporic women art workers in the fabrication of large-scale contemporary art projects, emphasizing the gendered and precarious nature of their labour. Drawing on my personal experience of three years working as part of a fabrication team creating mosaic murals for renowned visual artists in Montreal, I explore how these works—installed in public spaces across the U.S. and Canada—hide the systemic undervaluation of diasporic artisanal gendered labour within contemporary public art. Central to this study is a series of selfies I took while working under physically demanding, emotionally exhausting, and underpaid conditions. Shared with my family, these images present a performance of fake happiness that conceals the emotional and physical toll of my labour as a diasporic craftswoman. This study begins with Guy Standing's notion of the "precariat" to frame the economic insecurity, unstable employment, and vulnerability experienced by diasporic craftswomen. I then draw on Chantal Jacquet's "transclass" theory to explore how migration disrupts class identities, forcing immigrant workers into precarious roles despite their skills and aspirations for upward mobility. Building on these frameworks, I demonstrate how structural inequalities sustain contemporary art markets through the undervalued labour of immigrant women artisans. Furthermore, I draw on affect theory to highlight the emotional and relational dimensions of precarious art labour. This study contributes to critical conversations about gender, immigration, labour, and the contemporary art market. It offers insights into how to reimagine visibility—not as a marker of empowerment but as a means of revealing systemic inequalities and amplifying marginalized voices in contemporary art narratives.

4. Recipe for Connection: Cooking as a Sacred Act of Healing

Krys Lenek, Athabasca University

As ecofeminists of the modern day continue to redefine various ways of healing relationships with and between self, community, and the Earth, cooking emerges as a powerful and sacred form of (re)connection. Moving beyond the patriarchal narrative about cooking as a devalued obligation within the realm of "women's work", cooking can be re-examined and understood as a powerful practice of nurturing ourselves, each other, and our planet. Using ecofeminism as a theoretical framework, this paper highlights the background and cultural context of mainstream perspectives around food preparation, and explores cooking as a practice which centers intimacy, presence, and gratitude. This analysis of cooking aims to empower the divine feminine by reclaiming ancient wisdom, and breakdown traditional gender norms that often alienate and discourage non-feminine-aligned identities from participating in cooking as a sacred act. Drawing on academic sources, Indigenous teachings, as well as deeply personal reflections, this research serves as an invitation to reshape our relationships with our bodies and spirits, loved ones, and world. An intersectional analysis is employed to emphasize the barriers and challenges that many women and families may face in practicing cooking as a form of healing. This project also suggests future areas of research, including the opportunity to study cooking from an international, non-Western perspective, and from a trauma-informed lens that recognizes other factors that may influence individual and communities' relationship to cooking.

(HEA9a) Sociology of Health: Work and Professions Perspectives

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

The presentations in this session explore how work stressors affect individual health as well as healthcare providers.

Session Chair: Claudia Chaufan, York University

Presentations:

1. Mental Health and the Healthcare Landscape: Consumer, Provider, and Caregiver Perspectives

Alana Demkiw and Hua Li, University of Saskatchewan

Mental health issues are on the rise in Canada. While increased economic stress and residual effects of COVID are partially responsible, structural issues within the healthcare environment remains chiefly liable for the diminished mental health among Canadians, especially those with mental health and/or addiction (MHA) disorders. However, it is not just patients suffering due to these systemic issues; so too do their caregivers and healthcare providers. Through interviews with 21 patients diagnosed with mental health and addiction (MHA) disorders, 5 caregivers of adults with MHA conditions, and 6 healthcare providers from both primary care and community mental health sectors, our research offers a comprehensive analysis of the current healthcare landscape in Saskatchewan. The varied perspectives on the current healthcare environment - from the point of view of providers, consumers, and caregivers - reveal several common narratives, many of which revolve around the negative repercussions borne of long wait times for the emergency department, lacking continuity of care, the fractured relationship between community mental health services and primary care services, or ineffective communication between both providers and services and

providers and patients. These factors - among many others - contribute to, and exacerbate, mental health issues among patients, providers, and caregivers alike. The results of these interviews provide a call to action for governmental bodies and policy makers to address the mental health crisis facing Canadians, as the current healthcare environmental landscape is becoming increasingly unsustainable - both financially and in terms of quality of life among Canadians. Through this research, we hope to inform the development of more sustainable models of care for those with mental health and addiction issues, ultimately improving the quality of life for those who provide care for them.

2. A Poorly Composed Career: Exploring the Gig-Work Stressors of American Musicians

Dorian DiTommaso, University of Toronto

Musicians are the original gig workers, yet the impacts of their work activities remain understudied and often neglected in light of modern configurations of the term gig-work. In light of this, the present paper uses stress process theory (Pearlin 1989) to explore how different gig-work stressors differentially affect outcomes of distress, disorder, and health lifestyle behaviours for this unique population of workers. Using the 2018 Music Industry Research Association (MIRA) Survey of Musicians, I examine how four categories of stressors: time/role, financial, functional impairment, and interpersonal (Glavin 2020; Glavin, Bierman, and Schieman 2021; Reynolds and Kincaid 2023; King, Koenig, and Berg 2024), modeled alongside socio-demographic controls, affect the distress, disorder, and health lifestyle behaviours of American musicians. Distinguishing distress, disorder, and health lifestyle behaviours is done by modeling three outcomes: self-rated life satisfaction, the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2), and weekly alcohol consumption. Missing data were handled using multiple imputation using fully conditional specification, and all analyses were run using linear regression with robust standard errors to account for heteroskedasticity. Preliminary results of this working paper indicate that time/role, financial, functional impairment, and some interpersonal strains are relevant for distress, but not for disorder or lifestyle behaviours. Particularly of note is that working more hours in a non-music job is detrimental to a musician's wellbeing, while working a musical career shows almost the exact opposite trend. This suggests that gig-work, which is typically negatively associated with mental health measures (Glavin, Bierman, and Schieman 2021; Glavin and Schieman 2022), may be beneficial for the wellbeing of this group of workers. These findings support the importance of the role of passion in work, and the need to choose work that resonates with one's identity to feel satisfied among this group of workers.

3. Producing a licit economy of bodies: living organ donation

Matthew Strang, York University

The connection between (medical) violence on, and exploitation of, people and their bodies and illicit organ transplantation has been made clear by multiple social science scholars. In contrast, the routinization of licit living organ donation within the medical landscape has received little to no consideration by social science scholars. My institutional ethnography of living organ donation brings some insights between the licit market and economy of alive bodies for organ procurement and the potential obfuscation this may necessitate. The shift to increasing living organ donation versus cadaveric has involved institutional processes producing potential donors in particular ways. How donors are produced and encouraged to orientate towards donation may cause exclusions of the reality of the multiple, and often challenging, aspects of living organ donors' experiences in

coming to terms with donating. In this presentation, I discuss some preliminary analysis from my interviews with living organ donors including some of what they did, felt, and experienced; highlighting some of the 'work', in an Institutional Ethnography sense, they have to do to be a viable living organ donor candidate. I then contrast it with a preliminary review of how organ donation is presented to the public and to potential donors by institutions that are keen to produce a viable potential licit living organ donor pool.

(ITD8c) Technology & Society: General Topics
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

As the sociological study of technology continues to progress, many questions remain unanswered regarding the social implications of digital technologies in our everyday lives and on society-at-large. With this in mind, our annual ITDS general session provides a space for digital sociologists to share their diverse research interests and to further foster the growth of this scholarly area. Presentations will cover topics at the intersection of technology and education, knowledge production, public opinion, and alienation.

Session Organizers: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph, Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary, and Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University

Session Chair: Madelaine Coelho, University of Toronto

Presentations:

1. Impacts of Digital Teaching on Teachers' Life in Bangladesh and Canada
Ishrat Sultana, North South University; Ellen MacEachen, Janice Aurini, Jennifer Whitson, Pam Hopwood, Yasmeen Almomani, and Michaella Miller, University of Waterloo; Tauhid Khan, Jagannath University; Stephanie Premji, McMaster University; Iffat Jahan, Comilla University

The pandemic of 2020 has normalized digital teaching across the world. While technology has globally brought a dramatic paradigm shift in teaching and learning methods, the impacts of this change vary in the developed and developing societies because cultural and intersectional aspects play important roles in overall teaching in both countries. A qualitative study conducted in Bangladesh and Canada on `how digital teaching impacts the physical and mental well-being of teachers' reveals that online teaching affects work-life balance and intersectional issues. We found that there were little similarities with great differences in the teachers' experiences in Bangladesh and Canada in terms of work-life balance and intersectionality. The study was conducted from 2023 until 2025. The number of individual interviews and FGDs conducted in Bangladesh was 19 and 6, and in Canada 9 and 13, respectively. Findings show that due to cultural aspects of work-life balance and gender differences, teachers in Bangladesh and Canada experience digital teaching partly in the same way but mostly in different ways. One commonality between the teachers' experiences in both countries was to have technostress. In contrast, they experienced support and training to prepare for the online classes differently. Canadian teachers received support while Bangladeshi teachers did not. Also, female teachers in Bangladesh were expected to manage both their household chores and online classes, which did not happen with the male teachers in Bangladesh. Access to internet, perception towards digital teaching, familiarity with digital teaching, adequate

support from the state and education institutions, patterns of individual and professional responsibilities, etc. were some of the areas teachers focused on when sharing their experiences. The study also examines how existing policies in each country support and/or challenge the teachers in online teaching in both countries.

2. Marketing and moderating knowledge online: How do pharmaceutical companies, SMMAs, and patient influencers shape the health knowledge ecosystem?

Milana Leskovac, Queen's University

Health and medical information and knowledge on social media are assembled, mobilized and regulated by a diverse range of actors—including *social media management agencies* (SMMAs), influencers, and private companies—with various interests. SMMAs are intermediaries employed by private companies, to help manage their 'brand' online; private companies (i.e., pharmaceutical companies) hire SMMAs to manage their brands through services such as content moderation (i.e., removing user posts) and marketing (ICUC 2023; LiveWorld 2023). Further, SMMAs serve another significant role: connecting brands with influencers. Social media influencers employ unique strategies of self-branding to create and maintain a credible, reliable, and authentic persona for their followers (Maares et al. 2019; Leaver et al. 2020). This work of self-branding results in user trust of influencer content (Scolere et al. 2018), making their branded authenticity a tool that other companies can then leverage to help promote their products on social media (Stoldt et al. 2019) (i.e., pharmaceutical companies partnering with patient influencers). However, it is unclear what the scope of commercial influence through social media, and the (patient) influencer is *and*the extent and nature of this type of content moderation and influencer marketing work; each of which is highly significant for how we can develop a broader understanding of the formation of, and relationships within, the digital information ecosystem of public health/medical knowledge. To effectively address the underlying operations behind online health/medical knowledge assembly and management, this presentation presents preliminary findings from my doctoral research aiming 1) to understand what (and how) health/medical information is communicated on social media by patient influencers, pharmaceutical and telehealth companies, 2) to understand what guidelines shape content creation, marketing practices, influencer partnerships, etc. for patient influencers and pharmaceutical companies, and 3) to understand what the work of patient influencers and SMMA workers entails, *in practice*.

3. Internet Use and Attitudes Toward Homosexuality: Insights from US GSS 2000-2022

Tanveer Rouf, University of Toronto

This study examines the relationship between internet use and attitudes towards homosexuality in the United States using data from the 2000 to 2022 waves of the General Social Survey. The analysis focusses on whether increased internet use correlates with greater tolerance toward homosexuality. The primary outcome variable is attitude towards same-sex relations, measured on an ordinal scale, while hours of internet use serve as the main predictor. Ordinal logistic regression, adjusted for demographic (education, age, income and sex) along with temporal (sampling year) factors, reveals a small but significant positive relationship: each additional hour of internet use slightly increases the likelihood of expressing tolerant views. Both education and income are significantly positively associated with acceptance, whereas age and male sex correspond with less tolerant attitudes. Temporal trends indicate growing acceptance of homosexuality over time,

though at varying rates. The findings suggest that the internet plays a modest role in shaping progressive attitudes, potentially by exposing users to diverse perspectives. However, its impact is limited compared to broader societal and cultural influences. This study highlights the need to further investigate how digital spaces shape public opinion and their implications for promoting inclusivity and tolerance.

4. Toward a sociology of the (digital) good life: Rosa, Borgmann, and Han

Alexander Castleton, Universidad de Montevideo

The sociological study of the impact of technologies on individuals and groups has been largely characterized by a moral, ethical and normative abstention. Bodies of research stemming from Science and Technology Studies (STS) have provided illuminating case studies on how devices, apparatuses, or technical systems emerge, develop, and are appropriated, or are contested and fail to be appropriated. Research has also focused on pressing issues such the intersection of technology and gender, or how social practices and technology are mutually shaped. Despite the advances in the field of the sociology of technology, there is a considerable lack of research concerning the relationship between technology and a sociology of the good life in the context of hyperconnected societies. German sociologist Hartmut Rosa has developed a theory where within he conceptualizes that the dynamic of acceleration of late-modern societies—consisting of the structural requirement of continuous growth and innovation—leads to alienation and social maladies such as depression and burnout. Under the rubric of a sociology of the good life, Rosa focuses on how individuals relate to the world to grasp the causes of social alienation. Thus, he proposes that late-modern societies lack resonance—the opposite of alienation—consisting of openness to, and agency in, the world. Even though digital life is part of Rosa's diagnosis of modernity, he does not address it directly. Thus, in this presentation I will articulate Rosa's ideas with that of two theorists who take the role of digital technology in social life as fundamental: Albert Borgmann and Byung Chul-Han. I will try to show that bringing their respective ideas together can help provide researchers with an all-encompassing diagnosis for and solution to some of the ills of late-modern, hyperconnected societies. This, I contend, can provide insights for a sociology of the (digital) good life.

(MIG4) Migrant inclusion in smaller Canadian centres

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm

The inclusion of migrants is a perennial theme in the sociological literature. This is likely because the analysis of inclusion invites reflection not only on local community membership dynamics but also the complex processes underlying the construction of the nation-state and nationalism, policy enactment and deployment, as well as the interaction of individual/group identity formation with these processes. Although the existing literature is certainly rich, it tends to focus overwhelmingly on large urban centres, overlooking the complex and unique social processes that occur in small and medium-sized towns and rural centres. This roundtable brings together Canadian researchers who have recently published academic articles on migrant inclusion in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas in Canada in both Canadian Ethnic Studies (CES) and the Journal of International Migration and Integration (JIMI). The contributions include both theoretical and empirical case studies examining the inclusion processes and dynamics in Canadian smaller centers.

This is a joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA).

Session Organizers: Kathryn Barber, Cape Breton University, Melissa Kelly, Toronto Metropolitan University, and Willem Maas, Glendon College at York University
Session Chair: Melissa Kelly, Toronto Metropolitan University
Session Discussant: Willem Maas, Glendon College at York University

Presentations:

1. The education settlement experiences of refugee-background youth resettled in rural Nova Scotia

Norine Verberg, St. Francis Xavier University

Older refugee-background youth (ORBY) resettled in Canada or other host nations face greater challenges completing high school and post-secondary programs than both younger refugee-background children and other immigrants (e.g., Antony-Newman & Niyozov, 2023; Klok & van der Linden, 2023; Naidoo, et al, 2018; Prokopenko, 2018). With increases in immigration and refugee resettlement in rural areas and smaller centres in Canada, emerging research is exploring how this shift impacts newcomers' social and economic integration (Haugen et al, 2024; McNally, 2020; Perry & Scott, 2019; Verberg, 2024), including the educational integration of ORBY (Browning, et al, 2023; Massfeller & Hamm, 2019; Que, 2020). With participation from ORBY and sponsor groups in six rural counties of Nova Scotia, the paper reports on 1) the educational aspirations, school experiences, and educational achievement of ORBY resettled in rural areas of Nova Scotia by private sponsor groups since 2016, and 2) the education settlement assistance provide by rural sponsor groups. Most resettled ORBY had *significant* educational disruptions and did not speaking English when they started school in Nova Scotia. Nonetheless, sponsor groups indicate that almost all ORBY arriving since 2016 completed high school, and that many are enrolled in post-secondary programs or have completed a university degree or college diploma. ORBY identified navigating cultural challenges at school and stresses associated with their parents' settlement experiences. In terms of school experiences, most ORBY felt welcomed and respected while also perceiving prejudices against their faith or race. Consistent with emerging research on sponsor groups' settlement work, the results highlight the significant, often innovative and adaptive, roles played by sponsor groups, such finding, even establishing summer English language programs, finding tutors for school subjects, and facilitating conversations between ORBY, their parents, and the schools.

2. The Unique Features of Smaller Centres

Kathryn Barber, Cape Breton University and Willem Maas, York University

The integration of migrants is a perennial theme in the social science literature from Töennies' early theorizations on *gemeinschaft* and *gesellschaft* to Park and Burgess' *assimilation theory* to Basch, Glick Schiller and Blanc-Szanton's (1994) *transnationalism*. This is likely because the analysis of integration invites reflection not only on local community membership dynamics but also the complex processes underlying the construction of the nation-state and nationalism, policy enactment and deployment, as well as the interaction of individual/group identity formation and mobilization with these processes. Although the existing literature is certainly rich, it tends to focus overwhelmingly on large urban centres, overlooking the unique social processes that occur in small and medium-sized towns and rural centres. In the following introductory article, we provide an analytic overview of dynamics related to integration in smaller centres. We begin with a discussion

of the formal definition of smaller centres used in the Statistics Canada and OECD literatures and provide an overview of the international Whole-COMM project and its major findings. We then move to a description of social, political and economic trends described in Canadian smaller centers and contrast these trends with the recent findings of Whole-COMM study. Finally, we finish with a description of the papers included in this special issue and the gaps they address in both the Whole-COMM literature and literature on migrant integration in Canadian smaller centers.

3. In Search for Inclusion and Recognition: Immigrant Experiences in the Search for Professional Employment in Durham Region, Ontario

Uzma Danish, Trent University

In recent years, municipal governments have made efforts to attract and retain newcomers in mid-size cities. This paper reports on a community-based photovoice research project to explore immigrant experiences in securing professional employment in Durham region, Ontario. Ten immigrants from diverse origins provided their photographs and written reflections on the photographs and participated in semi-structured individual interviews and focus groups to discuss the images representing their experiences in more depth and develop calls for action to facilitate needed changes. The whole research cycle was informed by feminist intersectionality to illuminate macro-structural forces operating in the socio-economic context of immigrant lives and the ways these structural forces inform immigrants' experiences. The project findings testify to experiences of epistemic injustice and immigrants' resistance through perseverance, positive outlook, and support of family and compatriot community. These findings highlight the urgency of municipal action to change the local social and service provision climate by including immigrant voices and experience in decision-making about services and policy development and educating social & employment services personnel, employers and community in anti-racism and immigrant experience.

(PSM1d) Political Sociology and Social Movements IV: Nationalism, Religion, Inclusive Governance

Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This session brings together several papers addressing key issues in political sociology such as the repertoire of collective action by religious nationalist groups, peacebuilding and inclusive governance, nationalism and identity formation through routine activities, and the role of religion in shaping political behaviour.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, and Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University
Session Chair: Charlotte Gaudreau-Majeau, McGill University

Presentations:

1. Animating the Imagined Community: How Everyday Nationalism Collectively Bonds Québécois Seniors Living in Old Age Homes

Jessica Stallone, University of Toronto

Later life is filled with precarity, isolation, and uneasiness. In this context, collective living in old-age homes can make life easier, not only in the resources that it provides, but in the way that community manifests. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in two private, old-age homes in a diversifying suburb of Québec with autonomous seniors who identified as Québécois—as having white, Francophone and Catholic roots—I examine how economically privileged seniors conceptualize and animate their ethnonational identities and imagined community. I answer *why* nationalism is important in old age and *how* it manifests in everyday life among seniors living collectively. Through everyday activities like reading books, watching TV, singing and dancing during Karaoke nights, playing pool, doing exercise, celebrating holidays, seniors animate their community as Québécois which provides a sense of collective effervescence, joy, nostalgia, and connection in later life. Seniors do what Fox & Miller (2008) refer to as "everyday nationhood" by reproducing the nation in routine activities. Doing nationalism, I argue, provides seniors' comfort at an age of decline. This paper offers an understanding of nationalism as an emotional tether to community, collectivity, and connection in later life, centering seniors' identity-formation and life course experiences in the national project. I conclude by suggesting that while lots of recent attention has been devoted to "hot" forms of conservative, white nationalism in Europe and the U.S., it is necessary to interrogate how whiteness and nationalism, as systems derived from empire, manifest in subtle, routine and daily life; this is where ordinary citizens are arguably most engaged in nationalism and it has the most impact on exclusion in everyday society.

2. Religiosity, Religious Affiliation, and Foreign-Born Status: Muslim Voting in English Canada

Shahed Ishak, University of Toronto

While the role of religion in shaping electoral behavior in Canada has been well studied—particularly among Catholics and Protestants—the voting patterns of ethno-religious minorities, such as Muslim Canadians, remain underexplored. This pilot study examines how religious affiliation, religiosity, and foreign-born status influence Muslim vote choice compared to other religious groups in the Rest of Canada (ROC), using data from the 2019 and 2021 Canadian Election Studies. It asks how do religious affiliation and religiosity shape the voting behavior of Canadian Muslims in English Canada, and to what extent does foreign-born status influence their political alignments with left-leaning parties, particularly the Liberal Party? The findings reveal that Muslim religious affiliation strongly predicts support for the Liberals, suggesting a strong group identity effect, with religiosity initially amplifying this preference. However, the effect of religiosity becomes statistically insignificant once controls are included, while foreign-born status emerges as the key predictor of Liberal support. This pattern diverges from dominant religious groups like Catholics and Protestants, where religiosity continues to shape vote choice even after controls. Instead, this pattern aligns more closely with non-Christian minorities, where political behavior appears to be less shaped by moral issues and more by group identity rooted in immigration background/experience. These results diverge from traditional religious voting models by highlighting how immigrant status intersects with religion in distinct ways for religious minority communities. While religiosity among dominant groups tends to align with issue-based or ideological voting, among religious minorities religiosity may not be the primary driver of vote choice for all groups. Rather, it is immigration experience that more strongly conditions political alignment. Despite limitations, this study lays a foundation for understanding how religion and

immigration intersect in shaping political behavior among Canada's ethno-religious minority electorate.

(RAE7b) Anti-Asian Racism in Canada: Racialization and Ethnicization of East Asians/Chinese in Different Spaces
Thursday, 05 June 2025 @ 4:00pm
Affiliation: Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster

Papers in this session address the influence of geopolitics and anti-Asian rhetoric on racialized experiences, identity, and their relationship to the social, economic, cultural and political context of different fields of study. Nuances of racialization and corresponding experiences are analyzed from a local and/or global perspective.

Session Organizers: Guida Man, York University and Keefer Wong, York University
Session Chair: Guida Man, York University

Presentations:

1. The Ethno-Racialization of Asian Canadian Anglers and Poaching in Ontario
Nick Martino, McMaster University

In 2007, increased reports of violence towards Asian-Canadian anglers compelled the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) to launch an investigation. The OHRC inquiry found that Asian-Canadian anglers were often targets of racially motivated assaults by White-Canadian anglers/non-anglers on public docks, piers, etc. in Ontario. This violence was rooted in, and justified by, the perception that Asian anglers are (allegedly) more likely to poach fish. Almost two decades later, questions arise about the ways that Asian-Canadian anglers are racially stereotyped and the extent to which they face prejudice and discrimination, including verbal and physical assault, while fishing. Semi-structured interviews with 43 White and 10 East-Asian and South-Asian anglers in 2020 and findings from online sources showed that Asian-Canadian anglers are often defined as inauthentic sportspeople who break written/unwritten rules and threaten fish populations, the environment, and the sport fishing community. This is communicated among (predominantly) White-Canadian anglers through racial frames, styles, and stories resembling Colour-Blind Racism, which define and ethno-racialize Asian-Canadian anglers as poachers and a group threat. East-Asian and South-Asian interviewees revealed that although fishing experiences and intergroup interactions were generally positive, many had reported encounters with subtle and overt forms of prejudice and discrimination such as dirty looks, accusations of poaching, and, in some cases, racial slurs. Nevertheless, most Asian interviewees continued to fish and maintain an angler identity by utilizing several stigma management and coping strategies such as ignoring perpetrators, managing emotions and the self, preparing for racial encounters, disconfirming stereotypes, challenging perceived racism, and defending against allegations of deviance. Several White-Canadian anglers also reported to have challenged the anti-Asian prejudices to which they were exposed. Overall, despite Colour-Blind Racism and the ethno-racialization of poaching, East-Asian and South-Asian Canadian anglers are pursuing their passions for fishing, defying racial ideologies, and making a positive impact in Ontario's fishing community.

2. Layers of Privilege: Racialized Experiences of International Students in Taiwan's Higher Education

Wei-Yun Chung, Global Asia Research Center, National Taiwan University

Taiwan is an emerging destination for international students in Asia. Between 2007 and 2022, the number of international degree students increased six-fold, with approximately 90% coming from Asia and 70% from Southeast Asia—a region also prominent as a major source of migrant workers and foreign brides through commercial matchmaking. Aiming to understand how intersectional identities and status influence international students' experiences in Taiwan, I conducted 50 in-depth interviews with international students at elite universities. The findings suggest an invisible racial hierarchy, with White students and those from Japan and South Korea enjoying higher status, while Southeast Asian students occupy the lowest tier both on and off campus. Southeast Asian students are more likely to experience microaggressions, exclusion, and racism, which are observed by both Southeast Asian students and other international students. These racialized treatments also manifest in a gendered and classed manner: White students are regarded as polished and romantically desirable, while Southeast Asian students are perceived as poor and romantically undesirable, with Southeast Asian females being seen as sexually approachable. However, Southeast Asian students tend to view these incidents as isolated, attributing them to being misunderstood as behaving similarly to migrant workers or foreign brides, which reflects a class divide within Southeast Asian immigrant communities. These findings highlight the complexity of racialized, gendered, and classed experiences among international students, revealing the underexplored diversity within their community. They also illustrate how government immigration policies shape the racial dynamics within migrant communities in a gendered and classed form. Furthermore, this study demonstrates how the intersecting power structures within Taiwan's higher education institutions reflect broader societal contexts and emphasizes the urgent need to address and raise awareness of racism in higher education.

3. Transforming Racial Perceptions Among East Asian International Students

Yifei Wang, University of Windsor

In the multicultural landscape of Canadian society, international students represent a significant and growing segment, contributing substantially to the skilled labor force and the Canadian economy. According to Statistics Canada (2021), approximately 60% of first-time study permit holders have become permanent residents in Canada, and 56% of all international students identify as racial minorities. Despite their growing presence, the racial awareness and perceptions of these students remain underexplored. This is particularly critical for East Asian international students, who constitute a significant proportion of the international student and migration population in Canada, but often have limited awareness of racism and racialization due to their home countries cultures and values (Ham, 2023; Kowner, 2012). Prior research has primarily focused on the racial experiences directed at them (Gebhard, 2022; Nachman et al., 2022; Kwak et al., 2023), instead of the perceptions they hold toward other racial minority groups. This study therefore investigates how East Asian international students in Canada perceive racial stereotypes and how these perceptions evolve over time. It employs Critical Race Theory and Learning Theory to provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing the outcomes of multicultural and anti-racism education on East Asian international students. Using a mixed-methods approach, this research examines the intersection of Canadian multicultural education and students' lived experiences. The first phase, a

quantitative online survey, assesses shifts in racial perceptions based on the duration of study and with a specific focus on the age at which students began their study abroad. The second phase, qualitative focus groups, explores the lived experiences and transformative journeys of these students. This study aims to understanding the dynamic nature of racial perceptions, and offers insights for developing more inclusive anti-racism curricula at Canadian post-secondary institutions. It aims at fostering greater cross-cultural dialogue and solidarity in Canada's diverse society.

(FDS2) Food, culture, and theory
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Food plays a significant role in social life. The production, preparation and consumption of food have mutually shaped and been shaped by social histories, systems, spaces, technologies, meanings, relations, and ways of being and orientations to being. This session invites papers that attend to the theme of food, especially in media, popular culture, and/ or theory.

Session Organizer and Chair: Ondine Park, University of British Columbia

Presentations:

1. Content analysis of foods depicted in a sample of Mexican picture books
Josette Rosenzweig Espinal, University of Toronto and **Javier Ponce de Leon Eyl**, **Lara Descartes,** Western University

The authors present initial findings from a content analysis of foods depicted in a sample of Mexican picture books. These books contribute to Mexican children's food environment. Their pictures and text convey messages about what foods are desirable and normal to consume. Mexico, like Canada and the United States, has fairly high rates of child obesity, so investigating such food messages is important. A sample of 400+ books was obtained from a popular public library in Mexico City. The text and images of the books were examined, and any food depictions in the books were classified by: type of food (meat, dairy, vegetable, sweet, etc.); centrality of the food (foreground or background, with the expectation that foods that are foregrounded are more noticeable to children); and emotional affect with which the food is presented (positive, negative, or neutral, indicated by factors such as whether a child is drawn as smiling or frowning while eating an ice cream). The research was designed using the lenses of cultivation theory and social learning theory. The results will be interpreted through these perspectives, and compared to the results from prior similar studies.

2. "BEER HAS NO GENDER!": Women's Experiences Working in the Alberta Craft Beer Industry
Geraint Osborne and Geoff Dipple, University of Alberta

Craft beer represents a dynamic and creative segment within the food and beverage industry. The craft-beer industry markets itself as hip, artisanal, and progressive. However, in May of 2021, Brienne Allan, a U.S. brewer with the Instagram handle @ratmagnet sparked what would become known as the craft beer industry's #MeToo moment when she asked if others had encountered sexist comments at work. Hundreds of other women responded, sharing stories of sexual harassment and discrimination. What followed was a global conversation about the discrimination and harassment women, BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ individuals face while working in craft beer. The

research on the craft beer industry is scare. There is even a greater paucity of research on women's experiences in the Canadian craft beer industry, especially as brewers and owners. Our exploratory qualitative research takes attempts rectifies this situation by examining the experiences of women working in the craft beer industry in Alberta. In-depth interviews with 11 participants revealed women's insights on several key themes including the nature of the work; culture, community and co-operation; women supporting women; unrealistic job expectations; discrimination and microaggressions; objectification and sexual harassment; and strategies for improving the workplace. What is evident from the research findings is that while women enjoy much of what the craft beer industry has to offer, especially in terms of community, women's work experiences confirm what women in other male-dominated industries have encountered, suggesting that much more needs to be done by the craft beer industry to ensure a safer, more equitable and diverse workplace.

