

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO HOMELESSNESS

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022
8:30AM - 4:30PM



The workshop is taking place on land within the Between the Lakes Purchase (Treaty 3); the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. It is recognized that the Anishinnabe and Hodinöhsö:ni' peoples have unique, long-standing and on-going relationships with the land and each other and that the Attawandaron people are part of the archaeological record.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Workshop at a Glance	pg 2
Workshop Overview	pg 3
Panel 1: Media and Communication Strategies	pg 4
Panel 2: Street Outreach & Collaborative Responses from a Human Rights Lens	pg 5
Panel 3: Regulation of Space and Belongings	pg 6
Panel 4: Community Building & Social Inclusion	pg 7
Workshop Presenters	pg 8
Workshop Organizers	pg 11
Our Sponsors, Partners, and Collaborators	pg 15

WORKSHOP AT A GLANCE

Time	Event Information and Speakers
8:00 to 8:30am	Registration & Breakfast
8:30 to 9:15am	Welcoming Remarks from the From NIMBY to Neighbour Research Team and Advisory Group Erin Dej, Wilfrid Laurier University With a welcome and teachings from Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat
9:15 to 11:00am	Panel 1: Media and Communications Strategies (with hands-on component) Moderated by Steph Howells, University of Guelph <i>Making Connections: How Advocates Can Get, and Keep, Legacy Media's Attention on What Matters Most to Them</i> Kathy Dobson, Carleton University <i>Shifting Hearts and Minds: Communicating Across the Political Spectrum</i> Sahar Raza, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness <i>The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness' Layered Approach to Communications</i> Stephanie Vasko, The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
11:00 to 11:15am	Refreshment Break
11:15 to 12:15pm	Panel 2: Street Outreach & Collaborative Responses from a Human Rights Lens Moderated by James Popham, Wilfrid Laurier University <i>Collaborative Responses to Homelessness: Insights from the Literature and From Mid-Sized Quebec Communities</i> Laurence Roy, McGill University <i>You Are Pretty Much on Your Own: The Two Disasters of Homelessness in the Pandemic</i> Jeff Karabanow, Dalhousie University <i>Civilian Mental Health Mobile Crisis Services</i> Jamie Livingston, Saint Mary's University
12:15 to 1:30pm	Lunch and Remarks from Our Advisory Group Simon Lazanja, From NIMBY to Neighbour Advisory Group member
1:30 to 2:30pm	Panel 3: Regulation of Space and Belongings Moderated by Erin Dej, Wilfrid Laurier University <i>A Rights-Based Approach to Homeless Encampments - What does it mean?</i> Kaitlin Schwan, Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network & the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness <i>Self-Dispossession in Action</i> Nick Blomley, Simon Fraser University, Geography <i>Judicial Review and Homelessness: Holding Administrative Decisions-Makers Accountable in Encampment Evictions</i> Alexandra Flynn, The University of British Columbia
2:30 to 2:45pm	Refreshment Break
2:45 to 4:15pm	Panel 4: Community Building & Social Inclusion (with hands-on components) Moderated by Jessica Braimoh, York University <i>Neighbour to Neighbour Model of Relationships: Homelessness Sector Pilot, Kelowna, British Columbia, 2022-23</i> John Graham, University of British Columbia <i>Right to the City and Social Inclusion: Thoughts and Considerations</i> Julia Woodhall-Melnik, University of New Brunswick <i>Co-design as a Key Strategy for Responding to Homelessness in Mid-Sized Cities - The Transition from Homelessness Study</i> Carrie Anne Marshall, University of Western Ontario
4:15 to 4:30pm	Closing Remarks Barbara McPhee, From NIMBY to Neighbour Advisory Group member Jason Webb, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Research on Security Practices

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Over 35,000 people experience homelessness every year in Canada. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened pre-existing inequities among people who are homeless or housing insecure. There is significant concern about rising rates of homelessness as the pandemic wears on and more people struggle to maintain housing. Mid-sized cities in particular face a unique challenge in responding to housing insecurity. The visibility of homelessness is often a new issue, and the demand by community members to 'do something' comes up against the rights and needs of people experiencing homelessness. Perceptions of homelessness, discussions around who belongs in the community, and the official and unofficial responses to homelessness are deeply contentious and can take the form of NIMBYism -- Not in My Backyard -- referencing community members' hostility towards including supports and services in their neighbourhood. Such contentions have a negative impact on community sense of belonging and social inclusion.

