



University
of Victoria

Human & Social
Development

Community Research Matters @ HSD

Bringing learning to life.



Addressing priorities for a healthy society

Welcome to the first edition of Community Research Matters @ HSD (Human and Social Development). This publication outlines just a few of the many exceptional community research projects and initiatives underway within our Faculty.

In the Faculty of Human and Social Development we bring learning to life through community research partnerships that make a difference. We learn together about the challenges that people confront in today's world and the successes they achieve as they apply their own local knowledge and ingenuity to those challenges.

Research informs our educational programs. Students benefit from our community based research projects through practicum and co-op work experiences and through academic programs that provide students with opportunities to contribute to the health of society, working with people across the life-span. Our distance programs provide access to higher education for students who can learn while continuing to play an important role in their own communities across BC, Canada and around the world.

We are leading the way on new and emerging health research, community based research, in our work with Indigenous communities and building new programs that contribute to the strength of communities by addressing priorities in the areas of public health, community development and health information technology.

It has been an exciting year of recognition within the Faculty that is well warranted.

Please take note of our award highlights, our celebrated book gallery and our many engaging research initiatives taking place in a community near you. We are driven by a desire to improve our world—come join us in our mission. We welcome your comments or questions at hsdresearchmatters@uvic.ca.



Mary Ellen Purkis
Dean, Faculty of Human and Social Development



Research highlights

Here are some of the community research themes we are currently exploring at HSD:

- New and emerging health research
- Indigenous communities and collaborations
- How governments and non-profits work
- Social justice and dispute resolution
- Health Informatics and new technology
- The social health and welfare of children, families and communities
- Interpretations of practice and social policy
- Marginalized populations
- International collaborations and education

Watch for the developments and impacts of our upcoming community research projects in the next publication or visit our website at www.hsd.uvic.ca/research

The Faculty of Human and Social Development respectfully acknowledges the Coast Salish and Straits Salish peoples on whose traditional lands our university resides; we respect their ancestors, ceremonies and beliefs.

Awards and recognition highlights

Dr. Jessica Ball (Child and Youth Care) 2009 Academic of the Year Award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations (CUFA) and is the 2009 recipient of the Craigdarroch Award for Research Communications. Ball is an internationally recognized expert in Aboriginal child health and is committed to bringing research evidence into the policy decision-making process.

Dr. Marge Reitsma-Street (Studies in Policy and Practice) 2009 recipient of the National Dick Wieler Award from the Canadian Council on Social Development. The award is presented annually to acknowledge and honour exceptional contributions to community and social development in Canada.

Doctoral student, **Janet Newbury** (Child and Youth Care) is a 2009 recipient of the prestigious Canadian Vanier Scholarship for her research on service delivery and social justice for children and families.

Dr. Jeff Reading (Human and Social Development) received the 2008 National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the field of health. He recently completed an eight-year term as the inaugural scientific director of the UVic-based Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health.

Dr. John Langford (Public Administration) 2009 Pierre De Celles Award for excellence in teaching in public administration from the Institute of Public Administration in Canada.

Dr. Elaine Gallagher (Nursing) 2009 recipient of the Victoria Leadership Awards in the category of University of Victoria Community Leadership which recognizes exemplary leadership in linking UVic and the community for greater public benefit and received the 2008 CUFA academic of the year award.

Dr. Alan Pence (Child and Youth Care) appointed UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Care, Education and Development. For years Pence has researched and advocated for improving educational opportunities and training for early childhood development leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa and has created the Early Childhood Development Virtual University (ECDVU).

Professor Denis Protti (Health Information Science) 2008 recipient of the COACH (Canada's Health Informatics Association) Leadership Award in the field of Health Informatics. He is the founding director of Canada's only school of health information science and is an internationally recognized leader in the advancement of health informatics.

Bob de Faye (Public Administration) The University of Victoria's Distinguished Alumni Award 2009

Professor David Turner (Social Work) 2008 National Social Work Week Distinguished Service Award for BC.

Dr. Jeff Corntassel (Indigenous Governance) 2008 recipient of the HSD Award for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Michael Prince (Studies in Policy and Practice) received the President's Award from the Canadian Association for Community Living, a Canada-wide association working for the benefit of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability.

