

11th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium

Hosted by the University of Calgary's
Sociology Graduate Student Caucus



MOVING FORWARD ***FINDING YOUR PATH***

March 5 and 6, 2015

Cassio Room at the
MacEwan Conference and Events Centre

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 5

- 9:00-9:30 Registration/Breakfast
- 9:30-10:00 Guest Speaker – City Councillor Druh Farrell
Facilitated by Jyoti Gondek
- 10:10-11:25 *Crime and Risk*
Chair: Dr. Steve Dumas
- 11:30-12:30 *Inequality and Social Justice*
Chair: Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot
- 12:30-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-2:30 *Immigration and Integration*
Chair: Dr. Lloyd Wong
- 2:35-3:25 *Climate Change and the Environment*
Chair: Dr. Amal Madibbo

Friday, March 6

- 9:00-9:30 Registration/Breakfast
- 9:30-10:35 *Health*
Chair: Dr. Jenny Godley
- 10:40-11:45 *Culture and Language*
Chair: Dr. Mike Adorjan
- 11:45-12:30 Poster Session
- 12:30-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-2:30 *Gender*
Chair: Dr. Jean Wallace
- 2:35-3:25 *Digital Media*
Chair: Dr. Dean Curran
- 3:30-6:00 Reception (Bianca Room)

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

9:00-9:30 Registration/Breakfast

**9:30-10:00 Guest Speaker – City Councillor Druh Farrell
Facilitated by Jyoti Gondek**

**10:10-11:25 *Crime and Risk*
Chair: Dr. Steve Dumas**

The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre: A Qualitative Case Study of a Multidisciplinary Approach Towards Child Abuse in Canada

Evan Brewis

BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) are based on concepts such as eliminating the need for multiple interviews, creating a child friendly environment for investigations, and coordinating specialized services for victims of child abuse, and their families. While the large majority of research suggests that CACs are a positive step in responding to child abuse, this same research has highlighted a number of questions regarding the implementation of CACs within a community. Scholars have questioned various elements of CACs including, but not limited to, how inter-agency cooperation is best facilitated, how to best evaluate the successes of such centers, and how philosophical differences over contentious issues, such as the involvement of the justice system in child abuse cases, impacts service provision for victims. This paper will present findings from prominent research that has examined the CAC model. A review of such literature will enhance and direct future research on Canadian CACs by highlighting areas deficient of scholarly examination.

The Stampede Ranch for Kids: A Case Study

Wyatt Anton

BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology,
University of Calgary

Context. This research focuses on the ‘Stampede Ranch for Kids’, a residential program for at-risk youth, which operated from 1975 until 2013. The program saw more than 1000 clients over the span of its existence and

was unique in Canada in both its traditional structure and ethos. Methods. The research uses interviews with former staff members to give the study a phenomenological perspective in which we examine challenges faced in the day-to-day operation of the program, as staff sought to maintain the integrity of the program amid changing modes of governance. The data collected in these interviews is analyzed with respect to Giddens’ thoughts on modern vs. traditional society. Results. Preliminary interviews show, under examination, that encroaching government regulation contravened the traditionalist principles by which the Ranch was founded, leading to the demise of the program. Conclusions. This research will establish the necessity of programs such as that offered by the Stampede Ranch and to further inform the development of future programs for at-risk youth.

Private Security in Contemporary Canada: A Socio-Legal Analysis

Michael Geib

BA Honours Student, Law and Society, University of Calgary

Over recent decades there has been a proliferation in the access and availability of private security in Canada which has produced an array of deleterious and salutary economic, legal, and sociological effects. There are two primary questions behind this research first, how can these effects be quantified? Second, what does a continued increase in private security mean for the legal rights of Canadians? The secondary literature review of legal opinion, economic analysis, and sociological literature allows for a better understanding of the private security industry and its development. Additionally, the data in the literature helps reveal where and how the private security industry is operating. The primary research consists of content analyses; focusing first on media reports involving private security. Then, an in depth exploration of salient jurisprudence concerning seminal cases involving private security entities in Canada. This presentation will focus on the preliminary findings drawn from the analysis of primary and secondary data so far. The tentative conclusion of this research is: the continued proliferation of private security services in Canada if not properly regulated may project deleterious legal consequences that compromise individual legal protections and these effects will not outweigh the salutary effects of private security protection.

Youth Risk in Ecuador

Kendra Leavitt

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

There has been widespread research on the topic of youth risk, or the behaviours and activities of youth that potentially results in adverse situations, but little within the context of Ecuador. It is believed that Ecuadorian youth may face more substantial and pernicious risks than youth in other countries. This study aims to determine the particular risks Ecuadorian youth face in their everyday lives. I intend to interview parents of youth who work in the open-air markets of Ecuador, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) that work with at risk youth. I will also conduct participant observations within the NGO's. What literature there is suggests Ecuadorian youth experience risks, such as illegal child labour, trafficking, substance abuse, family poverty, and differential treatment when dealing with the police. It is expected that these risks are associated with socio-economic status, race and ethnicity, and political structures within country. This study will contribute to gaps in the literature, policy, and public awareness of youth risk in Ecuador.