3. Advancing Food Justice: Anti-Racist and Intersectional Perspectives in the Canadian Food System

Milan Kang, York University

Access to food is a fundamental human right, yet systemic inequities rooted in colonial histories and institutional racism persist across Canada. This study investigates the application of food justice principles within Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028. It evaluates structural barriers and explores community-driven solutions to food insecurity, particularly for Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities. National data highlights significant disparities: over 40% of Indigenous and Black households experience food insecurity compared to a national average of 23% (Community Food Centres Canada, 2024). Historical dispossessions, restrictive wildlife laws, and industrial resource extraction, such as mining and deforestation, exacerbate these inequities by eroding access to traditional lands and food sources (Iqaluit Gathering Report, 2024; Braverman & Gruskin, 2003). Indigenous food sovereignty initiatives, such as those articulated in the Iqaluit Gathering, advocate for governance models centred on ancestral knowledge, environmental respect, and collective action (Iqaluit Gathering Report, 2024). This research also draws on Cadieux and Slocum (2015), who identify key areas for transformative change, including addressing historical trauma, ensuring fair labour practices, and fostering community-based resource management. For example, community gardens and educational programs, such as those highlighted in Community Food Centres Canada's strategic plan, empower local populations while confronting systemic inequities in food access (Community Food Centres Canada, 2024). This study connects food justice to broader human rights initiatives by emphasizing inclusive leadership and equitable resource distribution. It provides a foundation for re-envisioning Canada's food system as one that respects cultural traditions, supports sustainable practices, and ensures food security for all.

4. Cannibalism to Make Friends and Community on TV Cartoons

Ondine Park, University of British Columbia Okanagan

In a number of contemporary television cartoons—including in family-friendly and children's shows—cannibalism and the problem of cannibalism are surprisingly commonly themes. While their depiction does sometimes push the limits of aesthetic and moral repugnance, more interestingly, they are often represented as ordinary, silly, unnoteworthy, or even necessary. In this relatively

sociable acceptance around cannibalism, the cartoons present edibility and incorporation as illustrative of—or, at times, the medium of—the intricate, delicate, complex, and multiscalar social relations among humans as well as between humans and nonhuman others. This friendly depiction is in marked contrast to historical and contemporary fascination (in both senses of interest and fixation) with cannibalism and the figure of the cannibal, which have been put to work as the ultimate examples of human depravity, the limit-cases of deviance, and the boundary-markers of civilization. Fear of the cannibal has been mobilized to construct the horrific and terrifying Other and as a foundational moral justification for colonialism, ethnocentric racism, and human exceptionalism, among other violent relations of power. The cannibalistic themes in these cartoons, however, invite expression of and attempts to work through anxieties and refusals around shifting norms and values in the social meanings and relations that constitute contemporary social life. In this work, they offer thoughtful lessons for ways to recognize, interpret, and negotiate these, affirming visions of social life nourished by collectivity and complex relationality.

(SCL10) Social Theories and Cultural Analysis
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Culture

This session bridges themes of culture consumption, culture production, and social critique. Presentations in this session analyze the relationships between social dynamics and cultural production.

Session Organizers: Taylor Price, New York University and Sonia Bookman, University of Manitoba
Session Chair: Taylor Price, New York University
Presentations:

1. The Local Dynamics of National Identity: Local Mobilization and Econationalism in Quebec
Charles Berthelet, Université du Québec à Montréal

The Québécois econationalism that emerged in the 1990s was initially, and for a long time, primarily championed by certain members of the province's Francophone cultural and political elites. They saw it as an opportunity for a convergence between identity issues specific to Québec's recent history and the environmental concerns discussed on a global scale. In June 2024, the Canadian federal government, blaming the supposed inaction of the Québec government regarding the protection of woodland caribou, announced its intention to adopt a decree halting forestry industry activities in a Québec region to preserve the ecotype's habitat. Given the serious economic consequences for the affected region, local resistance quickly took shape. Rather than becoming a site for the rejection of the Québécois elites' econationalism and the link it establishes between Québec identity and the environment, ethnographic fieldwork and interviews conducted in September 2024 revealed that the citizen mobilization prompted by the federal announcement provided an opportunity for a popular and localized rearticulation of a Québécois econationalism, thus rooted in the realities of a remote forestry community.

2. Becoming Gendered: The Gender-Divided Market of Chinese Online Fiction
Wanze Ma, Zhejiang University

Chinese online fiction is primarily and explicitly categorized into female/male channels—a unique practice not observed in other cultural products. This paper utilizes an interactionist institutional approach to explore the causes of this division. By analyzing chronicles of Chinese online literature, internet usage data, interviews, and Internet Archive records, the study identifies the mechanisms that shaped this phenomenon.The development of gendered classifications can be traced back to early interactions on BBS forums, where thematic sub-forums emerged as a way to manage active discussions. Male-dominated cultures in these forums encouraged female users to create independent spaces, resulting in distinct gender-based communities for reading and writing. Although different genders dominated different thematic sub-forums (e.g., military fiction), these forums were not explicitly labeled or categorized as male or female channels. Later, commercial acquisitions and platformization led to institutional isomorphism, ultimately resulting in cultural isomorphism. Major corporations, such as Tencent, acquired literary websites and implemented gendered strategies. This institutional isomorphism aligned platforms with a gendered logic that maximized profits through targeted audience segmentation. Platform-driven production models compelled writers to conform to gender-specific styles, with both platform demands and reader expectations reinforcing these norms. Even female authors operating within male channels were constrained by the stylistic norms of male-oriented content. All Chinese online fiction is explicitly labeled and categorized as male or female. This research reveals how early user interactions, platformization, and commercialization institutionalized gendered divisions in Chinese online fiction. It also contributes to the sociology of cultural production by demonstrating how institutional isomorphism gave rise to cultural isomorphism, underscoring the classification power of platforms.

3. Love Languages and Attachment Styles as Folk Theories of Intimate Compatibility

Chiara Piazzesi and Martin Blais, Université du Québec à Montréal

In twenty-first-century North-America, intimate bonds form in a context where perceived uncertainty is increased by public discourse concerning the "fragility" of modern love and by partners' expectations in terms of validation, support, and equal rights. For a century, therapeutic culture has promised help in reducing uncertainty and instability in intimate relationships. We contribute to the study of the circulation and consumption of therapeutic culture by documenting how individuals apply ideas and tools stemming from popular psychology within everyday intimate interactions. Based on fifty interviews with Canadian adults, our analysis focuses on Gary Chapman's *The Five Love Languages* and on lay versions of attachment theory as the two approaches to intimate optimality that were mentioned most often by interviewees. Recent literature also underscores the popularity of these approaches to problem-solving withing intimate relationships. Our results show how individuals intentionally apply therapeutic tools to practice and induce benevolent interpretations of behavior. This, in turn, increases the partners' sense of intimate compatibility. We argue that therapeutic tools are integrated into *folk theories of intimate compatibility*, sets of criteria to assess and techniques to increase the likelihood of relationship success and happiness.

(WPO5a) Professional Work: Challenges and Opportunities

Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

This session features research relating to work challenges and opportunities experienced.

Session Organizers: Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph, Tracey L. Adams, Western University, Karen Hughes, University of Alberta

Session Chair: Karen Hughes, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. A Sociological and Feminist Investigation of the (De)Qualification Processes of Personal Support Workers in Quebec Since 1990

Corynne Laurence-Ruel, Univeristé de Montréal

In recent years, a growing trend has emerged in Quebec: the lowering of hiring and qualification requirements in certain "care" professions. Whether in social work, early childhood education, long-term care, or teaching, qualification standards are becoming increasingly flexible. This raises questions about the "(de)qualification" of this work and its links to the social inequalities experienced in these predominantly feminized professions. This presentation will share preliminary findings from an ongoing doctoral research project focusing on the case of healthcare attendants in private and public residential care services in Quebec. Since the pandemic, these workers have experienced a significant deskilling of their profession. This study examines the formal and informal "(de)qualification" processes at play. Adopting a feminist perspective (Kergoat 1978; 1982; Daune-Richard 2003) that takes racialization dynamics into account (Glenn 1992; Scrinzi 2008), qualification is understood, from a sociohistorical perspective, as a key issue in the social relations underlying the hierarchical organization of labor. From this perspective, the research question is as follows: What are the qualification processes of healthcare attendants in Quebec, and how do they contribute to the hierarchical structuring of labor—or not? The research follows a qualitative approach based on grounded theory, which, according to Paillé (1994), is characterized by the "simultaneity of data collection and analysis." This presentation will open a discussion on findings drawn from the analysis of semi-structured interviews conducted with healthcare attendants and key actors (training instructors, career counselors, family caregivers, and union representatives), a press review, a document analysis (policies, laws, regulations, official websites), and an examination of job postings on popular employment platforms.

2. The re-regulation of the teaching profession in Ontario and the demise of democratic representation.

Theresa Shanahan, York University; Farra Yasin, University of Winnipeg

This paper documents and analyzes the reregulation of the teaching profession in Ontario since the 1990s, over decades across various government administrations and across political spectrums. A lens of governmentality and disciplinary power is employed to understand the expansion of government into the professional governing body of teachers. Our research offers an analysis that makes visible the ways in which education policy associated with professionalism has been employed as a disciplinary mechanism that controls and influences bodies, policy actors, and decision-making. This paper documents the expansion of regulation of the teaching profession in Ontario and the exploitation of public anxieties over changing economic conditions and student safety. Using efforts to discredit the whole profession for the acts of a few, while exploiting public anxiety around student safety to justify its actions, the state has brought the professional governance of teachers under its control. Teachers have lost democratic, elected representation in their own governing body. Professional self- governance of teachers in Ontario has been replaced

by governmental regulation. Our analysis illustrates how the establishment and evolution of the of the Ontario College of Teachers reregulated the profession in ways that increased the provincial government's oversight of the teaching profession and diminished participation of its members in the governing body. Under the guise of professionalization and using neoliberal discourses of efficacy, efficiency and modernization of the teaching profession, the process has sought to control a large, powerful, unionized workforce in the province.

3. Academic Precarity in the Neoliberal University: Navigating Discrimination and Student Authority

Cathrine Becker and Rachel Chan, Western University

This paper examines the experiences of precariously employed, non-tenure track professors within the context of the neoliberal university, focusing on how shifts in higher education governance have exacerbated vulnerabilities for these academic workers. This study interviewed academics to better understand the intersections of race, gender, and sexual identity in precarious labour conditions, the analysis highlights how neoliberal policies and the rise of New Public Management (NPM) have eroded the power and autonomy traditionally held by professors, giving rise to the "academic precariat." These workers, who often face less job security, lower pay, and fewer resources, are more likely to experience discrimination, not only from administration but also from students. Using eleven in-depth semi-structure interviews with instructors at a university in Ontario, Canada, the authors argue that the pressure to teach more courses while sacrificing quality of education ultimately harms students and weakens the professor-student relationship, transforming the academic dynamic into one resembling that of a sales transaction. In this, precarious lecturers must rely on positive student reviews and the appeasement of student demands to secure future employment, further reinforcing their subordinate status. Additionally, the paper identifies how students, as consumers in the neoliberal university, can perpetuate oppression by engaging in discriminatory behaviour with their women, and racialized professors, an aspect that has been largely overlooked in existing literature on the academic precariat. The authors call for greater solidarity from tenured faculty, urging those with institutional privilege to advocate for their precarious colleagues and confront the structural inequalities in academia. This paper contributes to the growing body of research on academic labour by highlighting the intersectional nature of academic precarity and offering new insights into the role of student behavior in sustaining systemic discrimination within the university.

4. Exploring Professionalization in Canadian Student Affairs: Challenges and Opportunities

Jay Rojas, University of Toronto

This presentation examines the potential professionalization of Student Affairs Practitioners (SAPs) within Canadian higher education, an emerging area of focus in the sociology of professions. Drawing on Andrew Abbott's theory of jurisdictional battles and Eliot Freidson's work on professional autonomy, this research investigates how SAPs perceive their roles, navigate evolving expectations, and respond to the increasing bureaucratic rationalization of higher education institutions. Using a mixed-methods approach, including interviews with student affairs leaders and surveys with general practitioners, the study explores the challenges and opportunities associated with advancing SAPs toward professional status. The analysis highlights key factors shaping this potential professionalization journey: the establishment of specialized knowledge, adherence to

ethical standards, and engagement with regulatory bodies like the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS). The findings reveal tensions between the flexibility of semi-professional roles and the demands for standardized practices and accountability. They also underscore how the interdisciplinary nature of student affairs, coupled with the lack of unified professional identity and standardized qualifications, presents both barriers and opportunities for SAPs to claim jurisdiction over their domain. This study contributes to understanding the intersection of institutional bureaucracies and professional aspirations, offering insights into how SAPs can build a clearer professional identity while maintaining responsiveness to diverse student needs. By addressing these complexities, this research sheds light on the broader implications of professionalization for higher education and proposes evidence-based recommendations for fostering the growth of student affairs as a profession in Canada.

(ANS3) Animals in Society Open Session
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Animals in Society Research Cluster

This year's conference centers on the nature and process of partnerships between academia and "diverse publics for social impact" within Canada, and internationally. In this session, presenters will consider how these collaborations impact nonhuman and human animals in myriad ways.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Rochelle Stevenson, Thompson Rivers University and Sarah May Lindsay, Western University

Presentations:

1. Dangerous Breed: The Increasing Corporatisation of Veterinary Medicine
Stephen Muzzatti, Toronto Metropolitan University and **Kirsten Grieve**, Registered Veterinary Technician

Over the past few decades, veterinary medicine, particularly companion animal care, has experienced dramatic shifts in structure, service delivery, and accessibility. The COVID-19 pandemic's lockdown(s) exposed many of the existing cracks in this system, including a shortage of veterinary professionals, increased burnout and turnover and heightened demand for companion animal care. Whilst there has been some scholarly work and media attention on the increasing stressors in veterinary medicine, relatively little attention has been paid to the subtle and insidious influence of corporatisation. The rise in corporate consolidation in the veterinary field in Canada, the United States, and the UK has increased dramatically in a relatively short period of time. Whereas veterinary clinics were predominantly independently owned little more than a decade ago, today, over 20% of clinics in Canada, and more than half of emergency and referral practices, are now controlled by large corporations. This trend has led to fewer choices for companion animal care, rising costs, and corporate-driven mandates prioritising profit over the health and well-being of nonhuman animals and the veterinary professionals who care for them. This presentation will examine the broader social impacts of this corporate shift, considering how policies and practices in the companion animal care industry affect both humans and nonhumans. Employing a mixed methods approach and informed by a blend of critical orientations, we explore how the growing dominance of corporate veterinary clinics compromises the affordability, accessibility, and quality of care, ultimately affecting the well-being of both humans and the companion animals under their

care. By centering the experiences of both nonhuman animals and veterinary professionals, we aim to illuminate how corporate consolidation contributes to a broader system that prioritises profit over the welfare of all beings, and how these changes resonate beyond the immediate human-nonhuman animal relationship to impact the health of the wider community.

2. Vegan Social Movement in Turkey: Veganism as Subculture

Çağla Erten, İstanbul Üniversitesi

Veganism is one of the preferred ethical lifestyles throughout history. It refers to taking a stance against the systematic exploitation of animals for food, clothing, cosmetics or other commercial purposes and opposing it as much as possible. Veganism was institutionalized in 1944 when a group of vegans came together under the leadership of Donald Watson and Elsie Shrigley to form the Vegan Association. Thus veganism ceased to be an individual way of life and became a social movement. Animal rights defenders, activists and people who maintain this ethical life have enabled the movement to spread. In Turkey on the other hand the vegan identity is only recently recognized and becoming widespread. The main purpose of this research is to examine the development of veganism as a subculture in Turkey. It aims to reveal the characteristics of the groups that vegans come together to form, the way they come together and their behavioral practices. Thus, the social and internal dynamics of the groups are revealed. At the same time, the adoption of veganism as an element of identity and how this affects the lifestyle is examined in depth. The relationship between veganism and other subcultures in Turkey is examined. It can be said that vegans themselves are seen as the other in society and entering the vegan group means a new social group for them. Throughout the research, abolitionist vegans were studied and it was observed that vegans in Turkey experience conflict with other vegan groups outside the group rather than within the group. Vegans who have become us have shown an in-group formation. Veganism has become an element of identity and this is their most important part. As a result of the research it was understood that vegans adopt veganism as a belief system.

3. Protest, Place, and Interspecies Politics

Dennis Papadopoulos, Seneca Polytechnic

Respecting the relationships wild animal communities have with a shared world requires being attentive to them. When we erect barriers, track animal movements, or build bridges for them to safely cross highways, we are not just being good stewards, we are also listening to others whose behaviour itself carries a political meaning. When wild animal communities conflict with humans, they are telling us that something is not working, they are exercising agency in a politicized environment. Obviously, this is not their intention, but we don't need it to be. Humans politicized the world, and so only humans can politicize the meaning of behaviour. The behaviour "means" regardless, and the intention of the actor plays only one part in that meaning. When the behaviour recurs, again and again, across a non-human population the meaning that group conveys to the intersecting human society need not align with the intention of any individual. When we mitigate interspecies conflict it is a matter of justice between two politically active communities. The spaces where these communities interact are shared spaces, where the unilateral jurisdiction of human society *is* challenged by an other(ed) community of non-humans with their own "jurisdiction," or sacrosanct relationship to place. The shared interspecies relationship to place is integrated into Indigenous law, and from Indigenous law we might take cues as to how best to conceive it. This shift

in thinking about political agency may recolour some conservation strategies that already reshape human and animal behaviour through communication, clear and consistent signals, and new norms of engagement; these are not just methods of control, they are moves in the negotiation of interspecies places.

4. Brushtail possums and species-inclusive social work in Aotearoa New Zealand

Emily Major, New Zealand Centre for Human-Animal Studies

As a field that prioritises social impact, social work focuses on meeting the diverse needs of human beings, their communities, and wider society. Nonhuman animals are often ignored in this discussion; however, if they are discussed, it is normally relegated only to certain species, such as companion animals or those used as instruments for animal-assisted therapy (Taylor et al., 2014). They are valued more for the benefits they offer humans than for who they are as distinct individuals. The consideration of animals as more than just companions or resources is not typical in 'mainstream' social work - especially for those species who are marginalised in society, such as brushtail possums in Aotearoa New Zealand (herein: New Zealand). For possums, the distinction between 'pest' control and cruelty blurs. In pursuit of *Predator Free 2050*, a campaign to eradicate all rats, stoats, and possums by the year 2050, all members of society are actively encouraged to participate in possum 'pest' control. This has had the potential to foster a culture of cruelty which threatens the nation's healthy development of empathy. This presentation explores how the field of social work can mitigate possum cruelty and promote a more species-inclusive approach through the pursuit of actually-humane education. As attitudes towards animals in New Zealand are complex, the intersection of concepts of 'nativity', 'controllability', and 'worthiness' are examined in more detail. Green social work and an ecofeminist ethic of care assist in how conservation education can interrogate what 'humane' means in conservation education. By doing this, social work can build towards a more socially just and species-inclusive conservation education that not only reduces abuse but engenders compassion and kindness in humans.

5. Dogs in Prison : Justice and/for (Non)Human Animals?

Bryan Hogeveen, University of Alberta and **Kelly Struthers Montford**, Toronto Metropolitan University

Prison animal programs have become nearly ubiquitous since the 1990s, and many focus on dogs. Most public and academic attention on dogs who are in relation to the state, focuses on police dogs, whether it be their weaponization, their commonalities with the use of dogs during plantation slavery, or their presence in police/public relations materials. Prison K9 programs however, do not follow such logics. Instead, prison K9s, are often used in rehabilitative programs and occupy the dual position of subjects (through training) and agents of rehabilitation through the improved outcomes for prisoner participants. Of the existing literature, of which there is comparatively little, evidence on improved psychological outcomes for prisoners has been mixed and little is known about the wellbeing of the dogs themselves. Our paper employs a gendered and racial lens and draws on participants' experiences in the Colorado K9 program. This unique prison offering is a leader in this field and will serve as the basis from which we set out to understand and compare the Canadian context and other US sites.

(SON1a) Multi-Sited Belonging in Contemporary De/Post-Colonial Societies I: Possibilities and Challenges

Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 1:00pm

Affiliation: Social Networks Research Cluster

This panel gathers scholarship exploring diverse sites to engage key questions of social belonging (drawing on Bourdieu's concept of 'social capital' [1986], and Stuart Hall's 'meaning-making' [1980]) in a postmodern and (post)colonial present. Foregrounding the practices, identities, performances, products, and representations of diverse agents with different citizenships, claims to social membership, experiences, and struggles, it seeks to interrogate how personal belonging is negotiated in localized spaces increasingly understood in relation to global networks, movements, and communal forms. This includes the negotiation of racialization, police violence, and identity in the cultural production of African diaspora communities in Canada, the role of shame in cycles of intimate-partner violence, misrepresentations of First Nations in the Discover Canada citizenship guide, articulations of hope in the practices of women content creators within and beyond digital platforms, eco-social movements in the Balkan region following the Yugoslav Wars, as well as the impacts of emergent public spaces and social media on dynamics of violence and alienation. We stress the roles of agents in the formation of social bonds and personal identities, as well as the strategies researchers use to spotlight this agency.

Session Organizer and Chair: Tyler Correia, University Canada West

Presentations:

1. Rap Culture, Black Identity and Meaning Making in Quebec

Atsena Abogo, University of Canada West

My paper focuses on one song from the rapper Webster as illustrative of his politics. The song, is titled SPVQ (translated in English : Police Service of Quebec city) , released by the Afroquebecer to address police violence and discrimination against Black communities in Quebec. A specific trope of his message in this song is that the Police of Quebec city discriminates young Blacks of the Hip-Hop world, first because of their grouping as a community, which supposedly suggest they are a gang, and second because of their external appearance (the way they dress and walk) and for some, the black colour of their skin). The goal of this paper is is mainly meaning making: to try to explain how a universe of sense is constructed from a specific message, and how its reception can be articulated in social practices. The study on which the paper is based was conducted in Quebec city from August 2011 to December 2012. For my doctoral fieldwork, I used content analysis of songs and ethnographic data collection of the eleven rappers who constitute the Limoilou Starz.

2. Social Authority, Liminality and Marginality in the Non-Metropolitan Public Sphere

Tyler Correia, University of Canada West

In this talk, I outline considerations of the social regulation of space using examples from my work in community outreach in Mission BC. I focus on the ways that space and belonging are organized in the establishment of social authority and 'social authorship'—an ideal type (Weber, 1978) in which a subject is embedded within their community such that they (seek to) speak on its behalf. This type is crucial to understanding the ways that everyday practices, statements, and encounters between individuals reinforce forms of marginalization—particularly affecting unhoused and

newcomer community-members. Further, I argue that a concept of social authority can be useful for understanding the underlying beliefs and practices that contribute to territorial stigma (Wacquant, 2008) as a means of producing, but also regulating, public spaces. This entails that the production of normatively valued public spaces is one side of a two-fold process combined with cast-off or abject publics. The subject-type of social authority is bestowed a position capable of speaking on behalf of their community (as an imagined 'whole') by virtue of their ostracism of an 'other.' This binds the social production of identity and space (see also: Arnold, 2004).

3. Unveiling Representation: A Discourse and Visual Analysis of First Nations in Discover Canada

Narjes Hashemi, University of Canada West, McGill University

Guided by critical pedagogy and decolonization theory, this study critically examines how Discover Canada, the official citizenship guide, represents First Nations Peoples and their histories. Employing discourse and visual analysis, I investigate the textual and visual narratives that shape newcomers' understanding of Canadian identity (Hyslop-Healy, 2022; Nordquist, 2020). Through this lens, I aim to reveal the deeper implications of how the guide portrays the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Methodologically, the study scrutinizes language use, such as emotionally charged terminology and structural elements, alongside imagery within the guide. By referring to settlers as "invaders" or "colonizers" and addressing colonialism's enduring impacts, this approach challenges dominant narratives and exposes how colonial ideologies remain embedded in Canada's historical storytelling (Jafri, 2012). Preliminary findings indicate that Discover Canada frequently oversimplifies or distorts Indigenous histories, perpetuating narratives that reinforce settler-colonial ideologies. For instance, while recent revisions have removed problematic phrases, the guide still omits critical details, such as the true implications of treaties and the legacies of residential schools (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2012). Visual elements further contribute to this distortion, often sidelining Indigenous perspectives in favor of glorified settler narratives (Hyslop-Healy, 2022). These misrepresentations have profound implications, shaping how newcomers perceive Canada's past and its reconciliation efforts. As Yoshida (2014) notes, such biased education risks perpetuating structural racism, while research by the Environics Institute (2016) highlights that immigrant are eager to learn about Indigenous histories and support reconciliation. This research calls for a reimagining of the citizenship guide—one that authentically integrates Indigenous narratives. By addressing representational gaps, we can contribute to a more inclusive and truthful vision of Canadian identity, fostering mutual respect and understanding.

4. Cross-ideological Environmental Movements as Resistance to Extractivism in the Post-Socialist Western Balkans

Adriana Lozjanin, University of Canada West

Cross-ideological movements arise in response to shared grievances that transcend traditional ideological differences. Examples have included development through collective action based on shared exclusion from political power (Casani, 2020) or common ground on broad economic policies (Koca, 2023). This presentation examines cross-ideological eco-social movements in the post-socialist Western Balkan states, focusing on the emergence of these environmental movements in the context of transitioning democracies and European integration in the twenty-first century. Scholarship traditionally explores this region's social movements through a lens of historic and contemporary ethnic and nationalist tensions. This presentation shifts the focus to actors across

ideological divides functioning as cohesive units of social change that challenge increasing extractivism and threats of environmental load displacement. Following the Yugoslav Wars, the region has been engaged in a post-socialist transition into market capitalism alongside attempts at accession into the European Union, and this has provided opportunities for governments in the Western Balkans to sell access to their natural resources. Drawing upon the dynamics of contention approach (McAdam, Tarrow, & Tilly, 2001) as a theoretical framework, I will argue that the adoption of a decentralized organizational structure, the use of non-partisan spaces, limited influence from external actors, and the framing of shared grievances into counter-hegemonic narratives are key mechanisms for the genesis and evolution of cross-ideological eco-social movements in the region. At the end of the talk, I will offer some remarks on the links between the 2024 environmental protests in Serbia against the Jadar lithium mining project and the later, broader 2024-2025 anti-corruption protests. I will discuss how this may reveal an emerging cycle of contention (Tarrow, 1994).

(TEA-RC) Teaching and Learning Research Cluster
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Teaching and Learning Cluster

The Teaching and Learning Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chair: Silvia Bartolic, University of British Columbia

(WPO5b) Barriers at Work and Strategies for Change
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Work, Professions and Occupations Research Cluster

This session features research addressing barrier at work.

Session Organizers: Vivian Shalla, University of Guelph, Tracey L. Adams, Western University, Karen Hughes, University of Alberta

Session Chair: Karen Hughes, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. Canadian Muslim Women and Workplace Hierarchies: An Intersectional Analysis
Sarah Shah, Texas State University

Past research has revealed that workplace segregation emerges from gendered and racialized hierarchical processes that impact social actors differentially based on the social locations they occupy. Namely, scholarship by and drawing on Nakano Glenn has documented that while white men enjoy "good jobs," professions with prestige, power, and other resources, immigrant women of colour tend to do the "dirty work," occupations associated with low skill, low wages, and other unfavourable work conditions. In a different vein, research has documented the diversity of the population of Canadian Muslim women, who straddle multiple social locations. However, a dearth of research remains on these women's experiences at the workplace, especially taking into account

their diverse social locations and experiences of workplace hierarchy. The findings from the current study reveal that Canadian Muslim women's experiences of workplace processes, including being hired, fired, or advanced, and the barriers or facilitators they are faced with differ based on their location within society, and thus within the workplace hierarchy. The results of this study highlight how existing policies may cause harm to the populations they are meant to help. The results also inform recommendations for policy engaging intersectionality to facilitate more effective interventions for the increasingly diverse Canadian workplace.

2. Accommodating religious practices in STEM workplaces: Experiences of Canadian Muslim women engineers and IT Professionals

Sareh Nazari, University of Saskatchewan

As immigration diversifies Canadian workplaces, organizations are increasingly challenged to create inclusive and supportive environments. For Muslim minorities, particularly women, this diversification is compounded by rising Islamophobia, which exacerbates the difficulties they face in professional settings. These challenges are especially pronounced for Muslim women in male-dominated STEM fields, where they must navigate both gender-based barriers and the added complexities of practicing their faith in secular work environments. This paper examines the lived experiences of 17 Muslim women engineers and IT professionals across Canada. Through qualitative semi-structured interviews, the study explores the challenges they encounter in obtaining religious accommodations in their workplaces and the strategies they use to overcome these obstacles. Five main themes emerged, including three challenges related to religious accommodation: (1) inflexible work schedules, (2) insufficient prayer space and time, and (3) dietary restrictions during social events. Participants highlighted difficulties in aligning the Muslim religious calendar with the Canadian calendar, such as celebrating Eids while meeting work obligations. Prayer during office hours was often challenging due to a lack of designated spaces and time, heavily influenced by organizational culture and managerial support. Social networking events frequently involved non-halal food or alcohol, creating barriers due to Islamic dietary restrictions. To address these challenges, two strategies were identified: (4) confrontation and (5) negotiation. Some participants chose to assert their agency by challenging inequitable organizational practices, while others adapted by finding alternative ways to navigate workplace norms without fully rejecting them. This research emphasizes the importance of fostering inclusive workplaces that address the unique needs of minority religious women, offering insights for creating supportive environments in STEM and beyond.