Dr. Sibylle Artz (Child and Youth Care) 2008 recipient of the Victoria Leadership Awards in the category of University of Victoria Community Leadership which recognizes exemplary leadership in linking UVic and the community for greater public benefit.

Dr. Irving Rootman (Human and Social Development) awarded fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences which recognizes fundamental science to social science to population health.

Drs. Karen MacKinnon, Jessie Mantle, Jan Storch and Betty Davies (Nursing) were recipients of the 2008 Canadian Nursing Association Centennial award. The 100 awards were created to honour exceptional registered nurses whose work has had a positive impact on nursing and on the lives and health of Canadians.

“Canada is really regarded as having one of the best statistical agencies in the world. That is their reputation – this study will look for the evidence.”

Governance Challenges for National Statistical Agencies

If a national statistics agency produced data that made the government look bad, what might be the result? After all, it is the government that funds the agency, and it might be less than happy with the results. **Dr. Cosmo Howard's** (Public Administration) three-year study will examine issues of autonomy and technology in the national statistical agencies of Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada to explore which organization has managed to achieve the best compromise between independence and responsiveness. According to Howard's preliminary research, statistical agencies around the world are responding to these challenges in very different ways.



Snow Drifters

Master's student **Ann Rose Kerkovius** (Social Work) was born in an igloo in Kugluktuk, Nunavut. She lived a nomadic life as a child travelling with her family by dogsled. Her Master's thesis entitled 'Snow Drifters: Homeless Men in Rankin Inlet' provided research themes defining homelessness, sleeping locations, stigmatization, addictions and mental health, sadness/isolation/loss of identity, and positive attitudes leading to action. Because of overcrowded living conditions in the Arctic, homelessness is often hidden and disguised. Her aim was to acknowledge that homelessness exists in the Arctic, get the community involved in finding solutions and work towards building a homeless shelter for men.

“The voices of the people most directly affected by homelessness must be taken into consideration because as Inuit we are taught to care for those in need – ‘Ilaginniq’ (kinship)”



Indigenous Child Welfare
Research Network

A BC Strategy for Strengthening
the Voices of our Children



Personalizing Politics

Dr. Catherine Althaus (Public Administration) has some advice for you if you're a senior bureaucrat or a lobbyist: Get to know the personal aspects of the cabinet minister or other politician you are attempting to influence. Find out about their previous experiences and the things that have shaped their lives. The notion of getting to know your minister is just one of the findings of Althaus' recent research on political risk, summarized in her 2008 book, *Calculating Risk*. While risk is well-researched in history, math, linguistics, religion, philosophy and the arts, Althaus' book is the first-ever to examine the concept from the viewpoint of public administration and political science.

“In order to calculate the political risk of a decision you have to know the personal dimensions of the politician.”

Strengthening the Voices of our Children

The Faculty of Human and Social Development has launched the Indigenous Child Welfare Research Network that brings together BC researchers, practitioners and communities to support Indigenous child and family well-being. The network's aim is to ensure the lives of Indigenous children throughout BC are nurtured, strengthened and enriched through traditional teachings, stories and child welfare practices relevant to BC's diverse Indigenous cultures. For more information visit web.uvic.ca/icwr.

In the Footsteps of our Ancestors

Dr. Waziyatawin (Indigenous Governance) is an historian who studies how settler societies have impacted Indigenous societies and how Indigenous nations can recover their traditional values. Waziyatawin is a Wahpetunwan Dakota from southwestern Minnesota and is UVic's Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples.

Her research interests include Indigenous women and the struggle for social justice, the recovery of Indigenous knowledge, and truth-telling and reparative justice.

“Through years of collaboration with Indigenous Peoples in Canada and elsewhere, UVic has become a North American leader in research related to governance and developing an understanding of how to redress the ways that Indigenous Peoples have been historically treated by the rest of society,” says Dr. Howard Brunt, UVic's Vice-President of Research. “This Canada Research Chair builds on those strengths.”



“What drew me to the Indigenous Governance program is the intellectual commitment to Indigenous liberation and its dedication to personal decolonization and social action.”

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Aboriginal Health Research

Dr. Jeff Reading (Human and Social Development) is an award winning national leader in Aboriginal health research and is currently the co-director of the centre for Aboriginal health research at UVic. His research addresses chronic disease and mental health, traditional medicine, nutrition and research ethics.

“Our job is to bring Aboriginal communities and researchers closer together to find strategies that improve health.”