Assessing 'Tough on Crime Legislation' on Youth Justice Practices in Canada

Jennifer Cameron

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

An area of concern in the problem of youth crime in Canada relates to overreliance on the formal processing and custodial sentencing of young offenders. This project will assess youth criminal justice practitioner's reactions to the implementation of the Omnibus Crime Bill of 2012. This legislative change, also referred to as Bill C-10, was the Harper government's response to 'get tough on crime' and ultimately affected the way that the youth criminal justice system treats and addresses the problem of youth crime in Canada through amendments to the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA). I will be using a qualitative approach and will conduct interviews with youth justice practitioners. I will also be using legislative summaries and other parliamentary documents to gain a comprehensive understanding of Bill C-10. At the moment there is a large gap in the literature on the effects of this recent legislation and how it is being perceived by youth justice practitioners. By conducting this research I will be contributing to the literature on youth criminal justice in Canada as well to a broader understanding of how the implementation of Bill C-10 has changed the way that Canada responds to youth crime.

11:30-12:30 *Inequality and Social Justice*

Chair: Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunshot

Anarchism, New Social Movements, and the Sociology of Protest: On Occupy

Russell Elliott

BA Honours Student, Department of Sociology,
University of Calgary

This research focuses on the Occupy Wall Street Movement (OWS) of 2011. This movement has been considered an awakening of the political imaginary and consciousness in general (Davis 2011: 76-77; see also Tormey 2013: 25), and provides us with a window through which to explore the complex social reality of advanced neoliberal capitalism. I will pursue this research in terms of three main thematic quandaries: what is the relationship between (post)anarchism and Occupy? How is democracy defined, practiced, and contested by the participants within the movement? And what is the central revolutionary praxis of OWS? Empirically, this research will be explored through a critical discourse analysis of 40 blog posts, of which I will select through three different criteria. I will choose these blogs based on geographical location, chronological specificity, and relation to the central understanding of (post)anarchism. This social movement is still very contemporaneous, and I would argue not yet very well understood based on the current state of the literature. OWS requires much further study, and I am attempting to fill in some much needed gaps in both theoretical and methodological understanding of Occupy and of these "newest social movements" (Day 2005: 8) more generally.

The Stain of Poverty, Silenced Stories: Experiences of Students from Poverty Seeking Higher Education

Elaine Laberge

BA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

Although Canadian governments and educational institutes seek to increase access to higher education for students from poverty, the lack of research on the varied needs of these students leads to a lack of resources. Developing responsive educational policies requires a better understanding of the difficulties students from poverty experience getting into and through university. The challenges these students face as they compose lives in higher education are daunting—and, often lived silently. Using semi-structured interviews, open conversations, and personal experience, this

undergraduate pilot research explores the barriers students from poverty face in moving from a low socioeconomic space into higher educational institutes where they do not 'fit.' To increase understanding of their experiences, this research seeks to answer, how are the experiences of socioeconomically disadvantaged Canadian students shaped by their unique stories? These narratives are then viewed in a theoretical framework in relation to institutional and cultural contexts in order to understand how these individuals' experiences impact their achieving personal educational goals. This presentation will address the findings of this research by sharing participants' stories of isolation, shame, and fear to make visible the barriers they face in trying to escape poverty through higher education.

Socio-Cultural and Economic Capital in School Ground Greening Initiatives

Miho Lowan-Trudeau

MEDes Student, Faculty of Environmental Design,
University of Calgary

Research, most notably in the fields of education, psychology and landscape architecture, demonstrates a growing list of physical and psychosocial benefits for children who have access to school grounds with natural features; benefits include more active and socially inclusive play, reduced stress, positive impacts in learning, improvements in cognitive attentional functioning, and increased environmental consciousness. While research on school ground naturalization initiatives has tended to focus on the benefits and consequences of projects after their completion, the process of these projects has not been well explored. The prevalence of school ground naturalization projects within communities of higher socio-economic status, along with evidence of socio-economic barriers to projects, suggest that the process of school ground naturalization projects could be made more equitable. This study will use semi-structured interviews and a grounded theory methodology to understand participants' experiences in these projects and explore how people access, use and produce social, cultural and economic capital during the process of school ground naturalization projects. This understanding will improve the process and produce recommendations to make project access more equitable throughout the city.

The Effect of No Child Left Behind Act on Children's Performance

Razieh Zahedi

PhD Student, Department of Economics, University of Calgary

"The "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) Act was introduced in 2002 and uses standardized mathematics and reading test scores to enhance the performance of students in the United States and reduce the educational gap between different subgroups. The main critique of this policy is whether evaluating students based only upon academic test scores gives us a real picture of a student's success in future. This paper sets out to empirically quantify the effect of the NCLB Act on a variety of outcomes such as internal, external, and interpersonal behavioral problems using the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey-Kindergarten (ECLS-K) dataset. To identify the effects of this policy, I use a difference-in-difference methodology for private and public schools, because only public schools were affected by this policy. The results show a negative effect on non-academic performance since most schools focus on "teaching to the test" and consequently move resources toward targeted skills. In addition, there is no evidence to support the reduction in achievement gap between different subgroups. The results of this study not only allow us to evaluate NCLB Act, but also can provide insights into possible revisions to this act to more effectively benefit all aspects of a student's achievement."