Most research to date on homelessness has focused on large urban centres. As a result, mid-sized cities (pop. 50,000-500,000) struggle to develop evidence-informed policies and practices that are appropriate for their resources and contexts. With these insights in mind, this workshop is designed to address the challenges facing mid-size cities, and is guided by the following objectives:

- Sharing scholarly analyses of issues concerning homelessness in mid-size cities with respect to enhancing community building and social inclusion.
- Identifying research gaps and developing a national research network of scholars in the field of homelessness, mid-size communities, and community building.
- Sharing learnings from the workshop with key stakeholders and the public.

To achieve these objectives, the workshop will begin by providing a foundation for information sharing through presentations and Q&A sessions from leading national homelessness scholars and community partners. These presentations will support the sharing of evidence-based policies and practices. Participants of the workshop, including presenters, advisory group members, and community stakeholders, will then move into breakout sessions where they will discuss and identify challenges faced on the front line, as well as best and promising practices and policies presently utilized. Breakout sessions will also include brainstorming of new approaches that may foster community building. The workshop will ultimately support the cultivation of relationships across sectors, and foster action-oriented outcomes among stakeholders who are often siloed.

PANEL 1: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Moderated by Steph Howells, University of Guelph

Participants will first hear from experts about their work in media creation and dissemination. During the interactive portion of the workshop, participants have the opportunity to work in small groups to craft a message addressing a common misperception or issue related to homelessness, considering a variety of audiences and platforms.

Making Connections: How Advocates Can Get, and Keep, Legacy Media's Attention on What Matters Most to Them

Kathy Dobson, Carleton University

How can advocates connect with reporters in order to inform and educate the public about their important issues? What are some of the best approaches to getting a reporter interested in your story? Why do your 'stories' sometimes seem almost unrecognizable once in print or end up significantly shorter than you had hoped? There are some critical steps to not only hooking a reporter's interest and making them care but also ensuring they get the story 'right.' In this presentation, we will explore how a story is produced, including a discussion of media framing and how advocates can aim to interact with this process to ensure the best version of their story is told.

Shifting Hearts and Minds: Communicating Across the Political Spectrum

Sahar Raza, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

To shift people's hearts and minds, we need to understand where their beliefs come from. This presentation will explore people's values across the political spectrum to offer strategies for influencing, uniting, and mobilizing different audiences around a single goal: human rights-based and sustainable solutions to homelessness. We will discuss effective messaging for different audiences and decision-makers as well as best practices for communicating with any audience.

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness' Layered Approach to Communications

Stephanie Vasko, The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

At the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, our goal is to make research accessible, understandable and relevant to our audience. Our research outputs include many layers of content designed in collaboration with researchers, graphic designers and communications specialists. In this presentation, Steph will provide an overview of the COH's collaborative knowledge mobilization approach and share examples of how COH's researchers and designers have worked together to visualize research.

PANEL 2: STREET OUTREACH & COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS LENS

Moderated by James Popham, Wilfrid Laurier University

Direct outreach to unhoused individuals improve access to mental health, wellbeing, and social supports while undermining their criminalization by first responders. This panel will present perspectives heard from frontline workers about outreach successes, and will offer dialogue about best practices.

Collaborative Responses to Homelessness: Insights from the Literature and From Mid-Sized Quebec Communities

Laurence Roy, McGill University

People experiencing homelessness often present with multiple co-occurring needs, not only in the area of housing, but also related to health, food security, addictions, justice involvement, and socioeconomic inclusion. Public institutions have typically not been designed to respond to such diverse and multiple needs, but rather align with disciplinary and professional traditions. This creates siloed organizations that act as barriers for homeless individuals to access the services to which they are entitled. Collaborative responses to homelessness thus emerge as a promising practice to better align the organization of services to the needs and rights of people experiencing homelessness. In this presentation, I will share insights from a scoping review on collaborative practices in the field of homelessness. This review synthesizes the findings from 44 studies, including the types of collaborative responses documented in the literature, their effects, the experiences of the stakeholders involved, as well as the systemic and organizational factors that affect their implementation.