3. Work Transfer Across Paid-Unpaid Activities in Disabled Gig Economy Workers' Lives

Ioana Cerasella Chis, University of Birmingham

This presentation moves beyond dyadic distinctions between 'paid' and 'unpaid' work and between 'exploitation' and 'oppression' (as the sole realms of paid and unpaid work, respectively). Instead, following the scholarship of Feminist scholars Munro (2022), Glazer (1984), and Glucksmann (1990), I consider both waged and unwaged work as integral, internal, and directly contributing to the reproduction of capitalist social relations. With insights from my research project titled 'The Politics of Disablement and Precarious Work', I examine how disabled gig economy workers traverse a variety of spheres of activity across their everyday lives across the paid-unpaid work divide. Thus, I briefly discuss the six spheres of (paid and unpaid) activity identified through twenty-seven

interviews with, and twelve diaries produced by twenty-seven disabled gig economy workers who participated in this project. In relation to unpaid work, I highlight care and self-care, working for the state (when attending Job Coach meetings or being assessed for disability-related eligibility for social security), reacting to/addressing disability-related prejudice (micro-aggressions) on a daily basis, organising and volunteering, and undertaking activities conducive to rest. All these activities, I contend, are related to disabling capitalist social relations by either reproducing, contesting, or prefiguring beyond capitalism. Notably, some of the spheres of activity emerge specifically as a result of the structural disablement to which people with impairments, chronic illness, who are d/Deaf, neurodivergent, and/or who experience mental distress are subjected. With the persistence of austerity measures in the UK for more than a decade, the work previously undertaken through public services has been increasingly transferred onto households. To understand the dynamics between these spheres of activity, I adopt Nona Glazer's 'work transfer' thesis and I propose the concept of 'work transfer from below' as an analytical tool for mobilising collective social change against top-down work transfer 'from above'.

4. A sociological analysis of the multiple roles of hospitality in young temporary migrants' trajectories in Quebec

Capucine Coustere, Concordia University

Few research examines the relationship between migration, youth and the employment sector, despite young migrants being overrepresented in certain ones, such as hospitality. In Canada, these workers are very diverse in terms of profile and residency permits. To what extent do their life stage and migratory conditions shape their relationship to work in hospitality in migration? How does it evolve? This article explores the role played by the hospitality sector in the trajectories of young temporary middling migrants in Quebec, using temporal perspectives and the life course approach. The article is based on a qualitative longitudinal research. Between 2019 and 2022, we interviewed on three occasions 22 migrants sharing a common experience of working in hotels and/or restaurants in Quebec City in 2019 with a temporary residence permit. The analysis shows temporal in/compatibilities between hospitality, life stages and migration. On the one hand, the sector facilitates geographical mobility and the pursuit of migration projects. It constitutes a significant migration resource, enabling people to pursue their aspirations despite constraints in terms of access to the job market or residency permit conditions. On the other hand, employment in this sector appears incompatible with transitions to adulthood. The perception of its precarious working conditions also changes over time. While considered as an asset to enter quickly into a foreign labour market, to migrate and to pursue one's aspirations, they are often valued more negatively under the effect of changing aspirations and life transitions. However, these middling migrants are unequally resourced to leave or improve their working conditions. In sum, this research shows that the hospitality sector can either act as a steppingstone or as a trap at different moments in migrants' trajectories, depending on their social attributes, life stage and aspirations, as well as on different stages and transitions in their professional, migration and family trajectories.

(CND-RC) Canadian Network of Durkheimian Studies Research Cluster Meeting

Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 3:00pm

Affiliation: Canadian Network of Durkheimian Studies Cluster

The Canadian Network of Durkheimian Studies Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Organizer: Ronjon Paul Datta, University of Windsor

(SON1b) Multi-Sited Belonging in Contemporary De/Post-Colonial Societies II: Possibilities and Challenges

Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 3:00pm

This panel gathers scholarship exploring diverse sites to engage key questions of social belonging (drawing on Bourdieu's concept of 'social capital' [1986], and Stuart Hall's 'meaning-making' [1980]) in a postmodern and (post)colonial present. Foregrounding the practices, identities, performances, products, and representations of diverse agents with different citizenships, claims to social membership, experiences, and struggles, it seeks to interrogate how personal belonging is negotiated in localized spaces increasingly understood in relation to global networks, movements, and communal forms. This includes the negotiation of racialization, police violence, and identity in the cultural production of African diaspora communities in Canada, the role of shame in cycles of intimate-partner violence, misrepresentations of First Nations in the Discover Canada citizenship guide, articulations of hope in the practices of women content creators within and beyond digital platforms, eco-social movements in the Balkan region following the Yugoslav Wars, as well as the impacts of emergent public spaces and social media on dynamics of violence and alienation. We stress the roles of agents in the formation of social bonds and personal identities, as well as the strategies researchers use to spotlight this agency.

Session Organizer and Chair: Tyler Correia, University Canada West

Presentations:

1. Social Media, Technology Addiction, and Belongingness Post COVID-19

Lilya Shienko, University of Canada West

This presentation examines the complex relationship between social media, technology addiction, and the fundamental need for belongingness in the post-COVID-19 era, using the theories of Goffman's *Presentation of Self* (1959) and Festinger's *Social Comparison Theory* (1954). Social media has dramatically transformed how individuals form relationships, express identities, and seek validation, especially during periods of necessary isolation. However, this shift to online communication has raised concerns about the addictive nature of technology and its potential harmful psychological effects (i.e., anxiety), (Halbert et al., 2023; Shienko, 2023). Central to this issue is the dual role of social media: it fulfills the need for connection and belongingness when in-person interactions are not possible, but promotes dependency and emotional distress. As a result, social media's addictive qualities are formed through the interplay between the desire for social connection and the platform's design, which optimizes user engagement through features like notifications, likes, and comments (Kuss & Griffiths, 2017). According to Goffman, users create idealized versions of themselves online, engaging in self-presentation to gain social approval. However, this constant self-presentation can lead to heightened anxiety, self-doubt, and loneliness (Abbas et al., 2021). This dynamic can be further explained by Social Comparison Theory, which

suggests that individuals assess their self-worth by comparing themselves to others especially online. On social media, these comparisons are amplified, leading to negative self-perceptions and feelings of alienation (Fardouly et al., 2015; Appel et al., 2015). Furthermore, while social media fosters a sense of belonging, it also promotes addiction by encouraging shallow interactions and a constant pursuit of external validation. In today's post-COVID-19 culture, the central question remains: What will our social world look like years from now considering this overreliance on social media, and what can we do today to prevent this over-reliance?

2. Punk Culture in Contemporary Turkey: Resurgence, Commodification, and Belonging Amid Tensions of Modernity and Tradition

Melike Asli Sim, University of Canada West

This study explores the evolution of Turkish punk culture, examining its transition from a marginalized subculture to a commodified element of popular culture amid Turkey's rapidly globalizing and urbanizing society. Emerging as a form of rebellion in the late 20th century, Turkish punk initially served as a site of resistance to societal norms, inspired by global punk movements yet adapted to local socio-political dynamics. Punk aesthetics and ideology—characterized by confrontational fashion, rebellious music, and nonconformist ethos—functioned as a medium for youth to challenge the status quo in a society shaped by traditional and nationalist values. In the contemporary era, Turkish punk reflects broader processes of cultural hybridization and commodification. Digital technologies and global cultural flows have transformed punk from a niche subculture into a platformed and commercialized expression of urban identity. This shift raises questions about the role of subcultures in shaping belonging in societies marked by friction between authoritarian control, patriarchal structures, and the desires for autonomy and self-expression. Using the Netflix series Uysallar (Wild Abandon) as a case study, this research employs a visual and cultural analysis to investigate how punk intersects with identity formation, urban life, and consumer culture. Uysallar portrays punk as both a vehicle for personal rebellion and a commodified aesthetic, reflecting tensions between authenticity and market-driven cultural production. By situating these dynamics within Turkey's cultural and political landscape, the study highlights how punk functions as a symbolic space for negotiating identity, resistance, and agency in contemporary Turkey. This work contributes to sociological discussions on subcultures, globalization, and identity in societies navigating the contradictions of modernity and tradition, emphasizing the complexities of belonging where resistance and commodification intertwine.

3. Understanding agency of Afghan refugees and supporting organisations and individuals in Poland

Aleksandra Grzymala-Kazlowska, Anna Skiba, and Patrycja Hryciuk- Ziółkowska, University of Warsaw

In light of increasingly limited as well as more conditional and temporary admission and support of refugees, the idea of private-public refugee sponsorship (community sponsorship, CS) and similar more civic society based initiatives are fundamental. In our paper, we analyse our original and unique data from 2023-2024 from over 30 individual in-depth interviews with evacuated Afghan refugees as well as organisations and individuals supporting them in adaptation and integration in Poland. Drawing on Archer's concept of agency, we examine challenges and opportunities for the agency from the perspectives of Afghan refugees and supporting organisations and individuals in

the context of community sponsorship-like initiatives in Poland. We discuss how the above-mentioned participants realise their agency and what significance it has for them. We argue that the investigated case of a CS-like initiative had a more significant impact on the agency of supporting organisations and individuals than on refugees, both on individual and collective levels, leading to selective and limited morphogenesis. Our findings also show that agency is understood differently in the researched groups and various contexts.

(ANS-RC) Animals in Society Research Cluster Meeting
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 5:00pm
Affiliation: Animals in Society Research Cluster

Embracing interdisciplinary approaches, the Animals in Society Research Cluster recognizes and respects that we are all animals in a shared society. We welcome all who are interested in learning more about our cluster activities, the teaching and research that is ongoing in this area, or are just curious about Animals in Society! The meeting will provide opportunities to connect with other scholars, space for feedback on our current activities, and discussions about future initiatives. We look forward to seeing you there!

Session Chairs: Rochelle Stevenson, Thompson Rivers University and Sarah May Lindsay, Western University

(INE-RC) Institutional Ethnography Research Cluster Meeting
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 5:00pm
Affiliation: Institutional Ethnography Research Cluster

This inaugural meeting of the Institutional Ethnography Research Cluster is open to those interested in connecting with others working in this field. Our first meeting is an important opportunity to propose and organize future initiatives and to set the directions for this new cluster.

Session Chairs: Colin Hastings, University of Waterloo and Eric Mykhalovskiy, York University

(VLS-RC2) Violence and Society Research Cluster Meeting
Monday, 09 June 2025 @ 5:00pm
Affiliation: Violence in Society Research Cluster

The Violence and Society Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. The cluster is especially welcoming new participants and emerging scholars who would like to contribute their opinions to the activities of the cluster or to volunteer their time to its work. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chairs: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Robert Nonomura, Western University

(RES1) Conceptualizing and Applying Relational Sociology
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 10:00am
Affiliation: Relational Sociology Research Cluster

Relational sociology is a broad family of ontological and epistemological approaches characterized by a common tendency to shift or reconceptualize the objects of sociological analysis from 'things' to relations. Relational thinking can be found in a very wide range of theoretical projects — from Marx, Simmel, Elias to Foucault, Derrida, Latour, and Butler, to Dorothy Smith, Harrison White, and Karen Barad. Within sociology, Emirbayer's "Manifesto for Relational Sociology" as well as recent work by Crossley, Donati, Archer, and Dépelteau has established a conscious relational turn in theoretical and empirical inquiry. Relational sociology has the potential to re-imagine what the social world is made of, how we know it, and how we act within it. Researchers coming from different theoretical backgrounds and studying different empirical objects were therefore invited to engage in a dialog with each other to explore the dynamic, fluid and processual aspects of social life.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Christopher Powell, Toronto Metropolitan University and Mónica Sánchez-Flores, Thompson Rivers University

Presentations:

1. Cross-Class Guanxi and Social Reproduction
Shizhan Ruan and Ji Ruan, Guizhou Minzu University

Against the backdrop of tremendous social stratification in China, little attention has been paid to the impact of social stratification on the use of *guanxi* (personal connections) and the process of cross-class *guanxi*. This study delves into how those in the lower class establish *guanxi* with those in the middle class and how this relates to social reproduction in China. Based on two case studies of school admission in a Chinese city, this paper finds that the *guanxi* of the middleclass significantly surpasses that of the migrant workers. In the use of indirect *guanxi,* the middle class uses Introduction Type which can link many intermediaries, while migrant workers use Entrusted Type which can only link one intermediary. Cross-class *guanxi* of the poor is much less effective than same-class *guanxi* of the wealthy. Due to the influence of obligations and return expectations, it is difficult for migrant workers' linking social capital to develop through *guanxi.* The pervasive use of *guanxi* in China intensifies the closure of social capital, inequality of education, intergenerational transmission and social exclusion, which exacerbates social reproduction. Social stratification greatly influences the use of *guanxi*, and *guanxi* exacerbates social reproduction, which may lead to more widespread social stratification.

2. Educational creation: towards a relational theory of educational knowledge and its implications for social justice.
Kevin Naimi, Université Laval

This presentation will outline the key elements of a relational theory of educational creation (Naimi, 2021) that emphasizes the socially creative dimension of learning, and situates young people as central participants in the key processes of social creation and worldmaking (Gergen, 2015). Drawing on key thinkers in the fields of sociomaterialism (Tanggaard, 2013), new materialism (Alaimo & Hekman, 2008) relational sociology (Roudavski, 2016) and the sociology of childhood

(James & Prout, 2015), this presentation will detail the main features of a relational theory of educational creation and it's important implications for social justice in eduction. A theory of educational creation aims to shed light upon the important creative processes that are necessary and implicit in learning itself, and that emerge directly from material-discursive entanglements (Hekman, 2010) central to education. This paper will argue that a relational theory of educational creation poses a key challenge to the prevalent view of education as knowledge transmission (Biesta, 2015), instead inviting a deeper reflection upon how educational knowledge and meanings are negotiated and (often) reconstructed in the learning process. This view has two major implications: first, it helps us to better understand the creativity that is central to learning itself advancing that learning always entails what Corsaro (2014) calls the interpretive reproduction of knowledge. Second, a better understanding of educational creation can help us to reconceptualize young people's agency as inherently creative and, therefore, better understand the transformative possibilities of knowledge work in the classroom. This paper will conclude with a reflection on the social justice implications of this approach. In particular, it will advocate for a more inclusive approach to creativity and emphasize the need to reconsider the creative agency of children and youth in a manner that accurately reflects their crucial role in maintenance and reconstruction of social meanings.

3. Brokers in risky markets: the relational work of Hui Muslim translators in China-Middle East trade economy.

Man Xu, University of Toronto

The sociological studies about economic brokers have focused largely on the structural conditions of brokerage, examining how characteristics of social structures shape the economic outcomes of brokerage, focusing on corporations and firms in developed economies. This literature offers little insights on how brokers form, negotiate, repair, enforce or dissolve economic relations in markets characterized by high levels of political and economic uncertainty and weak formal institutions. This research addresses this conceptual lacuna by examining the cultural process through which Chinese Muslim translators facilitate exchanges between others and pursue their own economic advancement in the risky global trade economy. The findings illustrate how brokers engage in meaning-making, emotional and moral work to shape the moral and emotional undercurrent of economic relations. In this way, they sustain their brokerage position against high level of competition and distrust from market actors, and to help establish, repair and enfrce crossborder exchange in risky economic environment.

(ITD4b) Apps and AI in Higher Education

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Relational Sociology Research Cluster

This session highlights new technological developments that are impacting higher education in Canada. Virtual presentations will discuss personalized e-mental health tools for students, usage patterns and student attitudes toward generative AI tools, and the adoption, application, and enforcement of generative AI policies in Canadian universities.

Session Organizers: Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University, Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary, and Andrey Kasimov, McMaster University

Session Chairs: Andrey Kasimov, McMaster University and Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. The Adaption of a Mental Health Mobile Resource E-Tool for McMaster University Students

Sarah Coker and Alison Leanage, McMaster University; Daniel Vigo, Angel Wang, and Tiana Mori, University of British Columbia

University is a transition period marked by leaving home, meeting new people, and navigating the pressures of a competitive environment. While exciting, this time also brings significant mental health challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, and substance use. This project focuses on the adaptation of *Minder*, a mental wellbeing and substance use mobile app originally tested in a randomized control trial at the University of British Columbia, to McMaster University. The app provides evidence-based tools to help students manage psychological challenges, build resilience, and connect with campus and community resources. The adaptation process followed four key steps: 1) stakeholder engagement to identify key partners, including administrators and researchers; 2) formation of a Student Advisory Committee (SAC) by the Advanced Research on Mental Health and Society to guide app adaptation; 3) mapping university and community services and student organizations; and 4) development of McMaster-specific content, including the mapping of location-based resources, and videos featuring insights from students and advice from campus figures, to ensure the app felt personalized and relevant. Feedback on the adaptation was collected via surveys in social science classes and through the SAC. Survey engagement was low, but the SAC provided valuable insights. Students valued the app's accessibility, real-time stress management tools, and tailored resources but suggested improvements, such as culturally responsive content and interactive features like artificial intelligence and live peer support, which were part of the original Minder App but not yet implemented at McMaster. This research highlights the importance of tailoring e-mental health tools to students' unique needs, identified through the SAC, and bridging gaps in mental health support with accessible and personalized digital solutions.

2. Who is Using Generative AI in Higher Education?

Adam Vanzella Yang and Tanzeela Faisal, The Conference Board of Canada

Generative AI is changing how we teach and learn. Yet, little is known about post-secondary student engagement with this new technology. In this research, we investigate frequency of use and attitudes toward generative AI tools using a national sample of 2,401 post-secondary students in Canada. We focus on differences across students from different socio-demographic groups, given concerns about a digital divide in the context of emerging technologies. We found that frequent usage was not widespread, with 20 per cent of students reporting using generative AI most or all of the time. Men were more likely to report frequent use compared to women and nonbinary students. Students with non-European cultural backgrounds (except for Indigenous students) were more likely to report higher use of, familiarity with, and proficiency in generative AI compared to students with European backgrounds. Generative AI use varied across students in different fields of study, with the highest uptake among engineering students. Counter to expectations, we did not find differences between students of different age groups. Power users - those who report using generative AI most or all of the time - had similar levels of concern as non-users about the potential drawbacks of generative AI, despite having more favourable attitudes toward its use. Finally, we

also found an association between frequency of use and better learning experiences and outcomes, but the mechanisms and conditions under which this occurs need to be further investigated. This investigation is part of a large project undertaken by The Conference Board of Canada on behalf of the Future Skills Centre (FSC). The project provides a comprehensive analytical framework on the use of generative AI for post-secondary teaching and learning in Canada. Findings will help post-secondary leaders to develop guidelines on how to use generative AI equitably, responsibly, and advantageously.

3. Navigating Integrity in the Age of AI: A Comparative Study of Generative AI Policies at Leading Canadian Universities

Kyra Winer and **Ana Maria Jara Mejia,** University of Waterloo

As generative AI tools like ChatGPT redefine how knowledge is created and shared, academic institutions are faced with unprecedented challenges in upholding academic integrity. The adoption, application, and enforcement of generative AI policies in Canadian universities have become a common, yet underexplored trend. As such these policies are often inconsistent across academic institutions and disciplines. Using an *Inhabited Institutionalism* lens, the AI and plagiarism policies of four leading Canadian universities: the University of Waterloo, the University of British Columbia, McGill University, and the University of Toronto will be comparatively analyzed to examine the interplay between formal written policies and day-to-day practices concerning academic integrity. Specifically, focusing on how generative AI regulations are being integrated into existing plagiarism and cheating policies. The purpose of this study is to investigate how generative AI policies have influenced and interacted with preexisting plagiarism guidelines, identifying key similarities and differences across the selected universities. It explores the areas of alignment and tension between traditional academic integrity policies and emerging AI-specific regulations. Furthermore, the research analyzes how these policies were developed, enacted, and interpreted in practice across these universities, drawing on perspectives across faculties and institutions - regarding the implications of generative AI for teaching and learning. Through qualitative analysis of institutional documents, such as academic codes of conduct and integrity policies, alongside interviews with faculty and administration, the research highlights discrepancies between official policies and their enforcement. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of how generative AI is reshaping academic norms and offers insights for institutions striving to balance innovation with integrity, by revealing how these policies are interpreted, negotiated, and reshaped within daily work.

(SAS3) Bridging the Gap in Equity Challenges: Fostering Open Science Practices in Developing Countries

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 11:00am

Affiliation: South Asia Research Cluster

Open science practices are essential for promoting transparency, collaboration, and accessibility in research. However, developing countries often face significant equity challenges that hinder their participation in the global research ecosystem. These challenges include capacity gaps, infrastructure disparities, lack of awareness, and digital divides. This session aims to address these barriers by fostering open science practices in underserved communities, ultimately creating a more equitable and interconnected research environment. The goal of this panel is to enhance

understanding and cultivate a culture of open science through capacity-building training and strategic outreach activities, focusing on the perspective of developing countries. It has planned to build scholarly communities that empower equitable access to information resources, particularly in South Asian countries. This panel will develop a comprehensive strategy for building scholarly infrastructure through open science utilities (such as FAIR, CAIR, PID, CC licensing, and mandate policies), emphasizing the need for capacity-building, awareness programs, and strategic outreach.

Session Organizers: Jiban K. Pal, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Muhammet Damar, University of Toronto

Session Chair: Jiban K. Pal, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Presentations:

1. Capacity Building for Open Science in Developing Countries

Bidisha Banerjee, Lalbaba College University of Calcutta and Paramita Mullick, University of Calcutta

Open Science (OS) refers to a range of practices aimed at making scientific research, data, and methodologies more accessible, transparent, and collaborative. With the advent of ICT, global research has become more interconnected, and OS practices such as open access publishing, open data sharing, open peer review, and collaborative science are increasingly prominent in high-income countries. However, OS adoption in developing countries faces significant challenges due to a combination of structural, economic, cultural, and technological factors. This study evaluates the current state of OS infrastructure, policies, and practices in select developing countries, proposing strategies to overcome these challenges through capacity building. Capacity building for open science in developing countries is essential to ensure equitable participation in global research and tackle local challenges through collaborative knowledge sharing. This proposal outlines strategies to promote the adoption of open science practices in resource-constrained environments. Challenges such as the digital divide, lack of funding, and insufficient institutional support are discussed, with solutions including international collaborations, regional open science hubs, and integrating open science principles into national research agendas. The presentation will highlight successful capacity-building initiatives and provide recommendations for governments, academic institutions, and international organizations to promote sustainable open science practices in developing countries. These efforts strengthen the global research ecosystem and ensure scientific advancements address local development needs. Case studies include Africa's African Open Science Platform (AOSP), India's National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), and Latin America's Latin American Repositories Network (La Referencia); which enhance open access, improve data-sharing capabilities, and support local research by overcoming resource and infrastructure barriers. Adopting open science in developing countries democratizes knowledge, fosters international collaboration, and empowers researchers with equitable access to global scientific advancements.

2. Challenges and Opportunities for Open-data Practices in the Global South

Jayeeta Mullick, KBCC, University of Calcutta

Open data refers to the sharing of formatted data that is accessible, reusable, and freely available. Key issues include data quality, privacy, governance, and interoperability. Data privacy ensures sensitive information is not exposed, particularly when datasets are not properly anonymized. Open

data must be accurate, reliable, and standardized; a lack of standard formats, incomplete datasets, and inconsistent metadata can hinder reuse. Data governance requires clear guidelines on control, access, and conditions to maintain integrity. Interoperability enhances data usability and value by enabling cross-platform linking The Global South faces distinct challenges and opportunities in adopting open data practices, essential for transparency and inclusive development. This paper explores constraints such as limited infrastructure, digital divides, data privacy concerns, and a lack of regulatory frameworks. Many countries struggle with inadequate technological infrastructure, hindering data collection, storage, and sharing. The digital divide and absence of data privacy laws further impede open data adoption, while financial constraints and limited technical expertise complicate the development and maintenance of systems. Despite these challenges, Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) are crucial for the long-term sustainability, integration, and consistency of open data systems. This paper also examines how PID adoption has been initiated to manage open data initiatives and improve governance. Although the Global South faces significant challenges, it also presents opportunities for leveraging open data, such as building regional data ecosystems, fostering international partnerships, and empowering local communities. Through a case study, this study highlights successful initiatives and offers recommendations for policymakers, researchers, and international organizations to overcome existing barriers and harness the potential of open data for sustainable development in the Global South. Addressing these issues requires coordinated efforts between governments, institutions, and the research community to improve infrastructure, ensure data security, and standardize practices.

(VLS1) The Continuum of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Violence in Society Research Cluster

This session explores the continuum of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in migration, refugee, and global south contexts, emphasizing the diverse and intersectional nature of such violence. This continuum encompasses the different forms and stages of violence experienced by migrant and refugee women across countries of origin, transit, and destination. These forms of violence are shaped by a combination of gender-specific factors, including the socio-economic, political, cultural realities, structural inequities, weak domestic violence laws, and inadequate professional support. Papers explore how SGBV is impacted by multiple intersecting identities and social memberships, such as gender, socio-economic status, and lineage, and how these dynamics influence both the experiences and the societal legitimization of violence. Additionally, papers examine local resistances to SGBV and efforts to address the problem in these contexts.

Session Organizers: Evie Tastsoglou, Saint Mary's University; Myrna Dawson, University of Guelph; A. Pearl Sedziafa, Government of Alberta; Jane Freedman, Université Paris 8; and Eric Tenkorang, Memorial University

Session Chair: A. Pearl Sedziafa, Government of Alberta

Presentations:

1. The Continuum of Gender-Based Violence in the Experiences of Asylum Seeking Women
Evangelia Tastsoglou and **Eva Kazakou,** Saint Mary's University

This paper focuses on gender-based violence (GBV) in a "mixed" migration context at the external, common border of the EU in Greece in the second decade of the 21st century. As EU countries in the north of Greece have been erecting walls to prevent asylum seekers from reaching their territories, and EU Asylum regulations and enforcement have been turning to an increased neo-liberal securitization approach, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers have found themselves either trapped within Greek borders or taking more dangerous routes, following the EU-Turkey agreement of 2016. GBV is violence against a person on account of their gender; it also encompasses gendered consequences of systemic/structural and institutional violence. Moreover, gender inequalities that are mutually constitutive with class, race and other forms of social divisions make the experiences of some asylum seekers even more challenging. Drawing upon the qualitative analysis of interviews with 20 key informants and 35 asylum-seeking women arriving in Greece in the second decade of the 21st century, we explore how interpersonal experiences of GBV during the journey and upon arrival to EU "safety" can be traced to state bordering practices, and EU and Greek legal and policy frameworks.

2. Mariage des filles mineures au Maroc : Revue de littérature sur les maris majeurs

Rajae Anys, Université du Québec à montréal

La revue de littérature consultée sur le mariage des filles mineures au Maroc tend à invisibiliser certains aspects cruciaux de ce phénomène. En premier lieu, l'utilisation de termes généraux tels que « mariage précoce » ou « mariage d'enfants » dilue l'analyse de genre et masque le fait que les filles mineures sont de loin les principales concernées. Cette neutralité terminologique empêche de centrer les discussions et l'analyse sur l'oppression spécifique et genrée que ces filles subissent dans une société patriarcale. De plus, cette revue révèle une focalisation prédominante sur le cadre juridique qui encadre ces unions, sur les expériences des filles elles-mêmes, ainsi que sur les perspectives des familles, des acteurs associatifs et des autorités locales, comme les juges. Bien que cette approche soit essentielle pour mettre en lumière certaines causes et conséquences du mariage précoce, ainsi que le vécu des filles mineures dans ces unions, elle tend à occulter des dimensions fondamentales de ce phénomène, notamment les mécanismes de domination exercés par les maris majeurs. Si l'on se réfère à la théorie de l'appropriation de Colette Guillaumin (Guillaumin, 1978), qui avance que pour comprendre un phénomène de domination, il faut orienter les études vers les acteurs dominants, il devient crucial de déplacer l'analyse vers les hommes majeurs qui contractent ces unions. Ces derniers, acteurs centraux de cette dynamique oppressive, sont largement absents des recherches consultées, que ce soit au Maroc ou dans d'autres contextes fortement touchés par ce phénomène comme l'Inde ou les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne. Bien que la littérature existante souligne les cycles d'exploitation auxquels les filles mineures sont confrontées, passant de leur famille d'origine à celle de leur mari, elle manque de développer une critique structurelle approfondie sur le rôle des époux dans ces unions. Une analyse centrée sur les maris majeurs permettrait de mieux comprendre les motivations économiques, sociales ou religieuses qui poussent ces hommes à épouser des filles mineures. En orientant mes recherches vers cette observation, et grâce notamment à deux articles scientifiques, certains passages dans des ouvrages et rapports, et en explorant des articles de presse, des réseaux sociaux (Instagram, Facebook) et des podcasts se proclamant religieux contemporains, j'ai identifié trois axes d'analyse. Le premier axe s'intéresse aux profils des hommes majeurs qui choisissent d'épouser des filles mineures, le deuxième explore les motivations et les facteurs qui les poussent à contracter de telles unions, tandis que le troisième examine les conséquences de ces mariages précoces sur les hommes

adultes eux-mêmes. Ces éléments, bien que rares, constituent une base importante pour pallier les lacunes de la littérature actuelle et enrichir la compréhension de ce phénomène complexe.

3. Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Against Women with Disabilities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Eunice Tunggal and Kare Soldatic, Toronto Metropolitan University; Babalwa Tyabashe-Phume and Lieketseng Ned, Stellenbosch University

Women with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face heightened risks of experiencing gender-based violence (GBV). The rapid growth of digital technologies has introduced new forms of violence, such as technology- facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), which disproportionately affects marginalized groups. Despite growing awareness, the intersection of disability, gender, and TFGBV is under-researched. This paper discusses the scoping review that mapped and synthesized the evidence on TFGBV against women with disabilities in LMICs, exploring the manifestations of violence, its key vulnerabilities, and protective factors within these settings. It then moves onto the multi-lingual disability accessible survey co-designed process in partnership with GBV and Disability civil society services and preliminary analysis of first stage analysis.

4. Examining femicide risk among newcomer, immigrant and refugee women in Canada

Emmanuel Rohn and **Myrna Dawson**, University of Guelph, **Evangelina Tastsoglou**, Saint, Mary's University; Catherine Holtman, University of New Brunswick, Lori Wilkinson, University of Manitoba

Femicide, or the intentional killing of women and girls on the basis of their sex or gender, is a pressing global issue with serious social, cultural, and human rights ramifications Research has shown that gender-based violence is a pervasive problem that disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including newcomers, immigrants and refugees. Despite growing attention to gender-based violence in Canada, knowledge gaps remain regarding the risk factors that contribute to femicide within these populations. Data from the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability reports that between 2018 and 2022, at least 90 femicide victims in Canada were born outside the country and had immigrated before being killed. This figure underscores the urgency of addressing the systemic and social factors that contribute to femicide among these populations. The extant literature indicates that key risk factors, including precarious immigration status, economic dependency, linguistic barriers, and limited access to culturally appropriate services, contribute to the social isolation and financial dependency of many newcomer, immigrant, and refugee women. These intersecting challenges hinder their ability to seek protection from abusive partners. This paper will examine the systemic, social, and cultural risk factors contributing to femicide within these populations, using media/court documents to identify contexts surrounding their killings to the degree possible to allow for a first look at these killings. It will also highlight promising practices for mitigating these risks, including addressing systemic inequities, fostering community-driven prevention strategies, and improving culturally sensitive service delivery. By focusing on the lived realities of newcomer, immigrant, and refugee women in Canada, this research seeks to urge stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, to address the risk factors relating to femicide among newcomer, immigrant, and refugee women. It also seeks to advance policies that prioritize the safety of women within these marginalized groups and prevent femicide.