12:30-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:30 *Immigration and Integration*

Chair: Dr. Lloyd Wong

Pathways to Canadian Immigration: Inequalities for Women Under the Federal Skilled Workers and the Live-in Caregiver's Programs

Kristina Baykusheva

BA Honours Student, Law and Society/German,
University of Calgary

Refusal. Isolation. Dependency. Abuse. These are only some of the difficulties many women face during the process of immigrating to and remaining in Canada. Despite recent attempts to improve the system, immigration policies in the country favor male applicants and further marginalize females. Using a critical feminist perspective, this paper will report on preliminary findings from a close document analysis of two different policies providing a path to Canadian immigration. It will include a

comparative study between the Federal Skilled Workers Program (FSWP), which provides a Permanent Residency (PR) status upon entry into the host country; and the Live-in Caregiver Program, under which applicants are eligible to apply for PR after two years of work. Preliminary findings show that the two policies are not gender neutral. Instead, they create disadvantages for women applicants both in terms of their pre- and post-immigration experiences. Those disadvantages are assessed on women's overall lower levels of entrance in Canada as primary applicants, the creation of possible spousal dependency and abuse under the FSWP, and difficulties of family reunification under the Live-in Caregiver Program. Discussing inequality issues in the Canadian immigration policies opens the door for suggestions for further improvement. It is important to find solutions to accommodate more women based on their needs and skills, so that they can become qualified candidates for immigration and lead a successful life in the host country.

Immigrant Youth Integration Practises: The Role of Hip-Hop and Urban Arts

Stefan Lewis

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

By 2016, 25% of the youth population in Canada will be immigrant. While some immigrant youth are on par with Canadian-born counterparts others face barriers that make integration strenuous. I argue that in addressing the problems faced by Canadian immigrant youth, the potential of hip-hop and urban arts is under-explored. As a result, my thesis will explore and analyze the ways that hip-hop and urban arts foster feelings of inclusion and integration among ethnic immigrant youth in Canada. I will use qualitative methods by conducting face-to-face, semi-structured, in-depth interviews. Purposive sampling will be used, as I will seek to understand the lived experiences of immigrant youth who use hip-hop via poetry, dancing and disc jockeying. My thesis will contribute to the growing body of research dedicated to integration practises in Canada.

African Immigrants' in Entrepreneurship in Canada, Challenges and Effects: A Case Study of African Immigrant Entrepreneurs Residing in Calgary.

Animwaa Obeng-Akrofi

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

The African Immigrant entrepreneurship community in Calgary is small and this may be due to the challenges the community experience. Although entrepreneurs are known to encounter challenges in establishing and running of their businesses with the most common one being the problem with finance; there are some challenges that are only peculiar to African immigrants and not to other entrepreneurs of other races. Although the Canadian government encourages entrepreneurial activities in Canada and gives out visas to entrepreneurs to come in and establish businesses, the African community has not been able to establish a strong entrepreneurial community as compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Asians, especially Chinese and Indians have taken this opportunity and established successful businesses. Using in-depth interviews with successful and unsuccessful African immigrant entrepreneurs, in this presentation I examine the challenges that African Immigrant Entrepreneurs encounter in establishing businesses that hinders Africans from entrepreneurship.

Understanding Processes that Facilitate the Completion of University by Second-Generation Filipino Males Living in Calgary.

Christa Sato

MSW Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, the Philippines was the leading country of birth among people who immigrated to Canada. In reviewing the literature on the Filipino diaspora in Canada, a salient issue identified is the poor educational outcomes of second-generation Filipino males. Gender differences related to academic advancement have also been identified. Literature suggests the different pathways toward achieving university education among the second-generation have important implications for their relative socioeconomic status and may place them at risk of poverty, illegal behaviour, reliance of social services, and negatively impact their well-being. In this presentation, I will share my proposed research study for my Masters thesis. The purpose of my thesis is to generate a theory grounded in participants' lived realities to understand the processes that facilitate the completion of university degree(s) by second-

generation Filipino males living in Calgary. My proposed research study design will be based primarily on Charmaz's constructivist grounded theory, and incorporate Strauss and Corbin's data analysis methods.

'Cancelled Dreams': Family Reunification and Shifting Canadian Immigration Policy

Bronwyn Bragg

PhD Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Drawing on a collection of personal interviews with immigrant families in Calgary Alberta, this paper documents the impact of recently introduced restrictive family reunification policies on immigrants living in Canada today. Since 2008, Canadian immigration policy has changed dramatically with renewed neo-liberal emphasis on economic immigrants and labor market integration. This paper explores the impact of this policy shift on immigrant families, and on immigrant women and children in particular. This paper argues that there are profound human costs to limiting family reunification - these costs are disproportionately born by immigrant women and ultimately impact immigrant integration and belonging.

2:35-3:25 *Climate Change and the Environment*
Chair: Dr. Amal Madibbo

Climate Change Attitudes of Canadians

Joseph Ting

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Despite growing concerns over climate change, Canada has largely taken an inactive stance. Since environmental policies that could curb climate change require support of the population, a central issue is the attitudes that Canadians have towards climate change. Using a nationally representative data set (N=2003), this study will employ a path model to examine the role of partisan affiliation, occupation and education on attitudes towards climate change. This study will provide a greater understanding of the factors which influence attitudes regarding climate change, which has implications for policy.