You Are Pretty Much on Your Own: The Two Disasters of Homelessness in the Pandemic

Jeff Karabanow, Dalhousie University

Building on emergent literature on homelessness and the COVID-19 pandemic, this discussion and animated short presents a portrait of the homeless sector in two Nova Scotian, Canada communities: Halifax Regional Municipality and Cape Breton Regional Municipality. This research provides an understanding of the health and wellness of the populations experiencing homelessness during the first waves of COVID-19; the processes involved in supporting homeless populations during the pandemic; and determining what has worked, what has not, and changes needed. What follows are the core themes, lessons learned, along with recommendations that capture the narratives from a group of individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the pandemic and those tasked with developing, supporting, innovating, and funding the disaster responses in two Nova Scotian communities.

Civilian Mental Health Mobile Crisis Services

Jamie Livingston, Saint Mary's University

Health and social systems criminalize people with mental health issues by channeling them into the criminal justice system. A notable example is the widespread reliance on the police to deliver mental health crisis services – either on their own or paired with a mental healthcare provider. Police involvement in mobile crisis services is unnecessary and harmful, especially for people and communities most impacted by structural violence, systemic discrimination, and traumatic interactions with the police (e.g., Black, Indigenous, unhoused, people who use drugs). A growing number of communities are recognizing the benefits of using unarmed, and properly trained, civilians to address the needs of people in crisis. In fact, civilian mental health mobile crisis programs now exists in over 100 communities worldwide – most were established in the past three years. This presentation will explain the program models that communities are using to respond to mental health crises without the police.

PANEL 3: REGULATION OF SPACE AND BELONGING

Moderated by Erin Dej, Wilfrid Laurier University

This session unpacks how public space is used as a tool to respond to the growing visibility and presence of unhoused people. Presenters consider the challenges and opportunities of using municipal regulations to respond to homelessness through a human rights and inclusive approach.

A Rights-Based Approach to Homeless Encampments – What Does it Mean?

Kaitlin Schwan, Women’s National Housing and Homelessness Network and the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

Homeless encampments threaten many human rights, including most directly the right to housing. People living in encampments face profound challenges with respect to their health, security, and wellbeing, and encampment conditions typically fall far below international human rights standards. Encampments are instances of both human rights violations and human rights claims, but what would it take to treat them as such? In this presentation, Dr. Kaitlin Schwan will outline what a rights-based approach to encampments, highlighting key principles within A National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada – A Human Rights Approach. Drawing on her work with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, she will discuss how this approach has been mobilized in Canada and how it can be used as a tool at the municipal level and beyond.

Self-dispossession in Action

Nick Blomley, Simon Fraser University

If we are to foster inclusive communities we need first to understand the processes of regulatory exclusion targeting precariously housed people. One understudied form of regulation relates to the ways in which multiple actors, both public and private, destroy, devalue, and seize the belongings of those who live on land owned and controlled by others. Drawing from ongoing research in Canadian cities, this paper focuses on the practice we term ‘winnowing’, which we define as the process by which possessions are assessed, and selectively edited, with some retained, and others discarded. Winnowing is practiced by regulators, on occasion. However regulators also incite, oblige, or encourage precariously housed people themselves to engage in self-winnowing, or put more bluntly, self-dispossession. This is animated by several logics. Some of these are highly prescriptive, paternalistic, and disciplinary, while others are notionally respectful and inclusive. In many ways, as we shall see, these logics work simultaneously.