(ITD8d) Technology & Society: General Topics
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster

As the sociological study of technology continues to progress, many questions remain unanswered regarding the social implications of digital technologies in our everyday lives and on society-at-large. With this in mind, our annual ITDS general session provides a space for digital sociologists to share their diverse research interests and to further foster the growth of this scholarly area. Virtual presentations will cover topics of digital and data governance, social control, and (social) media representations of gender and race-based power relations.

Session Organizers: Andrew Nevin, University of Guelph, Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University, and Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary

Session Chair: Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary

Presentations:

1. Shaping digital governance: Ideas, actors, and interests in making digital regulation
Sarah Cheung, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

A rich interdisciplinary literature in critical digital and surveillance studies in recent decades has brought attention to the broad social impacts of data and digital technologies. Influenced extensively by three theoretical schools, STS, governmentality, and Marxist political economy, this literature has highlighted harms and inequities ranging from discrimination, bias, threats to democratic spaces and citizenship, to economic disparities due to new global elites.
However, a typical conclusion of these bodies of critique is digital regulation is required - wherein regulation is effectively a 'black box' panacea. This paper suggests that, by augmenting existing theoretical insights with alternative approaches that critically interrogate the development of regulatory policy, we can shed light on how ongoing attempts to remake regulatory and governance frameworks globally in the digital era may either blunt the negative impacts of digital technologies, leave them unencumbered, or entrench them further. This paper draws from interpretive policy analysis frameworks that problematize the development of regulatory approaches, seeking to explore the interplay between the actors involved in these processes, and the key ideas and interests involved in the setting of public policy agendas. It presents a qualitative analysis of UK digital policy literature from 2014-2024, identifying the 'public interest' (and its synonym 'common good') as a crucial idea involved in shaping digital policy goals. It finds distinctive state-centric presentations of 'public interest' in the UK digital policy landscape are prioritised over citizen-centric alternatives, and a network of actors across government, academia and industry aligning to mobilise these presentations. It concludes that 'public interest' in the UK's policy approach operates as a rhetorical device for persuasion, justification and symbolic display, precluding more restrictive approaches to digital regulation. This analysis thus suggests distinct dynamics of power in digital policymaking may in turn influence the existing impacts of digital technologies.

2. What do Youth Value for "Good" Data Governance? Developing a Youth-Informed Data Governance Framework
Amber-Lee Varadi, and **Hannah Cho,** The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, York

University; Mary Hanna, Meaghen Quinlan, Matthew Prebeg, and Jo Henderson, University of Toronto

The prevalence of Canadian youth experiencing mental health challenges has increased for decades. Accordingly, it is more important than ever to leverage existing data alongside emerging youth mental health research to recognize important trends across these data. This understanding of data across time, in turn, can strengthen the relevancy and accessibility of programs designed to support youth's mental health. To this end, the Canadian Youth Mental Health Insight Platform (Youth Insight Platform herein) is an in-development digital platform that will host national youth mental health data, creating innovative knowledge exchange opportunities to optimize youth's wellbeing through data. Concerns about the ways that health data will be appropriately used and accurately represented, and how such data will be kept private and secure, are salient for communities who have historically faced consequences of data malpractice (e.g., stigmatizing findings, misrepresentation). As such, an equity-driven, youth-centered data governance framework must first be established to guide how data decisions will be made when developing and utilizing the Youth Insight Platform's technologies. This presentation draws on preliminary Delphi study findings of key values (qualities that are viewed as "good") and principles (actions that fulfill values) that aim to create a youth-informed data governance framework. One-hundred participants will be recruited (n=40 youth; n=20 family members/caregivers; n=20 service leaders; n=20 researchers) to determine the data governance values and principles most important to these various stakeholders when using youth mental health data (e.g., youth engagement, access, reciprocity, autonomy). By prioritizing youths' perspectives, and with attention to subgroup differences across young participants (e.g., gender, race, sexuality), results will provide insight into how youth and other interest-holders believe young people's health data should be used, handled, and shared as part of the Youth Insight Platform. Findings can offer promising directions for future youth-engaged and youth-empowering data-driven projects.

3. Disappearance of bodies creates a screen difficult to held people responsible

Abu Haque, York University

The disappearance of bodies in the today's service industry makes it difficult for customers to hold anyone responsible for an act of omission and/or mistake. The prescriptive technologies, which are also a means of control mechanism, make it difficult to get in touch with a real person. Even though it has its advantages, the removal of bodies from the process has make it almost impossible to amend a mistake. The introduction of call centres within the service industries, adopted by almost every service industry that are sometimes located in far away countries, created a screen of obscurity in the delivery of services that is unprecedented. This new process has made the hierarchical system hard to pinpoint by breaking the process down and adding several layers and levels of authority. At the same time, they remove the accountability of individuals, instead it encourages a process that relies on an impersonal authority to be liable. This system also ensures gate-keeping of knowledge, which is a tendency of prescriptive technologies. On the contrary, a critical approach toward the process would be to ensure that the limits of technology do take away the responsibility on the part of the individual. Technologies encourage a model of control; in fact, they are built to exert control. For example, when employees are logged into their computer remotely through VPN or in the office through LAN, they are monitored through mechanisms built to monitor and control their work, breaks, etc. They are not only monitored by the supervisors or

the team leaders but also by managers who can view their activities, as all their activities are cataloged on the timestamps with digital footprints. Often they are also on camera for meetings, training, and coaching, which is not the same as a physical presence. Technology is used to exert this control. The research explores how the technological mediation creates this obscurity that makes it difficult for consumers to resolve issues without frustrating their resources, which ultimately works in favor of the corporations.

4. Framing The Feminist Protests In Mexico: An Analysis Of The Polarized Discursive Dynamics And Gender Power Relations On Social Media

Arturo Tejeda Torres, University of Lethbridge, University of Alberta

This paper explores the polarized discursive dynamics surrounding the feminist protests in Mexico on March 8th and 9th of 2020 that responded to a dramatically rising number of femicides in the country. Focusing on Facebook comments to selected news articles related to the protests, the study examines how such exchanges are organized and shaped by two dominant narratives: one aligned with the political project of President López Obrador, "the Fourth Transformation," and the other, a conservative-inflected counter-narrative challenging the former. Drawing upon a synthesis of concepts from Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida, the paper conceptualizes narratives as open structures and discursive mechanisms that help organize, delimit, or anchor meanings in discussions of the protests. By employing an inductive thematic analysis, two central themes emerged, reflecting discursive inconsistencies within and between the opposing narratives, and the reproduction of gender-based power relations. These themes revealed feminist demonstrations as *sites of discursive encounters* where meanings related to such events are contested and reorganized in relation to predominant or hegemonic narratives. Based on this analysis, the paper reflects on polarization as a fluid, discursive, and relational dynamic, where opposing positions constantly adapt and redefine themselves in response to one another. The findings of this work disrupt the seemingly fixed nature of polarized narratives while emphasizing how gender-based power relations are reproduced within these dynamics, ultimately overshadowing and eclipsing the central issue that initiated the protests: the structural and pervasive violence against women in Mexico.

5. Netflix's Portrayals of Arab/Muslim Women and the Reproduction of Racialized-Gendered Inequalities

Alia Wazzan, Brock University

This presentation critically examines the feminist role models in two Netflix shows streamed on its MENA (Middle East and North Africa) platform: the Egyptian drama *Finding Ola* and the documentary *It's Okay*, featuring Lebanese singer Elissa. Using an interdisciplinary lens, I draw on Gayatri Spivak's concept of "epistemic violence," Pierre Bourdieu's theories of symbolic violence and symbolic power, and bell hooks' theorization of the violence of the image to argue that Netflix's portrayals of Arab/Muslim women reinforce supremacist racialized-gendered discourses. I argue that these representations illustrate how the giant digital platform reproduces racialized, gendered, and classist social inequalities through the intersection of neoliberalism, Islamophobia, and cultural hegemony. I argue that Netflix's portrayals perpetuate neoliberal Islamophobic narratives by structuring its representations of Arab/Muslim women around binary oppositions between Islam as oppressive and the West as liberal and progressive. By debunking Netflix's MENA content team's

claims to challenge Orientalist stereotypes, I demonstrate how these narratives rely on hegemonic discourses that valorize neoliberal feminist ideals of individualism and consumerism, while simultaneously pathologizing Arabic/Islamic cultural norms. This reflects, I argue, a power structure that operates through symbolic violence, where neoliberalism, as a hegemonic ideology, is naturalized, legitimizing American capitalist frameworks as universal. I argue that in *Finding Ola* and *It's Okay*, Ola and Elissa are presented as empowered women navigating Arab/Muslim patriarchal systems; however, their empowerment is framed through neoliberal capitalist values. This feminist framework alienates them from Arab/Muslim cultural identities and promotes self-optimization as a solution to structural inequalities, a shift in the representation of Arab/Muslim women, which I term "neoliberal Orientalist feminism."

(SAS-RC) South Asia Research Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: South Asia Research Cluster

The objective of the South Asia Research Cluster is to promote and advance a wide range of scholarly work that focus on South Asia. The cluster aims to instigate conversations among researchers whose work explores issues around South Asian politics, history and culture, to name a few. This meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chair: Shreyashi Ganguly, York University

(VLS7a) Violence as a Cultural Process: Advancing Theory and Methods
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Violence in Society Research Cluster

How do people construct the meanings they attach to violence? A large portion of sociological literature studying violence and culture has looked at the institutional end of this question - from media representations of violence to national narratives of trauma. On the other end, symbolic interactionists and behavioural scientists have looked at how people participate in and enact violence. But how do individuals make sense of experiences and develop ideas about violence? This session aims to advance sociological theories, methods, and empirical explorations of how people come to see various experiences as violent - whether lived, observed or distant.

Session Organizers: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Marie Laperrière, University of Manitoba
Session Chairs: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia

Presentations:

1. Making (sense of) obstetric violence
Nicole Hill, University of Alberta, Athabasca University

Obstetric violence—violence individuals experience during reproductive health care experiences—is a growing concern around the globe. Advocates, practitioners, researchers, health organizations, and theorists engage in heated debate to describe, conceptualize, measure, and even simply to

name this phenomenon. Though many argue that obstetric violence is a form of gender-based violence which must be understood and addressed as such, some argue that it is not violence at all. To explore how individuals make sense of obstetric violence and themselves in relation to it, I completed narrative interviews with eight individuals who experienced obstetric violence as birthing people and/or maternity health care providers in Alberta (as a physician, nurse, and/or midwife). Through an intersectional feminist lens, I adopt C. Wright Mills' *sociological imagination* to understand participants' stories as they make sense of obstetric violence as both a private trouble and a public issue—as a social problem, and as violence. My analysis finds that obstetric violence is made in the context of three overlapping and interacting dynamics: disrespect, fear (of risk), and constraint. As context, drivers, and dominant discourses, these elements shape how violence comes to be in the stories of those who endure it. Further, participants' sense-making of their experiences is informed by interrelated narrative themes in their stories. Two primary narratives—the warrior and the survivor—inform how participants came to see themselves in relation to obstetric violence. Four secondary narratives—the prisoner, judge, fool, and advocate—further informed how participants made sense of their violence experiences and themselves. This work contributes to the study of violence, generally, and gender-based violence and obstetric violence in particular. It considers what "counts" as violence in the sense-making of those close to it, and how they come to these understandings.

2. Shared History, yet Divergent Memories: Reconstructing the Violence of Chad's Cut-Cut Massacre

Harmata Aboubakar, University of Toronto

This paper has received the 2025 Best Student Paper Award (PhD Category)

This is a comparative study of the 1917 Cut-Cut Massacre in Chad, central Africa, in which French colonial forces beheaded religious leaders as a public punishment aimed at suppressing the influence of Islam. I explore the divergent perceptions of the massacre among the Chadian diaspora in the Western world and local communities in Chad. I seek to uncover how these groups construct meanings around - and interpret the memory of - this violent historical event. Drawing upon political sociology and the literature on memory and sense-making, I investigate how these two groups construct and interpret the meanings of colonial violence, focusing on contexts, experiences, and conceptual understandings. Collective memories and interpretations of violent historical events vary widely and are frequently subject to debate. Indeed, various memory agents may hold differing views regarding the meanings attributed to events associated with cultural trauma, punishment, and atrocities (Halbwachs 1992; Assmann 1995; Olick 1999). This case sheds light on how religious and cultural contexts offer tools and repertoires for interpreting historical violence among groups with a common history and shared religious beliefs. I apply theoretical lenses, such as sense-making theory (Weick et al. 2005), cultural trauma (Alexander 2004), and frame analysis, to archival materials. This comparative approach allows for an exploration of the distinct frames used among Chadians in the homeland and those in the diaspora to make sense of colonial violence.

3. The Monroe Doctrine and the US imperial project

Anas Karzai, Laurentian University

This paper examines contemporary human displacement on a mass scale, unprecedented in recorded history, as a direct byproduct of Euro-American economic and political hegemony. I argue

that neoliberal economic policies driven by this imperial logic, coupled with the emergence of a new brand of cultural and political authoritarianism masquerading as 'free speech,' are symptoms of the so-called 'international rules-based order.' This order continues to metastasize at an alarming pace, threatening the biosphere upon which all life depends. In his message to Congress on December 2, 1823, U.S. President James Monroe declared that the Western Hemisphere was the United States' sphere of interest, inaugurating a permanent foreign policy of intervention—what became known as the "Monroe Doctrine." Subsequent presidents operationalized this doctrine throughout the 20th century. For instance, in his inaugural address on January 20, 1949, President Harry Truman stated: "We must embark on a bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped areas…" With this speech, Truman effectively labeled and sentenced two-thirds of the world's population as "underdeveloped." The concept of "underdevelopment" became a euphemism for U.S. intervention to reshape the global economic, political, and cultural landscape in its own image. Since the Second World War, the world has been subjected to American imperial hegemony, with its military and ideological campaigns exacting a heavy toll on those Truman deemed "underdeveloped"—primarily the Global South. The so-called Truman Doctrine extended this coercive interventionism under the guise of fostering "development" among "culturally and economically backward" populations. This policy and its enduring legacy continues to produce millions of displaced people. The rise of New Authoritarianism guarantees a future of increased refugees, economic migrants, internally displaced persons, and, in the gravest of instances, genocide.

(MIG1) Breaking Barriers: Newcomer Struggles and Solutions in Canadian Society
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 3:00pm

This session examines the critical challenges facing newcomers in Canada through a sociological lens while proposing evidence-based solutions for positive social change. Drawing on current research and community experiences, we focus on three interconnected barriers that significantly impact newcomer integration and propose practical interventions for meaningful social transformation; Economic Challenges, Social and Cultural Barriers, and Structural Barriers. Through a combination of research presentations, community voices, and interactive discussions, this session will provide participants with insights into effective interventions and establish networks for continued collaboration in addressing newcomer challenges.

Session Organizer and Chair: Parizad Bahardoost, Islamic Azad University

Presentations:

1. Refugee integration goes online: Afghan and Ukrainian refugee women using online services before and after arrival to prepare for life in Canada
Sophie Xiaoyi Liu, Aryan Karimi, and Rima Wilkes, University of British Columbia

What happens to immigrant and refugee integration when socioeconomic services move online? To date, refugee studies research underline the role of individuals' socioeconomic capital and their access to digital technologies for navigating employment, housing, and language-learning requirements during integration process in a new country. Instead, our empirical insights from 80 interviews with displaced Ukrainians and Afghan refugee women in Canada point to the increasing rates of using online resources among refugees for integration. The emergence of these resources

broaden integration from a national process to a pre-arrival transnational process. Our findings show that our participants, prior to and after arrival in Canada, use the online information and communication technologies to search for employment and housing opportunities. Importantly, given the lengthy wait-times to access language classes in Canada, our participants, after their arrival in Canadian cities, enroll in affordable online English classes given by tutors in Eastern Europe. Our findings contribute to the recent refugee integration frameworks to include the transnational digital landscape. Theoretical implications suggest that integration is increasingly influenced by transnational and digital dynamics which exceed the national boundaries of origin and host countries.

2. Bridging the Digital Divide: Understanding Chinese Senior Immigrants' Technology Learning in Canada

Yidan Zhu, **Min Yuan**, Xinwei Wang, Xiaonan Zhang, and Zhenyi Li, Royal Roads University; Weiguo Zhang, University of Toronto

The global aging population faces a significant digital divide. Senior immigrants, in particular, encounter substantial challenges in using the Internet, smartphone applications, and other digital technologies (Zhu & Zhang, 2019). As the population of individuals aged 60 and above continues to grow due to advancements in healthcare, improved social conditions, and greater financial stability (Levy et al., 2015; Marangunić & Granić, 2015), addressing these challenges becomes increasingly critical. Recent research indicates that older adults often experience stress, confusion, and frustration when engaging with digital technologies (Chalghoumi et al., 2022). Lower rates of computer and internet usage among the elderly highlight the need for updated research, particularly regarding disparities in digital access between developed and developing countries (Lund & Maurya, 2022). This study explores the digital divide among Chinese senior immigrants in Vancouver and examines how they learn to use digital tools to support their settlement and well-being. It addresses three key research questions: 1). What are the factors contributing to the digital divide among Chinese senior immigrants in Canada? 2). What specific challenges and barriers do Chinese senior immigrants encounter in accessing and using digital technologies? 3). How do Chinese senior immigrants acquire digital skills in Canada, and what role does digital learning play in enhancing their social inclusion and well-being? Using the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) (Vygotsky, 1978; Lapkin, Swain, & Psyllakis, 2010), this study examines the learning and development potential of senior immigrants by assessing their current digital capabilities and the support needed to enhance their skills. Through semi-structured in-depth interviews with 10 Chinese senior immigrants in Vancouver, this research identifies cultural, psychological, and sociological factors influencing technology use. Based on these findings, it proposes a learning program that integrates language, cultural adaptation, digital literacy, and community engagement to bridge the digital divide among senior immigrants.

3. LGBTQ+ Migrants and Poverty in Canada: Preliminary Findings from a Nationwide Study

Hazal Goktas, **Patricia Bailey-Brown**, Nick Mule, Roya Haghiri-Vijeh, Bogdan Ovcharuk, and Fatemeh Gharibi, York University; Leonard Halladay, Carleton University

Situated in a unique intersection of social locations and affected by the rising anti-immigrant sentiment, LGBTQ+ migrants represent a subset of newcomers to Canada who face multiple and compounding forms of marginalization resulting from precarious immigration status and

discrimination based on non-normative sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Drawing on preliminary findings of the national study, *2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada: Improving Livelihood and Social Wellbeing*, this presentation examines the plight of LGBTQ+ migrants. Aiming to rectify the knowledge gap at the intersection of 2SLGBTQ+ identities, migration status, and experiences of poverty, this paper will share the results of two focus groups in Canada's major urban centres, held in collaboration with community organizations serving LGBTQ+ migrants. Our findings corroborate expansive quantitative data on the experiences of poverty of those who identify at the intersection of LGBTQ+ and migration status and living in Canada. Specifically, we show that LGBTQ+ migrants experience a wide range of pathways into poverty in Canada, including the systemic problems ingrained in the immigration policy, lack of access to health and social services, homo/bi/transphobic stereotypes about LGBTQ+ people, racial profiling, language barriers, precarious employment, lack of credential recognition, and the difficulty in obtaining Canadian work experience. Preliminary findings elucidate that the study participants are adversely affected by the anti-immigrant sentiment reinforced by recent policy decisions of immigration authorities. By portraying migrants, and particularly refugees, as provided with ample resources by the government, such discourse not only misrepresents LGBTQ+ migrants as an economic burden but renders their proximity to poverty invisible. Drawing on the focus groups, this presentation concludes with a discussion on strategies to overcome barriers that lead to and perpetuate poverty, as well as measures to enhance the well-being of LGBTQ+ migrants in Canada.

4. Resilience of Newcomer Youth

Jayashree Mohanty, **Jane Ku**, **Wansoo Park**, University of Windsor

Resilience is crucial in understanding the psychosocial and health outcomes of newcomer immigrant and refugee youth. Emerging research suggests that these youth successfully navigate pre-immigration adversities and display remarkable resilience. Relationality, or how the self develops in relation to others, their family, friends, community, and the environment around them, is integral to understanding resilience and positive adaptation of individuals. This research aimed to explore risk and resilience factors experienced by newcomer youth in Canada. From May to August 2021, during the COVID-19 crisis, 26 research participants were interviewed in depth through virtual Zoom. This research was conducted in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Local Immigration Partnership (WE-LIP) and many settlement agencies providing services to newcomer youth. Newcomer youth face significant challenges in adjusting to life in Canada. Language barriers are among the most pronounced, creating difficulties in accessing healthcare, participating in school, and integrating socially. Cultural adjustment added another layer of complexity, including a lack of familiar structures such as mosques and the need to navigate a more diverse environment. We identified three broad themes relating to resilience. Theme 1 explored the individual and internal capacity for building connections. In theme 2, confidence and consolidation of their culture and social relationships, we explored how youths were able to insulate themselves and consolidate or build on their family, community, cultural, and social relationships. As part of the last theme, the ecological and contextual resources, societal values, community support, family support, and physical environment emerged as sub-themes. The findings highlight the resilience of newcomer youth as they navigate significant challenges in their transition to life in Canada. Resilience is realized through how youth create and are embedded in connections and relationalities. Their ability to

adapt is supported by a combination of individual resourcefulness, family and peer networks, and community resources.

5. Economic barriers faced by Arabic, Mandarin, and Punjabi-speaking immigrant older adults in the Greater Toronto Area

Kaveenaa Chandrasekaran, Cristina Catallo, Sepali Guruge, Maureen Saha, John Shields, Kateryna Metersky, Zhixi Zhuang, Oona St-Amant, and Hasina Amazai, Toronto Metropolitan University

Immigrant older adults in Canda face a range of economic challenges that profoundly affect their social connectedness and quality of life. As a result, newcomer older adults, in particular, are often reliant on their family for financial support, and are not able to afford resources to broaden their social networks. The ICOI project aims to generate knowledge about social isolation and connectedness among immigrant older adults across nine Canadian cities. This paper focuses on the data collected from 15 Arabic, 15 Mandarin, and 17 Punjabi-speaking older immigrants from the GTA. Following ethics approvals, participants were recruited using active and passive recruitment strategies, and interviewed using a semi-structured interview guide. With consent, interviews were audio-recorded, translated into English, and transcribed. Nvivo 14 software was used to systematically code the transcripts, and modified thematic analysis was used to analyze the data.
Participants reported that their pensions were insufficient to manage these expenses, and as such, highlighted the need for more financial support, specifically to cover rent, healthcare costs, and basic living necessities. Financial constraints also hindered their ability to meet cultural expectations, such as, buying presents and/or affording appropriate ethnic attire for social events, resulting in some participants avoiding gatherings altogether. Moreover, high transportation costs and the unreliable public transportation were identified as important barriers to social participation. Overall, participants reported experiencing significant economic challenges that have critical implications on their social connectedness, and overall quality of life. Policy interventions are imperative to address these financial challenges, such as alternative and subsidized public transportation for immigrant older adults, and increased healthcare coverage for essential services, such as, dental, vision, and hearing. These measures could lower their financial strain, which in turn could allow them to engage in informal and formal social activities, and reduce their social isolation and resulting loneliness.

(VLS8) Violence and Society - Friendly Paper and Emerging Research Feedback Session

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: Violence in Sociology Research Cluster

Presentations will be given feedback by a discussant during the session in addition to attendee engagement.

Session Chairs: Lily Ivanova, University of British Columbia and Robert Nonomura, Western University

Presentations:

1. A strength-based approach to understanding the lived experiences survivors

Sarah Yercich, Capilano University

Experiences of domestic violence (DV) survivors are traditionally positioned within harm- and deficit-based frameworks (e.g., vulnerability, risk, trauma), which disempowers and undermines the agency of survivors. Such deficit-based frameworks are problematically and disproportionately applied to communities and survivors who have been, and continue to be, situated as *vulnerable populations*, such as Indigenous peoples, immigrants and refugees, and those who live in rural, remote, and northern communities. However, referring to these survivors as increasingly vulnerable disregards that they are at an increased risk of experiencing DV due to systemic and structural barriers, and not micro-level risk factors. The vulnerability-based approaches also exist in stark contrast with culturally safe and Indigenous ways of knowing and healing, which focus on strength, resilience, and joy**.** This presentation examines the under-researched topic of the strength and resilience of survivors of DV and creates the groundwork for building strength-based responses to DV.

2. The violence of abstraction: Policing the boundaries of dissent

Steven Jordan, **Sarah Zreim,** and Shaheen Shariff**,** McGill University

This paper draws on research that we have conducted over the past 6 years on the iMPACTS project based at McGill University. iMPACTS is a multi-year, multi-million dollar Partnership Grant funded by SSHRC. The overarching goal of iMPACTS is to unearth, dismantle, and prevent sexual violence within universities and, ultimately, in society, through evidence- based research that informs sustainable change. Now in its last year the project has turned its focus away from primarily empirical qualitative and quantitative studies, to theorising what might be termed the political economy of violence. This work has taken us into unchartered territory where we are attempting to draw-out the theoretical implications of our empirical research over the past six years. This has also allowed us to as extend and explore its implications for analysing, understanding and interrogating the historical, social and material circumstances of violence in its contemporary manifestations, particularly in relation to the putative genocide in Gaza. There are several theoretical threads guiding this work, including: i) the Tricontinental Institute's concept of "hyper-imperialism"; ii) David Harvey's concept of "accumulation by dispossession," and; iii) Raewynn Connell concept of "southern theory." We will also be interested in drawing on insights from the work of the Glasgow Media Group in exploring the different ways in which violence, as a conceptual practice of the "relations of ruling" (Dorothy Smith) has been operationalised by State/corporate media to supress dissent and regulate acceptable forms of speech, public debate and protest.

(SCS1) Exploring Your Options: A Workshop On Alt-Ac & Non-Academic Careers

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 @ 5:00pm

Affiliation: CSA Student Concerns Subcommittee

This year's CSA conference theme asks us how we can build partnerships between academia and diverse publics for social impact within Canada and globally, and to do so we need to turn our attention to the work being done outside of academia as well. In this workshop hosted by the CSA Student Concerns Subcommittee, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with sociologists and those in similar fields who have pursued different career options aside from the traditional academic positions.

Session Organizer and Chair: J Overholser, University of Calgary

Panelists:

Allison Leanage, StatCan Research Analyst
Kristyn Frank, StatCan Senior Researchers
Zoë Lea, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
Sumi Sasudevan, Environics Analytics Research Associate

(APS7) Taking Knowledge to the Stage and the Board Room
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Cluster

In this panel, we will explore how to involve community members in research. Using the Research Action Alliance on the Consequences of Work Injury (RAACWI) as a case example. RAACWI was an eight year initiative with a strong community-university partnership that helped create positive outcomes for individual workers with disabilities, new policies and practices in government and increased capacity in the academic community. RAACWI was unique in that people with lived experience initiated this project and led the knowledge mobilization activities. We will share our experiences with two of our knowledge translation initiatives: Easy Money - a theatre production based on the lived experiences of community members, plus a peer reviewed journal article. A collaborative project to reduce injured worker stigma within Ontario's Workers Compensation Board. Because of the negative impact of stigma, many workers' mental health can diminish to such as degree that their ability to return to work and function is compromised. If their downward spiral continues, their capacity to enjoy life and to contribute to their family, community and the economy decreases even further.

Moderator: **Steve Mantis**, Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups (ONIWG)

Panelists:
Ellen MacEachen, University of Waterloo
Marion Endicott, Injured Workers Community Legal Clinic
Steve Mantis, Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups (ONIWG)

(GAS4b) Reckoning with Gender
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster

The presentations in this session explore research in gender and masculinities.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Toby Anne Finlay, York University and Chris Tatham, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. Caring Masculinities: Critically Examining the Concept 10 years on
Natasha Stecy-Hildebrandt, Andrea Doucet, and Marco Sasso, Brock University

Within the sociology of gender, Karla Elliott's (2015) theorizing on caring masculinities has generated much discussion, indexing, as it does, an important change to the structure of gender

relations (men's increased involvement in care) and positioning itself as "antithetical to hegemonic masculinity" (254). Given the concept's importance to the field, we undertake a review of this term as it marks its 10th year in circulation. We conduct a deep read of relevant literature to critically examine the caring masculinities concept and consider its implications for both conceptual development and policy/social impact. We examine the strengths of this term, such as its focus on practices instead of static and homogenizing character descriptions and the provision of positive stories enabled through a focus on men's care practices, which along with the concept itself, can chart a path forward for scholars and policy-makers interested in reconstructing gender relations. We also consider some potential challenges, including the framing of caring masculinities as antithetical to hegemonic masculinities given how men's care practices often map onto gendered, classed and racialized identities and how care practices can actually therefore reinforce existing inequalities amongst men and between women and men. In fact, we consider whether the concept's mobilization of binary conceptualizations more generally (e.g. breadwinning/caregiving; hegemonic masculinity/caring masculinity) might inadvertently reinforce 'separate spheres' thinking in both academic scholarship and policy and whether it may therefore dampen the potential for gender transformation. We ask whether the caring masculinities concept could be broadened or refined to better "entangle caring and breadwinning", through terms such as 'provisioning' for instance (Doucet 2020: 13), in a way that leads to a more holistic understanding of human subjectivity and in ways that therefore recognize the *relationalities* between paid work and care - a critical endeavor in our current era of financialized capitalism.

2. Exploring the Gender Lightbulb Moments of Canadian Women Religious Leaders

Katie Steeves, Trinity Western University

A "gender lightbulb moment" is an instance of epiphany or awareness that one is being signaled out or treated differently because of their (perceived) gender identity. This paper presents the findings of research emerging from 73 in-depth qualitative interviews with Canadian women pastors in the Christian tradition. Preliminary analysis of this qualitative data suggests that most study participants can point to several micro (though significant) moments of interaction where they became aware they were being treated differently by congregation members, their peers, or superiors because of their gender. This paper offers some examples of such "gender lightbulb moments," and analytically considers the impact these types of experiences may have on women's identity development and gender-based sense of belonging or 'othering.' The findings also illuminate how micro-interactions can be used to subtly communicate and police institutional boundaries around gender, leadership, and authority.

