



University  
of Victoria  
School of Child  
& Youth Care

# Newsletter

Fall 2015



Jennifer White, Director, and Katherine Woodhouse, Academic Administrative Officer, at the Fall convocation 2014

## Letter from the Director:

Jennifer White

Students, faculty, staff, and graduates from the School of Child and Youth Care are collectively committed to improving the lives of children, youth, families, and communities, both locally and globally. One of our distinct strengths as a School is an acknowledgement that multiple, varied, and, at times, contradictory approaches and responses will be necessary if we want to take steps towards a more compassionate and just world for all children, youth and families. Most of us recognize that life in the 21st century involves unprecedented levels of change, complexity and uncertainty.

In our School's history, change is happening at multiple levels. Renewing our curriculum is just one of the ways that we are attempting to make sure our courses equip students with the relevant knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be maximally useful in the lives of children, youth, families, and communities today. Meanwhile, we are in the middle of a hiring process for a new, limited term Assistant Teaching Professor.

We all look forward to welcoming a new colleague to our School. We have also recently launched a Word Press blog, IJCYFSReview, which has been designed to provide an experimental space for lively, critical, and topical conversations related to the fields of childhood, youth, and family studies. Members of the CYC Undergraduate Student Society have been busy organizing themselves for a new academic year. They

recently hosted another successful 'Connect the Dots' event in late October that brought together undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty and staff.

At the same time that we are exploring new opportunities, we are also adjusting to the reality that two of our cherished colleagues, Daniel Scott and Greg Saunders, will be retiring in the summer of 2016. They will both be deeply missed by all of us. As I write this message the leaves have turned a beautiful shade of scarlet, the morning air has a new chill, the days are getting shorter, and the earth tilts on its axis as it makes its way around the sun. And the cycle of change continues.

## Legacy of statelessness for migrant families

Tara Sharpe, The Ring  
<https://ring.uvic.ca/news/legacy-statelessness-migrant-families>

Heartbreaking headlines dominate the news around the world in continuing coverage about the predicament of migrants from Africa, Asia and the Americas seeking lives in new countries. What gets less attention are challenges faced by the millions of families caught up in undocumented migration for temporary work, especially those in the Asia-Pacific region. A new study by UVic researchers points to simple solutions that could have great impact.

Among the growing number of labour migrants worldwide, the stream of undocumented workers from Indonesia to Malaysia and the Middle East is one of the largest, but people know very little about the family experiences of labour migrants.

A two-year pilot study by Dr. Leslie Butt (Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, Dept. of Anthropology) and Dr. Jessica Ball (School of Child and Youth Care), and collaborator Dr. Harriot Beazley (Human Geography, at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia) closely explores the risks of statelessness and other impacts of undocumented parent migration in South-east Asia on the children who are either left behind, carried along, or born while mothers are working overseas.

The research focuses on parental decisions about registering the births of children, and the difficulties that families on the move confront when seeking birth documentation for their children.

## Statelessness' is a multi-generational pattern

Birth registration is the first step towards citizenship. "And the process can be unnecessarily and prohibitively complex," explains Ball. Lack of birth registration is often part of a multigenerational legacy of statelessness. Many children of parents who migrate for work lack citizenship in any country because their parents lack sufficient documentation and resources to prove their child's right to citizenship, even when they are born in Indonesia.

"Unless steps are taken to simplify birth registration procedures and to make it more accessible to parents who are poor, rural and moving across borders for work, inequities between children who are citizens and non-citizens will endure," says Ball.

"There is a high degree of precarity. We could argue that the most vulnerable populations in the world are children born to mothers out of country and out of wedlock, and children who are vulnerable are more likely to be trafficked."



Melati (on the left) and her family. Permissions provided for photos; image courtesy of Dr. Ball.

"And there just hasn't been the research on parent choices and decisions," points out Butt.

By talking to migrant parents of stateless children about their experiences with birth registration and their goals for family cohesion and quality of life, the researchers learned of challenges and solutions to birth registration from the participants themselves..

The insights from the UVic-led study, "Stateless Children, Parents, and Undocumented Migration: An Indonesian Pilot Study," identify strategies to help migrant families to establish children's identity documentation.

### One child's story

Those participants included Melati's family. The father of 15-year-old Melati (pictured above) left for work in Malaysia before she was born and, as a result, her mother was not able to register her birth. Melati's father eventually returned to their village with a new wife and two young sons and, by then, Melati had a new father figure—the man her mother met when she was forced to migrate overseas herself to earn money to support her family. Melati lived with her grandmother while her mother was away.