The Role of Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment in Decision-making to Guide Companies in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Marwa Hannouf

PhD Student, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

Since 1999, Alberta has emitted the largest amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) across provinces in Canada. Despite the GHG regulation for large emitters issued by the Government of Alberta in 2007, the latest report by Environment Canada has shown that Alberta is not on track to achieve its 2020 GHG target. Currently, there is a need to guide large GHG emitters in Alberta to more cost-effective reductions in GHG emissions. My project is examining the role of Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA) in guiding the decision-making of companies in their efforts of reducing GHG emissions by realigning their supply chain management (SCM). The LCSA methodology is able to evaluate the environmental, economic and social impacts and benefits of companies' operations. In my research, I will apply the LCSA in the SCM of three Alberta companies. Then, I will develop a structured decision-making (SDM) model to analyze the LCSA results and therefore, develop sustainable strategies. The application of LCSA with a SDM model along the SCM of companies will enable large GHG emitters in Alberta to develop sustainable strategies that achieve cost-effective reductions in GHG emissions while achieving economic benefits and good relations with stakeholders.

Understanding Impacts of and Responses to Climate Change through a Gendered and Age Sensitive Lens: A Case Study of Subsistence Farmers in the Philippines

Crystal Kwan

PhD Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

The recently proposed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals establish development priorities for societies worldwide. Addressing climate change has been identified as a global priority and understanding the ways in which it impacts different population groups are essential to achieving sustainable development. While it is known that gender and age are two factors that can lead to differential experiences of climate change, little research has looked at the interactions between these factors. Analyzing climate change issues through a gender/age lens is important to encourage research and response efforts to recognize and integrate social dimensions with the scientific and technical adaptations and solutions proposed that tend

to focus less on the accessibility and appropriateness for the end users. This is particularly important in the agricultural sector of low resource countries, where the faces of farmers are increasingly older women. My doctoral study addresses this gap by facilitating the development of a participatory video documentary that explores how gender and age within a particular social, cultural, political and economic context, influence how subsistence farmers in the Philippines are impacted by and respond to climate change.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

9:00-9:30 Registration/Breakfast

9:30-10:35 Health

Chair: Dr. Jenny Godley

Nurses' Pharmacological Management of the Transition from Nerve Blocks to Opioids: A Focused Ethnography

Kayla Denness

MN Student, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary

Orthopedic surgery nurses have a responsibility to provide optimal relief of pain for patients during their hospitalization following total knee replacement (TKR) surgery. Local anesthetic injections are often offered to patients who are having a TKR surgery. This relatively low-risk procedure involves the injection of a local anesthetic (freezing medication) into the thigh after the TKR surgery. This injection provides pain relief for 24-48 hours after the surgery by reducing sensation to the leg. There is a lack of research regarding nurses' management of their patients' pain when the effect of the local anesthetic wears off. Nurses who are responsible for the care of patients following TKR surgery frequently assess pain levels and must decide when to provide pain medication to their patients. The proposed research study aims to uncover the factors nurses consider when deciding to give pain medication to patients who have had a TKR and received a local anesthetic injection using a focused ethnography methodology. The following research question forms the basis of the proposed study: How and why do nurses decide to give the first dose of pain medication to a patient who has had a nerve block for a total knee replacement?

How Obesity Knowledge is Exchanged between International and National Policies, a Doctoral Proposal

Kristen Chaisson

PhD Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Background: Several countries have implemented obesity policy and legislation to combat the purported obesity epidemic. It is not well understood why certain kinds of knowledge about obesity are more readily received in policy circles; how the translation of knowledge into policy relates to forms of government; and how policies move between levels of governance. These questions will be addressed through an examination of how the concept of "obesogenic environments" has been translated by, and exchanged within, policy-making institutions, and what the impact has been on health policy and health care services in Canada. Obesogenic environment refers to a set of environmental circumstances encouraging people to over-eat, while limiting physical activity.

Research Questions: *How is knowledge about the possible health risks of obesity translated into policy? Has the concept of obeseogenic environments gathered interest in policy circles?*

Methods: The methodology of discourse analysis will be used to document and analyze the assumptions, expectations, and explanations governing policy. I will focus on how scientific research on obesity is interpreted into new policies.

Contributions: This research contributes to scholarship on health policy, the policy process more generally, the dynamics of knowledge translation, and how policy travels and changes between different levels of government.

Mapping and Analyzing the Zigzag of Dieting and Weight Gain for Women at Risk for Cardiovascular Disease

Heather Conradson

PhD Student, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary

Introduction: For my doctoral research, I propose a post-humanist qualitative research design, informed by the works of Schrag (1997), Deleuze and Guattari (1987), and Barad (2007). The main study aim is to understand how women positioned as 'at risk' for cardiovascular disease experience the complexities of living with obesity, and to what effect for an emerging sense of self.

Research Question: How is weight gain, for women whose weight poses a cardiovascular health risk, historically, socially, politically, materially and discursively constituted?

Eligibility Criteria: Women, age 20 or over, whose weight poses a cardiovascular health risk: BMI > 25 with a waist measurement > 36 inches or a BMI > 25 with an elevated fasting glucose, cholesterol, or blood pressure, or significant family history of heart disease.