3. Men's Mental Health Support Groups and Masculinity

Izundu Onukwulu, University of British Columbia

Masculinity and the behaviours associated with it are known to often have negative impacts on men's mental health (Courtenay, 2000). Yet, even in the face of social pressure to comply with norms and isolate when facing a mental health crisis, men's mental health associations, where men discuss mental health and their own feelings, exist (McKenzie et al., 2018). This study aims to investigate the unique interactions of masculinity and mental health in men's support groups. It discusses with men in these groups via semi-structured interviews, which provides flexible discussions that let men's voices come out, what masculinity means to them. More specifically it

asks the question: how do members of men's mental health associations construct masculinity? Using thematic analysis on the data obtained, this study has three objectives. First, it will examine the impact of social pressures to conform to hegemonic masculine ideals for men's mental health on member's masculinity construction. It will compare the masculinities constructed to masculinity models that can provide insight into whether these changes to masculinity are surface level (hybrid masculinity), or if there is deeper change (caring masculinity). Finally, it will look for any overarching similarities across the various masculinities interviewees construct. This study is significant because it both fills in the research gap on how men in mental health associations construct their masculinity and could provide insight to policy makers on how to better create environments where men can more freely construct masculinities that have a healthier and more public relationship with mental health.

4. Gender inequity in the everyday worlds of youth baseball

Dominique Falls and Nat Gingerich, Douglas College; Nerida Bullock and Travers Travers, Simon Fraser University

Despite being technically an all-gender sport, youth baseball remains a masculine domain across Canada and the USA. The overall participation of girls, trans, and gender diverse kids lags far behind that of boys, and adult leadership is also highly gendered and inequitable. While girls always find themselves a numerical minority no matter the stage in their baseball journey, the percentage who play youth baseball at the youngest levels is much higher than in subsequent years, when they either switch to softball or drop out of bat-and-ball sports entirely. Such gendered attrition indicates that youth baseball environments are less than welcoming for girls. In March 2021, we were awarded an E-Alliance grant to fund our research on barriers to gender+ equity in youth baseball in Canada. Our research revealed the ways in which participants, organizations, and leaders "do gender" in youth baseball leagues to produce unwelcoming "climates," not only for girls and women but for LGBTQ youth and adults. We conclude with evidence-based recommendations for improving gender+ equity in youth baseball organizations.

5. Beyond the Body: Unraveling Gender and Power in Muscle Worship

Mila Tucker, University of Toronto

Muscle worship, which fosters narratives of dominance and submission, is a facet of the secret world of underground fetishism which occurs surreptitiously. Despite being a largely private endeavor, female muscle worship has become a prominent category in pornography, sparking an increased platform for anonymous commenters on Pornhub and on Reddit forums to express their opinions without the fear of retribution of social consequences. Bodybuilding women embark in online sex work in these kink spaces, making it more accessible for scrutiny, while providing a platform for the expansion of muscle worship discourse. While the desire to be dominated by another person has been theorized as a means of challenging traditional gender roles and heteronormative expectations within a controlled and consensual setting, BDSM culture maintains that the submissive participant still retains control. Pornography plays a role in upholding dominant norms by influencing behaviors and perceptions related to sexuality and gender, potentially reinforcing harmful stereotypes. Mainstream representations of BDSM have become similar to a freak show in media, allowing viewers to have access to a variety of kinks in a way that does not challenge the normative positionality of the self. The distant viewing subject serves to reinforce the

divide between normal and abnormal, strengthening the gendered boundaries that are being challenged by bodybuilding women. Since pornography has the capacity to trigger multi-sensory associations through providing accoutrements that can be tangibly perceived by the viewer, the act of viewing female muscle worship pornography is directly associated to the lived-experiences of men who are engaging in in-person muscle worship. Therefore, this research project asks: *How does female muscle worship work to both challenge and reaffirm the roles of women within society, and how does this allow us to conceptualize a new understanding of femininity in Canadian society?*

(IND4d) Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization IV
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization Research Cluster

This session features insightful and important scholarly works, projects and reflections on Indigenous-Settler Relations and Decolonization so that we can centre these important issues for learning and discussion.

Session Chair: Kerry Bailey, McMaster University

Presentations:

1. Indigenous Feminism and Decolonial Praxis: Transforming Social Movements in Latin America
Laisa Massarenti Hosoya, University of Windsor

Indigenous social movements in Latin America have emerged as resilient responses to centuries of colonial dispossession, systemic oppression, and cultural erasure. Grounded in decolonial theory, this research explores how the concepts of Anibal Quijano's *Coloniality of Power*, Mignolo's *Coloniality of Being*, and Lugones' *Coloniality of Gender* provide a framework for understanding the interconnectedness of race, class, and gender in shaping the historical and contemporary trajectories of Indigenous movements in the region. The contributions of Indigenous women's leadership and advocacy have expanded the movement's scope to address intersecting struggles of gender, ethnicity, and environmental justice. Through the concept of *body- territory*, Brazilian Indigenous women have articulated their identities as intrinsically connected to their lands and communities, positioning their bodies as both sites of resistance and symbols of cultural survival. Therefore, this paper aims to understand how identities, ideologies, political engagements, counter-movements, and transnational solidarities shape these mobilizations and their struggles for justice and equity. The study employs a literature review using intersectionality as a critical lens to investigate how the different forms of colonialities intersect within the Latin American Indigenous feminist movement. The findings underscore that social movements in Latin America challenge the universalization of Western knowledge, expand spaces of justice through the integration of Global South epistemologies, and build transnational solidarities to address global structural challenges. Indigenous social movements are deeply linked with their cosmovision, practices, and survival, reflecting a holistic approach to life that intertwines cultural, spiritual, and environmental dimensions. The Indigenous Women's movement has much to teach us about valuing collective rights over the individualism characteristic of Western capitalist societies. These movements not only resist but also reimagine new forms of justice, equity, and governance from a Global South perspective, rooted in shared responsibilities, communal well-being, and sustainable futures.

2. Pivotal Moments of Colonial History: Untangling the Roots of Lateral Violence amongst Indigenous Communities

Jill Rogers, McMaster University

This paper examines lateral violence as a phenomenon within Indigenous communities, analyzing its roots in pivotal moments of colonial history and its persistence through systemic conditions of oppression. Defined as in-group conflict that manifests through gossip, shaming, blaming, and rumor-spreading, lateral violence is framed within Blumer's group position theory, which emphasizes how dominant groups perpetuate hierarchies that lead to internalized competition and conflict among subordinate groups. This paper explores how colonial mechanisms, such as Indian Residential Schools, the Indian Act, the Sixties Scoop, and contemporary child welfare systems, disrupted Indigenous place-thought, agency, and relational frameworks, setting the stage for internalized oppression and lateral violence. Treaty-making processes, particularly Indigenous understandings of agreements like the Two Row Wampum, are highlighted as pivotal moments that illustrate the clash between Indigenous relational governance and the colonial agenda of land dispossession and sovereignty. The erosion of these relational frameworks by colonial policies led to conditions such as competition for resources, internalized racism, and paternalism, all of which exacerbate lateral violence. For instance, amendments to Indian status, including Bill C-31 and S-3, while increasing access to Indian status, simultaneously reinforced colonial hierarchies and sparked fears of resource scarcity within Indigenous communities, intensifying in-group tensions. This paper situates lateral violence within a broader analysis of settler colonialism's structural and enduring impacts, arguing that it reflects the internalization of systemic oppression and the disruption of Indigenous relational identities. By engaging with Indigenous scholarship and Blumer's group position theory, the analysis underscores the importance of addressing the structural roots of lateral violence through education collective healing, and the re-centering of Indigenous sovereignty. Ultimately, this work contributes to the broader movement for decolonization, challenging the ongoing colonial disruption of Indigenous lives, relationships, and lands.

3. Reframing Decolonialism in South Asia: The Thomas Christians and the Limits of Pre-Colonial Nostalgia

Clara A.B. Joseph, University of Calgary

This paper critiques the dominant narrative in South Asian decolonialism, which idealizes a return to pre-colonial purity and casts Christianity as a colonial imposition. Such frameworks often reinforce binaries of Christian colonizers versus non-Christian colonized, marginalizing native Christian communities such as the Thomas Christians (TCs) of India. Tracing their origins to St. Thomas the Apostle in 52 CE, the TCs predate colonial encounters; the community embodies resilience and coexistence through distinct liturgical and socio-cultural practices that challenge simplistic historical dichotomies. The paper opens with the recent legal conflict in Chhattisgarh, where Christian Adivasi [Tribal or Indigenous] Ramesh Baghel (of the Mahra tribe) was denied burial rights for his father on Adivasi land—a case emblematic of exclusionary narratives that frame Christianity as incompatible with Adivasi identity. Supported by Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, the incident reflects enduring colonial logics that use religion as a battleground for contesting identity and belonging. Through a TC framework, the project critiques decolonial theorists advocating a return to pre-colonial ways and argues instead for a pluriversal approach that embraces diverse epistemologies. Tuck and Yang's critique of decolonization as metaphor highlights

the dangers of romanticizing pre-colonial purity, while Achille Mbembe's concept of necropolitics frames the exclusion faced by both Adivasi and Christian communities as enduring colonial hierarchies. Gloria Anzaldúa's "border thinking" emphasizes the liminality of TC identity as both Indian and Christian, while Boaventura de Sousa Santos' "epistemologies of the South" underscores the value of local knowledge systems entangled with global frameworks. By situating Baghel's story within this broader context, the paper argues for rethinking decolonialism through models of togetherness that transcend antagonistic binaries. It contributes to decolonial studies by offering a vision that honors the lived realities of marginalized communities, addressing coexistence and justice in colonial and post-colonial contexts.

(THE10a) Virtual Open Theory Session I
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

This session features a range of research which addresses issues in sociological and wider social theory, broadly defined.

Session Organizer and Chair: Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. The Transformation of Iran's Revolutionary Understanding of Science and the Creation of Islamic Sciences Post-1979 Revolution
Saeed Ebadi, University of Tehran; Susan Goli, Memorial University

This article explores the transformation of Iran's revolutionary understanding of science and the creation of Islamic Sciences following the 1979 Iranian Revolution, focusing on the intersection of political power and knowledge production, drawing on Michel Foucault's theories. The new Islamic regime, rooted in religious ideology and responding to decades of popular discontent, sought to reshape policies, ideas, and the very nature of science and knowledge. Through the lens of Foucault's concepts of power/knowledge and the relationship between political authority and truth, this study examines the establishment of Islamic humanities and particularly Islamic social sciences as a means to align academic content with Islamic principles. The Cultural Revolution of 1980, driven by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, marked the first major attempt to Islamize universities. This initiative included the closure of institutions, the compulsory retirement of non-Islamic professors, and the introduction of Islamic courses (which were deemed unsatisfactory in their eyes). Subsequent efforts in 2005 further intensified these changes, with measures such as gender segregation and the development of an Islamic academic curriculum. This article analyzes the impact of these transformations on the Iranian education system's understanding of science and knowledge and explores the broader implications of Foucault's theories on the politicization of knowledge. The methodology of this article is chronological history and the interpretation of events. It highlights the tensions between Western-influenced educational practices and the Islamic values promoted by the regime, culminating in the creation of Islamic humanities. By examining the intricate relationship between political power and knowledge production in post-revolutionary Iran, this study sheds light on the broader dynamics of how regimes can shape and control the dissemination of knowledge to maintain ideological dominance.

2. The Domestic Threat of Ideologically Themed Violence and its Links to Social Change Examining ideologically themed violence Through the Theories of Elias and Wouters

Valarie Findlay, Royal Roads University

In recent years, Canada and the United States have shifted their national security and public safety priorities to address the domestic threat of extreme social violence that has emerged from contrasting social, political, and religious views. Extreme ideological movements can inspire like-minded individuals by promoting an idealized social order through enduring stereotypes and may resort to violence to elevate their social order and status. This study develops new knowledge on ideological violence, including a broader term - ideologically themed violence that is independent of political, ethnic, or national identity aims - and explores definitions and social conditions that may facilitate a development path. Employing Norbert Elias's civilizing/decivilizing theory and Cas Wouters's seven social balances, social change in Canada and the United States from the 19th to the 21st century is qualitatively analyzed through historical elements and linked to rates of ideologically themed violence. Rather than parsimoniously building on prior approaches, this study uses these findings to propose an applied approach for institutions that help develop social policies that curtail destructive aspects of individual and group ideologies.

3. Can theory waste?

Matthew Horrigan, Alexander College

This remote presentation applies Anna Tsing's idea of "pericapital" to remedy what I position as a flaw in the theories of Niklas Luhmann and Pierre Bourdieu. Luhmann and Bourdieu exemplify the modernist ideal of economy of means, devising theories that rationalize their environment as much as possible. Consequently, neither offers a theory of waste. This is important in an AI-powered age when discourse itself promises to consume intensities of energy that only nuclear reactors can provide (e.g., Silva, 2024), while capitalist consumption threatens increasingly widespread extinction. In Luhmann's (1995) social systems theory, a system exclusively interacts with an environment reduced to what the system's own terms handle. As Cary Wolfe paraphrases, an environment "cannot be grasped holistically or in any totalizing fashion [...] there is no 'given' environment "out there" (Wolfe, 2010, p. 112). From the viewpoint of any system, chaos is inapprehensible because, in the course of its survival, the system has always already generated an ordered environment of its relations. The space of destroyed things, which a system leaves, disappears into a memory hole except as material of concern for utility. In Bourdieu's (2013) social field theory, the border of each field meets another field, fields upon fields like colonies wrapping a globe. Perhaps overreacting to the waste obsession of Georges Bataille, Bourdieu posited closure: "[A] concept like wastage has no meaning in a general science of the economy of practices" (Bourdieu, 1986, p. 253). For Tsing, "pericapital" is a quasi-hauntological "term for sites that are both in and out" of capital (Tsing, 2015, p. 296). I argue that pericapital includes abject expensive failures whose utter outerness signals the inefficiencies of economies of practice. Inefficiencies serve as the borders of autonomous fields and intensify in systems that valorize the perpetual production of distinction.

(APS1a) The Highlights and Challenges of Community Engaged Sociology I
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Cluster

Community engaged sociology creates opportunities for sociologists, community members, and the public to connect, to motivate social changes, and to 'commit sociology' on a ground level. This type of sociology requires dedication, time, and passion for the 'work' and can construct new challenges for sociologists to overcome. This session features presentations which show that 'work,' providing a glimpse of the behind the scenes of community engaged sociology. The session will also aspire (time allowing) for broader discussion on community engaged sociology, so abstracts can consider points of discussion they hope to evoke. Community engaged sociology is a critical field within the discipline and this session seeks to continue to build community amongst those dedicated to creating change.

Session Organizer and Chair: Ashley Berard, University of Victoria

Presentations:

1. Restorative Justice for Survivors of IPV? The Inside Scoop on a Critical Community Engaged Research Project

Laura MacDiarmid and Mavis Morton, University of Guelph

While the advantages and mutual benefits of community engaged sociology are well known, it is also known to be messy, time consuming and, at times, challenging. This presentation offers some "behind the scenes" reflection and discussion about developing a critical community engaged research project on a controversial issue with partners from diverse sectors in rural Ontario. The purpose of the project is to examine the extent to which restorative justice (RJ) is suitable for addressing the needs of victim-survivors in cases of intimate partner violence (IPV). Restorative justice is a victim-centered approach to address harm to victims and communities, restore interpersonal relationships, and empower victims (Daly 2002; Marshall 1999). However, its suitability in cases of IPV is the subject of ongoing debate among academics and community leaders (Hayden, Gelsthorpe and Morris, 2014; Pennell, 2023). Our project brings together critical feminist sociologists, a community collaborator - executive director of the Women's Interval Home of Sarnia-Lambton (WIHSL) - who currently provides victim-offender mediation and victim impact panels at their agency. We will also work with criminal justice practitioners including a crown attorney and community legal assistance who make referrals to WIHSL's restorative programming. Our project will convene a community advisory panel to provide guidance and insight throughout the project, as well as to support integrated knowledge mobilization efforts. This will include a diverse composition of RJ practitioners (e.g., program facilitators/managers), violence against women practitioners (e.g., victim services workers, transitional housing workers), legal actors (e.g., defense, crown), and survivors of IPV. We have also connected with an Indigenous RJ facilitator who delivers training and program facilitation in the region where the study will take place and who will consult with the research team. Finally, we will train and support undergraduate and graduate sociology students interested in an opportunity to gain community engaged research experience. This project stands out as one of the few empirical investigations on this topic in Canada (Pennell and Burford, 2000; Nancarrow, 2009) and has the potential to inform referral, programming, implementation and delivery decisions for organizations who currently provide or who are considering delivering RJ programming to IPV victims-survivors; resource allocation decisions for funders; policy directions

for government, and procedural decisions for criminal justice system professionals. Still, the critical community engaged nature of this project adds layers of challenges and complexities that we want to put on the table to identify and discuss in order to develop knowledge, skills, and values to build community and expertise amongst others interested in this kind of scholarship.

2. Pedagogical responses to sociology's 'joy deficit': A trauma- and violence-informed approach

Robert Nonomura, Western University

My presentation examines a growing challenge in curriculum development and teaching of upper-year undergraduate sociology students: their awareness of the deeply troubled state of the world far outpaces their capacity to productively imagine how things could be otherwise. As much as any other population of sociologists, the toll of a "sociological mind" can be especially heavily for those in training. Drawing from Tuck's contrast between "damage-based" and "desire-based" politics, brown's writings on "pleasure activism," and what Shuster and Westbrook describe as a "joy deficit" in sociology, I discuss the pedagogical "hard work" of fostering rigorous analyses of (in)justice and (in)equality whilst resisting a conclusion of hopelessness at the completion of students' undergraduate education. I relate this challenge specifically to my experience developing the curriculum for an upper-year seminar course on 2SLGBTQ populations, a course where the realities of cisheteropatriarchal violence are not merely an academic concept but a daily threat for many class participants. As I argue, however, it is also a course where queer desire, liberation, and joy are equally relevant and worthwhile areas of exploration. A "trauma- and violence-informed" (TVI) approach is well suited to navigating such contradictions. TVI approaches originate from the applied research of advocates, social scientists, and survivors in the gender-based violence sector. They emphasize the importance of choice, safety, and empowerment for all participants in a clinical or research settings. My presentation explores how TVI principles may also be applied in the upper-year undergraduate classroom, such as providing greater student choice in topic coverage, raising awareness about vicarious trauma, and foregrounding narratives of subaltern and transformative responses to social problems. In effect, I hope to open a discussion about how educators might resist perpetuating the "joy deficit" among undergraduate sociology students—and, as an alternative, model the emancipatory vision that makes sociology worth "committing."

3. Obstacles in Teaching Public Sociology and What They Can Teach Us

Nuzhat Khurshid, Seneca Polytechnic University

Last term, I had the opportunity to teach a course called "Genealogies of South Asian Feminisms" at the University of Toronto. I wanted to use this class to push against hierarchies, whether Western or academic, and to really impart the humanity of South Asian women. I wanted to highlight the impact of theoretical structures such as colonialism, nationalism and Western feminism through the impact on South Asian women's mental health, even in diasporas living in the Global North. I wanted to show that these were not just theoretical ideas that we study in the classroom, but traumas that lived within the bodies of these women across generations and geographical borders. To this end, I decided to find mental health clinics in the area that specialized in the mental health of South Asian women. While this was meant to be a fun and engaging project, I encountered many unexpected obstacles: 1. Finding social service centres with the capability and willingness to deliver guest workshops in a university. 2. Navigating cultural norms to traverse the boundary of "academic" to "fellow South Asian woman" in order to work with skeptical counselors. 3. Student apathy which

treated the guest lecture as another lecture to mine for marks instead of as an opportunity to empathize and grow 4. Bureaucratic hurdles in getting compensation for the women guest lecturers to recognize their effort and contribution I hope to reflect on these obstacles with all of you to answer the following questions: Why is it so hard to engage in public sociology? As an educator, what are the structural, academic and pedagogical difficulties that are encountered and how can we change them? What is the purpose of academic sociology if it is not rooted in engaging or improving public life?

4. Navigating a small group commitment to a research project

Kevin Partridge, **Holly Petersen**, **Leif Harris**, Jacqueline Kennelly, and Karen Umurerwa, Carleton University

One does not have to be an academic to 'commit sociology'. Our research team investigating youth leaving homelessness in Ottawa is composed of a small team of academic researchers and 'co-researchers' who are members of the community and have lived experience of social housing and homelessness. These roles are inseparable from each other and some of the researchers have also been the objects of academic research. This leads to specific challenges and critiques of the research process including the formulation of research questions, questionnaires, analyses, and understandings of how the research should be conducted. In particular, the work of doing community engaged sociology carries an emotional weight that shows up at different points in the process. This emotional engagement is not an impediment to 'objective' understanding that is often privileged in academic work but becomes an important source of knowledge in itself. Our team is taking the time to recognize and explore this emotional and value-laden aspect of research. We reflect on our different perspectives and argue that this aspect of the work of sociology is a crucial part of understanding and knowledge-making that comes from the commitment to a project and the work of doing research.

(FEM2d) Margins, Intersections and The Politics of Silencing

Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

This session brings together papers that examine the dynamic intersections of gender, nation, coloniality, labour, and power across various social contexts.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

Session Chairs: Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University and Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University
Presentations:

1. Voices from the Margins: Hindu Nationalism and Women's Oral narratives of Goddesses

Sohini Ganguly, University of Ottawa

The paper is situated within the intersection of gender and religion and its relation to the current socio-political scenario in India under Hindu nationalism. Hindu nationalist (*Hindutva*) politics is

driven by Hindu supremacist ideology. Central to *Hindutva's* project of creating a Hindu majority state is the transformation of women's bodies into sites of ideological contestation through the stereotypical imagery of Hindu goddesses and Hindu womanhood. The goddesses' representations promote an exclusive notion of "Hindu woman," privileging upper-caste and marginalizing the lower caste, *Dalit*, Indigenous women of India. Organizations like the *RSS, VHP*, and the women's Right-Wing bodies like *Durga Vahini* and *Rashtriya Sevika Samiti* provide institutional and structural support to *Hindutva* ideology to advance the vision of Hindu *rastra*/nation, supporting patriarchal and nationalist agendas. The paper focuses on how goddesses are represented in Hindu nationalist discourses and oral accounts of ordinary Hindu women, living without any extraordinary privileges. Using a Feminist oral history methodology and intersectional feminist framework, the paper discusses how different social categories shape women's understanding of goddesses and shows the plurality in goddess representations that challenge *Hindutva's* narratives. The paper brings the lived experiences of Hindu women to the forefront of a broader conversation on the use of religion by mainstream political organizations in defining nationalism, citizenship, and sustaining patriarchy. Through analyzing women's narratives and their perspectives on the goddesses, the paper shows how women resist structural ideology that promotes religious nationalism, patriarchy, and exclusion.

2. Age-appropriate is a white comfort term

Gillian Robinson, University of Alberta

On a recent trip to a residential school exhibit with pre-service teachers, the museum guide told our group that they shouldn't talk about residential schools if teaching elementary school. In my own doctoral studies where I researched the implementation of queer inclusive policy in Alberta schools, the term age-appropriate was frequently mobilized to silence queer topics and discussions in schools as well. This talk will map the term age-appropriate across two areas of study: queer inclusive education, and compulsory Indigenous curriculum. Drawing on queer theorists, such as Kathryn Bond Stockton (2011) and Lee Edelman (2004), to theoretically locate the imagined pure child, I show evidence of how truths are delayed and obscured on the terms of the child's best interest. This fear of harming children by sharing "uncomfortable" truths then accumulates affectively in societies (Ahmed, 2008). I will connect this phenomenon to the work of Indigenous feminist theorists like Rebecca Sockbeson (2019) and Billy-Ray Belcourt (2024), to demonstrate how this protected child is always white and implicated in the reproduction of white supremacy and settler colonialism. Using a mixed methods approach of qualitative interviews and auto-ethnography, I demonstrate that the settler colonial mythology of a peaceful and just nation is preserved through the silencing and obfuscation of the truth about both queer bodies and colonial violence. As a (white) mother, I have mobilized the term age-appropriate in an attempt to keep my own (white) children innocent. As a classroom teacher, this term becomes deployed as a catch all in spaces with children to produce a panopticon form of self-surveillance in educators. White settler students then grow into adults who have not been taught about land dispossession, gender socialization, and the criminalization of queer, and are then more resistant to hearing the stories of bodies already deemed other.

3. The Breakthrough of Social Reproduction Theory

Hanrui Chen, Fudan University

As the latest trend of Marxist feminism, Social Reproduction Theory (SRT) recently demonstrated a new theoretical framework to examine the relationship between capitalist accumulation and differentiated oppression. I will first introduce the two-level analytical structure of SRT. In my opinion, the uniqueness of the SRT analytical paradigm lies in its ability to effectively conduct a top-down analysis of specific oppression issues from the perspective of abstract social structures, while also undertaking a bottom-up analysis grounded in concrete social realities to explore how social realities enhance or weaken certain injustice aspects within the abstract structure. Through this process, SRT aims to emphasize both the holistic and dynamic nature of society.
Then, I will analyze the two key contributions launched by the birth of SRT's two-level analytical structure: First, SRT responds to the shared problem in its predecessors, namely the "Wage for Housework" movement of Marxist Feminism and Materialist Feminism's "Dual Systems" theory. The shared problem lies in the fact that both of these theories are, to some extent, bound by the abstract capitalist schema, neglecting the complex realities of social relations. Second, SRT displays the dialectical relationship between the resistant dimension of subjectivity and the social structure's suppression of resistance. This display allows SRT to indirectly provide answers to questions of how reality and abstraction can be unified and how to imagine struggles and possibilities of emancipation within the seemingly indestructible structures of capitalist domination. In fact, these two questions are crucial for both Feminism and Marxism.

(HOU-RC) Sociology of Housing Research Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

The Sociology of Housing Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chair: Katie MacDonald, Athabasca University

(THE10b) Virtual Open Theory Session II
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

This session features a range of research which addresses issues in sociological and wider social theory, broadly defined.

Session Organizer: Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta

Session Chair: Sarah Badr, McGill University

Presentations:

1. From the "Self-Determination" of Spirit to the "Genesis" of the Proletariat: On Marx's Reconstruction of Hegel's Concept of Freedom
Juntian Cai, Fudan University

Freedom is an important topic in Marx's thought, and his analysis of freedom can be developed by dealing with Marx's reconstruction of Hegel's argument of freedom. By discussing the homogeneity between Hegel's freedom as self-determination and Marx's "general formula for capital", it can be asserted that Hegelian freedom is only the freedom of the spirit or the capital. Therefore, the key to Marx's reconstruction of "freedom" is to break with the spirit's self-determination and to highlight the "creating" and "generative" aspects of the material force, indicating that freedom is precisely the self-genesis praxis of the proletariat as a real subject and the revolutionary practice of history-genesis by such a subject. Marx's reconstruction unfolds across three dimensions. First, the starting point of the reconstruction lies in both Marx's repetition of and discrepancy with Hegel, namely a shared emphasis on "self-mediation" with Marx's breaking reinterpretation. Second, in terms of method, the approach involves an immanent critique of Hegel's idea on freedom which, albeit counter-intuitive, is valid in light of a novel reading of Marx's *Capital*, and identifies the structural homology between "self-determination" and the general formula for capital, prompting the critique of the freedom as self-determination in Hegel that it is nothing but the reduction to natural necessity. Finally, the positive discussion on Marx's reconstruction is centered on the demand for an advance into the socio-historical realm, proclaiming the creation and genesis of a revolutionary historical subject and, consequently, the revolutionary praxis to transform the existing bourgeois social conditions.

2. Do discrimination and exclusion leave with dating apps? An exploration of self-presentation of Chinese gay men dating on Douban Group

Zihao Zhou, University of Toronto

This paper has received the 2025 Internet, Technology and Digital Sociology Research Cluster Best Student Paper Award.

This study explores the dynamics of discrimination and exclusion in online dating platforms used by Chinese gay men, comparing the popular location-based real-time dating gay platforms (LBRTDGPs) such as Blued with alternative platforms like Douban Group. Leveraging digital ethnography, content analysis, and in-depth interviews, this research examines how platform design, social norms, and user practices influence self-presentation and discriminatory behaviours. Findings reveal that Blued fosters a hypersexualized, competitive environment emphasizing sexual capital, where overtly discriminatory expressions are normalized. Users rationalize exclusionary practices, including filters and preferences based on age, body type, or femininity, as inherent to the platform's structure. This perpetuates superficiality, exclusion, and intragroup hierarchies. In contrast, Douban Group offers a slower-paced, community-focused alternative. Its non-locative design, niche user base, and strict formal and informal social controls discourage overt discrimination. Users on Douban Group prioritize romantic capital over sexual capital, fostering a more inclusive and reflective environment. However, subtle forms of exclusion persist, masked by polite incivility and shaped by platform-specific norms. This phenomenon, termed "inclusive exclusivity," highlights how Douban's exclusivity paradoxically reinforces its inclusivity by attracting a privileged, homogeneous user base. The study introduces the concept of a "platformized self" to illustrate how users tailor their behaviour and self-presentation to align with platform norms, further entrenching platform-specific forms of discrimination and interaction. By theorizing these dynamics, this research expands the understanding of queer digital cultures in non-Western contexts, emphasizing the role of technology in shaping both empowerment and exclusion. Future

studies are encouraged to explore the intersections of technology, cultural specificity, and intragroup power dynamics across diverse queer digital spaces.