*Ball (on the right) with community members in Indonesia during the two-year study. Permissions provided for photos; image courtesy of Dr. Ball.*

She told the researchers that soon she too will have to seek work overseas: because she has no documentation, she couldn't enroll in secondary schools and has no job skills. Without a birth certificate, she can't apply for a passport, and will migrate without documentation, becoming exposed to dangerous migration, work and living conditions overseas. This pathway is common among rural Indonesian families who must travel far from home in unsafe conditions to find a livelihood.

"Migration destabilizes family unity," says Butt, "and migration is often the family's last choice. Virtually every person we spoke to would prefer to stay home, not migrate. This is the first study to talk to parents of stateless children and to learn from their insights about their reasons and experiences with registering their children."

The study found that mothers lack the social position and resources to complete the birth registration process.

With many fathers forced to find work overseas before their child's birth, the birth registration process needs to be simplified so that mothers and even grandparents (who often care for children of migrant parents) can successfully complete the process themselves.

### Pathways to citizenship for all children

Another one of the study's recommendations is for a greatly simplified and no-cost birth registration process to be integrated in the network of widely used government birthing clinics and primary health care programs in local villages.

"Multigenerational statelessness amplifies the risks to safety, health and quality of life of children who are already vulnerable," Ball says. "The global push to ensure every child's right to an officially documented name and nationality needs to consider the limited resources and access to birth registration in families who are constantly on the move."

"At the same time, some families may prefer to remain undocumented and beyond the reach of government surveillance. Research that encompasses diverse family perspectives can identify pathways to citizenship for all children."

"We need to move away from place-based thinking," adds Butt. "With so many families on the move in the global era, birth registration policies will need to adapt. Family needs come first, and Indonesia can take a leadership role in making birth registration easy for all families."

### Next steps

In December 2015, both researchers will return to Indonesia to help the partner organizations such as UNICEF, PLAN and Save the Children explore ideas and apply the UVic research to possible strategic initiatives in that country.

The two-year study was supported through CAPI and by a 2013 Insight Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



*CYC undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff at the Connect the Dots 3.*



*CYC graduate students in their CYC 552 Ethics in Practice course: Connie Antonsen, Patrick Murphy, Beth Clark (UBC), Kainaz Cowasjee, Parker Croshaw, Angela Scott, Chris Goodman, Emily Coon, Alex Berry, Chris Bennett, Stephanie Hayes*

## Critical Suicidology Transforming Suicide Research and Prevention for the 21st Century

Edited by: Jennifer White, Ian Marsh, Michael Kral and Jonathan Morris

Traditional ways of understanding and preventing suicide are not working for everyone. In *Critical Suicidology*, a team of international scholars, practitioners, and people directly affected by suicide argue that the field of suicidology has become too focused on the biomedical paradigm: a model that pathologizes distress and obscures the social, political, and historical contexts that contribute to human suffering. The authors take a critical look at existing research, introduce the perspectives of those who have direct personal knowledge of suicide and suicidal behaviour, and propose alternative approaches that are creative and culturally sensitive. In the right hands, this book could save lives.

Release Date: 12/8/2015 ISBN: 9780774830294  
[http://www.ubcpublishing.ca/search/title\\_book.asp?BookID=299174997](http://www.ubcpublishing.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299174997)

## Child and Youth Care Students' Society (CYCSS) Fall 2015 Report

Angie Gray (Director)

The air is crisp, the leaves have fallen, and the CYC undergraduate students are tucked away in cozy corners tapping out the final pages of the semester. As we look forward to a break in our studies we look back on a bustling and energized fall semester with the CYCSS! Our general meeting attendance continues to grow as students become more engaged in the Students' Society.

In October, we co-hosted our now well-established "Connecting the Dots" event with the SCYC. Over 70 attendees enjoyed lunch, laughs, and a competitive bingo

scavenger hunt that got people mixing and mingling like never before! Special thanks to our project leads, Lauren Askew and Mia Angus, for their leadership on this event.

This year's CYCSS hoodies have been designed, marketed, and ordered! This year's design sports the CYCSS tree logo on a full zip hoodie. The order should arrive early December and will be available for pick up on campus for local students and will be mailed (shipping included!) to distance students.

The CYCSS bake sale team led by Lexi Iulianella and Laura Weston hosted two successful bake sales this fall raising \$245 to help fund CYCSS activities and convocation gifts. Thank you to the whole team for all of your organizing and hard work!



*Heather Alison, Meadow Dykes, Angie Gray, Olivia Kaehn*

Inspired and organized by our second year rep Emily Hellard, the CYCSS hosted our first "Practicum Sharing Tea and Talk". Students, who had completed practicums in a variety of different settings, came and shared their experiences with a small group of curious students. Feedback from students has been very positive, and we will host this event again in the spring.