Research Approach: A series of group conversations with women will focus on exploration and analysis of participants' experiences of weight gain. Analysis will focus on how experiences are discursively and materially constituted and to what effects for self and others. In keeping with Deleuze's conceptual idea of the zigzag, where new ideas are sparked, conversations will map 'lines of flight' to expose forces that elude conscious awareness and offer possibilities for change, even transformation.

10:40-11:45 *Culture and Language*
Chair: Dr. Mike Adorjan

Celebrity Drug Overdoses and the Law

Alessia D'Aversa

BA Honours Student, Law and Society, University of Calgary

Celebrities continue to be viewed as more prominent figure in society, with their actions being overly scrutinized and imitated. Being cast as role models leaves celebrities with the power to influence younger generations in their actions. At the same time, laws and legislation are attempting to keep society under control and protect them from harms such as drugs. With the increasing media attention placed on celebrity drug use and drug overdoses, and the increasing amount of drug overdoses, itself, how the media portrays such events is of significance. This study will involve a content analysis of The Rolling Stones' celebrity obituaries from 1970-2015 and the United States' Controlled Substance Act, which was put into law in 1970. Analysis will focus on contrasting the media portrayals of celebrity drug overdoses causing death with the content of the legislation. This paper will present preliminary findings from the content analysis, illustrating whether the media helps, hinders or demonstrates an indifference to what the drug legislation is trying to keep under control.

Living In an Artistic Labour Market: A Study of the Experiences of Gig Musicians in Calgary

Laurent Wall

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

What does it take to survive as a musician in Calgary? Drawing upon Becker's art worlds perspective and Bourdieu's field of cultural production perspective, this study focuses on what is required of gig musicians in order to maintain their lives as cultural producers. Following a brief discussion of how the gig market in Calgary is organized and an explanation regarding the design of this study, this presentation will engage with examples from 16 face-to-face interviews with experienced performing Calgary musicians in order to elucidate how cultural producers perpetuate their positions within the art field. Focusing on the types of experiences that participants talk about, I will not only offer descriptions of the features of the music field in Calgary, but provide examples of how individual musicians fit in this precarious domain.

Ellipsis in Persian: Is it "Verb+ Object" or Something Else Going Missing?

Nazila Shafiei

MA Student, Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures, University of Calgary

Verb Phrase Ellipsis (VPE) is a process by which a Verb (V) or part of Verb Phrase (VP) [Verb and its object(s)] is deleted when there is an antecedent from which it can get its meaning. An example for VPE in English is the following (Goldberg, 2005), asterisks show that the sentence is ill-formed: 1) Arthur [VP brought a present to Hall], and Julia did [bring a present to Hall] too. *and Julia brought too;* and Julia will bring too.

A similar example in Persian, in (2) shows that unlike English we cannot omit the whole VP and add a "do".

2) *Madar-am ketâb ro khoond, baradar-am ham [ketâb ro khoond].
`*My mother read the book, and my brother [read the book], too.

There are two main proposals as how this elision happens. Toosarvardani (2009) claims that it is the VP, like in English, that is elided; while Rasekhi (2014) claims that it is only the object(s) that undergoes elision. The problem is that they fail to account for ellipsis in Persian two-word verbs when one of these two words can either be pronounced or be deleted. In this

study, I have a novel approach towards this phenomenon. I firstly propose that ellipsis in Persian resembles English VPE. Secondly, I redress the Persian two-word verb structure to give support for my claim.

Exile: Fleeing the Origin or Returning to the Origin? A Reading of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

Michael Kudi

PhD Student, Department of French, Italian and Spanish,
University of Calgary

Leaving one's native country in search of a haven, abandoning one's origin to dwell in a foreign land, exile is basically, in the words of Edward Said (2008), a "fissure forever created between man and his home land", a "fundamentally discontinued situation". This fissure or discontinuity, can be conceived in terms of geographical displacement, an alienation in one's own country, but also in terms of a traumatic or undesirable return to the origin. It is especially in this last perspective that we place Chinua Achebe's novel, *Things Fall Apart* (1958). The relationship between the exiled and his origin on one hand, and his country of refuge on the other, informs his experience in exile. This way, exile goes beyond a geographical phenomenon and becomes a state of being or a way of life linked to an identity construction. This study seeks to examine the different representations of exile in connection with the rapport the main character, Okonkwo, maintains with his origin and his identity construction in Achebe's novel. What are the factors that necessitate exile? In what perspective does the protagonist view exile? And can one talk about an existence without exile? In attempting to answer these questions, the paper will be posited within the framework of Daniel Sibony's *Entre-deux* (In-Betweenness) (1991). It seems that, for the hero of *Things Fall Apart*, the return to the origin is a more difficult ordeal than the separation. In this case, if the separation from, and the return to the origin, both constitute a situation of exile, can it be concluded that the human existence is constantly regulated by one form of exile or another?

