

*Mental Health and Chronic Disease*. Webinar presented by the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7tnuLYZLQs>

5. Slaunwhite, A. K. (2011, July). *The 'Contested Nature of Madness' and Mental Health Geography: Defining Mental Illness in Mental Health Geography Research and Implications for Research Design*. International Medical Geography Symposium. Durham, United Kingdom.

### **Publications**

1. Slaunwhite, A.K., Macdonald, S. Primary health care utilization for alcohol-attributed diseases in British Columbia. (Submitted, *BMC Health Services Research*).
2. Slaunwhite, A.K., Macdonald, S. Alcohol, Isolation and Access to Treatment: Family Physician Experiences of Alcohol Consumption and Access to Health Care in Rural British Columbia. (Submitted, *Journal of Rural Health*).
3. Slaunwhite, A.K., Macdonald, S. The Role of Income and Gender in Predicting Barriers to Mental Health Care in Canada, (Under revision, *Community Mental Health Journal*).
4. Slaunwhite, A.K. (2013). Staying Mindful: Lived Experience and Mental Health Care Reform in Canada. *Health Science Inquiry*.
5. Jeffries, V., Slaunwhite, A.K., et al., (2013). *Collaborative Care for Mental Health and Substance Use Issues in Primary Health Care: Overview of Reviews and Narrative Summaries*. Mental Health Commission of Canada. Ottawa:



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

## **PROGRAMME**

The Final Oral Examination  
for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
(Department of Geography)

### **Amanda Slaunwhite**

2009  
2006

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#### **“Alcohol Related Harm and Primary Health Care in British Columbia, Canada”**

Wednesday, December 3, 2014  
1:00PM

Technology Enterprise Facility, room 264

#### Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Michael Hayes, Department of Geography, University of  
Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Scott Macdonald, School of Health Information Science, UVic  
(Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Denise Cloutier, Department of Geography, UVic (Member)

#### External Examiner:

Dr. Nancy Ross, Department of Geography,  
McGill University

#### Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Cecilia Benoit, Department of Sociology, UVic

## **Abstract**

In recent years there has been a renewed focus on reducing the harms of addictive substances such as alcohol while at the same time restraining or reducing health care costs. To address these issues, and many of the existing limitations in the literature, the purpose of this dissertation was to improve our understanding of the geography of alcohol-related harm, and use of primary health care services for alcohol-attributed diseases in British Columbia (BC). To achieve this purpose, there were three research objectives that guided the research that comprises this dissertation: Objective 1: Measure regional variations and trends in primary health care utilization in BC for alcohol-attributed diseases across time (2001-2011) and space (Health Service Delivery Areas) (Studies A & D); Objective 2: Describe primary health care physician experiences treating persons with alcohol-attributed diseases in rural communities that are isolated and sparsely populated with minimal access to secondary or tertiary level services (Study B), and Objective 3: Develop a methodology to describe the geography of alcohol-related harm in BC to identify regions that have populations who may have elevated risk for the development of alcohol-attributed diseases (Study C). Administrative health data were used in Studies A and D to examine trends in health care utilization by persons with alcohol-attributed diseases from 2001-2011 based on disease type and geography (Health Services Delivery Areas). Building on these results, Study B examines family physician experiences treating persons with alcohol-related issues in rural places. To further understand regional variations in alcohol-related issues, an index of alcohol-related harm (Study C) was created using a variety of data that are correlated to alcohol-related problems at the population level, including morbidity, mortality, and alcohol consumption data.

The results of this dissertation research highlight regional variations in alcohol-related harm and primary health care use for alcohol-related illnesses – as well as significant growth in alcohol-attributed disease cases in BC since 2001. These findings demonstrate the importance of where we live to risk of

developing alcohol-attributed diseases and access to treatment. The results of this dissertation suggest that less populated areas of BC are disproportionately affected by alcohol-related problems and there are additional barriers to care for persons from rural areas. Based on the increasing number of alcohol-attributed disease cases, and the large regional variations in alcohol-related harm found in this project, alcohol-related health problems are an emerging and significant population health challenge for BC.

## **Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships**

- 2014 Island Health Scholarship
- 2010 CIHR Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award
- 2010 Western Regional Training Centre for Health Services & Policy Research Training Award

## **Presentations**

1. Slaunwhite, A.K. (2014, February). *Building Collaborations Across Campus: Research, KE and Lived Experience*. Healthy Minds, Healthy Campuses Conference. Vancouver, BC.
2. Slaunwhite, A.K. (2012, September). *Reclaiming the Lived Experience and Public Policy*. 16<sup>th</sup> Emerging New Researchers in the Geography of Health and Impairment Conference. University College London. London, United Kingdom.
3. Slaunwhite, A. K., Jeffries, V., Wallace, N., Casey, D., & Ganshorn, H. (2012, May). *Mapping the pathways linking mental health and chronic disease: Preliminary results of a systematic review of behavioral and psychosocial risk factors*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR). Montreal, Quebec.
4. Slaunwhite, A. K., Jeffries, V., Wallace, N., Casey, D., & Ganshorn, H. (2012, March). *Exploring the Links Between*