This year has brought us another group of inspired and connected CYC student representatives to gather feedback for SCYC Director, Dr. Jennifer White. Jennifer will meet with students representatives in December to continue this collaborative relationship as the new curriculum for the School is being developed. Please direct you student feedback to your year rep, distance rep, or Indigenous rep; whomever you feel will best represent you! Their bios and contact information can be found on course spaces.

Congratulations to all of the November CYC graduates on their convocation! The SCYC and CYCSS collaborated again on a card and gift for our grads. The mugs and cards were much appreciated, and will be proudly displayed on desks and in homes as our alumni transition into the professional CYC world!



*Congratulations to our BCYC graduates! June 2015 convocation.*



*Congratulations to our PhD graduates! L to R: Jennifer White, Director; Fikile Nxumalo, Deborah Thompson, Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, Professor; Denise Hodgins, Jessica Ball, Professor*



*MA graduate Yupe (Summer) Xia with her parents and Jennifer White, Director; and Jessica Ball, Professor*

## Student Awards

The school would like to extend congratulations to the following graduate award winners:

### SSHRC:

Elisabeth Tilstra, MA

### UVic Graduate Awards:

Thais Amorim, PhD  
 Christopher Bennett, MA  
 Alex Berry, MA  
 Stephanie Brockett, PhD  
 Anastasia Butcher, MA  
 Kierstyn Butler, MA  
 Anna Chadwick, MA  
 Khama Chibwana, PhD  
 Emily Coon, MA  
 Julia Cox, MA  
 Parker Croshaw, MA  
 Andrea Felix, MA  
 Chris Goodman, MA  
 Shemine Gulamhusein, PhD  
 Yael Heffer, MA  
 Nicole Land, PhD  
 Amarens Matthiesen, MA  
 Jenny McGrath, PhD  
 Wesley McVey, MA  
 Erin Mirau, MA  
 Patrick Murphy, MA  
 Sydnie Nauss, MA  
 Narda Nelson, MA  
 Stephen Neuman, MA  
 Jessica Sahlstrom, MA  
 Catherine Taylor, MA  
 Jenny Thomson, MA  
 Elisabeth Tilstra, MA  
 Mattie Walker, MA  
 Kerry-Lynn Weatherhead, MA

### President's Research Award:

Scott Kouri, PhD

### Agnes Shahariw Memorial Scholarship:

Erin Mirau, MA  
 Emily Coon, MA

### Alexander and Helen Stafford MacCarthy Muir Graduate Scholarship:

Scott Kouri, PhD

The school would like to extend congratulations to the following undergraduate award winners:

### Alexander and Helen Stafford MacCarthy Muir Scholarship:

Janelle Northey

### Artes Y. Letras Scholarship:

Emily Hellard

### BC Child and Youth Care Services Association Award:

Annika Benoit-Jansson

### Child and Family Counselling Association of Greater Victoria Scholarship:

Jasmine Thandi

### Darlene Scott Scholarship:

Angelina Gray

### Chuck Curtis Memorial Award:

Deanna Kenward

### Council of International Schools Scholarship:

Dechen Lama

### General Undergraduate Scholarship:

Angelina Gray

### Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award:

Daniele Goulet  
 Warda Ibrahim

### John Locke Malkin Entrance Scholarship Renewal:

Derek Wilson

### Matthew Cowan Annual Scholarship:

Jasmine Thandi

### Percy H. Elliot Memorial Scholarship:

Deanna Kenward

### President's Scholarship:

Annika Benoit-Jansson  
 Randi Gammack  
 Angelina Gray  
 Deanna Kenward  
 Alexandra Richardson  
 Jasmine Thandi  
 Danielle Thebault

### President's Entrance Scholarship:

Rebecca Steel

### Robert and Norah Wallace Commemorative Scholarship:

Janelle Northey

### Robert S. Evans Memorial Scholarship in CYC:

Nathaniel Demetrius

### Sharyl Yore Award:

Karen Lim

### T.S. McPherson Entrance Scholarship

Angela Beddome

### Tolmie-Wood Scholarship:

Mikara Pettman

### Tsi'tsu'wu'tul Award:

Marie Morris

### UVic Excellence Scholarship Renewal:

Nathaniel Demetrius  
 Alexandra Harrison  
 Emily Hellard

### UVic Transfer Scholarship:

Narisse Christensen  
 Megan Currie  
 Alyssa Gallant  
 Zachary Johnston  
 Kira Peck  
 Amber Rowse-Simmons  
 Jana Schulz  
 Melissa Steinke

### UVic Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship:

Zoe Hannah Barnhardt  
 Margaret Birch  
 Stephanie Cogswell  
 Alexandra Ferguson  
 Tara Lewis

## Upcoming Events 2016

**CYC Alumni Reception**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**  
**Fireplace Lounge, University Club**

Visit our website "**News & Events**"  
 to stay current with SCYC.