11:45-12:30 Poster Session

A Visual Depiction of Experiential Process in Academia

Kristen Atwood

PhD Alumnus, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Through the use of various media, the poster depicts key stages in the academic development of a doctoral student in sociology, providing a commentary on the relationship between academic work processes and psychological well-being. The poster will offer insight into the way in which the individual learning experience is shaped by the institutional requirements of credentialing, exploring the bifurcation of consciousness created by the dissonance of the rhetoric of "scholarly effort" and the lived reality of producing a work that will adequately fulfill degree requirements.

The Experience of Transitioning into Motherhood: Giving A Voice to Mothers with Very Low Birth Weight Babies

Katherine Bright

PhD Student, Department of Nursing, University of Calgary

INTRO: The transition to motherhood is filled with challenges for many women. Very low birth weight (VLBW) preterm babies can be medically compromised causing mothers great concern regarding babies' health outcomes.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this study was to gain understanding of what is the experience of motherhood in the transition home of women who have delivered VLBW babies and what factors were perceived to make a healthy transition.

METHODS: A qualitative study using the traditions of Grounded Theory (GT) was utilized to explore the basic social processes of how women who have had VLBW babies experience the transition into motherhood.

RESULTS: We interviewed six mothers identified by Neonatal Transition Team in the fall of 2012. Mothers identified four themes; 1) Mother-baby relationship, 2) Maternal Development, 3) Maternal care giving and role reclaiming strategies, and 4) Baby's developmental milestones.

CONCLUSION: In summary: 1) it was imperative that mothers felt that the babies were theirs; 2) mothers need to be empowered and provided with ongoing, consistent information; 3) consistent and continuous development of maternal competence; 4) one single source of information; 5) mental health support; 6) opportunities for connecting with other mothers of VLBW babies; and 7) increased discharge preparedness.

An Exploration of Persistence and Desistance in Offending: A Project of Accumulating (Dis)Advantage?

Tamara Nerlien

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

A 'high-risk' offender is one who has a history of violent and/or sexual crimes against the person, and is still considered a risk to the community after serving the entirety of his or her prison term. These offenders have been shown to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime and generate high individual and social costs in terms of the resources dedicated to policing, incarceration and the consequences for victims and their families. This study proposes to explore why some offenders persist in committing serious violent crime while others desist from committing crime over the life course. Of particular interest is how early childhood experiences contribute to the formation of important social bonds in adulthood (or precludes this formation) and how this contributes to continued offending or an observable downward trend in criminal activity. Due to the seriousness and the extensiveness of their criminal records, high-risk offenders provide a fruitful site for the investigation into these processes.

Parenting Children with Substance Addictions- Recovering the Mother's Voice

Jackie Smith

PhD Candidate, Department of Nursing, University of Calgary

Background: Alcohol and drug addiction are complex, problematic phenomena. Although addiction presents as a problem of individuals, international research reveals widespread effects of addiction on family. In search of solutions to problems, society often turns to the mother who is depicted as the central figure in the family, the emotional *anchor* that keeps a family together.

Objective: To capture the complex and dynamic phenomenon of addiction by examining its intersections with family and motherhood.

Methods: Electronic databases were searched using key terms related to addiction and family. Scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and grey literature between 1937– 2014 were selected for review. Qualitative and quantitative research were included. Studies were excluded that did not include parental experiences.

Results: This narrative literature review describes the historical and social features of addiction and family. There is a particular need to recover the

mother's voice, which can advance nurses' understanding of individual, familial, and social complexities of parenting children with substance addictions.

Conclusion: Addiction is a global health concern. Mothers' experiences are often overlooked in conversations about addiction and the social and family responses that accompany it. Forthcoming doctoral research using narrative inquiry explores experiences of mothers with adolescent children in addiction treatment. This research may encourage nursing care that begins with experience, rather than disease, where stories of experience help nurses and clients to seek meaning and understanding in a collaborative practice.

Northern Exposure: A Comparison Study of Alaska and Yukon Models of Measuring Community Wellbeing.

Kent Spiers

PhD Student, Department of Anthropology, University of Calgary

The main objective of this study was to examine models of measuring community wellbeing in Alaska and Yukon to determine if they were developed with the input of residents and if these models reflect local living conditions. Research suggests communities that establish an agreed upon model of measuring community wellbeing will benefit by having an increase in public involvement in local decision-making, and larger capture of material wealth and empowerment over resource management. A core problem is that while many communities have started to develop ways to evaluate wellbeing, there is a lack of research on the various models in the Arctic. There are several unique challenges to developing a model in Arctic communities such as the clash between mainstream and Indigenous definitions of wellbeing, the lack of data and small population sizes. I conducted an in-depth search for publically available models in Alaska and Yukon and conducted semi-structured interviews with experts. Part one of the analysis was searching through records of each model to document community outreach methods, part two was an experimental content analysis to identify themes across models in both regions, and part three was a content analysis of the interviews.

Research in Action: Community-Based Research on Home Visitation in Alberta

Laurie Vermeylen

MA Alumnus, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Moving from graduate school to working as a research assistant in a community-based not-for-profit research organization has allowed me to apply skills gained in my Master of Arts education and to learn more about the interactive and iterative process of research. This poster introduces the Alberta Centre for Child, Family, and Community Research (“The Centre”), and discusses one of its current projects. The Centre conducts scientifically rigorous research while addressing policy-relevant topics and paying particular attention to the needs in the community. The home visitation (HV) study is a Centre project that contributes to the Alberta Human Services’ HV initiative. Its objective is to understand the current state of HV across Alberta and develop a capacity building framework to assist in updating the 2004 HV provincial guidelines. The project involves a number of methods including an environmental scan, surveys, interviews, and focus groups with HV service providers, along with the establishment of a developmental team that will test ideas for improvements in HV practice. Of particular importance for how this project fits within the Centre’s approach is the knowledge mobilization strategy for engaging with stakeholders such as government and HV service providers.