Judicial Review and Homelessness: Holding Administrative Decisions-Makers Accountable in Encampment Evictions

Alexandra Flynn, The University of British Columbia

In Canadian cities, unaffordable housing and the lack of community supports for those susceptible to experiencing homelessness has contributed to housing precarity, with an increase in the number of encampments in public spaces. Municipal governments argue that evicting encampment residents from public spaces and offering indoor shelter spaces as an alternative is a reasonable response to the ongoing, amplified housing crisis. However, these indoor spaces – often in the form of short-term shelters – do not provide legal tenure, and are often unsafe for people and their possessions. This paper examines the current decisions municipal governments have made in relation to encampment evictions, together with legal challenges to these decisions. The paper concludes that, given the limitations of constitutional arguments in particular, judicial review of administrative decision-making provide a hopeful, though narrow, legal means of challenging the evictions of those living in encampments and requiring higher standards for public officials in relation to indoor shelters.

PANEL 4: COMMUNITY BUILDING & SOCIAL INCLUSION

Moderated by Jessica Braimoh, York University

This panel considers the ways that different mid-sized communities respond to homelessness and housing in ways that create community integration for all. As an interactive panel, participants will work in small groups to reflect on these insights in the context of their own communities.

Neighbour to Neighbour Model of Relationships: Homelessness sector pilot, Kelowna, British Columbia, 2022-23

John Graham, University of British Columbia, Housing Research Collaborative

This paper presents an in progress Kelowna BC based pilot of 3 relationship networks with a purposive sampling of 2 to 4 faith group members of a local Anglican, Protestant, and United Church with respective individuals who have transitioned from homeless to housed and would like to receive ongoing informal social support and neighbour to neighbour relationships. Process and outcome evaluations provide insight into quality of relationship building, leverage for networks of support, housing retention, tangible support provision, media portrayals, and potential scalings up. There are considerable implications with respect to community representations of homelessness, community development through a framework of social capital, and religiously motivated contributions to social capital.

Right to the City and Social Inclusion: Thoughts and Considerations

Julia Woodhall-Melnik, University of New Brunswick

Over half a century has passed since Henri Lefebvre first introduced the concept of the right to the city in *Le Droit a la Ville*. However, the systemic exclusion of persons who experience poverty, racialization, gender diversity, homelessness, mental illness, disability, and housing insecurity persists as cities continue to cater to the demands of capitalism and the wealthy. In her brief talk, Dr. Woodhall-Melnik presents cases of social exclusion in each of New Brunswick, Canada's three mid-sized cities. These cities are on the precipice of change; however, Dr. Woodhall-Melnik argues that continued reliance on developer-led, private sector guidance in the areas of planning and housing exacerbates existing inequities and leads us further away from collectively shaped spaces that promote community, inclusion, and wellbeing. Group discussions that challenge traditional rhetoric and promote equitable access to the city will be encouraged.

Co-design as a Key Strategy for Responding to Homelessness in Mid-Sized Cities - The Transition from Homelessness Study

Carrie Anne Marshall, University of Western Ontario

In addition to systemic causes, the factors that perpetuate homelessness and influence the well-being of unhoused persons in mid-sized communities are in part determined at the local level. These realities necessitate the development of solutions that are informed by the expertise of local service providers, organizational leaders, and persons with lived experience. In this presentation, I will describe a project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health research called the "Transition from Homelessness Study" which engaged stakeholders in two communities in Ontario (one large and one mid-sized community) in co-designing solutions aimed at supporting thriving following homelessness based on local realities. As this project was delivered in one large and one mid-sized urban context simultaneously, I will compare the process of conducting this research across these two communities and discuss the challenges and benefits of conducting this research in a mid-sized context. A major gap in service identified by these two communities were services designed to improve community integration following homelessness. I will provide an overview of the service delivery model that was co-designed to address this gap - an intervention called the "Peer to Community Model," and the present state of pilot work aimed at implementing this approach in a mid-sized context.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Nick Blomley

Nick is a Professor of Geography at Simon Fraser University. He has a long-standing interest in legal geography, particularly in relation to property. He is interested in the spatiality of legal practices and relationships, and the worldmaking consequences of such legal geographies.