3. Bringing agency and mechanisms questions together in social network analysis: Can methodological localism help?

Valerie Haines, University of Calgary

This paper uses the social ontology of methodological localism to address two questions receiving increasing attention in theoretical work in social network analysis. It begins by introducing core ideas of methodological localism (ontological claims, theory of the actor, weak emergence, relative explanatory autonomy of meso-level social structures, and weak microfoundations requirement). Then it explores their relevance for one aspect of the agency question within social network analysis—Does social network analysis operate with an underdeveloped conception of the individual?—and one aspect of the mechanisms question within this field—Should accounts of the pathways by which networks have effects be directed at meso-level properties of social networks or the individual level? This exploration reveals that methodological localism aligns with social network analysis' focus on the meso-level of the social and, most crucially, with the conception of social structure and its causal powers that defines social network analysis and remains the focus of its theoretical work. It also reveals that methodological localism does not require this shared conception of social structure to carry the same theoretical load as does its social network counterpart. In so doing it suggests why and how using methodological localism to reduce this load can shed light on the agency and mechanisms questions in social network analysis. Using methodological localism in this way confirms the need for a more developed conception of the individual as actor and clarifies what is needed in an adequate theory of the actor. For the mechanisms question it means putting this theory of the actor in play in theoretical and empirical work, indirectly through a weak microfoundations requirement that provides qualified support for remaining at the network level of the social when theorizing mechanisms by which networks have effects and directly by investigating the explanatory value in dropping down to individual-level action.

4. The End of Discursive Economy and the Double Bind of Moral Distinction

Matthew Horrigan, Alexander College

This virtual presentation bridges the theories of Pierre Bourdieu, of forms of capital, and Paul Mann, of discursive economies. It contextualizes both with today's creative industry discourse, where identity is so crucial to the evaluation of cultural artefacts that, for example, White artists and scholars have made distinguished careers appropriating Indigenous cultural capital (Robinson, 2020). Paul Mann's (1991, 1998) theory of "discursive economy" is that art criticism embodies a Nietzschean "will to discourse" in which critics must produce criticism, even of earlier criticism, so that in sum critical discourse undoes itself and "whites out" the transformative potentials of avant-garde movements. The avant-garde dies a "theory-death," as making theory through critique turns art into mere instances of capital. Discursive economy constantly expands to ingest new cultural products. Pierre Bourdieu's (1989) "structuralist constructivism"/"constructivist structuralism" treats social structures as constructed rather than natural, yet persistent even when nobody perceives them. The most prevalent are plural "forms of capital," reducible to money but "only in the last analysis" after different forms resist recognition as anything but autonomous value systems

(Bourdieu, 1986). Scholars have extended structuralist constructivism to account for "moral capital" (Valverde, 1994). I argue that today's identity evaluations extend discursive economy to its breaking point, as identity enters omnivorous critical circuits pioneered in the art world. With identity and value sutured, even small-scale cultural industry practitioners must make and advertise not just their art but themselves. While socially constructed, identities are nevertheless structural in that somebody trying to change their identity faces difficult and sometimes insurmountable challenges. Reactionary movements intensify as gestures toward social and embodied capital become (mis)recognized as moral combat.

(APS1b) The Highlights and Challenges of Community Engaged Sociology II
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: Applied and Community Engaged Sociology Cluster

Community engaged sociology creates opportunities for sociologists, community members, and the public to connect, to motivate social changes, and to 'commit sociology' on a ground level. This type of sociology requires dedication, time, and passion for the 'work' and can construct new challenges for sociologists to overcome. This session features presentations which show that 'work,' providing a glimpse of the behind the scenes of community engaged sociology. The session will also aspire (time allowing) for broader discussion on community engaged sociology, so abstracts can consider points of discussion they hope to evoke. Community engaged sociology is a critical field within the discipline and this session seeks to continue to build community amongst those dedicated to creating change.

Session Organizers and Chair: Ashley Berard, University of Victoria

Presentations:

1. Fostering relational access and care in a community-engaged research workshop
Mary Jean Hande,Trent University, **Erika Katzman,** King's College University, **Megan Linton,** Carleton University, Disability Justice Network of Ontario; Sarah Malik and Leah Nicholson, Independent Scholars; Alessia De Virgilio, Humber College; Jill-Anne Santiago, Migrants Resource Centre of Canada; Bharati Sethi, Trent University; Ethel Tungohan, York University

Disability justice is a grassroots framework, which prioritizes principles of anti-capitalism, cross-movement solidarity, interdependency, sustainability, and liberation. Such principles are seemingly at odds with the neoliberal academy, yet disability justice is increasingly drawn on as a guiding framework in academic research. This paper explores tensions in attending disability justice commitments in the SSHRC-funded, community-based participatory research project Towards Just Care (TJC). TJC aimed to build grassroots coalitions guided by disability and migrant justice for more just homecare systems. This presentation focuses on tensions between institutional and grassroots demands and goals in TJC's visioning workshop, which brought together diverse communities to envision alternatives to current home care systems. We examine the complex tasks and significant work involved in planning an event with concurrent anticipation and consideration for the access needs of multiple diverse groups often considered "hard to reach" by researchers. We discuss the range of efforts made and the substantial institutional barriers we encountered throughout the process. We also highlight successes. We propose a vision for relational access and a relational care ethic as a counter-approach, emphasizing collective and institutional responsibility to these

relational approaches in academic research. This ethic is particularly important in community-based research with communities who have been historically excluded from and/or harmed by academic institutions.

2. Building Trusting Partnerships with African, Caribbean and Black Communities: Race and Power

Devron Swaby and **Jacqueline Getfield**, York University

In 2023, co-leads of a newly funded university health project aimed to bridge gaps between African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities and healthcare professionals, researchers and trainees. The project had good intentions. It sought to reveal the perspectives, needs and experiences of each group. However, these intentions were thwarted by significant challenges along the 2-year journey. And yes, there were successes. Community-engaged sociology begs considerations of the intersectional experiences of community members, community organizers, researchers, and sociologists. The applied nature of this sub-discipline results in nuanced understandings of the phenomenon. This paper focuses on the role that each group played in facilitating interaction and communication towards a better and shared understanding. The project aimed to inform ACB communities about regenerative medicine by providing opportunities to share information about chronic diseases and the possibilities of regenerative medicine. The project was stymied by challenges that prevented anticipated engagement with community health organizations. This paper theorizes these challenges and explores communication with non-academic audiences and community members. We draw on Critical Race Theory (CRT) and decolonization to explicate race, racism and racialization in Canadian society, focusing on how concepts of power and privilege in mainstream institutions. We engage with Public Health Critical Race Praxis by Ford & Airhihenbuwa (2010), which prescribes the full integration of CRT in public health inequity. This paper situates our work in between conceptual spaces since the study of groups of people engaged in learning in community (specifically in health and education spaces) transcends institutions and academic disciplines, reaching both inward into the self and outward towards and among each other as we make meaning of our lives… and progress together.

3. Importance and Challenges of community engaged research on 2SLGBTQ+ poverty in Canada

Nick Mule, Roya Haghiri-Vijeh, **Hazal Goktas**, and **Cassandra Kislenko,** York University; **Madison Trusolino**, Dalhousie University, **Marie Geoffroy**, Community Based Research Centre

A national community-based research study that is well-funded and driven by social change, the "2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada" Project, is experiencing positive development and challenges in the pursuit of its goals and objectives. Utilizing mixed methods and community-based research approaches, the Project collaborates and engages with Canada-wide non-profit partners who provide services to/and or advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ communities and/or do anti-poverty work; a community advisory board comprised of 2SLGBTQ+-identified individuals currently or with a history of living in poverty; 2SLGBTQ+-identified peer researchers with experiences of poverty; an Indigenous Elder; not to mention a number of academics on the team who have experience of poverty. Premised on principles of justice, equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion, the Project values the integrity of its work and mutual respect. Through knowledge sharing and transfer among Team members internally, knowledge is mobilized externally via a variety of outputs. Yet, with such highlights come numerous challenges including sectoral differences in structure and

funding and credentialism-based power imbalances between academia and the non-profit sector; fluctuating capacity levels among community partners linked to systemic barriers and violence; experiences of persistent precarity among community advisory board members, peer researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and students; unrelenting demands on academics, and the Indigenous elder; growing right-wing populist hate towards 2SLGBTQ+ communities; and hostilities on social media platforms; among others. This session will engage with the audience on the following points of discussion: 1. How sociologists/social science researchers can undertake community-engaged research with integrity towards affecting social change? 2. What makes and how to commit to research that is truly community engaged in the face of ongoing challenges? 3. Undertaking a community engaged approach at multiple levels as a means of addressing community needs while enrichening research impact

4. Collaborative Insights: Understanding Lived Experiences of Youth with Past Offences in Vietnam through a Community-based Study

Quan Nguyen and Hieu Ngo, University of Calgary

In this community-based study, we explore the lived experiences of young people with a history of offences in Vietnam. Utilizing a community-based research, our research brings together the perspectives from individual interviews of 14 young adults aged 18 to 30, with insights from 16 community stakeholders across various sectors comprising a community coalition. This collaborative approach facilitates an integration of the youths' personal experiences with the reflective contributions of the community coalition. Our methodology goes beyond traditional research paradigms, employing a cooperative data collection and analysis approach to foster a collective knowledge synthesis. Our findings encompass essential elements, including community dynamics, family influences, school settings, peer interactions, and, notably, the resilience and adaptability inherent in youth. These aspects offer an in-depth understanding of the complex circumstances shaping these youths' experiences. The research highlights impactful prevention and intervention strategies to address youth crime in the country. Contributing to the academic dialogue on youth crime among global south nations, this study acknowledges the value of collaborative, community-based research in addressing social issues.

(FEM8) Watching contemporary female sexualities: understanding transformations/variations and their impacts on society in the MeToo era

Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 3:00pm

Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

In 2017, MeToo was sparked in Hollywood (Lamy, 2022). Setting in motion a wave of denunciations by survivors of sexual assaults, this emblem of the renewal of feminist discourse (Diallo, 2022) paved the way for the indictment of rape culture. The latter can be described as a set of beliefs that trivialize, justify, and promote misogynistic sexual violence (Haas, 2022; Zaccour 2019). Rekindled by the feminist socio-political and cultural mobilization that followed, multiple claims emerged in various fields (#MeTooStandUp; #MeTooPolitics; etc.). Among them are the militant feminist struggles targeting media representations of women, their sexualities and their intimacies (erotic, amorous, conjugal (Piazzesi, 2020; Renard, 2018)). Their strong resonance has translated into substantial social transformations, marking a rupture, not only in discourses, but also in social

relations with regard to the issue of women's portrayal in cultural production (Gardey, 2011). Major criticisms address persistent sexist practices which propagate pejorative media images of women's bodies (hypersexualisation; slutshaming, etc.) (Cochrane, 2013). Simultaneously, there is collective enthusiasm regarding the renewal of representations of female sexuality and the inclusive, empowered, de-dramatised and intersectional plurality of the new aesthetics of desire, pleasure and love (Brey, 2018; Padjemi, 2021). Consequently, the reciprocal impact of feminist movements on cultural productions (serial, cinematographic, digital) is now apparent. If they constantly and porously nourish each other (Brey, 2018), their articulations oscillate on our screens between warnings/denunciations of power mechanisms and the elaboration of innovative, progressive, and resistant discourses of knowledge (Brey, 2018; Morin, 2022).

Session Organizer and Chair: Lamia Djemoui, Université du Québec à Montréal

Presentations:

1. Broadcasting Change: The Dual Narrative of Criminalization and Stigmatization in Sex Work Coverage

Yifei Wang, University of Windsor

Canadian society has made significant advancements in recent decades in advancing sex workers' rights (Ball, 2002; Bell, 2012), with the Bedford case playing a critical role in challenging laws that criminalized communication for the purpose of prostitution, living off the avails of prostitution, and operating a brothel, arguing that these laws endangered the safety and rights of sex workers (House of Commons, 2022). However, media representations oscillate between criminalization and empowerment, reinforcing societal stigmas and moral judgments. This dual narrative highlights the complexities surrounding sex work and the ongoing struggle for decriminalization and destigmatization. This study examines how media coverage of the Bedford case influenced the discourse surrounding sex work, focusing on the dual narrative of criminalization and stigmatization. Using a critical discourse analysis approach, the paper investigates how Canadian broadcast media, including CBC, CTV, and Global News, framed sex work before, during, and after the legal proceedings. By analyzing news images and headlines, this research highlights the interplay between media narratives and public perception, emphasizing gatekeeping and media framing in shaping societal attitudes. The findings reveal a dual narrative in media coverage: some portrayals highlighted empowerment and resistance by sex workers advocating for decriminalization, while others reinforced stereotypes of sex work as deviant and dangerous. Images of Terri-Jean Bedford, the lead plaintiff in the case, were instrumental in shifting perceptions, presenting her as both a symbol of empowerment and a sensationalized figure. The study shows how media portrayals facilitated and hindered the decriminalization of sex work, reflecting societal tensions between rights advocacy and moral resistance.
This research contributes to understanding how media narratives influence public opinion and legal reform, demonstrating how media framing can either reinforce or challenge stigma and criminalization.

2. 'Teenagers aren't adults, they're big kids': watching teenage female sexualities in the MeToo era show Euphoria.

Lamia Djemoui, Université du Québec à Montréal

Through a semiological deciphering (Frau-Meigs, 2014) of the series *Euphoria* (Levinson, 2019), which illustrates the daily life of a group of teenagers navigating between love and friendship in a world of drugs, sex and trauma (HBO, 2024), my presentation will analyze the portrayal of adolescent female sexualities rooted in the MeToo era. From violent rites of passage (Sigaud, 2019) to first-time experiences negating female desire (Froidevaux-Metterie, 2019), by way of the apprehension of rape cultural codes establishing a sociosexual hierarchization of the world (Renard, 2018; Gillet; 2024): conceiving 'growing up' - on screen - often entails reflecting on these inaugural manifestations of the 'transition to adolescence', heralding the blossoming of puberty, the entry into adult sexual life, etc. (Boudailliez & Bovin; 2016). In the contemporary context of rape culture, representing all the myths and practices, trivializing and promoting sexual violence (Zaccour, 2019): this delicate process of 'growing up' (Boni & Boisvert, 2024) is at the heart of contemporary feminist concerns (Cochrane, 2013), who see in this period of continuous learning, a place conducive to the deconstruction of patriarchal mechanisms (such as slutshaming, virginshaming; the objectification of female bodies, etc. (Renard, 2018; Vecchiali, 2019)). My presentation aims at analyzing *Euphoria*'s complex, articulate and frank portrayal of adolescence sexualities (Boni, 2023), by focusing as much on the image's aesthetics as on the voice-over and its function of control of the viewers, whom it encourages - sometimes despite themselves - to introspect (Frau-Meigs, 2014). Particular attention will be paid to the tension between the protagonists' search for euphoria - the state of joy, ease and well-being that arises in an uncomfortable context where difficulties are endured (Jones, 2023) - and (the attempt/the illusion of or) the search for control in a world overrun by patriarchal socio-cultural codes.

(HEA7b) Political Sociology of Health II
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Health Research Cluster

Despite decades of research on social determinants of health, inequalities persist and are widening. Political sociology—the study of power and its social organization—offers valuable tools to understand health disparities, especially those not fully explained by the social determinants approach. A political sociology of health perspective examines how the distribution of social determinants (often political), rather than just their effects, shapes health outcomes. This session features research that applies this perspective, exploring how interactions between individuals, societies, and political institutions influence health disparities.

Session Organizers: Joanne Ong, York University and Cary Wu, York University

Session Chair: Joanne Ong, York University

Presentations:

1. The influence of Cross-Border Health Commerce on the Qualitative Health Care Functioning in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Bangladesh
Md.Rakibul Islam, Md.Noman Amin, Md. Omar Faruk, Md. Khalid Hasan, Md. Rasel Hossain, Alamgir Hossain, Gopalganj Science and Technology University

The unrestricted dissemination of information enhances public awareness of the quality, affordability, and availability of global health services, while affordable transportation facilitates

access to these facilities. Each year, thousands of people from Bangladesh travelled to India for medical treatment. Therefore, the inquiry is to assess whether the exchange of health services between these two nations arises from replacement or complementary effects. This study is guided by a multi-method approach combining content analysis, key informant interviews, and case study methods to cover both the textual information, i.e., media manipulation with counterevidence, assessing their impact on health care-seeking behavior through case studies, and finally complementing all of these causal relationships with key informant interviews. Findings exempt that the spread of health misinformation on social media poses a substantial risk to public health in Bangladesh. Patients often go to India for medical procedures that are already accessible in Bangladesh. However, systemic shortcomings in Bangladesh—such as lengthy waiting times, crowded facilities, and inadequate quality of care—undermine patient trust and drive demand for foreign healthcare. Informants also assert that certain national media outlets act as proxies for neighboring countries, deliberately disseminating false information about medical failures within domestic medical facilities and casting doubt on the quality of health care systems, which in turn encourages cross-border health care-seeking behaviour among internet users. Ultimately the failure of economic flow that was targeted to provisioning qualitative health care functioning within the country goes in vain. In order to develop and promote effective and qualitative health care provision within the country along with developing medical facilities, it's crucial to control misleading information guided by the national media. This study also suggests enhancing digital literacy, implementing robust fact-checking mechanisms, and promoting credible health information sources to enhance qualitative health care functioning in developing countries, especially in Bangladesh.

2. Theory-in-use: The case of research on network social capital and health

Valerie Haines, University of Calgary

This paper uses a novel approach to the role of theory in sociology focused on how existing theory is used in empirical research to assess two claims routinely used to challenge the value of social capital theory in research on social context and health: research using this theory is still undertheorized (strong undertheorized claim) and articles reporting this research are still undertheorized (weak undertheorized claim). Its focus is the case of research on network social capital and health where both claims exist alongside a new generation of network social capital theory expressly developed as "useful theory". State of scholarship reviews highlight this theory but have not examined if or how the extent and nature of its use in research lends credence to or counters the undertheorized claims. This paper does this by applying a theory-in-use lens to published studies retrieved from a search of leading sociology of health and public health journals and reviews of the state of scholarship on social capital and health. It begins with the conceptualization-measurement pairings making up the new generation of network social capital theory, identifying commonalities and differences in definitional work, linking work connecting their conceptualizations and measurements and explications of mechanisms by which network social capital affects health. Then it sets out a multidimensional assessment framework that is sensitive both to how research appropriates the conceptualization-measurement pairings and other existing theory and to how articles reporting this research engage these theories. Applying it reveals issues of conceptualization-measurement-mechanism congruence (strong undertheorization) that hamper research using these existing theories and issues of engagement of definitional and linking

work constituting the pairings and transparency in reporting findings (weak undertheorization) that further undermine adequate assessments of what this existing theory can bring to research on social context and health—if its status as "useful theory" is actualized.

3. Race, political ideology, and the mental health impact of perceived police bias

Joanne Ong and Cary Wu, York University

In this study, we consider the role of political ideology in shaping both between-race and within-race variations in perceived police bias and the mental health implications. The 2021 U.S. General Social Survey introduces a novel item aimed at gauging public perceptions of racial bias within the police force (i.e., Do the police treat Whites better than Blacks?). Our analysis of the data shows that Blacks are five times more likely than Whites to perceive police treat Whites better than Blacks. However, variations in perceived police bias exist not only between Blacks and Whites but also within each group. Whites' perceptions of police racial bias largely align with their political affiliations, with Democrats being more likely than Republicans to perceive higher levels of bias. Conversely, Blacks' higher perceptions of police racial bias are less influenced by their political ideology. The link between the perception of police racial bias and poor mental health among Whites is primarily driven by ideological differences, whereas this association does not hold for Blacks. This study highlights the importance of exploring racially specific mechanisms underlying how perceived police bias operates and influences public mental health.

(OMN2a) Decolonial Research and Methodologies

Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 3:00pm

The presentations in this session reflect on the way things are in systems of education and how they need to change to better serve those within them. Presentation 1 considers how presenters at a Canadian education conference have adopted the language of decol* in ways that align with the criticisms put forward by Tuck and Yang. Presentation 2 is an exploratory reflection of the Evaluation Capacity Network's curation of five webinars on Indigenous-informed evaluation. Through it, attendee impacts, common themes, and important lessons will be elucidated (which serve to offer a few starting points for those interested in decolonial evaluation).

Session Chair: Danielle E. Lorenz, University of Alberta

Presentations:

1. Regarding Decol*: Decolonization as a Topic of Educational Research and Avoiding Metaphor

Danielle Lorenz, University of Alberta

Research that focuses on decolonization has become increasingly popular in multiple academic disciplines, and education is no exception. For instance, at a Canadian education conference held in 2018 there were 8 sessions and 7 papers that included "decolonial," "decolonization," or "decolonizing" in their titles. By 2024 the same conference had 15 sessions and 17 papers with decol* in their titles, plus an additional 29 that included decol* in their abstracts. However, as Tuck and Yang (2012) warned, the "easy adoption" of decolonization turns it into a metaphor (p. 1). I use critical discourse analysis (e.g., Fairclough, 2010, 2012) to assess how decol* is constructed into a metaphor in the 2024 and 2025 paper titles and abstracts from the aforementioned Canadian

education conference. From this assessment, I make two arguments. First, extending the work of Tuck and Yang (2012), I contend that the facile adoption of decol* in education research continues the negation of Indigenous sovereignty and the ways Indigenous scholars and activists have contributed to theories of decolonization. Second, using the work of Bourdieu (e.g.,1977, 1991, 1996), I explore how the composition of decol* as a metaphor is an ongoing form of symbolic violence by settler scholars who are unconsciously reinforcing the status quo; that is, the maintenance of the settler-colonial nation-state that is currently called Canada. In so doing, I ask that settler scholars must be more intentional in their usage of decolonial, decolonization, and decolonizing to avoid contributing to the discourse of *decol as a metaphor.

2. Widening Our Worldview: A Story of Embracing Decolonial Practices in Evaluation

Aaliyah Jafarian-Oshtbin, University of Alberta and **Cheryl Lee-Yow**, Queen's University; Abigail Gallimore, Melissa Tremblay, and Rebecca Gokiert, University of Alberta; Michelle Searle, Queen's University

Within recent years, there has been a call for more culturally responsive evaluation methodologies across North America. Prioritizing the decolonization of evaluation theory and practice is essential. Despite public commitments to dismantle colonial structures and promote equitable practices, many Canadian Indigenous communities and allies feel that colonization still permeates evaluation practices and understanding. Consequently, there is an emerging need for capacity-building networks that can offer support and guidance in this area. Reflective conversations and learning opportunities, within the EDI context, can offer a valuable mechanism for advancing meaningful evaluation outcomes. To build a better future for just and transformative evaluation, collective action and learning are vital in strengthening capacity for culturally responsive evaluation that leverages the perspectives of emerging evaluators and marginalized voices. Our presentation takes the opportunity to share stories and reflections from our multi-year learning journey, where we highlight why we curated the webinar series on Indigenous-informed methodologies in evaluation, share attendee takeaways, and explore how these sessions brought in various Indigenous perspectives, thereby representing the heterogeneity of Turtle Island's Indigenous Peoples. We envision our programming as an educational experience for settlers and Indigenous practitioners alike, so they may interweave Indigenous frameworks within their evaluation practices and respectfully serve the highly Indigenous demographics in Canada. The work done through our community-campus partnerships as part of the Evaluation Capacity Network (ECN) is vital in addressing global and local societal problems. Through this journey, we continue to explore educational experiences to support evaluators and practitioners, encourage collaboration, share resources recommended by our facilitators, and create spaces for multiple Indigenous perspectives to be heard.

(THE-RC) Social Theory Cluster Meeting
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 5:00pm
Affiliation: Social Theory Cluster

The Social Theory Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others

working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chair: Tara Milbrandt, University of Alberta

(FEM1b) Women's Caucus
Wednesday, 11 June 2025 @ 6:30pm
Affiliation: Feminist Sociology Research Cluster

The CSA-SCS Women's Caucus is a space that provides opportunities for women to reflect together on diverse and shared features of our lives and professional work that are shaped by contemporary EuroPatriarchy and women's movements for change. The grounded and collaborative thinking of the Caucus helps members/attendees to identify emergent issues and action priorities that aim to change discriminatory and/or biased practices, especially within Congress and scholarly institutions.

Session Organizers: Sonia D'Angelo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ronnie Joy Leah, Athabasca University, Rashmee Karnad-Jani, Public Scholar, and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Saint Mary's University

(CSF3a) A feminist care scholar retrospective I
Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

The goal of this virtual session is to push forward research and thinking on paid and unpaid care/work in Canada by learning from scholarship that applies arts-based, interpretive or narrative approaches. Beyond a focus on 'who does what' or on issues of work and organizational conditions, we feature presentations that respond to the problems of care by carefully attending to stories and counter-stories, as well as to circulating narratives or social imaginaries. We ask: what kinds of care stories resist and recast the inequitable histories, relations and meanings that underpin care arrangements in Canada? What stories do we tell about care, and how can we tell new ones?

Session Organizers and Chairs: Janna Klostermann, University of Calgary and Laura Funk, University of Manitoba

Presentations:

1. Imagine that! Arts-Infused Research in Alberta's Long-term Care Sector
Janna Klostermann, University of Calgary; Susan Braedley, Carleton University, and Laura Funk, University of Manitoba

Beyond a focus on care in practice or on work and organizational relations, our study orients to Alberta's long-term care sector as a cultural context in which gendered, racialized meanings and expectations around care are actively negotiated and remade. Mindy, a Filipina health care aide, expressed surprise at the nature of some of our research questions. She commented that in other research, "you just have to answer, 'agree,' 'disagree,' something like that, or 'neither."' She cheered with delight when asked what "refrains" she heard in her workday and when dramatizing past encounters that had stuck with her. Getting into character, she enacted scenes with management asking her to cut corners, with residents asking her whether she'd be in tomorrow, and with staff commenting they were short of staff again. "Again?" she repeated, hamming it

up. *"Again?"* In the arts-infused narrative research we conducted, conversations with workers were sites of creativity, meaning-making and even fun. Workers spoke clearly to the organizational and structural forces shaping their work, to the skills they had developed, and to the ways they had negotiated their work overtime. There was an aliveness to our conversations that we want to reflect on in this presentation. We look forward to sharing how we've been weaving approaches from the arts, humanities and interpretive sociology to learn from, and amplify, the insights of a racialized and immigrant workforce, while opening possibilities for more equitable, emancipatory futures.

2. Parents of Racial Capitalism

Amanda Watson, Simon Fraser University

This presentation interprets new qualitative data from research called the Parent Feelings Project. In the survey and interview phases of this study, conducted in Metro Vancouver in living rooms and cafes in 2023, I asked parents about how it feels to parent today and how they conceive of their roles as parents amid intersecting social crises. I aimed to understand how parents were making sense of their caregiving for school-aged children in the post-George Floyd context of social justice education in schools; the proliferation of social justice parent resources, presentations, and books; and related backlash. As I expected, most parents described caring for young children as overwhelming, referencing high cost of living, lack of accessible childcare and social programs, and unequal divisions of labour. Most parents also framed their care as distinct from the care they received from their parents as children, citing popular child psychologists and parenting books. But parents told different stories about their obligations as caregivers for their kids, with some conceiving of their caregiving as a form of social justice activism, while others described this kind of parenting as too much. One parent told me that her role as an anti-racist educator in the community overlaps entirely with her caregiving as a parent. Another parent spoke with hesitation when she told me that she opposes certain aspects of gender inclusive education in schools, but she would not want anyone to know or judge her family if they found out. In other words, parents told different stories about care. For this feminist care retrospective, I present a series of narratives in vignettes of prose poetry, some from research participants and some auto-ethnographic, to ask what we are to understand about caregiving in this moment and its implications for building community in anti-racist, feminist, de-colonial ways.

3. "At the beginning, it was just a job": Exploring the Positive Dimensions and Value of Care Work through the Eyes of Care Workers in Canada

Izumi Niki and Ito Peng, University of Toronto

Care work is often seen as low-paying and emotionally taxing. However, this paper highlights its positive dimensions, particularly as "connective labour" (Pugh, 2023), and explores its broader implications in society. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with 34 care workers in Canada, conducted as part of the Care Economies in Context research (PI: Dr. Ito Peng, University of Toronto) from March to November 2024, and an autoethnography of the first author as a migrant care worker, this study applies a reflexive grounded theory approach with critical feminist and intersectional perspectives. The findings reveal both tangible and emotional benefits of care work. Tangibly, care work provides pathways for immigration and career advancement, particularly for immigrants and individuals with limited prior work experience. Certification in care work is relatively accessible, enabling workers to leverage skills acquired at home or abroad. Emotionally, care work

fosters a sense of pride in providing high-value care to clients and their families, enhancing their quality of life. Workers also report personal growth, improved interpersonal skills, and moments of healing and encouragement from their interactions with clients. However, the face-to-face nature of care work leaves workers vulnerable to negative psychological impacts, such as emotional distress and self-blame. This paper reveals that care work goes beyond immediate emotional rewards and fosters awareness of societal interdependence and reciprocity. It prompts self-reflection, encouraging workers to confront vulnerabilities and embark on a journey of emotional healing. This analysis challenges dominant societal norms emphasizing independence and the invisibility of care, instead highlighting the universal need for care and its fundamental role in human existence. Recognizing and valuing care work's profound societal contributions demands adequate remuneration and respect, aligning its economic value with its deep emotional and social impact.

4. "Bientraitance" and Social Reproduction: The Work of English-Speaking Women in Senior Centres in Quebec

Sandra Smele, Darla Fortune, and Meghan Joy, Concordia University

Research on the "bientraitance" (good treatment) of older adults is growing in Quebec, and its materialisation in the community sector requires attention given the growing delegation of responsibility to this sector for the address of health and social service gaps. Senior centres that serve older, English-speaking adults are part of this sector, and these centres are feminized spaces in terms of both program participants and providers. In this paper, we use a feminist intersectional approach to social reproduction to examine how "bientraitance" is understood and provided at these centres. Our data comes from demographic questionnaires and four world cafés with 163 older adults, family members/caregivers, and service providers, as well as from in-depth interviews with eight executive directors and coordinators of the senior centres. We analyze how gender, age, language, geographic location, and other intersecting social categories and relations of inequality shape access to and the practice of "bientraitance" at these centres, situating the experiences of participants within the broader context of devolution of responsibility to the community sector, enduring gendered divisions of labour, and political shifts towards greater linguistic polarization in the province.

(ENV5a) Evaluating Solutions to Climate Change

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Papers in this open call for environmental sociology investigate solutions to climate change and how structure and positionality intersect in local environmental contexts. The climate change session will address the challenges at the annual COP conferences, zero-emission vehicles, and climate justice. The session focusing on the intersection of structure and positionality addresses water insecurity in Sri Lanka, human-wolf conflict in Spain, and risks of exposure to cold among unhoused people. These sessions focus on detailed empirical analysis and suggest important new areas for work in environmental sociology.