Collaborative Policing: A Case Study of the Red Deer Domestic Violence Collaborative Court Program

Lucy Wang

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

While Canadian police agencies are increasingly expected to collaborate with community organizations to resolve or prevent crime, there is limited empirical evidence addressing either the complexities of these partnerships or their effectiveness. This exploratory case study addresses this gap by examining the Domestic Violence Collaborative Court Program (DVCCP) in Red Deer, Alberta. DVCCP is a domestic violence response involving partnerships between the police, the judicial system, as well as social and community services. In order to gain a greater understanding of the DVCCP, 12 in-depth interviews were conducted with representatives from partnering agencies with the majority of participants from management level positions. The interviews reveal that the partnership has clear benefits in responding to

domestic violence, including the ability to provide clients with a continuum of service; increasing clients’ accountability through multiple service perspectives; service efficiency; and connection to information and resources within each other’s agencies. At the same time, several challenges were also identified, consisting of high turnover rates for workers; sustainability of consistent funding; and unintended impacts of independent organizational decision-making. This paper contributes to the knowledge base regarding collaborative policing by highlighting the benefits and challenges of these types of community partnerships.

12:30-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:30 Gender

Chair: Dr. Jean Wallace

Interdisciplinary Research in Neuroscience: Does Gender Matter?

Olivia Skidmore

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

The analysis of interdisciplinary research is becoming more and more important in the light of the fact that funding agencies are increasingly mandating interdisciplinary research teams on grant applications. Recognizing the importance of those collaborations, the University of Calgary established the Hotchkiss Brain Institute (HBI) in 2004. The overarching goals of the institute are to support, improve, and facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations in neuroscience research in order to increase the overall productivity. Based on the curricula vitae and survey responses of 100 academic scientists affiliated with the HBI in 2004, this study examines the assumptions that interdisciplinary research collaborations have a positive effect on research productivity. Previous research suggests that female scientists are more engaged in interdisciplinary research collaborations. Therefore, this study focuses on the mediating effect of gender on the interdisciplinary collaboration and publishing productivity. Selected final findings from both bibliometric and social network data analysis are presented.

How Do Rape Myths Influence the Experiences of Female Undergraduate Students in Canada

Carly-Ann Haney

MSW Student, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary

Rape myths are beliefs that suggest women provoke their own sexual assault by types of clothing they wear, their demeanour, by being alone, drinking and being out at night. In reviewing the literature, universities can provide environments of high incidences of sexual violence and assault. The first few years of universities are times when young adults are forming sexual identities and learning accepted sexual scripts. Additionally, literature suggests that the acceptance of rape myths correlates with the acceptance and reporting of sexual assaults on campus. While there has been extensive research on how university women label experiences of sexual violence, there has been little research on how we can understand the influence of rape myths, specifically in Canada. In this presentation, I will discuss my proposed research for my Masters thesis. The purpose of my proposed research is to understand female undergraduate's perspectives on how rape myths influence their experiences while attending university. I will use ethnography as my methodology to understand the values and beliefs of female undergraduates, corresponding with their perceptions of the influence of rape myths.

The (missing) Right to Fight Back: How Gendered Citizenship and Policy Mechanisms Silence Victims of Sexual Assault

Nicole MacInnis and Matt Sanscartier

MA Students, Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba

For the past three decades efforts to draw attention to, and expand the definitions of sexual assault (or rape) have been largely unsuccessful in North America. That is, rape myths continue to “neutralize sexual victimization” by placing blame on victims and excusing offenders (Weiss 2011). This paper argues that the result of such developments is that victims of sexual assault largely remain silenced, and many or most without available public narratives—or the “narratives attached to cultural and institutional formations larger than the single individual”—to legitimize their victimization (Somers 1994, 619). This paper argues that understanding that the right to be recognized as an *innocent* victim through *sexual victimization claims-making* is contingent with the qualities and entitlements of citizenship. In advancing this argument, we carve out new theoretical and analytical space that can productively advance the scholarly

conversation around the politics of rape and sexual assault. We place a primary focus on specifically *sexual* victimization claims-making through *citizenship*. By doing so, we connect this form of claims-making to the state and other legal structures such as the criminal justice system, which we see as providing legal and moral context through various policies and delineating the sexual rights and entitlements of political members.

Understanding *WiseGuyz*: Exploration of Preliminary Program Data

Caroline Claussen

PhD Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

The *WiseGuyz* program at the Calgary Sexual Health Centre (CSHC) is a locally developed program addressing the need identified in the literature to target boys in early adolescence for the promotion of healthy and positive constructs of masculinity. By encouraging participants to critically examine societal norms around masculinity, the program seeks to instill positive alternatives to violence and modify stereotypes around masculinity and sexuality that can result in negative peer and dating relationships. Quantitative data was gathered from all 52 participants enrolled in the *WiseGuyz* program from September 2013 to June 2014. Comparing boys' responses on the *Male Role Norms Inventory Scale before and after participation in the program* revealed positive changes in beliefs about masculinity. This presentation will discuss preliminary findings from the program data with a specific focus on changes in three areas: restrictive emotionality; avoidance of femininity; and self-reliance. Future research directions based on these findings will also be discussed.