Kathy Dobson

Kathy Dobson has over 20 years of experience as a journalist, including with The Globe and Mail, National Post, and the CBC. She's currently an instructor in the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton University and Co-Director of ALiGN, the digital media lab at Carleton, which works with community organizations to build storytelling and strategic communication capacity. An award-winning author, her research expertise is in digital media and political action, focusing on how new technologies can help catalyze movements for social justice among marginalized people, particularly those in the homeless and anti-poverty sectors. In addition, she frequently hosts workshops on media training, especially for academics. A Vanier Scholar, Kathy holds a Ph.D. in Communication and Media Studies.

Alexandra Flynn

Dr. Alexandra Flynn is an Associate Professor at University of British Columbia's Allard School of Law. Her teaching and research focus on how cities are legally understood in Canadian law and how they govern, including the constitutional role of municipalities, the legal relationships among First Nations and municipal governments, and on the role of property law in municipal regulation. She is currently working on several projects related to precariously housed people in Canadian cities. She has a long history of volunteer work in the areas of homelessness and access to justice, a TEDx speaker, and a frequent media commentator.

John Graham

John Graham, Ph.D. RSW, is Professor of Social Work at the University of British Columbia. Prior to arriving at UBC, he was Director of the School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University, and before that at The University of Calgary for 17 years where he held a 10 year research chair as Murray Fraser Professor, and served successively as MSW International Concentration Program Coordinator and PhD Program Coordinator. Graham has published on international development (with a particular focus on Bedouin-Arab communities in the Middle East), social policy, diversity and social work, spirituality and social work, multicultural social work, and employee well being/ subjective well being (happiness) in and out of the workplace. He is currently working on homelessness reduction research, in relation to the Journey Home initiative, Kelowna, British Columbia. Graham heads the Kelowna Homelessness Research Collaborative, an interdisciplinary team of community based researchers which is greatly involved in tier one publishing, positive social impacts, student training, and community engagement. In 2022, he was made a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Jeff Karabanow

Dr. Jeff Karabanow is Professor and Associate Director in the School of Social Work at Dalhousie University and cross-appointed with International Development Studies, College of Sustainability and The School of Health and Human Performance. He has worked with homeless populations in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and Guatemala. His research focuses primarily upon housing stability, service delivery systems, trauma, and homeless youth culture. He has completed a film documentary looking at the plight of street youth in Guatemala City and several animated shorts on Canadian street youth culture. He has numerous academic publications in these areas including: *Being Young and Homeless: Understanding how youth enter and exit street life*. (Peter Lang Inc NY.,2004) ; *Leaving the Streets: Stories of Canadian Youth* (Fernwood Publishing, Halifax, 2010) and *Homeless Youth and the Search for Stability* (WLU Press Inc., Ontario, 2018). He is currently the Principal Investigator of a SSHRC funded study on homelessness in Halifax during COVID. Dr. Karabanow is one of the founding members of Halifax's Out of The Cold Emergency Shelter and is the Co-Director of the Dalhousie School of Social Work Community Clinic. He was awarded the Dalhousie Faculty of Health Senior Research Award (2014) and the William Webster Excellence in Interprofessional Education Award (2019). He is also a recent awardee of the Senate of Canada 150 Medal (2019).

Jamie Livingston

Dr. Jamie Livingston is a criminology professor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His research explores issues and experiences at the intersection of the mental health, substance use, and criminal justice systems.

Carrie Ann Marshall

Dr. Carrie Anne Marshall is an Assistant Professor in the School of Occupational Therapy, and the Director of the Social Justice in Mental Health Research Lab at Western University in London, Ontario. Her research explores the intersection between poverty and mental well-being. Clinically, Dr. Marshall has spent her career working primarily in community mental health supporting individuals who live with serious and persistent mental illness to function and participate in ways that matter to them in their communities. Much of her research is focused on homelessness, with a particular interest in collaborating with persons with lived experience, service providers and researchers on identifying and evaluating strategies to support thriving rather than solely tenancy sustainment following homelessness.