Session Organizer and Chair: Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico

Presentations:

1. Climate Justice and the Status of Poor in Developing Countries: A Political Ecological Perspective on the case of coastal communities in Bangladesh

Ipshita Shabnom Aurpa, **Mahade Hasan Kazi**, **Aisharia Gain**, **MD. Nafiz Khan**, **Md. Noman Amin,** Gopalganj Science and Technology University

Coastal communities are the victims of climatic injustice, where they have little contribution to the causes of sea level rise, frequent incidents of cyclones, and extreme heat conditions. Bangladesh has little contribution (0.28% share in comparison to worldwide) in carbon emissions, which results in global warming and melting the treasury of glaciers, consequently raising the level of the sea. Drawing on these situations, this study seeks to identify the status of the poor within the activism of climate justice initiated by different development agencies working in Bangladesh. A mixed-method approach has been adopted to collect necessary information, including questionnaire survey, field observations, and in-depth interviews. Political ecology has made it clear that local, national, and global forces combined together—from government intervention to the structures of international aid and market pressures—work upon the distribution of both risks and resources. In Bangladesh, the poorest of communities often suffer most when disasters striking come from climate change; for example, flooding kills their children, cyclones blow over their huts, and riverbank erosion wipes away their land. But they are least likely to access defensive measures, adaptations that can be made, or livelihoods that are sustainable. They have no way of remedying these vulnerabilities and little capability to recover from them. Additionally, there is a gap in terms of the presence of most carbon-producing countries to supplement and share the economic benefits they gain through the power and energy generation-production process. Unveiling its complex interrelations, the study concludes by emphasizing the need to design context-specific, generously inclusive policies that favour groups who have been deprived and alienated. There must be systemic transformations that address both where social-environmental ills come from and what makes them persist.

2. Exploring the role of misperceptions and socio-psychological factors in zero-emission vehicle adoption

Angel Chow, University of Regina

Canada has committed to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To mitigate air pollution and carbon emissions from the transportation sector, the federal government required all new light-duty vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035 under the Electric Vehicle Availability Standard and implemented the iZEV program to stimulate uptake of zero-emission vehicles. With government financial incentives and investment in public charging infrastructure, the national adoption rate of light-duty zero-emission vehicles has grown from 3% in 2019 to 13% in 2024. Saskatchewan, however, has only a slight uptake of 3% in adoption, compared with the growth of zero-emission vehicles in British Columbia and Quebec at 23% and 30% respectively in 2024. Research shows that myths about battery electric vehicles hinder zero-emission vehicle adoption in Saskatchewan. This study aims to examine the influence of misperceptions of battery electric vehicles on purchase intention and the socio-psychological factors affecting zero-emission vehicle adoption in Saskatchewan. Using a web-based survey, this research collected a sample of 590 Saskatchewan households and analyzed the data by hierarchical multiple regression. Drawing on an extended theory of planned behaviour, we find that attitude towards zero-emission vehicles,

subjective norms and perceived behavioural control are statistically significant in influencing behavioural intentions to purchase battery electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Misperceptions of battery electric vehicles negatively affect behavioural intention to purchase battery electric vehicles, but this finding was rarely discussed in extant literature. Tendency to adopt solar panels is positively related to intentions to purchase battery electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Tendency to adopt heat pump is statistically significant in predicting intention to purchase plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. In addition, environmental concern and knowledge about zero-emission vehicles have mediating effects on the relationships between attitude towards zero-emission vehicles and behavioural intentions. Policy implications of accelerating transition to sustainable transportation are discussed.

3. The difficulty of mitigating climate change: A study of the COPs

Raymond Murphy, University of Ottawa

Despite their recognized accomplishments, the Conference of the Parties (COP) annual conferences attempting to mitigate climate change are coming under increasing criticism from scientists studying climate change and those seeking to mitigate it. A common criticism is that the meetings are being captured by fossil-fuel producing companies and countries. Another important deficiency is that they themselves are paradoxically contributing to global warming by massively producing greenhouse-gas emissions, like all in-person international conferences. Whereas COP 1 in Berlin in 1995 had 3,969 delegates, the COP 28 meetings in Dubai, UAE, in 2023 had 83,884 in-person attendees including 2,456 fossil-fuel lobbyists. It is highly unlikely that beneficial climate results have increased in proportion to attendance, but it is certain that jet-fuelled emissions for travelling attendees have. To make the meetings more effective and decrease their unintended perverse climate consequences, an open letter on the necessity of COP reform was sent in November 2024 to the United Nations by prominent scientists and activists. Among the seven recommendations was one counselling streamlining COP meetings for speed and scale: 'COP meetings must be transformed onto smaller, more frequent, solution-driven meetings'. The investigation of the increasingly enormous structure and functioning of the COPs and their perverse consequence of aggravating global warming is the objective of this investigation. It will show that the COPs constitute a microcosm of the activities producing human-caused climate change, namely harmful climate consequences resulting from activities of the affluent that are otherwise valuable and/or enjoyable. This renders them hard to change, and also makes a practical understanding of the quantity of invisible emissions from specific activities crucially important for an informed citizenry. Hence the paper documents the amount of emissions from the human activities involved in the COPs, and situates the COPs in the context of comparable carbon polluting activities.

(CSF3b) A feminist care scholar retrospective II

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 1:00pm

Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

The goal of this virtual session is to push forward research and thinking on paid and unpaid care/work in Canada by learning from scholarship that applies arts-based, interpretive or narrative approaches. Beyond a focus on 'who does what' or on issues of work and organizational conditions, we feature presentations that respond to the problems of care by carefully attending to stories and

counter-stories, as well as to circulating narratives or social imaginaries. We ask: what kinds of care stories resist and recast the inequitable histories, relations and meanings that underpin care arrangements in Canada? What stories do we tell about care, and how can we tell new ones?

Session Organizers and Chairs: Janna Klostermann, University of Calgary and Laura Funk, University of Manitoba

Presentations:

1. Policing the student body: Discourses of student carers in UK policy texts

Marie-Pierre Moreau and **D Dangeni,** Anglia Ruskin University, UK

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the prevalent norms of care and academia. While the boundaries of care and academic work have always been porous, the dual status of student carers and the challenges they face in academic cultures sometimes described as 'carefree' have gained in visibility. In many countries, debates about the intersections of care and academic work have gained momentum. In the UK, where we write from, student carers have become a growing concern among policy-makers and practitioners, with mentions of student carers in policy documents, both at national and institutional level, becoming more common. This presentation is based on a systematic review of the policy literature in English language. Building on a word search of the websites of UK-based national stakeholders and universities, we consider how student carers are discursively constructed through the literature. The texts were analysed using Carol Bacchi's WPR ('What's the Problem Represented to be?') method for policy analysis (Bacchi, 2009). Our 'reading' of texts involved looking for presences as well as absences in the texts (and of texts), exploring how the 'problems' discussed were presented and their underpinning assumptions, and reflecting on the implications of the discursive framing of student carers (Bacchi & Goodwin, 2016). The review is part of a larger international project considering the experiences of young people in education who care for older people (InterCare, 2024-2028), although the review is broader and includes policies about all types of caring responsibilities. Drawing on the policy literature, the presentation traces the representations of this group and of the issues they face. It also highlights new directions in terms of policy interventions likely to generate university cultures which are more inclusive for this group.

2. Extreme caregiving: From "survival-mode" to reimagining caregiving during and after a pandemic

Nicole Hill and Terra Manca, University of Alberta

The COVID-19 pandemic magnified existing inequities in caregiving and paid/unpaid work dynamics within society and families. Our project adopts an intersectional feminist lens to explore how parents became responsible for more unpaid care work during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they came to reimagine caregiving through the experience. Through narrative interviews with 16 parents living in Alberta and Nova Scotia (two provinces with very different pandemic responses), we explore care work before, during, and after the pandemic. When faced with little to no choice, participants found ways to fill care gaps and expand on their already arduous care responsibilities to their children, family, and other care recipients. Participants' accounts reflect internal and external struggles managing constrained resources (including time, finances, materials, knowledge, and both community and interpersonal support), balance between paid and unpaid work, and family and community needs amid the uncertainty and fear of disease, and strict and rapidly

changing public health requirements. In these extreme circumstances, participants engaged in what they called "survival mode" wherein their own needs were restricted to meet others' needs and demands. For some participants, this unsustainable model led to critical reflection on the standards, supports, and networks of care they had. Several shifted their perspectives on care work, for example, disengaging from more intensive approaches to parenting. This model also took a toll on participants, leading to short and long-term impacts on their health and wellbeing, relationships, and lives. This research points to inequities in how caregivers became responsible for the work they did, how they made sense of this responsibilization, and offers viewpoints into how we might better support them in the future.

3. Broadening conceptions of family care work through narrative research with carers

Laura Funk, University of Manitoba, Janna Klostermann, University of Calgary, Maria Cherba, University of Ottawa, Dana Sawchuk, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Holly Symonds-Brown, University of Alberta

What can we learn from everyday stories and extended circulating narratives of family care work in Canada? How can interpretive and rhetorical research methodologies inform sociological knowledge and transformational change? We explore these questions in this presentation, which describes our current study of how family carers orient to care and aging as political concepts. In the first phase of the study, team members examined how family care for older adults was represented in both mainstream news media and caregiver advocacy materials. In the second phase, we interviewed 36 family carers of older adults in three Canadian regions, then actively juxtaposed their narratives against the more narrow and limited understandings of care enacted in the textual materials. We discuss our research process as well as key challenges and complexities we faced in this and similar scholarship. Then, we connect our emerging findings from this study to other key insights from interpretive care scholars, highlighting how these can inform mobilization in collective action and social change.

(DIS5) Sociology of Disability I

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

How do disabled people live and support one another in community? What does community mean in the context of disabled networks of solidarity and/or care? Topics include but are not limited to: strategies for making disabled community; disabled resistance to exploitation and oppression; transnational disabled communities; disability as an interlocking axis of oppression; the politics of community; tradition and disabled communities; disability justice; "disability as method."

Session Organizers and Chairs: Athena Elafros, University of Lethbridge and Chris Churchill, University of Lethbridge

Presentations:

1. Reimagining Access in Research through Crip Neuroqueer Praxis

Elizabeth Straus, **Kate Ellis**, and Carla Rice, University of Guelph; Gowlene Selvavijayan and **Jet Coghlan**, Independent Community Researcher

Autistic communities often experience epistemic injustices (Fricker, 2007) within academic, professional, and research spaces, in which our stories and experiences are unduly dismissed or doubted because of deficit stereotypes and our communities are excluded from the creation of knowledge about ourselves. In addition to deficit stories of autism, academic ableism, as it materializes in research structures and practices that tend to assume that people move, think, communicate, sense, and engage with the world in similar ways that are often understood as "species typical", can significantly contribute to the exclusion of autistic people from research spaces. Access, in research contexts, so often receives little attention. If not excluding non-normatively embodied people from research altogether, attention tends to focus on accommodations that seek to mitigate difference or standardize access, which often fails to meet diverse access needs. In *Beyond the Normative Knot: Life and Praxis at the Gender-Sexuality-Autism Nexus*, an autistic-led participatory multimedia storymaking and interview project exploring experiences across diverse embodiments of gender, sexuality, and autistic identities, we seek to contribute to (re)making research methodologies, structures, and practices in ways that promote access beyond assimilationist aims and center autistic experience. In this presentation, we will draw on critical access theory and critical autism theories to reflect on how access was embodied, enacted, and felt across our project, from building and working together as a diverse neuroqueer team to enacting the methods through which autistic storytelling could occur in the study. We center access not only in terms of the concrete and material practices of accessibility, but also how a critical approach to access necessitates a reimagining of research practices in crip neuroqueer ways that also attend to the relational and felt dimensions of access and the ways in which structural violence contributes to inaccess for autistic people.

2. Alternative to Disability Pride? Imagining a Different Framework for Community Building

Cheuk Ming Tsang, City University of Hong Kong

Grounded in Critical Disability Studies, this inductive qualitative study examines the in/applicability of disability pride in Hong Kong, China, from disability epistemology. Current literature on autism is enclosed in traditional fields of medical health and applied social sciences in Hong Kong. Consequently, there is a taken-for-granted assumption that disability is less and in need of intervention. In order to counter the negative discourse in the knowledge production of autism, I interviewed 54 participants (including autistic adults, autistic youth with intellectual disabilities, parent advocates, social workers, and more) in the years 2022 and 2023. The in-depth interviews were triangulated with document analysis between 2017 and 2022. This study contributes to the existing literature in two significant ways. First, it enriches international understanding, as Disability Studies have long been criticized for being too white. Second, this is the first study that questions the possibility of cultivating disability pride in community organizing of autism communities from disability epistemology.

3. A decolonial approach to leadership with women and girls with disabilities in Vietnam

Xuan Thuy Nguyen, **Hoa Bui**, and **Mai Anh Phuong Tran,** Decolonial Disability Studies Collective - Carleton University

This paper aims to examine how Vietnamese women and girls with disabilities conceptualize and advocate for leadership within the Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID) project. Drawing on decolonial and intersectional disability studies, this research examines how women and

girls with disabilities navigate systemic barriers, redefine leadership, and advocate for social change while challenging dominant colonial power structures. The study is based on interviews, group discussions, and art productions from 23 participants - 16 women and 9 girls with disabilities - within the EDID-Vietnam project from 2022 to 2024. Our findings reveal that while girls often demonstrated leadership through participation in school activities, women engaged in broader socio-political spaces, advocating for change and creating opportunities for others with disabilities to assume leadership roles. In doing so, they challenged ableist and patriarchal norms surrounding leadership and worked to promote systemic change. However, both groups faced persistent inequalities in leadership and decision-making opportunities, shaped by colonial and ableist assumptions about their capabilities as well as their socio-economic status and type of disability. While their struggles embodied the colonial structures of leadership, the participants were also conscious of ableism and leadership hierarchies embedded within their struggles. This consciousness enabled them to use their collective identities to negotiate with local authorities. Their knowledge, experiences, and ability to navigate complex power dynamics reflect their relationality as a central principle in their efforts to actively mobilize social change. Our decolonial approach emphasizes the importance of centering marginalized voices from disability communities in Vietnam and the Global South to understand their unique ways of knowing and advocating for social change. By reclaiming their epistemologies and praxis from their own standpoints, this research makes a critical contribution to the session's theme on decolonial perspectives and disability justice.

(FAS1) Des effets contrastés de la peur sur l'engagement des féministes selon la place qu'elles occupent dans les rapports sociaux de classe

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: CSA Francophone Affairs Subcommittee

La présentation s'inspire de l'article « Ce que la peur fait à l'engagement féministe » qui démontre que la peur peut devenir un levier à l'engagement, contrairement aux idées reçues.
Ce que la peur fait à l'engagement féministe. Lien social et Politiques, 2021 (86), 94-112

Modérateur : **Guillaume Durou**, Université de l'Alberta

Auteure invitee : **Mélissa Blais,** Université du Québec en Outaouais

(SOA-RC) Sociology of Africa Research Cluster Meeting

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Africa Research Cluster

The newly formed Sociology of Africa Research Cluster meeting is open to those interested in learning more about our cluster plans. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on future initiatives.

The Sociology of Africa cluster aims to build a community for researchers, academics and practitioners committed to advancing sociological inquiry in Africa. Recognizing that the sociology of Africa remains a relatively understudied field, the cluster seeks to connect scholars across Canada and beyond to deepen understanding of the scope and influence of sociological perspectives across

diverse African countries. Given the rich heterogeneity of African societies, the cluster fosters discussions that situate African sociological thinking within its historical context while critically examining its contemporary manifestations. With a focus on decolonial critique, the cluster aspires to holistically and critically explore sociological imagination on the African continent, emphasizing African epistemologies and methodologies. Researchers, academics and practitioners interested in these conversations are encouraged to join.

Session Organizer: Cynthia Kwakyewah, York University

(CSF1) Social Impact Research on Canadian Care/Work Policies
Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: Critical Sociology of Families, Work and Care Research Cluster

Sociological research is central to identifying shortcomings and advancing policies that support diverse families to navigate un/paid work while caring for children. Many post-COVID dreams have not materialized or are uneven: parental leave remains far better in Québec; significant gains made in early learning and childcare are at risk; and many employment policies have reverted to pre-COVID norms. This panel presents current research undertaken by the Reimagining Care/Work Polices project on the state and future of Canadian care/work policies. We also address the conference theme of ensuring research has social impact by sharing experiences with academic-community partnerships and dissemination strategies.

Session Organizer and Chair: Lindsey McKay, Thompson Rivers University

Presentations:

1. Social Movements and Policy Change? Childcare in Canada
Susan Prentice, University of Manitoba

Canada has had a childcare advocacy movement for many decades. The feminist demand for affordable and accessible childcare appeared on the national scene even before the 1970 report Royal Commission on the Status of Women, and advocacy has persisted ever since. In 2021, the federal government launched an ambitious early learning and childcare plan (CWELCC, nicknamed the "$10/day plan), committing $30 billion over five years. In this paper, I reflect on the complex relationship between civil society organizing and policy change. To what degree do the provisions of the Canada-Wide plan reflect the demands of community-based childcare advocates? To what degree can or should social movement activism take credit for changes to the national childcare policy landscape? Finally, if gains under CWELCC prove either inadequate or unstable as many observers are predicting, to what degree should political responsibility be attributed to social movement activity?

2. The Impacts of Policy Design on Positive Feedback Effects in the Rollout of "$10/day Childcare" in Canada
Adrienne Davidson, McMaster University, **Linda White**, **Jenna Quelch,** University of Toronto

We investigate the impacts of policy design on public perceptions of, and support for, the Canada Wide Early Learning and Childcare (CWELCC) program. The roll out of $30 billion of federal funding for CWELCC has conferred both material and non-material resources on parents. However, the

design of the program has both elements of policy submersion (masking the visibility of the program), and attenuation (masking the government's role in provision by delegating service delivery to third party providers), which have the potential to sever the positive feedback effect between government programs and mass attitudes among program recipients. Using an original survey of parents of young children across seven provinces, we examine whether (1) the lack of visibility of the federal government's role in designing and funding the program (as public dollars are diverted to provinces for implementation) undermines positive feedback effects that may otherwise accrue to the federal government, and whether (2) the attenuation of benefits (as provision occurs largely through third party delivery agents) leads citizens to further disconnect from the (federal) state. We discuss our results with an eye to support for the continuation of social support for parents of young kids in Canada.

3. Employment supports for day-to-day caregiving responsibilities: policy and practice.

Sylvia Fuller, University of British Columbia

Parents of young children must manage a variety of routine day-to-day caregiving responsibilities. These may be predictable, such as school or child care pickups, or unpredictable, such as tending to a sick child or coping with child care disruptions. Care/work policies, including flexible work arrangements, family responsibility leave, and sick leave can play a critical role in enabling parents to meet these demands, as is true for other caregivers. We review existing provisions for key employment rights in relation to routine caregiving responsibilities under the Canada Labour Code and Provincial/Territorial Employment Standards. We also incorporate data from the 2023 Canadian Survey on Early Learning and Child Care to shed light on the extent to which Canadian children can count on parental access to provisions that support caregiving in practice. Our analysis reveals that access to such provisions is limited, uneven and inequitable. Providing more comprehensive and equitable access to flexible work and leave options is essential to enable Canadians to effectively manage work and caregiving responsibilities.

4. Parental Leave Policy as a Social Justice Paradox

Lindsey Mckay, Thompson Rivers University; Sophie Mathieu, University of Sherbrooke, and Andrea Doucet, Brock University

Parental leave is a critical pillar of family policy alongside childcare and cash transfers. It provides a legal entitlement to job protection and public/private employment-based wage replacement benefits. Approximately 90% of parents in Quebec, and 70% of parents in the rest of Canada receive public parental leave wage replacement benefits. The paradox of parental leave is that while crucial for job retention and money, access and benefit amount reproduce labour market inequities. Unlike public childcare and cash transfers which in principle equalize Canadian families, the labour-market conditionality of parental leave benefits means families that need it the least gain the most. We demonstrate inequity between Canadian families, based on data from the Employment Insurance program and the Québec Parental Insurance Plan. Then we review policy changes in Québec and other countries that reduce benefit inequities.

(ENV5b) Structure and Positionality in Local Environments
Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: Environmental Sociology Research Cluster

Papers in this open call for environmental sociology investigate solutions to climate change and how structure and positionality intersect in local environmental contexts. The climate change session will address the challenges at the annual COP conferences, zero-emission vehicles, and climate justice. The session focusing on the intersection of structure and positionality addresses water insecurity in Sri Lanka, human-wolf conflict in Spain, and risks of exposure to cold among unhoused people. These sessions focus on detailed empirical analysis and suggest important new areas for work in environmental sociology.

Session Organizer and Chair: Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico

Presentations:

1. The Volitional Limit to Inclusivity: The Naturalist Identity at an Urban Environmental Education Program

Tyler Bateman, University of New Mexico

The naturalist has been a primary figure in biodiversity conservation, yet definitions of the naturalist in scholarly work have typically only been provided in speculative terms by individual biologists. This paper contributes an empirical study on how people who regularly connect with nature understand the definition of the naturalist, analyzing interviews with 50 people affiliated with a nature centre in Toronto, Ontario. The participants engaged with the centre either as program participants, staff, or board members. The paper finds that across the definitions provided by participants, three primary dimensions - knowledge of nature, a direct relationship with nature outside, and care for nature - provided analytical dimensions of the naturalist. The paper's analysis of the naturalist identity engages with a wider literature on inclusivity and the relationship between choice and structure in elective identities. The naturalist identity, the paper argues, is a case where an identity is moving toward greater inclusivity: I found that people affiliated with the nature centre often defined the naturalist using an inclusive definition, in contrast with exclusive definitions such as a professional biologist. This greater inclusivity primarily came about through softening the knowledge requirement for someone to be a naturalist. While some respondents described the naturalist as someone with advanced degrees and extensive nature knowledge, others described a new vision of the naturalist who is merely interested in the knowledge of nature. The paper thus contributes to literature on identity by demonstrating a case where inclusivity is influencing an identity's definition. This paper, therefore, broadens the discussion beyond the nature context by discussing how people have been increasingly constructing identities, such as gender and disability identities, in more inclusive ways.

2. Beyond the dichotomy between real and symbolic: the limits of the "wolf debate" in Spain

Nicolas Petel-Rochette, Université du Québec à Montréal

Much has been written about the imperatives surrounding the wolf's return to Europe, as attested by the seminal article by Chapron et al. (2014) published over ten years ago. Whether from the fields of conservation science or social science, scientific research is asking how to optimize conservation conditions for a species that seems doomed to provoke debate about its presence in

European landscapes. The aim of this communication is to offer some insights from environmental sociology in order to pose new questions to the "wolf debate" in Europe. This general objective can be broken down into three points. First, the research synthesizes three theoretical models identified in the scientific literature to frame the issues surrounding the wolf's return. Respectively, these three models are described as : 1) conflict management (Bennett et al., 2022 ; Bisi et al., 2007 ; Martínez-Jauregui et al., 2017 ; Peterson et al., 2010 ; Redpath et al., 2013); 2) peaceful coexistence fostering (Dykes, 2023 ; Marino et al., 2022 ; Pettersson, 2022 ; Pettersson et al., 2022; 2023 ; Rio-Maior et al., 2019 ; Ronnenberg et al., 2017), and 3) populist analysis (Clemm von Hohenberg et Hager, 2022; Kolvraa, 2019; Pates et Leser, 2021; Skogen, 2017). Then, drawing on the preliminary results of a qualitative research study, this article seeks to show how these three models only partially explain the wolf situation in northern Spain. Finally, drawing on work from etho-ethnological research (Bubandt and Tsing, 2018; Doré, 2014; Lescureux, 2006), the article sets out to outline a potentially heuristically rich approach capable of escaping a scenario to which wolf research seems limited: choosing between the "real" wolf and the "symbolic" wolf (Almarcha et al. 2022; Boitani, 1986). Taken as a whole, this communication highlights what is perceived as a need for wolf conservation studies to move beyond this distinction and assume the inevitably axiological component of biodiversity-related conservation policies (Devictor, 2015).

3. Shaping the Milieu to Govern Homelessness: The Case of Extreme Weather

Adhika Ezra, University of Regina

This paper has received the 2025 Best Student Paper Award (MA Category)

Extreme weather events increase the risk of disaster for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) who are exposed to harsh temperatures. Based on a qualitative case study in Regina, Saskatchewan involving 22 service providers, city officials, and advocates, I use the concept of governmentality to analyze how homeless governance and extreme weather responses contribute to the marginalization of PEH. Governmentality coordinates social life by considering the non-linear interrelations of rationalities, societal rules and expectations, governance techniques, and the environment. In an advanced liberal society, governance relies on shaping the milieu and determining possible fields of action that align with the desired outcomes of governance. The findings show that shelter bans, shelter rotations, encampment evictions, move-along orders, and people's reluctance to enter shelters are attached to rationalities of responsibilization, colonial Othering, private property, and the market. These forms of governance shape the milieu by dictating spatial circulations which end up denying PEH access to safe shelters. The milieu is also shaped by weather; during extreme weather, PEH is pressured to enter shelters. PEH who enter face the risk of re-traumatization and must accept disciplinary rules. Others without a shelter find ways to adapt, but face increased risk of getting injured-or worse-from maladaptation or direct exposure to extreme temperatures. By describing the interaction between technologies and rationalities of governance, weather, and spatial circulation, I argue that weather is accounted for by governmentality: 1) as part of the milieu that shapes people's possible field of action, indirectly guiding people to consent to be disciplined; 2) to punish PEH who are unable to be "responsible." Environmental disasters are a product of homeless governance that marginalizes PEH.

4. The unexpected reality of water insecurity & adaptability of women: Rural community case in Sri Lanka

S.D.R.Tennakoon, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka **and *M.N.Vineeshiya*,** The Open University Of Sri Lanka

The paper attempts to examine the reality of water insecurity and women's adaptability to water insecurity in the gendered social structure in Sri Lanka. Women have the responsibility of household work while experiencing water insecurity. Despite the severity of the water insecurity, women become voiceless to speak out about their water rights. Even though there is vulnerability in women due to water insecurities, women in the study area tend to neutralize water insecurity by adapting to the minimum use of water as insufficient water availability is not perceived as a threatening issue. People tend to adapt to the environment once problems exist in society for a while, therefore, tend to normalize their daily routines. They tend to integrate based on social cohesion and have a collective consciousness of sharing water resources, despite the difficulties they encounter. They have a moral phenomenon and common sentiments that the water should be shared. These shared ways of thinking have constructed a bond within them. On the other hand, the behavior, response, and willingness to adapt to water insecurity depend on the local perception of the problem. The absence of social vulnerabilities and risks in the village has led to strengthen the local adaptation strategies by attaching the meaning via their common sense knowledge as they have their rural wisdom. Therefore, water insecurities are experienced and perceived by different social contexts in different dimensions as women follow mitigation and adaptation strategies unique to their social cultural, and economic structures.

(OMN2b) Broad Perspectives in Mental Health Research

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 3:00pm

Affiliation: Sociology of Health and Sociology of Mental Health Research Cluster

This session features presentations on mental health research broadly defined.

Session Chair: Elizabeth Cameron, Dalhousie University

Presentations:

1. Taking Refuge in Faith: Religious Organizations and Refugee Mental Wellbeing in Canada

Sanam Vaghefi, Capilano University

Canada is one of the key refugee receiving countries and it is also one of the first countries that officially adopted multiculturalism as its policy. As a result, major areas such as Metro Vancouver present a visibly multicultural and multireligious scene. This research explores the roles played by religious organizations such as mosques and churches in fostering refugee mental wellbeing in Metro Vancouver. It uses a phenomenological lens based on Husserl's concept of lifeworld to find responses to the following research questions: How does faith and religious community support play a role in improving the mental wellbeing of refugees in Metro Vancouver, Canada? How do they provide refugees from different social locations with mental wellbeing coping strategies? How do different aspects of refugee social locations, particularly religious affiliation and its intersections with nationality, race, ethnicity and gender shape their interactions with those religious organizations? The sample of this research consists of Ukrainian, Syrian, Iraqi and Iranian refugees

who identify as Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant Christians, including converts, as well as Sunni and Shia Muslims. In addition, the sample includes religious organizations and community leaders such as pastors and imams. Open-ended qualitative interviews will be conducted with the research participants to understand the interaction between refugee mental wellbeing and religious organizational support, and the themes derived from those interviews will be further discussed to be able to identify the main aspects of this interaction in the refugee lived experiences.

2. Bleak and Colorful: Mental Health and Mental Illness in the NTX Emo Community

Paul Bones, Texas Woman's University

The music a person chooses to listen to matters—inherently—because we choose to give music meaning. "Emo" is a genre of rock music known for exploring emotional topics like depression, anxiety, loneliness, and isolation (Trnka et al. 2018). Although it was at its height in the mid 2000's, emo maintains thriving communities across the United States and the world. One such location is in North Texas. Given the mental health themes often present in emo music, I explore how members of the North Texas emo scene engage with emotionally charged music, and how this impacts their mental health. This qualitative study employed grounded theory based interviews to explore how: 1) young adults come to be part of the emo community, 2) emo affects their self-care routines and mental health, and 3) the ways that both mental health and musical habits affect identity. Particular attention is paid to what Adam Davies (2022) calls "maddening moments," or the embodiment of madness through feelings, anxieties, and sensations. This grounds the present work in Mad Studies, representing a departure from the more clinical/practitioner approaches to emo music that are typically found in the literature. Results explore how emotional music acts as a context to explore mental health and mental disorder, and functions as a positive influence in the lives of community members.

(PSM2) Political Sociology and Social Movements – Virtual Session

Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

This session brings together several papers addressing key themes in political sociology and social movements. With cases from a diverse political context, these papers present empirical analyses of state sovereignty in postcolonial political context, the role of movement frames and counter-frames in creating political opportunities and challenges, symbolic struggles over the meaning of nation and nationalism, and institutional responses to social movement demands.