Putting the Public in Healthcare

Associate Professor **Dr. Marjorie MacDonald** (Nursing) renowned expert in population and public health has been awarded a Chair in Public Health Education and Population Intervention Research by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Public Health Agency of Canada. MacDonald's research focuses on three streams—an analysis of the impact of the Core Public Health Functions Framework in BC; studies related to adolescent health promotion in the areas of health literacy and adolescent smoking; and research related to advanced practice nursing in public health. The objectives of the Chair are to provide high quality focused programs and policy with national relevance to public health and to mentor the next generation of public health practitioners, policy makers and researchers. For more information visit web.uvic.ca/~cphfri.

“With our program of research we intend to increase the capacity of decision makers to use evidence to advance public health policy and practice so that ultimately the health of the population is improved.”



The Family and Palliative Care

Professor and senior scholar, **Dr. Betty Davies** (Nursing) brings her expertise in palliative care to a comprehensive program of research and scholarship in UVic's school of nursing. Her research interests include issues related to death, dying and bereavement, with a particular focus on siblings, mothers, fathers and family units in pediatric palliative care. Renowned internationally, Davies contributes further to the recognition of the school as a major centre for nursing scholarship, leadership and education.



Focus on Healthy Sexuality

Associate Professor **Dr. Charlotte Reading** (Human and Social Development) and an affiliated researcher with the UVic Centre for Aboriginal Health Research is renowned for her work in the area of sexual and reproductive health of Aboriginal women. She has published in the areas of Aboriginal health, social determinants of health, cultural competence, cancer among Aboriginal peoples, Aboriginal HIV/AIDS, Aboriginal ethics and research capacity building. Reading is involved at the national level as Chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health - Aboriginal Health Research Network Secretariat, Co-Chair of the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity - Community-Based HIV Research Steering Committee. Her popular course entitled *Healthy Sexuality* will be offered at UVic starting this fall.



“ We want to know what factors enhance or impede relationships between sex workers and their extended families as these women transition off the street. ”

Someone's Mother, Sister or Daughter

Professor **Robina Thomas, Dr. Jeannine Carrière, Dr. Susan Strega** (Social Work) and Associate Dean of Research, **Dr. Leslie Brown** will be examining the relationships between survival/street sex workers and their families and how these relationships impact the process of transitioning out of street sex work. The project will work with sex worker community agencies in western Canadian cities that have significant numbers of these workers. Given that the majority of survival/street sex workers are Indigenous the research is sensitized to this fact and its impacts. The project will also analyze recent media coverage about street sex workers and their families and consider how these discourses impact family relationships and affect the transition.

Photo (left to right): Dusti Foster, PEERS BC, Social Work professors Jeannine Carrière, Susan Strega, Leslie Brown and research assistants Jeannie Morgan and Caitlin Janzen

Winning Research Benefits Children

PhD student **Janet Newbury** (Child and Youth Care) has been awarded the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for doctoral students. Newbury's research project, "Contextualizing Care: Alternatives to the Individuation of Struggles and Support" will focus on how an emphasis on social justice might alter Canadian approaches to helping children and families.

"If contributing to the well-being of children and families is the goal, then perhaps addressing inequitable social conditions is a good place to start."



“ Sleeping outside and having no place to call home have major consequences for a person’s physical, emotional and mental health. ”

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

Dr. Bernie Pauly (Nursing) co-leads a research team working in collaboration with the Victoria Cool Aid Society and the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria to evaluate the effectiveness of transitional shelters in Victoria and the impact of those shelters on breaking the cycle of homelessness. Fostering and nurturing external partnerships with community groups, local and provincial governments, and key social service agencies within research projects related to addressing local and national realities are central to finding long-term strategies that can end homelessness in our own community and help benefit other communities.

Photo (left to right): Ted Hughes, Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Dr. Bernie Pauly, Nursing and Dr. Budd Hall, UVic Office of Community Based Research



“Canada’s drug scholars are renowned throughout the world and at home for their thoughtful, balanced and relevant research and policy analysis.”