Sahar Raza

Sahar Razaleads the strategic communications and public policy efforts at the National Right to Housing Network. As a daughter of immigrants and racial justice advocates, she is passionate about amplifying marginalized voices and advancing practical pathways to social justice. For a decade she has researched and tackled pressing systemic issues rooted in colonialism, discrimination, and privatization. Sahar now works to end homelessness and housing inadequacy through the implementation of a fundamental human right: the right to adequate housing. She holds an MA in Communication and Culture, a Graduate Diploma in Communication Studies, and an honours BA in Arts and Science.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Laurence Roy

I am a mental health occupational therapist by training, currently Associate Professor in the department of Occupational Therapy at McGill University in Montreal. I have been conducting research at the intersection of mental health, housing, homelessness and social and occupational justice for the past 15 years. Most of my research is participatory, and I strive to better understand how communities shape, and are shaped by, the engagement and inclusion of person who experience marginalization. I am also interested in understanding how different sectors can or could work together to better address the needs of groups who experience multiple exclusion.

Kaitlin Schwan

Dr. Kaitlin Schwan is Executive Director of the Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network and a Senior Researcher at the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. She teaches social policy at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Social Work, where she is appointed Assistant Professor, Status Only. She is the former Senior Researcher for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing and Director of Research for The Shift. Dr. Schwan's research focuses on homelessness prevention and human rights, particularly for women and youth. She uses research to build bridges between evidence, advocacy, policy, and lived expertise to advance housing justice.

Stephanie Vasko

Steph Vasko (she/her) is the Senior Director of Communications at the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH). She leads the team responsible for designing the COH's publications and communications materials, which range from reports and books to infographics and videos, that help advance our mandate to enhance the impact of research on policy and practice. Since 2009, Steph has been working with the COH's Homeless Hub website, a key vehicle of knowledge mobilization and the world's largest library of homelessness research.

Julia Woodhall-Melnik

Dr. Julia Woodhall-Melnik (she/her) is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John, which is located on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Peskotomuhkatie Peoples. She is the Canada Research Chair in Resilient Communities and the Principal Investigator of the Housing, Mobilization & Engagement Research Lab (HOME-RL) at UNB. She is also the deputy director of Community Housing Canada's Social Inclusion through Community Housing node. Dr. Woodhall-Melnik's work focuses on understanding experiences of and generating evidence-based solutions for reducing locational inequality. She is an internationally recognized researcher who has authored many well-cited works on homelessness, affordable housing, and housing interventions, such as Housing First. Her current work explores the role of subsidized housing in shaping the mental and physical health of recipients. She is also developing specializations in youth housing, youth community inclusion, and connections between climate change and housing. She is a strong community advocate for access to affordable housing and mental health care. Dr. Woodhall-Melnik was born and raised in South Western Ontario, receiving degrees from the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo. Following a CIHR Post-Doctoral Fellowship at McMaster University, she moved to the east coast of Canada. She is the proud Mom of three young children and she enjoys spending her spare time with her family and friends while she explores the beautiful wilderness of New Brunswick.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

Jessica Braimoh

Jessica Braimoh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Science (Criminology Program) at York University. Jessica is a co-organizer of the Fostering Inclusive Communities Workshop and co-investigator on the From NIMBY to Neighbour: Brokering a Dialogue about Homelessness among Police, People Experiencing Homelessness and the Community research project. Jessica's research interests include the interrelation between criminalization, racialization, and class (among other systems of domination and difference); socio-legal processes and public institutions; and the experiences of "at-risk" populations. Guided by principles of social justice, Jessica seeks to use her research to better inform how social policy and practice respond and/or intervene in the lives of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Some of her research has been published in *Critical Sociology*, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*; and the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*.

Ryan Broll

Ryan Broll is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph where he is also a core faculty member in the Criminal Justice and Public Policy program. His research focuses on trauma and resilience, with an emphasis on youth well-being after experiences of bullying and other forms of victimization. He also studies the policing of youth and homelessness. His recent research has been published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Deviant Behavior*, the *British Journal of Criminology*, and the *Journal of School Violence*, and he is the co-author of *Becoming Strong: Impoverished Women and the Struggle to Overcome Violence*.