Session Organizers: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick, Deena Abul-Fottouh, Dalhousie University, and Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University

Session Chair: Zitian Sun, McGill University
Presentations:

1. Understanding Sovereignty and Independence within the Mechanism of Neocolonialism: A Case Study of Bangladesh

Sheikh Moinul Islam, **Md. Noman Amin**, **Md.Majnur Rashid**, **Irfan Ahmed Sagar**, **Md. Osman Goni**, Gopalganj Science and Technology University

Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971, along with attaining its sovereignty, while its real practices are being questioned within the neocolonial mechanism. Drawing on postcolonial theory and historical analysis, this study examines the country's transition from colonial rule to formal independence, investigating how external political, economic, and cultural forces continue to shape national policies and local realities. This study adopted a multi-method approach employing archival research and key informant interviews with key politicians and historians. The research reveals that sovereignty in the neocolonial context is often controlled by the neighbouring, i.e., relatively powerful, state and also constrained by conditions imposed by global financial institutions, development agencies, and multinational corporations. The results exposed the paradox of having an officially autonomous country struggling against a variety of soft and often subtle forms of foreign rule, tying in with the more recent notion that sovereignty is neither solely territorial nor legal in nature. These external actors drive national governments into debt dependence, provide strategic aid with strings attached, exploit trade imbalances, and as a result greatly curtail national governments from making independent policy decisions or exercising full autonomy. Moreover, the cultural facets of neocolonialism—operating through global media, education systems, and consumer culture—help to maintain asymmetrical power relations and revive dependency. For the case of Bangladesh, the result more specifically addresses the role and influence of India on national issues, planning, economic relationships, and even the formation of government. This study addressed the mechanism of neocolonialism in developing countries, especially in Bangladesh, while exerting a series of focusing areas to foster genuine autonomy and sustainable development, ultimately contributing to a more nuanced understanding of postcolonial nationhood.

2. EDI as a Form of Institutional Activism: Canadian Universities' Fight Against Racial Inequality

Yena Lee, McMaster University

The question of eradicating inequalities has been at the centre of socio-political issues in our society in the last few decades. In the recent years. Reflecting this trend, universities have been at the centre of eradicating inequalities as they tend to uphold an image of institutions that are progressive and leading changes. Accordingly, Canadian universities have adapted the notion of EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) more rigorously in the last few years, especially in the wake of the proliferation of protest actions in support of Black Lives Matter (BLM) and #StopAsianHate in the early 2020s. As universities began to show support for these social movements by providing official statements to the public, such maneuvers should be examined to see whether they hold meaningful values. In the process of making social changes within institutions, organizations like universities respond to contexts, but create constraints as well. As institutions operate within a long history of racism and colonialism in settings like Canada, there are unspoken rules and established status quo that play a significant role in shaping policies and practices. Therefore, in this research, I will be using examples of higher education to analyze responses to the social movements against racism by top Canadian universities by focusing on English speaking U15 universities. In this research, data driven from online publications by universities as well as interviews with the leaders of EDI offices will be examined to provide better understanding of the topic. Overall, this research will contribute to the literature within the fields of social movement theory and the sociology of education. This will be done through the examination of whether EDI practices in Canadian universities can be considered as institutional activism to produce social changes.

(DIS-RC) Sociology of Disability Research Cluster Meeting
Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 5:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Disability Research Cluster

The purpose of the Sociology of Disability Research Cluster is to connect sociologists and like-minded scholars whose work focuses on the sociology of disability. Our goal is to build and strengthen partnerships and to share information. This meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chairs: Athena Elafros, University of Lethbridge and Chris Churchill, University of Lethbridge

(PSM-RC) Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster Meeting
Thursday, 12 June 2025 @ 5:00pm
Affiliation: Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster

The Political Sociology and Social Movements Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities and becoming new members. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chairs: Omar Faruque, University of New Brunswick

(DEV3) Sociology of Development Open Session - Virtual Session
Friday, 13 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Sociology of Development Research Cluster

The Sociology of Development Cluster of CSA invites scholars and practitioners to contribute to a critical dialogue on the multifaceted challenges posed by neoliberalism and the pathways towards a more sustainable world.

Session Organizer and Chair: Jasmin Hristov, University of Guelph

Presentations:

1. Art and Development: Examining the Role of the NFBC in Fostering Global Discourse
John Bessai, Independent scholar

This presentation explores the National Film Board of Canada's (NFBC) significant contributions to global development discourse through art. Operating at the intersection of cultural production and social impact, the NFBC uses media to address pressing global challenges such as environmental degradation, migration, and systemic inequality. Through its innovative projects, the NFBC amplifies marginalized voices and crafts counter-hegemonic narratives that challenge traditional global development frameworks while inspiring grassroots action and fostering cross-cultural solidarity. The analysis draws on Albert Murray's concept of the "stylization of experience" as a theoretical lens, complemented by grounded thematic analysis, to illustrate how NFBC films transform

individual lived experiences into compelling collective narratives. These narratives critique the structural limitations of mainstream development approaches and reimagine alternative pathways rooted in collaboration, community-driven solutions, and inclusivity. The research emphasizes the potential of art to engage diverse audiences and bridge divides across borders, highlighting the NFBC's role in facilitating meaningful dialogues around sustainability and equity. This work positions art as a transformative sociological tool that reflects societal issues and catalyzes action and policy discussions. By centring on NFBC projects, this research highlights the value of interdisciplinary approaches in advancing socially just and sustainable futures. It advocates for development frameworks prioritizing creative expression to address systemic injustices and build inclusive solutions. Aligned with the session's theme, this presentation invites participants to consider the evolving role of art in shaping development discourse and to rethink how sociology can incorporate creative mediums to enhance its relevance in global contexts.

2. Land and Conscientization : Analyzing the Landless Rural Workers' Movement's (MST) Revista Sem Terrinha through the Concept of Emancipatory Education

Kellen Cristina de Abreu and **José de Arimatéia Dias Valadão,** Federal University of Lavras, Brazil, **Jasmin Hristov**, University of Guelph

In the Brazil's long-standing agrarian conflicts, the Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST) stands as a fundamental social movement advocating for rural families' access to land and dignified living conditions, including the right to quality education. As part of this effort, the MST develops various initiatives, notably the magazine *Revista Sem Terrinha*, directed at the Movement's children. This publication addresses themes such as human rights, agroecology, and social justice. Our study analyzed editions of the *Revista Sem Terrinha* using content analysis methodology, to identify the ways in which the publication reflects the principles of critical pedagogy and more specifically, emancipatory education as conceptualized in the works of Freire and hooks. The findings revealed that the magazine plays a significant role as a tool of transformative political education and *conscientization* (developing a critical awareness of power structures) for the children of MST members. By analyzing the ways in which the magazine is aligned with the critical emancipatory education model within the MST, we argue that the Movement's achievements, endurance and collective action in the pursuit of land, social justice, and dignity, cannot be fully understood without the process of conscientization nourished through education. Our presentation will highlight the valuable lessons that the MST offers for other social justice-oriented movements and society at large, both in the Global South and Global North.

3. Reflections on methodologies, struggles, and possibilities for social change with young women and girls with disabilities in the global South

Xuan Thuy Nguyen, Carleton University and **Thi Xuan Nhi Truong,** Hue University of Sciences

This chapter aims to examine how decolonial disability studies (Nguyen, 2023, 2024) can provide a useful methodological and conceptual framework for engaging young women and girls with disabilities in A Luoi - a rural, mountainous area located in central Vietnam. This study is a part of the ENGAGE research project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada [2021-2024]. This collaborative project aims to create decolonial spaces for engaging young women and girls with disabilities in Vietnam, India, and South Africa in knowledge production in relation to their leadership and activism. In Vietnam, we worked with young women and girls with

disabilities in A Luoi to co-create knowledge through the use of participatory tools and methods, such as photovoice, zine-making, and collage-making, fostering their collective leadership, and designing participatory spaces for these women and girls to tell their stories and to build relationships with their disabled peers and communities. We argue that this decolonial approach can be particularly powerful for historically colonized communities because it enables these young women and girls to articulate specific challenges and struggles that they have encountered. For example, the use of photovoice has potential to challenge the dominant narrative about women and girls with disabilities in the South and reclaim Indigenous knowledge and praxis through forms of artmaking that articulate their forms of activism. This research can offer a unique epistemological and methodological standpoint for understanding the struggles of young women and girls with disabilities in the context of poverty and exclusion in the global South while demonstrating their capacity to negotiate and unsettle the ableist and patriarchal approach to leadership in their community. In doing so, it has the potential to offer new possibilities for knowledge production and social change in the global South through distinct forms of epistemic and socio-political struggles.

(FTS1) Committing Fat Sociology! The benefits
Friday, 13 June 2025 @ 11:00am
Affiliation: Fat Studies Research Cluster

How do fat studies scholars commit sociology? That is the heart of this panel: How does fat studies research get disseminated, what are the benefits of an emancipatory and social justice oriented fat studies? How does fat scholarship meet fat activism? And what are the challenges fat studies scholars face when trying to commit fat sociology? As Ellison (2020) highlights in her work Fat Activism in Canada, since the mid-1970s, generations of women have taken up fat activism and this activism has taken many forms, ranging from burlesque performances (Ellison, 2020) to the emergence and uptake of fat studies as an interdisciplinary academic discipline (Solovay & Rothblum, 2009). In her work, Kathleen LeBesco highlights how activists have been challenging the marginalized understandings of fatness for over forty years (LeBesco, 2004). One example of this, she argues, is the Health at Every Size model put forward by Bacon and Aphramor (2011), which was a radical reimagination of fatness focusing on healthy day-to-day practices and positive self-acceptance. And the emergence of this model brought with it more ways to commit fat sociology! Scholars in fat studies, such as Brady and Gingras (2016) and even one of the original authors themselves, Lucy Aphramor (2021) challenge the 'benefits' of a Health at Every Size model, noting its roots in healthism and lack of real contribution to an emancipatory future for fat folks. These are just some examples of committing fat sociology.

Session Organizers and Chairs: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

Presentations:

1. Why Debunking "the Obesity Epidemic" Won't Solve Weight Stigma
Rachel Fox, Grand Valley State University

With the rise of debunking media like the *Maintenance Phase* podcast and growing awareness of the historical origins of the BMI, many commentators have taken up the idea that dominant conceptions about "obesity's" measurement, prevalence, and health consequences are "wrong."

This idea is deeply alluring: calling fatphobic medical and epidemiological claims illegitimate seems like a powerful way to combat anti-fatness and grant weight stigma researchers scientific legitimacy. Yet as some fat activists have pointed out, challenging "obesity science" is not the same as challenging fat oppression. This presentation explores the pitfalls of debunking as a strategy to combat fat oppression, arguing that debunking is both insufficient for undermining structural weight stigma as well as dangerous in its potential to strengthen anti-obesity efforts. To make this argument, I analyze how the network of anti-obesity efforts, which I call the *anti-obesity assemblage*, is currently using "debunked" ideas about obesity to allocate more resources to obesity elimination. I also analyze videos from Novo Nordisk's campaign for their new weight loss drug to demonstrate how debunking "myths about obesity" can be used to support weight loss drugs. My presentation ends with a consideration of the role for debunking in fat liberation moving forward.

2. Fat Sociology Against the Scientific Appeal

Marquisele Mercedes, Brown University

Medicine is a major site of antifatness. As such, many analyses of fat stigma are focused on the logics of health authorities. In recent years, due to efforts from a mixed landscape of actors, including fat activists, DEI advocates, and anti-obesity proponents, the issue of "weight stigma" has made major inroads in health domains like clinical medicine and public health. Typically, these profile-raising efforts rely on criticizing the knowledge base that links fatness to debility, morbidity, and mortality (i.e., "debunking") or outlining the health risks associated with experiencing weight stigma. The actors undertaking these projects accumulate cultural capital through the performance of criticality. However, their critiques work within medicine and public health's own paradigms, which allows for fat oppression, however diluted, to be taken up by scientific authorities. While these authorities may add expert legitimacy to the cause of fat activism, fat studies scholars have not adequately addressed the threat inherent in relying on the fields that oppress us as the basis of our liberation claims. This presentation examines the consequences of such an approach through the lens of a core concept of medical sociology: medicalization. Through an analysis of highly-cited weight stigma research from the health sciences, I argue that the transformation of weight stigma into a medical problem (i.e., a threat to health) has opened the issue of oppression to scientific arbitration. In other words, the problem of antifatness has been displaced by the problems of accuracy and un/health, which allows for anti-obesity actors, like health authorities, to absorb the problem of "weight stigma" while furthering the elimination of fat people and communities. I end with a recommendation for fat sociologists and fat activists alike: to fight against antifatness, antifatness must be the problem of focus—not scientific truthfulness or health outcomes.

3. Weight Stigma as a Social Determinant of Health: What Does That Mean?

Monica Kriete, Fatty MPH, LLC

In health-related research, fatness is almost exclusively constructed as obesity, and antifatness is characterized as "obesity stigma" or "weight stigma." These terms are treated as self-evident, allowing research that actively constructs fatness as a problem to claim to challenge "weight stigma." Part of why this has been possible is due to contested and unclear definitions of what actually constitutes weight stigma. Starting from a sociological understanding of stigma, I have used a social determinants of health framework to develop a new definition of "weight stigma" that centers and explicitly characterizes the devaluation of fat and fatness. Importantly,

by *describing* how the social construct of "obesity" functions, this definition problematizes the exercise of medical authority over fatness and clarifies the contradictions in many anti-weight stigma efforts (i.e., pharmaceutical companies claiming to address anti-fatness by continuing to position fatness as a medical problem). In this presentation, I will analyze antifatness through a social-ecological lens, highlighting weight stigma and its intersections with racism and sexism as structural sources of health disparities (Williams; Homan). We'll discuss uses of these frameworks in putting fat activist narratives and artifacts (e.g. the obituary of Ellen Maud Bennett, 2018) in conversation with statistical analyses; in educating clinicians and health professions trainees by providing an alternative understanding to "obesity" that offers internal consistency; and in critical review and secondary analysis of health services research.

(DEV-RC) Sociology of Development Research Cluster Meeting
Friday, 13 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Sociology of Development Research Cluster

The Sociology of Development Research Cluster meeting is open to current members and those interested in learning more about our cluster activities. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with others working in this field of research and/or teaching. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives.

Session Chair: Jasmin Hristov, University of Guelph

(FTS-RC) Fat Studies Research Cluster Meeting
Friday, 13 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Fat Studies Research Cluster

The CSA Fat Studies Research Cluster extends an invitation to new members who are interested in engaging in critical research related to weight, bodies, stigma, 'health', and social justice. This cluster serves as a communication hub and a meeting place for sociologists who work in the field of fat studies, both within Canada and globally. As a space committed to advancing scholarship, attendees will have the opportunity to network and share their research. We welcome feedback on our current activities and encourage suggestions for future initiatives

Session Chairs: Kelsey Ioannoni, Wilfrid Laurier University and Ramanpreet A. Bahra, Wilfrid Laurier University

(SPE4) Housing, Homelessness, and (In)Equity
Friday, 13 June 2025 @ 1:00pm
Affiliation: Social Policy and Social Equality and Sociology of Housing Research Cluster

Systemic housing inequity has for decades been a hallmark of Canada's housing system. In 2017, the Trudeau Liberal government promised to "solve" the housing crisis by implementing a national housing strategy, going so far as to legislate a right to housing. As one of only a handful of countries with such legislation, the National Housing Strategy Act (NHSA) sets Canada apart as a global normative leader. However, far too many people, especially those who are marginalized, continue to be unable to access or remain in appropriate housing. This has only worsened since the NHSA was legislated. Meanwhile, Canada's economy is uniquely reliant on housing, with real estate representing the single largest contributor to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is in part

a function of deepening housing financialization, which has intensified stratification and inequity in housing markets worldwide. To date, the social and economic barriers to the realization of the right to housing has largely been unexplored, including how stratification of groups along the lines of disability, gender, race, class, sexual orientation, immigration status, and familial status sustains the profitability of Canada's predominantly private housing market. This session features presentations that "commit sociology for social impact," beginning with the proposition that housing inequity is an unintentional by-product of a marketized housing system that is actively produced and reproduced to sustain the profitability of housing in Canada. Ensuring the right to housing requires attention to issues such as the availability of affordable and accessible housing, the supports required by people to remain housed, the availability and appropriateness of income supports to sustain tenancy arrangements, and fair adjudicative processes surrounding evictions. We are particularly interested in research that addresses the housing crisis, housing insecurity, and homelessness, and which centres itself in intersectional analysis.

Session Organizers: Kristen Hardy, University of Winnipeg, Michelle Owen, University of Winnipeg, Jeremy Wildeman, Candian Centre for Housing Rights, Sophie O'Manique, Candian Centre for Housing Rights

Session Chair: Michelle Owen, University of Winnipeg

Presentations:

1. Informal Housing: The Trajectories and Experiences of People Living in Urban Encampments

Sandrine Carle-Landry, University of Montreal

The current housing crisis in Canadian cities is characterized by rising rental costs, a growing number of rental housing evictions, a property and rental market where demand exceeds supply, precarious housing conditions, and an increase in homelessness. As a result, some people may find themselves in informal housing situations such as living year-round in a campsite, staying with peers, or engaging in urban camping in underused public spaces in cities (e.g., vacant lots, municipal parks, green spaces near bike paths or highways, etc.). While these forms of housing are often associated with extreme precariousness in common perceptions or media representations, leading to their disqualification, it is now understood that they can allow individuals to feel at home—sometimes even more so than in shelters for people experiencing homelessness or in subsidized housing programs, such as Housing First. Urban encampments can represent genuine communities for individuals, featuring systems of mutual aid and collective organization. The precariousness of their habitats is thus more a result of interactions with police and municipal authorities and cannot be understood outside the context of power dynamics. Informal housing trajectories are thus less about individual attributes and more about a long process of marginalization. There are no single tipping points or unique triggers that lead someone to live in an urban encampment. These elements are part of a lifelong trajectory, with multiple and varied points of precarization. The central question I am asking, based on these findings, is as follows: What are the trajectories and experiences of individuals living in an urban encampment? Rather than view living in an urban encampment as a status or individual attribute linked to triggers or tipping points into homelessness, I will approach it as a pivotal moment in the continuum of housing and non-housing experienced by the individuals studied.

2. Using a Life-Course Approach to Understand Housing Precarity and Evictions among Seniors

Sarah Zell and Scott McCullough, University of Winnipeg

In the context of a housing 'crisis', a broader range of people are being impacted by displacement and eviction. Financialization of housing markets erodes housing security and undermines housing as a human right. Examining patterns of housing insecurity and homelessness over time reveals distinct sub-populations with varying needs. Older adults are one group increasingly made vulnerable to eviction, and in this paper, we examine older adults' experiences of eviction in Canada. Using an event history approach informed by a life-course perspective and gender-based lens, we examined participants' housing histories along a range of life dimensions, recognizing that people's housing disadvantage accumulates over time and involves the interaction of personal, policy, and societal factors. Our analysis reveals three key types of eviction trajectories, marked by *Instability,* relative *Stability,* or *Precarity*. This analytical approach highlights the factors contributing to the options and outcomes for seniors facing eviction, as well as the long-term consequences of evictions for those who experience them. We consider the salience of precarity as a conceptual frame for understanding eviction, particularly among older adult women, and consider implications related to their characterization as vulnerable and resilient in the face of eviction. The trajectories highlighted in our findings suggest the importance of thinking beyond a singular event or life domain when considering policy or eviction prevention approaches, and we conclude with a discussion of recommendations for targeted and age- and gender-inclusive interventions.

3. The Challenges of Homeless Service Provision and Extreme Weather Response Under Neoliberalism

Adhika Ezra, University of Regina

In Regina, Saskatchewan, the increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events pose a serious risk for people without a shelter. Amid the homelessness crisis, stakeholders involved in homeless governance and extreme weather response encounter numerous challenges in supporting people experiencing homelessness (PEH). These challenges are attributed to the complex nature of crises and the current system they must operate in. I conducted semi-structured interviews with 22 service providers, city officials, and advocates to understand the existing challenges of supporting PEH in Regina. The main challenges identified pertain to capacity, coordination, the shifting nature and the depoliticization of work, and the individualization of services. Service providers are burdened by the shortage of affordable housing and the lack of investment in social services increases their burden. I contextualize these challenges by using the concept of neoliberal governmentality to analyze how service provision is guided by an often taken-for-granted market rationality that determines appropriate ways of framing and supporting PEH. Under neoliberalism, market-based solutions are prioritized even as the marketization of housing exacerbates the crisis. I show the limit of service provision under a system that suppresses solutions that interrupt capital accumulation. Existing forms of homeless governance and extreme weather response in Regina have not been able to address the root causes of homelessness and disasters. This study illustrates the implications of the neoliberal housing system on service providers who must shift the nature of their work, which ultimately harms PEH in general and especially during extreme weather.

4. The Housing Crisis as a Justification Crisis: How Investors Legitimize Their Wealth

Mona Garrel, ENS Paris-Saclay, Université de Montréal

This year, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation predicts that the average cost of an apartment in Montreal will rise by 10%. How, then, can we make sense of what can now be called a housing crisis? Among the many factors driving this surge, one is too often overlooked: the shift in how housing is perceived—not as a basic need, but as a commodity and a lucrative investment opportunity for a select economic elite. William Davies (2024) explores the existential drive for possession among economic elites, who increasingly channel their wealth into financial markets. The investor is a defining figure of contemporary capitalism, and housing offers a prime lens through which to examine the representations of new rentiers. This study explores the phenomenon of multiple property ownership in Montreal and the discourse that morally and economically justifies real estate investment. While property ownership has long been seen as a safe and stable investment, its economic rationale is less straightforward: like savings, real estate wealth is often dismissed by orthodox economics as "dead money". Drawing on recent work in sociology of housing and economics, I ask a fundamental question: how did something as essential as housing come to be treated as just another asset? My analysis is based on roughly twenty semi-structured interviews, as well as an examination of the narratives put forward by multiple property owners and real estate investment coaches in Montreal. I highlight the strategies these actors use to maintain legitimacy in a crisis-ridden market—whether by framing investment as a form of labor or by deflecting criticism. I begin by exploring landlords' relationship to work and how they perceive the Montreal housing market. Finally, I unpack the social construction of real estate profit as legitimate, considering the broader role of political economy in shaping these justifications.

(EQS1) Social Justice and Public Health

Friday, 13 June 2025 @ 3:00pm
Affiliation: CSA Equity Issues Subcommittee

Public health purportedly functions as a system for promoting and protecting the health of communities and improving the well-being of populations. However, as critical scholars and activists have indicated (Berthelot-Raffard, 2022, Mitchell, 2022), it frequently operates to reinscribe oppressive norms and to further marginalize populations who already experience systemic oppression. This session explores the intersections of disability justice and the operation of public health systems and initiatives. Specifically, we look to center the experiences, perspectives, and needs of disabled people, Black and Indigenous people, queer and trans people, fat people, and other marginalized people and groups.

Session Organizers: Kristen Hardy, University of Winnipeg, Jessica Braimoh, York University, Foroogh Mohammadi, Acadia University

Session Chair: Kristen Hardy, University of Winnipeg

Presentations:

1. "A Method to (Migrated) Madness:" Bringing Madness Theory to Migration Studies

Aidan Blockley, University of Alberta

Many authors have analyzed the colonial origins- and effects- of psychiatric practices, forced onto local Indigenous populations across the world (Mills, 2014; Hunt and Büschel, 2024; Chi, 2024).

Many have also brought a decolonial analysis of the whiteness of Mad studies/the racism of psychiatry, with the aim of generating an anti-racist *and* anti-ableist praxis (Pickens, 2019; Gorman, 2013; Voronka, 2013; Tam, 2013). Few, however, have brought a Madness perspective to migration studies. This presentation aims to work through the theory work intended to inform a Master's thesis in Public Health, focusing on the "mental health" and wellbeing of SOGIE migrants in amiskwacîwâskahikan. The presenter attempts to navigate the tension China Mills faced in her research on the colonial nature of psychiatric practices in India- mainly, that the local populations had come to take on the mental health paradigm as their own, in turn, calling Madness studies/critiques of mental health paradigms white knowledge- read, colonial (2014, p. 14). One cannot reject this notion- Madness activism has always been championed by many racialized groups, but white people from the Global North take up the most space within it. And similarly, many newcomer-supporting organizations, and migrants themselves, will profess a belief in the mental health paradigm *as given.* Rather than chauvinistically imposing a Madness studies paradigm, I propose that, for Madness and migration studies to interlock, one must weave through and work within more "traditional" paradigms through a continual practice of critique. This begins with a critique of the Public Health literature on SOGIE migrants, which often calls for research on migrant "mental health." This is followed by measuring, through Madness, critical disability, and postcolonial theory, the sites, forms, and methods where Madness and migration studies are in/commensurable, before giving recommendations for bringing Madness studies to a community-engaged research context.

2. Hidden casualties: COVID-19, MAID, and disability in Canada

Jay Tang and **Katelin Albert,** University of Victoria

We bring insights from a feminist-of-color disability framework (Schalk & Kim, 2020) to rethink two recent concurrent developments in public health: the normalization and dismissal of COVID-19 as a threat, and the expansion in access to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). In Canada, like elsewhere, ongoing COVID-19 related efforts - such as masking, testing, and monitoring infection rates - are framed as unnecessary burdens and nuisances. Meanwhile, Canada is on track to have one of the most permissive MAID programs in the world. While perhaps seemingly unrelated and discrete developments, we argue that they are related and importantly linked in their treatment and disregard for the lives of disabled people. In this presentation, we demonstrate how purposeful debilitation of marginalized communities and devaluation of disabled lives are manifesting in tandem through the contemporary examples of the COVID-19 pandemic and the expansion of access to MAID, resulting in a sinister normalization of disabled death. We begin by scrutinizing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on marginalized communities. Second, we discuss the discourse surrounding COVID-19, and how it has served to further marginalize and devalue those with disabilities. Finally, we argue that the expansion in access to MAID, situated in the understanding of disablement as a deliberate process and contextualized in the COVID-19 pandemic, is representative of increasing acceptance towards and encouragement of the elimination of disabled populations.

3. Advancing Health Equity through Knowledge Mobilization

Tarndeep Pannu and **Karen Soldatic,** CERC in Health Equity and Community Wellbeing

The Canada Excellence Research Chair in Health Equity and Community Wellbeing (CERC HECW) is dedicated to addressing the complex interplay of systemic inequities and social determinants of health through interdisciplinary research and knowledge mobilization. Central to its mission is fostering partnerships that bridge the gap between academia, community organizations, and diverse publics to create actionable insights and drive tangible social impact. This submission highlights a collaborative project between the CERC HECW, Diversity Arts Australia, and the Canada Council for the Arts that emphasizes cultural and racial equity within the creative industries. The project entails the production of two short films showcasing equity-driven initiatives from two Canadian-based arts organizations. These case studies will be profiled on the Creative Equity Toolkit and Diversity Arts Australia platforms and supplemented by a hybrid industry talk connecting the two organizations to health equity, community wellness and the civil society members By focusing on accessible and inclusive knowledge mobilization practices—including multilingual support, ASL interpretation, audio descriptions, and participant compensation—this project embodies CERC HECW's commitment to equity in health and community wellbeing. It also underscores the importance of amplifying marginalized voices, particularly those of BIPOC creators, to challenge systemic barriers and promote health equity. This presentation will discuss the methodology for curating impactful case studies, strategies for building equitable partnerships, and the transformative potential of arts-based approaches to knowledge mobilization and health equity. It will also explore how integrating community voices into research initiatives can drive systemic change, aligning with CERC HECW's vision of interdisciplinary collaboration to address pressing social and health challenges. This session offers valuable lessons for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers working at the intersection of health, equity, and the creative sectors.

4. Exploring the social determinants of health from the perspectives of people with spinal cord injuries

Alfiya Battalova, Royal Roads University; Shreemouna Gurung, Hailey-Thomas Ford, and Habib Chaudhury, Simon Fraser University; Gurkaran Singh and W. Ben Mortenson, University of British Columbia

The social determinants of health (SDOH) is an internationally recognized approach to analyzing the impact of non-medical factors on individual health. However, disability is mostly associated with inherent vulnerability without recognition of the social factors. Instead of a biomedical or the deficit-focused SDOH approach, a more nuanced understanding that brings together the tenets of the social model of disability and a critical conceptualization of embodiment is needed. The goal of this qualitative study is to examine the lived experiences of persons living with spinal cord injury (SCI) in coping and managing their health and functioning and to explore an interaction between their embodied experiences and structural issues that contribute to health and wellbeing of people with spinal cord injuries. A thematic analysis of 30 semi-structured interviews generated three themes that highlighted the tensions between the materiality of disability and the barriers associated with stigma, between the self-management strategies and the healthcare access, and finally between access to the formal supports and the invisible costs of living with a spinal cord injury. By bringing into conversation the fields of public health and critical disability studies, this research juxtaposed the tensions around self-management and structural inequities, the

medicalization of disability and access to medical and clinical care, the social and physical barriers and the embodied experiences. The findings emphasize the need to re-evaluate public health approaches, recognize the linkages between inequalities linked to disability, and incorporate an embodiment lens from a disability justice perspective.

5. Voices of Resilience: Centering Indigenous Perspectives in Healthcare Systems Through A Photovoice Method

Sahar Fazeli, Ka Man Ho, Claudia Mitchell, and Pace Romina, RI-MUHC

Indigenous Peoples in Canada face significant health inequities rooted in systemic barriers tied to colonialism. Fragmented healthcare systems, limited cultural understanding, and discriminatory practices result in delayed or inadequate care. Tragic incidents, such as those involving Joyce Echaquan and Georges-Hervé Awashish, underscore the urgent need to address systemic racism and improve access to equitable healthcare. This study explores the healthcare experiences of Indigenous patients at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), emphasizing their perspectives and recommendations for change. Through a partnership with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB), we used Photovoice and semi-structured interviews to engage 20 patients (aged 40-77) and 11 escorts (aged 18-68) from Waskaganish, Mistissini, Chisasibi, Waswanipi and Whapmagoostui. Thematic and content analysis identified key insights. Participants reported systemic barriers, including neglect, racism, language barriers, and a lack of Indigenous interpreters, leading to negative healthcare experiences, delayed diagnoses and frustration. Feelings of isolation were heightened by geographical separation, financial burdens, and the absence of culturally safe spaces in hospitals. Despite these challenges, positive experiences were noted when healthcare providers listened and engaged respectfully. Family presence and traditional cultural practices were crucial for emotional and spiritual well-being. Participants stressed the need for systemic change, including cultural safety training, integration of interpreters and navigators, and spaces that reflect Indigenous values. This study highlights systemic inequities in healthcare and demonstrates the potential of culturally responsive practices to foster trust and improve outcomes. By amplifying Indigenous voices and fostering academic-community partnerships, the findings contribute to sociological efforts to address social inequities and drive meaningful systemic change.