Attention Mr. Prime Minister

In response to Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s new legislation that will see mandatory minimum sentences for growing marijuana (Bill C- 26), reduced funding for harm reduction and increased funding for police enforcement, **Dr. Susan Boyd** (Studies in Policy and Practice) launched the “Educating Harper” website www.educatingharper.com. Each week for one year Boyd sent the Prime Minister hard copy readings on harm reduction and drug policy. The website provides easy access to well-researched and peer reviewed papers, reports and documentaries on the importance of harm reduction—the use of interventions designed to reduce societal and individual harms associated with drug use and drug prohibition.



Tseshaht Nation member Willard Gallic 1975



Training Portal a First in Canada

Patient records are going digital, and research in the School of Health Information Science is helping to ease the transition for health professionals. Health information scientists, **Drs. Kushniruk** and **Borycki** head up a team of researchers who are educating our newest doctors and nurses about the new technology, and pre-testing the different systems available. The research has led to the design and implementation of an Electronic Health Record (EHR) Educational Portal, which houses a number of working electronic health record systems that can be remotely accessed by students from anywhere in the world over the web.

Photo (left to right): Dr. Elizabeth Borycki, consulting specialist Brian Armstrong and Dr. Andre Kushniruk

“Most students never experience working with electronic health records until they are employed in the health care field. The training portal helps prepare them for their practice.”

Honouring Oral Histories

Working closely with the Tseshaht First Nation, **Dr. Jeff Corntassel's** (Indigenous Governance) research project will follow-up with participants of the 1975 inaugural meeting of the World Council on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP). The aim is to collect an oral history focused on understanding what influence this global gathering may have had on contemporary strategies for regeneration in Indigenous communities. Together with Tseshaht First Nation, on whose traditional territories (now Port Alberni) the assembly was held, WCIP attendees and Tseshaht youth will be interviewed to understand the legacy of this event. The digitally recorded files will remain the property of Tseshaht and will be borrowed by IGOV for use in the core course “Indigenous Peoples and Self Determination”. The intention of this project is to create a space for honouring oral histories and reconnecting these histories with IGOV students seeking to regenerate their communities through language use, oral traditions, ceremonial life, and homeland ties.

Changing Workplace Values

In her PhD dissertation **Thea Vakil**, adjunct associate professor (Public Administration) explored the role of language in managing change. She analyzed the provincial government's radical reforms introduced by the BC Liberals in 2001 as they attempted to shift traditional bureaucratic work values to new, private sector based values such as innovation, entrepreneurship and risk taking. Her research shows that following this Public Service Renewal Program, public servants continued to prefer and practice traditional values. While the BC government desired the public service to adopt new work values it was not evident how potential conflicts between traditional and new values should be resolved.

“The traditional bureaucratic culture consists of experiences, and deeply held beliefs and values that may take decades to change.”

“ The aim of our research is to engage the health care community to help us create and use new knowledge systems that focus on adding value to patient care and safety. ”



eHealth Observatory Addresses Patient Care

Dr. Francis Lau (Health Information Science) heads up the eHealth Observatory as the new Applied eHealth Chair co-sponsored by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Canada Health Infoway. The aim of the eHealth Observatory is to monitor the effects of health information system deployment in Canada and to serve as a laboratory where researchers employing innovative health information science methodologies can evaluate the effects of the electronic health information system throughout the entire lifecycle. From requirements, deployment, and use, to adaptation—new knowledge will be shared to help advance the field of Health Information Science and build capacity through education and training. For more information visit ehealth.uvic.ca.

Disease and Rehabilitation

Drs Su-Er Guo and **Anne Bruce** (Nursing) are working on a mixed-methods research project to better understand the population of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and their adherence to pulmonary rehabilitation programs with a particular emphasis on sex and gender-related differences in coping strategies. Ultimately the researchers hope to contribute to the improved health and wellbeing of this vulnerable population through developing a better understanding of the factors affecting patients' program adherence. This project involves collaboration between UVic's School of Nursing and the Fraser Health Authority, with data collection taking place at four Greater Vancouver sites including two hospitals, one community health clinic and the Surrey YMCA. The team will report preliminary findings in the fall of 2009.

Engaging Youth

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Canadian youth ages 15–19 with many more young people engaging in non-fatal suicidal behaviours each year. **Dr. Jennifer White** and MA student **Jonathan Morris** (Child and Youth Care) have been conducting a case study of a school-based suicide prevention program in Vancouver to better understand how these programs get planned and implemented. “Youth most often communicate their distress to their peers and so it makes sense to reach out to youth regarding recognition of suicidal behaviours,” says Morris. Preliminary findings suggest the need for an educational approach that invites students and educators to consider multiple meanings that may be relevant when examining suicide, prevention, ethics, care, community and justice.