Erin Dej

Erin Dej is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. She brings over 10 years of research and advocacy experience on homelessness, having been led by the lived experts she works with. She studies and advocates against the social exclusion of unhoused people, including the criminalization of homelessness.

Samantha Henderson

Sam Henderson (she/her) is the Project Coordinator and Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Research on Security Practices at Wilfrid Laurier University. She received her PhD in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2020. Her research focuses on spatial criminology, community safety, crime prevention, and policing, and she has worked on crime prevention and crime analysis projects in cities across the USA and in Canada. Sam's research has been published in *Policing and Society*, *Crime and Delinquency*, and the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, and she has co-authored book chapters in *The Future of Policing, Preventing Crime and Violence*, and *The Wiley Handbook of Violence and Aggression*.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

Deborah Hill

Deborah Hill (she/her) is a registered Mohawk of the Bear Clan from Six Nations/Mississauga's of the Credit Reserves. She is the youngest of a mixed family of 9. Deborah married at the age of 18 and divorced by 23. Deborah was 29 years old when she began her motherhood journey. Experiencing the highs and lows, she lost her mother to COPD, 2 nieces to suicide, a brother to heart attack and a niece to an overdose. Deborah gave birth to four children within a 6 year span. Her family accepted her Great Nephew into their home after his mother subdued to an overdose when he was 3 years old. While working full - time as Secretary to the Manager at Child and Family Services, attending night college class and struggling to manage house and relationships, Deborah wound up in an overwhelming state. Deborah began to engage in using cocaine to be able to keep up with the multi tasks of her life. Her children were apprehended, she lost her rental, she quit her employment and discontinued school. With grief weighing heavily, she went down to the bottom of the barrel. She began to chronically drink alcohol, smoked Marijuana, injected hydromorphone, engaged in reckless sexual encounters and experienced a domestic violence relationship. Deborah has gone from the East Coast to the West Coast in search of identity only to return to a place where her steps to wellness needed to begin, at home. Returning to the City of Brantford, Ontario, Deborah was determined to rise and conquer. Defeating her fears, barriers and overcame challenges, she started rebuilding her relationships with her children to her best ability. She also focused on her education, employment preparedness and building a community profile. Volunteering her time, Deborah was a Volunteer Refreshment Café worker, to service clients with snacks and converse at the Grand River Community Health Centre. She has sat on various committees; Brantford Drug Strategy, People with Lived Experience, International Overdose Awareness, Community Advisory Board for Homelessness and Citizen Support Circle. Deborah returned to college and received a diploma in Indigenous Wellness and Addiction Prevention. Deborah complied to her father wishes and supported his care of departure from this world on his journey home. Eventually she gained employment with the Aids Network's Van Program delivering sterile supplies and harm reductions of all types. Most recently, Deborah gained employment as a Peer Support Worker with the Downtown Outreach Team. Deborah has attended programs to upgrade personal achievements, such as Brant Speakers School, Mindfulness Meditation and continues to invest in learning through webinars. Deborah has experience in providing safe supplies, picking up used supplies as well as, speaking openly about Addiction and Harm Reduction. She has been trained in Opioid Overdose Response and Rescue, sponsored by St. Leonards' Community Services.

Today, Deborah's eldest daughter provides relief by caring for her dog while Deborah goes to work with St. Leonards' Community Services. Deborah has an open access visit with her oldest son and is applying for college to follow his dream in the music industry. Deborah comes with approximately 6 years of experience living unsheltered and addictions. With her recent schooling, Deborah is able to say the Thanksgiving Address in the Cayuga language to open our meeting.

Steph Howells

Steph Howells is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph. Her research interests include school shootings, youth violence, media representations of crime, and qualitative methodologies. Dr. Howells has published her work in *Higher Education Policy*, and *Policing*, and she is the author of the textbook *The How To of Qualitative Research*.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

Simon Lazanja

Simon Lazanja is a lived expert, current residing in London, ON. He is a man that gives his all to help and support children and families in his community. He is a true believer in honesty, discipline and demonstrates a high level of integrity.