Sex, Singleness, and the Midlife Woman

Jennifer Moore

PhD Candidate, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary

Despite the recent research interest in single women's lives, few prior studies have examined the sexual relationships and sexual health of midlife women who are without a monogamous sexual partner (e.g., Lewis, 2001; Trimberger, 2005). In addition, research on women's midlife sexuality takes a disease-oriented, biomedical approach to aging and sexuality, resulting in narratives that centre on sexual function versus dysfunction (e.g., McHugh, 2006; Tiefer, 2002). Consequently, there is a need for research that explores how single-at-midlife women account for their sexual relationships and that emphasizes the contextual factors shaping women's understandings of

midlife sexuality. To better understand the possibilities and constraints these women face, this study explores heterosexual, single-at-midlife women's accounts of their sexual lives. Twenty women aged 35-50, who identify as 'women alone', were interviewed using a semi-structured interview format. Interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed. We used discourse analysis (e.g., Potter & Wetherell, 1987) to explore how the women accounted for their sexual relationships with men, and worked up accounts of sexual desire and sexual agency. Results demonstrated that women constructed their sexuality and identities using cultural resources relating to midlife (e.g., 'sexual double standard', 'biological talk', 'body talk').

2:35-3:25 *Digital Media*
Chair: Dr. Dean Curran

Social Media and Presentation of Self: "Life Messages"
and Instagram

Tiffany Doherty

MA Student, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

Recent years have seen tremendous growth and popularity of social networking sites (SNSs). Social media outlets, such as Facebook and Instagram, enable users to create individualized profiles and share information about themselves with other members of the social network community. Unlike Facebook, where photographs are only part of a user's profile, photographs on Instagram are the primary way users can visually represent 'life messages' about themselves. Several previous studies have investigated the characteristics of Facebook users and the ways they present information about themselves through their Facebook profiles. However, currently there are no studies in the literature that have investigated self-presentation of Instagram users. The purpose of this project is to explore the 'life messages' that people are presenting about themselves through their pictorial Instagram profiles. To gain an understanding of the presentation of self found in Instagram profiles, I propose to conduct a semiotic/qualitative content analysis of a purposive sample of 100 publicly accessible Instagram profiles. I will examine both the content of the first nine photographs that appear on the users' profiles and any comments made by the user and others about each picture. The findings from this study will both contribute to previous research on self presentation on SNSs, and provide important insights into issues related to gender representation, provide important insights into issues related to gender representation, sexualization, and

cyber-bullying. These are concerns expressed by previous researchers and are relevant to Canadian public and policy makers in light of the recent suicides of Amanda Todd, Rehtaeh Parsons, and Todd Loik, all of which were attributed to bullying and harassment through social media.

Some Muddles in the Modding, or, How the Gamers Really Game

Amy Mack

MA Student, Department of Anthropology, University of Lethbridge

Military simulation (milsim) style gaming is a popular aspect of the video game ArmA3 as it promotes a degree of realistic tactical combat. However, for many gamers the game in its original state is simply not enough. As a result, ArmA3 community members have turned to 'modding' or the process of modifying the video game code to create, alter and add new aspects to the game. Though these modding practices are quite varied in their intended purpose, some mods create zombie apocalypses while others battle royale scenarios, this paper explores the use of modding as means of improving the realistic milsim aspects of the game. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with "the Unit", a multinational milsim group, and the general ArmA3 community, this chapter focuses on two specific types of mods: cosmetic and functional. It explores the reason and meaning behind particular mod choices and how they add to the gameplay and milsim experience, while highlighting the agency possessed by the gamers. I contend that not only do mods serve cosmetic or functional purposes, as argued by members of the Unit, they play a part in the construction of specific unit and gamer identities.

Ethnography in a World of Flows

Nazario Robles Bastida

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary

This article explores a particular approach to Internet and its particular discourses and modes of interaction: virtual ethnography. Following the model proposed by Christine Hine, Internet is conceptualized as a form of communication and as a place where groups and communities are created, as a space that exists through the uses that people make of it. A proper ethnography of cyberspace, the paper proposes, has to analyze the ways in which this new social world creates connections and boundaries between individuals and groups that exist at a time inside and outside of the network.

From this perspective, the work of the ethnographer is to analyze practices born through virtual interactions, considering that these practices are created by selves embodied in particular physical spaces.

3:30-6:00 Reception
Please join us in the Bianca Room

The Sociology Graduate Student Caucus (SGSC) would like to thank the Departments of Sociology; Anthropology and Archaeology; History; and Political Science for sponsoring this event. We would also like to extend a special thank you to those individuals that were instrumental in the planning and execution of this event, including the faculty members who donated their time to chair the sessions. Finally, we would like to thank all of the presenters and attendees for joining us during this event.

Thank you all!