“Students have relevant ideas about suicide and how to prevent it and we need to listen and learn from them.”

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

An estimated 65,000 children in Canada are being raised by grandparents without the parent in the home—and, until now, without any legal guidance. Professor **Barb Whittington** (Social Work) and the Parent Support Services of BC developed Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Legal Guide. It is the first guidebook of its kind in Canada and helps grandparents understand and navigate the legal complexities involved in raising grandchildren. The project team consulted with grandparents, social workers, service providers, lawyers and judges and was funded by the Law Foundation of BC and three provincial ministries. All the BC public libraries have copies ordered and requests are pouring in from all the Canadian provinces and territories.

Photo (left to right): Social work professor Barb Whittington and Kirsten Holten UVic law student.



“Grandparents will still face confusing legal questions and government policies but with this guide in hand they will be able to navigate the legal system more easily, get the help they need, and more fully embrace the joy of raising their grandkids.”



MA Student Jonathan Morris and Dr. Jennifer White

We are thankful for the generous support of our donors

Jocelyn Rodrigue, (Nursing) recipient of the Ultan Patrick Byrne Family Education Bursary Trust Fund says: “This award has been of significant assistance in lightening the burden of paying for my tuition. As a single mother of three this bursary motivates me to continue to strive for excellence and upon completion of the nursing program I plan to specialize in emergency room nursing.”

For more information about how you can assist our students see our Donors and Scholarships page www.hsd.uvic.ca/donors/index.php

For more information contact Lynne Milnes, Development Officer at lmilnes@uvic.ca or 250-472-5031.

Help other students realize their dream.



Our Celebrated Book Gallery

Child and Youth Care

"Africa's Future, Africa's Challenge: Early Childhood Care and development in Sub-Saharan Africa", World Bank Publications 2008; Editors; Marito Garcia, Alan Pence, Judith Evans. Alan Pence, Child and Youth Care

"Standing on the Precipice: Inquiry into the potential of child and youth care practice", MacEwan press 2008, co-editors Gerald Bellefeuille and Francis Ricks. Francis Ricks, Child and Youth Care

"British Columbia Atlas of Wellness", UBC Press 2008, by Les Foster and C. Peter Keller. Les Foster, Child and Youth Care.

Health Information Science

"Human, Social, and Organization aspects of Health Information Systems", IGI Global 2008, by Andre Kushniruk and Elizabeth Borycki, Health Information Science

Indigenous Governance

"Peace, Power and Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto", 2nd edition Oxford University Press 2009; by Taiaike Alfred, Indigenous Governance

"What Does Justice Look Like? : The Struggle for liberation in Dakota homeland", Living Justice Press 2008; by Waziyatawin, Indigenous Governance

"Forced Federalism: Contemporary changes to Indigenous Nationhood", University of Oklahoma Press 2008; by Jeff Corntassel, Indigenous Governance

Nursing

"Realities of Canadian Nursing: Professional Practice and Power Issues", Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; Third Edition 2009; by Marjorie McIntyre and Carol McDonald, Nursing

Public Administration

"Contested Federalism: Certainty and Ambiguity in the Canadian Federation", Oxford University Press 2009, by Herman Bakvis, Public Administration

"Canadian Federalism: Performance, Effectiveness and Legitimacy", Oxford University Press 2008, by Herman Bakvis, Public Administration

"Calculating Political Risk", Earthscan publications 2009, by Catherine Althaus, Public Administration

Social Work

"Walking this Path Together", Fernwood Publishing 2009, by Jeannine Carrière & Susan Strega, Social Work

Studies in Policy and Practice

"Raise Shit! Social Action Saving Lives", Fernwood Publishing 2009, by Susan Boyd, Donald MacPherson and Bud Osborne. Susan Boyd, Studies in Policy and Practice.

"Absent Citizens: Disability Politics and Policy in Canada", University of Toronto Press 2009, by Michael Prince, Studies in Policy and Practice

"Contesting Illness: Processes and Practices", University of Toronto Press 2008, Edited by Pamela Moss and Katherine Teghtsoonian, Studies in Policy and Practice.



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