Barbara McPhee

Since 1953, Barb has lived in this place called poverty with the occasional but brief visit to the real world. Barb has dedicated over 50 years to the empowerment and enhancement of the quality of life for cross-cultural and poverty-stricken individuals and families by using her extensive range of self-taught social work skills – volunteer and work experiences. Barb has earned her spot in society as a professional volunteering giving many hours to various aspects of community development by sharing her skills at boards, community collaborations, the creation of organizations, community projects and events based on issues needing the lived experience voice. Barb was able to make all this happen while raising 2 daughters, 3 stepchildren, two husbands and being a Nana to 12.

Barb is now a champion for marginalized families around homelessness because of her lived experiences of homelessness and now sits on the Poverty Elimination Task Force of Guelph and Wellington—as a lived experience peer advocate on the steering committee and as a supportive housing advocate. Barb is the Market Manager for the North End Harvest market which provides free produce free to low income families to help with food insecurity and sits on the Ontario Health team as a patient advocate to help deal with the health and mental health issues supporting the wrap around services for better health care hoping to be the new health care system. Barb has also been a volunteering and staff member of the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition to help address issues and provides programs to build community leaders.

“Living in Poverty and having a disability – not only strengthens me, but it inspires me, to strive for something more. I can’t get any less. You can disable a body, but cannot take away the human heart and spirit.”

Bill O'Grady

Bill O'Grady is a faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph. At the undergraduate level he mainly teaches students in the Criminal Justice and Public Policy program and at the graduate level the Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy program. His research focuses on marginal youth, homelessness, and crime and social control.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

James Popham

James Popham is an Associate Professor and Chair in the department of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Saskatchewan, and has a diverse research portfolio that has included community-based work across Canada. Recently, Dr. Popham has partnered with the City of Brantford and St. Leonard's Community Services of Brantford to support their development and deployment of an outreach team servicing the city's downtown core. James also researches work relating to digital victimization as another stream of work.

Carrie Sanders

Carrie B. Sanders is Director of the Centre for Research on Security Practices (CRSP) and Professor of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Carrie is the co-organizer of the Fostering Inclusive Communities Workshop and co-principal investigator on the From NIMBY to Neighbour: Brokering a dialogue about homelessness among police, people experiencing homelessness and the community research project. Her research has focused largely on policing and police practices. Recently she has been conducting research with various cities to explore perceptions of homelessness, crime, community safety and community resilience. Her research has been published in high impact, international journals such as: *Gender & Society*, *British Journal of Criminology*, and *Policing & Society*, and has received national funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Marcus Sibley

Marcus Sibley was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Criminology and Centre for Research on Security Practices at Wilfrid Laurier University in 2022. He continues to be an adjunct faculty member at Laurier and was recently awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Marcus's research focuses on surveillance and intelligence sharing networks related to the policing of homelessness, human trafficking, and gender-based violence. He is PI on a SSHRC Insight Development Grant investigating community safety and surveillance groups in Canada and their role in a widening network of governance between state and non-state actors. Marcus is also co-investigator on a SSHRC Insight Development Grant exploring the multijurisdictionality and plural policing of anti-human trafficking operations in Ontario.

Jason Webb

Jason Webb completed a PhD in Sociology from York University and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Wilfrid Laurier University in 2022. His research interests include family poverty, homelessness, critical policy analysis, and citizenship. His current research examines how inadequate protections for residential tenants reflect the housing market and have contributed to the gendered and racialized construction of urban citizenship in the 21st century. As an experienced qualitative researcher, he intends to use narrative and discourse analysis to reveal how social policies related to income assistance, affordable housing, and homelessness intervention structure social reproduction for underserved families in Canada. Dr. Webb frames housing insecurity issues with a right-to-housing model, as this reinforces protections for families who are vulnerable to housing insecurity.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PARTNERS,
AND COLLABORATORS!

Partners & Collaborators

City of Brantford

City of Cambridge

Wellington County

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

Sponsors



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada